

## School Calendar

**Sept 20** - Teacher Workday

**Sept 23** - Interim Reports  
go out this week

**Oct 2** - Inter-Faith Food  
Shuttle

**Oct 3** - Teacher Workday

**Oct 10** - Family

Engagement Night (5-7)

**Oct 14** - Teacher Workday

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

**Oct 31** - End of Quarter 1

**Nov 8** - Report Cards

## Message from Principal Perkins

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the beginning of a new school year and a fresh start. While this transition to a new school may come with challenges, it also brings valuable opportunities for growth and success. We understand that change may not always be easy, but every day here at Connections is a chance to turn things around, learn, and make positive strides, as our Pledge of Success states: Today is a new day, a new beginning.

**As a team**—parents, students, and staff—we are all committed to supporting each student on this journey. Together, we will embrace challenges, stay positive, and focus on making the most of this opportunity. This isn't just about meeting expectations; it's about proving how much can be accomplished with determination and a fresh perspective.

This year our theme is “**Level Up**” and we will level up together! Like in a video game, each day brings new challenges, opportunities, and ways for our students to grow, and every task, project, and collaboration is a chance to gain experience and move closer to the next level. This journey isn't just about reaching academic goals; it's about enjoying the process. I can't wait to see how our students grow and achieve new heights in the days, weeks, and months to come.

Principal Perkins

### Writing Tip:

You can **keep a journal** for writing about your thoughts and feelings for your eyes only, or you can choose to share parts of it.

### Test-Taking Tip:

Read all the answers  
BEFORE you choose  
ONE!

### Wellness Moment:

Let's have a great start for the new school year!  
Build **positive** teacher/student/family  
relationships with professional communication  
between everyone.

## ELA Teacher Highlight: Ms Sebesan

I'm excited about exploring reading and writing with my ELA students this year! We will use creative writing journals to boost creativity and express ideas. Students will be given lots of options and will get to choose what to write about in their journals. Getting pen to paper creatively will help students become stronger academic writers across all subject areas. We've started the year learning how to structure a paragraph correctly. We have gone through the paragraph writing process to build a strong foundation for the school year.

The first book we will be reading in 7th grade is *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. It is based on the true story of a young boy growing up in South Sudan while the country is in a civil war. We will explore the challenges and conflicts that he endured.

Eighth graders will begin reading *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai, a memoir of a young girl growing up during the Vietnam War. It is written in free verse poetry form, and students will write poetry of their own. We will also take a field trip to Grand Asia Market to explore foods and customs of Vietnam!



The first day of school!



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