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Fall 2010

Principal, To You



Crooms Academy of Information Technology

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Dear Parents,

With a quarter of the school year under our belts, we are well on our way to a success filled academic school year. There is a heightened focus on reading strategies across disciplines. College readiness is a critical goal for our seniors as we look toward graduation. Teachers are busy with creative and thoughtful lessons that inspire critical thinking and problem solving. Our focus continues to be Teamwork, Technology, and Thinking.

There are plans underway to provide additional support for our students across subject areas beginning this nine weeks. These plans include yearlong College Examination prep courses, college information fairs, college visits, and math and reading tutoring, and Advanced Placement tutoring and support. We ask your encouragement of these efforts by encouraging completion of all assignments, supporting outside pleasure reading, and assisting them in keeping in focus the importance of a quality education.

We'd like to remind parents of our theme for the year, which is simply "PRIDE". Our hope is that students will learn and exhibit PRIDE in all they do, whether it be athletics, academics, or behavior. We've planned for many opportunities to support your efforts in parenting our students. However nothing goes farther than providing a safe and nurturing home environment which underscores the importance of a great education.

We ask that you consider these recommendations:

- Ensure that your child gets to bed on time
- Keep in touch with teachers regarding academic progress
- Check Parent Information Network for grades and completion of assignments
- Check Blackboard for lesson plans and projects
- Recognize and reward your child's academic progress
- Get involved as a volunteer at Crooms Academy of Information Technology

As always, we stand ready to work with you for the betterment of our students. Don't hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Connie E. Collins".

Connie E. Collins, Ed.D.

Principal

New Teachers

Crooms has added more talent to its amazing staff. New on board this school year are Peggy Aycock, applied technology/social studies; Elaine Baker, English; Sophie Garrity, science; Jean MacInnis, science; Heather New, reading; and Noiree Weaver, chorus.

Free and Reduced Lunch

Food Services would like to remind all parents that they may submit a free or reduced lunch application any time during the school year. You may obtain an application from the front desk at Crooms or apply online at <http://foodservice.scps.k12.fl.us/> The online application is the fastest way to begin receiving free or reduced lunch.

Laptop Insurance

Parents, please be aware that if you have not paid the full amount for laptop insurance at this time (\$20.00), then your child's laptop is not covered. You must have paid the full amount of \$20.00 in order for the laptop to be covered in the event of loss or theft. Please send payment to the school's bookkeeper, Peggy Leroy. Checks should be made out to Crooms AoIT.

Help Your Child Succeed in High School

Discuss school and assignments, check Blackboard together. Check First Class for progress reports. Email teachers if you have questions or concerns. Make sure there is a set time and place for working on school work and studying at home. Encourage your student to get involved in school activities. If needed, have your child stay after for tutoring or SAT prep classes. Limit time on computer and work on your teen's need for 9.5 hours of sleep per night.

Changes in the FCAT Reading Test

Beginning in April 2011, students will take the FCAT 2.0. There are several significant changes. The test is all multiple choice and is more rigorous with higher cognitive expectation. There are several new assessed benchmarks including vocabulary using prefixes, suffixes and roots from Latin and Greek. Upon DOE approval the passing score on FCAT 2.0 for 10th graders will be a scale score of 327 or higher. This is a change from the past when 300 was a passing score. Therefore, ALL 9th and 10th grade students need to make the effort by studying and focusing academically in all their classes to improve their reading comprehension and prepare for the rigors of this new test.

Crooms Academy Grading Policy

In courses where a semester exam is administered, the semester grade shall be determined by counting each nine-week grade at 40% and the semester exam at 20%. (40% + 40% + 20% = Semester Grade). In courses where a semester exam is not administered each nine-week grade will count 50%. (50% + 50% = Semester Grade).

High School Courses

All high school courses are designated semester courses. Students will be awarded credit in one-half (1/2) credit increments if the student successfully completes either the first or the second half of a full year course. Students must be enrolled and in attendance for a minimum of seventy-five (75) hours per semester for one-half (1/2) credit. Grade averages will be based on student performance.

MyRoad Online Tool

The College Board's MyRoad is provided to all PSAT/NMSQT test takers free of charge for the duration of their high school careers. MyRoad is an online tool for career, major, and college exploration. It also includes a personality assessment to help individual students find direction as they begin their college planning process. Students will receive online access to MyRoad when they receive their PSAT/NMSQT Score Report in December. Once they log in, access will be available to them throughout their time in high school.

