

VPK Parent Guide



2019-2020

Dear Parent,
Welcome to the School District of Osceola County's VPK Program, part of the state of Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten program. This school year will be an exciting learning experience for the entire family. We are confident that your child will delight in learning as he/she develops the skills needed to have a successful start in Kindergarten.

We know that you have many options for VPK, and we thank you for choosing the School District's program.

Sincerely,
Mary Ann Rodriguez-Perez
Director of Early Childhood Education
and Afterschool Programs

Our Mission:

To ignite the love of learning in all children so they may reach their highest potential as productive citizens



VPK Attendance



Parents are responsible for the regular, punctual attendance of their children who are in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program, as provided in Florida State Legislation.

As part of the state-funded VPK Program, strict guidelines will apply. If your child is absent, you must notify the school. Your child's teacher will provide the required form for reporting absences. Any child with excessive absences may be dismissed from our program.

NOTE:

Once enrolled in the voluntary program regular attendance is mandatory.

Arrival

- For the safety of your child, an authorized adult must release your child to the teacher or assistant at the designated time and place. Children may not walk to the classroom alone or with an older sibling, unless the sibling is at least 18 years old.
- Your child must arrive on time. If your child is tardy, you must take him/her to the school office to receive a tardy slip.
- **Repeated tardiness may result in the child being dismissed from our program.**

Dismissal

- An authorized adult must pick up your child from school at the designated time and place. Children may not walk from the classroom alone or with an older sibling, unless the sibling is at least 18 years old.
- Your child must be picked up on time. A late pick-up fee will be assessed as follows:



\$10.00 for each additional 15-minute period

- If there is a pattern of being picked up late, your child may be dismissed from our program.

Payments

Payment Reminders (Children attending Enrichment Program Only)

The VPK program is a half day program at most sites. To compliment the 3 hour program, students are eligible to participate in an Enrichment Program. Children will attend for half the school day in the VPK classroom and half the day in the Enrichment Program . Participation in this program is fee-based.

- Registration and first tuition payment are non-refundable.
- Bi-weekly payment must be received in the Osceola Center for Early Childhood Education Center on the 1st and 15th of each month.
 1. Make checks payable to SDOC. Include your child's name on your check or money order.
 2. A \$20 fee will be assessed to each late payment. Fees will not be waived or reduced for absences.
 3. A past due account will result in your child being dismissed from Enrichment Program.
 4. Personal checks returned for non-sufficient funds will be forwarded to Envision Payment Solutions and amount due must be made by credit card or money order ONLY.
 5. The teacher will send receipts home with your child.
- Payments will not be accepted at school. Payments may be dropped off in person at the Early Childhood Learning Center or you may use one of the following methods to submit your payment:
Credit Card: Call the Osceola Center for Early Learning fee clerk at 407-518-2989 a \$5.00 processing fee will apply. Money Order or Cashier's Check. You may mail to : Early Childhood Learning Center REJ Education Center 1200 Vermont Ave St. Cloud FL 3476
- **Online Payments accepted at: My School Bucks**
<https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/login/getmain?requestAction=home>



Supplies



Requested School Items

The following items are requested for your child.

Please label all items with your child's name.

backpack without wheels, large enough to hold a folder an extra set of clothing (pants, shirt, underwear, and socks) to keep at school in case of an accident.

Full-day students only:

Rest mat and towel or small blanket for rest time

The following are **optional items** for the class. If you are able to provide one or two of the items from this list, it will be greatly appreciated.

washable markers, hand sanitizer, antibacterial wet wipes, facial tissues, sidewalk chalk, zip-lock bags, bubbles, magazines with colorful pictures, old greeting cards.

Thank You!

Volunteer

In the VPK Program, we believe that you are your child's first teacher. Parent participation is recognized as essential for strengthening the partnership between home and school. You are invited to volunteer in your child's VPK classroom. By being actively involved with your child and his/her peers, you will serve as a positive role model.

Please note the following guidelines: It is an Osceola School District policy that anyone volunteering or participating in school activities must complete an Osceola Adults Serving and Inspiring Students (OASIS) application. Applications may be submitted online at www.osceolaschools.net/oasis

For the safety of all children, you must obtain a visitor's pass from the school office before entering your child's classroom.

Nutrition

Meals

Depending upon the program your child is attending, breakfast and lunch availability will vary. Your child's teacher will inform you of the meal procedures at your school.

Health and Safety

Please adhere to individual school policy and procedures if any of these conditions have existed within the past 24 hours: fever of greater than 100.4 °F, pink eye, head lice, vomiting, diarrhea, undiagnosed rash or contagious illness.

Any medication that needs to be given to your child at school must be accepted and administered by the school nurse.

Inform your child's teacher of any allergies. In case of emergency and for your child's safety, it is very important that you notify your child's teacher of any change of address and phone number.



