

Bear Paw Times

Volume 16, Issue 9 - April 2025



APRIL

Message from the Principal

Dear NCMS Parents/Guardians:

It is the fourth quarter, and with that comes the final preparations for testing, as well as end-of-year events. It is incredible to realize that we are almost at the end of this year. The third quarter was filled with many celebrations, such as having a top-ten Teacher of the Year finalist (Mrs. McKeown), our girls' Basketball team winning the championship, our band and chorus groups being highly successful at MPAs, our Cheerleaders becoming 4th year in a row Champions, placing 2nd in the middle/K8 math competition, and Ms. Hawkins winning the Secondary Art Teacher of the Year award. As we put the finishing touches on the different reviews for the FAST and EOCs, we must ensure that we treat every day with a sense of urgency. Everyday matters, which is why attendance is so important for success. We need students at school every day, all day so that they can be ready for the FAST PM3 and the EOCs. Additionally, we are excited for Gradventure, the 8th Grade Awards ceremony and dance, PM3 FAST Carnaval, as well as the different concerts and athletic events remaining. It has been a fantastic year at NCMS, and we want to finish strong!

Sincerely,

Dr. Francisco Rivera Mieles

Counselor's Corner

Meet The Counseling Team

Students can make appointments with their counselor by scanning the QR code below.

ONE FAMILY GROWING AND
LEARNING TOGETHER



MEET THE SCHOOL COUNSELING TEAM



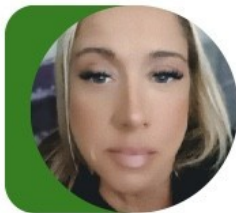
MR. RONALDO ORTIZ
LAST NAMES A-F



DR. GLORIA MARTINEZ
LAST NAMES G-O



MS. MARIA MORALES
LAST NAMES P-Z



MS. MICHELLE LAURIA
SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER



MS. KREMSA SUSLA
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST



QR CODE FOR STUDENTS TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

Parent/Guardian Requests

Parents and guardians can make requests for Section 504 information and for meetings with teachers by scanning the QR code below. They may also be reached by phone or email.



Narcoossee Middle School

Parents and Guardians

Please use the enclosed link if you are interested in:

- Section 504 Information/ Reevaluations
- Meeting with Teachers
- Meeting with a School Counselor



AVID News



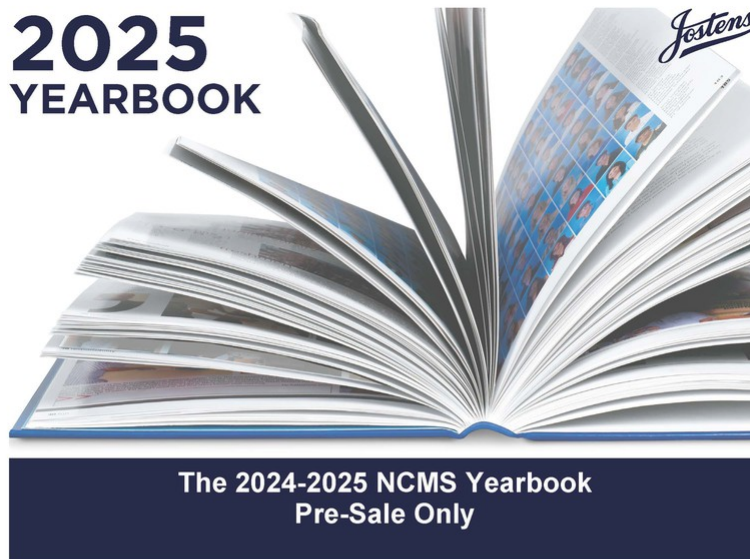
The NCMS AVID programs have been very busy wrapping up our 3rd quarter. We have taken a good hard look at grade point averages & set some serious goals to finish our 4th nine weeks strong. Moving towards our end of the year assessment schedule, we plan to spend some time with test taking tips and strategies in the month of April. We are also completing project-based learning with career and college exploration and our 8th graders are looking forward into high school planning and schedule selection for next year. We are also currently accepting applications for the 2025-2026 school year. We will be visiting our feeder schools, NCES, Eastlake Elementary, and Hickory Tree to recruit new 6th

graders for next year. If your child is interested in joining our AVID family, please feel free to reach out to one of our AVID teachers and inquire about this amazing program for your child. We are proud to be AVID STRONG at NCMS!

Media Center News

Please make sure you return your library books. You can drop them off outside the media center or bring them to Mrs. Biela.

Yearbook News: We ordered additional copies, so if you are interested in purchasing a yearbook you can buy one on [Jostens.com](https://www.jostens.com) for \$30 through April 30th.



