

Cologne Academy Director's News

Calendar Dates

- September 16 at 7:30 a.m. Academic Meeting
- September 16 at 2:45 Grandparents Day
- September 16 at 6:30 p.m. Family Fun Night
- September 20 at 5:30 Facilities Task Force Meeting
- September 20 at 8:00 p.m. Finance Meeting
- September 22 at 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting
- September 27 at 6:30 p.m. Parent Open House
- September 28—2 hour late start
- September 30 at 2:50 p.m. OSA (Outstanding Student Assembly)
- September 26—September 30 Spirit Week!!!!

Cologne Academy's Character Development

Cologne Academy, like many Core Knowledge schools across the country, uses the Core Virtue Curriculum. The Core Virtue Curriculum is a literature based moral development program. The program's goal is the cultivation of character through the promotion of basic moral, civic and intellectual virtues. Cologne Academy implements a three year rotation of virtues in order to add variety and to stress the broad breadth of moral vision that we hope to instill in all students.

Our September virtues will always be Respect and Responsibility no matter what year rotation we are in; this is because these virtues are worthy of repetition during the back to school time and are always appreciated when students display these virtues! Here is a list of all Year 3

monthly virtues that will be taught.

September- Respect and Responsibility

October- Perseverance

November- Stewardship

December- Service

January- Courage

February- Honesty and Justice

March- Mercy

April- Gentleness and Humility

May- Wisdom

Cologne Academy acknowledges students each month for their work in finding ways to build their character by going above and beyond the school's high expectation for being a person of character. Traditionally, we have called our monthly assemblies "Fish Ceremonies". We have renamed our

Lynn Gluck Peterson
Executive Director
September, Issue 2



assemblies to OSA (Outstanding Student Assemblies). Our K-4 students will still receive fish certificates if they are "caught" doing something above and beyond our high character expectations. Students in grades 5-8 may be nominated for the Triple A Award by their teachers. Each month, 2 students in each grade (5-8) will be nominated by teachers in the area of **A**cademics, **A**thletics, and the **A**rts. Recipients of the Triple A Award will be honored at the OSA each month.

As always, parents are invited to our OSAs. Dates are listed on our website and are included in the Calendar Dates column on the left side of this page.

Kline: Charter School Bill “Key Component” in GOP Efforts to Reform Education



Check us out on the web @ cologneacademy.org

Remember to call the office by 9:00 a.m. if your child will be absent.

952-466-2276

Please label your child's sweaters, sweatshirts, etc... If these items end up in the lost and found, we will return them promptly.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 9/8/11— Today, the U.S. House of Representatives began consideration of the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act ([H.R. 2218](#)).

In his opening remarks on the House floor, House Committee on Education and the Workforce Chairman John Kline (R-MN) called H.R. 2218 “a key component of our efforts to reform the nation’s education system and ensure more students have access to a quality learning experience.”

Chairman Kline said, “The stories of charter school success are nothing short of impressive. Students who previously had little hope have been inspired by excellent teachers to reach new heights. The tales of groundbreaking programs and initiatives at local charter schools have motivated surrounding public schools to improve. Parents have witnessed children of all backgrounds transition from struggling to excelling as a result of their charter school education.”

“Unfortunately,” continued the chairman, “there are not enough charter schools to meet demand, and hundreds of thousands of students remain on waitlists each year. The legislation we will consider today

takes important steps to encourage and support the establishment of more high quality charter schools in communities across the United States.” The House Committee on Education and the Workforce is advancing a series of legislation designed to reform elementary and secondary education law, currently known as No Child Left Behind. Over the summer, the committee approved the first three bills in this series: the Setting New Priorities in Education Spending Act ([H.R. 1891](#)), the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act ([H.R. 2218](#)), and the State and Local Funding Flexibility Act ([H.R. 2445](#)). H.R. 2218 is the first piece of education reform legislation to come before the full House of Representatives for a vote.

Contact: Press Office
(202) 226-9440



Spirit Week is September 26-30!

Dress up days are as follows:
Monday: Class Shirt Day
(students will receive shirts by 9/22. Be sure to turn in your \$10 shirt fee)

Tues: Dress Your Best Day!

Wednesday: Athletic Shirt/ Sweatshirt and Hat Day

Thursday: Pajama Day
(school and weather appropriate pajamas only)

Friday: Jeans and CA Shirt/ Sweatshirt Day

School will start at 10:30 am on Wednesday September 28.

