

WOOD POST



OCTOBER 2020

Volume 16 Issue 1

For the Parents, Students
& Community of

**Markham Woods
Middle School**

**6003 Markham Woods Road
Lake Mary, FL 32746**

Phone 407-871-1750

Administration

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Principal**

**Michael Cush
Assistant Principal**

**Chuck Bennett
Assistant Principal**

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Assistant Principal**

**Maegan Boza
Dean of Students**



www.scps.k12.fl.us

**400 E. Lake Mary Blvd.
Sanford, FL 32773**

Message from the Principal

Hello Mustang! I cannot believe we are almost through our first nine weeks already. We had an interesting start to the year with multiple learning options and variety of schedules, but we are up and going strong! I cannot thank you enough for your support, patience and understanding as we all worked together to keep things safe and get our kids learning again. Markham families are the best.

Even our WoodPost newsletter is running behind as our first one normally goes out in August. That's okay; we'll get caught up soon and I will always keep you informed in my Friday SkyAlert email messages. Since the start of school, we have had a Virtual Schedule Pick Up/Open House, a Virtual Tour to welcome new students, a Spirit Week, and PTSA has had spirit nights at Jeremiah's and Chipotle (9/29). Cross country is training for their first meet on the 23rd and plans are in place for track to compete in the 2nd quarter. If things maintain the current trajectory, we will have Volleyball in the 3rd quarter and Basketball in quarter 4. It may not be a normal school year, but we are doing all that we can to provide normal activities within our COVID guidelines.

We have an honorary event coming up this week. Many of our families have been personally affected by the COVID Pandemic so we wanted to show our support and provide a small memorial. On Friday, September 25, 2020 The Markham Memorial Magnolia tree will be planted in memory of Markham Family lives lost. Student government will also be donating a bench that will sit near the tree and surrounding the tree will be memory rocks; a personalized, hand painted homage to loved ones. Families of the Markham community, past and present, are welcome to attend our ceremony at 5:30 pm and then visit the tree and bring their own painted rock if they wish. Our hope is that the Memorial Magnolia will help our community heal from the tragedies of COVID-19. We want to thank the Cornell family from Tremendous Quality Growers for their tree donation and services.

The 2020-2021 school year has had an odd beginning, but we will continue to L.I.F.T., Leading, Innovating, Fostering relationships and Team Building. We are #TeamMarkham and we are destined for greatness.

Here's to 2020-21!

Linda J. Mumey, *Principal*
407-871-1750 | Linda_mumey@scps.k12.fl.us

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Student Government

Congratulations to our newly-elected Student Government Executive Board!

- Student Body President Kaylee Keller
- Student Body Vice President Kaley Sutton
- Student Body Treasurer Orion Gaines
- Student Body Secretary Sawyer Snedaker
- 8th Grade Class President Mia Liatsos
- 7th Grade Class President Kate Keller

Thank you to everyone for voting!

Also, thank you to everyone who participated in the Back-to-School Spirit Week! You all inspired us to start working on our next Spirit Week plans already!

Student Government is back with Student and Teacher of the Month awards for 2020. Congratulations to our September Students and Teachers of the Month: Mrs. Barth, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Bartle, Ana A., Maddex N., and Sadarius C.!

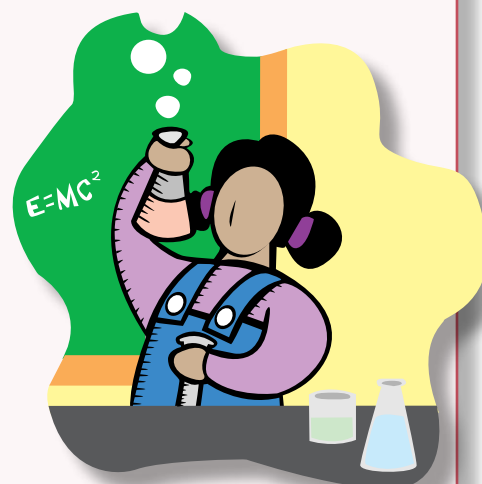
We are gearing up for the Winter Food Drive, so be on the lookout for updates and announcements. Applications for 6th Graders to join Student Government in the Spring will be available in November, with interviews scheduled for December.

