

Educational Choices and INNOVATION



Osceola County
SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEW THIS MONTH:

Florida's Diverse Ecosystems and Species

**School Spotlight-
Deerwood Elementary**

Choice Update

Graduation Dates and Times

Important Dates



FLORIDA'S DIVERSE ECOSYSTEMS AND SPECIES

Conservation and Protection

The State of Florida has seen tremendous growth in recent years. Unfortunately, with this growth, there has also been habitat loss for various plant and animal life due to the expansion of agricultural and urban development taking place throughout the State. Florida with its warm climate and natural wonders has an astonishing diversity of ecosystems and species. It is also part of the North American Coastal Plain which ranges from Texas to Florida to New England and was recognized in 2016 as the 36th biodiversity hotspot in the world.

Biodiversity hotspot in the world sounds alarming, right? It is and that is why Florida lawmakers recently approved \$207.4 million for habitat and species conservation. Florida has endemic plant species that are not found anywhere else in the world and have experienced habitat loss. According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, there are seven categories with over 130 species that make up the imperiled species list in Florida; these include birds, mammals, invertebrates, saltwater fish, freshwater fish, reptiles, and amphibians. Visit <https://myfwc.com> for a complete list.

Environmental Study Center

Many Osceola County Students visit the swamp site during the year to learn about the local ecosystem. Students who visit the center are engaged in STEM activities, visit the center's Natural History Museum, and walk on the 1,800-foot elevated boardwalk to observe the local flora and fauna.

The Environmental Study Center is located at 4300 S Poinciana Blvd, Kissimmee, FL 34758, and is open to the public on Saturday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM. We encourage you to take some time and visit the center to learn more about Florida's ecosystem and what you can do to help protect and preserve it for future generations. For more information on the Environmental Study Center visit www.osceolaschools.net/Page/1737 or call 407-870-8763.



SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT DEERWOOD ELEMENTARY

Home of the Challengers



CHALLENGERS



At Deerwood Elementary School of Innovation, young scholars will be exposed to future-forward pathways through the lens of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics). Scholars will use the critical thinking, literacy, technology, and collaboration skills acquired to become the next generation ready to choose their future pathway of Enrollment, Enlistment, Employment, or Exploration. DWES Innovation Scholars will be prepared to head to the next step of their education journey with background knowledge including but not limited to flight principles, manufacturing, electricity, nutrition, and ecology.

Innovative Programing

- Career-Based STEAM Labs
- Future Focused Coaching
- Organic and Sustainable Gardening

Notable Highlights

- 21st Century Learning
- AVID Ambassadors
- Battle of the Books
- Odyssey of the Mind
- RISE Academy

Arts

- Art Exhibition
- Chorus
- Instrumental Instruction
- Multicultural Night

Clubs

- TV Production

If you would like more information on Deerwood Elementary, Home of the Challengers, where each Challengers' holistic needs are met so they can explore pathways, reaching their own most innovative potential, visit www.osceolaschools.net/dwes.

Choice Update

Reminder: If you completed a choice application for the 2024-2025 school year, please check your email as there is a seven-day period to accept or decline the offered seat. After seven days, the application will automatically decline and you will need to resubmit a late Choice application.

To check the status of a Choice application,

- Visit the Parent Portal
- Call us at 407-870-4847

"Your Choice Now Determines Your Future"

Graduation Dates and Times

May 20, 2024 - Location: Osceola County School for the Arts

Osceola County School for the Arts at 6:00 p.m.

May 21, 2024 - Location: Osceola Heritage Park

Poinciana High School at 1:30 p.m.

Tohopekaliga High School at 5:30 p.m.

May 22, 2024 - Location: Osceola Heritage Park

Liberty High School at 9:30 a.m.

Harmony High School at 1:30 p.m.

Osceola High School at 5:30 p.m.

May 23, 2024 - Location: Osceola Heritage Park

Celebration High School at 9:30 a.m.

St. Cloud High School at 1:30 p.m.

Gateway High School at 5:30 p.m.

May 24, 2024 - Location: Osceola Heritage Park

Osceola Virtual School/Zenith Accelerated Learning Academy at 9:30 a.m.

NeoCity Academy at 12:30 p.m.

Professional and Technical High School (PATHS) at 3:30 p.m.

May 30, 2024 - Location: Osceola County School for the Arts Auditorium

Osceola Technical College (oTECH) all campuses at 5:30 pm

June 26, 2024 - Location: Osceola High School Auditorium

Adult Learning Center (ALCO) at 6:00 pm

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

May 27th - Memorial Day - No School

May 29th - Last day of school for students

May 29th - Report Cards (Elementary)

July 11th - Report Cards (Secondary)