

# WOOD POST



**FEBRUARY 2020**

**Volume 15 Issue 3**

For the Parents, Students  
& Community of

**Markham Woods  
Middle School**

6003 Markham Woods Road  
Lake Mary, FL 32746

Phone 407-871-1750

## Administration

Linda Mumey  
Principal

Michael Cush  
Assistant Principal

Chuck Bennett  
Assistant Principal

Dana Richardson  
Assistant Principal

Rosie Jaya  
School Administrative Manager



www.scps.k12.fl.us  
400 E. Lake Mary Blvd.  
Sanford, FL 32773

## **Message from the School Administration Manager**

We are a few weeks into our third quarter, and we are quickly approaching testing season. Students are gearing up for 9 weeks exam testing that will take place towards the end of February through mid-March. In addition to 9 weeks exams, our English Language Learners are gearing up to take their WIDA exam. FSA Writing will take place in April. Lastly in May, we will have FSA Reading & Math, EOCs, and our 8th grade Science exams.

## **Markham's Partners in Excellence**

Our local community continues to support our school. A huge thank you to Salata. We are proud of the work our community and school can accomplish when we work together. Thank you to all our Business Partners for helping make our year at Markham a success! Do you own a business or know of a way your company could partner with Markham? We would love to hear from you and work together on a project at Markham.

Send us a line!



## **Social Media**

Mustangs are social! Make sure to catch the latest of what is happening at Markham by following us on social media and make sure you are signed up for Family Access in Skyward.

- Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/markhamwoodsmiddle/>
- Follow us on Twitter: @MarkhamWoodsMS or <https://twitter.com/MarkhamWoodsMS>

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Seminoole County Public Schools  
400 E Lake Mary Blvd  
Sanford, FL 32773-7125

## Testing

Students will take the computer and paper based state exams this spring. Your student will have had an opportunity to participate in a practice session to become familiar with the item types and response formats he or she will see on these assessments. If you or your student would like to review the materials, practice tests are available for FSA assessments by logging on to <http://www.fsassessments.org/students-and-families/practice-tests>.

Seventh Grade Students who wish to review for the End of Course Civics Exam, can access a practice test (ePAT) at [www.FLAssessments.com/ePAT](http://www.FLAssessments.com/ePAT). Eighth grade students may gain familiarity with the item types and response formats students will see on the Statewide Science Assessment by looking at sample questions online: <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-studentassessment/science.stml>.

For information regarding MKMS test dates and test session lengths, please check our website: <http://www.mwms.scps.k12.fl.us/TestingInformation.aspx>.

If you have any questions related to this test administration, you may contact Rosie Jaya at [Rosie\\_Jaya@scps.k12.fl.us](mailto:Rosie_Jaya@scps.k12.fl.us). For more information about the FSA program, please visit the FSA Portal at [www.FSAssessments.org](http://www.FSAssessments.org).

Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging him or her to do his or her best during this test administration.

Rosie Jaya  
School Administration Manager  
(407) 871-1745

## Guidance Department

Markham Woods Middle School is committed to providing high-quality instruction and support to promote the highest achievement of all students. At the Markham, the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is a framework used to maximize the success of all students.

### What is a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)?

- A Multi-Tiered System of Supports is not a separate program, class or intervention but rather a way of organizing instruction and intervention to help all students. The goal of the multi-tiered framework is to provide high-quality instruction and supports based on student need.
- This framework also helps educators by providing information (data) to identify students needing additional support (academic and behavioral) and also identify students who may need special education. What is Response to Intervention?
- Response to Intervention (RtI) is the practice of using data to help educators match the correct level of support to what students need.
- Educators monitor student Response to Intervention to find out what works.

### What are tiered supports?

A Multi-Tiered System of Supports organizes instruction and intervention into tiers, or levels of support:

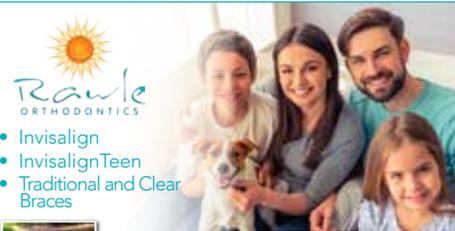
- Tier 1 – All students receive high-quality instruction in academics.
- Tier 2 – In addition to Tier 1, students needing more support also receive small-group intervention and supports. The difference is increased time, smaller groups of students or narrowed focus of instruction.
- Tier 3 – In addition to Tiers 1 and 2, students receiving Tier 3 intervention receive the most intensive supports based on individual need. The difference is individual team-based problem-solving, increased time, smaller groups of students and narrowed focus of instruction.

A parent video explaining the Multi-Tiered System of Supports can be viewed at <http://www.floridarti.org/parentResources/videos.htm>.

## Let's SUPER Size the Fun

Our WorldStrides trip is just around the corner! More students means more fun for everyone — and there's still time to join our trip — so, tell all your friends and help get everyone signed up!

