

Destin Middle School

HOOK, LINE & THINKER

JANUARY 24, 2019
VOLUME 17 • ISSUE 2

From the Desk of the Principal

Marlin Nation,

Happy New Year to all of our Marlin families! January is always about fresh beginnings and positive change. I love the promise of the New Year and all of the possibilities that exist for students here at DMS. It is hard to believe that the third quarter of the school year is already here!

As we quickly progress through the second semester, it is important for our students to remain fully focused and engaged in their education. While the past year tested us in many ways, we have remained resilient and we are forging ahead to achieve our goals. I would like to thank our parents, students, and staff for the work that has poured into the first semester. And, I wish everyone a prosperous 2019!

Go Marlins!
Grant Meyer

Grades On-Line with "Parent Portal"

1. Go to <http://okaloosaschools.com>.
2. Go to "Parent Portal" (scroll down, look for orange box titled "Parent Portal").
3. Use your child's school ID number for the username. Parents can find the student ID number on your child's report card or progress report. The last 4 digits of the username is (student ID number) the PIN. Follow directions on "Parent Portal" for various parent options, including sign-up for automatic email notification of grades by the "Parent Portal" program.

Notes from the Resource Officer

Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office

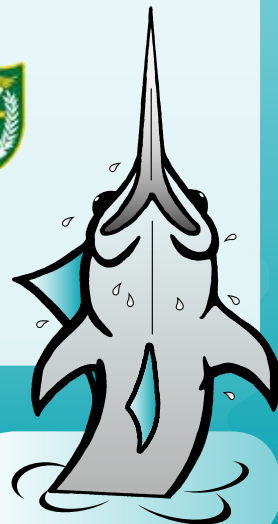
Teenagers in our community are often faced with many important decisions concerning their future. What career they will choose and how they will interact with society are questions that are constantly asked of them. They can turn in many directions for a peer group, and they may not always make the right decision. The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Explorers program is a way to help teenagers make the right decisions and at the same time get to experience how a Sheriff's Office functions.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Explorers is a program that offers pride and self-esteem for community-minded young men and women in Okaloosa County. The Explorers organization not only sets a teen on the right track to becoming a concerned law-abiding citizen, but also provides the chance for these young men and women to explore a possible career choice. Many teens who participate in the Explorer program choose law enforcement as a career once they are older. The skills they learn while a member of the Explorers aids them in their careers, regardless of the career they may choose.

The Sheriff's Explorers serve the community in a variety of different ways:

1. Assists the Sheriff's Office with searches.
2. Directs parking at various community functions.
3. Assists in registration, checkpoints, crowd control in runs, walk-a-thons, etc.
4. Distributes emergency notification decals to local businesses.
5. Assists in maintaining order at community football games.
6. Assists in security at regional and local camps.
7. Assists the Sheriff's Office with communication duties during manpower shortages.

If you are interested in becoming an Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Explorer or have any questions regarding the Explorers, please call Deputy Tom Henry at 850-259-0096



Okaloosa County School District
120 Lowery Place
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

FOR THE PARENTS, STAFF, STUDENTS &
COMMUNITY OF DESTIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

To download a PDF version of this newsletter, go to
<http://academypublishing.com/schools/destin/destin.php>

Parents: Three Tips For Second Semester

January marks the beginning of our second semester. Each year during second semester all schools experience an increase in absences and late arrivals, and a gradual decline in academic performance. So prevalent is this trend that it has been referred to as the "Second Semester Slide". We are determined to improve this trend and you the parents can play a major role. Here are three ways you can assure your student's continued success.

Monitor your child's performance and attendance by connecting with your online parent access account. Staying informed and engaged with your student's school life – and talking about it – has a tremendous positive effect.

Be vigilant in making sure your student attends school every day and arrives on time. **MAKE DAILY ATTENDANCE THE EXPECTATION.** Very few things have as much negative effect on academic performance as poor attendance. Be clear in your attitude towards attending school every day. In the working world, attendance is equated with dependability.