Reading Tutoring Available

We offer tutoring for Reading/Language Arts after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our first session was for ten weeks, Sept 14-Oct 14 in preparation for the FCAT test for retakes on Oct 19th. Our second session will begin January 25th. These sessions are free to all Crooms students and are designed to improve critical thinking, comprehension and vocabulary using high interest articles from magazines and newspapers.

One Book, One School Project- The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Our One Book, One School project is going very well this fall. The book Hunger Games is a great success that everyone is reading and talking about. Every student who reads the book and passes the reading counts quiz can attend our 'Hunger Games Event' on Dec 3rd during reading and 6th period. Anyone who would like to help on that day is welcome- but you have to choose sides- Peeta or Katniss... This project is sponsored by our Literacy Leadership Team. We are currently discussing next semester's book.

GUIDANCE NEWS

NEW!! The Senior Zone is now open at the back of the cafeteria during both lunches to provide information and assistance with colleges, scholarships, financial aid, and the application process.

NEW!! The Crooms AoIT website now has a new button just for seniors and parents of seniors. Click on the "Senior" button on the left side of the homepage and you will discover a wealth of information on the following topics:

- College information
- Scholarships
- Financial Aid
- Guidance Information
- Graduation Information
- Announcements
- ACT/SAT/CPT
- Website

Congratulations!!! Michael Pollard qualified as a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. He will be honored by SCPS in October. We are proud of you, Michael!

Community Service:

Never begin volunteering without completing the application process. This assures that students volunteer at sites approved by SCPS. All information and forms are located on Blackboard and the Crooms website.

Virtual School:

Students must speak with their guidance counselor BEFORE registering for a virtual school course. Most virtual courses are completed after school hours. Please be aware that taking additional classes increases the work load for students. Virtual school information is located on Blackboard and the Crooms website.

SIP (Student Incentive Program):

Students who earned a D or F semester one in a year-long Standard or Honors class can improve this grade through the SIP Program during the third quarter. Students who participate in the SIP Program must adhere to these guidelines:

- 1) The student must approach the teacher by January 31, 2011 to request SIP.
- 2) The student and teacher will sign a contract that will outline all assignments, projects and, or tests that must be completed from semester one. The teacher will designate the deadline for submission of all work.
- 3) Students must maintain a C in the course they are SIP-ping, and miss no more than 3 days of school in that course.

Spring Exam Dates: FCAT

March 1: Writing – Gr. 10

March 30: Read/Math Retakes Gr. 11 & 12

April 11 & 12: Reading – Gr. 9 & 10

April 13: Science – Gr. 11

April 14 & 15: Math (computer-based) Gr. 10

EOC (End of Course)

May 16-20: Algebra- Gr. 9

Guidance Personnel:

Joan Cameron: Guidance Secretary – 407-320-5754

Daphne Velez-Cortes: Guidance Counselor – Gr. 9-12 Last Names A-G 407-320-5773

Cindy Dawson – Guidance Counselor – Gr. 9-12 Last Names H-Z 407-320-5722

Cathy Alper – Career Specialist – 407-320-5749

Debra Abbott – Assistant Principal – 407-320-5786

2011-2012 Registration Schedule

Jan 19	Applied Tech Fair (during lunch)
Jan 24 – Feb 4	Registration
Feb 4	Forms due to 7th period teacher
Feb 8	Open House for 8th Grade
Feb 8 – Feb 18	8th Grade Registration
Feb 18	Forms due to Middle School Guidance

Community Book Giveaway!



Saturday, Dec. 11th

Seminole High School

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

All ages of children are welcome!!

Crooms Student Council and Leadership Class

Leadership has been having a good year so far! We kicked off the beginning of the school year with a Grease themed skate party. A good time was had by all. We matched up our freshmen with upper class Leadership students in our Panther Pals Program. We have had a "Meet and Greet" event and are planning a BBQ lunch for Nov 3rd.

We had a very successful Blood Drive on Sept 24, with 55 units donated. Kudos to PTSA volunteers who helped. Our next Drive is Jan 20, so plan to roll up your sleeves. Donating blood at our drives helps us earn a substantial scholarship from the Central Florida Blood Center while saving lives of others.

Our Spirit Week this year is December 6-11. We are planning several events including our homecoming pep rally and basketball game Friday, December 10. Our Homecoming Dance will be held on Saturday, Dec 11 and the theme this year is Winter Wonderland. These activities help build school spirit and make Crooms a fun place to be.