Clubhouse will still be open at the regular time. If you do not attend Clubhouse on Wednesday mornings but need care please contact Jami Reinitz before Wednesday.

jreinitz@cologneacademy.org

Parents: if you can help with Clubhouse from 8:15-10:15 on this day, please contact Jami.

Thank You

Positive Connections!

We would like to thank Positive Connections for being so flexible with regard to our busing schedules. They are constantly changing routes and adding buses to fit our needs.

If you would like to join us in thanking them, their address is:

Positive Connections
460 Hickory Street
Chaska, MN 55318
952-361-0899
rhagerstrom@posconinc.com

Please remember: riding the bus is a privilege!

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment

Cologne Academy is an academic charter school. Our mission and vision is rooted in individual academic achievement. Together with parents, teachers set high academic goals for their students. These goals are accomplished by the school's dedication and commitment to use data to drive instructional decisions and the Cologne Academy administration's desire to develop their teachers to be reflective and effective educators. Cologne Academy provides continuous and ongoing professional development opportunities so that the teachers can become better technicians and gain greater understanding of their profession to maximize each student's potential.

With all testing, it is critical to understand the purpose of the test, how to interpret the results, and most importantly, how to use the results to make purposeful and thoughtful actions based on the results. The MCAs are Minnesota's high stakes tests. These measure how proficient students perform against MN state standards.

While data can be read many different ways, the media coverage on the MCAs does not tell the whole story about unique student populations, enrollment, trends, etc. The media will give a topical overview which gives the public a bird's eye view. In the next pages, an in-depth analysis will assist our community in interpretation and will also allow the school to further refine and use this data to drive instruction.

Several factors come into consideration when trying to interpret trends, reasoning, and influential circumstances that factor into the results. When analyzing the results, we look at what resident district our students come from, or if they have been home schooled, how long they have been a student at Cologne Academy and exposed to Core Knowledge Curriculum, socio-economic factors, and educationally labeled in one or more of the 13 Federal categories for special education.

The Minnesota Department of Education released the results of the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) scores on Wednesday. The MCAs are the state tests that help districts measure student progress toward Minnesota's academic standards and meet the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The State reported:

- Minnesota students showed slight improvement in overall reading scores.
- Mathematics results show decline in percentage of all students proficient on all assessments (8.7%)

What are the MCAs?

The purpose of the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments-Series II (MCA-II) is to measure Minnesota students' achievement on the Minnesota Academic Standards. These tests meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind. The reading and math tests are used to determine whether schools and districts have made adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward all students being proficient in 2014.

The MCA-II results can be used to inform curriculum decisions at the school and classroom level.

The reading and Mathematics MCA-IIs are paper and pencil assessments aligned to the 2003 MN academic standards. Students in grades 3-8 enrolled at public schools in MN take this test each spring in reading and math and science in 5th and 8th grades.

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment, con't

All of these factors are significantly apparent in our small school where one student accounts for a high percentage of the overall proficiency rating. Cologne Academy has 12-25 students per grade. Surrounding districts have three to twelve times our population in each grade! It is important to consider the influence, impact, and transparency of each student at Cologne Academy as they account for 4-8% points on the school's results compared to larger schools where each student may account for .25% point or less!

Cologne Academy's results are in line with the prediction given to the School Board this past spring. School-wide, we ensure each student makes, at minimum, one year's growth. Our interim assessments, given four times a year in math and reading give teachers the data necessary to truly meet the needs of every learner. Our goal is to close the gap for all of our students and help them reach the state's level of proficiency.

For some learners that joined Cologne Academy mid-year last year, a few months is not enough time to close their gap. However, their growth is measurable, As parents, you see your child's growth and academic gains. For those students who did not make the state's measure of proficiency we are confident that your child has made an incredible learning journey.

I am pleased with the results of the MCAs and proud of the students' accomplishments! I know from the state level and every district's perspective that our job is not done and that there are many opportunities for growth! Much improvements can be made on many fronts. As No Child Left Behind goes through another reauthorization and as the state changes their testing vendors, we will again see discrepancies containing varied results.

Should you have any specific questions about these results, please don't hesitate to call me at the school or email me at

	Reading			Math	
	Cologne Academy	State		Cologne Academy	State
3rd	82.60%	78.50%		70.80%	70.10%
4th	88.00%	75.20%		80.00%	67.20%
5th	78.20%	80.30%		60.80%	53.60%
6th	64.70%	75.10%		47.00%	50.30%

- Grades 3-8 Math assessments align to standards with increased rigor; anticipate an increase in proficiency as standards are more consistently implemented across the state.
- We continue to see a persistent disparity in achievement between students of color, students in poverty and their white counterparts.
- This achievement gap reflects the urgent need to focus time, attention and resources to ensure all children achieve at high levels.