Clothing

Due to the active and physical nature of the VPK learning environment, it is important that your child wears comfortable clothing that can get messy.

For safety, shoes must be close-toed, preferably sneakers. Jackets and sweaters should be labeled with your child's name.

NOTE: Children enrolled in VPK MUST BE toilet trained.

Accidents do happen, so it is important that you provide an extra set of clothing (shorts and/or pants, shirt, underwear, and socks) labeled with your child's name. When extra clothing is used and sent home, please send in another set on the next school day.

School Uniform/ Dress Code

VPK students are required to follow the school district's uniform policy For Kindergarten through Grade 12 as described below in the Code of Student Conduct.

a. **Girls' Basic Standardized Clothing:** The basic uniform clothing for girls in kindergarten through grade twelve shall consist of a long or short-sleeved navy blue or white collared shirt, such as a polo, oxford, or dress shirt, with a navy blue or khaki (tan) skirt, walking shorts, slacks, skorts, jumper, or similar clothing. The skirt, shorts, slacks, skorts, and jumpers may be of denim, corduroy, or twill fabric. A small logo is acceptable.

b. **Boys' Basic Standardized Clothing:** The basic uniform clothing for boys in kindergarten through grade twelve shall consist of a long or short-sleeved navy blue or white collared shirt, such as a polo, oxford, or dress shirt, and a navy blue or khaki (tan) pair of long pants, or walking shorts. The pants or shorts may be of denim, corduroy, or twill fabric. A small logo is acceptable.

Additional Uniform Alternatives: In addition to the basic uniform clothing specified in paragraphs a. and b. above, at the discretion of the principal, a school may include in the school's uniform dress code the following alternatives:

1.) One or two additional specified school colors may be allowed for the collared shirt. Colored trim, stripes, or decorations will not be allowed. A small logo is acceptable.

2.) Skirts, shorts, slacks, skorts, and jumpers must be a solid color (traditional blue jean colors are acceptable) with no stripes, decorations, or embroidery. A small logo is acceptable.

Uniform



Discipline Plan

VPK teachers create a warm family climate through rituals, routines, and classroom centers. This positive guidance approach, based on current brain research, is used to help the children become responsible members of the school family.



VPK teachers will use the following strategies to teach the children appropriate social and emotional skills:

provide daily opportunities for children to connect with each other as a school family.

- have discussions about making helpful choices.
- practice appropriate ways to express anger, disappointment, and anxiety
- use natural consequences instead of punishment.
- notice desirable behavior and redirect undesirable behavior.
- allow child to remove himself to a designated area of the room to gain composure (The Safe Place).

If the child does not respond positively to the above strategies and continues to exhibit aggressive, defiant, or disruptive behavior, that endangers the child, other students and/or adults he/she may be removed from the classroom and the parents will be contacted.

NOTE: If the unacceptable behavior continues to occur, the child may be withdrawn from the VPK Program.

VPK Calendar 2019-2020



2019-2020 School Year : August 12, 2019 – May 28, 2020

There will be no school on the following days:

September 2 – Labor Day- Teacher /Student Holiday

October 14– Professional Study Day for Teachers/ / Student Holiday

October 15 – Teacher Work Day/ Student Holiday

November 11 – Veterans Day- Teacher /Student Holiday

November 25-27- Teacher /Student Holiday

November 28-29 - Thanksgiving Break-Teacher /Student Holiday

December 23 - January 7 – Winter Break-Teacher /Student Holiday

January 20 – Martin Luther King Day-Teacher /Student Holiday

February 21 – Rodeo Day-Teacher /Student Holiday

March 13 – Teacher Work Day/ Student Holiday

March 16-20– Spring Break- Teacher /Student Holiday

May 28 – Memorial Day- Teacher /Student Holiday



In the event of closings due to severe weather, parents will be notified of any changes and/or make up days.

Contact Us

*School District of Osceola County, Florida
Osceola Early Childhood Learning Center |
200 Vermont Ave. St. Cloud FL 34769
Office 407-870-4911 ♥ Payments 407-518-2989*

MaryAnn Rodriguez-Perez, Director



More Info

4 – C (Community Coordinated Care for Children) 321-219-6300

www.4corlando.org

Early Learning Coalition of Osceola County

407-933-5353

www.elcosceola.org

VPK Out-of-Zone Enrollment

VPK classes are offered at various public school sites in Osceola county. See our VPK website for specific information. Parents may select the VPK site that works best for their family, **as long as space is available**, we will make every effort to accommodate your family, please note some restrictions apply. The online application system opens in February and closes in May.

NOTE:

Florida statutes limit the number of students per classroom to 20.

NO EXCEPTIONS

At the end of the VPK program, all student records will be sent to the child's home zone school, as VPK students are expected to attend their home zone school in Kindergarten. Enrollment in a VPK class at a school other than the home zone school does not guarantee an out-of-zone placement for Kindergarten.

Thank you for your continued support!