

Herbert J. Dexter Elementary School

Principal's Corner

Greetings Dexter Family,

Each November we celebrate Native American Heritage Month. During this time, we celebrate the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories of Native Americans and acknowledge their contributions. This week Dexter students were able to experience Native American artifacts through a hands-on experience with the Columbus Museum's "Traveling Trunk." The trunk included artifacts from three tribes: the Muscogee (Creek), Cherokee, and Yuchi. We are so fortunate to be able to provide our students with such unique, hands-on experiences and look forward to future collaborations with our community stakeholders and partners.

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving Break is already upon us. This is a wonderful time of the year to spend time with family and friends (near and far) and to be thankful for all the wonderful people in our lives. Thus, I would like to share my gratitude for you. Thank you for the continued support and all that you do to ensure that our Eagles soar to new heights. On behalf of the Dexter staff, we would like to wish you all a safe and happy Thanksgiving Break! We will see everyone back at school on Monday, November 27th.

*One quick reminder: For those who plan to PCS, Accelerated Withdrawal began on November 15th. We kindly request that you let **front office staff** know as soon as possible when you intend to withdraw your child(ren). We would like to have at least 5 business days to complete the necessary paperwork to ensure that you receive comprehensive records for a smooth transition to your new location.

Until next time...

Principal Dunn



Enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday!
We will see you on Monday, November 27th!



Inside this issue

- Principal's Corner1
- A Note from Nurse Lynn.....2
- Counselor3
- MFLC3
- Art, Music and P.E.4-6
- AAPS/C & C Thinking6
- Information Specialist7
- Technology Tips8
- Math Tips9
- Reading10
- Upcoming Events11



Nurse: Lynn Swinford



A Note from Nurse Lynn

Happy Almost Thanksgiving!

All DoDEA students are required to get an influenza vaccine for the 2023-24 school year.

The cut-off date for turning in influenza documentation to the school is December 1, 2023.

If students do not have appropriate documentation by COB Friday, December 1, 2023, those students will not be able to attend school on Monday, December 4, 2023 and will be restricted from attending school until such time that appropriate documentation is provided to the school.

Fort Moore/MACH will be offering flu clinics this year, but making an appointment with your primary at MACH is also an option. Another option would be to reach out to local pharmacies and arrange to receive the required vaccine via appointment or walk-in. Most local pharmacies (Publix and Walgreens for certain) have a three year and older eligibility notation on their websites. Prior to traveling to receive vaccination, make sure that the pharmacy will give the vaccine to your child and that they accept your insurance.

MACH FLU CLINIC INFORMATION

WHO: All beneficiaries ages 6 months and older are eligible

WHERE: Ground level of MACH in the atrium.

WHEN: Saturday, November 18 from 9AM-1PM

Saturday, December 9 from 9AM-1PM

(This date is available but be aware this is past the cut-off date of December 1)

Again...Just letting you know we have a lot of jackets, sweat-shirts, and water bottles in the lost and found. Please have your child go look for any missing items. The lost and found is in the cafeteria.

Reminder to please keep your children home if they are unwell. If you are uncertain if your child should stay out of school,

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Fax: 706-545-9106

DSN Phone: 835-3424

Access Curricular Materials at ClassLink: <https://launchpad.classlink.com/dodea>

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please reach out to me and we can discuss the best options for your child.

Any questions please reach out to me at 762-524-6485 or lynn.swinford@dodea.edu

Warmest Regards,

Lynn Swinford BSN RN

Dexter School Nurse

Counselor

We have made it to Thanksgiving break! We wrapped up interim assessments this past week in grades 3-5. However, we have quite a few make-ups to complete. We will be assessing students for make-up testing once we return from the Thanksgiving break.

This month's guidance lesson will focus on "Gratitude". Students will have the opportunity to learn what gratitude really means and complete an activity on gratitude. During this activity students will be able to really think about the people and things in our lives that are more important than we realize.

