

CHAIN OF LAKES

MIDDLE SCHOOL

connection



8700 Conroy
Windermere Road
Orlando, Florida 32835
407-909-5400



Cheron Anderson
Principal

Toby Hurst
Assistant Principal

Angela Slaughter
Assistant Principal



James Brown
6th Grade Dean
8th Grade Dean A-L



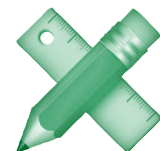
Grace Gregory
7th Grade Dean
8th Grade Dean M-Z



Kim Powell
SAFE Coordinator



SCHOOL HOURS
M | T | TH | F
9:25 a.m. - 3:55 p.m.
W
9:25 a.m. - 2:55 p.m.



March 2021

Volume 16
Issue #2

VISION STATEMENT

Chain of Lakes Middle School is a community of students, parents and teachers, which strives to ensure that all members are successfully growing in academic and social development. We believe in educating the entire student in a safe, diversified environment in order to prepare for life's opportunities and challenges. We promote academic excellence, a life-long love of learning and responsible citizenship.

Growing Together, Learning for Life

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Chain of Lakes Family,

Believe it or not, we are almost finished with our third marking period, which means that summer is within sight. However, we still have several important upcoming events this year including testing season, which is almost here! With the transition to LaunchEd education at home this year, the testing window will be extended and all students will have to test on campus. Parents, we need your assistance in helping our students approach the exams in a positive manner. The key to success is preparation and you can help your child do just that in several ways:



Cheron
Anderson
Principal

- Since the assessments measure what your child is studying in class, talk to your child each day about what he or she is learning.
- If your child is nervous about the exams or if his or her grades indicate that they need additional practice, then encourage your child to prepare at home with programs such as iReady and Khan Academy. We also offer after school tutoring every Tuesday and Thursday until the end of April. If your student is virtual, there is also tutoring available for three hours a week as well. Please call the school for more information if you are interested.
- Since many of these tests are computer-based, have your child practice using a computer testing format such as those found on **fsassessments.org** prior to the exam so that students are comfortable.
- On testing days, please make certain that your child arrives at school on time having had a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast.
- Most importantly, tell your student to relax and do their best. Remember that you are the best cheerleader that your child can have!

While testing is a significant event during the last weeks of school, please don't forget to participate in other key activities such as PTSA/ SAC and virtual counselor meetings, just to name a few and although there are not any middle school sports this year, we are offering intramural sports to all students. In fact, there is still time to sign up for basketball and track. Students can see their P.E. teacher if they have any questions on signing-up. We have amazingly talented students at Chain of Lakes and we encourage you to recognize and applaud all of their gifts. As always, thank you for your support. It is my privilege to work with you all.

Sincerely,

Cheron L. Anderson
Principal

**"Our focus...is to be the top producer of
successful students in the nation."**



Student Code of Conduct

It is important that students understand the policies and procedures of OCPS. Please take a moment and review with your child a copy of the OCPS Student Code of Conduct at: <https://www.ocps.net/cms/one.aspx?pagelid=697640/>.



Cell Phones

Students must silence and put away cell phones at 9:25 every morning. Cell phones should be placed in a student backpack or purse and not removed until dismissal. Please make sure your student is following this policy.

Registration News!

Have you moved recently? If so, please contact Mrs. Tomlin our Registrar at (407)909-5400 x5022256, for the procedure to update your address. It is important to keep the school updated with current home and email address and phone information.

All 7th grade students including those on LaunchEd@home need to have an updated FL 680 (immunizations) record on file BEFORE attending classes on campus. Forms can be emailed to crystal.tomlin@ocps.net.

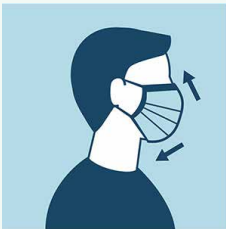
Parents that would like to change the Instructional Model for their student, please use the following link: <https://bit.ly/2KVLACN/>. Ms. Tomlin will contact with more information.