Re-establish your student's homework and study routine. Help him/her to reclaim the space and time meant for this important purpose. Encouraging and supporting this vital activity will improve your student's attitude and performance at school and instill a work ethic that endures for a lifetime. **SET A SCHEDULE:** Establish a regular timeslot for this important daily activity. Seek your child's agreement and commitment to dedicate this time each day for homework and study.

These efforts; staying informed and talking about your student's progress, re-establishing a solid home-study routine, and making certain that your student attends every day and arrives on time will have an enormous positive result and eliminate "Second Semester Slide".

Destin Middle School Calendar

**All dates and times are subject to change*

January 21, 2019

February 7, 2019

February 8, 2019

February 18, 2019

March 7, 2019

March 14, 2019

March 15-22, 2019

March 25, 2019

March 29, 2019

May 27, 2019

May 31, 2019

June 6, 2019

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

School Advisory Council Meeting, 7:30 a.m.

5th Grade Valentine Dance in Cafeteria

President's Day Holiday

School Advisory Council Meeting, 7:30 a.m.

End of 3rd Grading Period

Spring Break Holidays

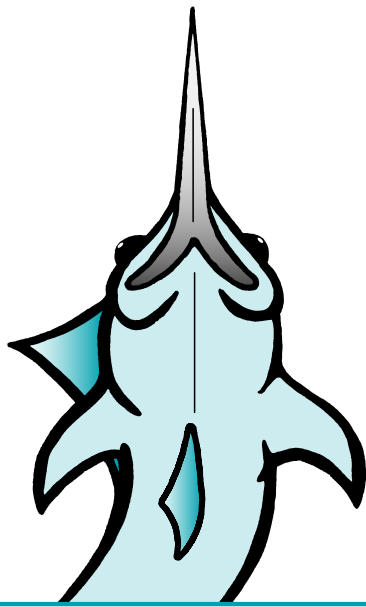
Teacher Work Day/Student Holiday

Spring Pictures

Memorial Day Holiday

End of Second Semester/Last Day for Students

Last Day for Teachers



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Attendance: A Key to Your Student's Success

Schools are responsible for teaching your child. But schools can't do their job if your child is absent.

Learning builds day by day. A child who misses a day of school misses a day of learning.

Research shows that children who are in school most of the time do better on standardized tests. Studies also show that kids who are absent more often score lower on standardized tests.

Being late for school hurts a child's learning, too. A student who is 10 minutes late every day will miss 30 hours of instruction during the year.

Children can copy notes or make up an assignment, but they can never get back what's most important: the discussions, the questions, the explanations by the teacher and the thinking that makes learning come alive.

Research shows that attendance is the single most important factor in school success. Your child's success in school depends on having a solid educational background - one that can only be gained through regular school attendance.

Here's How You Can Improve Your Child's School Attendance

- Talk with your child about why it's important to attend school regularly.
- Avoid scheduling family trips or doctor appointments during school hours.
- Make sure our child stays healthy by eating nutritious food and getting enough sleep and exercise.
- Don't accept excuses for why your child "must" miss or be late for school
- Discuss with your child what happened at school each day.
- Support school rules and consequences for skipping class and being tardy.
- Show your child why education is important. Give specific examples of how education helps people succeed.
- Lead by example. If children see parents taking off work for no real reason, they may expect to be able to do the same thing.

A few spots are left!



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Family Life in the Military

Relocating is part of the military lifestyle. For parents, it can be hectic – packing up the house, looking for a new place to live, and managing the cost of a move. For children it can be a lot tougher. If you are moving during the school year, your children may be uprooted from school, friends and their favorite activities. You may wonder: Will their school records transfer? Can they still play sports at our new location? Will they make friends? Luckily, there are many resources to help you and your children with a mid-year move!

