

Welcome to Mr Levi Beckwith, our new Assistant Principal! We are so happy to have you join our team at Connections Academy!

School Calendar

Jan 16 - Family Engagement Night (5-7)

Jan 17 - End of Quarter 1

Jan 20 - Martin Luther King Day Holiday

Jan 21 - Teacher Workday

Jan 28 - Report Cards

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

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

Message from Mrs Zehr, Instructional Facilitator

Greetings, Connections Academy. While most of you receive my emails with the newsletter, let me take a moment to introduce myself. I am Laura Zehr, Instructional Facilitator at Connections Academy. While my primary role is instruction, I do a little bit of everything from Media and Technology Coordinator, to Canvas Crew, to 504 Coordinator, to School Improvement Chair to Co-testing Coordinator as well as serve on our school's leadership committee. I also help keep track of our PBIS successes. If you ever have questions or concerns regarding the above topics, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at lzehr@wcpss.net

I am excited to report how well our students have been performing this year. They are on track with the curriculum and are experiencing rigorous lessons in the classroom. I have had the pleasure of listening to stimulating conversations, readers theatre, stem activities, and many other engaging lessons that happen daily. As we approach the halfway point, let's keep encouraging our students to come in and work hard everyday.

I am working diligently to update our school website and to keep our [Connections Academy Facebook](#) page current. Please check both out to see what your students are doing in their classes and as a whole. Also, if you ask them to show you their IXL and their PBIS, they should be able to show you their progress and points. The points they accumulate can be used to purchase items at our school store on Fridays. I am always looking for fun rewards to put in our school store so feedback is appreciated.

Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1723163071578264>

Our Website: <https://www.wcpss.net/connectionsacademymys>

Writing Tip:

Most writing has one of these **four purposes**: to tell a story, to explain something, to persuade someone, or to describe something.

Test-Taking Tip:

Use your time wisely. Don't spend too much time on one question.

Wellness Moment:

If you feel upset, you can take deep breaths or count to ten to help you stay calm.

Math & STEM Teacher Highlight: Mrs Both

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe, but we are only a few days from the end of the 2nd quarter and we are halfway through the school year!

In Math 6, we are learning how to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions. We are also learning how to apply our fraction computational skills to complete word problems. During the week of Jan. 13, we will be taking the NC Check-In test so get plenty of rest and have healthy meals.

For Math 7, we are fervently working on understanding percentages including how to calculate a percent increase and a percent decrease (see picture). It can get a little confusing but with enough practice, we got this.

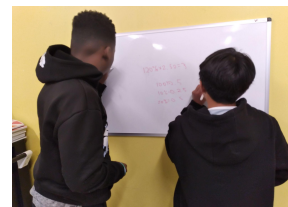
In STEM, we will complete our circuit unit by looking at resistors and how important they are when working with LED's. We will also take apart some toys so we can see how printed circuit boards make toys light up, beep and move around.

Just a reminder, if you are absent, please make-up your work on CANVAS, and math homework is always on STUDENT.DESMOS.COM (you need a class code).

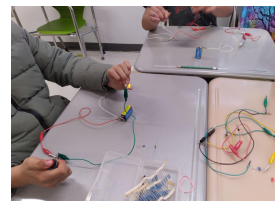
MATH RIDDLE:

→ How can you write down eight 8's so that they add up to one thousand?

If you know the answer, let me know for a small treat.



7th grade working on finding the percent decrease and increase



STEM class connecting a circuit using a resistor with an LED



Coding at Connections