

HAWK TALES

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Greetings!

It's been an interesting, yet great, start to the 2020-2021 school year! Students have been quick to pick-up on our new procedures and teachers are adapting to the learning challenges presented by LaunchED and blended models of instruction. With the support of parents and the community, we will continue to provide a high quality learning experience for all students.

Extracurricular activities have been hard to accommodate because of Covid-19 protocols. Regardless, the journalism club has been hard at work on the 2020-21 yearbook and NJHS continued our tradition of collecting canned goods for the Thanksgiving food drive with the support of the PTA. The YMCA Afterschool Zone also added new clubs like Anime, volleyball, and track clubs to keep students active. We hope to expand our on campus extracurricular opportunities in the second semester as well as kick-off our organized school sports.

I would encourage parents to stay connected with the learning process by checking Skyward Parent Access daily, become a Canvas Observer, and by reaching out to classroom teachers when questions/concerns arise. Additionally, if you have not already done so, please consider joining our Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Over the course of the year, our PTA provides so much support to the teachers and students at Maitland Middle School. Your membership fee will help support initiatives such as the Heroic Hawk Award Ceremony, staff appreciation meals, community outreach projects, and the 8th grade party — to name a few. This year, PTA has already helped us purchase new picnic tables for outside seating during lunches. Joining is easy; simply visit https://maitland.new.memberhub.store/store/ to get more information.

...continued on page 2

ADMINISTRATION

Principal

Andrew Leftakis

Assistant Principals

Crystal Higgs Danielle Kendall

Deans

Carla Thomas

Brian Himschoot

<u>Guidance</u> Counselors

6th grade & 7th grade (A-L) Randon Singer

7th grade (M-Z) & 8th grade Louise Yergey

Phone: 407.623.1462

<u>Fax</u>: 407.623.1474

https://maitlandms.ocps.net/

NOVEMBER 2020 • VOLUME 26 • ISSUE 1

Soaring to

New Heights



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

...continued from cover

Please be sure that students stay home if they are feeling sick. We ask that you monitor your child's health every day and let the school know if they need to stay home or self-quarantine. This is done for the safety of all students and staff here at MMS. Please check the website, or my weekly newsletter, for a full listing of events.

Despite our challenges, it has been an outstanding year thus far and I am excited to see how our students will continue to soar in 2021!

Sincerely,

Andrew Leftakis *Principal*

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

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SKYWARD

Parent Login: https://parents.classlink.com/ocps

More Skyward information can be found at: https://www.ocps.net/cms/one.aspx?pageId=1158765/





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LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

Our library media center is open for business! Students may request library materials by using the *Hold* feature in Destiny Discover whether they are Face to Face or LaunchEd@Home students. Ms. Delaney has shared tutorials on using Destiny Discover with students via the Media Center Canvas course. She will communicate with students via Canvas about picking up books in the media center or in the main office for our LaunchEd@Home students. We are following OCPS Covid-19 Guidelines as well as the recommendations of the American Library Association in regards to the circulation and cleaning of library materials.

When we transitioned to distance learning last spring, thousands of library materials were still checked out to students. Please look around your home and see if you have any materials that need to be returned to OCPS schools. Ms. Delaney is collecting for any OCPS school and will get the materials checked in and returned to the appropriate home school. You may drop them off to her attention in the main office. Materials belonging to Orange County (OCLS), Maitland or Winter Park Public Libraries should be returned to them. We are NOT collecting any donated books at this time.

SSYRA Books 2020-2021 Grades 6-8

How many will you read???

Our Sunshine State Battle of the Books Club is in full swing. Meetings are held virtually this year via Big Blue Button on the first Monday of every month. Students are tackling three novels a month in the hopes of becoming experts on SSYRA trivia as they prepare for our monthly Kahoot battles and the spring Battle of the Books competition against 40 other middle schools. No pressure, we got this!









As Rudine Sims Bishop said, "books are 'Windows, Mirrors, and Doors' that allow children to see themselves in stories and learn about the experiences of others". We have been making additions to our collection by updating non-fiction and supplementing our fiction collection with new releases and diverse books. Students are encouraged to complete a variety of challenges in Beanstack to discover new authors and great stories. Current Beanstack challenges include: WinterChallenge, SSYRA 6-8, and Read Woke From Home.

Additional resources for locating books can be found here:

- We Need Diverse Books
- Diverse Book Finder
- Stav Woke From Home
- Antiracist Resources and Reads: Lists for All Ages

Keep up to date on library events and book suggestions by following our library accounts: @MaitlandMS OCPS on Instagram and @MMS HawksMC on Twitter.

















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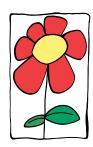
UNITY DAY

Maitland students and staff wore orange in support of bullying prevention. We want to promote kindness, acceptance and inclusion every day.

GARDEN CLUB

We miss our Gardening Hawks. But never fear as Ms. Simasek and Ms. Delaney have been diligently taking care of our garden until you are back with us. In early October they planted peas, radishes, green beans, kale, carrots, and onions. We are waiting on some additional soil to be

delivered so we can sow more seeds. We look forward to a bountiful harvest and sharing with our school community. Updates and videos are available on the Gardening Page in Canvas. We are also working on plans for expansion that will include additional vegetable beds as well as a pollinator garden and a relaxation garden. Let's GROW Hawks!





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CANVAS PARENT OBSERVER ACCOUNT SET-UP

Parents:

- 1. Login to canvas.ocps.net and click on "parent login."
- 2. Register for a canvas account, & then enter the "student pairing code" from step four from the student section above.
- 3. You should now have access to view your student's courses

Students:

- Login to your Canvas by going to Launch.ocps.net
- 2. Click on "account" in the top left hand corner of your screen once you are in Canvas.
- 3. Click "settings."
- 4. Once in settings, click "pair with observer" and write down the code that is generated.

WALK N' ROLL

Thank you to Mrs. Yohe and her team who organized our Walk N' Roll event.



ADDITIONS

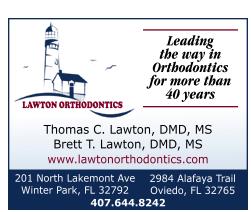
WWW.VOLUNTEER.OCPS.NET

Please log in to your ADDitions account and make any necessary updates for the 2020-2021 school year. Even if you are registered and active at other schools, you must search for and assign yourself to opportunities at Maitland Middle School. At this time, volunteer service on campus is limited and based on Principal approval. No field trips are currently scheduled. Stay tuned as more opportunities will become available throughout the year.

If you have forgotten your username and/or password, select the reset password option and then click the box for both username and password. The system will search for the last email address on file and give you the option to reset and update your account for the year. If you have any questions, please reach out to our ADDitions Coordinator, Ms. Delaney at kelly.delaney@ocps.net or 407-623-1462 x 5172284.













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Heroic Hawks

HEROIC HAWKS

Although we missed hosting our quarterly celebration, we would like to acknowledge the students who were nominated by their teachers for outstanding character and citizenship for the first nine weeks.

6TH GRADE

Anisha Sugrim

Ashley Woodard

Brodie Bishop

Hazel Wolff

Jacob Story

Kellen Bussey

Lucia Rojas

Mackinley Foglesong

7TH GRADE

Chase Adamo

DeVia Levy

Hannah C. Mendoza

Kaliyah Simmons

Kyle Hannon

Lilly Kolb

Luke Terry

Madilynn Duncan

Miles Gotlib

8TH GRADE

Charlotte Batten

Emma Boyd

Fatima Waller

Jackelin Gomez

Laurel Jozik

Mariana Marquez

Philippe Brillembourg

Reagan Bach

Serene Sabbagh

Tommy Harmon

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The soft scratch of pencil on paper and the click clack of laptop keys mean students are writing, writing, writing! All grade levels have been working on informative essays and focused paragraphs. Of course, reading is still a daily component of language arts classes. Students strive to support their thinking with evidence from a variety of texts, to craft sentences and paragraphs that flow and are engaging to read. Students are also getting the chance to read and analyze ideas, point of view and the beautifully complex language of texts. Higher level thinking muscles are being strengthened as students break down the structure of text and infer why the author chose to structure the story, play, poem or article that way. Academic discussion is the focus of district-wide professional development. which meshes seamlessly with all we do in our classrooms.

