

*Educational Choices and*

# INNOVATION



Osceola County  
SCHOOL DISTRICT



## NEW THIS MONTH:

Winter Break-  
Rest, Relax, Rejuvenate

School Spotlight-  
Parkway Middle School  
Middle Years International  
Baccalaureate Program

Important Dates

## WINTER BREAK-REST, RELAX, REJUVENATE

In just a few short weeks, students and staff across the Osceola School District will be off for winter break. Friday, December 17th will be the last day of classes for the remainder of 2021, and we hope that everyone will take time out during this break to Rest, Relax, and Rejuvenate.

Winter break can be a stressful and busy time as many families will be traveling and enjoying the festivities but it is also important to remember that winter break is a time for students to relax from the pressure and stress of school.

Taking time to relax the mind and body from the pressures of learning is important to a students' overall wellbeing, and will help them return to school feeling refreshed, refocused and ready to engage and tackle the learning that the second half of the year brings.

Some ways to rest, relax and rejuvenate are as easy as unplugging from digital devices and taking time to go for a walk, read a book or take a nap. If your children wants to sleep in a bit longer during break, let them. Sleeping is essential to learning and is a good way to relax and boost memory and learning.

Whatever winter break looks like for your family, remember to take advantage of this valuable time to reconnect, share and create memories. We wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season filled with health, peace, joy and laughter.

Students and staff will return on Monday, January 3, 2022.

