

Destin Middle School

HOOK, LINE & THINKER

SEPTEMBER 13, 2019
VOLUME 17 • ISSUE 4

From the Desk of the Principal

Dear Marlin Family,

On behalf of the staff at Destin Middle School, I am happy to welcome you to the 2019-20 school year.

I am honored to lead a school with a great tradition, tremendous academic success, and that continually produces outstanding students, it is important to me that everyone who steps through our doors—teachers, students and parents—are excited to be here! This attitude enables us to meet the challenges of academic excellence in a positive, enjoyable and nurturing environment. Additionally, I embrace the task of continuing to ensure that our students are prepared with the necessary tools to be productive citizens as they enter the next chapter of their lives moving toward high school and postsecondary education.

Together we can insure that every student receives the quality education needed to be successful in the future. I encourage parents to be an active part of your child's education. As parents, you have the greatest impact on your child's success. We recognize that in order to be successful, our children need support from both the home and school.

To the students; enjoy this year! Your time here at DMS will be exciting and filled with many opportunities. Let's have a great school year!

Go Marlins!
Mr. Meyer
Principal

School Uniform Shirts

Remember, all students are required to wear uniform shirts on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of each week. Order forms for DMS uniform shirts are available from the PE department.

The **Destin Middle School Phys. Ed Dept.** sells DMS uniform dress code shirts. Order forms are available in the front office or student services. PE uniforms will be **mandatory for grades 6-8th**. You may purchase the PE uniforms from Coach Griffiths. For more information please contact Coach Griffiths at 850-833-7655 or you may email him at griffithsr@okaloosaschools.com.

The **Eagles Nest** offers easy ordering at www.eaglesnestfl.com. On-line orders will be delivered to DMS campus for pick up. For your convenience in store shopping is available at the Eagles Nest located in the Publix Shopping Center in Niceville, on Hwy 20. For more information or directions to the store, please call (850) 279-4775.

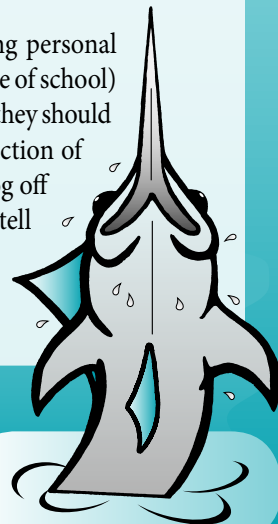


Notes from the Resource Officer Okaloosa County Sheriff Department

Technology is pretty cool. It lets you connect with friends in lots of fun ways. But not everyone uses it for the right reasons. Some people use the internet, cell phones or other technology to try to hurt others. This is a type of bullying called cyber bullying.

Cyber bullying occurs when someone sends hurtful messages online or by cell phone. It can take many forms, such as writing rude comments, spreading rumors, and posting embarrassing pictures. Cyber bullies can use e-mail or instant messages, blogs or chat rooms, text or photo messages, or any other form of electronic communication.

Your children can discourage cyber bullying by giving personal information (name, e-mail address, cell phone number, name of school) to only friends. If they receive nasty e-mails or text messages, they should not respond. Replying just gives the cyber bully the satisfaction of having upset their target. A good thing to do is simply to log off the computer or turn off the cell phone. Children should tell an adult if they experience cyber bullying. Problems can be reported to your Internet provider, school authorities, and law enforcement.



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>

Destin Middle School Calendar

**All dates and times are subject to change*

September 13, 2019

September 20, 2019

October 3, 2019

October 11, 2019

October 14, 2019

November 7, 2019

November 11, 2019

TBA

November 18, 2019.

November 25-29, 2019

December 19, 2019

December 20, 2019 – January 3, 2020

January 6, 2020

January 7, 2020

January 20, 2020

February 6, 2020

February 7, 2020

February 17, 2020

March 5, 2020

March 12, 2020

March 13-20, 2020

March 23, 2020

March 24, 2020

April 2, 2020

May 1, 2020

May 25, 2020

May 29, 2020

May 29, 2020

May 3129, 2020

June 4, 2020

Pep Rally dates will be announced at a later date.

Progress Reports go home

Fall Picture Day

SAC Meeting – Media Center – 7:30 a.m.