ORDER TODAY:



ONLINE

[JOSTENS.COM/BUYYEARBK](https://www.jostens.com/buyyearbk)



SCAN



CALL

1.877.767.5217
8AM-5PM CST MONDAY-FRIDAY

OTHER HELPFUL INFO:

Price \$30

Pre-Orders are the only way to guarantee your Yearbook!
There will only be a limited # for sale when they arrive in May.

[JOSTENS.COM/BUYYEARBK](https://www.jostens.com/buyyearbk)

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Buy One Get One Free Book Fair!

Our next book fair will be on April 25-May 1. It is our Buy One Get one Free bookfair! All forms of payment are accepted. Cash payments must be exact cash only (any change under \$1 will be donated to the media center). If you would like to set up an e-wallet here is a link to the website: <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/narcoosseemiddleschool>

Only students whose parents have chosen unlimited media access will be able to shop at the fair. If you need to change your access level, please see Mrs. Biela for a form.



Testing Information

Testing REMINDERS:

In order to be prepared for testing, students should have their computers charged, eat a good meal, come prepared, on time, and be well rested 😊 If your child has lost their charger, you can purchase a new one on [Myschoolbucks.com](https://www.myschoolbucks.com) or you can purchase one somewhere else as long as the charger is 65W.

For more testing information, contact: frances.velezcollazo@osceolaschools.net

Upcoming Testing Dates

- **Tuesday, April 1** – B.E.S.T. Writing (modified school-wide schedule)
- **April 14 – April 18** – 6th & 7th Grade Science PM3 (through Science classes)
- **April 14 – May 9** – Semester 2 / Full Year Post Test (PPO) (through elective classes)
- **Thursday, May 1** – FAST PM3 ELA Reading (modified school-wide schedule)
- **Tuesday, May 6** – FAST PM3 Math (modified school-wide schedule)
- **Thursday, May 8** – Biology & FSSA Science (modified school-wide schedule)

- **Tuesday, May 13** – Civics EOC (modified school-wide schedule)
 - **Thursday, May 15** – Algebra / Geometry EOC (modified school-wide schedule)
 - (Students who have small group testing or FLVS may have different testing dates)
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Attention Parents

Medical Opt-In 2024-2025



Parents, please be aware that the Osceola School District's medical option form has been changed for the 2024-2025 school year. The new form requires parents to opt-in to any medical services for their children, instead of opting out as in years past. If a parent does not opt in, or does not make a selection, the school nurse will not provide medical services to your child. Only emergency medical services would be permitted.

Parents are asked to please log in to their FOCUS Parent Portal account and complete their medical opt-in/opt-out selection prior to the beginning of school. Besides being a "one-stop shop" for completing necessary educational forms and updating your child's important information, the FOCUS Parent Portal gives parents the opportunity to log in regularly to monitor your child's progress and attendance in school throughout the school year.

Uploading an Absent Note

In our efforts to be more efficient and to decrease the volume of emails and paper usage, we are aiming to use the FOCUS Parent Portal for the purpose it was designed.



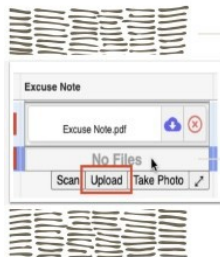
UPLOADING AN
ABSENT NOTE IN
PARENT PORTAL

Parent Portal

If needed, Request a Parent Portal Account

Visit <https://osceola.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/auth>
to create your own parent portal account online **AFTER** you
obtain the parent portal PIN letter from your child's school.

1. Log into Portal https://osceola.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus	2. Select Absences On the left side of the screen
3. Upload the Note Select the date of absence and add the note by selecting Scan, Upload, or Take Photo	Congrats You are done!



My School Bucks

Experience the convenience of easily managing all of your student's fees in one place!



1

Visit [MySchoolBucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com)
or Download the App



2

Create your account,
Add Renaissance
Charter Schools & Add
your students

3

Pay with your
credit/debit card

Here Comes The Bus APP

Here Comes The Bus is an easy-to-use website and app that enables parents to see the location of their child's school bus on a smartphone, tablet, or personal computer.

You may call the Transportation Call Center if you have any other questions or concerns.

TRANSPORTATION CALL CENTER:

School days 6am-6pm 407-483-3673

Please have the following information ready when you call:

1. Student Legal Name (Student Number is helpful)
2. School Name
3. Bus ROUTE Number
4. Bus Stop Location (Pick-up / Drop-off)

Here Comes The Bus[®]
A GPS-BASED APP TO TRACK YOUR CHILD'S BUS

HERE'S HOW TO GET STARTED

- Download the Here Comes the Bus app or visit www.herecomesthebus.com
- Click the **Sign Up** button
- Enter school code **73760**
- Click "Next" followed by "Confirm"
- Complete the "User Profile" box
- Under "My Students," click "Add." Enter your child's last name and student ID number.
- Once you confirm your information, you're ready to go!