Jefferson Award

The Jefferson Award is a nationally recognized Youth Service Initiative that is specifically for high school students who give back to their community. At Crooms, the Jefferson Award recipients are chosen once a quarter and winners receive a certificate of achievement and a \$25 gift card from Outback Steakhouse. Thanks to the generosity of the Outback Steakhouse Restaurant in Sanford for sponsoring this program. An overall school winner will be chosen at the end of the year and will go on to face countywide winners and then statewide winners. In order to be a Jefferson Award recipient you must be nominated by yourself, a peer or a teacher, for a service to your community. Nomination forms are available via the Crooms website-downloads, from a teacher, or on the Jefferson Awards bulletin board near guidance.

Las Panteras

The Spanish Department is making history at Crooms by establishing the first Spanish Club. The name of our club is "Las Panteras" (The Panthers). Our officers are: Víctor Torres - president, Francinie Miranda - vice president, Cystal Nieves - secretary, and James Szigeti - historian/ web master. In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month, we had a Food Tasting Fiesta. Many thanks to the parents, members of the PTSA, and leadership students who helped make it possible. ¡Que viva Crooms y que vivan Las Panteras!

Class of 2011

On October 14th, seniors attended a graduation meeting to discuss ordering from Herff Jones. Herff Jones representatives were also on campus on Oct. 26th and Oct. 27th to take graduation orders. The cost of the cap and gown is \$70. If you are looking for graduation announcements, thank you notes, graduation gifts and other ideas, go to their website @ www.herfforlando.com. Printed materials and caps and gowns will be delivered in spring. Students will be notified as to the time and date of delivery. We are looking forward to graduation for the class of 2011 on May 27, 2011 at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre in downtown Orlando. Should you have any questions about graduation, please call Dr. Ray, the senior class sponsor at 407-320-5730.

Class of 2012

The junior class is working hard on the Junior/Senior Prom. This year, the prom will be held on Friday, April 22 at the Longwood Community Building. Herff Jones met with the junior class on October 22nd to present information about school rings. They took orders on October 26th and 27th. Contact Amanda Pierce, Junior Class Sponsor (407-320-5776) with any questions or concerns.

Class of 2013

The sophomore class held their annual Rock Band Battle of the Bands IV on November 17th. Contact Brad Barsalou, Sophomore Class Sponsor (407-320-5774) with any questions or concerns.

Class of 2014

The freshmen class held their elections in September. Class Officers are:

President - David Sampson, Vice President - Kamal Dehany, Secretary - Kendy Menelas, Treasurer - Nick Rodriguez, Historian/Senator - Ken Weld

Contact Jason Touhey, Freshmen Class Sponsor (407-320-5705) with any questions or concerns.

Beta Club

The Beta Club raised \$150.00 through a bake sale for the Outreach Rescue Mission. The Outreach Rescue Mission is a homeless shelter located on West 13th Street in Sanford. The Beta Club has several other service projects planned for the school year.

Athletics

Girls Basketball

11/17/10 Geneva School	Home	6:00 p.m.
11/19/10 Mount Dora Bible	Home	6:00 p.m.
11/29/10 International Comm.	Home	6:00 p.m.
12/03/10 Trinity Christian	Away	6:00 p.m.
12/06/10 Forest Lake Academy	Home	6:00 p.m.
12/13/10 First Academy	Home	6:00 p.m.
12/17/10 International Comm.	Home	6:00 p.m.
1/04/11 Lake Nona HS	Away	6:00 p.m.
1/06/11 Jones HS	Home	6:00 p.m.
1/10/11 Merritt Is. Christian	Away	5:30 p.m.
1/11/11 Atlantic HS	Home	6:00 p.m.
1/13/11 Bishop Moore	Away	6:00 p.m.
1/20/11 Lake Highland Prep	Away	6:00 p.m.
1/24/11 Merritt Is. Christian	Home	6:00 p.m.
1/25/11 Forest Lake Academy	Away	7:00 p.m.
1/28/11 Mount Dora Bible	Away	6:00 p.m.