End of First Grading Period

Teacher Work Day/Student Holiday

SAC Meeting – Media Center – 7:30 a.m.

Veterans Day Holiday

6th Grade Health Screening

Progress Reports go home

Thanksgiving Holiday

End of First Semester/Second Grading Period

Winter Break Holidays

Teacher Work Day/Student Holiday

Student's First Day Back to School after Winter Break

Martin Luther King Holiday

SAC Meeting – Media Center – 7:30 a.m.

Progress Reports go home

Presidents' Day Holiday

SAC Meeting – Media Center – 7:30 a.m.

End of 3rd Grading Period

Spring Break Holidays

Teacher Work Day/Student Holiday

Student's First Day Back to School after Spring Break

SAC Meeting – Media Center – 7:30 a.m.

Progress Reports go home

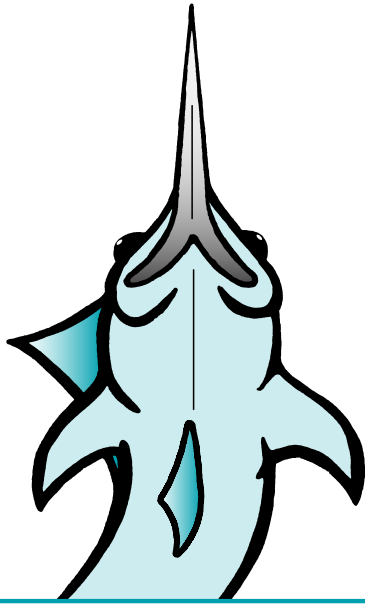
Memorial Day

End of Second Semester/Fourth Grading Period

Last Day for Students

Report Cards go home – Grade 5

Last Day for Teachers



Hook, Line & Thinker

Mailed September 13, 2019

Published Four Times Per Year

Okaloosa School District

120 Lowery Place SE

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Issue # 4

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We Welcome Teachers! (We accept Delta Dental)

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.

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Media Center News

Can't wait to have the students come in to get acquainted and start checking out books.

Take the bite out of research projects by using on-line databases from the Media Center web page <http://www.okaloosa.k12.fl.us/destinm/media/media.html>. Two favorites are Proquest and Thompson-Gale, both of which can be accessed with the password and user name Okaloosa. Please come visit any time... our doors are open from 7:30-3:00.

"There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all." - Jacqueline Kennedy

Adopt-A-Class Program

YES! I would like to be involved in the education of our future leaders by supporting Destin Middle School. You can make a tax-deductible contribution of \$250.00 to be credited to a classroom at Destin Middle School. You may select a specific teacher/classroom if you would like. Be a proud partner in education and participate in the Destin Middle School Adopt-A-Class program. Please contact Elissa Torre at 833-7655 for more information. Thank you for supporting tomorrow's leaders!

Cell Phone Reminder

Cell phones will be put away and are not permitted to be used by students at school. Any phone that is visible and/or turned on will be confiscated and sent to Administration in the student services.

- If a parent is bringing lunch for their child, it MUST be dropped off in the front office by 11:25am. This is for all four lunches.
- If a parent brings a lunch for their child after 11:25am, they will need to sign in (which will require a driver's license if they are not already in our system) and take it to the cafeteria to drop off. We will not contact the student in class or bring the lunch to the cafeteria. Lastly, the Front Office will not sign for any outside food deliveries this year.

REMINDER



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*Wait is defined as the time of patient arrival until seen
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Parents, Establish a Solid Home-Study Routine

Encouraging and supporting this vital daily activity will improve your student's attitude and performance at school and instill a work ethic that endures for a lifetime.

- 1. SET A SCHEDULE:** Establish a regular timeslot for this important daily activity. Seek your child's agreement and commitment to reserve this time each day for homework and study. Encourage this discipline. In many ways, it's his/her job and should be an important part of the daily routine. Your support and involvement in your student's home-study effort makes a huge difference in the high school experience.
- 2. CREATE THE ENVIRONMENT:** Students can be easily distracted. Create an atmosphere conducive for concentration. Minimizing social media/phone access, loud music, and other detractors will improve effectiveness and retention. If you notice distractions or deterrents, suggest possible remedies. Having a defined study area works with some students but not all. The most important factor is the discipline of doing it every day.
- 3. OBSERVE AND ENGAGE:** Psychologists suggest that it takes three weeks to break or establish a habit. When school resumes, commit three weeks to observing your students daily routine. Make good homework practices a habit for both of you. Your daily assistance and attitude toward school have a huge impact on your child's success.