Finally, Student Government has launched a new website to help keep the Mustang Family informed about what's going on around campus. Check out <https://sites.google.com/myscps.us/mkmssg/home!>

Science Olympiad

The Mustang Science Olympiad teams have kicked off a new season! Following up on our back-to-back berths to the State Tournament, we have our eyes set on getting an invite to the National Tournament, scheduled for this May at Arizona State University. To continue building on our successes, we're doubling down on our mastery of the different science disciplines, working harder than ever on our engineering products, and challenging ourselves to advance to that next level. Having surpassed Sanford Middle School and Seminole Science Charter last year, we now look to leapfrog Orlando Science Schools to become the top school in Central Florida.

To do this, we need your help! The cost of competing at this new, higher level are expensive. We're looking for private, personal donations and corporate/community sponsorships. If you would like to make a private donation to our efforts, look for our tile in MySchoolBucks. If you represent or know of a business or community partner who might like to support our team and get some advertising as a bonus, use the form found here: <https://tinyurl.com/SOpartners2020>.



Science

Markham Woods Science Department would like to take a moment to welcome all new and returning students for another great school year. Though this year looks a bit different from those prior, we are off to a great start! Students are doing a great job following hand-washing, mask, and social distancing procedure and our teachers and custodial staff are working hard to keep classrooms and equipment clean throughout the day.

As we venture further into the school year, we encourage all of you to take note of the supply list for science classes. One of the major components of all science courses at Markham is a student notebook that will act as students' research book, note taking location, lab manual, and textbook. This notebook is very important for students to be successful. We would like to encourage students and parents to assure that the notebook they purchase is one that will last. We suggest spiral notebooks that have a cover over the spiral, as well as one that is large enough for an uncut piece of printer paper to set on top of with no overhanging parts.

We are proud of the work we do to help students see the benefits and need for scientific reasoning, not only for success in science coursework or on state assessments but for their future pursuits. All grades will take nine week exams to monitor student growth and mastery of content and to provide students a snapshot of how they have done in each quarter of study. Look for information regarding our preparations for these tests from your science teacher and in future wood post articles.

Skyward continues to be a valuable tool for students, parents, and teachers. Remember that all grades are posted on Skyward. eCampus is a complementary tool where you can find information about course content. Many of our science classes are also utilizing Google Classroom. Parents, you may receive an email invite that will allow you to elect to receive daily or weekly progress reports via email that are a valuable and efficient tool to help keep you aware of your child's progress in class. Take advantage of these tools to track what your child is learning and what assignments are coming up. Having this information allows you opportunities to sit down with your student and talk to them about what they are learning in science and to assure they are keeping up with their notebook and classwork.

We are very excited to be teaching Seminole County's comprehensive science curriculum in all grades. Comprehensive Science is structured to be a course that shows connections between different scientific disciplines and ideas. The curriculum has two main components- digital instructional resources that are accessed through the 13 Lenovo computers that each teacher has for their students AND through the students' interactive science notebook. This interactive notebook is the bridge between the digital content and the home for those without internet access. It contains notes, diagrams, student reflections, student revision of their own understanding as they learn, and so much more. Look at your students ISN to see the great lessons your student is learning in science class.

As we work on science curricula, we also are busy continuing to work on lifetime skills, such as organization, getting along with others, time management, following directions, and accepting personal responsibility. We hope your child has a fantastic year in their Science class!

Take Care,

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





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Reading - Quarter 1

The Reading department in sixth, seventh and eighth grade are wrapping up their first iReady diagnostic test. The data from iReady will be shared with your students individually.

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.