There's two easy ways to sign up: online at [worldstrides.com/signup](http://worldstrides.com/signup) or by calling 800-468-5899. Use Trip ID 177964 to sign up.

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# Markham Woods Middle School Policies

## •No Drop Offs

We do not accept any items for drop offs including backpacks, lunches, money, homework, sports equipment, etc.

•No student pick up after 3:15pm (2:15pm on Wednesday)

•ID's MUST be worn on campus at ALL times No exceptions

**Thank you for your understanding.  
Please plan accordingly.**



## A Word from Discipline

As we begin the second semester, it is hard to believe that the year is almost half over. We continue to have the majority of our students wearing their IDs on a daily basis. To help encourage more students to wear their IDs each morning, a section of the café has been set aside for students that do not have an ID. Once students get their temporary ID, they are required to sit at these tables until the first bell rings. This policy is having a positive impact as the number of students without IDs continues to decline.

Students that need to order new IDs can do so in the morning inside the café. The cost for a replacement ID is \$4.00. Students pay for the ID when they place their order. The ID will then be delivered to them in class. IDs need to be worn on a lanyard or pin above the waist and visible at all times. If your child does not have a lanyard, they are available for purchase in the school store. The school store is open during all three lunches every Monday and Friday and the cost for the lanyard is \$1.00.

Students have also been following our new cell phone policy. The policy allows students to use their phones before school, in the cafe, and after school once they exit the double doors. Cell phone use in the classroom is at the discretion of the teacher. Cell phones are not permitted during transitions. Limiting cell phone use on campus has resulted in more students making it to class on time. Additionally, students are actually talking with each other rather than having their faces down looking at their phones as they move to their next class. That's a win-win.

A growing area of concern on campus is the number of tardies. Once again, the majority of our students make it to class on time on a regular basis, however, we have some students that need to do a little less talking and a little more walking to get to class on time. Please speak with your child about the importance of getting to class on time. Students that are late to class miss key instructional time and disrupt the learning environment of our other students. The discipline department will be addressing it with the students as well.

Thank you for your continued support of the discipline department.

The Dean Team

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## Science Department

Beginning a new semester or nine weeks is always a good time to check your child's school supplies. Please make sure he/she has paper, pencils, erasers that they need to be prepared and successful. Many students are finding that their interactive science notebook is almost full. Please check with your student and assure that they have a notebook that will be sufficient to see them through to the end of the year. These notebooks should be saved as they serve as the student textbook for our middle school science curriculum.

In sixth grade science students are finishing studying the rock cycle and how it relates to Earth's interior structure and applying that understanding to the theory of plate tectonics. Students have gotten to do a starburst rock cycle lab in which they modeled how the rock cycles steps work. Ask your student about the process of compaction, weathering, sedimentation, and how they relate to igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks. Also coming up is the "snack tectonics" activity which is meant to help students understand the types of plate boundaries. As we learn how the geosphere interacts with itself, we are gaining the information and background needed to understand how the geosphere impacts, and is impacted by, the weather events that are common to Earth.

The seventh grade is studying the cell and cellular processes that are necessary to life. Students will have the opportunity to explore the way the cell does cellular respiration, how plant cells do photosynthesis by examining Elodea, and how cells do "day to day" tasks like eliminating waste products, obtaining nutrients, and "breathing". Students have learned the fundamentals of microscopy and used microscopes to exam different types of cells and show their

similarities and differences. Students are also preparing to participate in Seminole County Public School's mental health initiative, a week in which they will learn about how to live a happy and healthy life as well as to understand what support systems are in place for them. This is an online module that can also be viewed from home.

Our eighth grade students have completed their study of the fossil record and how life on Earth has changed throughout Earth's history. Students are preparing to begin a unit on human body systems and will soon be dissecting worms and frogs. They are doing so with the focus of comparing anatomical structures and drawing parallels between body system functions that are common to all animals, regardless of what phylum they belong to. After delving into the ways in which body systems interact, students will look at the types of pathogens that can infect the body and how the body defends against each type. Ask your 8th grader about the frog dissection and how the frogs organ systems compare to humans.

While courses now have FSA's and EOC's please remember that there is still a state test for science that our 8th grade students will be taking in May. The SSA or Statewide Science Assessment is a test that covers all of the material they learn in middle school science from grade 6 to 8. All grade levels are using Study Island as a preparation aid for the SSA, we are targeting difficult concepts within each grade as well as those that may need refreshing from 6th and 7th grade. The students do have access to this from home and we encourage them to use it to brush up on tough subjects outside of school. If you are attempting to log in that you use the link or "Study Island For Schools".



