



# Gotha Growl

For the parents, students and community of Gotha Middle School

**Gotha Activity Line Call:**  
**407-521-2360**  
Press the number 6.

**Gotha Middle School**  
9155 Gotha Road  
Windermere, FL 34786  
**Phone: 407-521-2360**

**Office Hours**

*Monday-Friday:*

**8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**School Hours**

*Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.:*

**9:30 a.m to 3:50 p.m.**

*Wednesday:*

**9:30 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.**

**Non-Discrimination Statement**

*The School Board of Orange County, Florida, does not discriminate in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs and activities, on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, marital status, disability, genetic information or any other reason prohibited by law. The following individuals at the Ronald Blocker Educational Leadership Center, 445 W. Amelia Street, Orlando, Florida 32801, attend to compliance matters: ADA Coordinator & Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Supervisor: Carianne Reggio; Section 504 Coordinator: Dr. Kimberly Steinke; Title IX Coordinator: Gary Preisser. (407.317.3200)*

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

## *Principal's Message*

Hello Grizzly Families!

Our students have been working very hard to ensure they are ready for our state assessments which are approaching quickly. We will be having an FSA Parent Night on March 6th where families will be able to understand what is on the assessments as well as how to best help students prepare at home. Stay tuned for more information.

We want to make sure that parents have an awareness of the Social Media platforms that our students are accessing. Online bullying is often more dangerous because it can seem anonymous and overwhelming. Check out the article Teaching Kids to Be Smart About Social Media: <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/social-media-smarts.html>. Most middle school students are not emotionally ready for social media, so it's important that we help them understand how to navigate it safely.

As we continue with our Culture of Literacy at the school, please make sure your students are reading at home. Research shows that just 15 minutes of reading a night can benefit a student significantly. The article Reading Benefits for Kids and Teens speaks to some of those benefits to the whole child. <https://www.choa.org/medical-services/wellness-and-preventive-care/parent-resources/all/reading-benefits-kids-teens>

Thank you for your continued involvement at the school. It takes a village and your partnership is invaluable! As always, it's a great day to be a Grizzly.

Monica L. Emery, M.Ed.  
Principal

## *Gotha Middle School*

Gotha Middle School is a student-oriented school that focuses on the whole child. We promote a partnership between students, educators, parents, and community to achieve our goals of:

- Academic excellence
- Character development
- Technological proficiency
- Preparing students for transition to high school

Visit Gotha Middle School's web site at: <http://gothams.ocps.net>

'Gotha Growl'  
February 2019  
Published Five Times Per Year  
Orange County Public Schools  
P.O. Box 271  
Orlando, FL 32802  
Issue# 4

## Inside This Issue

Yearbooks  
 Oration Contest  
 Media Center News  
 Important Testing Dates  
 and more!

### Yearbooks

**Yearbooks are currently \$35.** Pre-ordering is the only way to guarantee your student gets a copy! Prices will go up, so make sure you order soon! [www.jostensyearbook.com](http://www.jostensyearbook.com)

*Get yours before the price goes up!*

## Second Semester

January marks the beginning of our second semester. Each year, during the second semester all schools experience an increase in absences and late arrivals, and a gradual decline in academic performance. So prevalent is this trend, 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. Absences and tardiness are two of the reasons that grades decline. **Please be vigilant in making sure your student attends school every day and arrives on time.** Your attention to this issue will have a positive effect on your student, reinforcing the importance you place on attendance.

To assure continued academic success, **re-establish your student’s homework and study routine. Help him/her to reclaim the space and time meant for this important purpose.** Determine if any supplies or devices are needed. They make great holiday gifts. Also, **monitor your student’s grades, attendance, and classwork by accessing ProgressBook.** Learn what tutoring and support opportunities are available here at school to improve results. Again, your attention to your student’s school work will have a tremendous positive effect. When students are prepared for class each day, they will attend each day, arrive on time, and perform with confidence.

These efforts; **staying informed 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 help us all overcome “Second Semester Slide”.

## Oration Contest

The Modern Woodsman Oration Contest was held on February 7th. This year’s topic was to compare the challenges youth face today to those of the past. Thank you to our guest judges. Our contest participants were awarded a certificate and pin. Our first, second, and third place winners were also awarded plaques. Hayden-Jay Smith will move on to the West Learning Community level competition.



