

Catch the WAVE

Monthly updates from Superintendent Chambers

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Destin Middle School Remembers

Okaloosa County School District is fortunate to serve a large military population which means that we feel the events that happened 20 years ago on September 11, 2001 and the aftermath of those terrorist attacks as deeply as any community. Every year schools find ways to recognize the fallen and appreciate their sacrifices for our American freedoms. This year, along with our district wide moment of silence, the Leadership students at Destin Middle School took their memorial to the next level to ensure that students understood and felt the importance of the events that happened that day and the sacrifices that have been made since.



We All Value Education

Free and Reduced Lunch

Title I

The USDA recently announced that they will continue serving free meals to ALL students through June 2022. This is great news but we still need you to fill out the Free and Reduced Lunch Application!

Why do families need to complete the Free and Reduced Lunch application if they are already getting free meals?

This application is tied to more than just free meals for the district. Completed forms determine Title I funding for schools, district funding for Internet and technology and allows the district to apply for certain grants. It also provides families discounts on college application fees and entrance exams, among other things. So, as you can see, this form is very important to the district. Please complete the online form even if you feel you would not qualify!

Keep an eye out for this flier and contact your child's school if you have any questions!

Check out the informational video available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)!

IT'S MORE THAN A MEAL APPLICATION!

Free and Reduced Lunch applications affect funding in many areas. Okaloosa County asks that **ALL** families complete our meal application to ensure continued funding to support **ALL** students in our district.

Everyone should apply!

YOUR APPLICATION FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH WILL IMPACT...

- SCHOOL MEALS**
Free or reduced pricing on tasty and nutritious meals!
- SCHOOL FUNDING**
Increased school funding to support all students and ensure an outstanding educational experience.
- INTERNET & TECHNOLOGY**
OCSD can receive increased funding for internet access, wireless, & network services.
- ACCESS TO GRANTS**
Data gathered from applications allows OCSD to access competitive local, state, & federal grants.
- COLLEGE APPLICATION FEES**
Receive discounted fees on college applications.
- SAT, ACT, AND AP FEES**
Discounted fees on academic tests and exams.

AND MORE!

OCSD **APPLY ONLINE TODAY!**
www.myschoolapps.com

What is Canvas?

OCSD is excited to launch the Canvas platform in 2021-2022! Canvas is a learning management system that can provide many interactive features to support the in-person classroom. Canvas will now serve as consistent place for K-12 teachers to post make up work or other resources to assist students during absences. [Some teachers may post assignments, and others may provide information or links to Google Classroom.]

- Canvas will serve as a uniform landing place to help students stay informed about class assignments during absences.
- With this first year of implementation, OCSD teachers and students will have the opportunity to learn more about the Canvas platform and explore ways to enhance learning.

How will my children access Canvas?

Students should log in to ClassLink and select the Canvas icon to open the platform.

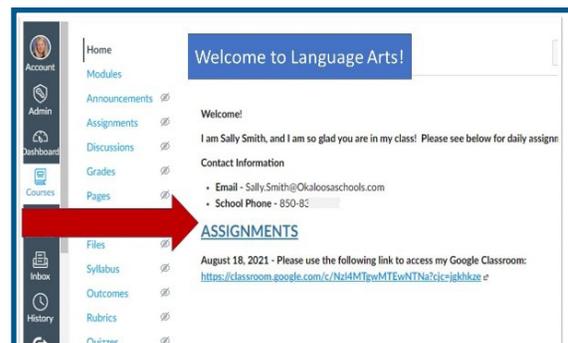
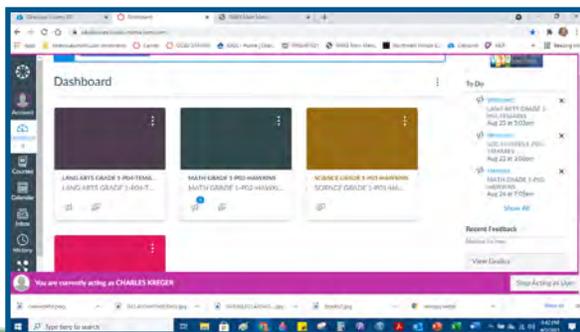
Step 1: Go to OCSD website at <https://www.okaloosaschools.com> and select *ClassLink* from the Parent/Students menu:



Step 2: Select the Canvas icon from your child's ClassLink menu.



