

# Bear Paw Times

Volume 16, Issue 5 - December 2024



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**DECEMBER**

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## **Message from the Principal**

Hello NCMS Parents/Guardians, as we approach the holiday break, I wanted to wish you and your families a restful and relaxing break. Regardless of how you celebrate the holidays, at the core of

all our traditions is the message of togetherness. It is a special part of the year where we get to spend time with those that we love the most. It is hard to imagine that we are almost at the end of the 2nd nine weeks. We have completed PM2 testing, celebrated PBIS activities, and have almost completed half of the school year. I want to challenge all of our students to know their data in both reading and math, and how many points do they need to make adequate growth. I believe in empowering our students with this information, so they can have a roadmap, and are able to set goals for PM3. May you get to spend your holidays with your friends and family, and we will see you on January 7th!

Sincerely,

Dr. Francisco Rivera Mieles

Narcoossee Middle School Principal

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## NJHS News

NJHS will be collecting non-perishable food items the first 2 weeks in November.

The first period class with the most donated will receive a donut party.



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## Counselor's Corner

### Meet The Counseling Team

Students can make appointments with their counselor by scanning the QR code below.

ONE FAMILY GROWING AND  
LEARNING TOGETHER



# MEET THE SCHOOL COUNSELING TEAM



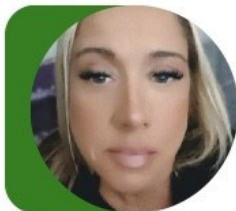
**MR. RONALDO ORTIZ**  
LAST NAMES A-F



**DR. GLORIA MARTINEZ**  
LAST NAMES G-O



**MS. MARIA MORALES**  
LAST NAMES P-Z



**MS. MICHELLE LAURIA**  
SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER



**MS. KREMSA SUSLA**  
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST



QR CODE FOR STUDENTS TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

## Parent/Guardian Requests

Parents and guardians can make requests for Section 504 information and for meetings with teachers by scanning the QR code below. They may also be reached by phone or email.



# Narcoossee Middle School

## Parents and Guardians

Please use the enclosed link if you are interested in:

- Section 504 Information/ Reevaluations
- Meeting with Teachers
- Meeting with a School Counselor



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## AVID News



The holiday season is in full gear in the AVID classrooms! Our students are busy with many AVID requirements & we are planning for a fun family event for our 6th grade AVID parents. Please join us on Thursday, December 19th from 6:00-8:00 as our AVID 6th graders present “Jingle – Mingle” This is an AVID adventure for parents that will showcase some AVID style activities. We are so very proud of our new AVID 6th grade classes! They are truly settling into the AVID way at NCMS. AVID students will also participate in our annual gingerbread house activity on Thursday, December 19th. Each student will have the opportunity to demonstrate their creative expression while making an individual

house. Please send in a variety of small candies, pretzels, or any other items your child would like to use on that day. AVID will provide the basics, however, every child certainly wants their house to stand out in a special way. Thanks so much for supporting the AVID program & all of us in AVID wish every family a safe and happy winter break! Stay calm & AVID on!

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# Media Center News

December is the perfect time to return overdue library books before the winter break.

Don't forget to log your reading minutes into Beanstack, located in Classlink. For the December challenge Mrs. Biela will be choosing random students who complete the challenge to win prizes!

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## Cheer News

### Cheer Information

No new information at this time.



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## Sports News

### IMPORTANT Athletics Information

Tryout dates for Girls' Basketball:

December 12th, 13th, and 16th from 4:30PM - 6:30PM

Tryout dates for Boys' Basketball:

All tryouts are between 4:30PM - 6:30PM

January 7th (6th Grade)

January 9th (7th Grade)

January 10th (8th Grade)

January 13th (Callbacks)

January 14th (Callbacks)

Please ensure that all players' physicals are uploaded into Aktivate and everything in aktivate is filled out and awaiting admin approval.

Ensure that each student trying out has completed their impact testing prior to trying out and has their certificate with them. To complete impact testing, go to [ImpactTestOnline.com/htmlauncher](https://ImpactTestOnline.com/htmlauncher) and then enter the ID Code: S06X7C5B7P

Please email Coach Fitzgerald with any questions: [Fitzgerc@osceola.k12.fl.us](mailto:Fitzgerc@osceola.k12.fl.us)

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## Band News



Winter Band Concert

Wednesday, December 18th @6pm

Beginning Band, Intermediate Band, Advanced Band and Jazz band will be performing at Tohopekaliga High School.