Encourage your children to read constantly! - your fabulous ELA team

SOCIAL STUDIES

In World History we are learning about early humans and the shift from the early ages of hunting food and people constantly moving from place to place to the Agricultural Revolution where humans began to farm for food and established communities for the first time. Students will examine the emergence of the world's first civilization in Ancient Mesopotamia, to include their economic, political, social and religious institutions, as well as inventions and achievements. Students will also analyze primary and secondary documents as they work to determine whether the Code of Hammurabi was just or unjust.

In Mr. Carter's class they will soon be working on the different aspects of a civilization by creating and constructing a civilization as a class inside of the game Minecraft. Students were assigned an aspect of the Ancient Egyptian civilization and together they had to complete a total civilization.

In our 7th grade Civics classes, students have learned about what influenced our founding fathers to form the form and system of government we have today. We learned about the causes that led to our country declaring our independence as well as why the Articles of Confederation were so weak, and will continue with why the Constitution was created and the debate over the inclusion of our Bill of Rights. November is the month we do our elections and campaigns unit, and we will be introducing our students to the ideas of propaganda, bias and symbolism. We will also be doing a mock election on Election Day.

The inspiring story of the founding of our country is the focus of our 8th grade U.S. History classes. Our students have been busy learning about the discovery, exploration and development of the "New World". They have investigated the formation of the original 13 colonies and have learned about the struggle for independence and the radical new idea of "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." We learned that the Revolutionary War was fought over more things than just "taxation without representation." Students have researched the course of the war and discussed the new country's plan of action. Next we will discuss the founding principles of our government and how our founding fathers envisioned the future of the United States. We will learn about the precedents set by George Washington and examine if they are still common today.



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SCIENCE

Both Honors and Comprehensive Science 2 are finishing up a study of light.

Honors Science students will be moving on to study the stars including an up close view of our Sun (not literally of course) before moving on to study the impacts of space exploration.

The Comprehensive Science 2 students are moving on to study Geologic Processes and Geologic Time.

In Sixth Grade Life Science classes, students concluded the first nine weeks grading period studying ecology. Students learned about biotic and abiotic factors, types of consumers, feeding interactions, and food webs. Students also learned about ecological interactions between organisms and symbiotic relationships (mutualism, commensalism and parasitism). Students had fun working with a lab partner to create a creative review game activity on our study of ecology. During the second nine weeks students are learning about cells. Students are learning about unicellular



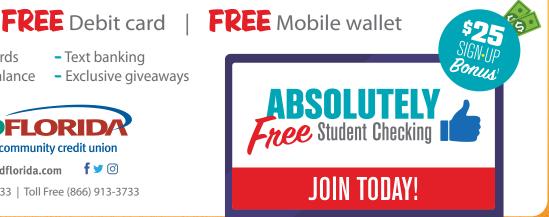
and multicellular organisms, as well as prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells. Students will then learn how to relate structure to function for the components of plant and animal cells. Using only recycled materials, students will create 3-D cell models of either an animal cell or a plant cell. Parents, please continue to check your child's progress in Skyward. All course content material can be found in our class Canvas page. Best Thanksgiving holiday wishes to all! Dr. Anne Albright

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FINE ARTS

Art class this year is a little different as we navigate f2f and virtual students at the same time. Students are supposed to have their own materials, because we don't want to share this year. The list can be found on the syllabus page in the art course. All work will be submitted on-line until we are all f2f. We are currently learning about the elements of art, these are line, space, shape, form, color, space and texture.

Congratulations to Mariana Marquez for winning 3rd place in the Global Peace Film Festival Student Art Contest. Mariana (8th) created a beautiful piece of work about being a good neighbor. She was also featured in the OCPS 2020 Hispanic Heritage Celebration movie (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4AdujdY-afA at about 11:30).













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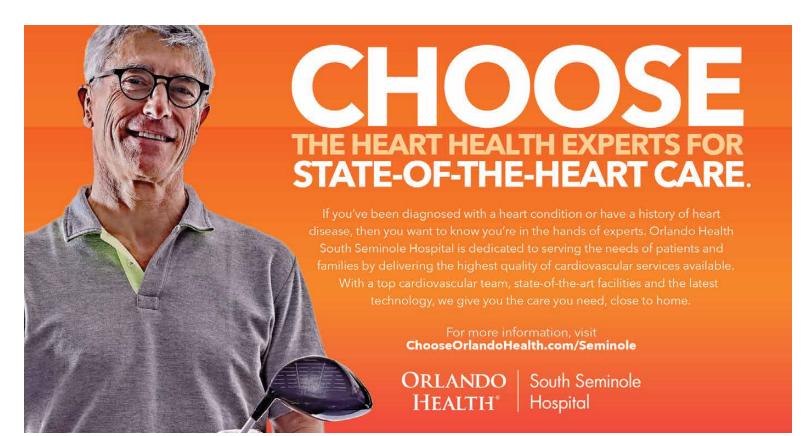
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Tutoring

Online Tutoring with the Orange County Library System using your Virtual Library Card!



Step 1-Auto log in to Launch.



Step 3- Click on the Virtual Library Card.



Step 5- Scroll down until you get to the Tutoring link and click on the <u>Brainfuse</u> link.

Tutoring

Middle/High School Students (6th-12th Grade)

 <u>Brainfuse</u> - Connect with a qualified tutor for expert help in Math, Science, Social Studies, English, English as a Second Language, Computer Literacy, Test Preparation (such as GED, SAT and ACT) and Writing Assistance. Step 2-Click on the Library Research Tools icon

Step 4-click on this link



Step 6: Log in with your OCPS student id number and date of birth YYYYMMDD.

brainfuse

Card number	PIN
	Submit

TUTORING

MATH TUTORING OPPORTUNITIES

Carlson:

Tuesday -8:00 am -8:30 am

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Thursday -8:00 am -8:30 am

School Wide Math Tutoring can be accessed on the MMS Media Center page under Conferences.

Monday -5:00 pm - 6:00 pmThursday -5:00 PM - 6:00 pm

Fugate:

Tuesday and Thursday 8:45 -9:15 by joining BBB session

Rivera:

Tuesday and Thursday 9:00-9:20

Additional math tutoring sessions are available by request. Students may email their instructor via Canvas to schedule appointments.

Free online tutoring is available using the OCLS Virtual Library Card for ALL students using Brainfuse. Students log in with their student id number and then birthday in YYYYMMDD format.

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To Addressee or Current Resident

PTSA

It's not too late to join the PTA. So if you haven't joined yet, please do so today! Visit www.schoolpay.com where you can join conveniently by filling out the form and paying online.

Student device reminders:

- Students are responsible for his/her laptops at all times
- · Students are responsible for charging the laptop every night and bringing it every day
- Never share passwords!!
- When transitioning from class to class, the laptop should be placed in the backpack
- · Compatible earbuds should be brought to school every day
- · Laptops are not to be out during lunch periods
- If students need tech support, they may go to the media center during 2nd and 6th periods
- · As these are school issued laptops, students are expected to use in a responsible manner, even when off campus

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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, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, 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) Officer: Carianne Reggio; Section 504 Coordinator: Latonia Green; Title IX Coordinator: James Larsen (407.317.3200).