



City Neighbors Hamilton's
**WHAT'S GOOD IN THE
 NEIGHBORHOOD**

Student label goes here

The Week Ahead

SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

Monday 9/4	Tuesday 9/5	Wednesday 9/6	Thursday 9/7	Friday 9/8	Saturday 9/9
NO SCHOOL Labor Day	First Day of School! Staggered entry for K--students last name A-G	Staggered entry for K--students last name H-Z	First Day for all Kindergarten Students	Ice Cream Social & Movie Night 6 PM (see page 5)	

Welcome to the inaugural "What's Good" weekly update for the 2017-2018 school year!

My first two months as principal of CNH have been guided by meetings with parents, teachers, and the City Neighbors Foundation leadership team. I'd like to thank all of the parents and families who took the time to meet with me over the summer so that we could get a chance to know one another a little bit before the school year began. The warmth and commitment of families in this school is inspiring. I can't wait for us to hit the ground running this week together, as partners, continuing to co-construct the school.

A special thanks goes to Gary Bryant, Neil Ingram, and the dedicated summer team who worked tirelessly this summer to renovate, build, and scrub every aspect of this school so that it is in pristine shape for the first day of school. Our classes wouldn't be able to function without the endless behind-the-scenes work of our building maintenance and cleaning team working over the summer and every evening during the school year!

Let's begin this year with optimism and joy throughout our community of learners both in and outside of school!

Looking forward to a great year together.

Dr. Shyla

Nuts and Bolts

Forms from Summer: I still have not received important paper work from a handful of families. It is crucial we receive these immediately. In case of emergency, we need to know how to contact you. At dismissal, we need to know who we can release your child to. If you have misplaced these forms, please contact me.

School Handbook The School Handbook will be available on Back-to-School Night, **Thursday, September 14**. The information in it is important for you to know, understand, and follow throughout the school year. The Handbook will be available on the CNH website, as well.

BIG Thanks to Angie Gaude for helping copy, sort, and compile all the student forms that are needed in classrooms and in the Health Suite. And thanks to the many folks who offered to help. You're the best! I wish all of us a wonderful 2017-18!
 ~Stephanie~

Looking Ahead

Tuesday, 9/12

Board Meeting
6:30 PM

Thursday, 9/14

Back-to-School Night
6:30 - 8 PM

Thursday, 9/21

NOLA Meeting for 8th Grade
Families
6 - 7 PM

Ms. Armstrong's Classroom

Friday, 9/22

Middle School Field Trip to
Baltimore Book Festival

Friday, 10/6

Picture Day

Tuesday, 10/10

Board Meeting
6:30 PM

Friday, 10/20

NO SCHOOL

Staff Professional Development

Wednesday, 10/25

1 PM DISMISSAL

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thursday, 10/26

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Friday, 10/27

1 PM DISMISSAL

Parent-Teacher Conferences

From Weather to Sea Creatures, Summer Camp Brought Learning to Life

CNH was hopping this summer with hands-on, meaningful learning experiences for young learners. Students engaged with questions about weather patterns, the environment, underwater life, and much more. These projects were integrated with focused literacy skill development to make camp fun, enriching, and educational! Below are some pictures from the end-of-camp performances.



Special thanks to Mr. Harris for his leadership and direction of Summer Camp this year!

