

## School Calendar

**Dec 21 - Jan 5** - Holiday break  
**Jan 2 & 3** - Teacher Workdays  
**Jan 6** - First day back to school  
**Jan 16** - Family Engagement Night  
**Jan 17** - End of Quarter 1  
**Jan 20** - Martin Luther King Day  
**Jan 21** - Teacher Workday  
**Jan 28** - Report Cards  
**Every Tuesday** - [BackPack Buddies](#) delivery (See Mr C)



Honor Roll Breakfast for Quarter 1

## Message from Our Principal, Dr Perkins

As we enter the holiday season, let's take time to cultivate an *attitude of gratitude*. This powerful practice involves regularly expressing appreciation for all aspects of life—both the positive and the challenging. By focusing on our blessings, such as relationships, health, and daily conveniences, we can shift our mindset toward optimism and resilience. Gratitude fosters confidence, joy, and stronger connections with others. In our professional lives, it can transform workplace culture, enhance collaboration, and increase employee happiness and retention by creating a sense of belonging and mutual respect.

To nurture this mindset, we can celebrate small accomplishments, acknowledge the efforts of others, and practice empathetic listening. Reflecting on past experiences and finding creative ways to show appreciation also reinforces gratitude. These simple but intentional acts not only improve our personal well-being but also inspire a ripple effect of positivity and collaboration. By embracing gratitude daily, we can build an environment that promotes growth, success, and stronger relationships, both personally and professionally.

Let's make this holiday season a time to reflect, appreciate, and carry gratitude forward into every aspect of our lives.

## Celebrations from Our Staff for the 2024-5 School Year

Ms Armlin—I think so far this school year has been great!

Ms. Both - This has been a GREAT year! Our students are engaged, they have positive attitudes and are working towards making better decisions and meeting their academic goals. I thank the students, their families and the great staff at Connections Academy.

Ms Burney- I'm grateful to be a part of a school that fosters a warm and inclusive atmosphere where students feel supported, valued, and encouraged to thrive academically and personally.

Mrs Chavis - Every day is a new beginning—I am grateful for any opportunity to make a difference, and for being able to engage with students and staff, with the understanding that we are all a work in progress.

Ms Cooper- I'm thankful to be teaching at Connections Academy and meeting and teaching all these wonderful children.

Mr Cormier - Thank you, school staff, for your unwavering dedication and hard work; your professionalism and kindness not only inspire those around you but also create a positive environment for our students to learn.

Mr Dickerson - Thank you to all staff & students that have volunteered at Inter-Faith food shuttle. Service to others builds character.

Mr Gharbo - There is a sense of joy in the optimism of the potential for each school year and hopefully for our students as well.

Mrs Greene-I am grateful for colleagues who collaboratively work together, and for students who accept responsibility for their actions and are willing to work to continue their success.



Native American Heritage Projects for Social Studies



Brand Testing: Bottled Waters



Behind the Mask Project



STEM Engineering Project

## Celebrations from Our Staff for 2024-5 School Year

Ms Habbershaw - It has been great getting to know all of the students so far and watch them acclimate at CAMS so quickly!

Ms Hanzer - Since joining Connections Academy, I have been inspired by the staff's dedication to building authentic relationships that foster trust, promote growth, and equip students with the tools they need for a successful transition back to their base schools.

Ms Love-This first group of SEPTEMBER TO MID NOVEMBER students are a JOY!

Ms Lozhnikova - I'm excited about teaching our first group of students this school year. They are curious, they are hardworking, and they are fun to be around.

Mr McGrogan: I want to celebrate our students. No matter the reason why you are at Connections, we are blessed to have you enter our doors. It is up to you to take what we offer, and I see you all stepping up and making progress in that direction.

Ms Morrell: I am great for the staff and even the students we have had thus far. I'm thankful for all the great things we are doing at Connections!!!

Dr Perkins - As we embark on this new school year, I want to celebrate the positive changes we've embraced to prioritize what is best for our students, recognizing that while change can be uncomfortable, our collective growth as a staff reflects our unwavering commitment to their success and well-being.

Ms Sebesan: I have enjoyed our school year so far, and am so proud of the progress my ELA students made with reading, writing, and engaging with our novels.

Ms Sessoms

This year has been AWESOME! Our students are pleasant, enthusiastic about learning, and a joy to teach. I am truly grateful to work with amazing colleagues and teach a great group of young conquerors.

Ms Seveen - I'm grateful to have the opportunity to learn from and collaborate with educators who are dedicated to fostering positive, supportive relationships with their students through guidance and care.

Mr Stamou - I am incredibly proud to collaborate with such a dedicated and passionate team of educators who are committed to supporting our students in science! Together, we are excited to explore and investigate the wonders of the world around us, fostering curiosity and a love for learning in our students.

Ms Teresa- I am grateful for my job and serving all of the students at Connections!

Mr St-John- The kids have bought into the whole Connections Experience. The kids have really embraced the PBIS mantra. Cheers!

Mr Wallace- This beginning of the school year has been great thanks to all the staff that makes this place so great !

Ms Waters I am grateful for the opportunity I was given to work with Connection Academy and the professional team I am with daily. I really enjoy going to the food shuttle with the students. They are very respectful and kind to the people. It's a joy having them on that trip.

Ms Zehr - I am continuously impressed with the dedication our staff has to our students. They motivate and engage our students on a daily basis and I love to watch the learning taking place.