

The Dove's Nest

The Official Newsletter of



Susie King Taylor
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

December 2019

Winter Break

Starts at 4 pm on Friday December 20th and students return at 8:30 am on Tuesday January 7th, 2020.

Be sure to take the [parent survey](#) if you haven't already.



Testing, Funding, and the Importance of Involvement

If you are a reader of the Savannah Morning News you may have noticed a recent series on CCRPI scores. Last month I provided a breakdown of what CCRPI is, how it is calculated, and how we fared.

In Year 1 we scored decently for a first year school (the age of the school matters only when considering familiarity of student population and providing a baseline). We were identified as a Title 1

school then and used the funding to provide after school tutorials for students to prepare for GMAS testing.

In Year 2, despite an increase in our population of students who receive Free or Reduced Lunch (FRL) we lost our Title 1 status - and thus our funding - and could not provide tutorials after school. Combined with a variety of other factors from curriculum change to confronting adversity in the middle of the testing season our scores suffered.

Now, in Year 3, with an even greater increase of students who are FRL we still fall just short of identifying as a Title 1 school (About 2% shy), which means that we did not receive the funding that is critical to supporting students who may need extra support this year and technically did not qualify for Title 1 next year (each district sets its own admissions criteria for who is eligible for Title 1).

As a result of not being able to financially support our students with tutorials as we were in Year 1, we have been identified as a Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) School by the Georgia Department of Education for 2019.

The good news is the state is now required to provide support in the form of:

- Ongoing collaboration and technical assistance for continuous improvement
- District and school level reviews and walkthroughs as requested
- Annual Title I, Part A 1003 School Improvement Funds formula allocation
- Professional learning
- GaDOE District Effectiveness Specialist (DES) to support districts in their plan of support for identified schools.

Funding

- As federal appropriations allow, the Georgia Department of Education, at the minimum, will annually award the 1003 fund allotments below for Districts on behalf of TSI schools.
- All funding is pending Federal approval

1. Consistently Underperforming - All Schools: \$75,000 per school

2. Additional Targeted Support - All Schools: \$75,000 per school (we should qualify here)

What are we doing to combat this predicament?:

1. We have hired a Reading Coach to provide Tier 3 interventions during school time to students and coach teachers in reading strategies.
2. We are currently searching for a Math Interventionist to provide Tier 3 math interventions during school time to students and coach teachers in math strategies.
3. Purchased iReady licenses to better prepare students in the testing grades for the math portion of the GMAS test.
4. Departmentalized the higher grades so that math is taught by one teacher and ensured that the lower grades are receiving single-grade instruction in math,.

What can you do?

1. Follow the testing and funding news at the state and local levels:

Georgia Department of Education Releases 2019 CCRPI Reports

<https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/communications/Pages/PressReleaseDetails.aspx?PressView=default&pid=720>

Leaders Question CCRPI Formula

<https://www.savannahnow.com/news/20191123/leaders-question-ccrpi-formula>

2. Ensure your students are in school - everyday - on time.

<https://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/policies-regulations-and-notice/attendance-policies/absences-add/encouraging-school-0>

Studies show that attendance at school not only impacts how much a student will learn, but also builds habits and work ethic that may deter students from dropping out of school later in life.

3. Participate in the school culture.

<https://www.waterford.org/education/how-parent-involvement-leads-to-student-success/>

We love seeing our families at Community Meetings, parent-teacher conferences, school events, and PTA meetings. Being involved in the decision-making at the ground floor ensures your particular family's needs are being met, you are aware of concerns facing your students and staff, and your voice is being heard before a problem arises.

Although we know our students are more than a number and that no state test can measure the love, happiness, and success our students are experiencing on a daily basis, CCRPI scores are most likely not going away anytime soon. Our school's contract renewal in 2022-23 is dependent on raising these scores. We vow to dig in and do our part, will you join us?



The Winter Concert is Upon Us!!!

SKTCS Presents: Holiday Classics (... with a Twist)!!

Thursday December 19th, 2019 10 - 11 am

All grades will perform a song, with special performances from
the SKTCS Choir and Dance Team

No cost for admission, but donations for the students' incentive fund are appreciated.

**Seating is first come, first served (park in the parking lot or street and enter through the parking lot
double doors or 34th Street patio doors) starting at 9:30 am.**

Children's Attire:

Ugly Winter Sweaters/Tops/Sweatshirts, black bottoms, any shoes, winter accessories (headbands,
light-up socks, etc. - the more absurd - the better).

Can't wait to see you there!

The Spirit of the Giving Tree



The Holiday Giving Tree

This holiday season we'd like to take a moment to think of others in the spirit of giving instead of receiving.

Starting Tuesday December 3rd you can help a student in need at SKTCS by coming to school and getting an ornament off of our tree (you can also email or call and we'll send one home with your student). Each ornament will have the wish list of a student who can use a little boost this season. Please consider purchasing some or all of the items listed on their wish list! Gifts should come wrapped and with the ornament affixed by **December 16th!**

Also, if your family needs help this Christmas please let us know by emailing director@sktcs.org by **Friday, December 6th.**

We ask that families come and retrieve gifts by December 19th or we can arrange to have them delivered. All submissions will be kept confidential. If you have any questions please email director@sktcs.org

We Missed You



The last Community Meeting was held on Thursday November 21st on the stage at SKTCS. A group of about 20 - 25 parents and guardians attended to hear about the future of transportation for charter schools, CCRPI scores, PTA updates, and the plans for the new building.

