

CYCLONE SPIRIT NEWSLETTER



AUG/SEPT 2017

IMPORTANT DATES

8/8 Parent Orientation

@ 6pm PARENTS ONLY PLEASE

8/10 First Day of School

8/26 Parent Party

@6pm

9/13 Picture Day

9/15 Rafting Trip-
all students

LETTER FROM THE HEADMASTER

Debbi Scarborough

There is scientific proof time passes more quickly as we age. I can barely believe the summer break is over. It will be good to get back in a regular routine. I'm excited because we are on the cusp of a new era at Cumberland Academy of Georgia with the addition of several experienced staff members, including our new Principal, Doug Long. He has already been proving his leadership skills with interactions with our staff and faculty, many of whom were around this summer.

We welcome this year a new Science teacher in the high school, a new computer skills teacher and a new career prep teacher. Last spring we began an improv program that was developed for special needs students. Our students loved the program, and we can't wait for it to begin this year.

There have been some physical changes around the building. Our kitchen plans have been completed and we look forward to breaking ground on what will become an amazing opportunity for our students. What an opportunity for Cumberland to create a space that will educate our youngest to eldest students in

cooking and independent living. We are very excited about this project-it's very innovative for our community. A big thank you to our donors for their generosity with this project.

Our art teacher has a new space completely dedicated to art! We look forward to the wonderful creations that will emerge from the art room!

Parents, don't miss Parent Academy Night (Orientation) on August 8 at 6:00. Be sure to mark your calendar to come and meet the staff and faculty along with other parents. It's a fun night but also important to get your child off to a great start.

Debbi Scarborough

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



DOUG LONG

“Yesterday, my son chose to read a book on the drive into Cumberland. He read solidly for an hour. He just did it!” -a Cumberland parent

I am so excited for school to start. As a child, I always looked forward to the beginning of school. It was a chance to see my old friends, make new friends, and tell them what I had done over the summer. It was also a time to start learning something new. I love to hear stories from parents on the success of their children at Cumberland. And, part of the excitement of a school year is knowing the talented teachers will pour knowledge and love for learning into the students.

As principal, I have the opportunity to get to know the teachers, parents, and students of Cumberland, as well as, discovering how I can have an impact on their lives. There is so much that I am learning about

our school and our students already, and I am looking forward to everyone being on campus. This is going to be a fantastic school year! I can't wait to start!





FROM YOUR TEACHERS

PIONEER COORDINATOR

Mrs. Morgan

Welcome Pioneer Parents! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer break. We are looking forward to seeing our returning Pioneers and meeting our new arrivals. The Pioneer team would like to welcome Aria De'Juan, Fiona Shannon and Shmuel Shulkes to the Pioneers. This is going to be a wonderful year!

Mrs. A, as students know her, will be moving over to our Pioneer group. She is bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to the group, and we are so glad she is already a familiar face to our students!

This year we are excited to be starting a new Social

Studies curriculum. It utilizes a more hands-on approach. We have also planned some exciting field trips such as, Jaemor Farms and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. We look forward to seeing everyone soon!



NAVIGATOR COORDINATOR

Mrs. Mensing

As you read this newsletter, we will be days away from starting the new school year. We look forward to challenging our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders both academically and socially. Mrs. Bishop is busy researching novels for her literature classes. Mr. Allpere is scouring the internet for exciting experiments for his science classes. The entire student body will help hatch and raise thousands of fish in September. Mrs. Liang is looking forward to introducing our new Geography curriculum, Nystrom, to the students. The middle school will be using a new multi-sensory curriculum designed to increase their map skills and visual-spatial processing. We will focus our studies on Europe, Russia, Asia and the Middle East. Mrs. Mensing will continue to use Envision Math 2.0 to teach her middle school math classes. Mrs. Lipshutz (formerly a Pioneer teacher)

is joining the Navigator crew this year. She is thrilled to bring her ideas and middle school experience to our writer's workshop classes. This year our students will develop vocabulary through a variety of paragraph and essay writing assignments, while focusing on their editorial skills.

The first few days of school will be an opportunity for students to get to know one another and their teachers. Throughout August teachers will evaluate students to ensure class placement is appropriately challenging your child. You'll have the opportunity to meet your child's teachers and learn more about their classroom at Curriculum Night on September 7th. You should be receiving several emails weekly through Jupiter Ed. If not, please contact the school.

FROM YOUR TEACHERS

EXPLORER COORDINATOR

Ms. Zierten

All signs point to another incredible and productive school year! Our enthusiastic school team is registering new families, ordering needed materials and updating student files. We are indeed a joyous and caring community with the common goals of nurturing responsible, caring students and promoting high-level learning.

Each year brings positive change. This includes a few additions to our staff. We welcome Jennifer Robinson, our new science teacher. Alison Ross is joining us with a plethora of experience and a true love for literature and teaching. We are also very excited to welcome Mr. Peter Dyer to our Explorer Team. Mr. Dyer will be teaching a computer science class to many of our students. Our Career Prep Team welcomes a familiar face to Cumberland, Ms. Beth McCracken along with Mr. Brandon Jones.

What a great team!

Along with new staff members comes new courses. Some students will take a new Digital Footprint/Portfolio Enrichment Class, and our AV Media Class will have an additional component. Mr. Andy Jones will be bringing Improv. Andy has incredible experience in the special needs community and will no doubt, continue to reach new heights with our high schoolers. Our Social Studies programs added a World Geography course option, and students will love the Science experience.

I look forward to beginning another school year with your family and working with an exceptional community of educators.