School Bus Information

HOW TO FIND YOUR BUS

1. WWW.OCPS.NET
2. UNDER QUICKLINKS "FIND MY BUS"
3. CLICK "ACCESS THE FIND A BUS SYSTEM"
4. SELECT GRADE
5. ENTER ADDRESS -
6. CLICK "FIND SCHOOL/TRANSPORTATION INFO"
7. REVIEW WHERE YOUR BUS PICKS UP AND THE TIMES
8. BE AT YOUR BUS STOP AT LEAST 5 MINUTES EARLY.

If transportation does not show, you may not be eligible for a bus because you live too close to the school.



Face Covering Policy for Face to Face students

Face coverings/masks are required to be worn on campus all the time. Except while eating or drinking during designated meal and break times. Two important policy updates are:

- Neck gaiters and neck buffs are no longer permitted.
- Masks with exhalation valve are not permitted.

To maintain social distancing efforts, the courtyard remains closed. At the beginning of each school day, all students report to the gym or cafeteria if arriving before 9:25am.

**COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES MANUAL
AVAILABLE @OCPS.NET.**



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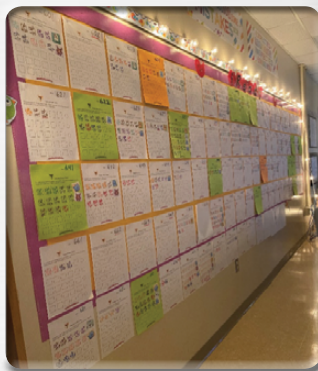
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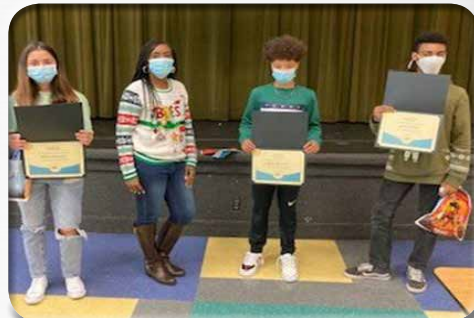
iReady is an online program that personalizes instruction, in reading and math, for each individual student. Many students have used the program in elementary school. By practicing, monitoring, and assessing each student, at their own level, we have a better understanding of their unique needs and can adjust class instruction accordingly. We are very proud of all the students making an extra effort and doing iReady.

Ms. Lublin 6th grade intensive reading teacher would like give a shout out to all the students who uses iReady daily to improve their reading skills. Her classroom iReady wall shows it all. Keep going, Ospreys!



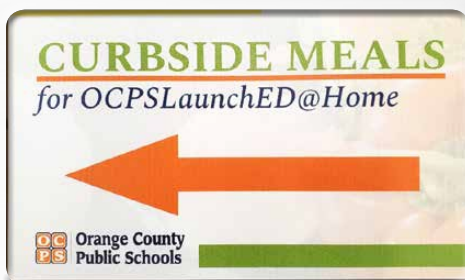
Chain News

This year Chain of Lakes participated in the Scripps School Spelling Bee. The Scripps National Spelling Bee is the nation's largest and longest-running educational promotion. Since 1925, they have helped teachers introduce their students to the spelling and vocabulary words they need to succeed in life. Students dedicated time to improving spelling, increasing vocabulary, and developing correct English usage. The school spelling bee was held on December 17, 2020. Our participants ranged from 6th through 8th grade. Our school champion was 8th grader, Jiya Patel. Jiya moved on to represent Chain of Lakes MS at the Central Florida Regional Spelling Bee on February 5th, 2021. We are so proud of our high flying Ospreys!



Curbside Meal Distribution Program

Remember parents our Curbside Meal pickup is every Monday, from 4:30pm to 6:00pm. Except for holidays. Students will receive a week worth of food. Including breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks.



