



PAW PRINTS

ORMOND BEACH MIDDLE SCHOOL

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SCHOOL INFORMATION:

Susan Tuten
Principal

Susan Jackson
Assistant Principal 8th Grade

Troy Kent
Assistant Principal 6th and 7th Grades

Karen Mitchell
Assistant Principal Student Services

151 Domicilio Avenue
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
386-258-4667

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The beginning of the 2020 – 2021 school year is one that will definitely go down in the history books. Who could have ever imagined live streaming of our classroom lessons at the same time our brick and mortar students sit in class to ensure every student is learning in a preferred learning environment due to COVID 19? As we learn to maneuver both teaching environments, both teachers and students are problem solving.

If your child is a student learning from home, please support your child's attendance and work habits. Every student must be visible on camera the entire class period to be marked present for that class. Monitor the learning environment for distraction to your child and others learning via the district's Volusia Live option. This could be something as simple as a spinning chair, a crazy hat, dog barking, etc.

Families that have selected the brick and mortar option can rest assured that all OBMS faculty and staff are practicing safe CDC guidelines and protocols. Students are adjusting to the daily temperature checks, extra steps on campus, social distancing to the greatest extent possible, masks most of the day and other healthy CDC procedures we have put in place. Please know your support and that of your child is greatly appreciated. **TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER!**

It is the goal of all OBMS faculty, staff, and administrators to have as normal of a school year as possible. Our students deserve this. They will have projects due, homework, clubs, yearbook, and performances to mention a few. Should you have any questions or concerns please reach out to me or your child's grade level house administrator or school counselor.

- Sixth and Seventh Grade: Administrator - Mrs. Ciulla
Counselor: Mrs. DeRiggi - 6th, Mrs. Fatta - 7th
- Eighth Grade: Administrator - Ms. Jackson
Counselor: Mrs. Gallagher - 8th
- Student Services: Administrator - Ms. Mitchell

Thank you for your continued support,

Susan Tuten
Principal



@OrmondBeachMiddleSchool



@OBMS Media

Mission Statement:

The students of Ormond Beach Middle School will achieve with pride within a clean, orderly environment under the guidance of knowledgeable and caring school community.



"Paw Prints"
Ormond Beach Middle School
151 Domicilio Avenue
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
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You've Been Ducked

Captain Roos and Officer Medina "DUCKED" the 3 Guidance Counselors at the Ormond Beach Middle School. Congratulations to Mrs. DeRiggi (6th Grade) Mrs. Fatta (7th Grade) and Mrs. Gallagher (8th Grade).

Thank you for what you do! This year has been hard on the students and they need you! You three are guiding their stars!

The Ormond Beach Police Department recognizes OBMS' services to the community and great relationship between families and the Police Department. You make a difference! You are all mighty!

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Media Center

The Florida Department of Education has designated our media center as a Florida Power-Library!

Our media center is open from 8:50 AM – 4:20 PM daily. We have started to post our weekly top 50 readers with the most Reading Counts points. Check out this year's Sunshine State Novels!

https://www.floridamediaed.org/uploads/6/1/4/2/61420659/6-8_2020-21_ssyra_annotated_list.pdf

Students can access ebooks in the **Follett Destiny App** found in their **VPortals**.

Media Specialist: Ms. Sandra Murray

Office Specialist: Ms. Heidi Detke




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OBMS PTSA

The OBMS PTSA welcomes everyone back for the 2020-2021 school year! We want to introduce ourselves and let you know what's happening with the PTSA.

Let us introduce our PTSA Board and Committees:

- Tricia Uneda (President)
- Jennifer Hoobler (Vice President - Fundraising)
- Michelle Flis (Vice President - Membership)
- Debra Brown (Recording Secretary)
- Cathy Chiumento (Treasurer)
- Ann-Marie Bethea (Spirit Wear Chair)

Here is some information about your OBMS PTSA.