## *Holidays Celebrated in December*

November 28th - December 6th - Hannukah

December 5th - St. Nicholas Eve

December 8th - Bodhi Day

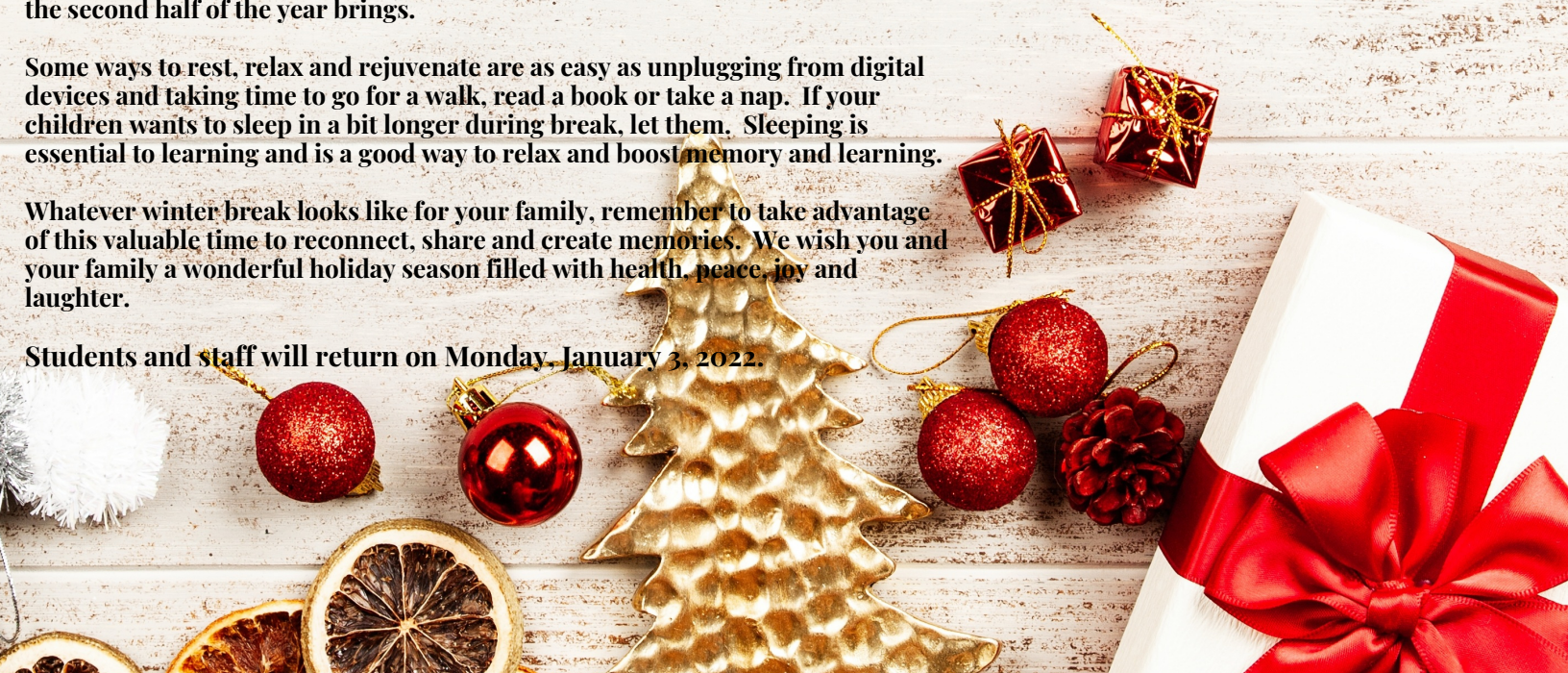
December 13th - Santa Lucia Day

December 21st - Yule

December 25th - Christmas

December 26th - Kwanzaa

December 31st - New Year's Eve



# SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

## PARKWAY MIDDLE

*Home of the Pirates*

**PARKWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
 SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS,  
 FOOD SERVICE, CUST  
 PERSONNEL NEEDED  
 WWW.OSCEOLA.K12.FL.US



WELCOME!  
 YOU ARE NOW  
 ENTERING A  
 PBS CAMPUS

Parkway Middle School is the only International Baccalaureate Middle Years World School in Osceola County, preparing students to be global citizens. Students will be challenged to make connections to real-world situations and central themes to understand how our world is interconnected. Students take action through service learning in grade level and group projects to make a difference in our community. Parkway students have an opportunity to take high school credits during middle school, preparing them for rigorous high school classes. At Parkway, students will work on being communicators, thinkers, risk-takers, and inquirers, which are all attributes needed to be productive adults.

**Magnet:**  
 Middle Years International Baccalaureate World School (MYP/IB)

**Innovative Programs and Elections:**

- Culinary Arts
- Slingshot
- STEM
- 12 High School Courses Including French and Spanish

For more information visit [www.osceolaschools.net/pwms](http://www.osceolaschools.net/pwms)

### *Did You Know...*

The Osceola School District offers a pathway for International Baccalaureate education for students in grades K-12. Students interested in IB may begin their IB Education at Thacker Avenue Elementary School for International Studies with the Primary Years Program and then transition to the Middle Years Program at Parkway Middle School. During eighth grade, students will have the opportunity to apply for the Diploma Program at either Gateway High School or Celebration High School. Students who graduate with an IB Diploma are more likely to be accepted to a top tier university as the IB courses are widely recognized by the world's leading universities. Some universities offer scholarships and advanced placement for IB students. Currently there is recognition in over 100 countries and by over 2,000 universities. If you are an eighth grader interested in applying for the Diploma Program, we invite you to join us at one of our IB Informational Nights.

For more information visit [www.osceolaschools.net/choicenights](http://www.osceolaschools.net/choicenights)



### *Winter Break... Things to do Around Town*

- Disney Springs Christmas Tree Stroll (Free)
- Celebration's Winter Wonderland-Now Snowing at Celebration (Free)
- 39th Annual Holiday Craft Market
- Night of a Million Lights at Give Kids the World Village
- Poinciana Drive-Thru Christmas Story (Free)
- Christmas at the Gaylord Palms
- St. Cloud Christmas Parade (Free)

### *Choice Application Window is Open*

The Choice Application Window for the 2022-2023 school year is open and will close on January 28, 2022. If you are interested in submitting an application for your child, visit [www.osceolaschools.net/choice](http://www.osceolaschools.net/choice) to view the online Choice Booklet and submit your application.

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact us at 407-870-4847 or send us an email at [choiceprogramapplication@osceolaschools.net](mailto:choiceprogramapplication@osceolaschools.net) We look forward to serving your child at one of our innovative schools.

**UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES**

- December 2nd** - Choice Joint Informational Night at Celebration HS
- December 7th** - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- December 9th** - Choice Joint Informational Night at PATHS/OTECH
- December 15th** - Bill of Rights Day

- December 20th - December 31st** - Winter Break - No School
- January 3rd** - Students return to school
- January 13th** - Choice Joint Informational Night at NeoCity Academy
- January 20th** - Choice Joint Informational Night at Gateway HS

**January 28th - Choice Application Window Closes - last day to submit an on-time Choice application**