Communication is Key

Stay connected to Chain of Lakes Middle School by following us on Twitter at @COLMS_OCPS or "Like" our Facebook Page.

www.windpeds.com

Windermere Pediatrics

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And The Band Played On...

Our BAND students have been remarkable, during this very unusual year. We have a wonderful group of **8th graders**, who are leading in tremendous ways, by setting a great example, not only in playing skills, but also in a positive spirit, and being kind to one another. What a wonderful representation of what music looks like, to foster an atmosphere of positivity. Our high school programs at Olympia and Dr. Phillips are going to be so blessed to receive these amazing students! Their band programs are among the best in the state! Our **7th graders**, many of whom started playing last year, have really started to take off and are making great strides. There is some great leadership in this group and it is really developing into a special group of outstanding musicians. Some of our new band students who just started this year have done so well, it is hard to believe that they are beginners! We have a wonderful group of **6th graders**, who knew nothing about how to play a band instrument, and it is such a pleasure to witness their hard work and commitment to being excellent musicians. We even have a dedicated group who bring their lunch to the band room, and get some extra practice in, each day.



HOW ARE WE MAKING ALL OF THIS WORK?

This would not be possible without hard-working and friendly students, sharing their gifts with one another. Our Launch-Ed at Home students are participating right along with Face-to-Face students. They are being very mature, turning on their cameras, answering questions, and showing great skill, as we move forward learning new notes and techniques to help us thrive in our current environment. Students have short quizzes, where everyone plays 'live' so that we can encourage one another and learn from each other. Tests are uploaded to Canvas, by video, and are demonstrating great practice skills and effort. Parents have played a big role in making sure that their student has what is needed to be successful in the band. Parents, we could not do this without you! Oh, how grateful we are!

BUCKET DRUMMING

Bucket Drumming, with our Firehouse Subs' 5-gallon buckets is a BIG hit. We drum with our drumsticks, twice each week and our rhythms are getting stronger, each time.

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE APP ON THE PHONE

We have added the app to phones that allows each student to play along with the accompaniment. It's a lot of fun to play with other people, as we practice at home.

SPRING CONCERT

We are looking forward to a live or virtual concert, in April or May. More details will be coming out about our event.

HELP SESSIONS IN THE EVENINGS & MORNINGS

Mrs. Tobin has been helping students 2-3 nights per week, for several months, virtually. It has been nice to work with students and small groups, to help with understanding and playing technique.

CONCERT & BEGINNING BANDS

Our 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th period classes have been doing an amazing job!! Many of these students have been learning a brand new instrument and have been improving by leaps and bounds. Practice each day in class and practicing at home, as well, has made all the difference. These students are stellar and helpful to each other. We have every single band instrument covered by new players. BRAVO!!

SYMPHONIC BAND

Our most Advanced Band has been doing a superior job learning scales and a variety of sheet music. As they have advanced technically, with more practice, the sound has improved so much, and the blend is just beautiful. I am so proud of the tremendous attitudes to do a great job, as we all help each other to sound not only together, but to sound as one. You are an inspiration!

JAZZ BAND

Jazz Band has been learning many of the rock, pop, and swing tunes in their folder and have been able to learn many new jazz scales as well as various styles of music. I am so proud of their hard work and willingness to support the team. What many don't know about jazz band is that everyone is on an individual part, which takes great leadership and preparedness on the part of every single student.

NEXT YEAR'S JAZZ BAND

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PIANO PLAYERS AND GUITARISTS, for jazz band next year. Please see Mrs. Tobin, in Room 207, or call the school, if you are interested in joining the jazz band. Many of our current students will add a second instrument, and be a part of our Jazz Band.

NEXT YEAR'S BANDS

We are setting next year's bands now, and they look extremely strong. I am hopeful that we will be together again, so we can all support one another in a face-to-face classroom.



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COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Our Band students are seated 6 feet apart, wearing playing masks, and using instrument bell covers. Music is a powerful form of communication and we have not let the music stop, during this challenging time.