- The PTSA provided teachers and staff with OBMS face masks to start the year.
- **PTSA Memberships** - Memberships are \$5 each and help support our school and the Florida PTA. Memberships can be purchased online at obmsptsa.square.site.
- **OBMS Spirit Wear** - The PTSA is selling OBMS Spirit Wear which includes short sleeved and long sleeved t-shirts, sweatshirts and OBMS face masks. OBMS t-shirts may be worn every Friday instead of a polo shirt. Purchase Spirit Wear at obmsptsa.square.site. Merchandise purchased online will be delivered via your child's first period teacher.
- The rollout for the 2020-2021 **Reflections Art Program** is happening soon. The theme for Reflections this year is *I Matter Because.....*. Students should submit their completed works of art in one or all of the available arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography and Visual Arts by November 3rd. Judging takes place on November 5th. More information coming soon.
- We are also selling **Fence Banners** for your business to advertise on our pick up line fence or in the OBMS gymnasium. The 3x6 banners are displayed for the 2020-2021 school year and cost \$300. Please contact Cathy Chiumento at obmsbanner@gmail.com if you would like additional information.
- The PTSA moved our **Holiday 5k** to the Spring this year. We plan to hold our 2nd Annual **OBMS 5k Run/Walk** on March 13th, 2021.

...continued on page 5

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OBMS PTSA... continued

- The Box Tops program is moving online. Download the Box Tops app, select Ormond Beach Middle School, scan your grocery store register receipt and that's all you do to raise \$ for our school. If you have any paper box tops at home...please feel free to drop them at the school's front office. We will send them in!
- Last year (2019-2020) the PTSA provided \$1,780 to help 8th grade parents pay for the Washington D.C. field trip, \$350 to support the school's Red Ribbon Week and \$3,200 to help our school secure a Literacy grant to fund Newsela (an online source for quality content on a variety of topics- used by our entire student body). The PTSA also hosted the 1st OBMS Holiday 5k, provided awards and assistance with the Reflections Art Program, sold Kindness Grams in the school cafeteria for Kindness Week and we didn't even get to finish the year out! More to come in 2020-2021.

Here are the following ways you can find out what is going on with the PTSA:

- Join REMIND by texting @obmspt to 81010
- Check us out on Facebook at "Ormond Beach Middle PTSA"
- Follow us on Instagram at "OBMS_PTSA"
- Read our article in PAW PRINTS (just as you are doing now!)
- Join us for our Board Meetings held the 2nd Tuesday of each Month. Currently, our meetings are held virtually via Zoom at 9:45a.m. Please email obmsptsa@gmail.com to receive meeting information.
- Be a part of our PTSA Team. Contact Tricia at obms@ptsa@gmail.com.

Please contact us at obmsptsa@gmail.com if you would like any additional information, would like to volunteer, request forms or have comments/questions for our Board.

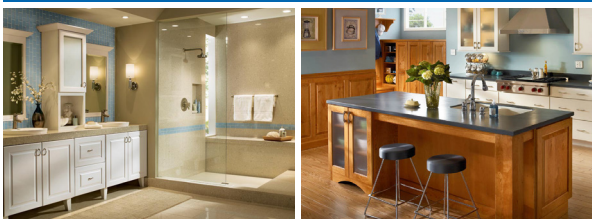
Thank you for your support!

The Ormond Beach Middle School PTSA Board

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PTSA Reflections Contest for 2020

<http://myvolusiaschools.org/school/OrmondBeachMiddle/Pages/news-article.aspx?sid=270>

Check out the link above for this year's PTSA Reflections contest.

The theme is *I Matter Because...* The deadline is November 3rd with judging taking place on November 5th! All entries along with the **TWO** required forms are due to the media center by the end of the day on the 3rd.

The winners of each category will be announced the following week. The categories are: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts.

Students will need to complete **BOTH** the entry form and artist statement form. Please read the Student Entry Packet for rules and details.

Check out the awesome prizes! Our winners will move on to the district competition to represent Ormond Beach Middle School.



- **First Place Category Winners!**
\$25.00 Gift Card and a Short Sleeve OBMS Spirit Wear T-shirt
- **Second Place Category Winners!**
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Attendance Matters

Our goal this year is to ensure that every student attends school regularly.

