

School Calendar

Nov 27-29 - Thanksgiving Break

Dec 4 - [Inter-Faith Food Shuttle](#)

Dec 9 - Interim Reports go out this week

Jan 17 - End of Quarter 1

Jan 28 - Report Cards

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

Thank you for the patience and understanding that you have extended to me during my transition days here at Connections Academy. Most of all, for your dedication and efforts to foster "student success."

Sincerely,

Elaine Hanzer, Interim Assistant Principal

Message from Social Worker, Mrs Greene

National Homeless Youth Awareness Month

November was first declared as [National Homeless Youth Awareness Month](#) in 2007. Since then, November has been a time to acknowledge those children and families experiencing homelessness. As many as 2.5 million youth per year experience homelessness. Along with losing their home, community, friends, and routines as well as their sense of stability and safety, many homeless youth are also victims of trauma. While trying to survive on the streets, youth are exposed to countless dangers, with an increased likelihood of substance abuse, early parenthood, impulsivity, depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and a vulnerability to being trafficked.

School & Community Resources:

→ Please click the links below for information.

[McKinney-Vento Program](#)

[Dorcas Ministries](#)

[Food Bank of Eastern North Carolina](#)



Writing Tip:

The writing process includes five stages: prewriting, drafting, revising, editing/proofreading, and publishing/presenting.

Test-Taking Tip:

Be sure to get enough sleep before a test.

Wellness Moment:

Cyberbullying is when someone uses the internet or their phone to hurt someone's feelings, through mean messages or pictures. Tell a trusted adult if you see someone being bullied online.

Science Teacher Highlight: Mr Stamou

Connections Academy science is having a great start to the 2024-2025 school year. Sixth graders are learning about atoms with their complexities and differences by learning the periodic table and building diagrams. Seventh graders have had great traction on learning Newton's Laws of Motion building simulations and rockets to describe how force and motion play into our daily lives. Lastly, our eighth graders are working through matter learning physical and chemical properties of various everyday known items in our environment.

Students on all grade levels are working more with hands-on laboratory assignments to meet the new Science and Engineering Practices that have been recently introduced focusing more on creating and developing explanations of material through models and experiments. A few hands on laboratory activities we already performed are:

- **8th Grade:** Murder Mystery Chemistry Lab, creating a forensic laboratory analyzing the physical and chemical properties of various white household powders.
- **7th grade:** Performed a rocket lab and energy transfer lab, calculating speed and distance of transferred energy in a tennis ball, golf ball, and ping pong ball.
- **6th Grade:** Created a great atoms diagram showing 3 elements from the periodic table and they are different by protons, neutrons and electrons.

I look forward to sharing more great accomplishments that we are seeing in science!