Library cards from the Seminole County Public Library can be obtained online at: <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/departments-services/leisure-services/seminole-county-library/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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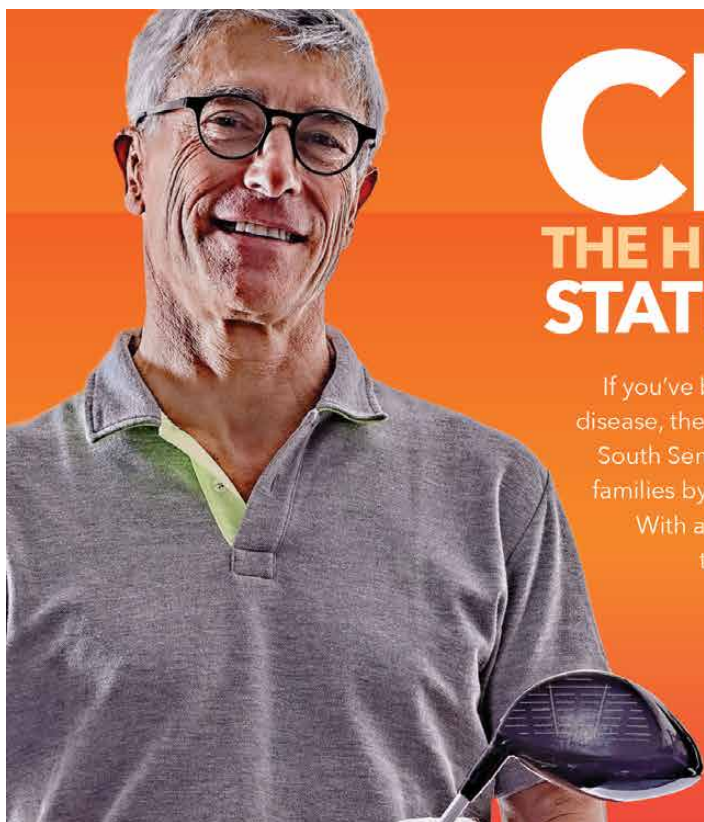
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ESE News

The extraordinary ESE Team at Markham Woods is looking forward to capturing and inspiring our students to achieve their best! ESE and Regular Education teachers collaborate and work together towards helping all students with learning disabilities become successful and make academic learning gains.

There are two new ESE teachers and two new ESE paraprofessionals for the 2020-21 school year: Raheeda Fisher, Jennifer Maxfield, Dominique Brown, and Carmen Figueroa. All of them combined have a strong background in the education field



and years of experience working with ESE students. They are very excited and eager to make a difference this year!

Message from Ms. Fisher

Working with children has always been my passion. I have worked with at-risk children for my entire career. I am a former Supervisor at Children's Home Society for 8 years. I changed careers in 2014 to work in the educational field teaching Intensive Reading and provided support facilitation at Journey's Academy. In 2018, I was honored to have been chosen Teacher of the Year for Journey's Academy. For the past 2 years prior to Markham Woods, I provided students at Midway Elementary School individual and group counseling. I am also a TESOL teacher employed by VIPKIDS teaching English to students in China.

Message from Ms. Maxfield

Hi! My name is Jenny Maxfield. I am a case manager/support facilitator this year at MKMS. I have had previous experience with other schools in Seminole County for over 12 years. I am originally from Indianapolis but have lived in Oviedo Florida for the past 20 years. My alma mater is Indiana University (Go Hoosiers!) but I also support the UFC Knights (Go Knights!) since my youngest son graduated from there. I have three grown children and three grandchildren. I love country music and going to concerts as well as going to the beach.

Message from Ms. Brown

I just graduated from the University of Central Florida with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. This is my first year working as a paraprofessional in Seminole county.

Message from Ms. Figueroa

My name is Carmen Figueroa, I am from Puerto Rico. I moved to Florida a year and 8 months ago with my family. I have a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education (4 to 6 grade). I am so proud to be a member of Markham Woods Middle School team. I'm an ESE Paraprofessional and I want to impact positively the students and the staff."

On the Markham Woods website, you can locate all the ESE teachers and find their email address and classroom phone number. Communication is the key- and we are happy to work with you to help your child become proficient in all academics.

