

# Bear Paw Times

Volume 16, Issue 2 - September 2024



---

**SEPTEMBER**

---

## Message from the Principal

Dear Black Bear Parents,

In an effort to increase parental involvement and communication, the school district has agreed to an Open House on Tuesday, September 17th from 5:30pm to 8:00pm. The Open House will allow you to go through each of your student's class periods to see his or her teacher. The goal is to give you additional time to connect with your student's teacher to build on the Meet the Teacher event at the beginning of the year. It is different than a parent conference night since you will not have enough time to do a 1:1 with your student's teacher.

Dr. Francisco Rivera  
Narcoossee Middle School Principal

## 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



AVID is off to an amazing start this school year! With over 400 students enrolled in the AVID Elective at NCMS, it is a very busy place. AVID is so excited to partner this year with Junior Achievement for our guest speaker series! This opportunity brings professionals into our classrooms to present & speak about a wide variety of career options in the real world. If you have a career you are passionate about, please reach out to an AVID teacher and consider sharing your experiences with our students. Now is the time to expose our AVID kiddos to as many options as possible as they begin to explore their own career paths. AVID NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT! In September, AVID will be kicking off our

annual fundraising campaign. AVID will be selling coupon books this year featuring our very own local businesses, restaurants, and services within Osceola and Orange County. These books are loaded with valuable money saving offers & 50% of all sales will directly impact the AVID program by helping us pay for tutors, programs, and activities throughout the year. Please plan to support AVID by purchasing a coupon book! Your support is greatly appreciated.

---

# Media Center News

Please remember to choose your library access from the parent portal. Only students whose parents chose Unlimited access will be able to shop at the bookfair.

Library Access Levels						
LEVEL	VISIT MEDIA CENTER	MEDIA CENTER BOOK CHECK OUT	CLASSROOM LIBRARY BOOKS	DIGITAL BOOKS (EX. MACHINVAS)	ATTEND BOOK FAIRS WITHOUT A PARENT	ACCESS MATURE/YA CONTENT (WITH PARENTAL PERMISSION)
UNLIMITED						
LIMITED						
NO ACCESS						

Please make sure you return books from last year. You can drop them off outside the media center in the drop box or in the media center.

Picture retakes are on October 8th. Students must wear uniforms.

---

# Cheer News

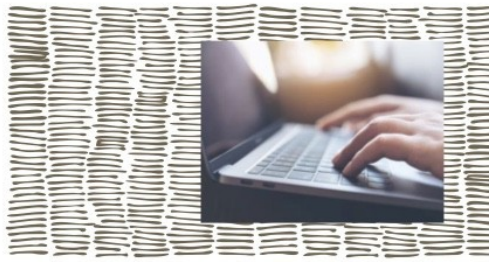
## Cheer Information

Please join our Instagram Page for all the 24-25 Season Tryout information.

---

# Uploading An Absence Note in the Parent Portal

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.



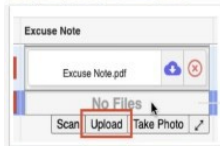
## UPLOADING AN ABSENT NOTE IN PARENT PORTAL

### 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 <a href="https://osceola.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus">https://osceola.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus</a>	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!



## Sports News

### IMPORTANT Athletics Information

The following instructions are for the Impact Test that must be done prior to trying out for any sport on [impacttestonline.com](http://impacttestonline.com). We also attached the instructions for [Aktivate.com](http://Aktivate.com). EVERYTHING must be completed online for the 24-25 school year prior to tryouts!

Direct links are also available on our school website.

For more information, <mailto:chase.fitzgerald@osceolaschools.net>

## ImPact Baseline Testing Instructions

**\*YOU CAN TAKE THE IMPACT TEST AT HOME WHICH IS NEW IN 2020-2021. THIS IS MANDATORY PRIOR TO TRYOUT FOR ANY SPORT. TEST IS GOOD FOR 365 DAYS ONCE TAKEN.**

[Impacttestonline.com/htmllauncher](https://Impacttestonline.com/htmllauncher)

- 1) Go to:
- 2) Make sure to use a mouse or the test will come back invalid
- 3) Click launch test.
- 4) Enter customer I.D. code: **SO6X7C5B7P**
  - YOU CAN COPY /PASTE THE CODE INTO THE LINK
  - make sure letters are capitals AND THE SECOND CHARACTER IS AN O LIKE OLIVE.
- 5) When answering demographic questions read carefully. **Common mistakes:** Years of experience and years of school DO NOT count this school year as you have not completed it (ex. Sophomore will choose 9 since haven't completed 10<sup>th</sup>). If you take medicine and don't know what it is called, put what medical issue it is for. When asked about prior concussions, do not mark anything UNLESS A MEDICAL PHYSICIAN has diagnosed you as such (ONLY VALID IF MEDICAL PHYSICIAN DIAGNOSIS), and if such diagnosis and you don't remember the exact date of diagnosis just guestimate. When entering current symptoms, mark NOT EXPERIENCING unless you have recently been diagnosed by a medical physician with a concussion.
- 6) READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY AND MULTIPLE TIMES BEFORE TAKING SECTION OF TEST. BE AWARE SCORES ARE FOR ACCURACY, TIME, AND CORRECTNESS.
- 7) At the end you do NOT need to send email to yourself, just exit out of website and or logoff.