UNIFORM SHIRTS

Every band student needs a uniform shirt. These shirts were ordered in February and will be delivered soon. We will all be wearing them, no matter how we perform, either live or virtually.

I am super proud of our wonderful band students and their parents!

– Mrs. Tobin

Theatre

In theatre, the students have been keeping the lights on:

Theatre 1 and 2 have been working on their tech skills with their Six Inspired monologue, costume or prop project, puppet shows and ice cream prop making.

Thespians: We have 10 students who have been busily preparing to take their Regionals pieces to compete at State Competition in March. The other students have been working on their monologues for their magnet applications or their "Six" inspired monologues.

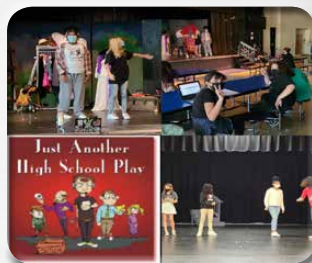
Stage Production just finished their set design for our "Just Another High School Play" production. Students after school have been rehearsing for our upcoming play, which will be streamed in March. More information to come.

For Black History Month a group of students created a video in honor of Black History Month.

Coming Soon: Check Please and a Night on Broadway.

Thank you for helping us keep the light on. We want to thank our COLMS Community for helping us keep the light on. To help support our program, please visit the link below.

Donate to our program:
https://chainoflakesms.ocps.net/parents/school_pay/.



ACCESSING REPORT CARDS

Click the "portfolio" tab on the left side menu.
You can visit the link below for a Tech Tip
Video for detailed instructions!

<https://tinyurl.com/RCTechTip>



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BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS YMCA OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

BEFORE SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Y offers a positive environment for each student before the first bell rings. Students can engage in sports, the arts, culinary, team building, computers and much more during our Before School Program.

COST:

One time \$12 Registration fee

Online payments are made weekly in the amount of \$25 per week.

Start Date

Monday, August 24, 2020

Times

Monday through Friday
7:00 am to 9:00 am

AFTER SCHOOL ZONE

Do you enjoy athletics, the arts, or technology? We have after school clubs for everyone including basketball, robotics, dance, drama, art and more! Offerings vary by school.

Virtual After School Zone Available as well! All sites will have academic support and a variety of enrichment activities.

Need help with your school work? We are here for you.

COST: There is no charge. The After School Zone is funded by a grant from the Orange County Government.

Start Date

Monday, August 24, 2020

Times

Monday through Friday
4:00 to 6:00 pm
3:00 to 6:00 pm on Wednesdays



REGISTER: <https://ymcaof.org/programs/school/middle/registration/>
Face to Face and Virtual participants must register to participate.

QUESTIONS: Email MSP@cfymca.org

The YMCA of Central Florida will provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities, provided these accommodations do not pose an undue hardship on the organization or jeopardize the safety of other students or employees. Management reserves the right to make all program-related decisions on reasonable accommodations.

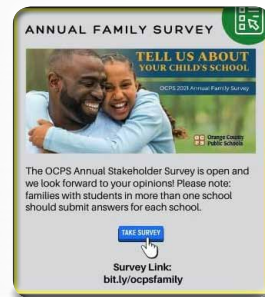
YMCA Before & After School Zone

Parents if you are interested in the YMCA Before and After School Programs please check out this flyer and use the following link to register: <https://ymcaof.org/programs/school/middle/>.

Annual Family Survey

Parents please take a quick moment to fill out the OCPS Annual Family Survey due March 12, 2021. We value your feedback.

Survey Link: bit.ly/ocpsfamily



Sports Intramurals

Sports intramurals have started. Intramurals are on campus only (no outside competition) and are based on player participation and sportsmanship. All students who wish to participate for track in April, must turn in an OCPS sports physical form prior to attending. The forms can be found in the front office, through your PE teacher and on our school website. All OCPS safety guidelines will be followed including the wearing of face masks and sanitizing of equipment. Please email Mrs. Pirolli at Deborah.pirolli@ocps.net with any questions or concerns.