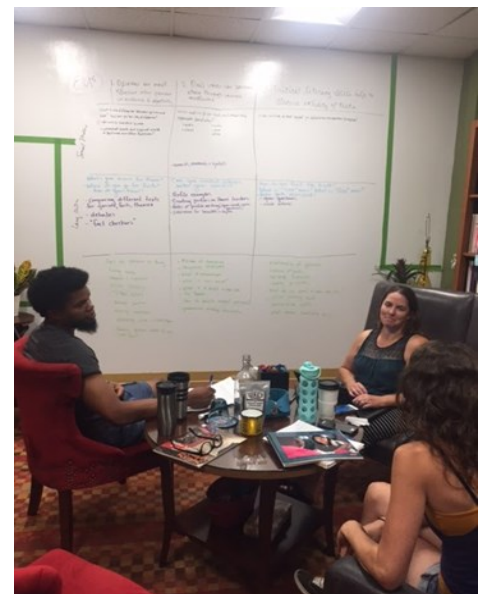
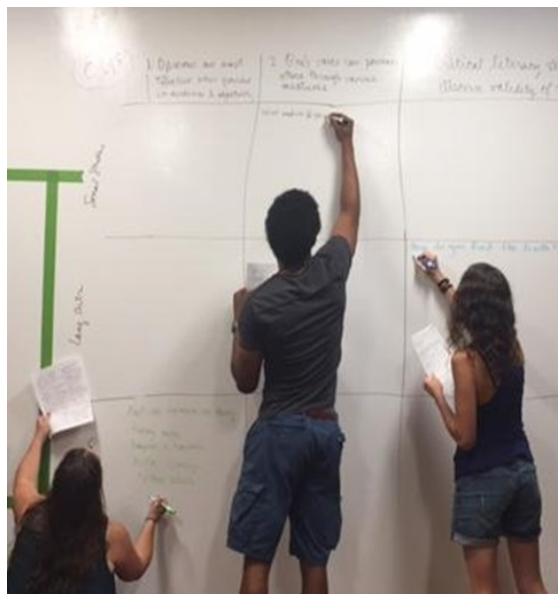
CNH Teachers Were Busy Over the Summer



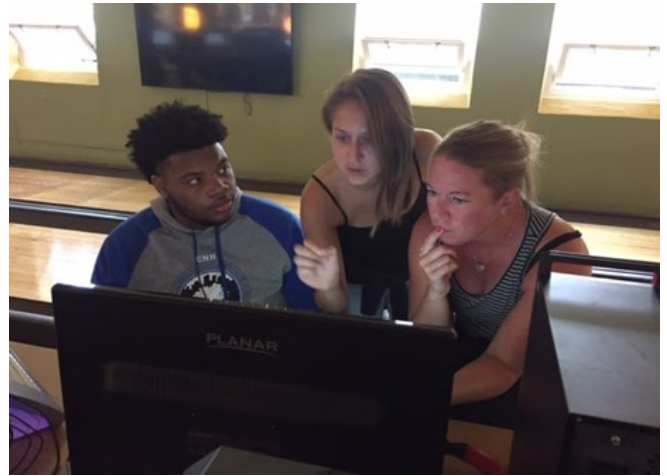
All summer long, teachers and administrators worked together to hire new faculty, design new personalized blended learning opportunities, and create new structures that will support deep learning.

The K-2 team spent countless hours working and reworking plans for the K-2 literacy initiative. Here they are working hard over the summer!

Once we got Mr. Smooth on board in the Middle School, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Farley, and Mr. Smooth worked diligently to develop a Humanities blend, where Language Arts and Social Studies will be integrated within a learning lab setting with individualized/small group instruction in reading, writing, research, and other forms of literacy development. Here they are aligning their content in an initial brainstorming session.



We kicked off our August Professional Development workshop with teachers envisioning a disposition they want to foster in their classrooms and making that word in the Fab Lab to hang on their walls. Teachers identified dispositions such as resilience, grit, friendship, collaboration, exploration, and many others. Teachers learned how to use Adobe Illustrator, the table saw, a laser cutter, spray paint, and construction materials to make their signs. This activity sparked new ideas for collaboration with Justin Eames in the Fab Lab this year.



A Note from the K-2 Grade Team K-2 teachers have observed that their students develop different literacy skills at different times. The beauty of a school like ours is that teachers have the opportunity to know all of their students well and are able to create structures for meeting each student where they are on their learning path. This is part of a school wide initiative to truly meet each student where they are ready to learn and to help them progress in meaningful ways. In order to individualize your child's learning, the K-2 team has developed **Early Childhood Literacy Groups**. The Early Childhood Literacy Groups benefit students by providing rich learning from peer modeling and reinforcing understandings through broader peer interactions. I will describe some of the thinking behind these groups below, so that you have a general sense of these groups. You will learn more specifics at Back-to-School Night from your specific teacher.