Please complete this ASAP as you are not eligible to participate in tryouts/practice/games unless

## Registration Instructions for Parents

☐ Go to [www.aktivate.com](http://www.aktivate.com)

☐ Click **Login**

☐ Click **Create an Account**

*(You only need ONE account, even if you have children in more than one high school and/or junior high; Do Not create another account if you have used Aktivate or Register My Athlete in the past)*

☐ Fill in personal account information

*(This should be the Parent/Guardian personal information)*

☐ You will be using the site as a **Parent**

☐ Click **Create Account**

☐ Lastly, input the account **Verification Code** that you'll receive via email to confirm your account

**Please Note:** You will need to open another tab (do not close your current tab) and find the verification email in your email inbox (it may take a few minutes to appear, so be patient). You can copy and paste the code into the pop-up or directly type into it.

### After you have an account:

☐ **Login**

☐ Under the Parents header, select **"Click here to start/complete athlete registrations"**.

☐ Click **Start/Complete a Registration** (upper left hand corner of the page)

☐ Click **Start a New Registration** (this is where you will enter all of your Athlete's information)

☐ Follow the prompts to complete all requirements for your school's registration

*If assistance is needed, click the orange button on the lower left side of the screen for live*

*chat  or email [support@aktivate.com](mailto:support@aktivate.com).*


## Band News

Band Fee Due - September 13th!



## Testing Information





# TESTING CALENDAR\*

AUG 29	FAST ELA
SEPT 5	FAST MATH

\*DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

## Testing Days REMINDER:

Students need to charge their laptops the night before testing and have a great night's sleep. A nutritious breakfast is also encouraged for State Testing readiness.

For more testing information, contact: [frances.velezcollazo@osceolaschools.net](mailto:frances.velezcollazo@osceolaschools.net)

---

## 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.

---

## My School Bucks

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



1

Visit [MySchoolBucks.com](http://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](http://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!



## 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>


## Dean's One Pager


See below for important information from the dean's office.

**NCMS 24-25**  
**DEAN'S OFFICE**  
**ONE-PAGER**  
**Quick Guide**

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

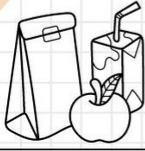

1. Remind students that devices are not permitted, ask them to put the device away.
2. If student refuses, call/message the dean's office and we will collect the phone for the remainder of the day.
3. Teachers should not confiscate phones or input minor/referral for devices. The dean's office takes care of that.



**DRESSCODE**

1. Students are able to wear school appropriate hoodies, but hoods must remain off. If student refuses to remove the hood, remind them of the expectation.
2. Pants must be high enough that no undergarments show. If student refuses, call/message the dean's office.
3. No holes in jeans, holes must be patched.
4. Shorts must be mid-thigh.
5. Polo shirts must be: Black, White, Pink, Hunter Green, Navy

**DEAN'S LUNCH DUTY SCHEDULE**

3rd Period Lunch: Vargas Figueroa	4th Period Lunch: Alfred Figueroa
Alfred-Lunch Detention Rm. 3-104    Vargas-Lunch Detention Rm. 3-104	
 5th Period Lunch: Vargas Alfred Judi Figueroa-Lunch Detention Rm. 3-104	

## District News

All stakeholders are invited to attend upcoming meetings.

# DISTRICT Dialogues

WITH DR. SHANOFF



*Every voice is  
important!*



## Dates and Locations:

- **Tuesday, September 3, 2024**  
Location: Media Center - Liberty High
- **Thursday, September 5, 2024**  
Location: Business Academy- Poinciana High
- **Tuesday, September 17, 2024**  
Location: Media Center - Celebration High
- **Thursday, October 10, 2024**  
Location: Media Center- Osceola High
- **Tuesday, October 15, 2024**  
Location: Media Center- Osceola County  
School for the Arts
- **Thursday, October 24, 2024**  
Location: Media Center- Harmony High
- **Tuesday, October 29, 2024**  
Location: Media Center - St. Cloud High
- **Tuesday, November 12, 2024**  
Location: Mixer Space- NeoCity Academy

**All stakeholders are invited to participate to share and discuss improvement ideas as we move the Osceola School District to an "A!"**

**All meetings will be from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for school district employees and from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for parents, students, and community members.**

<https://www.osceolaschools.net/cms/lib/FL50000609/Centricity/Domain/4/2425%20Safety%20and%20Security.pdf>

[osceolaschools.net](https://www.osceolaschools.net)

## Mark Your Calendar

9/2 - Labor Day-Teacher/Student Holiday (NO SCHOOL)

9/5 - FAST Math

9/13 - 1st 9 Weeks Progress Reports

9/13 - Band Fee Due

9/17 - School Open House 5:30-8 PM

9/27 - Professional Development Day/Student Holiday

## 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

All students that filled out an application form for Odyssey of the Mind or Robotics should be checking Microsoft Teams for information about the parent meeting, and club meetings. Students will also have access to Remind codes through the Microsoft Team if their parent has not yet joined the Remind group for the club.

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.

**B**e Responsible  
**E**ncourage Others  
**A**ct Safely  
**R**espect All  
**S**trive For Success





# B E A R S

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

## 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

Mansour Orthodontics 407-846-2150

Peter Luu Signature Group w/Premier Sotheby's 407-250-1958

UR Learning Solution 407-658-7575



## Welcome New Business Partners in Education

Lach Orthodontics 407-359-1960

Marcela Alzate Realtor 321-353-2424

## 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.

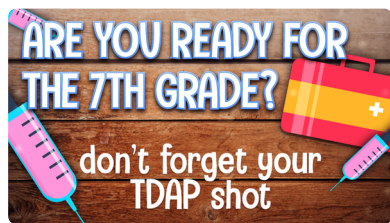
#### SERVICES INCLUDE:

- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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/>



### 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](http://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

*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*



**Francisco Rivera**

Francisco is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters