

WOOD POST



NOVEMBER 2020

Volume 16 Issue 2

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**

**Cynthia Woods
Assistant Principal**

**Maegan Boza
Dean of Students**



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

Message from Assistant Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians of Markham Middle School!

We are now in full swing of the 2020-2021 school year. Despite the Covid 19 Pandemic, and with your amazing support and trust, Markham Middle School has completed nearly three months of school. Markham's Teachers, students, and parents have demonstrated amazing resilience, and the unique ability to adapt to quickly changing circumstances! And for that we thank you.

We are so proud of our Face to Face students. Their behavior and academics have been outstanding. Our Seminole Connect students continue to log in from home and join their classmates in their learning environment and SCVS Save My Seat students are working with their virtual teachers as Markham counselors and administrators work with SCVS to monitor our students' performance.

As we continue through the school year, please ensure that Face to Face students come to school regularly, however, please keep them home when they are not feeling well. Seminole Connect students should continue to log in to each period with their cameras on to ensure they are marked present in class.

Throughout the beginning of the school year we have been meeting monthly with our School Advisory Committee (SAC). The Advisory Committee is a group of parents, teachers and community members that meet each month with Mrs. Mumey to review our School Improvement Plan and work together towards identifying ways the school can better support students, staff, or the community. This process is part of our constant efforts to improve and ensure every family has opportunities to connect with Markham and that every student leaves Markham Woods with the skills necessary to prepare them for high school and beyond. While voting members are already selected for the 2020-21 school year, any member of the community is invited to join us if they are interested in learning more about the School Advisory Committee or our path of improvement. Meetings are scheduled on the third Wednesday of every month from 8 - 9 am. Please reach out to Cynthia Woods (407-871-1707) if you are interested in attending to make sure there have been no adjustments to the schedule.

Thank you for your patience and support during these tough times.

Chuck Bennett
Assistant Principal

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Discipline

PLEASE REMEMBER:

Masks must be worn at all times in the courtyard and halls covering the nose and mouth. Students will be placed on a contract if they cannot follow this.

Cell Phones are to be put away in their pockets or backpacks when in the halls or courtyard (not lunch), or they will be confiscated by an adult. Students may pick them up the first two times, a parent will need to pick up after that.

The following head gear is NOT allowed any ANY time while on campus: Bonnets, Bandanas/ Do-Rags, or Hoods. Detentions will be given to those who cannot follow this directive.

Transitions are for students to go directly to class. They are not to be out in the halls or courtyard intermingling with others. If found wandering or grouping together, consequences will be given.

Breakfast - only those who choose to get breakfast will be allowed in the cafe. Once they get their breakfast they are to sit at a table with two or less people, eat and leave for class. If Ms. Hartsfield sees a table of four or more students, all students will be dismissed.

Science

Markham Woods Science Department is happy to share that our students are progressing well as we approach the midpoint of the Second Quarter of this school year. We are very proud of how our students and staff have handled all of the new challenges we are facing, including wearing masks, washing hands regularly, sanitization of equipment, and social distancing. It has really been a team effort and everyone is all in with little complaint, though we cannot wait to see each other's smiling faces again.

All science teachers are using eCampus or Google Classroom as their learning platform. You can ask your child to show you the pages for each of their classes to see what they are learning about at any time. Grades are still best viewed through Skyward and should be checked regularly by students and parents. You can even set email notifications from your parent/guardian account if your child's grade drops below a certain threshold.

Sixth grade students are learning about homeostasis in ecosystems, including the impact humans have on them and other factors that limit the population of organisms. Their next unit will be about atoms, atomic theory, and molecules, as well as properties of elements, compounds, and mixtures.

Seventh grade students have been studying how the radiation from the Sun drives interactions between the atmosphere and hydrosphere, creating local and global weather and climate patterns. Next up is the Beyond Our World unit, in which they will be studying the scale of our universe, stars, and galaxies.

Eighth grade students are wrapping up their study of waves and space technology and travel and will be heading into a unit about Interaction of Earth's Spheres, with a focus on the atmosphere and its role in regulating the temperature of our planet.