<http://www.education.state.mn.us/MDE/index.html>

Having a Ball.....

Volleyball, that is!

The Cologne Academy Girls Volleyball Team is off to a great start this year, with 12 girls from 4th and 5th grade on the team. The girls played their first games last Saturday against the Waconia Wildcats and St. Joe's. Our girls put up a good fight to keep the ball going and had great teamwork as well. The next game will be at the Norwood High School this Saturday at 9:45. Come out and support the girls!



Our school day ends at 3:30.

Buses depart at
approximately 3:40.



Office Tidbits:

Please call or email attendance information to Jana Moeller at jmoeller@cologneacademy.org

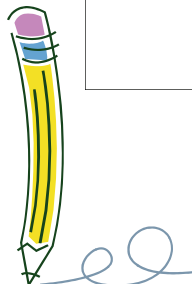
Jana typically works until 1:30 and may not receive messages sent after that time.

Please send end of day changes to Kelly Farrell at kfarrell@cologneacademy.org.

Thank You!

Take Charge of Education

We recently received a check from Target stores in the amount of \$1,694.02. If you have a Target REDcard, please specify Cologne Academy as your school of choice and Target will donate 1% of all purchases back to our school!



Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Bakken on the birth of their baby boy!!



Parent Open House

Mark your calendars for September 27th at 6:30 PM. Cologne Academy is hosting a Parent Open House. This is a great time to learn about your child's school and specifically about their classroom.

Did you know that over the next 4 years, Cologne Academy will have 3 expansions. Our 13,019 square foot expansion will be open for school next year. This new building will include a 1400 sq ft music room, 1300 sq ft art room, science lab, and more!

PAVE Reminders

5th Grade Pizza Fundraiser Underway!!

In an effort to fundraise for their upcoming trip to Camp Voyageur in October, the Fifth Grade students are selling Papa Murphy Peel A Deal Cards for \$10.00 each. This is a \$40 value! For every card sold the student gets selling them earns \$9.00 toward their trip. Please support the Cologne Academy Fifth Graders. Don't know any fifth graders? Please contact the Fifth Grade Teacher, Kim Friedrich at kfriedrich@cologneacademy.org.

Aluminum Can Recycling

Please continue to bring in your cans to the recycling trailer in the parking lot. The dollars earned by recycling the cans helps pay for the Fifth Grade Camp Voyageur Trip each year. They appreciate the efforts all of you make to recycle.

Grandparents Day Is Fast Approaching

We hope you have invited all the grandparents to this wonderful event planned for Friday, September 16th at 2:45. Cookies and juice will be served and fun will be had in each classroom. Don't have a grandparent to invite? There will be plenty to share! Please be sure to RSVP to teachers so we have enough goodies to go around.

Handprinted Tiles Available on Grandparents Day

The playground bench still needs some more tiles. Please stop by the table in the entry way to purchase a slate tile and have your handprint painted on it with your name. These tiles will decorate the bench by the playground. Each tile is \$20.00. Your child will love to look for their tile on the bench!!

Family Fun Night Hosted by Kindergarten Classes

BINGO! BINGO! BINGO! Please join the Kindergarten classes for an evening of fun playing BINGO! There will be treats for all and prizes for the winners! Be sure to invite the grandparents to join the fun after visiting for Grandparents Day. All ages welcome. Begins at 6:30 and ends at 8:00 p.m.

Box Tops for Education, Campbell's Labels, Kemp's Milk Moola, Coke Rewards Reminder

There is a bin in the office just waiting for you to send in your caps, labels and box tops. Please send these to school regularly.

Room Parents All In Place

Room Parents have been established in each classroom. The Room Parent is the teachers go to person when things need to get done in the classroom above and beyond what the teacher can accomplish in a given day. They will be contacting you soon about ways you can help in the classroom. Please work with them, as your time allows, as they attempt to complete tasks assigned by the classroom teachers.

Our next PAVE meeting is Monday, October 3rd at 6:30 p.m. Please remember that everyone is a member of PAVE. We would love to see you get involved in building a stronger community at Cologne Academy. Give us a try! We are not your typical PTO/PTA.