Remember Thanksgiving is a holiday to be thankful and to remember those in need. If you are free and can step away for a moment, there are plenty of organizations in the area where you can volunteer and give a little bit of your time if you would like.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at 762-524-6490 or via email at:

deshaun.howard@dodea.edu

Happy Thanksgiving and have a wonderful holiday break! :)

MFLC

The Military and Family Life Counselor (MFLC) provides short term, non-medical counseling support for Dexter Elementary families and is located at Dexter. MFLC can also

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Kid Friendly Standards and Objectives

Art I CAN Statements:

KINDERGARTEN – VA: Cr2.1. KA

Through experimentation, I can build skills in various media and approaches to artmaking.

1ST GRADE –VA: Cr2.1.1a I can

explore uses of materials and tools to create works of art or design.

2nd GRADE – VA: Cr2.1.2a I can

experiment with various materials and tools to explore personal interests in a work of art or design.

3rd GRADE – VA: Cr2. 3aI I can

speculate about processes an artist uses to create a work of art.

4th GRADE – VA: Cr2.1.4a I can

explore and invent art-making techniques and approaches.

5th GRADE – VA: Cr2.1.5a I can

Experiment and develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches through practice.



Art: Ms. Quiroz

meet with families outside of school and after school hours. If you have questions regarding the MFLC program or would like to schedule an appointment please feel free to call 706.969.9859.

Visual Arts: Ms. Quiroz

Ms. Dorota Quiroz (key – rose)

Hello Dexter Eagles and Staff!

I can't believe it's already the second part of November! Time runs fast when you are having fun in art! We will be finishing our artworks we began in November and starting new ones right after the Thanksgiving break!

Kindergarten artists will learn about the difference between crayons and oil pastels and create landscapes using different types of line.

1st grade artists are going to learn about the art of Romare Bearden and create paper collage self-portraits.

2nd grade artists are going to learn about scratch art and create their own designs using a new technique.

3rd grade artists will continue to create their weavings.

4th grade artists are going to learn about color wheel, color theory and create their paintings demonstrating understanding of primary, secondary, and complementary colors.

5th grade artists are going to study optical illusions and create their own designs based on artwork of Bridget Riley.

Music: Ms. Bocanegra

Notes from Music Class

As we are swiftly moving through November, I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on some important announcements and celebrations happening at our school.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the 4th graders on their outstanding performance of From Somewhere in the Pacific: The

Kid Friendly Standards and Objectives

Music I CAN Statements:

I can discuss the cultural significance of Latin American music and how it is used in celebrations and daily life.

I can explore the history and cultural diversity of Latin American and Hispanic music, connecting it to social and historical contexts.



Bob Hope Show. The show was well received by students and parents and the performers did an AMAZING job! Way to go 4th grade!

Choir Club is going well and the students are sounding so good! We will continue rehearsals on Tuesday mornings at 7:25am until our Christmas Caroling adventure on Tuesday, December 12.

The Kindergarten & 1st Grade Holiday program will be held on Friday, December 15 at 2:15pm in the Dexter Cafeteria. Students should wear festive holiday clothing and dress their best! I look forward to seeing everyone there.

After the holidays, I will be starting a keyboard, ukulele, and recorder unit with 3rd-5th grade. I am looking for keyboards to use in the classroom. If you have one you would like to donate or loan, please let me know.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I am always here to support you and your child.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS:

Kindergarten & 1st Grade Holiday Program - Friday, December 15 at 2:15pm, Dexter Cafeteria

Dexter Choir Caroling - Tuesday, December 12, 2023 – Meet time TBA

Moore Voices, Moore Joy! Event - (For pre-registered students only) Dec. 9, 9:30am, NIM

5th Grade Black History Month Program - Date TBA in February

Warmest regards,

Alison Bocanegra

Music/ESOL Teacher

alison.bocanegra@dodea.edu

Kid Friendly Standards and Objectives

PE K-2: Travels in general space with different speeds. (S2.E3.K)

Differentiates between fast and slow speeds. (S2.E3.1a)

PE 3-5: Accepts and implements specific corrective feedback from the teacher. (S4.E3.3)

Engages in physical activity with responsible interpersonal behavior (e.g., peer to peer, student to teacher, student to referee). (S4.E1.5)

Exhibits personal responsibility in teacher-directed activities. (S4.E1.3)

Objectives: Students will display good sportsmanship toward their classmates and improving on their skills.