Boys Basketball

11/22/10 Brevard Private	Home	6:00 p.m.
12/03/10* Central FL Christian	Home	7:00 p.m.
12/07/10* International Comm.	Away	7:00 p.m.
12/10/10* T. DeWitt Taylor	Home	7:00 p.m.
12/14/10* Trinity Christian	Home	7:00 p.m.
12/17/10 Riverbend Academy	Home	6:00 p.m.
1/04/11 Central FL Christian	Away	5:30 p.m.
1/05/11* Atlantic HS	Home	7:00 p.m.
1/07/11* Lake Nona HS	Away	7:30 p.m.
1/10/11 Merritt Is. Christian	Away	7:00 p.m.
1/15/11 Warner Christian	Away	12:00 p.m.
1/18/11* T. DeWitt Taylor	Away	7:00 p.m.
1/20/11 Brevard Private	Home	6:00 p.m.
1/21/11* Jones HS	Home	7:00 p.m.
1/26/11* Bishop Moore	Away	7:00 p.m.
1/28/11* Lake Highland	Away	7:00 p.m.
1/31/11* International Comm.	Home	7:00 p.m.
2/01/11 Merritt Is. Christian	Home	6:00 p.m.
2/03/11 Riverbend Academy	Away	6:00 p.m.

*JV games scheduled at 5:30 p.m.

Girls Soccer Schedule

11/01/10 Pine Ridge HS	Home	4:00 p.m.
11/02/10 T. DeWitt Taylor	Home	4:00 p.m.
11/05/10 Circle Christian	Home	4:00 p.m.
11/08/10 Montverde Academy	Home	4:00 p.m.
11/16/10 Geneva School	Away	4:00 p.m.
11/18/10 Montverde Academy	Away	5:00 p.m.
11/30/10 Merritt Is. Christian	Away	4:00 p.m.
12/03/10 Lake Mary Prep	Home	4:00 p.m.
12/08/10 Father Lopez	Home	4:00 p.m.
12/09/10 Merritt Is. Christian	Home	4:00 p.m.
12/13/10 Seminole HS	Away	5:00 p.m.
12/16/10 Geneva School	Home	4:00 p.m.
1/05/11 Windermere Prep	Home	4:00 p.m.
1/07/11 Lake Mary Prep	Away	6:00 p.m.
1/10/11 Lyman HS	Home	4:00 p.m.
1/12/11 University HS	Home	4:00 p.m.

Boys Soccer Schedule

11/08/10 Windermere Prep	Away	3:30 p.m.
11/11/10 Trinity Christian	Away	4:00 p.m.
11/16/10 Atlantic HS	Away	5:30 p.m.
11/18/10 Geneva School	Home	4:00 p.m.
11/20/10 Brevard HEAT	Home	12:00 p.m.
11/23/10 Lake Mary Prep	Home	4:00 p.m.
11/30/10 Merritt Is. Christian	Home	4:00 p.m.
12/02/10 Trinity Christian	Home	4:00 p.m.
12/06/10 University HS	Home	4:00 p.m.
12/07/10 Orlando Christian	Home	4:00 p.m.
12/10/10 Brevard HEAT	Away	6:00 p.m.
12/13/10 Seminole HS	Away	7:00 p.m.
12/17/10 First Academy	Away	6:00 p.m.
1/07/11 Hagerty HS	Away	5:00 p.m.
1/11/11 Orlando Christian	Home	4:00 p.m.
1/14/11 Geneva School	Away	4:00 p.m.
1/18/11 Merritt Is. Christian	Away	4:00 p.m.
1/20/10 Atlantic HS	Home	4:00 p.m.

Dividends

Thanks to all the parents, business, and community members that have signed up this year to support the school through volunteer efforts. All of your hard work and dedicated hours support our efforts towards earning the Golden School and Five Star Awards. We need everyone's support to make this a successful year.

If you are interested in becoming a school volunteer, from any computer go to Seminole County Public Schools website at www.scps.k12.fl.us and click on Dividends School Volunteer. The Volunteer Program Login will appear. All applicants must login with your social security number and date of birth. Previous volunteers need only to update your application and re-answer the Security Safety Information. New volunteers must complete the entire application. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Dividend Program, please contact Tina Kendrick at 407-320-5755.

Teen Trendsetters

After being trained, Crooms AOIT students are working with 2nd graders at Goldsboro Elementary. We work with the elementary students on reading strategies and any other items that the students need to be successful. Our students are making a difference in a child's life. This year's members are: Rebecca B., Charity C., Andrea F., Shane H., Michael L., Eric N., Rafael O., Irving R., Ivana R., Ryan S., Joseph S., Sarah S., Joseph S., Adrianna T., Sheyla U., and Mikayla W.

GET PERSONAL

Express friendship, love or congratulations to the special student in your life with a personal ad in the yearbook. Select the desired size and personalize the ad with your own message and photo(s).



