

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back! I hope your family had an incredible, relaxing summer—though it feels like August arrived in a flash. My name is Ethan Connelly, and I'm thrilled to be your child's teacher for the 2026–2027 school year.

Depending on your child's schedule, I'll either be guiding them through a full core lineup—math, reading, writing, science, and social science—or leading them in one or two of these specific subjects.

This year marks my fifth year teaching right here at Cassell, which holds a special place in my heart since I graduated from these halls back in 2012. Being born and raised in the neighborhood gives me a deep connection to this school and community. Following my time at Cassell, I attended Marist High School and went on to earn my degree in Special Education from Illinois State University in 2020. My training at ISU focused heavily on hands-on instruction, strong student advocacy, and building open lines of communication with families. To keep my teaching methods fresh and effective, I also completed my Master's in Curriculum and Instruction, equipping me to design interactive, modern lessons tailored to every learner's needs.

My main objective is to make our classroom a place where your child genuinely looks forward to coming each day. I am dedicated to cultivating a positive, high-energy environment where students feel safe to take academic risks, grow, and have fun. Partnership with parents is key to a successful year, so please never hesitate to reach out.

Below are some of the things we will be working on in class throughout the year!

Mathematics

8th, 7th, & 6th Grade: Ratios & Proportional Relationships, The Number System, Expressions & Equations, Geometry, Statistics & Probability

Language Arts (Reading & Writing)

8th, 7th, & 6th Grade Writing: Writing arguments to support claims, Narratives, Informative/Explanatory texts, Research Projects, and many other writing conventions

6th Grade Reading: Reading novels and informational texts, comprehension, inference, projects, and more!

Science

7th & 6th Grade Science: Projects, Experiments, Reading & Writing about Science

Social Science

7th and 6th Grade Social Science: Projects, reading and analyzing history, and writing about history

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have throughout the year at my email eeconn1@cps.edu . I will respond to emails in a timely manner. If I receive an email during the school day please give me at the end of the day to respond. However, I will make an effort to respond during the day if I have time.

I look forward to meeting you all.

Sincerely,
Mr. Connelly

OTHER INFORMATION:

Grading Scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	59% and Below

Grading Codes:

0= Work done completely incorrectly

MSG= Missing assignment/Never turned in

EXC= Excused from completing assignment

INC= Incomplete and will not be calculated into final grade

- Absent “work” cannot be sent home prior to an expected absence as every assignment is given with instruction and is not considered “busy work.” Thank you for your understanding.

This year's whole-school theme
is ART is the HeART of
Learning!

