

## School Calendar

Jan 28 - Report Cards

Feb 5 - [Inter-Faith Food Shuttle](#)

Feb 17 - Teacher Workday

Feb 21 - Field trip to North Carolina Museum of Art

Every Tuesday - [BackPack Buddies](#) delivery (See Mr C)

Find Connections  
Academy Middle School  
online!

→ [Facebook Page](#)  
→ [School Website](#)

## Message from Mr Cormier, School Counselor

### The Power of Gratitude

Gratitude is an essential feeling that helps students understand the importance of appreciating their family and friends. When we express gratitude, we acknowledge the kindness others show us, whether it's a supportive parent, a helpful sibling, or a loyal friend. Being kind to others not only strengthens these relationships but also makes us feel better about ourselves. Acts of kindness can be simple, like offering a compliment or helping someone with their homework. Interestingly, a smile is a free and powerful tool that can brighten someone's day, creating a ripple effect of positivity. By practicing gratitude and kindness, students learn to create a more supportive and joyful environment, benefiting both themselves and those around them.

We are grateful to Mr. Gharbo for his service to our school and to the North Carolina school systems that he served! We enjoyed recognizing Mr Gharbo and his contributions at a retirement celebration in December. We will miss him here at Connections!

### Writing Tip:

After deciding on your purpose for writing, you need to organize your ideas in an order that best suits your purpose.

### Test-Taking Tip:

Use the test taking strategies that you've practiced in class.

### Wellness Moment:

Sometimes, you might feel angry or frustrated. It's okay to feel these emotions, but you can choose how to respond.

## Intervention Teacher Highlight: Ms Habbershaw

Good morning, good afternoon or good evening! I am Ms. Habbershaw, the Intervention teacher at Connections. In Intervention class, students work on engaging activities to improve their reading, writing and math skills. Here is the lineup for second semester:

**Monday:** Commonlit article reading (<https://www.commonlit.org>)

**Tuesday:** Spectrum (spelling, vocabulary, reading and writing skills)

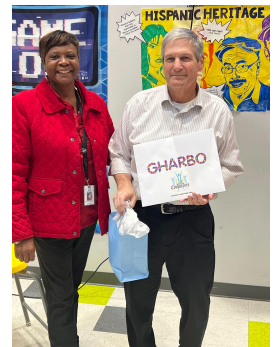
**Wednesday:** Spectrum Math, then IXL math skill practice (<https://www.ixl.com/>)

**Thursday:** Spectrum Math, then IXL math skill practice (<https://www.ixl.com/>)

**Friday:** Scholastic materials or play skills games in math and/or reading.

In addition to what we do at school, there is so much you can do to inspire your student at home. [Here are some tips](#) from the National Center for Improving Literacy!

- ★ Play audiobooks or read aloud at home to increase the amount of language your child hears.
- ★ Help your child build background knowledge on a topic. Talk about everyday experiences, show your child pictures, and tell her stories.
- ★ If you use a different language at home, speak and read to your child in that language. This can help grow his vocabulary and make connections at school.
- ★ Ask questions before, during, and after reading aloud. This can help your child focus attention on the ideas in the story. Before reading, look at the book cover and talk about what might happen in the story. During reading, ask what questions he has about the story. After reading, talk about what happened. Ask your child to sum it up and relate the story to what he already knows.
- ★ Have a lot of age-appropriate and grade-level reading material around your home. Model good literacy behavior by reading regularly yourself!



Dr Perkins & Mr Gharbo celebrating his retirement



Celebrating Mr Gharbo's retirement