CAREER PREP

Mrs. McCracken

Many learning activities are planned for the Career Prep students with engaging field trips that continue to build life skills and vocational strengths. This year Coach Jones and I are excited to continue the amazing Career Prep Program.

Our focus will be on math and literacy and continue to relate these academics to career paths. The students will continue off campus internships at Yardhouse, The Gap, Publix and other various locations. We are looking forward to an exciting year of growth and education!



FROM YOUR TEACHERS

COUNSELOR'S CORNER- V.Schwan

Your Cumberland Counselors are excited & ready to help your students be successful this year!

As we reconnect in August, some students may struggle with starting a conversation or joining in group conversations. Your student will be successful with their peers and adults if they know that topics of popular music, jokes, weather, and summer vacations stories work well as conversation starters or extenders. Please remind your student that he, or she, has a place at school with a counselor to express emotional concerns and talk about strategies that are helpful in conquering them. Sean Covey emphasizes in his book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, building self-confidence by making deposits into a personal bank account (PBA)*. *Keeping promises to yourself and others, doing small acts of kindness, being honest, and tapping into talents are ways to build personal bank accounts and confidence. Cumberland Counselors will be working throughout the school year to support and encourage executive function skills, life skills, and social thinking. We will encourage students to use their strengths to help others, not only our family and friends, but people in our community. Our goal is to build confidence in small steps that contribute toward balance and success in all areas.*

We are excited that Ms. Yvon Roland is returning this year as the Navigator Counselor Coordinator and Mrs. Anna Scheidt as the Pioneer Counselor Coordinator. Ms. Belinda Horne and I look forward to working with the Explorer students, and Steven Owens, Shawnquita Shedrick, and Brittani Wilson will be part of our team as Counselor Interns. We are grateful for Dr. Kelli Ritter as she generously supports our staff in an advisory role.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of our counselors with questions or concerns.
Warmly ~ Val Schwan

TECHNOLOGY-J. Liang

Why does a computer science class need origami paper?

Sometimes my annual budget request takes a bit more explaining. Everyone understands why a teacher needs dry erase markers. Other things aren't as obvious.

At Cumberland, our goal this year is to incorporate more opportunities for STEAM in our students' routine. What's STEAM? It stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. By incorporating opportunities to develop in these areas, we are giving our students opportunities to learn skills they can transfer into 21st-century jobs. So why does computer science need origami paper? Following a set of directions in the sequence is called an "algorithm". Follow the algorithm for folding paper and you end up with a beautiful swan. Create your own set of directions and give it to your robot and you have a program.

Cumberland is very excited to share that we were selected as a host site for the Finch robotics program this year. A Finch is a small, easily programmable robot developed by Carnegie Mellon and BirdBrain Technologies to teach students at all levels about computer science and programming. BirdBrain will be loaning us a set of Finch robots during the first semester for use by all our students. We also had a sizable donation made of Lego Mindstorm kits this summer which will be used by the Navigators for enrichment.



THERE'S MORE...

BARKS FROM HALEY

- We are so grateful to John Stern and his team at Freshens for helping Cumberland with the kitchen design. What a great space it will be for students to learn cooking, cleaning and other living skills.
- Our first high school event comes to Cumberland courtesy of Fox Sports. Thank you to Jeff Genthner, our new board member.
- Parents, don't forget to join the Cyclone Parent group. What a great group of parents we have!
- The second annual Parent Party is August 26 @ 6pm. This was such a fun event last year; we can't wait for this year's party! Thank you to Ami and Jeff Levy for hosting!



SPORTS & SCHOOL CLUBS

How about a new school year resolution? Some of these students did! We love to see students try new things, especially sports and clubs.



This fall is the perfect time to try a new sport. Coach "C" and teachers love to see a student try a new sport like cross country and/or cheer. Look for sign ups in the weekly Connection. If sports are not your thing, we have several clubs to join. August 25th is the first day of bowling. This is a student favorite so don't miss the sign ups. We look forward to seeing some (sweaty) smiling faces after school.

Girls, a Cumberland favorite, Girl Talk, will begin soon after school begins. Miss Yvonne will be heading up this before school club. Don't tell the boys, this is a girl thing!

AUGUST 2017

Cumberland Academy of Georgia

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Parent Academy Night at 6:00	9	10 First Day of School Pizza provided No after school activities	11 Casual Dress No Cumberland Café Lunch provided No after school activities	12
13	14 EDP until 4:30	15 EDP	16 EDP	17 Pizza Provided EDP	18 Spirit Wear ok Cumberland Café Lunch Provided Tae Kwon Do begins	19
20	21 EDP Cross Country until 4:30	22 EDP Cross Country until 4:30	23 EDP	24 Pizza Provided EDP	25 Casual Dress Cumberland Café Lunch Provided Bowling begins Tae Kwon Do	26
27	28 EDP Cross Country until 4:30	29 EDP Cross Country until 4:30	30 EDP	31 Pizza Provided EDP		

MAKE AN IMPACT

On these amazing students!

Please use your Publix and Kroger cards

Save Your BOXTOPS

Amazon Smiles (name Cumberland
as the charity)



HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR GOAL?



Cumberland Academy of Georgia
650-A Mount Vernon Hwy NE
Atlanta, GA 30328

Label for sending in the mail

Cumberland Academy of Georgia specializes in the needs of children with high functioning Autism, Asperger's, ADD, ADHD and other learning differences. The mission of the academy is to provide a safe, supportive, educational environment in partnership with faculty, staff, students and parents. The Cumberland family embraces the uniqueness of every child by challenging and inspiring them to reach their full potential. Our academic and social curriculum encourages the development of life skills essential in becoming self-sufficient adults.