In Summary:

Transportation

For the the past 21 years the Savannah-Chatham County School System (SCPSS) has been providing busing for charter schools free of charge. In the 2020 - 21 school year, SCPSS is going to start charging charter schools for the transportation of students to schools. We estimate that this will cost about \$140k from our operating budget. We would receive approximately \$30k in state funding to apply to the costs. Although we estimate that charging charters will not really save the district much money (Especially when our students' parents are taxpayers who pay for this service) and this will be a devastating blow to being able to provide an innovative education to students, the five charter schools have proposed that the district allow us to pay 1/3 of the costs in 2020 - 21 and 2/3 in 2021 - 22 and beyond. The district received our proposal prior to the Thanksgiving break. We are awaiting their response. Should they accept it it will be approved at the December 11th District Board Meeting. If they have a counter proposal we will meet again on Monday December 9th.

CCRPI Scores

See "In the News" above.

New Building and Recruitment

We have identified several viable locations to house our middle school program for the next two years. The ultimate goal is to move the entire school (K-8) to one location, but in the interim we are looking for a space for the older students. Current priorities are location (we would like students to remain in walking distance to the historical locations in our city), size (is the space large enough), age (will the age of the building require asbestos abatement), and cost (is it worth the investment for a temporary space). On behalf of the Facilities Committee I want to assure you that this is a top priority (I, myself, sat in a couple of meetings over the Thanksgiving Break) and that in a worst case scenario we are committed to serving the students currently enrolled.

Compassion Committee

The Compassion Committee is a branch of the PTA dedicated to ensuring that our students and their families have all their basic needs met to take advantage of the amazing curriculum and environment offered at SKTCS. If you or your family has a need for food, housing, or other resources, please do not hesitate to reach out to compassion@sktcs.org All inquiries will remain confidential.



In November we said goodbye to Mrs. Carpenter, our Spanish teacher. We wish her well on her professional journey.

This month we welcome our new Dean of Social Emotional Learning Sandra Scott-Hardy. Ms. Hardy comes to us with a background as an early child development teacher and school social work. She was most recently employed as a School Based Clinician providing case management, individual and family therapy. Ms. Hardy will begin providing individual, small group, and whole group counseling and social-emotional lessons after the winter break.

Casting Call

CASTING CALL FOR “BABY”

a short film by Hannah Auslander
written by Brooks McMahon

A young girl living in poverty and mourning the death of her older brother, escapes from her drug addicted mother to a world within herself to get away from her harsh reality of drugs and crime.

Baby (LEAD):

6 to 8 years old, Black/African American female.

*A shy, timid little girl with a big imagination.
She is strong-willed. Not many lines, but has
to be able to show a wide range of emotion.*

Contact: delphineanton@gmail.com

Shooting Dates: February 21-23
Savannah, GA



KUDOS!

Kudos Korner

Kudos to Shannon Mullis-Brown, Iman Atiba, and Susan Smith - members of the Compassion Committee - for their help with decking the halls with holiday cheer.

Kudos to the parents, board members, and teachers who came out for the last Community Meeting. Thank you for investing your time in our children.

Kudos to the parents and Coach Smitt who have volunteered their time to start a basketball program at SKTCS.



School Photos

Don't forget, your student's beautiful face is available for purchase through Dec. 20th at <https://mollyhayden.smugmug.com>. A portion of your purchase will benefit the SKTCS PTA.

DONATOS PIZZA

5405 WATERS AVENUE
(912) 328-2022

11am - 11pm Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2019

*20% of sales goes to Susie King Taylor Community School
when you mention this promotion*

DELIVERY | EAT-IN | PICK-UP

ORDER *AND* EARN REWARDS AT DONATOS.COM



Save the Date:

Monday December 2nd - Thursday December 12th

Gifted Testing

Friday December 6th

12:30 pm - 2 pm: Student Success (Front Office)

Wednesday December 11th

6 - 8 pm: Board Meeting, Rm 108 (enter off parking lot)

Thursday December 12th

4:30 - 6 pm: Finance Meeting (Front office)

Thursday December 18th

10 am - 11 am: All School Winter Concert (gym), seating starts at 9:30

Friday December 20th, 2019

Second Quarter Grades end

Friday December 20th, 2019 - Monday January 6th, 2020

Winter Break

Monday January 6th - Friday January 10th, 2020

Second Quarter Report Card Conferences

Volunteers, Chaperones, Club Leaders

We are always in need of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering (even as a trip chaperone) for the school or in your student's classroom please complete the volunteer orientation and return the [Certificate of Completion](#) to each of your students' teachers.



2019-2020 School Calendar

July 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25*	26*	27*	28	29	30

December 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

March 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18*	19*	20*	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

- School Closed/ Holidays
- Pre/Post Service (no school for students)
- Professional Development Day (No School for students)
- First and Last Day of School
- Report Card Conferences
October 21st – 25th
January 7th – 10th
March 11th – 12th
- Report Cards Issued