



Osceola Middle School

Exceeding Expectations

825 SW 28th Street
Okeechobee, Florida 34974

863-462-5070

Fax 863-462-5076

Principal
Sean Downing

Assistant Principal
Erin Willis

Dean
Glenda Jarriel

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Exceeding Expectations at Osceola Middle School!

Where has the summer gone? Hard to believe that in less than three weeks the students will once again bring life back to the campus at Osceola Middle School. This is Sean Downing, your principal, and I am looking forward to the start of my seventh year here at OMS. We have had a short turnaround this summer due to installation of new carpet on this campus, but our staff has worked extra-hard to make sure that we are ready for you to visit us on Open House which is Monday, August 8, 2016 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

I would like to thank students and families for their hard work last year. We received a school grade of B from the Florida Department of Education based on our performance on state assessments. We ranked second out of twelve middle schools in our consortium last year (Okeechobee, Hardee, Hendry, Glades Highlands and DeSoto County). We will continue this momentum this year! We have a couple of new faces helping me to do just that at OMS this year. Mrs. Erin Willis will now serve as our Assistant Principal and Michele Chism will be helping Mr. Wise in our Guidance Department. Mrs. Alyson Shirley is moving from the classroom to be our Literacy Coach. We are also welcoming some other talent to campus on various teams. Also, our team names have changed! We traded our team names for Florida Universities to promote the college as an option to our students. Some things that will remain unchanged for 2016-2017 include parent drop off between 7:30 and 8:30 AM will be on the sidewalk between the cafeteria and media center. We will continue to be a 1:1 campus (with students having access to chrome books throughout the school day). Parent pickup will be unchanged. Students who are dropped off early will report to the media center and be expected to work on academic tasks or tutoring. Also, our start time is 8:40 AM and our end time is 3:40 PM. We have several additional opportunities for clubs during student lunch/activity time for students to be able to participate in activities that can make school fun (providing grades and attendance are good). If you are interested in additional information related to sports and clubs, please email me!

I am committed to keeping you informed of what we do on our campus. If you would like to be included in my Warrior Weekly Update email, please email me at downings@okee.k12.fl.us so I may include you. If you like watching from afar and would enjoy seeing pictures of the students during the multitude of activities on the campus, please "like" us on Facebook (@Osceola.Middle.Okeechobee)! We try to get something new on the Facebook page at least once a week (sometimes more often than that). Additionally, we update our website frequently so check us out online at <http://osceolamiddleschool.sites.thedigitalbell.com/>.

As the summer winds down, let me remind you that students entering seventh grade are required to show proof of vaccinations prior to issuing a schedule/admitting a student to class. If you have a question, please call the main office at (863) 462-5070. Additionally, fall sports tryouts happen right away when we return. Student-athletes are not permitted to try out for a middle school sport until we have a completed physical form/athletic packet on file with Mr. Carroll, Athletic Director.

Finally, here are some dates for you to put on your calendar:

Monday, August 8: Open House (district-wide) from 6:00-8:00 PM. We will have signs posted all around campus to direct you!

Wednesday, August 10: The first day of school for students.

Wednesday-Thursday, August 17-18: Volleyball Tryouts in the OMS Gym (from 4:00 to 5:30 PM)

Wednesday-Friday, August 17-19: Soccer Tryouts on the OMS Soccer Field (from 4:00 to 6:00 PM)

Wednesday, August 31: OMS Picture Day.

Wednesday, September 14: Quarter 1 Progress Report Day.

Friday, September 16: Early Release Day.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in Osceola Middle School: *Exceeding Expectations!*