School Liaison Officers (SLO) are invaluable when it comes to navigating a new school system. Your SLO can help you address issues like school registration problems, special education paperwork and placement, high school graduation requirements, and much more. Prior to your move, contact your current SLO and reach out to the SLO at your new duty station as well. They can work together to provide you with a smooth transition. To contact an SLO, visit [MilitaryINSTALLATIONS](#) or call [Military oneSource](#) at (800)342-9647.

Use [Plan My Move](#) to learn about schools, sports, activities, and the library programs in your new location to get your children excited about what is ahead. [Tutor.com](#) is an online tutoring

program that offers free online tutoring and homework help for everything from elementary school concepts to advanced high school coursework. Students work with a professional tutor in a secure online classroom. This is a great way for your children to get the extra support they may need on the move.

Many installations offer [Youth Sponsorship Programs](#), another great way to provide your children with comfort before moving to a new location. Contact your installation Family Center to see if Youth Sponsorship is available.

With the proper planning and the help of these great resources, you can make your next move a smooth one for you and your children.



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Grade News

Fifth-Grade News

The fifth-grade at Destin Middle School is busily preparing for our upcoming assessments while finding time for fun and interesting academic activities!

In Language Arts the students are working on grammar. They are also practicing each week to ensure an excellent outcome on the FSA Writing, formerly known as the Okaloosa County Writes, that will be given in the spring. Our reading goals are for each student to continue to read thirty minutes each night, and record in their reading log the number of pages read.

Fractions, fractions, and more fractions!!! This will be our main unit of study in Math for the next few weeks. We need to live, eat, and breathe fractions throughout this entire period. Homework is so crucial during this time, so please keep up each night. FSA testing is right around the corner!!!

Please remember to check your student's planner daily and remind them of upcoming assignment due dates and tests, or have them tell you what is due and when. Organization is a learned skill which many of our fifth graders are still working to master.

Attention Sixth-Grade Parents

Immunization Requirements for Seventh-Grade Students

For the 2019 – 2020 school year, students entering, repeating or transferring into 7th grade will need to provide documentation for having the **Tdap vaccine** administered. This requirement is in addition to the previous grade appropriate immunization requirements.

- If your child has had the required immunizations for seventh-grade, please take the immunization record to the school now! Only the Florida Department of Health Form 680 will be accepted as proof of the immunization.
- If your child has not had the required immunizations for seventh grade, he/she may not enter school until the State of **Florida Certificate of Immunization** (Form 680) or certificate of religious or medical exemption has been turned in to the school office.

The CDC has posted Tdap/Td Vaccine information on their website. For further information, please go to <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines>. If you have any questions, please call Judy Hall at DMS (833-7655) or the Okaloosa County Health Department at 833-9240.



Seventh Grade!!!!

If 7th graders thought first semester was exciting, just hold on for more adventure in the last semester! All of the classes are "gearing up" for the most successful testing year yet!! Students are facing academic challenges in each class, and teachers love seeing them blossom into independent and responsible learners.

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SPRING SPORTS

All interested student athletes must have a 2.0 grade point average for the previous nine weeks, and must have the required paperwork on file with the school (Ms. Nichols in the front office) in order to participate in clinics and tryouts. Required paperwork includes physical, parent release / permission form, and MSAC rules compliance form. Required information can be picked up at Destin Middle School front office or online at <http://marlinpower.weebly.com/athletics.html>. All documents must be completely filed out and notarized (notary services are available in the school office).

Players should bring proper tryout clothes (shorts, t-shirt, shoes or cleats, gloves, etc.) during the tryout days. Duffle bags can be kept in the storage rooms next to the boys and girls locker rooms. These doors will be open at 8:15 until 9:00 each day during tryout week.

Clinics are not mandatory in order to make the team but are highly encouraged and recommended to learn, practice and develop the skills and the drills that will be used during tryouts.



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Please feel free to contact the box top coordinator, Mrs. Judy at hallj@okaloosaschools.com with any questions or suggestions.

Start Clipping!

Last year, Destin Middle School's October submission was over \$300.00. Thank you parents/grandparents for taking the time to clip and send in your box tops. We will do another submission in March.