I can give 100% in Physical Education all the time.

I can take responsibility for my actions and words.

I can use strategies when playing a game.



Physical Education: Mr. Blanchard

Hello Dexter Families!

When we get back from this holiday week, we will start the 12 days of fitness. These are 12 stations set up to get the students heart rate up while also offering a variety of activities. The stations will include bowling, rock climbing, obstacle course, jump ropes and much more.

Throughout this time and the rest of the year I will emphasize the need for good sportsmanship. I will demonstrate a positive attitude and show active listening skills and will encourage the students to do the same. Just a reminder for parents and students; all students must wear appropriate footwear for physical education. I would also like students to bring a water bottle that they can refill during PE. They are learning about the importance of hydration, and we can create healthy habits while still having tons of fun.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via the email listed below.

Let's have a great week!

Coach Blanchard

John.Blanchard2@dodea.edu

AAPS and Critical and Creative Thinking with Ms. Smith

Dear Dexter Eagles,

The students during the month of November will create and use the engineering design process. The students will continue to solve real world problems and create things using materials to solve the problems. We are full STEAM ahead to the new year!

Your child may have the opportunity to bring home the take home STEM Bag. This gives them opportunities to do STEM at home. We want to foster a love for STEM and hopefully encourage a career in STEM.

Kid Friendly Standards and Objectives

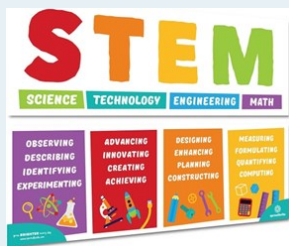
STEM I can statements:

1st grade 2nd Grade: I can collaborate and think critically to plan and carry out investigations. I can solve a problem and brainstorm different solutions. I can create my plan to solve the problem.

3rd through 5th Grade: I can find scientific reasons why my evidence supports my claims. I can collaborate and think critically to plan and carry out investigations. I can solve a problem and brainstorm different solutions. I can collaborate to solve problems and make a plan.

Advanced Academic Program and Services I can statements:

I can read and think critically about the story. I can research and investigate characteristics of animals. I can think critically and solve mathematical problems. I can use technology to create a product..



In AAPS students are working hard in their classrooms on reading and technology projects. In AAPS the classroom teacher and I collaborate on classroom activities to extend their knowledge with research and reading. In math, the students are solving math problems using skills using different strategies and mental math. Some enrichment activities can be accessed in their Google classroom.

Ms. Smith

AAPS, STEM Teacher

Information Specialist: Kathy Porter

This week in the Information Center, the students will observe and describe the artifacts from The Columbus Museum's Historic Tribes of Georgia Traveling Trunk. Some of the artifacts are as follows: pottery, stickball ball, shell gorget, rabbit pelt, cornbread necklace, yarn belt, pottery sherds, stone scrapers, beaded comb, mortar and pestle, and pottery paddle. They will discuss the shape, color, texture, material, weight, condition, and the uses of each artifact. They are from three tribes, Muscogee (Creek), Cherokee, and Yuchi.



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Technology Tips from Ms. Showalter

Healthy Screen Habits at Bedtime

Too much screentime can affect the quality of sleep that your child gets each night. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends [children ages 6-12 years old should sleep 9-12 hours a day](#). It is important to establish healthy screentime habits to ensure that they get a good night's rest. Below are a few recommendations:

- Encourage your child to go to bed within the same 30-minute time frame each night.
- Encourage calming activities before bedtime such as quiet play with toys, talking with family members, reading, coloring, or taking a bath.
- Use an app to shift the color of your child's tablet or smart phone screen to "warm colors" at night. This should be done at least 2 hours before bedtime. (Note: Some devices will have a "night light" setting that you can schedule automatically).
- Do not allow your child to use any screens at least 1 hour before bedtime.
- Do not keep phones or other personal electronic devices in the bedroom. Try using a communal charging location to help keep track of your child's device.
- Keep all screens out of bedrooms (including televisions).
- Monitor your child's screen usage and set time limits. Many devices have parental controls that will automatically lock the device at a designated time.