OCSD Attendance Policy

Okaloosa School Board Policy requires each school to notify the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a child who accumulates five (5) absences (excused or unexcused) during a semester. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the number of absences your child has accumulated since the start of the semester and to reiterate the attendance policy for Okaloosa County Schools.

The following is the attendance policy for the Okaloosa County School District concerning absences five (5) days or greater:

- Students will have five (5) school days including the day they return, to bring in written verification for an excused absence. The absence will be considered unexcused if the school does not receive written verification for the excused absence within that time frame.
- After the fifth (5th) absence, but before the eighth (8th) absence (excused or unexcused) per semester, the parent or legal guardian will be notified of the absences in writing.
- For every absence after the 9th (excused or unexcused), in any class during a semester, the student must have a note from a doctor or official agency in order for those absences to be excused. A middle school student enrolled in a high school course can still pass the course if, at the end of the semester, he/she passes a comprehensive exam and earns a passing grade.
- After the 15th absence, no make-up work will be allowed. The student can still pass the class if at the end of the semester he/she has a passing grade. A middle school student enrolled in a high school course can still pass the course if, at the end of the semester, he/she passes a comprehensive exam and earns a passing grade. The student's parent or legal guardian can appeal to the school's attendance review committee for permission to make up work. Each absence after 15 days must be appealed by the parent or guardian within 5 days after the absence. In order for a student to be considered for make-up work, the reason for the absence must be due to an insurmountable or extraordinary situation or event that placed an undue hardship on the student. No consideration will be made of an appeal without the student and parent/guardian present.

If you have any questions concerning your child's attendance, please phone Destin Middle School at (850) 833-7655 and ask for the attendance office.



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2019-2020 Fall Sports

VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME	VISITOR	TIME
Sept. 10 - Tues	Liza Jackson	Destin	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 17 - Tues	St. Mary's	Destin	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 19 - Thurs	Destin	Lewis	5:00 p.m.
Sept. 20 - Fri	Baker	Destin	4:30/5:30 p.m.
Sept. 24 - Tues	Meigs	Destin	4:30/5:30 p.m.
Sept. 26 - Thurs	Lewis	Destin	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 3 - Thurs	Destin	Baker	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 8 - Tues	Destin	St. Mary's	
Oct. 10 - Thurs	Destin	Liza Jackson	4:00 p.m.

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME	VISITOR	PLACE	TIME
Sept. 12 - Thurs	Pryor	Destin	Choctaw HS	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 19 - Thurs	Destin	Lewis	Destin MS	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 26 - Thurs	Baker	Destin	Baker School	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 3 - Thurs	Destin	Freeport	Destin MS	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 10 - Thurs Play-offs	Class 1A semifinals		TBD	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 17 - Thurs Finals	Class 1A Finals		TBD	6:30 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME	VISITOR	TIME	PLACE
Sept. 11 - Wed	Destin MS	Meigs, Lewis	4:30 p.m.	Destin MS
Sept. 18 - Wed	ECMS	Pryor, Destin, Freeport	4:30 p.m.	ECMS
Sept. 25 - Wed	Walton	Ruckel, Destin, Pryor, ECMS	4:30 p.m.	Walton
Oct. 2 - Wed	Destin	Liza Jackson, St. Mary's	4:30 p.m.	Destin
Oct. 9 - Wed	Shoal River	Pryor, Destin, Ruckel, St. Mary's	4:30 p.m.	Shoal River
Oct. 15 - Tues	Pryor	Conference Championship Meet	4:30 p.m.	FWB
Oct. 16 (Rain Date)				Golf Course

Dates are subject to change

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 office) in order to participate in tryouts. Required paperwork includes physical, parent release / permission form, and MSAC rules compliance form. Required information can be picked up at Destin Middle School student services office or online at <http://marlinpower.weebly.com/athletics.html>. All documents must be completely **filled** out and notarized (notary services are available in the school office).