Full Page \$140

1/2 Page \$90

1/4 Page \$50

1/8 Page \$30



contact: becky_fry@cait.scps.k12.fl.us

Business Advisory Council

The mission of the Crooms Academy Business Advisory Council is to support the goals of the school. The council provides advisory and partnership services to enable smooth student transitions into higher education and the technology workforce. The BAC is comprised of 5 committees, Membership, Fundraising, JobShadowing/Internships, Curriculum Support, and Scholarships. Future BAC meetings are Nov. 19, Jan. 21, March 18, and May 20. All meetings are held in conference room 201 and start at 7:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Contact Cathy Alper, 407-320-5749, for more information.



STEMflorida Award

Five STEMflorida Business Roundtables were held throughout the state in early 2010 for the purpose of gaining critical input from Florida's STEM workforce employers. These STEMflorida Awards are based on the needed outcomes identified by over 400 participants during those Roundtables and are classified in four categories, Business-Education Partnership, Improved Student Outcomes, Barrier Buster, and Excellence in Instructional Staff Development. Crooms Academy of IT was selected to receive the 2010 Business-Education Partnership Award at the 2010 STEM Business & Education Conference.

Yearbook Needs Your Pictures

No one can tell the story of Crooms 2011 like you can. Help the yearbook staff tell this year's story by sharing your pictures of your Crooms' student. No login is necessary, just click the button on the left side of the school's website "Upload Your Pictures for the Yearbook" and upload your digital images. In our goal to tell the unique story of each Crooms' student, we need behind-the-scenes images, action shots, and candid images. If you need more information about this year's yearbook, contact Becky Fry at becky_fry@cait.scps.k12.fl.us.

Tech Fest V

Crooms Academy is hosting its 5th annual Tech Fest. Tech Fest has evolved into a true educational and networking opportunity for Crooms students. There will be plenty of activities for our students, business community and guests. We will have two keynote speakers, several technology based workshop presentations, and an exhibit hall with a student showcase area as well as displays from the corporate world and educational institutions. If you are interested in being a part of this year's event, contact Cathy Alper at 407-320-5749.



School Tours

Are you interested in joining the Business Advisory Council? We have scheduled the following dates for tours of Crooms Academy: November 18, December 16, January 27, February 24, and April 28. All tours will begin at 12:00 p.m. Contact Cathy Alper at 407-320-5749.

Dear Parents/Guardians

Petroleum contamination was discovered in 1994 at the Crooms Academy of Technology during the removal of two underground heating oil (diesel fuel) tanks in two different areas of the campus; area one was south of the existing gymnasium and area two was south of the former media center and west of the former boiler room locations. In 1995 the areas of contamination were determined eligible for and placed in the State of Florida administered and funded Abandoned Tank Restoration Program. A portion of area two currently remains in the program.

Following initial assessment, contamination in area one was deemed remediate by the State and received a No Further Action status in 1996. Between 1994 and 1998 additional assessments were performed in area two and contaminated soil was removed for off site treatment. Further assessments were conducted and additional soils were removed for treatment in conjunction with reconstruction of the Crooms campus that occurred in 2001. A portion of area two contaminated soil currently remain at the front entrance of the school and is located either under the front parking lot pavement or under one and one half feet of clean fill dirt and sod adjacent to the parking lot. There is no ground water contamination associated with this area or the former area one. Completion of the Crooms site rehabilitation is pending State funding in priority order with other sites in the State's Abandoned Tank Restoration Program.

The good news is that according to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and Florida Department of Health (FDOH), the risk of exposure is considered to be low because the contaminated soil is either under clean soil and or pavement and the school and surrounding area are on a public water supply system and without direct exposure there is no associated health risk.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this matter, please contact the School District's Environmental Coordinator's office at 407-320-0062.

Connie E. Collins, Ed. D.

Principal



Date	Time	Event
Dec. 14	6:30 p.m.	SAC/PTSA Meeting
17-22		Semester Exams
Jan. 10		2nd Semester Begins
17		No School-Holiday
18	6:30 p.m.	SAC/PTSA Meeting
20		Blood Drive
21	7:45 a.m.	BAC Meeting
Feb. 8	6:30 p.m.	SAC/PTSA Meeting
21		No School-Holiday
Mar. 1		FCAT Writing
8	6:30 p.m.	SAC/PTSA Meeting
17		Tech Fest V/ Field Day
18		Teacher Work Day
18	7:45 a.m.	BAC Meeting
21-25		Spring Break



Seminole County Public Schools
Crooms Academy of Information Technology

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