Parents should also try to model good nighttime behaviors for their children when possible. Adhering to the recommendations above will improve the quality of sleep for adults as well!

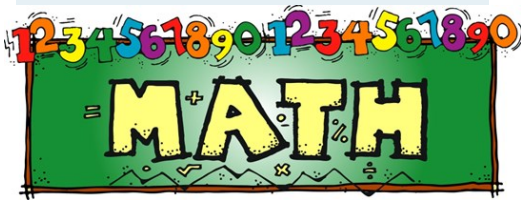
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Math Tips from Ms. Miller

Hi Parents,

Here are the tentative dates for math unit assessments:

Kindergarten November 17, 2023 (Unit 2)

First Grade December 1, 2023 (Unit 3)

Second Grade December 8, 2023 (Unit 3)

Third Grade December 19, 2023 (Unit 3)

Fourth Grade December 8, 2023 (Unit 3)

Fifth Grade December 1, 2023 (Unit 3)

Online Games for Extra Practice

Kindergarten

<https://www.nctm.org/Classroom-Resources/Illuminations/Interactives/Concentration/>

<https://www.mathgames.com/skill/K.18-count-objects-up-to-20>

<https://www.mathgames.com/skill/K.19-count-using-grouped-objects-up-to-20>

First Grade

<https://www.abcya.com/games/kindergarten-word-problems-add-subtract>

Second Grade

<https://www.math-play.com/multi-digit-addition-basketball-game/multi-digit-addition-basketball-game.html5.html>

Third Grade

<https://www.abcya.com/games/multiplication-space-race>

Fourth Grade

<https://www.nctm.org/Classroom-Resources/Illuminations/Interactives/Fraction-Models/>

Fifth Grade

<https://www.mathplayground.com/brain-workouts/brain-workout-01-division.html>

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Please email me at valeria.miller@dodea.edu if you have any questions or want additional practice for your student. Please include your student's name, grade, and teacher in the email. I am happy to help!

Sincerely,

Valeria

Reading with Ms. Wilson and Ms. Gathers

As students read informational text (non-fiction), it's important for them to understand the parts of a book and print text features. For example, students should be able to identify the front cover, use the table of contents, locate page numbers, and identify captions, titles, and subtitles. In addition to knowledge about the parts of a book and print text features, students should be able to analyze graphic features included in the text. Authors use different graphic features to help make their writing more interesting and to give additional information to readers. Some of the graphic features used by authors are maps, diagrams, illustrations, photographs, and charts. These types of graphic features are also heavily found in social studies and science texts. Analyzing graphic features will help readers better understand the text. Encourage your child to read more non-fiction books and look for these features.

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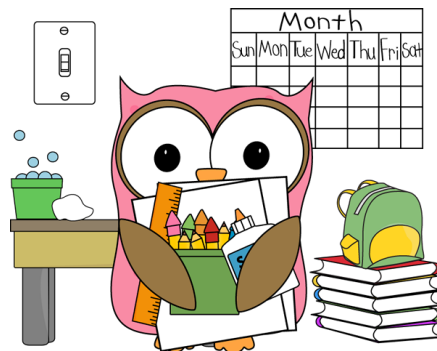
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Contact Information

Questions? Concerns? Please feel free to contact me.

Principal: kimberly.dunn@dodea.edu

Assistant Principal:

maureen.barefield@dodea.edu

Nurse: lynn.swinford@dodea.edu

Counselor: dshaun.howard@dodea.edu

Art: dorota.quiroz@dodea.edu

Music: alison.bocanegra@dodea.edu

PE: john.blanchard2@dodea.edu

STEM/Gifted: kimberly.smith@dodea.edu

Info. Specialist: kathy.porter@dodea.edu

Ed Tech: sarah.showalter@dodea.edu

Math IS: valeria.miller@dodea.edu



Upcoming Events/ Dates

- **Nov. 20-24 - Thanksgiving Break**
- **Dec. 12 - Early Release 2:30**
- **Dec. 15 - Kindergarten and 1st Grade Holiday Program - 2:15**
- **Dec. 19 - End of Quarter 2**
- **Dec. 20-Jan. 2 - Winter Break - No School**
- **Jan. 3 - Q2 Report Card Prep Day - No School for Students**
- **Jan. 9 - Early Release 2:30**
- **Jan. 10 - Report Cards Issued**
- **Jan. 12 - Teacher PL Day Q2 - No School for Students**
- **Jan. 15 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - No School**

Need Special Services for your children?