Players should bring proper tryout clothes (shorts, t-shirt, shoes or cleats, shin guards, 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.

Flu Mist Clinic

Destin Middle School's Flu Mist Clinic day has been scheduled for Oct. 23, 2019 at 11:45 a.m. Please return your child's consent form to the office by Sep. 30, 2019 to ensure time to process your consent.

Schedules

Sixth Grade Health Screening

The Okaloosa School District is committed to promoting and protecting your child's health. In partnership with PSA Healthcare Inc., trained Health Technicians, LPNs, and RNs work with students every day to provide health related education, perform health related assessments, and provide emergent care as needed. This team of nurses will be providing health screenings for 6th - grade students at Destin Middle School. Date to be announced. Florida Statute 402.32 of the School Health Act requires these screenings. The screenings are designed to detect health problems that could affect your child's learning and/or growth. The routine screenings provided include:

- Vision - using the Snellen chart
- Hearing - using Audiometer
- Scoliosis - frequently called "Curvature of the Spine" and is done by visual inspection
- Body Mass Index - through weighing and measuring

These screenings will be performed by trained nurses and will not harm your child in any way. If your child does not pass any part of the screening, you will be notified in writing. Please note that all of your child's health information will remain confidential. **If you do not want your child to participate in this screening program, please notify the school in writing as soon as possible.** The screening is provided at no charge. If you have any questions about the screenings, please speak to the school health room.

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8th Grade News

The 8th grade is off to a 1st place Start! All 8th Grade Teachers have commented on how well this year's 8th graders have taken on the leadership role of the school. There are high expectations for these Marlins with good reason!

Just as a heads up...we will be seeing the Poe Plays at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center on November 1st. Permission forms will be distributed as the time gets closer...so PLEASE don't schedule orthodontist appointments for this day and feel free to join in the fun as a Chaperone!

I am also delighted to report that I was able to add a couple to my 8th grade helping "Parental Marlins" List. Don't miss out on your opportunity to help out and be a part of your child's last year of Middle School. You will get to help set up for our Sparkle Dance, "officiate" Marlin Olympics, and help set up with the Aloha Ceremony at the end of the year. Please email me if you would like to be added to the list!

Mr. Tuthill -

Tuthillk@Okaloosaschools.com

Destin Middle School is a HERO School...

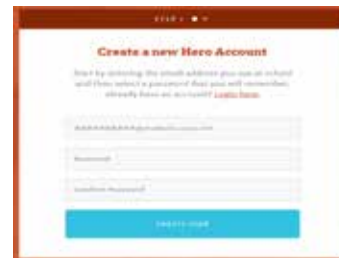
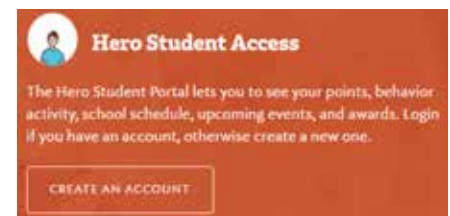
HERO encourages positive student behavior choices. When students demonstrate HERO behaviors, they may earn points toward exciting incentives. We invite students and parents to register your own HERO account so we may keep the lines of communication between home and school open.



HERO STUDENT Account Registration!

*EVERY student needs to register. Register your student FIRST and then yourself.

- Step 1: Go to the website access.heropowered.com
- Step 2: Click "Students"
- Step 3: Click "Create an Account"
- Step 4: Enter student email and use the same password used for their computer access. Click create user.



continued on next page



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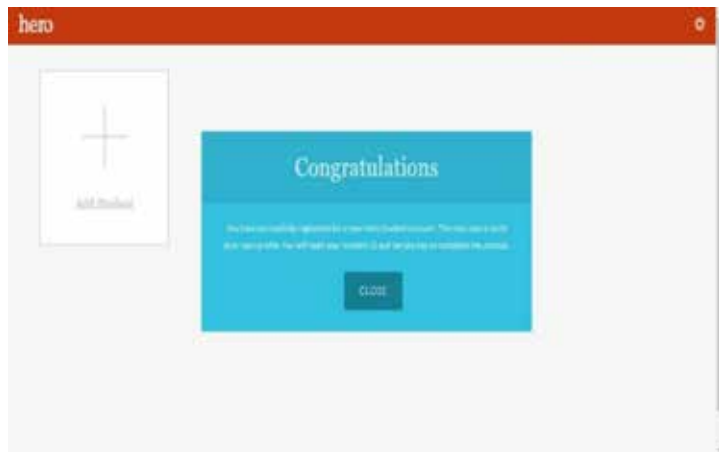


Monday - Thursday From 8am to 5pm • Friday From 8am to 2pm

HERO STUDENT Account Registration!

continued...