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## ESE Department

The ESE team has started the New Year with great enthusiasm and continued positive energy to capture, inspire, and teach our ESE students and help them fulfill their dreams. Students are making strong academic gains as we teach diverse skills and strategies to enhance their learning in all content areas. Teachers are diligently preparing students for the upcoming Florida state assessments and will be doing a lot of repetition, re-teaching, and reviewing in the next few months to hone in on those specific skills and concepts that are most challenging. Please continue to check skyward on a weekly basis to receive pertinent information regarding your child's classwork, homework, and test grades. Progress reports will go home soon, and if needed, please schedule a parent/teacher conference to discuss any of your child's academic or behavioral concerns. In addition, please contact your child's IEP case manager via phone or email if you have any questions or concerns about their IEP status, goals, and accommodations.

### Helpful test-taking and studying tips for students:

1. Not everyone learns the same way. Do what you feel most comfortable with and learn what works best for you to make you an effective learner and test-taker.
2. Find a studious work partner/friend and review material together.
3. Take mental breaks-this will increase your focus and effectiveness.
4. Find your way of remembering details- (acronyms, special codes, your own story.)
5. Be prepared-know what you need to know and be ready by reviewing sample practice questions to help reduce anxiety on the real day.
6. Put in the effort- success can only be made when one works for it!

## P.E.

It is hard to believe that we are now beginning the second semester and the cooler weather is definitely here! Please help us dress students appropriately for the colder weather. Students can dress in sweatshirts/jackets and sweatpants in cold weather. As always, the physical education department sells PE uniforms with T-shirts costing \$8.00 and shorts costing \$12.00 for those that have a need! This can be purchased with exact change, a check or a printed receipt from <MySchoolBucks.com> online.

Don't forget Mrs. Porter sponsors the Garden Club on Tuesdays/Thursdays with prompt pickup at 5:00 PM. Students grow organic vegetables, fruits and herbs! Mrs. Owens sponsors the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) on Tuesday mornings at 8:15 PM with open gym and discussions. Go Mustangs!!!



## Math Department

The second semester has now begun, the Math Department is looking forward to helping all students complete another successful semester.

We are welcoming Mr. Jordan Hendren to our team as a Math Intervention Specialist, Ms. Teresa Fuhrman as a 6th grade math teacher and Ms. Arianah Keten as a 7th grade math teacher. We are so excited to have them at Markham Woods.

Please ensure you are checking in on Skyward weekly, reviewing the E-Campus page(s) for your child's math class (textbook, syllabus, and class information should be posted here), and check that your child is writing their homework and important dates in their planner daily.

If your student is in an 8th grade math course, they should be working on Khan Academy at least 30 minutes a week. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have a question about the use or grading of Khan Academy.

If you have concerns, in any subject area, please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible. If you would like to schedule a conference, please contact Mrs. Pichardo in the guidance office at 407-871-1724.

Please encourage your child to be reviewing classwork and notes daily in preparation for 3rd nine week exams, weekly quizzes/tests, and the upcoming FSA.



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# E

## Band

Second semester is here and the band is really starting to show musical growth! Symphonic band, Jazz band, and Concert band are all gearing up for their Music Performance Assessments and we are working on scheduling a make up concert in late February. Congratulations to the 3 students that made it into the All-State Band, and the 8 students who made it into the All-County band! This is a wonderful accomplishment and I am so proud to work with such amazing students! If you have not yet paid your band fee or second semester instrument rental see please do so as soon as possible. Students should be practicing at home regularly and have homework assignments that are to be turned in through e-campus on a weekly basis. I look forward to a wonderful second semester for the band. Go Mustangs!!!

-Mr. Slone

## ELA News

Congratulations to our Markham 2020 Spelling Bee winners. Ekansh R. with runner up being Erin H. Welcome Dr. Lauren Merklin as 7th Grade ELA Teacher.

### SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Here's a link to the school's online newspaper. New articles are added all the time. <https://the-golden-horseshoe.webnode.com/>.

### GRADE 6

We are currently finishing up a unit on Greek Mythology and will be doing another Write Score practice essay at the end of the month. Next month, we will be celebrating Black History with a variety of classroom activities.

### GRADE 7

We are currently working on reading a speech by U.S. Representative John Lewis and the power of voting. It talks about the struggle of African Americans and the suppression of the right to vote. This is our segue piece for Black History Month where we will be highlighting many different African American individuals, authors, poets, etc.

### GRADE 8

We spent January working on writing and argumentation. Next up, the short story Flowers for Algernon and class debates.

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## Art News

We have been busy in the Art Room!

Art 2D students just finished up contour drawing and are now working on shading and value. We are also exploring the works of several artists such as Henri M. and Chuck C.

Art 3D students were inspired by the unique Art of Kimmy C. and created abstract faces from cardboard and clay. We are now sculpting faces from plaster.

We always appreciate Art room donations! We are currently in need of:

- Baby wipes
- Newspaper
- Lysol wipes

Congratulations to Lasya N! Her Red Ribbon Week Drug Free Poster won 2nd place in the county for 7th grade!

## We need spots filled...



## ...Can YOU help?

**Support Markham Woods Middle School by advertising in the *Wood Post!***

This is a wonderful way for your business to get community recognition and exposure, and at the *SAME TIME* help support your local schools!

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**Markham Woods Middle School**



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& more!