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as a child grows older and more independent, family plays a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is important for success in school and life.

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. But we also know that when students miss too much school - regardless of the reason - it can cause them to fall behind academically. Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent - which means missing 18 or more days over the course of an entire school year. Research shows:

- Children chronically absent in Kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade.
- By 6th grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign for students at risk for dropping out of school
- By 9th grade, good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8th grade test scores.

Absences can add up quickly. A child is chronically absent if he or she misses just two days every month.

Clearly going to school regularly matters!

We don't want your child to fall behind in school and get discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your child keeps a regular bedtime and establishes a morning routine.
- Prepare items needed for school the night before.
- Ensure your child goes to school every day unless he/she is truly sick. If your child is frequently ill, obtain a doctor's note to excuse the absences (keep a copy for your records).
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctors' appointments when school is in season.
- Always maintain open communication with your child and find out how his/her day went.
- Talk to teachers and school counselors for advice if your child feels anxious about going to school.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.
- Monitor your child's attendance daily or weekly via Parent Portal and/or communicate with school staff (attendance clerk, teacher, etc.)

Let us know how we can best support you and your child so that he/she can show up for school on time every day. We want your child to be successful in school. If you have any questions or needs more information, please contact your child's school.

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FIVE “MUST DO’S” FOR PARENTS TO ASSURE SUCCESS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL



- 1. GET AND STAY CONNECTED.** Register and access our online parent access software, monitor your child’s progress on a weekly basis and communicate with your child’s teachers if you have questions, concerns, or if you’d like to request additional information regarding resources that may help your child master course standards. Be aware of what’s happening in your student’s school life and TALK ABOUT IT. Your interest and involvement has a tremendous effect on your student’s performance and attitude at school.
- 2. ESTABLISH A SOLID HOME STUDY ROUTINE.** Encouraging and supporting this vital activity will improve your student’s attitude and performance at school and instill a work ethic that endures for a lifetime. SET A SCHEDULE. Establish a regular timeslot for this important daily activity. Seek your child’s agreement and commitment to reserve this time each day for homework and study. Encourage this discipline. CREATE THE ENVIRONMENT. Students can be easily distracted. Teach them to create an atmosphere conducive for concentration. Minimizing social media access, loud music, and other detractors will improve effectiveness and retention. Having a defined study area works with some students but not all. The most important factor is the discipline of doing it every day. OBSERVE AND ENGAGE. Psychologists suggest that it takes three weeks to break or establish a habit. Commit three weeks to assisting with your student’s daily routine. Make good homework practices a habit for both of you.
- 3. MAKE DAILY ATTENDANCE THE EXPECTATION.** Very few things have as much negative effect on academic performance as poor attendance. Be clear in your attitude towards attending school every day. In the working world, attendance is equated with dependability.
- 4. ENCOURAGE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY.** Involvement in any of our many clubs, sports, and arts programs improves academic performance, attendance, and discipline issues. We have something for everyone. Participation in these activities enhances school life and looks good on career and college applications. Also, help your child plan and execute community service, which is a requirement for earning Bright Futures scholarship money.
- 5. HELP YOUR STUDENT PLAN FOR POST-GRADUATION.** Talk to your student about career interests and passions. Several online career questionnaires are available such as http://www.careeroutlook.us/assessment/short_shtml that may help. Assist with a search for colleges or technical training programs that will prepare them for a career that interests them. Learn the entrance requirements and costs associated with attending those colleges or programs. Help your child establish a career goal then plan backward for how to achieve that goal. Share what your hopes and dreams were when you were in high school and suggest family members and friends that they can talk to for insight and guidance. They should be asking questions about career opportunities but may not know the right questions to ask. Our guidance counselors can help. No matter what they dream of doing after graduation, planning for the next step is a wise choice. Post high school education contributes to a better quality of life. But whether or not they go on to a college, university, career or technical school, the information and skills they learn in high school will always be important in the working world. Everyone, in every kind of job, needs to be able to write and speak clearly, listen carefully, understand what is written and spoken, and use math effectively.