

Educational Choices and **INNOVATION**



Osceola County
SCHOOL DISTRICT



Pleasant Hill Elementary
Celebrating National School Choice Week

NEW THIS MONTH

Read Across America Day

Did you Know?
Osceola Library Link (OLL)

Youth Art Month (YAM)

School Spotlight - Sunrise Elementary

Power-Up for Student Success

Women's History Month

Important Dates

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

March is National Reading Month and on March 2nd, schools, libraries, and communities across the nation celebrate Read Across America Day on the birthday of Theodor Seuss, better known by his pen name Dr. Seuss. His work is enjoyed by the littlest learner to the oldest family member. There is simply something fun about a cat in a striped hat and a red bow tie that puts a smile on faces and keeps us young at heart.

In 1998, the National Education Association (NEA) began the Read Across America initiative to help get children excited about reading. Since then, schools, libraries, and communities celebrate this day with fun-filled activities that incorporate Dr. Seuss books that focus on real world issues such as *The Lorax* which focuses on caring for the environment, *Horton Hears a Who* which focuses on kindness, and *The Sneetches* which focuses on diversity to name a few. Read Across America has become a great big celebration for children of all ages! During the month of March, take some time to pick up a book or two of the over 60 children's books penned by Dr. Seuss, *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* <https://tinyurl.com/2s3p24jh> for crafting ideas.

Did You Know?

Osceola Library Link (OLL)

Osceola County students enrolled in Kindergarten through Grade 12 have access to the Osceola Library System as part of the new Osceola Library Link (OLL) Access Pass program. Students can check out and stream books, movies, music, do research and much more at any Osceola Library without an application or library card. Students are automatically enrolled! Simply use the letter "S" followed by the seven-digit student ID number (ex. S0123456) and enter the required PIN which is the student's birth year (ex. 2015) to use the OLL ACCESS Pass. Visit www.osceolalibrary.org to use this free resource.

Youth Art Month (YAM)

Do you ever think about art and how a drawing, painting, or simple word repeated on a page can tell you how the artist was feeling? Art is a language. It is a conversation starter. It is a way people of all ages can express themselves without using verbal skills to communicate. Youth Art month takes place in March and is designed to encourage support and promote art and quality art education for grades K-12 in the United States. This year's theme is "Art Connects Us". Visit the Florida Art Education Association's ("FAEA") site at <https://faea.org/programs/youth-art-month> to view Florida's winner for this year's YAM Flag Design Competition.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

SUNRISE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Home of the Sea Stars



Sunrise Elementary is a magnet school that is dedicated to meeting the needs of its diverse population through academics, character development, and community involvement. The main focus of the school is to provide rigorous, positive, and student-centered learning. The agri-animal science program promotes better understanding of the living environment, research, and train on the development of agricultural productivity and farming. Students will study animals - their habits, their traits, and their roles in the environment. Learners become critical thinkers, make cross-curricular connections, increase supplemental experiences while creating a positive and safe school environment to ensure that our students are successful academically and emotionally. The agri-animal science program allows students to have direct interaction with nature when growing and harvesting crops and raising and caring for animals as part of their curricular activities. Sunrise Elementary is harvesting the future zoologist and botanist of our community.

Magnet Program:

Agri-animal Studies

Program Offerings:

AVID STEM
Fine Arts

Enrichment Offerings:

Odyssey of the Mind
Bookmark Buddies

Power Up for Student Success

A Conference Series for Families, The Community and Students

The School District of Osceola County, FL in partnership with the Alliance for Public Schools and the Education Foundation of Osceola will host an in-person conference on **Saturday, March 26th**. Sessions will include diverse age and subject offerings for families to choose from. A gallery of informational booths with district programs and resources will be available. This vital information, skills and supports initiative is part of the district's continued efforts to provide stakeholders with increased family and community engagement opportunities in the areas requested during a series of Community Conversations held in 2021. Don't miss this opportunity. Register today! Visit <https://all4schools.org/register>.

The CHOICE is Still Yours

There is still time to apply for a school of your choice for the 2022-2023 school year. Visit www.myosceolachoice.school to complete the "Find Your Match" questionnaire and find the school that best meets your child's interests and learn more about the different pathways offered by our school district. For additional information about the choice process, visit www.osceolaschools.net/choice.

Women's History Month

"Providing Healing, Promoting Hope"

While many women in today's society are free to vote, work, and go to school, other women around the world continue to fight for these basic rights. Kofi Annan, Former Secretary-General of the United Nations and Nobel Peace Prize recipient, said "**When women thrive, all of society benefits, and succeeding generations are given a better start in life.**"

His words resonate as women continue to take on the role of caregivers, healers, nurturers, and optimistic dreamers fighting for justice, equality, and the right to co-exist. Over the past two years, we all have seen images of exhausted women caring for our communities while others have once again come together to fight for our continued right to the 19th Amendment - <https://tinyurl.com/6rcd7fud>. History has taught us that women have helped to advance society through their contributions and in order to continue to move forward, it is important to remember some of the courageous women that have pathed the way. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/4hvsw4kj> to learn more about these Women and their contributions.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

March 1st-**Deadline** to Accept or Deny a Choice Seat Offering
March 1st-31st - Women's History Month
March 2nd - National Read Across America
March 10th - End of 3rd Grading Period

March 14th-18th - Spring Break - No School
March 21st - Students Return to School
March 26th - Power Up for Success Conference