



For the Parents, Staff & Community
of Tuskawilla Middle School
Home of the Golden Falcons!

Principal's Letter

Hello Falcon Families,

This time of year gives us an opportunity for deep reflection about the positive things that have happened to us, the people who have enhanced our lives, and those people whose lives we have been able to impact positively. Mere words cannot express the heartfelt appreciation for the many acts of kindness and support shown by many of our students here at Tuskawilla Middle School.

We are thankful for the students who enter the halls of this educational institution ready to learn. We will continue to challenge your students to do their very best each and every day. On November 17th we honored 113 students for receiving straight A's and 289 students receiving A's and B's during the first quarter. We are very proud of each one of these students. We promise to provide an environment that will continue to inspire students to achieve at optimal levels.

We are thankful for the parents who support their students and the school in all of our endeavor. We are particularly thankful for the many parents that volunteer and give of their time to support the school through PTSA, SAC, and the Dividend program. These individuals have most recently been responsible for painting, decorating and resetting the media center. We hope to have it open for student use throughout the day very soon.

We are thankful for the business partners, community members, and civic leaders who are supporting our academic efforts. We are able to provide the students with programs and experiences that would not be available without their support.

Lastly I am thank to the teachers and staff who give 100% to insure that your child has an engaging, rigorous, and thought provoking learning experience. Working collaboratively, the faculty and staff continue to provide instruction and strategies that can help students perform at a level of excellence in an environment that is

continued on next page...

Mission Statement

The mission of the Seminole County Public Schools is to ensure that all Early Childhood Program and PreK - Grade 12 students acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be productive citizens in our great country and in the global economy.

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Principal's Letter

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conducive to learning. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize two very special staff members. Our Teacher of the Year 2018 (drumroll) is Ms. Linda Wagoner and our Non-Instructional Employee of the Year for 2018 is Ms. Alice Gibson. Congratulations ladies!!

In closing I want wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Randy Shuler
Principal

BAND

Band Winter Concert is Tuesday December 12th at 6:30 pm in the Lake Howell Auditorium.

The admission is a non-perishable food item which will be donated to the Hope Foundation.



8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

This is a quick note to say that we are covering during this grading period. This grading period are currently teaching the concepts, parts, purpose, and inspiration to the Declaration of Independence. Some of the sources of inspiration came from Tomas Pain's pamphlet called "Common Sense" as well as great thinkers of the age of Enlightenment such as John Locke in his writings that mention Natural and Inalienable Rights.

Just prior to that, we have introduced the beginning of the conflict of the Revolutionary War such as Fort Ticonderoga and Bunker Hill both take place in 1775 before the Declaration of Independence.

Right after the Declaration of Independence, most of us are going into the 2nd DBQ on the topic of Valley Forge." The main question that is being asked of the students on the Topic of Valley Forge is "Would You Have Quit?"



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SCIENCE

6th Grade

Sixth grade science had an amazing first quarter and is working hard to make the second quarter even better. So far this quarter, we have been talking about how we classify organisms into categories and why scientists use those categories for their research. Our next unit will explore how energy moves through an ecosystem and how organisms interact with one another in nature. Our advanced level classes will be presenting their science fair projects to show off the experiments they have designed and carried out themselves. Make sure to sign up for your child's class on the Remind App for important announcements sent straight to your phone. It is also important for students and their parents to check grades regularly in Skyward, our district's online gradebook program. The 6th grade science team welcomes your comments and questions via Remind messages, e-mails, and phone calls throughout the year!

7th Grade

Seventh grade science students have been learning a "whirlwind" of information and concepts this quarter. We took to the skies and to the ocean and learned how heat makes all kinds of motions and commotion on our planet. We learned what makes the wind blow and the ocean waters circle. How does the Jet Stream, El Nino and the Global Warming impact us? Why do pilots have to be concerned about the Coriolis Effect? You mean we are moving when it feels like we are standing still? Why does everyone want to retire in Florida and why is coastal property so desirable? We took on these questions and many others to help better understand the unique and wonderful characteristics of our planet Earth.



