

Happy New Year, Simpson Parents!

January 8, 2019

Welcome back! I hope the holidays were restful for you and your family! We are excited about the spring and the many events we have coming up for you and our students. As you know, we are in the process of working toward STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art Math) certification for the Cobb County School District. I appreciate the support you have provided our students and our staff in this important endeavor. One of the most important messages I frequently remind our staff and community is that STEAM is not another educational fad or trend. Instruction based on real-world problem solving through interdisciplinary units fosters critical and creative thinking and makes learning relevant and meaningful. As such, I often say that STEAM is "just good teaching." I hope you will join us as we showcase our progress at **STEAMAPALOOZA on Thursday, January 17th, from 6:00-8:00. We will serve pizza and drinks for our staff, students, and parents beginning at 5:30 in our Cafeteria.** Our PTSA will send a flyer with information on how to register for dinner.

In addition, we have two very important parent meetings coming up. First, my administrative team and I will host a **"Parent Academic Night" on Tuesday, January 22nd, from 6:00-7:30.** Please see the flyer on the back of this letter for more information. We will also host Mr. Jeff Dess, the director of the CCSD Prevention Intervention program, on Tuesday, February 5th at 6:30. Mr. Dess is an excellent speaker, and will provide valuable information to you about raising healthy teenagers. He will address the current youth culture including the abuse of opioids, alcohol, and other drugs, social media, self-esteem, mental health, and suicide prevention.

Finally, please keep in mind the following reminders:

- Please take a few moments to complete the **Georgia Parent Survey** which is part of the School Climate Star Rating: <http://gshs.gadoe.org/parents>. The survey will close on March 2nd. Your feedback is very important to us!
- Please let us know if you have sent an **email to a Simpson staff member**, and you have not received a reply within 48 hours. Some of our incoming emails have been going to our SPAM folders. If you do not receive a reply, please send a note to the teacher or staff member through your child to check the SPAM folder. You can also call the front office and leave a message for the teacher or staff member to check the SPAM folder. We appreciate your patience and understanding when this situation does occur. We will respond to you promptly!

If there is ever anything I can do to be helpful to you or your child, please let me know.

Best wishes for a wonderful 2019!

Dr. Ansley K. Daniel

Parent Academic Night**Tuesday, January 22, 2019****6:00-7:30**

- What high school courses are offered for 8th graders at Simpson?
- How does a student qualify for advanced content and high school classes at Simpson?
- What are some test taking strategies my child should practice before taking standardized tests at Simpson in addition to preparing him/her for the SAT and ACT in high school?
- How does the Milestones affect my child?
- How do the instructional technology programs that my child uses frequently at Simpson help him/her be ready for standardized tests and high school (USA Test Prep, Membean, PEG Writing, Sheppard Software)?
- What are the RI and the MI? What is a SLO test?
- What do I need to do as a parent to prepare my child for high school? What is Simpson doing to prepare my child for high school?
- What is the current criteria for retaining a student in middle school?
- What is a CCRPI score and how did Simpson score?

From 7:00-7:30, our administrative team will be available in the theater for brief individual parent questions.

The power point presentation will be posted on the Simpson website for those parents who are unable to attend.

Other upcoming events:

January 9 - Chick-fil-A Spirit Night

January 17 – STEAMAPALOOZA (6:00-8:00)

January 21 – MLK holiday

January 22 – Parent Academic Night with Dr. Daniel (6:00 – 7:30)

January 24 – 7th grade Activity (4:30-6:00); STEAMAPALOOZA weather back-up date

January 31 and February 2 – School Play (6:30)

February 6 – Zaxby's Night benefitting our music programs

February 7 – Chick-fil-A Spirit Night

February 8 – Midnight Madness (7:00 – 12:00)

February 18 – 22 Winter break

March 1 – Dinner and a Show benefitting our Foundation (SEEF)