Step 5: Click "Close", followed by "Add Student"



Step 6: Click "No"



Step 7: Enter information required and click "Add Student"
DONE!

It's Time to Join Builder's Club!!!

Builder's Club, sponsored by Kiwanis, is a club for any 5th and 6th grade student at Destin Middle School. Builder's Club is focused on participating in service projects to help our school and community. We meet at 8:10 on Tuesday mornings in Room 140 with our community sponsor, Ms. Martin; and our school sponsor, Ms. Giraldo. Come join us for a great time! BEGINNING DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED



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Parent Account Registration

To set-up a parent account so you can be notified of your student progress.

To register, follow these easy steps:

1. Go to <https://access.heropowered.com> you must do this through the website not the app.
2. Select the parent button
3. Click "Create an Account" (and enter a PERSONAL/HOME EMAIL ADDRESS)
4. Enter your name and email address, choose a password, and click "Create user"
5. Click "Add Student"
6. Choose "No" to add your student using their ID Number, Date of Birth, and Last Name

Did your school provide you with a secure key
to access Hero?



Download the app on your phone to receive daily progress on your child.

iRegistro de cuenta de padre comenzar 8/15/2019

Configurar una cuenta principal para que pueda recibir una notificación del progreso de su estudiante.

Para registrarse, siga estos pasos:

1. Ir a <https://access.heropowered.com>
2. Seleccione el botón "Parents"
3. Haga clic en "Create An Account" (e ingrese una DIRECCIÓN DE CORREO ELECTRÓNICO PERSONAL/HOGAR)
4. Ingrese su nombre y su dirección de correo electrónico, elija una contraseña, y haga clic en "Create user"
5. Haga clic en "Add Student"
6. Elija "No" para agregar a su estudiante usando su número de identificación, fecha de nacimiento y apellido.

Did your school provide you with a secure key
to access Hero?



Descargue la aplicación en su teléfono para recibir el progreso diario de su hijo.





Okaloosa School District
Destin Middle School
4608 Legendary Marina Drive
Destin, FL 32541

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To Addressee or Current Resident

8

2019-2020 Lunch Information

2019-2020 School Year Meal Prices:

Elementary & Secondary Breakfast: \$1.80 Adult Breakfast: \$2.25

Elementary & Secondary Lunch: \$2.70 Adult Lunch: \$4.00

Free & Reduced Lunch Applications:

Applications are available in English and Spanish at all schools. Parents need to turn in one (1) application per household.

Free and Reduced meal applications are available online at the district's nutrition website: www.okaloosa.k12.fl.us/foodservices. Entering applications online is quick, easy and more accurate than filling out a paper application. **The website is totally secure.** There is no fee for using the Myschoolapps website to submit your application. You will need to provide certain information during the application process. Examples: Household Members Names and Income, SNAP/TANF Case Numbers, Social Security Numbers, Student ID Number, etc. When you have all this information together,

Go to the Food Service district web page at
<http://okaloosa.k12.fl.us/foodservices/index.htm>
and then click the Apply for Lunch Online link
or go to: <https://www.myschoolapps.com>

Pay for lunch on line:

Parents can add money to lunch accounts on line, receive notifications about account balances and stay up to date with student spending. Go to www.myschoolbucks.com and create an account. The site accepts credit cards as payment. Once an online payment is made, money is added to your student's account within 24 hours. The payment amount and a small transaction fee are charged to your credit card. The information needed to add a student to your account is: school district, school name, student identification number, street address, student date of birth, and a valid e-mail address.

If you have any questions about lunch prices, free and reduced lunch applications, or on-line payments please contact Food Services at 301-3020.