Do you live on post and suspect your child has a disability in the areas of academics, social, emotional, physical, speech/language, and/or cognitive development?

Please contact:

Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) -if you have a child aged 0-3 with concerns in these areas.
Phone: 706-545-3835

DODEA GA/AL Schools Student Services – if you have a child aged 3-6 who is not currently enrolled in school with concerns in these areas.
Phone: 762-524-6200

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How to Access ClassLink at Home



ClassLink is DoDEA's Single Sign-On (SSO) service. With ClassLink students only need to remember one username and password to access all their curriculum materials! Students may login to ClassLink by visiting: <https://launchpad.classlink.com/dodea>

Or use the shortcut to ClassLink on our Dexter Elementary School homepage!

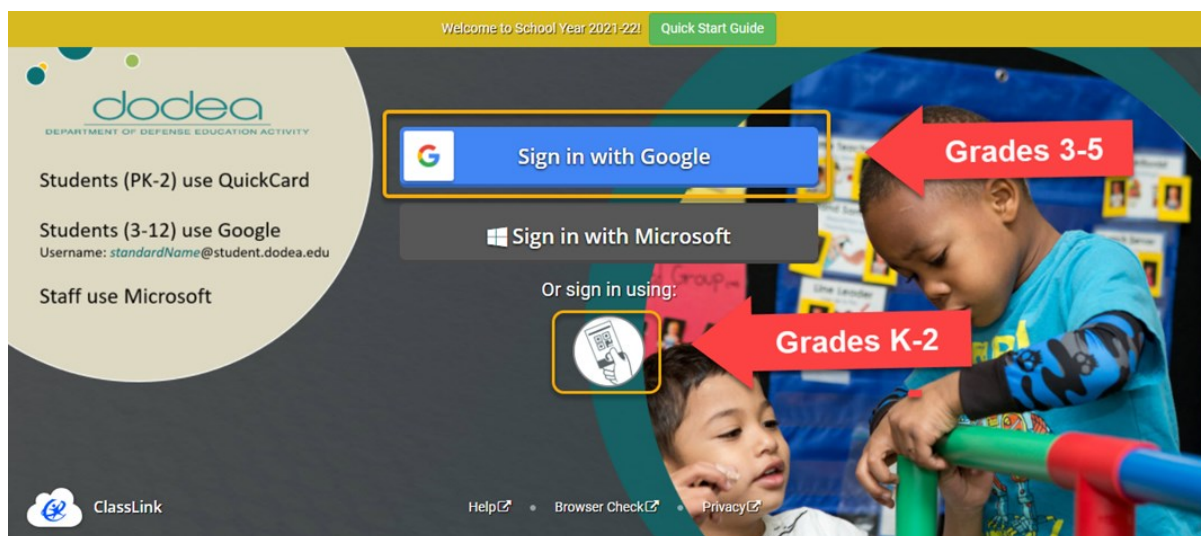
<https://www.dodea.edu/DexterES/index.cfm>

