

February 1, 2012 Newsletter

Principal

C. Mytron Lisby

Assistant Principal

Dr. Maria Carroll

Mission Statement

OCSA will provide a community that nourishes and nurtures the personal integrity and creative expression of our students in their pursuit of artistic and academic excellence.



**OCSA
2012-2013**

Applications and Auditions Process

We are in the process of accepting applications for the 2012-2013 school year.

Please encourage your friends and family to consider applying to attend OCSA. The deadline date for all applications is

February 10, 2012.

Applications are available at our web-site or in our main office.



Student Achievement:
Our Number One Priority

The School District of Osceola County, Florida

The Osceola County School for the Arts

“Silver Medal” Award - US News & World Report
America’s Top High Schools - Newsweek / Washington Post
3151 N. Orange Blossom Trail • Kissimmee • Florida 34744
Phone: 407-931-4803 • Fax: 407-931-3019 • www.thearts.osceola.k12.fl.us

Dear OCSA Parents:

Great News

The first week of January we were notified that OCSA has once again been awarded an “A” grade by the State of Florida Department of Education. This is the 8th consecutive year that OCSA has been honored in this manner. The “A” grade is determined by a number of factors, including our student success on the FCAT (reading, writing, math), our graduation rate, the number of students participating in high level course work and their success in that course work, and a determination about the percentage of seniors who are “college ready”. This accomplishment is the culmination of the great learning opportunities our teachers provide students; the amazing work our students do in their course work; and of course, the encouragement and support of our parents. Thanks to all involved for this great record of success.

Student Safety

Thank you for your cooperation in working with us with our new program for students arriving early and/or staying late. We have received many positive comments from parents. Just to remind everyone—students who arrive early are to report to the media center and students who are on campus after school and not in a rehearsal/event sponsored by a staff member must report to either the main office or the media center (announcements are made each day about where to report) and then when an adult arrives to pick up the student, the adult will need to come to the main office/media center and sign out the student. Thank you again for your cooperation.

Riding a Different Bus

If your child needs to ride a different bus for an evening, the student must present a parent signed note to Mrs. Hill in the Guidance office. These will only be approved on a one-time basis.

Student Attendance

The OCSA student attendance rate so far this year is 98% - CONGRATULATIONS to all the students, parents, families and staff who helped to contribute to this amazing result!!! Our School Improvement Plan calls for OCSA to strive to maintain a 98% attendance rate for this school year. We realize that students will occasionally be ill and miss school, but we want to strongly encourage each student to be at school every day possible. To reach a 98% attendance rate we must average each student being in school 177 days out of our 180 day schedule! With this goal in mind, we plead with students, parents, and families to drastically limit request for students to be away from school for family travel or days that extend a school holiday.

Parent Volunteers

THANK YOU!!! Your response to our call for parent volunteers to assist OCSA in the Main Office and the Media Center has been wonderful!! We continue to have needs for volunteers and we encourage our students’ parents, guardians, grandparents, neighbors and friends to contact Mrs. Lowell in our main office if they are interested in knowing more about this opportunity to join us at OCSA.

Picking Up Students Early

Please remember that you must arrive at our office before 3:00 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays to request that your child leave before 3:45. On Wednesdays, our Recital days, you must arrive no later than 1:45. Students may not be picked up during recital. The end of the school day becomes quite busy and your cooperation is appreciated. Also, if it is very late in the day and you need us to contact your child about riding, or not riding a bus home, it is VERY important that you know the bus number—that will allow us to have the best chance possible to notify your child.

Please check our web-site for our Calendar of Events

We are also going to begin placing the performance schedule for the weekly recitals on our web-site. Please come and participate as we showcase our student talent each week. Recitals begin at 2:00 pm and are held in the Theatre. We ask that you check in with our main office staff and receive a visitor’s pass. Recitals are an important part of the learning experience for our students—both performing and witnessing the performances.

C. Mytron Lisby, Principal

OASIS School Volunteer Information

OCSA volunteers are very much appreciated for all they do for the students and staff at our school. Many of you have been dedicating countless hours with our Artistic departments helping with fundraisers, volunteering in the front office, assisting in classrooms, etc. We want you to know that we appreciate the fact that you are committed to making OCSA the very best! Our OCSA School Volunteer Coordinator is Judi Lowell, our front desk receptionist. You may reach Judi at 407-931-4803 or e-mail her at: lowellju@osceola.k12.fl.us Judi will be happy to assist you with on-line registration or OASIS training. Please remember that all volunteers must register each year at:



<http://volunteer.osceola.k12.fl.us> or www.osceola.k12.fl.us

Are You a Disney Employee & OCSA Volunteer?

