



Osceola County
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Educational Choices and **INNOVATION**



NEW THIS MONTH:

Celebrating Independence

**School Spotlight-
Deerwood Elementary**

Odyssey of the Mind

**Did you Know? - Osceola's
Business Pathway**

Tips for Summer Fun

Important Dates

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE, FREEDOM and CHOICES

July... a time for family reunions, barbecues, picnics, concerts, and, of course, American flags, parades, fireworks and everything red, white and blue in honor of America's birthday. This year on The Fourth of July, America turns 245 years young and cities across the United States will celebrate her independence.

Independence Day - the Birth of a Nation

On July 2, 1776, during the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783), representatives from 13 North American colonies of the kingdom of Great Britain voted to declare themselves independent from British rule and no longer pledge allegiance to the British Crown. Two days later, on July 4, 1776, Congress approved and signed the final text of the Declaration of Independence and announced to the world that the historic vote, which took place two days earlier gave birth to a new independent nation-the United States of America.

Why do We Celebrate?

Every year since July 4, 1776, Americans have celebrated the adoption of the Declaration of Independence and the ideas that all men are created equal, that they have certain inalienable rights including Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness, and that individuals have a civic duty to defend these rights for themselves and others in an independent nation.

Freedom, Civil Rights and the Right to Choose

We, the people of the United States of America are the freest in the world and enjoy five protected freedoms. These are freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly and petition.

We also enjoy certain civil rights. Among these are the right to vote, the right to a fair trial, the right to government services, **the right to a public education**, and the right to use public facilities.

Let's talk about the right to a public education. Although education may not be a "fundamental right" under the Constitution, the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment requires that when a state establishes a public school system, no child living in that state may be denied equal access to schooling. Today, students in the State of Florida have options available through School Choice. The Educational Choices and Innovation Department provides parents with information on the vast opportunities provided at all of Osceola's traditional public schools, magnet schools, charter schools and home education. Parents have the right to choose which learning environment best fits their needs. **To learn more about the awesome opportunities available, visit www.osceolaschools.net/choice.**

"Empower yourselves with a good education, then get out there and use that education to build a country worthy of your boundless promise." - Michelle Obama

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

DEERWOOD ELEMENTARY

Home of the Challengers



**Odyssey of the Mind 2021 State Tournament
Challengers take 2nd Place**

New for 2021-2022

Deerwood Elementary School is a magnet school that is committed to developing and sustaining a collaborative environment to meet the needs of ALL students. Through the Junior Business and Entrepreneurship Magnet Program, Deerwood will cultivate student centered classrooms where they will work on standards-based tasks as a team and investigate the top-ranking innovation-driven economy of the world. Students will learn how innovation, supply and demand and consumer wants and needs come together and exploring opportunities to make a living being creative and doing what you love. Our goal is to inspire students to know what it takes to be successful, financially savvy and become business owners generating many new jobs in our community.

Innovative Programs:

- AVID
- Project Lead the Way
- Junior Business and Entrepreneurship Magnet Program

For more information, visit our website at www.osceolaschools.net/DWES

Did you Know?

The Osceola School District offers Career Pathways in Business:

Elementary (KG-5) - Deerwood Elementary
Middle School (6-8) - Discovery Intermediate
High School (9-12) - Osceola Business Academy

Additional schools that offer Business Programs at the high school level:
Liberty High School, Osceola High School, and St. Cloud High School



Save the Date

2021 CHOICE FAIR

November 18, 2021
5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Osceola Heritage Park

Odyssey of the Mind

helps to develop critical thinkers of the 21st Century
Odyssey of the Mind has been the world's greatest creative problem-solving program since its inception in 1978. It teaches students how to think divergently by providing open-ended problems that appeal to a wide range of interests. Students learn how to identify challenges and to think creatively to solve those problems. The creative problem-solving process rewards thinking "beyond the box." These are the skills that they will need to compete for the jobs of the future.

Odyssey of the Mind participants are known as OMers after OMER, the raccoon mascot. Raccoons are known to be curious and resourceful. Odyssey of the Mind encourages young people to re-purpose, recycle, and reuse materials and continues to provide students with life lessons as it did in its beginning.

While the world around us changes, Odyssey of the Mind continues to create challenging and fulfilling problems in a fun and friendly environment. It continues to believe that creativity can be taught and that education should be fun.

Tips for Summer Fun

Stay Active and Beat the Heat

Kids need at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity each day. Help them stay active. Apply sunscreen and go outside and enjoy a game of sponge tag. The person who is "it" has a wet sponge to chase other players with. The first person tagged with the sponge becomes the next "it." Soak the sponge in clean, cold water after each round. Play this game on grass to make sure everyone stays safe. Afterwards, enjoy ice water to help you beat the heat. Add a little flavor to your water by putting chopped fruit or fresh herbs into an ice tray and freeze. Use the ice cubes to put in your water and you'll have fresh and flavorful tasting water.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

July 4th - Independence Day

July 16th - Final Day to Register for Osceola Virtual School

July 31st - August 9th - 10-Day "Back-to-School" Tax Holiday

August 12th - First Day of School