How to Login to ClassLink

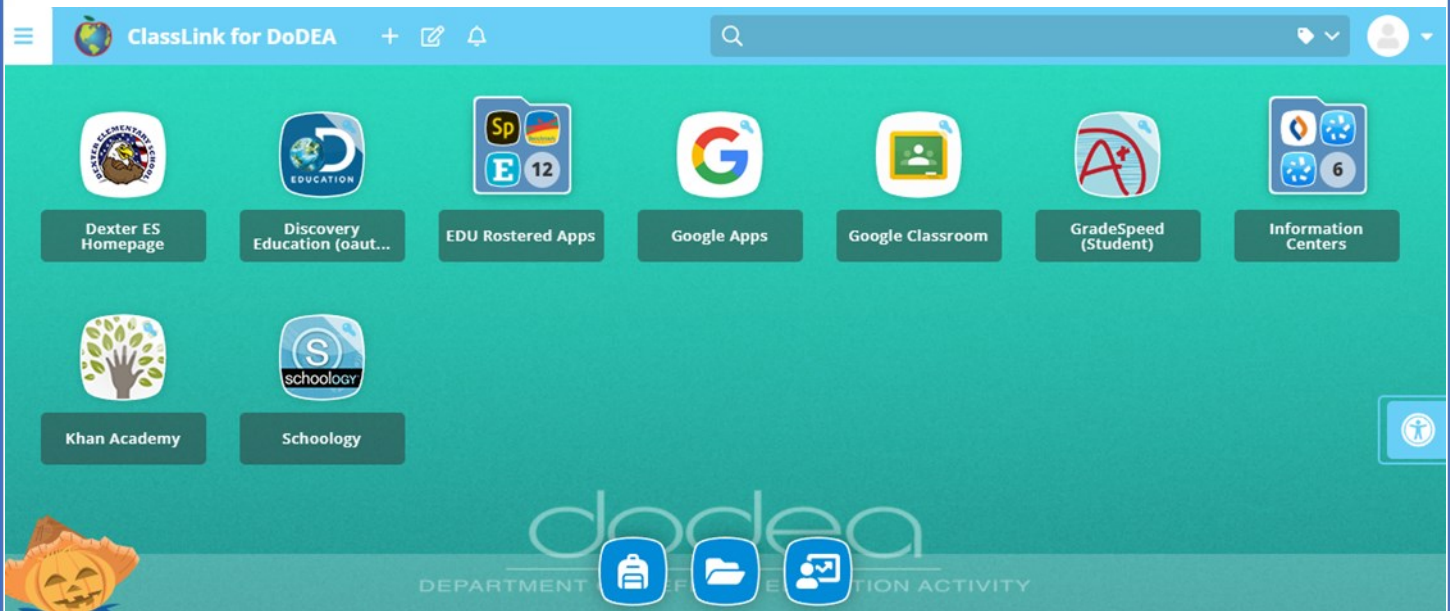
K-2: If you have a student in Grades K-2 your child's teacher may provide them with a **Quickcard**. Quickcards look like QR codes and can be used to login to the ClassLink site using your device's camera.

Note: QuickCards **only work at** <https://launchpad.classlink.com/dodea> they **will not work** with your cell phone's QR Scanner app.

3-5: Students in Grades 3-5 may sign in using their DoDEA Google account (the one that ends with @student.dodea.edu). This is the same account they use to access the Chromebook.



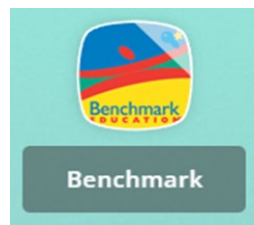
2. Once you login, your ClassLink page may look something similar to the one below:



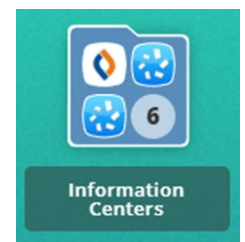
From here, students have access to Google Classroom.



They also have access to Apps related to their curriculum such as **Benchmark Advance (Reading)** and **ThinkCentral (Math)**.



In addition to curricular materials, students also have access to our library resources and databases through ClassLink including: MackinVIA, Destiny Discover, PebbleGo and Gale! These resources can be found in the folder called, **“Information Centers.”**



Additional Tips and Troubleshooting:

- Remember, Quickcards **do NOT** work with your cellphone's QR Reader and will only work at <https://launchpad.classlink.com/dodea>
- While ClassLink usually works in any web browser, some handheld devices, such as tablets and smart phones, may require you to download an app. There are ClassLink apps in both the Google Play Store and the iOS stores. ClassLink explains more about [Mobile Logins on this help page](#).
- While the use of Quickcards is encouraged for K-2 students, these students may also login using their DoDEA Google username/password just like students in Grades 3-5. This can be used as a backup when the Quickcard is misplaced or unavailable.
- ClassLink also sometimes requires a browser extension to work properly. The extension is called "**ClassLink OneClick Extension.**" If you are having difficulties with ClassLink sign-ins on a personal computer, you may need to add this extension to your browser.