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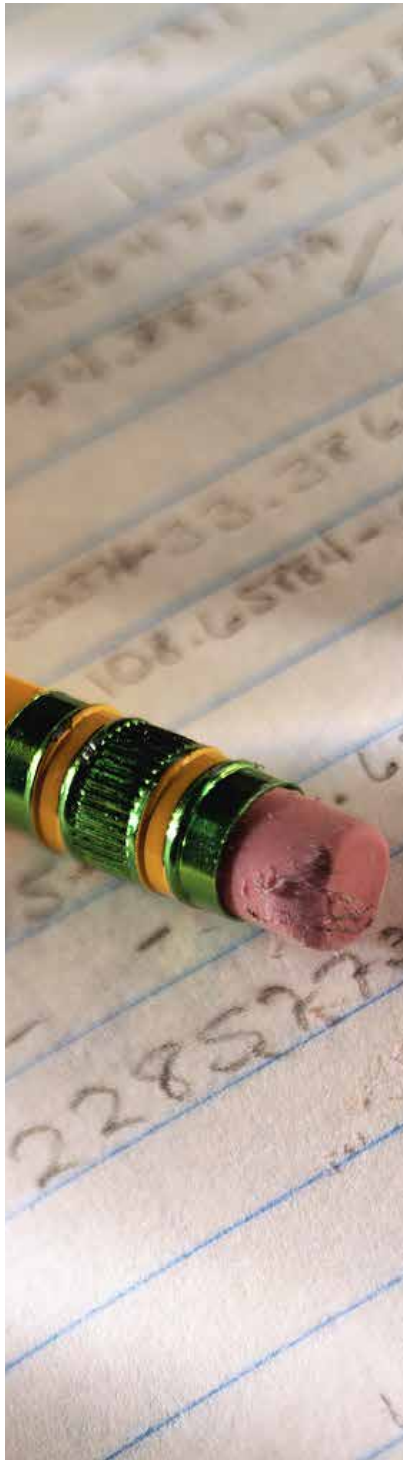


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Math

Greetings and welcome to the unusual 2020-2021 school year. Whether learning on campus or via connect, math classes are in full swing. By the time this Woodpost edition reaches you, your student has most likely taken two unit tests. Students are in the routine of completing Wednesday Work, covering what was learned in class Monday and Tuesday, and completing homework over the weekend, covering what was learned in class Thursday and Friday. In addition, most students have completed several lessons in KHAN academy. If there are questions with what you see in skyward, please check with your student to ensure they are completing their work in a timely fashion. ECampus has weekly agendas where you can see exactly what your student will be learning and the work that needs to be completed for the week.

If you have any technology questions, please join us for our virtual technology night on September 30th. There will be videos explaining both KHAN and Algebra Nation. Textbooks are not being issued this year as students are able to access them online via the SCPS portal. If a textbook is needed please contact your student's math teacher.

We are currently gearing up for the first round of nine-week exams which will take place between September 28th and October 9th. Math exams will be administered during the second week.

While other departments have experienced more changes, we are happy to say our math department is mainly intact from last year. We did lose one teacher to Virtual school and for the time being, we have two teachers teaching connect full time, from home. As students change their learning options for the second nine weeks situations may change.

One of the many changes this year has been the inability for students to come in for extra help in the mornings. This makes it even more important for students to self-advocate in class if they do not understand. KHAN academy is a great resource; students can use the search bar to search for videos if they need more help understanding the lesson before completing homework.

We know current times are challenging, but we will get through this together. We hope 2020-2021 is a mathematically fantastic year for your student.



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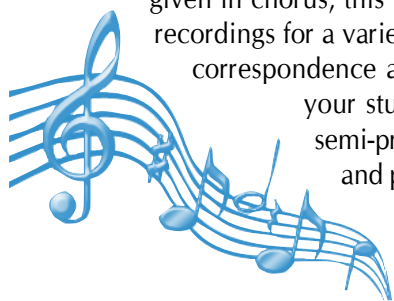
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MKMS Chorus

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! This year looks and feels a lot different, but one thing that is always true is that our MKMS Chorus kids are excited and ready to learn about music!

