



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

Principal's Letter

Hello Golden Falcon Families,

The school year has gotten off to a wonderful start. During Preplanning we adopted a "Growing Forward" theme. With that theme in mind you find that our teachers and staff are still rooted in that Tuskawilla tradition of being a community school that embraces a family style atmosphere. We are proud of that tradition and will work vigorously to infuse activities that promote school spirit. We are also branching out to the future, so you will begin to see/hear about some subtle or maybe not so subtle changes in the classroom and around the school. Our teachers will be focusing this year on integrating teaching strategies that will strengthen academics and encourage future readiness.

We are coming to the end of the 1st nine weeks and I am excited to see the progress in our students. If you have any concerns, please email your child's teacher, speak with his or her guidance counselor and/or set up a parent-teacher conference. We are here to work together to support and guide your child's education.

STEM Night was a huge success. Thank you to all the students and parents for taking part in our 1st Annual STEM Night at Tuskawilla Middle. It was such an enjoyable and academically engaging night for our students and their families. I think the highlight for me was the quality of the interactions between students and their parents as they moved from one station to another. As a parent I know that this type of quality time can be precious and rare. Our goal was to have 200 students and families in attendance for the STEM Night. We can only estimate from the amount of passports given out that night that we had around 400 people in attendance at the event. This night could not have been a success if it weren't for the collaborative efforts of the teachers, administration, and business partners. On January 25, 2018 from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm will be our next Curriculum Night. The teachers from Social Studies, Language Arts, Reading, electives, and the

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

EARLY
CHILDHOOD
PROGRAM
PREK-12
STUDENTS

Principal's Letter

...continued from front page

Arts will be hosting the event this time. Much like STEM Night expect to have highly engaging activities for the whole family to enjoy.

As always, my door is always open for your suggestions and concerns. We will continue striving to provide a premier learning experience for your student.

Sincerely,

Randy Shuler
Principal

SAC RECRUITING

The 2017-18 academic year is off to a great start! Seminole County Public Schools and Tuskawilla Middle School are committed to serving and supporting the diversity of our community. Parents and community members are invited to partner with us to ensure that each student, regardless of background, is challenged to their fullest potential and is provided a caring environment. Tuskawilla is currently seeking members to serve on the School Advisory Council (SAC) for the 2017-18 school year. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Please contact Dr. Jessica Webb at 407-746-8533 for more information.

Mark Your Calendar For These Upcoming Events

- October 18th: Start of 2nd Quarter
Girls Volleyball Jackson Height @ Tuskawilla
Boys Volleyball Tuskawilla @ Jackson Heights
- October 20th: F.C.A.
- October 24th: Picture Retakes
- November 20-24th: No School - Thanksgiving Break



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DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Parents, please be aware that we use a staggered dismissal.

1. Car riders (those whose cars are on our car ramp) are dismissed first. If you students are walking off campus to be picked up elsewhere, they will be dismissed with the walkers. Please note - the church next door is private property and should not be used for student pickup. The goal is to get as many cars out of the parking lot as possible before the walkers are dismissed.
2. Bus riders are dismissed by floor.
3. Walkers and bike riders are dismissed last.

DUKE TIP INFORMATION

It is that time of year again, for eligible 7th grade students to participate in the Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP). As part of their talent search enrollment, Duke TIP will register eligible seventh graders to take either the ACT or SAT, as an above-level testing experience.

Those students identified to participate in the 2017-2018 Duke University Talent Identification Program, received packets to take home on Wednesday, September 20th. Please pay close attention to important deadline dates for testing in December. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Washington at 407-746-8605.

Falcon Flyer
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ELA

6th Grade

6th grade students have read texts centered around the theme of “Facing Fears” and delved into **Central Idea/Theme** in a variety of texts. They examined **ELEMENTS OF A STORY** with “The Ravine” and **INFORMATIONAL NONFICTION** with “Face Your Fears: Choking Under Pressure Is Every Athlete’s Worst Nightmare.” Students sharpened their writing skills through **DAILY ROUTINE WRITING** embedded throughout the lessons, but they also sharpened their grammar skills with a discussion of the **EIGHT PARTS OF SPEECH** and **VERBS/VERB TENSES**. Sixth graders concentrated on citing textual evidence. They drew upon the skills through reciprocal learning and close reads as they began **FACT VS. OPINION AND ARGUMENT WRITING**.

7th Grade

This month, 7th graders have been continuing to practice skills to enhance their argumentative essay writing. In reading we have focused on reading a collection of informational texts about young people with big dreams to build on students’ skills in analyzing and citing evidence to support their understanding of an author’s argument.

Students have also been reading novels selected from our classroom library or from their own personal collection. Students should be reading for 20 minutes nightly to build their fluency, vocabulary, and understanding of plot elements.

ELA quarter one exams will be given on Thurs., October 12th and Fri., October 13th.

8th Grade

8th grade students have been working on the standards of **CENTRAL IDEA/THEME** by examining how the author develops it throughout a text, focusing on the connection between the **CENTRAL IDEA** and the **CHARACTERS, SETTING, and PLOT**. With the texts of “Hanging Fire” and “Teenagers,” 8th graders focused on the standards of **ANALYZE AN AUTHOR’S CHOICE OF WORDS, FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE, and TEXT STRUCTURE TO REVEAL THEMES AND POINT OF VIEW** to the reader. As with all units, 8th graders focus on **ACADEMIC VOCABULARY** and **VOCABULARY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE TEXTS** they are reading. Daily routine writing tasks are embedded throughout our lessons and the students have focused on **ARGUMENTATIVE** writing. Each quarter the students self-select a novel to read outside of class with assignments re-enforcing the standards.