- Although students will be grouped by specific learning goals, each classroom (K, 1, 2) will have groups of mixed abilities so as not to unintentionally relate groupings with grade level.
- The program will be rolled out in stages. Grades 1 and 2 hope to begin in October and K hopes to join the Early Childhood Literacy Groups in mid to late January.
- Literacy Groups will meet for 1 hour 3 times per week.
- All classrooms will have at least 2 staff members, so that instruction can be better tailored to individual student needs.
- Groups will be small and flexible, so students will move between groups fluidly as they develop throughout the year.
- In preparation for this program, students will have practice with stations and expectations within their own classroom prior to combining with the literacy groups.
- Early childhood teachers have dedicated time every week to meet about literacy activities, so that they can be nimble and responsive to the students continually throughout the school year.

Sample literacy group activities:

- Listening station
- Reading with a teacher
- Phonics games
- Independent and buddy reading
- Word work

We look forward to continuing to engage your children with deep and rich learning activities that are designed for their specific learning goals.

A Note from the 3-5 Grade Team We are excited for the start of a new year and have been busily planning and preparing for the students to return this week. As part of that work, we are eager to share a new structure that we are implementing for students in grades 3-5.

After 5 years of successfully blending grades 4 and 5 for project work across grade level, last year we expanded these groupings to include word work for grades 3 through 5. By January, we realized this format could be effective with literacy and math, as well. Since then, we have been working to refine a plan to deliver more targeted, personalized instruction in both math and reading by creating smaller groups of students. In addition to the regular math and reading workshop we normally have, students will have a reading group and math group that will include students in grades 3-5 and meet twice a week for reading and twice a week for math.

This targeted small group instruction will:

- create flexible and fluid groupings that change regularly and are based sometimes by interest and sometimes by need;
- allow opportunities for every student to be a leader, feel successful, and build confidence to develop self-efficacy for learning;
- more effectively meet each student where they are through their strengths, interests, and academic needs;
- personalize each child's education more fully.

Afterschool Care United Educational Corporation, (UEC), our after care provider, serves two purposes. For parents who have a regular late afternoon schedule, it is a safe and familiar environment where students complete homework, socialize, and even eat dinner. For everyone else, it is available as a vital safety net. **We encourage every family to register for Emergency Care, even if you are not going to use the after-care program on a regular basis.** Once registered, you have emergency care for your child through the end of the school year. At the end of the school day, school staff have meetings and prior commitments; after 3:15 it is very difficult for us to care for students who have not been picked up at regular dismissal time. Please register your child for Emergency Care, even if you have not done so previously. Online registration and payment options are available on UEC's website at www.uecprograms.com. Thank you!

Opportunity for Advocacy! YOU Can Help Change Baltimore City School Funding For Years to Come:
The Kirwin Commission

Over the next twelve to eighteen months, we have the opportunity to change public school funding for all Baltimore City Schools for years to come. This opportunity happens once every 15-20 years! The Kirwin Commission (officially known as the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education) gathered in Annapolis to study the adequacy of public school funding across our state. This commission will make recommendations to the state legislature this December; the legislature will then use those recommendations to create legislation around school funding in 2018. Maryland ranks near the bottom of all states for funding poor districts and affluent districts equitably. The Baltimore Education Coalition determined that had schools been funded equitably, Baltimore City would have received over \$290 million more in funding right now.

In this time ahead, we will need to mobilize our communities, in partnership with the Baltimore Education Coalition (which City Neighbors helped found), Strong Schools Maryland, and partners across the district and state to influence the Commission and the legislature to fund Baltimore City Schools equitably. This work would mean significant increases in funding for all schools – a “bigger pie”. Look out for more information in coming weeks. If you're interested in diving into this work more fully, contact Sue Fothergill at fothergill.sue@gmail.com, Mike Chalupa at mchalupa@cityneighbors.org, or Shyla Rao at srao@cityneighborshamilton.org.

Do Not Miss the Ice Cream Social and Movie Night!

Get to know the families of CNH by joining us on Friday night beginning at 6 PM for ice cream and a movie!

Welcome Back City Neighbors Hamilton 's Families

Dessert First , Movie Night

Friday September 8, 2017 at 6:00

School's Front Stage
5609 Sefton Ave

Give the school year a sweet start!

Free ice cream social at 6:00 pm

A movie with paid concessions will commence at sunset

Meet other students and discover the great parent led activities



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