

Catch the WAVE

Monthly updates from Superintendent Chambers

Inside This Issue:

- 1 mySchool Online
iReady
- 2 Controlled Open
Enrollment
Nutrition
End of Semester
Reminders
- 3 Covid Updates
Graduation Rate
- 4 High Performing
School District
In the Classroom

mySchool Online Parent Reminders

As we move into the second semester, beginning January 26th, keep in mind that students can continue in the my-School Online (MSO) program or transition back to their brick and mortar school. Before the holidays, the parents of struggling MSO students received a letter, phone call, or both, requesting that their student return to the brick and mortar setting where they would have more direct support. Parents of struggling students do have an option to opt-out of a return to the school building.

IMPORTANT: Students will be able to work in their MSO courses through midnight Sunday, January 24th. After that, access to first semester courses will be closed. Contact your student's school for more information.

iReady

The second i-Ready Diagnostic window is already open! The i-Ready Diagnostic began January 7th and will continue through February 5th. The i-Ready Diagnostic is not a "test," but it is intended to be taken like one to serve as a baseline of knowledge. Students take it independently, and the results show their teachers what they already know and what they need to learn.

Who takes the i-Ready Diagnostic?

- Elementary: All K-5 students in ELA and Math
- Middle School: Students in Grades 6-8 English and Math (excluding Algebra I and Geometry), Intensive Reading, and Intensive Math

Learn more about
the process
[HERE:](#)

We All Value Education

Controlled Open Enrollment



It's only January, but plans for the 2021-2022 School Year are underway! Controlled Open Enrollment is the process by which parents can request a seat in a school outside of their attendance zone. Our district website, www.okaloosaschools.com, has all the information you need to make an informed decision. Included at the site is a list of all of our schools that have available seats, a frequently asked questions document, and an easy online application process. Families without access to the internet can contact their school for assistance. The initial application window runs from January 15th – February 15th. After that, parents will still be able to apply to schools that have remaining seats throughout the spring and summer.

For schools that are already at capacity, parents will have the ability to submit a hardship appeal. That information is also available on our website. For additional information, please contact your school.

Nutrition

Breakfast and Lunch are being provided to all students **at no cost to families** for the rest of the school year. The National School Lunch Program has authorized this across the country in response to the COVID pandemic to support families. Please consider taking advantage of this program while it lasts!



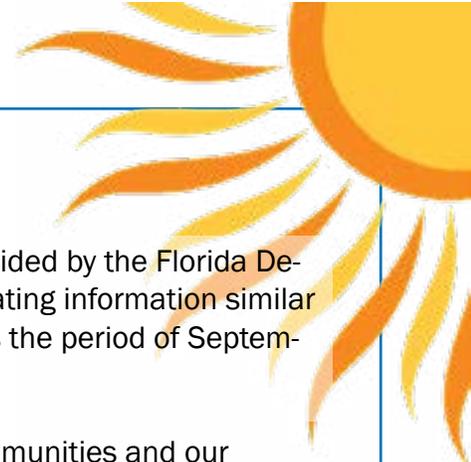
IMPORTANT: Despite this period of free breakfast and lunch offerings, we need families to continue to complete the application for Free/Reduced Lunch to ensure federal funding for needed programs in the future. An online application is available at www.okaloosaschools.com, or parents can request a paper copy from their school. Thank you!!

End of Semester Reminders



Middle School Semester Exams	January 14th-22nd
High School Semester Exams	Check your student's school website for exam and dismissal schedules
Last Day of the Semester	January 22nd
Teacher Work Day	January 25th
First Day of Second Semester	January 26th

Covid-19 Update



The most recent COVID information on Okaloosa Schools that has been provided by the Florida Department of Health is outlined below. You may know that we have been updating information similar to this on our website weekly since early October. This particular data covers the period of September 6th through January 2nd.

Amidst the pandemic and all of the challenges that we are facing in our communities and our schools, the following summary information might be of interest to you:

- Almost 99% of our Elementary Students have been COVID free this year.
- Almost 98% of our Middle School Students have been COVID-free this year.
- Almost 96% of our High School Students have been COVID-free this year.

The latest word from our Okaloosa County Department of Health on transmission within our schools was that only **one out of ten** COVID cases we've seen have resulted from transmission within the school building. We will continue to follow established protocols as we move into the second semester and will do our very best to create a safe and healthy environment for your student.

September 6, 2020 through January 2, 2021

	% of Students Identified as COVID- Positive	% of students not identified as COVID- Positive
Elementary School average (E)	1.3%	98.7%
Middle School average (M)	2.2%	97.8%
High School average (H)	4.2%	95.8%
Overall	2.4%	97.6%

For school specific statistics, please click [here](#).

Graduation Rate

When a student enters the 9th grade in a school district, they become part of a cohort. That cohort is tracked until their graduation date. Whether they graduate or not reflects on the school and school district and determines the Graduation Rate. Changes in a cohort, such as students who transfer to a different school district or private school, are taken into account in the adjusted Graduation Rate. We are proud to report that Okaloosa County School District has a Graduation Rate of 90% for the 2019-2020 School year!



Graduation Rate

2019-2020 Graduation Rates by School

School	Total Graduates	Total Cohort	Total Federal Graduation Rate
Baker School	110	120	91.7
Laurel Hill School	31	32	96.9
Niceville Senior High School	489	508	96.3
Choctawhatchee High School	352	372	94.6
Crestview High School	447	450	99.3
Fort Walton Beach High School	410	421	97.4

High Performing School District

The Okaloosa County School District has earned the distinction of being named a Highly Performing School District again! The district's first designation was in 2008-09 (the program was established in 2007) and we have received the honor all but two years since! To be awarded this distinction, a school district must earn an "A" for two consecutive years, have no district-operated schools earn an "F", must comply with all class size requirements, and have no discrepancies on their annual financial audit.

In the Classroom



This is William Wilde, aka BJ, a Senior from the Crestview High School Automotive program. BJ is working under the supervision of a Step-One Automotive Master Technician, Mr. Welch. Mr. Welch has created this amazing internship, which allows our students to receive real-world experiences.

Our school district places a strong emphasis on Career and Technical Education (CTE). Our goal is to prepare students for College, the Workforce and/or the Military. We are extremely proud that our students, regardless of their post high school path, can learn and master CTE skills that translate to career opportunities.

In Okaloosa, we want to provide our local industries with high school graduates who, if they choose to go into the workforce out of high school, are prepared to bolster the local workforce.

Are you Following us?