You can make a direct impact to OCSA! Did you know that if you work for Disney and Volunteer at OCSA with a minimum of 10 hours per calendar year you can directly impact our school monetarily? Disney has a program for their employees called **Disney VoluntEARS**. **Disney VoluntEARS** are encouraged to apply for an **EARS to You Grant** of up to \$1,000, payable to an eligible non-profit organization of their choice. The amount of the contribution is based on the number of hours the Cast Member volunteers in a calendar year:

10 to 24 volunteer hours per year	\$100
25 to 49 volunteer hours per year	\$250
50 to 74 volunteer hours per year	\$500
75 or more volunteer hours per year	\$1,000

Here are some additional details

- All Full and Part-time Disney Employees are eligible
- You need to contact your internal volunteer service center (The Hub)
- You must volunteer a minimum of 10 hours to a non-profit organization
- You must log your volunteer hours with Disney to qualify
- In the spring, OCSA will receive a contribution from Disney in honor of your volunteerism!!!

If you have any further questions contact- Oasis Coordinator-Judith Lowell at lowellju@osceola.k12.fl.us or parent volunteer, Julia Speyrer, at Juliaspeyrer@gmail.com

News From Our Guidance Department

1. Every Wednesday is open counseling for *students* during lunch time, both Mrs. Roman and Mr. Arrington are available.
2. SAT and ACT waivers are available for seniors and juniors on free or reduced lunch. Please see Mrs. Hart for the fee waiver.
3. Parent Conferences: Parents are encouraged to e-mail your child's teacher or teachers with your concerns. In the event that the issues are not resolved, please contact Mrs. Hill, our guidance secretary, and she will be happy to schedule a conference.
4. Important Dates:

February 8th and 9th- ASVAB results are returned and discussed with Juniors at OCSA.

February 12th- College Goal Sunday at TECO from 1-4 pm. Seniors and their parents can get help filling out the FAFSA (for student loans). Bring completed 2011 income tax returns and call 407-870-4919 for an appointment. For more info, see www.collegegoalsundayusa.org.

February 13th- Dual Enrollment Informational Meeting at 6pm in the media center. Only students that are interested in dual enrollment and are not already in the program should attend.

February 17th- FAFSA Frenzy Friday at the Osceola Campus of Valencia College, building 3 room 100 from 1-7pm. Seniors and parents can get help filling out the FAFSA. Students can also go to the Valencia West Campus on Feb. 8th from 1-7 pm (SSB room 142), or the Valencia East Campus on Feb. 22nd from 1-7pm (building 4 room 122).

April- Bright Future Applications with Seniors (if not already completed)
Course selection forms with 8th grade and high school students.

Transcript Requests:

Students must provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope for mailing a transcript. Plan ahead as it generally takes about five school days to receive your transcript, so be aware of important deadlines. Each student will receive five free transcripts. Any requests above five will cost \$2.00 per transcript. Be sure to have the name and address of the college you are applying to for the guidance request form. Additional information is available from Mrs. Hill.



SATURDAY SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS

FEBRUARY, 11, 25 FCAT WRITING PRACTICE (8TH/10TH GRADE)
 MARCH 31/APRIL 7, 14 FCAT MATH/READING PRACTICE
 (6TH/7TH/8TH/10TH GRADE)
 APRIL 28 AP COURSE REVIEW SESSIONS
 MAY 5 AP COURSE REVIEW SESSIONS
****ALL OF THE ABOVE SATURDAY SESSIONS RUN FROM 8:30 – 11:30.**

Student Safety Is Our Primary Responsibility



Dropping Off and Picking Up Our Students

The Pick-Up and Drop Off area is clearly marked with a sign.

Parents are asked to pull as far forward as possible
 so as many vehicles as possible can be accommodated.

**Students can not be picked up or dropped off
 in any other area than the designated pick-up spot.**

Do not stop or park in the main driveway loop or fire lane.

Allow yourself plenty of extra time to drop off and pick up students.

Say your "Goodbyes" before you turn to unload as traffic will move more quickly for everyone.

Do not leave your vehicle unattended.

We do everything we can to encourage drivers to follow the rules and
 maximize the flow of traffic. We appreciate your patience, understanding, and support.

A Family Friendly Tip From Osceola Safe Families Task Force:

Read together as a family.

Establish a buddy-system rule with your children.

OCSA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Mrs. Mary Thiele, OCSA's Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Thiele has a total of 28 years teaching experience, six of those years are at OCSA. She is a member of the following professional associations:

Florida Council for Social Studies

Alpha Delta Kappa Educational Honorary Sorority

Teachers of American History Cohort

Last year she was named High School Social Studies Teacher of the Year by the School District of Osceola County. She believes the role of public education has three major tasks; to teach students how to survive and compete in an increasingly global society, to pass along values, norms and roles of our society and finally to teach our students about the past. Mrs. Thiele is also proud of the variety of "real" jobs she has held through the years including: secretary, radio DJ, waitress, pre-school teacher, snake and gator photo at Gatorland, feeding alligators, and piano teacher.