Take Care,

Carly MacMillan, 7/8th Grade Science Instructor
407-871-1822

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ESE News

As 2020 ends, and the New Year begins, continue to encourage your child to read in the mornings before they get up, at night before they go to bed, and to read to their younger siblings. Over the holiday break, your child can keep a daily journal, with drawings, photos, and stories of their adventures and activities. This will help maintain strong literacy skills. Avoid learning loss over the holidays by keeping mathematical skills sharp through daily practice. A great opportunity to reinforce math skills is through cooking by enhancing measurement and fractional concepts. Your child can also utilize various educational websites at home which directly correlate with the standards that they work on in school. It is important to check E-campus for educational websites that used in each course.

"I'm bored" is a common phrase that your child may say over the holiday break. When this happens, encourage them to help with daily housework and chores, as this will help build their organizational skills, cooperation with siblings, and in turn, contribute to the family.

You can help your child's learning every day by supporting them, encouraging them, and being excited by their learning. Be a role model, and let your child see that you also enjoy learning and challenges.

Always take time to praise your child for their effort. Do things together that show your child that what they are doing in school is connected to the things they do at home and in everyday life. They will love to hear your stories of how things were when you were their age. Strive to keep things simple, affordable, and fun!

The ESE team sends wonderful wishes to you for the end of 2020 and a new start to 2021!

Reading

Quarter 2

The Reading department in sixth, seventh and eighth grade completed their first iReady growth monitoring assessment in mid-October. Data from this assessment was shared with your students individually. When students return from winter break in January, they will take their 2nd diagnostic assessment.

Students are expected to complete one lesson each week on iReady with a score of 75% or better. Classroom time, during both face to face and Connect classes, has been set aside to allow the students enough time to complete their required lesson.

Please encourage your student to practice their reading for at least 30 minutes each day. This will help your student build up reading stamina that will help them with their fluency and build the vocabulary.

Library cards from the Seminole County Public Library can be obtained online at: <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/departments/services/leisure-services/seminole-countylibrary/library-information/library-cards/>. Students can also use the Sora app, by OverDrive (<https://www.overdrive.com/apps/sora/>) to check out eBooks using their Seminole County Public Schools username.



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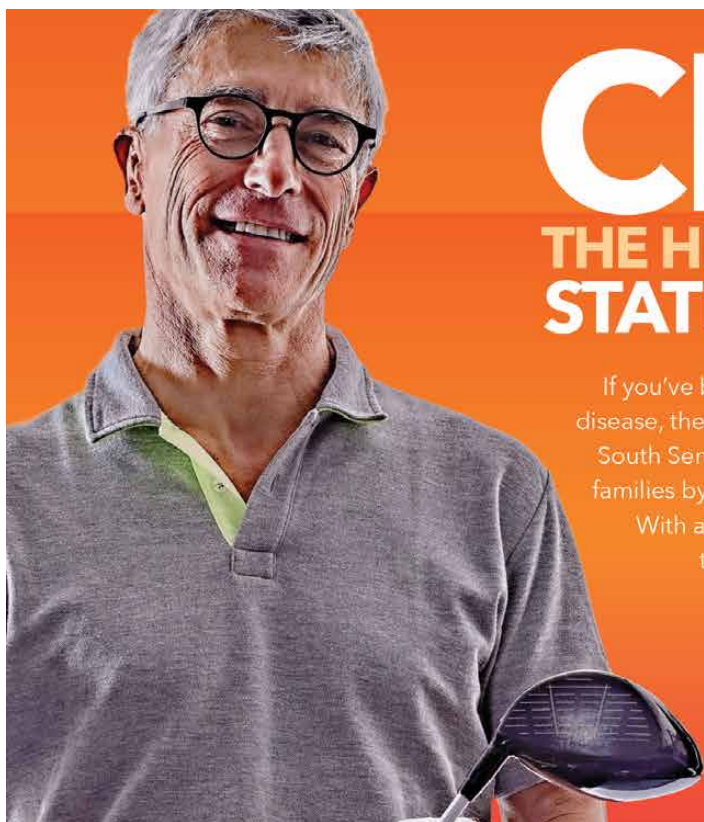
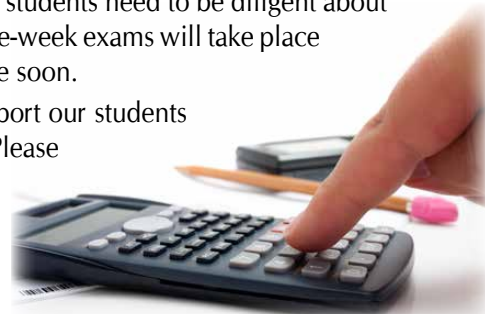
Math

