

## School Calendar

**Sept 9 - Oct 25** - [Read and Feed](#) Book Drive

**Oct 1** - [BackPack Buddies](#) returned for the year

**Oct 14** - Teacher Workday

**Oct 17** - Family Engagement Night (5-7) *Rescheduled*

**Oct 24** - Field Trip to Naylor Farm

**Oct 31** - End of Quarter 1

**Nov 8** - Report Cards

**Nov 6** - [Inter-Faith Food Shuttle](#)

**Nov 15** - Field Trip to North Carolina State University

## Message from Counselor Cormier

At our school, the counselor plays a crucial role in supporting students' social emotional learning (SEL). SEL helps us understand and manage our emotions, set goals, and build positive relationships. As their counselor, I organize activities and workshops that teach students important skills like empathy, self-awareness, and communication. I also provide a safe space for students to talk about their feelings and challenges, helping them navigate issues such as stress, anxiety, or friendship conflicts. By promoting SEL, I ensure that we not only excel academically but also develop the emotional intelligence we need to thrive both in and out of the classroom.

Bullying is a serious issue that affects many students in schools today, and our school CASS team is dedicated to raising awareness. Bullying can take many forms, including physical, verbal, and social bullying, and it can happen anywhere—on the playground, in the classroom, or even online. It is important for students to recognize the signs of bullying, whether they are experiencing it themselves or witnessing it happening to others. I encourage students to speak up if they see or experience bullying and to seek help. By working together, we can create a safe and supportive environment for everyone. In this newsletter, you will find tips on how to handle bullying situations, resources for support, and stories from students who have overcome bullying. Let's join forces to stop bullying and promote kindness in our school!

### Writing Tip:

You can use your journal to explore life experiences, describe how you faced challenges, and record your goals.

### Test-Taking Tip:

Answer ALL of the test questions.

### Wellness Moment:

[BackPack Buddies](#) returned on Oct 1. Six food-filled bags will be delivered each Tuesday for our families in need. Contact our counselor, Mr C, for details.

## Alternative Learning Center Teacher Highlight: Mr St-John

The Alternative Learning Center at Connections provides supplemental support and interventions for students with behavioral and/or social emotional challenges.

Connections Academy is already an Alternative School with many tiered interventions in place. The ALC within our school specifically focuses on:

1. Supplemental and Intensive supports that are implemented to address behavior and academic success.
2. Social-Emotional Learning utilizing the [Second Step Program](#), along with counselor support.

The last component to the Connections ALC is collaboration. Connections makes decisions about placement in ALC that are Data Based. Student data is analyzed to inform decisions about students and improve supplemental/intensive supports on an individual level.

The goal of an ALC placement is to provide an alternative, academic environment for students experiencing behavioral or emotional challenges. Hopefully, this placement will decrease disruptive behavior and increase academic success.



We reached our **Book Goal** of 300! Click on this [Powerpoint](#) to learn more.



October's [Inter-Faith Food Shuttle](#) Community Service