SPIRIT SHIRT WEDNESDAYS

Wear school colors or your favorite Osprey gear on Wednesdays to show your school spirit. Purchase some new Osprey gear (and join PTSA for the year) by visiting our PTSA website!



PTSA
ChainOfLakesPTSA.com

COLLEGE SHIRT FRIDAYS

Represent your favorite colleges by wearing your college gear on Fridays!



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Dr. Ben Konynenbelt

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About Black History Month

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Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. During Black History Month, we dedicate to share, understand, and celebrate the impact of black heritage and culture. Here are some ways we celebrated at Chain of Lakes Middle this year.

BLACK HISTORY A-Z

During morning announcement, we recognized artists, authors and revolutionaries as we highlighted Black changemakers.

TRIVIA FRIDAYS

Every Friday, we posted a trivia question related to Black History. Students with the correct answer were entered into a drawing for a gift card.

SPIRIT WEEK

We ended the month by celebrating Black History by dressing up for themed days from February 22nd to the 26th.

Celebrate Literacy Week 2021

The annual Florida Celebrate Literacy Week was observed the week of January 25 – 29. Our theme this year was **Humanity tells a story: What's YOUR chapter?** We had a week filled with activities and literacy opportunities that we encouraged students to participate in the theme for each day. In addition, students who correctly answered the daily trivia questions on Canvas were entered into a daily prize drawing.

Monday - Jan. 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sock it to Illiteracy- We will kick off literacy week by wearing crazy socks to show our commitment to eliminate illiteracy. • "Caught Ya" Reading Coupons • Literary Trivia
Tuesday - Jan. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poem in Your Pocket Students and teachers bring a poem of their choice (handwritten or printed) in their pocket. They can read/perform the poem. • "Caught Ya" Reading Coupons • Literary Trivia
Wednesday- Jan. 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Reading Makes You Bright"-Wear bright colors to promote reading. • "Caught Ya" Reading Coupons • DEAR- Drop Everything And Read-20 mins- 7th period • Literary Trivia
Thursday- Jan. 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive Words Day- Wear a shirt with a positive message. • Throwback Thursday: Teachers and administrators will share their most memorable or favorite books from their childhood (bring the book and childhood photo). • "Caught Ya" Reading Coupons • Literary Trivia
Friday- Jan. 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character Invasion-Teachers and students can dress up as a character from their favorite book. • "Caught Ya" Reading Coupons • Literary Trivia



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8

Tutoring

FSA tutoring is off to a great start! Our after school FSA Tues./Thurs. tutoring for our target students kicked off on February 9, 2021. The purpose of this resource is to help students strengthen subject comprehension, boost academic confidence, and build important skills in order to be successful on the FSA. Invitations were based on FSA scores (Lvl 1 or 2) and/or current grades. Students with outstanding attendance will participate in an end-of-year tutoring celebration!

If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Coleman-Moore at Altresse.Coleman@ocps.net.



LAUNCHED@HOME REMINDERS

ATTENDANCE & TECH HELP

STUDENT ATTENDANCE:

- LaunchED@Home students are marked present when they log-in to class according to the bell schedule, and participate in live conferences each period.
- Student attendance and grades depend on their participation in their live conferences, which are scheduled according to the bell schedule.

TECH HELP:

- Families can sign-up for tech support appointments online.
- Sign up for tech support appointments at <https://tinyurl.com/COLMSTechAppt>

SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES

MONDAY MESSAGES



Our amazing school counselors offer academic guidance and mental health services for our face-to-face and virtual students through their Monday Messages. Students who are in need of these services can make an appointment online at <http://bit.ly/colmsappt>. Additionally, parents needing to schedule a parent teacher conference can reach out to the appropriate grade level counselor by e-mail or phone.

MS. PITTENDREIGH, GR 6 | MS. FORRESTER, GR 7 | MS. STONER, GR 8