Step 3: Your child's courses will be displayed on the Canvas dashboard by subject area. Simply select a course and the teacher's home page will be displayed with directions for finding make up work assignments.



What is Canvas?

Will I be able to see my child's grades in Canvas?

No, student grades will only be available in the Parent Portal or through the iOCSD App. If a teacher chooses to grade one or more Canvas activities, he or she will have discretion about posting to the official Parent Portal Gradebook.

What if my child has trouble logging in to Canvas?

Parents may email Canvas@Okaloosaschools.com for Canvas log in issues.

Elementary Math

Building Number Sense

One-Two-Three-Four-Five-Six-Seven-Eight-Nine-Seventy-Seven...

That is what early learners typically say whenever they get to the tenth step in the stairs leading up to the post office.

Help at home by counting everything you see, everywhere you go.

Five stop signs on the way-- four silver cars-- two buses and lots of steps at the post office.

It takes plenty of practice to build number sense in children. In the classroom, we call these lessons with our students **Number Talks** and they can pay big dividends in the classroom if you invest the time to incorporate them into your family conversations too.

And the best time to incorporate Number Talks is **now**, at the start of a new school year! Ask your child's teacher for ideas on how to add number talks to family conversations.

Celebrating the United States in September

The month of September is American Founders Month. Okaloosa students learn about the Founding Fathers and their contributions to creating our great nation. Students will also participate in Celebrate Freedom Week activities to include an in-depth study of the Declaration of Independence's intent, meaning, and importance. In addition, all students will recite the following excerpt from the declaration at the beginning of each school day during the week of September 20-24.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

On September 17, 2021, all students celebrate Constitution Day through activities, learning, and demonstrations of the rights and responsibilities provided in the world's longest surviving written charter of government. Written in 1787, the Constitution was signed on September 17. In 2005, September 17 was designated Constitution Day by the United States Senate to promote a better understanding of the Constitution.

To expand on the idea of students as citizens, middle school students will also receive instruction in digital citizenship while high school students explore the concept of everyday leadership.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month begins September 15th and continues through October 15th and has been established to celebrate the cultures, histories, and contributions of American citizens who have ancestral lineage from Spain, Mexico, Central American, South America, and the Caribbean. President Lyndon Johnson initiated the observation in 1968 and it was enacted into law as a 30 day celebration by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. The month begins on the anniversary of Independence for Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Honduras and also includes Columbus Day or Dia de la Raza, which is October 12th. The Okaloosa County School District will celebrate by encouraging students and teachers to participate in our inaugural Door Decorating contest and/or Art Contest. We will also be highlighting facts and influential Hispanic Americans on our social media platforms!

DOOR DECORATING CONTEST		
THEME: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope	OCSD students, faculty and staff are encouraged to participate in this year's Door Decorating Contest! Each decorated door provides a unique, creative, and fun way for staff and students to celebrate Hispanic Heritage and/or Culture in a positive, meaningful way!	AWARDS: Elementary School Middle School High School Community School
ART CONTEST		
THEME: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope	OCSD students are encouraged to express their vision related to this year's theme in their choice of medium. Creatively highlight Latino accomplishments and celebrate Hispanic Heritage and/or culture.	AWARDS: Grades K-3 Grades 4-5 Grades 6-8 Grades 9-12 Community School

New Student Registration

Registration for children new to the school district, including those entering kindergarten, is ongoing. Florida law provides that any child who will be five on or before September 1st is eligible for kindergarten that school year.

Registration may be initiated online at www.okaloosaschools.com/schools/2021/registration-portal or at any time during the regular school day at your child's zoned school.

To complete the registration process, parents/guardians must have:

- Proof of the child's age (birth certificate)
- Florida certificate of immunization
- Social Security card
- School physical dated no later than 12 months before the first day of school
- Proof of residency



Parents/guardians may obtain further information by calling your child's zoned school or Curriculum and Instruction at 850-833-4208.

