

# THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

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## SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

District 1 – Teresa “Terry” Castillo – Vice Chair  
407-577-5022  
District 2 – Julius Melendez  
321-442-2862  
District 3 – Jon Arguello  
407-433-9082  
District 4 – Clarence Thacker - Chair  
407-870-4009  
District 5 – Robert Bass  
407-870-4009



Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Debra P. Pace

Dear Parent,

Our focus in the Osceola School District remains constant. We believe in each and every student, and we aim to show it by providing our best efforts to our entire student population of 68,000 children every day. We will continue to place a priority on providing safe and caring learning environments to foster the physical and mental well-being of our students.

To that end, recent legislation requires all Florida school districts to provide Substance Use and Abuse Prevention Education and Child Trafficking Prevention Education for students in Grades K-5. In order to accomplish this, our school counselors will be going into classes and delivering the following age-appropriate curriculum for students:

- The *Too Good for Drugs* curriculum empowers children with the social emotional learning and substance abuse prevention skills they need to lead happy and healthy lives. It will be offered to our students as the Substance Use and Abuse Prevention Education piece.
- *Safer, Smarter Kids* and *Child Safety Matters* are abuse prevention education curriculums designed for elementary-aged children, which use developmentally appropriate information to arm children with the tools and language they need to protect themselves from abuse. Elementary schools have been using *Safer, Smarter Kids* or *Child Safety Matters* to build a foundation for our kindergartners in the past. They will continue to build on that foundation by continuing age-appropriate lessons through fifth grade.

The lessons will be taught now through the end of the school year, and you can contact your school counselor for dates for specific grades or for more information. Counselors, School Social Workers, and School Psychologists will all be available if your child has concerns or questions and will be supporting the work being done in the classrooms.

I appreciate the opportunity to partner with you in the education of your child. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's counselor at the school if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Debra Pace  
Superintendent