“We sweat the small stuff”



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Feature TEACHER OF THE MONTH

Mrs. Moise was selected as the Seminole County Public Schools Feature Teacher of the Month! You make us proud!



Feature Non-Instructional EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Mr. Sharp was selected as the Seminole County Public Schools Feature Non-Instructional Employee of the Month! Thanks for all that you do to keep our campus clean! We appreciate you!



Feature STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Zoe Michael was selected as the Seminole County Public Schools Feature Student of the Month! Thanks for being such a great kid!



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

For September

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Jalen Brown | Phat Huynh | Jeana Seefelt |
| Zoe Buot | Abby Lamarre | Karina Truong |
| Camila Gomez Cosme | Alexis Myre | Eliann Vias Cortes |

September Students of the Month were selected by the Math teachers.

They were celebrated with a lunch 9/29/17.

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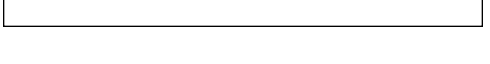
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6TH GRADE SCIENCE

Sixth grade science is off to a great start this year! We have been talking about what makes science unique and how to solve problems using the scientific inquiry process. Students also had the chance to live-stream the very rare North American total solar eclipse that we experienced on August 21st. This quarter we will be continuing our examination of what makes something scientific and how scientists solve problems, as well as, what atoms and molecules are and how they join together to form everything on Earth! Our advanced level classes will begin the discussion about Science Fair Projects in the next few weeks. Keep an eye out for information coming home with details about this project. Make sure to sign up for your child's class on the Remind App for important announcements sent straight to your phone. It is also important for students and their parents to check grades regularly in Skyward, our district's online gradebook program. The 6th grade science team welcomes your comments and questions via Remind messages, e-mails, and phone calls throughout the year!




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US HISTORY

US History started out the year in its curriculum on the subject of the Native Americans and interaction with European Explorers. The next few weeks starting with August 28 –Sept 9th, The US history department will be covering the 13 colonies. We will be taking a deep dive into the comparisons between the three regions of the 13 colonies. This includes New England, Middle and Southern Colonies.

The team will also be asking the students to compare the different climates and resources between the three different regions.

Tools and activities like a travel brochure may be used within the unit so that the students will be able to use their understanding of the regions in-order to entice possible settlers to come to those regions.

Because of the differences of weather and resources available in the three regions, it becomes a form of foreshadowing of economic and political conflict that leads to future conflict between the North and the South.

8th Grade

Our 8th grade students are using their organizational and academic skills as they are already beginning the transition from middle school to high school. Our high school magnet programs have addressed choices in an assembly this month. In the classroom, 8th graders are learning about the hardships of Colonial life in the 1600s creating brochures on the three settled regions and the DBQ project on Early Jamestown. Taking us to the end of the first grading period students will also understand the causes of colonial rebellion against the English leading up to the American Revolution. The PreAP classes have begun selecting topics and partners for the National History Day project. Due to the recent hurricane, a revised schedule of dates has been sent home and is posted on eCampus.

CIVICS

The first week of School, students were introduced to the process of what it is to be a citizen of a country. Students also learn the process of becoming a US citizen. There was a station activity that was implemented in the class room that had different people from different countries that were at different stages of citizenship. The students had to answer specific questions at each station to help solve the question: What did that specific person needed to do next in-order to fulfill the citizenship process. After the students were done with one station, they were to move on to the next.

Currently, the students are working on the Different Forms of Government. Graphic Organizers are being used in the class room to cover the two main types of governments, Democratic Systems and the different types of Authoritarian Governments. Also, Students are discussing the pros and cons of different types of government. This topic started this last Monday August 27 and will go on to Friday of next week, Sep. 9th

YEARBOOKS

Pre-Sale

All Tuskawilla Falcons,

Tuskawilla Middle School will be allowing you to pre-order yearbooks. The book is on sale **now until October 8** for the low price of **\$35.00**. After that the prices will continue to increase. From **October 9-December 31** the price for a yearbook will be **\$40.00**. **After December 31 all yearbooks will be \$45.00**. Our yearbook orders are based upon our pre-sales. Guarantee your child will get a yearbook...pre-order now and **save**. Supplies are very limited if you wait!

Yearbook Staff Members will be collecting pre-orders on October 4,5, and 6, December 13, 14, and 15 in the Courtyard as well as the Cafeteria... **Cash Only**.

****YOU MAY ALSO ORDER ONLINE AT www.yearbookforever.com** (credit cards may be used online. Custom orders, such as Name Stamp and logos maybe added on online.)

As per a new school policy we will be accepting **CASH ONLY** on all Yearbook purchases. ****Students will be issued a receipt. Please keep this for your records until your yearbook has been received.****

Please complete the following order form and return the form along with payment of **cash** to **Ms. Carter** in room **5-015**. Yearbooks will be delivered in May of 2018.

Thank you for pre-ordering your 2017-2018 Falcon Yearbook! If you have any questions please contact Ms. Carter through email at Janette_Carter@scps.k12.fl.us



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