Actual Patient



**BAPTISTE**  
ORTHODONTICS

**1-800-300-7755**

**\$250.00 off**

The total cost (less than 18 months) of limited orthodontic treatment

**\$500.00 off**

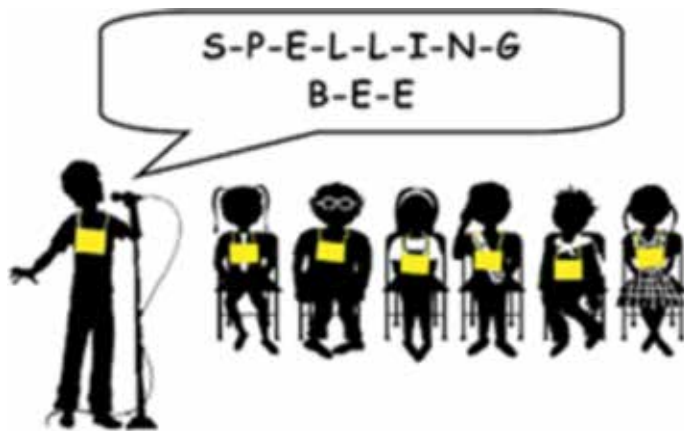
The total cost (18 months) of full orthodontic treatment

**\$700.00 off**

The total cost (24 months+) of full orthodontic treatment

[WWW.BAPTISTEORTHODONTICS.COM](http://WWW.BAPTISTEORTHODONTICS.COM)

Offer valid for new patients only. Cannot be combined with any other offer, discount or promotion. Rewards and retainer fee will apply. Patient or responsible party for payment has the right to refuse pay, cancel payment or reimbursement for payment for any service, examination or treatment performed within 72 hours of responding to the ad for free discount, reduced fee service, examination or treatment. Some restrictions may apply. ADA codes: 8090, 8090, 8070. License #DN15927. Must start treatment before Dec. 31, 2014.



### Spelling Bee

Our school-based spelling bee was held on January 30th. Our first, second, and third place winners were: Luiz Braga, Tonisha Saint Fleur and Matthew Sheldon. Luiz, our first place winner will move on to the West Area Learning Community spelling bee. Congratulations to all participants and good luck moving forward Luiz.

### Media Center News

The media center has been a very busy place over the first semester and that trend is continuing into semester two. So far this year we have checked out over 1300 more books than we did all of last year! This leads to reading gains which historically show as higher test scores. Reading just 20 minutes a day dramatically increases students' vocabulary and thinking skills.

Students are using the media center in the morning for homework help, building relationships playing board games, improving their thinking with STEM materials, puzzles, and reading. Our 3D printers are gaining users as well as giving students experience with troubleshooting mistakes and technical issues. We have added an Audrino starter kit for students to learn to code and make electronics work. More circuit boards and materials will be added as the budget allows.



*Where beautiful smiles come from!*

**SPECIALIZING IN:**  
 Invisalign • \*In-Ovation C- Clear Braces  
 \*SPEED System- Self Ligating Metal Braces  
 Complimentary Consultation • 2nd Opinions Welcomed  
**- SPEED System BRACES - \$3995.00 -**  
 Robert T. Ogden, D.D.S.  
 1805 Maguire Rd • Windermere, FL 34786  
 407-909-3003  
 www.OgdenOrtho.com

## Ocoee Tire & Service




401 Franklin Street  
 Ocoee, FL 34761  
**(407) 290-6500**  
 (407) 290-9274 Fax



**Approved Auto Repair**  
 Marge & Art Johnstone  
 Owners

[www.OcoeeTireAndAuto.com](http://www.OcoeeTireAndAuto.com)

## Windermere Allergy & Asthma

**Dana Broussard-Perry, MD**  
 Board Certified  
 Pediatrics & Adults

---

8946 Conroy-Windermere Rd. Ph: (407) 876-1009  
 Orlando, FL 32835 Fax: (407) 876-6742

[www.windermerepediatrics.org](http://www.windermerepediatrics.org)

## Windermere Pediatrics

For all Your Growing Needs!