Greetings from the math department! We are so excited to say that all our math teachers are back on campus. Mrs. Bartle, Ms. Samudio and Ms. Arnay have all returned from teaching virtual school or connect remotely. We are thrilled that with Ms. Arnay's return Mr. Bonilla will be teaching intensive math. Mr. Bonilla worked tirelessly with students during distance learning last spring so teaching intensive math is a great fit. We will also be starting a support program for students on Wednesday during period XL. Small groups of students will be pulled to work with Ms. Dowdy for approximately 40 minutes at a time. In addition, plans for after school tutoring are in the works for Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

We hope that your students are diligently doing their online assignments in KHAN and Algebra Nation and whichever textbook they are using. If technology access is an issue, please contact your student's teacher so arrangements can be made for equal access to the assignments. We want to ensure failing assignments/grades are due to lack of effort and not lack of access.

The end of the first semester is in sight, so students need to be diligent about completing their work in a timely manner. Nine-week exams will take place mid-December. Details will be made available soon.

We are doing all we can to help and support our students with the constraints of our Covid schedule. Please know that in addition to support on campus there are opportunities in the community. Please contact your student's teacher if you are wanting to get support off campus.



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Chorus

Exciting news! All of our chorus classes are now singing outside, filling our beautiful courtyard with music! Using some recording technology, a bluetooth speaker, and a lot of courage from our amazing chorus students, we have been able to successfully sing warmups and new repertoire together. It requires quite a bit of independent musicianship on the part of the students and Mrs. Antmann is so proud of their dedication and hard work.

During the first quarter, students in Black and Silver Singers and Concert Chorus submitted their recordings for our virtual choir recordings. If you're not familiar with virtual choirs, they take separate videos of each choir member singing their own voice part and combine them together to create a choir-like performance experience. We've discussed these types of projects in class. While there are limitations to virtual choirs and they don't replicate a live performance experience, they are the safest way for us to perform right now. We look forward to sharing our work with you later in the year.

As we continue through the second quarter, please continue to support your students by encouraging them to practice vocal technique at home, using the instructional videos on their eCampus. Occasionally, they may ask for a quiet, semi-private location to practice. Many of them are self-conscious about how they sound until it's just right. If you can help support that request, it will go a long way to helping bolster their confidence.

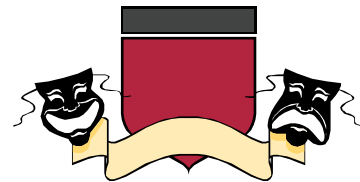
We appreciate the support of our Markham community of parents and family members. Thank you to all of you for being so flexible as we navigate this new way of rehearsing and making music!

Drama

Pandemic Performing Arts

As with so many things right now, live performing is on hold all around the world. However, theatre artists are still finding a way.

On November 5th and 6th our junior thespians (troupe 88773) participated in the first ever virtual thespian festival. Students were able to watch performances from around the northern half of the state, have their own performances evaluated by judges, and participate in virtual workshops. We sang, we danced, we acted, and we learned. Congrats Junior Thespians! Looking forward to State!



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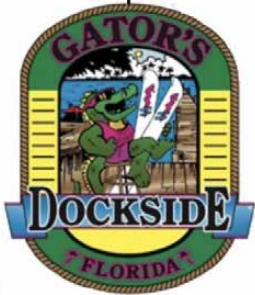
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