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MATH

Here are some useful tips on how you can support your child in math:

Encourage them to keep class notes nearby when doing homework. Similar problems can help if stuck.

Ensure the student takes responsibility for her own learning by finding assistance independently; the ability to access help on your own is essential for student success in all areas of academics.

Do not give children the answers to problems! By giving away answers, you deprive your child of the chance to develop the mental processes required to learn a new concept. They need to grapple with the content. No parent enjoys seeing their child struggle, but providing answers could set them up for frustration when they face more difficult problems and might even stunt their progress. Also, teachers need homework to reflect the student's level of understanding, so they can address misconceptions and/or areas of weakness.

Encourage your child to underline or highlight key words or phrases in situational problems. This process can help lead to solutions.

If your child is frustrated by mathematics, show him/her how to focus on concepts rather than procedural knowledge. This might help some students approach and solve problems in a different way—one that makes more sense to them. For instance, ask your child to explain one problem in their assignment each night. If possible, choose one that incorporates both words and computation. If your child is simply reciting step-by-step instructions, encourage him/her to elaborate by asking questions focusing on the "why" of the problem:

- What is the goal of the problem?
- Why does that step work?
- Why would we want to do that next?
- What does this step in the process accomplish?
- How do I know if my answer is reasonable?
- Can I check my work to make sure it makes sense to me?

The most important thing to convey to your children is not to give up. Mathematical concepts are intricate and take time to fully grasp. Encouragement and patience go a long way.

Goldberg, D. *Supporting Your Child in Middle School Math* Retrieved from <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/math/math-tips-for-parents/middle-school-math/>

Together with your support, we can make great things happen here at Tuskawilla. We close with this thought by John Ruskin, "To be able to ask a question clearly is two-thirds of the way to getting it answered." Encourage your child to ask questions for clarification and understanding each and every day.

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ELA

6th Grade

Some of the standards 6th grade ELA students will focus on during the second quarter are central idea, analyzing interactions, text structure, key ideas and details, and point of view. A few of the texts students will read are informational texts about Colin Powell and a poem about Marie Curie.

The focus writing of this second nine weeks is informational writing: Cub and TAP the prompt, writing effective controlling ideas, interesting introductions and conclusions, and polishing up PEEL paragraphs.

7th Grade

Before the end of the second quarter, students will be completing their second FPMA writing assessment. This assessment is focused on the skills needed for text-based informative essay writing, and to prepare for the FSA writing assessment in March. Based on the results from the first FPMA writing assessment, specific skills were reviewed and practiced in order to prepare and improve students' essay writing skills. We focused heavily on strategies to help improve planning, citing evidence, elaboration, and organization of ideas.

In addition, we are beginning to analyze drama and poetry for literary devices such as figurative language, word choice, point of view, theme, and multimedia comparisons.

We will wrap up the second quarter with a return to informational texts, to prepare for the end-of-quarter exams before winter break.

Please continue to have your child read a novel of their choice for 20 or more minutes each night to help build their reading skills. In fact, encourage them to read aloud to you whenever possible. It is a great way to help them build confidence in their skills.

8th Grade

Eighth graders are continuing to work on analyzing elements in literature with our Poe-tastic stories. Students are practicing the skill of finding how a character's perspective or point of view contribute to the theme and plot of the story. Students have been working on several art inspired assignments on showing a character's perspective and how they contribute to the tone and theme of the text.

We are continuing to work on improving our writing style with focused lessons to develop organizational strategies for students to use in their writing. Students will be analyzing articles on the topic of volunteering and explaining how volunteering is beneficial for becoming a global citizen in our up-coming writing sessions.

Students are utilizing our **Learning Management System - eCampus** to complete portions of their coursework. We encourage you to check your student's **eCampus** site for information relating to your student's language arts coursework.

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7TH GRADE CIVICS

This is a quick note to say that we are covering during this grading period. In this grading period 2nd Quarter. The 7th Grade Civic department will be covering the Three Branches of Government (Legislative, Executive, and the Judicial Branch). While covering each branch of government we mention How the Constitution delegates the powers to each branch and what are the main purpose of each branch has, based upon the Constitution.