Ginny L. Guyton, M.D.  
 Denise Serafin, M.D.  
 Larissa Negron, M.D.  
 Afra Ath, M.D.  
 Amber Eastwood, ARNP  
 Ana Souto, ARNP  
 Maryann Dunn, ARNP

**407-297-0080** Ph  
**407-295-3080** Fax  
**Debbie Franks**  
 Office Manager

7635 Ashley Park Court • Suite 501  
 Orlando, FL 32835

## ALL-IN-ONE ENTERTAINMENT

Local Company - Local People - Local Service  
 Home or Business

### CCTV Security Cameras

*Watch Your Home or Business  
 From Anywhere in the World  
 With No Monthly Fee.*



We hang TV's and HD TV Antennas  
[www.allinone-ent.com](http://www.allinone-ent.com)  
**407-656-2358**

## STAY COOL

**\$79** PRECISION AC TUNE UP  
 FIRST TIME CUSTOMER SPECIAL




ArmstrongAirInc.com



## 1-800-AC-REPAIR

### Your Personal Injury Law Firm

1130 Kelton Avenue | Ocoee, FL 34761  
 Conveniently located near Health Central Hospital  
 in the Lake Bennet Professional Center by Sedalia St.  
 407-258-8707





## ANOUGE & ASSOCIATES

[WWW.ANOUGELAW.COM](http://WWW.ANOUGELAW.COM)



## Service Learning

**Service Learning** students finished *A Long Walk to Water*, which we read as part of a unit studying Africa. We also participated in a Skype call with a scientist in Nairobi to learn about life and students that attend the Kathy and Mike McNulty Academy. We will be holding a fundraiser with the Service Learning classes competing against each other to raise money to help support these students at the school. Next we'll be reading *I Will Always Write Back*. We will also participate in "Say Something Week" in late February to encourage people to speak up when they see others struggling to work toward preventing violence.

## 7th Grade Language Arts

During third quarter, **7th Grade Language Arts** classes have been reading a play, poetry, and historical accounts of events and people. Students have been analyzing multimedia versions of texts and comparing and contrasting the effectiveness on the audience. Third quarter will conclude with students participating in Writing Workshop to prepare for the Writing portion of the ELA FSA in April. Daily homework continues to be reading a book of choice and completing book projects. Don't forget to get a book to continue reading if you don't have one!

## Science 6

Students in **Mr. Rose's Life Science Class** had the opportunity to dissect Owl Pellets (Owl Vomit) in class. After learning about ecosystems, food chains, and predator-prey relationships they were able to dissect apart their pellets and discover what creature(s) the owl ate. They then had to piece the bones together according to anatomical charts and glue the bones down to form a skeleton of the prey on a notecard. Science... coming alive!



*Wesley Do and Madilyn Stewart dissect an owl pellet.*

## 6th Grade PLTW/STEM

**The 6th grade PLTW/STEM** class has been working on designing and constructing paper roller coasters for marbles. Students spent two weeks studying force and energy in relation to roller coasters as well as common design principles. Engineering teams then designed a three-foot tall roller coaster meeting a specific set of constraints. Roller coasters were tested on January 30th for adherence to constraints and originality. Overall, the students thoroughly enjoyed the planning, building, and testing of their coasters. Our next unit of study is focused around the topic of Medical Detectives and students will be studying vital signs, pathogenic illness, the nervous system (including a brain dissection), and basic forensics.




Pragnesh H. Patel, M.D.  
Jose R. Arias, Jr., M.D.  
Andrew S. Bagg, M.D.  
Ilana L. Stone, ARNP  
Winnie Whidden, ARNP-C  
Jeanine Jones-Donald, ARNP-C

Serving Central Florida for 30 years.  
AAS has 5 offices to Care for You.

Treating, Allergies to Pollen, Food, Stinging insects, Asthma,  
Sinusitis, Chronic Cough, Dermatitis, and much more!

OCOE 407-219-3620 • CLERMONT 352-243-6767  
ORLANDO 407-351-4328 • LAKE UNDERHILL 407-608-7871  
ALTAMONTE 407-399-3002

[www.AllergyCFL.com](http://www.AllergyCFL.com)




LIFETIME  
GUARANTEE

LIFETIME  
BLEACHING

**407-381-3335**  
7009 Dr. Phillips Blvd #200

**Jason Battle DDS CAGS | Orthodontic Specialist**


Voted A Top Orthodontist 2014, 15, 16, 17, 18



*Did you know?:* The American Association of Orthodontists recommends that most children should have an orthodontic screening by age 7.

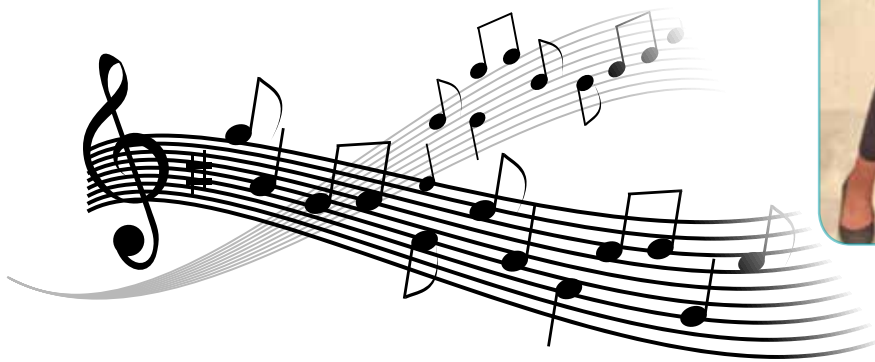
*Orlando's Invisible Orthodontist*

We treat Adults and Children



## All County Band

Congratulations to the following students who auditioned and were selected to participate in the **All County Band** performance for OCPS. After nights and days of practice with their peers from other Orange County Middle Schools they performed for a packed house Winter Park High School. They all did a fantastic job! #OCPSArts



*Sheila Jamasi, Syhion Washington, Kyla Abraham, Collin Rose, and Sophia Wright*

## Gotha Chorus

The **Gotha Chorus** has been busy ever since we got back from Winter Break. On January 10-12th Emma Dunagan, Anthony Teter, Andrew Green, and Jonas Dahlman represented Gotha in the All-State Choir. These students were selected after multiple rounds of auditions from thousands of students around the state. On January 29th 75 chorus students performed at Disney Springs as part of Disney Performing Arts Showcase. On February 1st Anthony Teter, Jonas Dahlman, and Jayden Little all performed solos at Solo & Ensemble and all three received the top superior rating. On March 1st our Concert Choir will be competing in Festival Disney at Saratoga Springs Performance Hall. Their performance time is 3:25p.m. A week later all chorus students will go to Music Performance Assessment for annual choral evaluation. In April many chorus students will be performing at Fun Spot USA.

**Arthur Murray**  
Dance Centers



**Date Night!**  
*Be Husband and Wife  
(instead of Mom and Dad)*  
**Give It a Try - Call Today!**  
**First Lesson is FREE!**  
*It's Fun, It's Easy!*

**407-290-5441**

Corner of  
Conroy & Turkey Lake • [ArthurMurrayOrlando.com](http://ArthurMurrayOrlando.com)

**A few spots are left!**



**We need you!**

**Advertise in the Gotha Grow!**

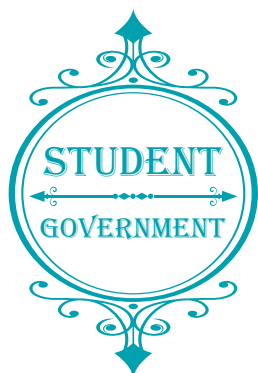
This is a wonderful way for your company to get community recognition and exposure, and at the same time help support your local schools!

**Trina LaBaw**

[trina.labaw@ocps.net](mailto:trina.labaw@ocps.net)

**Gotha Middle School**





### Student Government

Gotha's **Student Government** has been hard at work from our School's Beatification Saturday to leadership representation at the School District 3 Florida Association of Student Councils (FASC). Student government sponsored the Valentine's Candy Gram to support Relay for Life in association with the American Cancer Society of America, and we are working on Gotha's talent show.

### Spring Night of the Arts

**Spring Night of the Arts** dates are April 16th and 18th. All of our fine arts students will showcase their talents. Students enrolled in these classes will receive more information on these dates as they approach.



2220 Hemple Avenue  
Gotha, FL 34734

**407-470-7365**

Classes for ages 3 to adults

[www.readysetdance.com](http://www.readysetdance.com)

HIP HOP  
BALLET  
TUMBLING  
LYRICAL  
AERIAL SILKS  
TAP  
JAZZ  
CONTEMPORARY  
MODERN  
POINTE  
MUSICAL THEATER

**407-509-3565**

Providing Superior Portable  
Restroom Service In  
Central Florida Find us on

**INOVA CLEAN**

Life's too short  
*save time*  
Let us do the cleaning  
for you!

4401 Vineland Rd. Suite A-5  
Orlando FL 32811  
(407) 431-5005  
info@inovacleaning.com  
[www.inovacleaning.com](http://www.inovacleaning.com)

SERVICES

- Home Cleaning
- Green Cleaning
- Window Washing
- Oven Cleaning
- Refrigerator Cleaning
- Carpet Cleaning
- Move In/Move Out Cleaning
- New Home Construction Cleaning

## Pride Club

**Pride Club** is coming out at Gotha! Pride Club is for students in the LGBTQ community and their straight allies. This club is a place of support and acceptance. National statistics show that our LGBTQ youth suffer from higher rates of depression, drug use, and suicide.\* Students do not have to be LGBTQ to join the club. This club is to help promote acceptance and understanding for all of our students from all backgrounds. Please see Mr. Boilard or Ms. Gennaria for more information. \*<https://www.zebrayouth.org/> Meetings will be held twice a month on Thursdays in C213.



