



2021-2022

Cardinal Courier

Middle School August/September Newsletter Vol. 1



Welcome Message from Dr. Keith Greetings Cardinals!

I hope everyone is well and navigating safely through these unprecedented times. Good News! SMK8 School is ready to make her mark in a positive way. Moving forward, I have no doubt in my mind that the dedicated and patient SMK8 staff will provide our students with a positive, flexible learning environment that encourages and supports personalized learning. Combined with the devotion of their families and our community stakeholders, we will continue to thrive and meet the needs of our students despite these most difficult times.

Cardinals, you are all amazingly unique individuals. At this time, **you** have been given opportunities to use certain artistic skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, persistence, creativity, and discipline to soar to higher heights, both academically and personally.

- Critical thinking - It is not a stretch to say that many of your brains are constantly in high gear - use it to reflect and find alternative ways around hurdles.
- Problem-solving - This is time to really use those reasoning skills. Times of great turmoil bring out the best in problem-solving. How will all of this change what we know going forward?
- Persistence - You have all been through unsure times. Stay the course. Keep moving forward. Finally, do not give up.
- Discipline - Set SMART goals. Develop a schedule and created a routine. Understand that you are responsible for your learning experience.
- Creativity - The most outstanding works of art are created in times like these. Create!!!

Have a terrific school year! Cardinals soar! Every day we rise.

*Welcome
Back*



SMK8 Newest Cardinals

F



Mr. Fred S. Mack
Assistant Principal



Mrs. Loressa Jenkins
Elementary Counselor



Mr. Gerald Lancaster
Band Teacher



Mrs. Sreerashmi Sumesh
Keyboarding



Mrs. Arlene Wright
4th Grade Teacher

Congratulations

Teacher of the Year

Staff of the Year

Rookie of the Year



Mrs. Taylor Tant
5th Grade Teacher



Mr. Stephen Haigler
Custodian




Ms. Tiandra Heyward
PreK Teacher

READ All About It!!

From the **SMK8 Media Center**

The media center is excited about a new school year and kicked it off with everyone reading "The Dot" by Peter Reynolds! We are excited to bring this great read aloud to help us learn about the importance of having a **GROWTH Mindset!** What can you do to make your **MARK** and see where it takes you?

 **JUST MAKE A
MARK AND see
WHERE IT TAKES
YOU!** 



Students, don't forget to

check out the Sora app in

Clever and read some great books! Please email Mrs. Morris if you have any questions on how to use it! "**Reading is a Passport to Countless Adventures**" by Mary Pope Osborne.

GROWTH MINDset

**CHANGE YOUR WORDS----
CHANGE YOUR MINDSET!
BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF**

YET



WINGS FOR KIDS is an AWESOME, NEW after-school program offered to SMK8 students in grades K-5 for FREE! We are so excited to soar to whole new heights. This program will teach students about social-emotional skills, offer homework assistance, and provide snacks in a safe, fun environment. Wings for Kids will begin on September 7, 2021 from dismissal to 5:30 P.M.

If you would like your child to participate in this program, go to the link provided and fill out the application at www.wingsforkids.org/parent-info. We look forward to serving your children.



Counselling Connection Guidance

Hello! I am Mrs. Loressa Jenkins! I am very excited to be a St. Matthews K-8 Cardinal. This is my first year as an Elementary School Counselor. However, I have worked with children for 16 years in different capacities. I am a product of Calhoun County Public Schools and excited about being able to serve the children of my hometown. As a school counselor, I look forward to providing our students with academic support, new learning experiences, opportunities for career and college exploration while acquiring the necessary skills for every



Hello. I am Thomasena Simmons, the St. Matthews K-8 School Middle School Counselor. I have had the pleasure of working in Calhoun County for 22 years, and 18 of those years were as a school counselor. I love the small school setting because I have the opportunity to become personally acquainted with both our students and their parents as well as community members. What I have found most rewarding at this stage in my career is that I am afforded the opportunity to serve the children of former students with whom I've built a strong lasting relationships.



SMK8 PTO

Eloise Guinyard, PTO President

The PTO is a vital part of the school community bringing together parents, teachers, administrators, and students. It diligently works to support our students and some school initiatives to enhance our children's overall school experience.

In order to continue the awesome work that is being done for SMK8 and it's students, please become a member of SMK8 PTO or make a donation. Dues are \$3 per students, \$5 per adult, and \$10 per family.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Cardinal Jackets! For Sale!!!



Show your School Spirit!!!

**Purchase a Cardinal
windbreaker jacket**

\$30 for Adults

\$25 for ALL Youth sizes

Purchase a jacket or TWO!

Help support SMK8

**Contact Mrs. Eloise Guinyard, PTO President or
call SMK8 at 803-655-2753**



**Remember, YOU make the difference. Thank for your
support. Together, we are Cardinal Strong!**



International Dot Day
September 15th



THANKS COMMUNITY



- ❖ Sept. 6th.. Labor Day, No school
- ❖ Sept. 15th International Dot Day
- ❖ Sept. 16th.. Interim Reports Issued
- ❖ Sept. 20th.. School Improvement Council (SIC) 6.P.M
- ❖ Sept. 20th.. CCPS Board Meeting 7 P.M.
- ❖ Sept. 27th..Scholastic Book Fair begins
- ❖ Sept. 29th.. Fall Picture Day

FOR SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS

SMK-8 would like to thank our community for all the wonderful donations of school supplies!



Special thanks to:

Mrs. Jennifer Holstein

Zeus Warehouse

Calhoun County Branch of NAACP

The Rev. Janet Roberts Echols
St. Matthew's Parish Church



TECHNOLOGY REMINDERS...

- Charge your Chromebooks daily.
- Make sure you have turned in your photo/video permission forms.
- Fill out **Help Tickets** online if you need any help with your computer!
- Be sure to watch SMK8 News on our SMK8 Stream YouTube channel.

Fall Picture Day is Coming
Sept 29th

Check the website for details.

