

A NOTE FROM DR. LONG:

Hello Cornerstone Families! With only 4 weeks left in summer, I wanted to update you on some exciting information concerning academics at CCA this year.

Last year we implemented new reading curriculum in grades K-2. This new reading curriculum provided the resources necessary to instruct our students based on their independent reading levels rather than offering a “one size fits all” curriculum approach. When approaching reading instruction with young students, an awareness of their abilities allows us to challenge them to gain new skills without reaching a point of frustration. Students with developing reading skills need individualized instruction in phonics, sight words and the mechanics of language, as well as, the opportunity to apply the skills they have learned and are still developing in small group reading. We couldn't be more pleased with the progress we have seen in our students this year.

As we continue to improve in reading instruction in 2020-2021, our goal is to maintain our forward momentum in K-2 reading progress while also providing additional supports to our students in 3-5 that have deficits as they approach novel-based reading requirements. When we return to school, teachers will be administering an authentic reading assessment called Fountas and Pinnell to students in 1st-5th grades. This assessment will help us determine which students are reading on grade level and which students need additional supports, which we can provide through a targeted, research-based resource we now have at CCA.

Our goal at Cornerstone is to do everything with excellence. Grade level reading is an expectation of all schools, we want to accelerate beyond the basic expectation and see our students gain the confidence and deep-thinking skills needed for academic success.

This year we will be implementing a new math curriculum called Bridges. Bridges is a math curriculum that balances the need for a strong foundation in math facts and number sense with the opportunity for students to apply mathematical concepts to problem solving. Based on feedback from our teachers, families and administration, we determined that we needed a math curricular resource that better met our students' current academic needs as well as preparing them for the mathematical concepts that await them in middle and high school.

I am so excited to welcome our students back to Cornerstone in a few weeks and cannot wait to see them thrive in and out of the classroom this year!

Dr. Ragan Long
CCA Principal