## Published Authors

Several 7th grade students became published authors after winning the Creative Communication Fall 2018 Poetry Contest! Winners included Bryce Ownby, Christly Bertin, Patience Goines, Oluwakemi Aderibigbe. These students' poems will be published in a poetry anthology. Want to be a published author? Visit [www.poeticpower.com](http://www.poeticpower.com) or see Mrs. Wilcox for more information.



Southwest Orlando Family Medicine, PL has been faithfully serving the healthcare needs of children, adolescents, adults and the elderly in the Dr. Phillips community since 1987. Our mission is to provide our patients with exceptional and award-winning medical care from our experienced clinicians.

"BEST/TOP FAMILY PHYSICIANS OF ORLANDO  
2010 - 2017 (ORLANDO MAGAZINE)"

"ELITE MD FOR 2017  
(ORLANDO STYLE MAGAZINE)"

"BEST DOCTORS - Reader's Choice  
2015 - 2016 (Orlando Family Magazine)"

"COMPASSIONATE DOCTOR AWARD"

Open Monday - Saturday  
Se Habla Español

407-352-9717  
[www.swofm.com](http://www.swofm.com)



Restaurant Delivery

FREE DELIVERY

with coupon code "Dining Guide 2018"

250+ Restaurants Nationwide

Restaurant Owners! Do you want to expand your business? Email: [jean@takeoutwaiter.com](mailto:jean@takeoutwaiter.com)  
We are also a local marketing company. We print full color, direct mail menu guides and postcards 4 times a year.

SUBWAY

NEW SIGNATURE WRAPS

\$6.99

FREE Dinner Cookies with the purchase of any Lunch or Dinner Sandwich or Party Pack

8 AREA LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU!

1045 South Dillard Street  
Winter Garden, FL 34787  
407-877-2662

1569 East Silver Star Road  
Ocoee, FL 34761  
407-297-0560

13350 Summerport Village Pkwy  
Wintermere, FL 34786  
407-905-6741

2468 South Maguire Road  
Ocoee, FL 34761  
407-654-4986

271 West Road  
Ocoee, FL 34761  
407-654-0014

15504 Stonebrook West Pkwy  
Winter Garden, FL 34787  
407-656-2934

7315 Winter Garden Vineland Rd  
Wintermere, FL 34786  
407-654-4244

8894 West Colonial Drive  
Ocoee, FL 34761  
407-291-4994



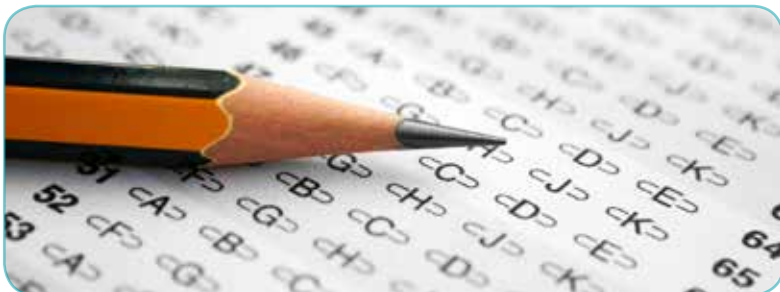
Non Profit Organization  
US Postage PAID  
Orlando, FL  
Permit #2346

Orange County Public Schools  
Gotha Middle School  
P.O. Box 271  
Orlando, FL 32802-0271

### *Important Testing Dates*

For your planning purposes the testing dates are listed. Please make every effort to have your child here on time with a charged laptop each day. Thank you.

- **April 2** – FSA Writing (6th grade PBT, 7th and 8th CBT)
- **May 1-2** – FSA Reading Sessions 1 & 2
- **May 6-7** – FSA Math Sessions 1 /2&3)
- **May 8** – NGSSS 8th Grade Science
- **May 13-14** – FSA EOC Algebra 1/Geometry
- **May 15** – NGSSS Civics



### *Spring Musical*

**The Spring musical is *Mary Poppins Jr.*** Current show dates are May 8-10, and tickets will go on sale after spring break. Tickets for the show will be sold on [Teachtix.com](http://Teachtix.com)