Download on the **App Store**

ANDROID APP ON **Google play**

REMIND

If you are NOT receiving REMIND for Narcoossee Middle School
TEXT @sdocncms to 81010

or to get email notifications - Join online:

Visit - <https://www.remind.com/join>

and enter the class code

@sdocncms and your email address

or JOIN FROM YOUR INBOX: Send a blank email to

<mailto:sdocncms@mail.remind.com>

You'll get a response with more instructions.



Box Tops for Education

We need your help to get more families to support the Box Tops program here at NARCOOSSEE MIDDLE SCHOOL. The more people that participate, the more our school can earn to help get the supplies it needs! This year, our goal is to earn \$1,000.00 through Box Tops.



PLUS, you can earn a bonus for our school by inviting your friends, family, and other parents at NARCOOSSEE MIDDLE SCHOOL to sign up and participate in Box Tops. To refer friends to sign up, go to the Invite Friends section of the Box Tops app. (You can get there by tapping on the person icon in the upper-right corner of the app home screen.) You'll get a referral code that you can send to a friend. You'll BOTH earn Bonus Box Tops for our school when they scan their first receipt – that's extra cash that counts towards our Box Tops earnings goal of \$1,000.00 this year.

Thanks for your help!

<https://www.boxtops4education.com/s/get-the-app>

District News

District tutoring opportunity.

24/7 On-Demand
Chat Tutoring

Free

Chat Tutoring

I need help with my homework. It's due tomorrow! Please help.

> Submit Question



NEW!

When Osceola students need help with homework or are struggling to solve a problem, they can immediately chat with a tutor, 24/7, to get the help they need.

Varsity Tutors
for Schools

Mark Your Calendar

4/10-SAC Meeting 5pm Media Center

4/22-Battle of the Books

4/25-5/1-BOGO Bookfair

4/28-Student/Teacher Holiday (No School)

Clubs

Media Center Club

If you are interested in joining a Media Center Club. Please go to the school website: <https://osceolaschools.net/ncms> and click on media center and then media center clubs.

STEM Clubs

Robotics, Odyssey of the Mind, and Sphero's

For more information, <mailto:Stephani.Mckeown@osceolaschools.net>



PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support) Expectations

Our mission at NCMS is to build environments in which positive behavior is more effective and more appealing to students than problem behavior. Students are recognized and praised for positive behaviors (i.e. Bear Bucks, Golden Tickets, Positive Referrals, etc.). Students can spend their Bear Bucks at our PBIS events/activities, dress down days, special cafe privileges, and at our Bear's Den in the Cafeteria.

- Be Responsible
- Encourage Others
- Act Safely
- Respect All
- Strive For Success





B E A R S

	Be Responsible	Encourage Others	Act Safely	Respect All	Strive for Success
Hallway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During class have a pass • Walk face forward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep hands and feet to self • Hold doors for others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow Directions • Go directly to your destination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay quiet- classes are in progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set a good example • Keep hallways clear and clean
Restroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wait your turn • Throw trash in receptacle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect privacy • Use kind words and actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use supplies and equipment • Wash hands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep water in sink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go, flush, wash • Use time wisely
Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep hands and feet to yourself • Eyes and ears on speaker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow directions from adults • Walk at all times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay in designated area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate • Use appropriate applause
Cafeteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use an indoor voice • Raise your hand for help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect other's space • Use kind words and actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat only your food • Sit with feet under table 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat only your food • Put the trash in the trash can 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave a clean table, chair and floor
Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay on Task • Put things away in their proper place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect others trying to read and learn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow directions from adults • Take care of books and equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return materials on time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be quiet • Use time wisely
Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise your hand to speak • Stay on task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay attention to your teacher • Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself • Use kind words/actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow instructions • Try your best always 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use classroom materials • Be ready to learn appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete your work • Organize • Participate
Bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for traffic when entering/exiting • Listen for your stop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep noise down • Use kind words/actions • Keep hands and feet to yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report problems to adult • Keep track of your belongings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay seated face forward • Remember your bus number • Keep your backpack closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to bus driver • No eating or drinking • Keep track of your belongings

B.E.A.R.S. Den Store

The B.E.A.R.S. store for the academic year 2024-2025 is now open during the three lunch periods, from 11:08 am to 1:30 pm, depending on the DEN Time for each day.

Students that model our B.E.A.R.S. Expectations will be awarded with BEAR BUCKS to be utilized in our Den.