The mentioning of the elastic clause and the need to allow the Constitution to be interpreted through the Evolution of the Country and the people of the United States based upon social change. Example of such interpretations will be used in the class room and how it has been practice throughout the history of our Country.

Another concept that is being presented this quarter is how a bill becomes a law, how it relates to the legislative branch and the executive office with its power of veto.

The use of Political Cartoons will also be implemented in the class room to allow the use of cooperative learning and document analysis in the interpretation of such political cartoons. The political cartoons are a part of the studies of the three branches of government and it fulfills the requirements of higher DOK skills in Document analysis.

The last thing that will be covered in this quarter is the Constitution of the United States.

These are some of the concepts that will be covered:

- Identify how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation led to the writing of the Constitution.
- Describe how the Constitution limits the powers of government through separation of powers and checks and balances.
- Define the rule of law and recognize its influence on the development of the American legal, political, and governmental systems.
- Explain the viewpoints of the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists regarding the ratification of the Constitution and inclusion of a bill of rights.
- And lastly, interpret the intentions of the Preamble of the Constitution.

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CHORUS

Chorus has been VERY busy since the last newsletter. I hope you can figure out how to get it all in. Thanks for publishing such a great newsletter for us!

Six boys auditioned and were selected to perform with the American Choral Directors Association Florida Male Honor Choir. These young men sang at the ACDA Florida State Convention held November 3-4 at Seminole State College. Proudly representing Tuskawilla MS were: Cory Cordero, Chase Hunt, Justi VanWagner, Joshua Deleon, Gabriel Quiles, and Zachary Smirti. Fourteen students competed in the Florida All State auditions held last September and August, spending countless hours of study and rehearsal in preparation. Ten students passed both the Music Theory and Sight Singing Tests to advance to the next Vocal Quality audition. Mrs. Wagoner is proud to recognize the eight chorus students who, along with other extraordinary vocalists from all over the state of Florida, will be performing with the Florida Vocal Association All State Chorus at the Florida Music Educators Association state convention in Tampa on January 11-13, 2018. Congratulations to: Zoe Buot, Kyla Bradfield, Bailey Fuchs, Mya Heins, Yishka Hylton, Anthony McBride, Alexis Peghiny, and Zach Smirti.

Each year Seminole County middle schools select their finest singers to represent their school at the annual All County clinic and performance. This year the event will be held at Millenium Middle School under the direction of Tori Rathburn, Vocal Director at Hagerty High School. Representing Tuskawilla in this year's All County Honor Chorus will be: Jacob Beauregard, Scarlett Bidwell, Allison Conway, Cory Cordero, Emma Elliott, TJ Fishel, Chase Hunt, Yishka Hylton, Anthony McBride, Bryan Morales, Alexis Peghiny, Lindsey Peters, Joshua Rios, Naveen Sehdev, Zach Smirti, and Justin VanWagner. The concert, which is free and open to the public, will be on November 16th at 6:00pm in the Millenium MS auditorium.

The Choral Department has just completed its annual fundraiser and Mrs. Wagoner is pleased to declare that "It was a huge success!!". Thank you to everyone who helped support our singers by purchasing items, assisting with the ordering and delivery, or making much appreciated donations.

"Eighth Grade Night" will be held on Thursday, December 7 at Lake Howell High School. This evening will involve eighth grade chorus students planning to attend Lake Howell HS next fall.

We will be performing with the Lake Howell Choral Department in their winter concert beginning at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$5 and the performance is open to the public.

The Tuskawilla MS Chorus Winter Concert will be on Monday, December 11 beginning at 6:30pm. The event will be held at Lake Howell HS in the auditorium and is free of charge. Donations will be accepted to offset the cost of the concert and we will be collecting non-perishable items for the local food bank.

Did you know? 60.99% of the Tuskawilla student body are enrolled in a music class this semester- that's over 675 students! Way to show off your talent - Music Rules!!



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