

# Educational Choices and INNOVATION



Osceola County  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

## NEW THIS MONTH

### LEAP YEAR

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

### SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: PATHS

### KINDNESS MATTERS

### Important Dates

## LEAP YEAR

Did you know that 24 hours, 7 days a week, 365 days a year does not apply to this year as 2024 has 366 days? Yep, that's right, it is a Leap Year! Go, check your calendars and you will notice that the shortest month of the year, February, has 29 days. Why you ask? Great question...every four years an extra day is added to the calendar to keep it aligned with the Earth's orbit around the Sun. The Earth's rotation takes approximately 365.242189 days or 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 45 seconds to circle around the Sun.

Why is it important? Since the Sun's orbit is 0.242189 longer than 365 days, this fraction of time over a period of 4 years adds up to one full day. This full day, if not added to the calendar every 4 years, would affect the shift in seasons which would impact the growing and harvesting of crops. It is important because it can affect an essential life sustaining necessity, food.

Another fact about Leap Year is that over 5 million people have a birth date of February 29th. It is the rarest birthday someone could have with the odds being 1:1,461. People who are born on February 29th are called "Leaplings" and usually celebrate their birthdays on either February 28th or March 1st.

What will you do with your extra day - 24 hours/1440 minutes/86,400 seconds on February 29, 2024?

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This year's Black History Month Theme is "African Americans and the Arts". Black artists have made significant contributions in the form of music, dance, visual arts, and literature.

Many artists during the cultural movement known as The Harlem Renaissance (1910s - 1930s) portrayed Black life in America. Their depictions have inspired many artists in their works and continue to educate and inspire us today.

Some of the influential artists of this era:

- **James Van Der Zee** - American Photographer
- **Augusta Savage** - American Sculptor & Teacher
- **Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington** - American Jazz Pianist, Composer, Songwriter & Actor
- **Louis Daniel Armstrong** - American Trumpeter & Vocalist
- **Langston Hughes** - Writer and Poet

To learn more about these artists and many others visit [www.biography.com/history-culture/g45337922/harlem-renaissance-artists](http://www.biography.com/history-culture/g45337922/harlem-renaissance-artists)

**"The true artist destroys the accepted world by way of revealing the unseen, and creating that which is new and uniquely his own."** - Ralph Ellison

# SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

## PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

*Home of the Patriots*



Professional and Technical High School is a comprehensive accelerated high school that provides students with the opportunity to engage in rigorous academic coursework that is aligned with a career pathway. We offer a 4 x 4 schedule, allowing students to earn more credits by completing an entire year-long course within a semester time frame. Students can manage their course load more effectively with only four classes at a time. This acceleration allows students to earn their high school graduation requirements earlier, freeing up time to then focus on their oTECH program and/or Valencia College Dual Enrollment. While we are not a traditional school with all of the extra-curricular activities, we do offer intramural sports and clubs during our 75-minute lunch period. We encourage all of our students to get involved! As a small high school, faculty and staff can get to know students and build relationships within our Patriot family. We firmly believe we can achieve our mission of "Every Student, Future Ready!"

### CTE Programs:

- Applied Cybersecurity
- Automotive Maintenance & Light Repair
- Criminal Justice
- Digital Design
- Electricity
- Heating, Ventilation Air Conditioning/Refrigeration
- Journalism and Multimedia
- Medical Assisting
- Medical Coder/Biller
- Network Support Services Technician
- Professional Culinary Arts & Hospitality
- Plumbing
- Welding

**Highlight:** PATHS is an A School and 10% of seniors graduate with their AA degree. 100% of students earn industry certifications, with many earning multiple certifications. Students can complete an oTECH program and attend Valencia at the same time. PATHS has a 100% graduation rate.

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

## NATIONAL RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS WEEK

Has a total stranger ever smiled at you or given you an unexpected compliment? How did that make you feel? Did it make you smile, lift your spirits, and possibly change your mood? I hope so. In the United States, National Random Acts of Kindness Week is observed February 14th through February 20th; but do we need a designated week to be kind?

Although it is a great time to increase awareness and model kindness, kindness can be a part of the way we live life daily and positively influence one another. Not only does being kind have positive impacts on the person receiving kind acts but also on the giver. Studies show that kindness can get rid of stress, increase stamina, reduce blood pressure, stabilize mood, and make us happy.

Remember, the "Golden Rule" - treat others the way you would like to be treated. You never know the impact your random act of kindness is going to make in someone's life. Let's go be kind!

## OSCEOLA COLLEGE FAIR

Join us for a district-wide college and career fair.

- Thursday, February 15th from 5:30 PM- 7:00 PM
- Gateway High School - Cafeteria
- Over 50 colleges and universities from both in state and outside the state of Florida
- For all Osceola County students in grades K-12+, parents, and the community
- Students can register at <https://form.jotform.com/240114147521140>

For all College and Career news and events follow Danielle Malfara, College & Career Counselor on Instagram @mrs.malfara.

## CHOICE LOTTERY

If you are a choice applicant for the 2024-2025 school year, keep the following dates in mind.

- February 6th & 7th - Choice Lottery
- February 15th - Choice notification letters will be sent via e-mail to all applicants
- March 1 - Accept or decline your choice offer via the parent portal

Check your status at [www.osceolaschools.net/choice](http://www.osceolaschools.net/choice).

## UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

February 1st - 29th - Black History Month  
February 9th - 3rd 9-Weeks Progress Reports

February 15th - Choice Notification Letters Emailed to Applicants  
Osceola College and Career Fair  
February 16th - RODEO DAY - No School