Over the first month of school, our chorus students have received a review of musical fundamentals, including lessons and assignments about music theory, the breathing and singing biological mechanism, body posture while singing, and conducting. For the first time, we are working with a digital notebook through Microsoft OneNote and eCampus, resulting in a (nearly) paperless classroom! Students can access their Class Notebook from anywhere, and just like with a physical binder with papers, they are responsible for keeping it organized. If you have a moment at home, consider asking them to show you what they've been up to!

In the next month, students will begin engaging with choral repertoire in the classroom and at home. Whereas, in the past, home based assignments haven't generally been given in chorus, this year's chorus students will be responsible for creating recordings for a variety of musical tasks at home. Please keep a lookout for correspondence about this coming to your email soon. You can assist your student in these tasks by helping them find a private or semi-private space in your home where they can sing, conduct, and perform without worry of judgment or teasing. This may be very challenging, but will greatly ease their anxiety about recording.



Thank you for all of your support this year so far!
We're looking forward to a music filled year!

US History

6th Grade

This nine weeks sixth graders will be taking a journey to many ancient places and learning about the cultures from these fascinating civilizations. First we will take a journey to Ancient China, which was one of the oldest and longest lasting civilizations in the history of the world. The history of Ancient China can be traced back over 4,000 years. Located on the eastern part of the continent of Asia, today China is the most populous country in the world. Next, we will be learning about the Israelites. In this unit students will be able to identify the five books of the Torah, extract and interpret information from the Torah text to draw conclusions about ancient Hebrew life, and create a class book illustrating what they have learned. From there our journey continues to Ancient Egypt. Ancient Egypt was one of the greatest and most powerful civilizations in the history of the world. It lasted for over 3000 years from 3150 BC to 30 BC. The civilization of Ancient Egypt was located along the Nile River in northeast Africa. The Nile was the source of much of the Ancient Egypt's wealth. Great Egyptian cities grew up along the Nile as the Egyptian people became experts in irrigation and were able to use the water from the Nile to grow rich and profitable crops. The Nile provided food, soil, water, and transportation for the Egyptians. At the end of our journey students will choose an ancient civilization and create a travel brochure that encourages (persuades) people to visit! They will use the information that they have learned in class as well as do some additional research of their own. We are excited about the things we will discover!

7th Grade

Welcome to 7th Grade Civics. This year we will be using 3 different sites for class. The main site we will be using is Ecampus. Ecampus houses the syllabus, all student lessons and work, as well as potential places to submit assignments for both connect and face to face students. Then linked into Ecampus will be nearpod lessons that the students will utilize to learn. The final site we will be using is CPALMS which can also be found in Ecampus. CPALMS will be used for Wednesday Work with your student's period XL teacher. Directions for how to submit the work can also be found in Ecampus for each assignment.

The first 9 weeks is academically we focus on 4 areas of Civics, Citizenship, Political Parties and Elections, Propaganda and Media, and end the 9 weeks with Forms and Systems of Government. Each unit will consist of 1 to 2 nearpods for students to learn about each content area with practice questions for the student to gauge their understanding. Then the students will have a CPALMS tutorial to advance and reinforce the concepts from the nearpod. The students will submit a certificate of Completion from the Nearpod and then take a 10 question quiz on the nearpod. Then we usually end the unit with an assignment to help them practice what they have learned before ending with on each content area. We hope you Enjoy Civics, and know the Mrs. Williams, Mr. Nell, and Mr. Russi look forward to a great year with your students.

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US History continued...

8th Grade

United States History has taken our students back to a time of exploration. European countries were beginning to seek out gold, glory, and a desire to spread their religions to new places. Students have explored themselves how the European nations affected the local populations of the Americas. Further this quarter, students in 8th grade will uncover how different colonial regions affected the lifestyles and societies of the original colonies that would one day define themselves as the sovereign nation we know today. Tools that many students can use during the quarter include posts and reminders on eCampus pages, review games in class, as well as Study Island for extra practice at home.

-Mr. Puccio Ball
8th Grade US History