**WE'RE
HIRING!**

Okaloosa County School District is currently hiring bus drivers at a competitive rate! Don't have your CDL "P" and "S" endorsement? We will train you!

If you have questions or are interested in this opportunity, please contact:

South – Donna Poole 850.833.3554 or PooleD@Okaloosaschools.com

Central – Pam Jenks 850.833.4161 or JenksP@Okaloosaschools.com

North – Tim Duffy 850.689.7227 or Timothy.Duffy@Okaloosaschools.com

We are also hiring:

Secondary Math and Science Teachers
Cleaners and Custodians
Substitute Teachers
Paraprofessionals

Visit our HR Website -

<https://www.okaloosaschools.com/depts/hr/employment>

Follow us on Facebook -

Okaloosa County School District Human Resources

SaferWatch App- Coming Soon



The Okaloosa County School District has teamed up with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office to implement a new safety and security feature in our schools. Teachers will be introduced to and have the option to participate in using the SaferWatch App.

The SaferWatch app can be used to instantly report an emergency to law enforcement. While it does not fully replace calling 911, which is still the best option in a time of emergency, it will help citizens report a crime in progress, medical emergency, fire/explosion, or an active shooter situation directly to the Okaloosa County Sheriff's office 911 center. We are excited to offer this extra layer of security with our employees!

Bus Bulletin

Sign up for Bus Bulletin!

Have you signed up for **Bus Bulletin** yet? This is a notification system that keeps parents updated if there are delays in getting your student to and from school.

If you would like to receive these notifications, please register with **Bus Bulletin** on the website below. Parents will need to know their student's school name and bus number.

- There is no cost for this service.
- Registration is simple and fast.
- You can choose to receive text messages, phone calls, and e-mails.
- All contact information is stored securely and will not be shared or sold - your privacy is protected.



For more information, or to sign-up and start receiving notifications, please visit: www.BusBulletin.com/parents

Already have Bus Bulletin, but having technical issues?

We currently have 2,800+ parents signed up to receive notifications via Bus Bulletin. Of those that have signed up, **590 cannot receive notifications** because they have not selected a bus route and/or they have not verified a notification method with a phone number or e-mail address. Please log-in to your account to ensure you have entered all information correctly and verified your preferred method of communication. If you are still having technical issues after confirming that these processes have been completed, please visit www.BusBulletin.com/contact-us/ to troubleshoot or contact your local OCSD Transportation Office.

North End Transportation Office:	850-689-7301
Central Transportation Office:	850-833-4162
South End Transportation Office:	850-833-3555

OCSD Capital Improvement Program

Construction is ongoing this fall at many schools as we work to complete all safety-related projects in our schools. In addition, major roofing projects have been completed or are underway at Edge Elementary, Pryor Middle School, Mary Esther Elementary, and Crestview High School, and much-needed gym floor replacements for Davidson Middle School and Lewis School are scheduled for this year. All of these projects and more are being accomplished thanks to the voter-approved ½ Cent Sales Tax. Thank you!

In addition, construction work on cafeteriums, multi-purpose facilities, and classroom additions at fifteen campuses is in the final planning stage and should begin after the first of the year. It will take a few years to complete these projects, but none of them would be possible without the ½ Cent Sales Tax. Learn more about the sales tax projects at each school by visiting our Capital Improvement Program Dashboard at www.okaloosaschools.com/okaloosa-capital-improvement-program-dashboard



There are also exciting and long overdue projects underway funded through our regular capital budget. Those include HVAC upgrades, resurfacing projects, and LED lighting projects at our high school stadiums that will provide cost savings over time. Middle and high school bands will be able to start the process of replacing their aging inventory of instruments as well this year! Finally, we've ordered twenty additional school buses in our continuing commitment to modernize our fleet. More information on the OCSD Capital Budget can be found here: www.okaloosa.k12.fl.us/finance/Publications/BudgetBooksFY2022/Capital/2.pdf

Half Cent Sales Tax Update

Citizens' Oversight Committee

The next Sales Surtax Citizens' Oversight Committee meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2021 at 4:00pm in the Training Room at the School District Central Complex in Niceville.

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Instagram

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