



For the Parents, Staff & Community
of Tuskawilla Middle School
Home of the Golden Falcons!

Principal's Letter

Hello Falcon Families,

The summer is quickly coming to a close. I hope your students have enjoyed their time off and are eager to get back to school. As you have heard Tuskawilla Middle School has once again been designated a "B" rating by the State of Florida. While it saddens us, it does reinforce the need to make some adjustments. A couple of changes I think that important to highlight are teaming and the new bell schedule. For the 2018-2019 school year we will be placing all 6th grade and 7th grade students on academic teams. We feel as though the incorporation of teams will foster a school culture that is academically supportive, enriching, and full of school spirit. This year we will also be transitioning to a 4-day block schedule with Wednesday being the only day that students have all 7 classes. A full block schedule increases the amount of instructional time and allows teachers the opportunity to dig deeper into concepts and spend more time on students applying what they learned.

Additionally, we are pleased to announce the opening of our new Career Exploration and Entrepreneurship program of exploration. Our ECI (explore-create-innovate) program focuses on providing exposure to students in the career areas of Medical, Service, Design, Technology and Business. Students learn to collaborate, problem solve, and formulate ideas as to how to add value in the career field they are interested in. We believe by providing these opportunities students may develop a passion that may lead to a successful career once they leave high school and/or college.

Please note our Meet the Teacher event will be held from 9:00 am-12:00 pm on August 8th. We welcome all our students and families to join us for the getting-to-know-your-school activities on this day. Student schedules will be available so that students can become familiar with the locations of their specific classes as well and you can meet their teachers. Transportation will be on hand with bus routes and information. Food Service will be present to set up accounts and answer questions. PE uniforms will also be available for purchase. Our next full-scale event where teachers will be accessible will be our STEM Night on September 27th.

continued on next page...

Mission Statement

The mission of the Seminole County Public Schools is to ensure that all Early Childhood Program and PreK - Grade 12 students acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be productive citizens in our great country and in the global economy.

1801 Tuskawilla Road
Oviedo, FL 32765

Main Phone Number
407-746-8550

Fax Number
407-746-8526

Office Hours
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM



Falcon Flyer
August 2018 • Issue #5
Published Five Times A Year
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Principal's Letter

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You are welcome to set a parent teacher conference if you need have concerns or need additional time to speak with teachers about your student(s). If you have an incoming 7th grader, please make sure your child receives the needed immunizations this summer so your child can begin school on August 10th, with the rest of our students. You can bring your shot record into the main office anytime during the summer. Your child will not be able to attend school until this has been done, and we would hate for any student to have to miss school, especially the first few days.

I strongly encourage you to get involved whether it is through participation on PTSA, SAC, or our Dividend program. There are opportunities to participate in school activities that work with most work schedules. We appreciate your continued support of our school, and look forward to a fantastic year.

Sincerely,
Randy Shuler
Principal

Let your
FALCON SPIRIT
take Flight

WELCOME GOLDEN FALCONS!

If you are receiving this newsletter, your child is scheduled to attend Tuskawilla Middle School for the 2018-2019 school year. Welcome to all of our new 6th grade families!

The best way to keep up-to-date on TWMS happenings is to check out the school website and follow us on social media. The links are provided on the next page.



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Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TuskawillaMiddleSchool>

Follow us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/TWMS_Falcons

MEET THE TEACHER AUGUST 8

Meet the Teacher Schedule:

6th Grade: 9 am - 10:30 am

7/8th Grade: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm



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REQUIRED VACCINATIONS FOR ALL INCOMING 7TH GRADERS

The Florida Department of Health and the Department of Education required all students entering 7th grade to have received a Tdap booster (adult strength tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis). An updated Florida Certification of Immunization DH680 form must be presented to your child school before he/she can receive their schedule or enter school on the first day of classes August 10, 2018.

Your child's healthcare provider or the Seminole County Health Department can provide the Tdap booster.

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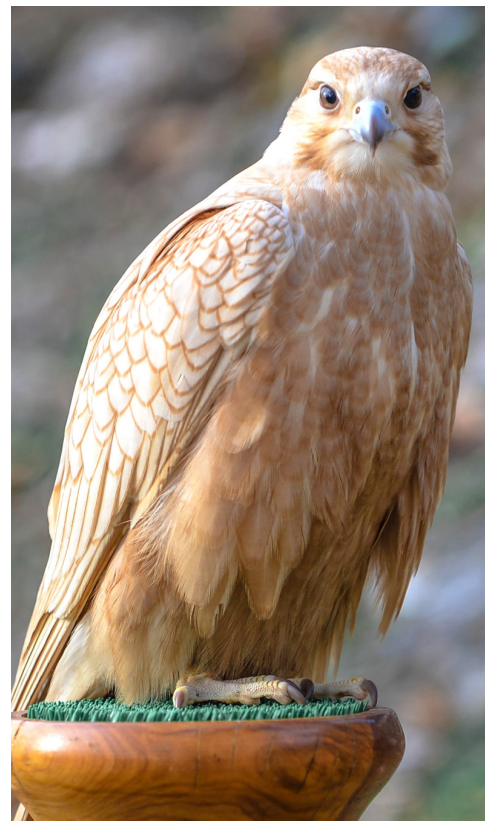
SCHEDULES AVAILABLE AUGUST 1

All student schedules will be available on Skyward Family Access on Wednesday, August 1. On that date, parents will be able to view and print out their student's schedule.



Then, on Wednesday, August 8, students and parents can come walk their student's schedule, meet their teachers, join PTSA, buy a PE Uniform or TWMS Gear. PE Uniforms will also be available for purchase through MySchoolBucks on the TWMS website.

Transportation and the School Nurse will be on campus on August 8th to answer any questions.



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FAQs

- **When will my child's schedule be available?**
Schedules will be visible in Skyward on August 1 for all students.
- **When does school start?**
The first day of school is Friday, August 10.
- **What are the school hours?**
9:15am to 3:55pm - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9:15am to 2:55pm - Wednesday
- **When does my child have lunch?**
Lunch schedules will be given out on the first day of school.
- **How do I pay for lunch?**
Your child's student ID number is their lunch number. If your child was in an SCPS Elementary school, their lunch account will follow them from the elementary. If your child is new to SCPS, you will need to set up an account at <https://www.myschoolbucks.com>.
- **Where do I catch the bus?**
Bus routes will be available after August 3 at <http://sim.scps.k12.fl.us> bus and also at Meet the Teacher day - Wednesday, August 8
- **When do I find out what supplies my student needs?**
School supply lists will be distributed by teachers on Meet the Teacher day - Wednesday, August 8 and on the 1st day of school
- **What are the office hours?**
8:00 am – 4:30 pm
- **What are the policies for visitors deliveries?**
We do not accept deliveries to be dropped off for students.

Any visitors to campus (including parent/teacher conferences) MUST check in and out through the front office with a picture ID. Please make sure that any family member who you authorize to pick your child up from school is listed in Skyward.



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ATTENDANCE

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10 percent, or about 18 days, of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Make school attendance a priority.

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day, make that the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.
- Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety.

Help your teen stay engaged.

- Find out if your child feels engaged by his classes and feels safe from bullies and other threats. Make sure he/she is not missing class because of behavioral issues and school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, work with your school.
- Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors if necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage meaningful afterschool activities, including sports and clubs.

Communicate with the school.

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties
- Talk to teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not piling up.
- Ask for help from school officials, afterschool programs, other parents or community agencies if you're having trouble getting your child to school.



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