NCMS Business Partners in Education

Brue Family Dentistry 407-979-4170
 Carlyle Orthodontics 407-447-9060
 Dr. Sandra Mauro, & Associates 407-505-2020
 Hoffner Eye Care 407-207-2020

HomePride Realty Services Inc. (407) 846-0940
 Lach Orthodontics 407-359-1960
 Mansour Orthodontics 407-846-2150
 Marcela Alzate Realtor 321-353-2424
 Peter Luu Signature Group w/Premier Sotheby's 407-250-1958
 UR Learning Solution 407-658-7575



WELCOME TO OUR NEW BUSINESS PARTNER, OSCEOLA FLAG FOOTBALL!



Osceola Flag Football.pdf

Download
321.6 KB

Other News and Resources

Donations

NCMS is always looking for donations of school appropriate jeans for middle school students. Please drop off fairly used or new jeans that are NOT distressed with holes, tears, or frays.

We also welcome other school appropriate clothing such as polo shirts, spirit shirts, kaki's, bermuda shorts, belts and sneakers.

In addition, the school accepts various donations of school supplies. We thank you in advance for your generosity!



Free Crisis Services

Does your child need social, emotional, or mental health stabilization? Devereux's Mobile Crisis Services, provides free crisis services with trained counselors. Services are available 24 hours a day, every day including weekends and holidays. Dial 2-1-1 or 407-839-HELP (4357).

ONE MORE CHILD Anti-Trafficking Mobile Team

If you or someone you know has been forced or coerced to perform sexual activities, or promised false opportunities, text or call us to set up a meeting with a mentor, advocate, or clinician.



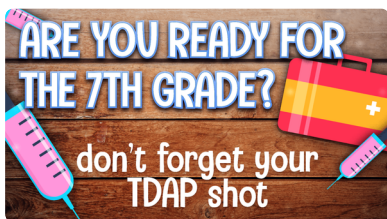
YOU MAY BE A VICTIM IF:

- You are not free to come and go as you wish.
- You are involved in the commercial sex industry (prostitution, stripping, pornography) with a trafficker, or you are under 18.
- You do not have control over your own personal documents/money.
- You were recruited to your job through false promises.
- You are forced to provide labor or commercial sex.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- trauma-informed counseling
- psychoeducation
- court accompaniment
- life skills
- mentorship
- case management
- free food boxes & hygiene items
- access to 24/7 hotline
- advocacy
- referrals to other providers
- interpreter services available

For more information: <https://onemorechild.org> or antitrafficking@onemorechild.org



Important Information for 7th Grade:

All students entering 7th grade must provide the school with an updated immunization record (FL form 680/white form). All 7th grade students must have (1) Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine and all other required vaccines must be up-to-date.

After receiving the Tdap, please email the form to: ncmsregistration@osceolaschools.net

For FREE Vaccines, contact The Osceola County Health Department at 407-343-2066. Located on Fortune Road in Kissimmee.

Adult Learning Opportunity/Oportunidad de aprendizaje para adultos!

ALCO

Nighttime English Classes for Adults at ALCO or at Narcoossee Middle School.

English Classes each Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30-8:30 PM.

For more information, contact Carolina Figueroa at NCMS 407-891-6600 or ALCO at 407-518-8140.



You may apply at: <https://otech.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/apply/>

Clases de Ingles para Adultos en ALCO o Narcoossee Middle School.

Clases cada martes y jueves de 5:30-8:30 PM.

Contacte a Carolina Figueroa en NCMS al 407-891-6600 o ALCO al 407-518-8140 para mas información.

Puede presentar su solicitud en: <https://otech.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/apply/>

Dr. Francisco Rivera Mieles, Principal
Lucile Schneider, Assistant Principal
Jamie Hopkins, Assistant Principal
Carolina Figueroa, A-F Dean
Marlenys Vargas-Ortiz, G-O Dean
Samantha Alfred, P-Z Dean
Ronaldo Ortiz, A-F Counselor/PBIS
Dr. Gloria Martinez, G-O Counselor/MTSS/FIT
Maria Morales, P-Z Counselor
Heather Biela, Media Specialist
Marisha Smalling, Literacy Coach
Gabrielle Tandlich, Math Coach
Frances Velez-Collazo, Testing Coordinator
Meg Hodge, RCS
Marianela Abreu DeJesus, ESOL Compliance
Kremsa Susla, Psychologist
Michelle Lauria, Social Worker
Marisol Losada, Occupational Therapist
Bethany Contreras, Speech Therapist
Clifford Childs, Computer Technician



Narcoossee Middle School- Home of the Bears

AVID National Demonstration School

Mission Statement: Our number one priority is student achievement with high expectations being the responsibility of our entire school community.

Website: www.ncms.osceolaschools.net

Location: [2700 North Narcoossee Road, St. Cloud, FL, USA](#)

Phone: 407-891-6600, **Fax:** 407-891-6610

FaceBook: <http://www.facebook.com/NCMSbears>

Instagram: ncmsblackbears



Francisco Rivera

Francisco is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters