

Educational Choices and INNOVATION



Osceola County
SCHOOL DISTRICT



NEW THIS MONTH:

Alliance for Public Schools

Attendance Matters

**School Spotlight-
Discovery Intermediate**

Hispanic Heritage Month

Woz ED-Pathways to Careers!

Important Dates

ALLIANCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Bridging the Gap One Community Conversation at a Time

In the spirit of transparency, inclusion and sound governance, The School District of Osceola County, FL has partnered with the Alliance for Public Schools to implement new parent and community outreach activities in order to elevate stakeholders' voices and engagement with the district. It is the district's belief that everyone shares the responsibility of ensuring that all children have an opportunity to achieve their dreams. Below are two initiatives that have taken place to-date.

Community Conversations – In January and February of 2021, a total of 5 district meetings were held to determine the needs, assets, hopes and expectations of families and the community. Survey links were shared and over 2,800 stakeholders provided valuable feedback that will guide a portion of the work to be done in the years to come.

Student Alliance – The Osceola County School for the Arts and Liberty High School were selected to pilot the Student Alliance at their schools. Student leaders participated in meetings during the school year to openly discuss their needs and hopes for their schools. During their summer break, these students participated in a two-day summer conference where they engaged in activities to help them further assess the needs of their schools by analyzing their school's Panorama survey data.

We are excited about the work that is being done with the Alliance for Public Schools. Stay tuned for more updates. If you are interested in learning more about the Alliance for Public Schools, visit their site at www.All4schools.org.

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure." - Colin Powell

Attendance Matters

Regular attendance will help set your child up for long-term academic success. Studies show that children that miss 10 percent (18 days) of excused or non-excused days during the school year are likely to fall behind and struggle throughout elementary school. During the middle school years, these absences have been linked to course failure and even dropping out at the high school level. Below are some tips to promote good attendance at home.

Elementary School

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Don't let your child stay home unless they are sick. Keep in mind complaints of stomachache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in season.

Middle School and High School

- Communicate with the school and your teen's teachers and let them know how to reach you.
- Activate your parent portal and access your teen's class schedule.
- Check your teen's attendance regularly to make sure they are attending all of their classes.
- Ask for help when you need it.

Good attendance helps to build a solid foundation for children to do well in school, college and work.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

DISCOVERY INTERMEDIATE

Home of the Explorers



Castillo San Marcos, St. Augustine, FL

Hispanic Heritage is American Heritage

Over 60.5 million Hispanics live in the United States according to the 2019 U.S. Census Bureau. In schools around the U.S., September 15th begins the month-long celebration of Hispanic Heritage. During this time, schools across Osceola County provide opportunities for students to learn about the contributions and influences that Hispanics have made to our society.

Spanish Influence in the State of Florida

St. Augustine, FL is the first and oldest permanent European settlement in the United States and it was founded by Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, a Spanish admiral in 1565. A view from the Castillo de San Marcos Fort tells a story of Spanish influence. The street names, the cobblestone streets, the coquina used in the landmarks and breathtaking architecture are all reminders of the settlers that called La Florida home. From the Nation's Oldest City to Key West's Mile Marker 0 where the official city motto is "One Human Family" you will find that the State of Florida is filled with Hispanic culture, art and cuisine. Hispanic Heritage Month is a great way to learn something new and appreciate the commonalities as we all seek to become more tolerant and inclusive in reaching an equitable society for all people.

Hispanic Americans Who Made History

From pop culture to politics these Hispanic Americans have made their mark in history.

Ellen Ochoa, Astronaut – NASA's Space Shuttle Discovery
Rita Moreno, Actress – West Side Story
Roberto Clemente, MLB Athlete – Pirates
Sonia Sotomayor, Justice – U.S. Supreme Court
Lin-Manuel Miranda, Actor – Hamilton
Dolores Huerta, Activist – Dolores Huerta Foundation

Team Discovery Intermediate believes that education is only at its best when students are engaged in lessons and activities that help shape them both academically and socially. We are committed to the continued educational success of every student. With Discovery's one-to-one technology initiative, teachers and students are able to take learning to unexplored territory and help students learn how to be active citizens in a global world. Team Discovery prides itself on helping students become prompt, polite, prepared, and productive community members through a rigorous standards based educational experience that is differentiated to meet the individual needs of the students. By interacting in the positive learning environment at Discovery, your explorers are becoming beacons in the community.

Innovative Programs:

- Woz ED
- AVID Elective
- STEM & Project Lead the Way
- JR ROTC Army
- Arts
- Slingshot Program

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

Woz ED - Pathways to Careers!

In today's fast-paced tech economy, providing students with the opportunities to develop real world STEM skills for future careers is in high demand. Osceola students at Deerwood Elementary, Discovery Intermediate, and Liberty High School that are interested in STEM careers will benefit from the Woz ED curriculum to help shape their path to meet the needs of the 21st Century workforce.

Woz ED focuses on preparing students kindergarten through employment by helping them explore their future in science and technology careers through hands-on STEM and Science Kits. Woz Ed offers 10 career pathways in the areas of Animation, Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality, Coding, Cybersecurity, Data Science, Drone, Engineering Design Process, Mobile Development, and Robotics. The program is designed to build an engineering mindset while developing collaboration, problem solving, and critical thinking skills. If you would like to learn more about Woz ED, visit www.wozed.com.

"Make something big for yourself and it will last for the rest of your life." - Steven Wozniak, Woz ED Co-Founder

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

September 6th - Labor Day-No School/National Read A Book Day
September 15th - 1st 9 Weeks Progress Reports

September 15th - October 15h - Hispanic Heritage Month
November 18, 2021 - 2021 CHOICE FAIR at the Osceola Heritage Park