REMINDER:

Friday, February 17th

RODEO DAY

No School for Students

Wednesday, April 18th

NO EARLY RELEASE FOR STUDENTS



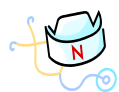


**OCSA is proud to
introduce our
Instructional
Staff for 2011-2012:**

Renee Althouse, Sixth Grade & Reading
Christopher Arrington, Guidance Counselor
Heidi Berghorn, Reading & VE
Nealya Brunson, Dance
Patricia Calderon, Visual Arts
Lamont Clegg, Drama
Kathleen Collier, Math
Tammie Combs, Music
Thomas Davis, Science & Technical Theatre
Robin DeLuca, Language Arts *
Yvette Dopson-Ross, Social Studies
Joelle Edouard, Language Arts
Chaade Escander, Math
Paul Figueiredo, Advanced Placement Classes
Elizabeth Ann Hadley, Language Arts
Donna Hart, Career Specialist
William Henley, Music
Cornel Hughes, Math & Science
Jeremy Huntington, Visual Arts & Science
Sophie Irizarry, Learning Resource Specialist
April Isaacs, Language Arts
Shelly Justice, 6th, 7th Grade, 8th Language Arts
Jonathan Kochan, Math
Jeanine Lindsey, Math and Gifted **
Daniel Logan, Media Specialist
Randall Love, Orchestra
Vanessa Mansfield, Math
Lizzette Marrero, Spanish
Kristen Myers, Math, Science, Social Studies
Jose Orsini, Science
Maria Rafalson, Italian
Lizzette Roman, Guidance Counselor
Brian Sage, Science
Alan Sincic, Language Arts
Dee Sipe, Science
Laurie Smith, Science
Marc Spittler, Social Studies
Sheila Steirer, Reading Specialist
Catherine Sysock, HOPE, & Health
Lisa Testa, Vocal Music
Mary Thiele, Social Studies
Rhonda Walsingham, Language Arts *
James Carlton Watson III, Math & Social studies
Russell Weaver, Music
Bouvier Williams, Language Arts
Tad Williams, Dance
Gregory Williamson, Sixth, Social Studies, Gifted
*Indicates out-of-field for ESOL certification
** Indicates out-of-field for Gifted

Important Upcoming Events:

February 2, 3, 4	7:00 pm	Drama- My Emperor's New Clothes
February 10	7:00 pm	Kaleidoscope Café
February 11	7:00 pm	All County Band Concert
February 14	7:30 am	SAC meeting
February 15 & 16	7:00 pm	Drama—Dream Girls
February 17		Rodeo Day—No School for Students
February 21	7:00 pm	HS Band Booster Meeting
February 23	7:00 pm	Sing Your Heart Out
February 28		FCAT Writing Test Grades 8-10
February 29		FCAT Writing Test Grades 8-10
March 1		FCAT Writing Test Grades 8-10
March 6	7:00 pm	Vocal concert
March 8	7:00 pm	High School Band Concert
March 12	7:00 pm	Senior Art Show
March 13	7:30 am	SAC meeting
March 13	7:00 pm	Orchestra Concert
March 19 thru March 23		Spring Break No School for Students
March 26		Classes Resume
March 26	7:00 pm	Women's History Show
March 27	7:00 pm	Women's History Show
March 29th	7:00 pm	Tech Show performance
March 30th		End of 3rd Grading Period
April 6th		Student Holiday / Teacher Workday
April 16th		FCAT Testing Grades 3-11
April 17th		FCAT Testing Grades 3-11
April 18th		FCAT Testing Grades 3-11
		No Early Release of Students Due to Testing
April 19th	7:00 pm	Vocal Concert
April 25th	7:00 pm	Orchestra Concert
April 26th	6:00 pm	Dance Performance
April 27th	7:00 pm	Kaleidoscope Café
May 2nd	7:00 pm	Dance Presentation—Senior Showcase
May 10, 11, 12	7:00 pm	Drama Presentation—Spring Show
May 15th	7:00 pm	High School Band Concert
May 18th	7:00 pm	Kaleidoscope Café
May 22nd	7:00 pm	Orchestra Spring Concert
May 23rd	6:00 pm	Graduation Ceremony
May 24th	7:00 pm	MS Band & Dance Performance
May 24,25,26	7:00 pm	Drama—Directing One Showcase
May 31st	7:00 pm	Middle School Band Concert
June 1st	4:00 pm	Blacklight Bash Dance



We applaud Mrs. Kathy Thilburg for being nominated as OCSA's **School Related Employee of the Year**. Nurse Kathy extends herself beyond the basic required duties assigned to her, contributes to making OCSA a safer and healthier campus, demonstrates exceptional skill and dedication on the job, and continually improves and develops her skills through inservice opportunities.

Congratulations to OCSA!

Our school is ranked 4th in the State of Florida for combination high schools according to the newest Department of Education school rankings list.