Ticket info is below!

<https://gofan.co/event/2268548?schoolId=FL78353>

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## Testing Information

### Testing Days REMINDER:

12/5-FAST ELA

12/10-FAST MATH

For more testing information, contact: [frances.velezcollazo@osceolaschools.net](mailto:frances.velezcollazo@osceolaschools.net)

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## Attention Parents

### Medical Opt-In 2024-2025

Parents, please be aware that the Osceola School District's medical option form has been changed for the 2024-2025 school year. The new form requires parents to opt-in to any medical services for their children, instead of opting out as in years past. If a parent does not opt in, or does not make a selection, the school nurse will not provide medical services to your child. Only emergency medical services would be permitted.



Parents are asked to please log in to their FOCUS Parent Portal account and complete their medical opt-in/opt-out selection prior to the beginning of school. Besides being a "one-stop shop" for completing necessary educational forms and updating your child's important information, the FOCUS Parent Portal gives parents the opportunity to log in regularly to monitor your child's progress and attendance in school throughout the school year.

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### Uploading an Absent Note

In our efforts to be more efficient and to decrease the volume of emails and paper usage, we are aiming to use the FOCUS Parent Portal for the purpose it was designed.



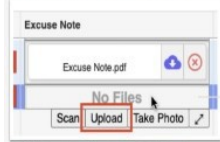
UPLOADING AN  
ABSENT NOTE IN  
PARENT PORTAL

## Parent Portal

**If needed, Request a Parent Portal Account**

**Visit <https://osceola.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/auth> to create your own parent portal account online AFTER you obtain the parent portal PIN letter from your child's school.**

<p>1. Log into Portal <a href="https://osceola.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus">https://osceola.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus</a></p>	<p>2. Select Absences On the left side of the screen</p>
<p>3. Upload the Note Select the date of absence and add the note by selecting Scan, Upload, or Take Photo</p>	<p>Congrats You are done!</p>



## My School Bucks

Experience the convenience of easily managing all of your student's fees in one place!



1

Visit MySchoolBucks.com  
or Download the App



2

Create your account,  
Add Renaissance  
Charter Schools & Add  
your students

3

Pay with your  
credit/debit card

## Here Comes The Bus APP

Here Comes The Bus is an easy-to-use website and app that enables parents to see the location of their child's school bus on a smartphone, tablet, or personal computer.

You may call the Transportation Call Center if you have any other questions or concerns.

### TRANSPORTATION CALL CENTER:

School days 6am-6pm 407-483-3673

Please have the following information ready when you call:

1. Student Legal Name (Student Number is helpful)
2. School Name
3. Bus ROUTE Number
4. Bus Stop Location (Pick-up / Drop-off)



# Here Comes The Bus<sup>®</sup>

A GPS-BASED APP TO TRACK YOUR CHILD'S BUS

## HERE'S HOW TO GET STARTED

- Download the Here Comes the Bus app or visit [www.herecomesthebus.com](http://www.herecomesthebus.com)
- Click the **Sign Up** button
- Enter school code **73760**
- Click "Next" followed by "Confirm"
- Complete the "User Profile" box
- Under "My Students," click "Add." Enter your child's last name and student ID number.
- Once you confirm your information, you're ready to go!



## REMIND

If you are NOT receiving REMIND for Narcoossee Middle School  
TEXT @sdocncms to 81010  
or to get email notifications - Join online:  
Visit - <https://www.remind.com/join>  
and enter the class code  
@sdocncms and your email address  
or JOIN FROM YOUR INBOX: Send a blank email to  
<mailto:sdocncms@mail.remind.com>  
You'll get a response with more instructions.



## Box Tops for Education

We need your help to get more families to support the Box Tops program here at NARCOOSSEE MIDDLE SCHOOL. The more people that participate, the more our school can earn to help get the supplies it needs! This year, our goal is to earn \$1,000.00 through Box Tops.



PLUS, you can earn a bonus for our school by inviting your friends, family, and other parents at NARCOOSSEE MIDDLE SCHOOL to sign up and participate in Box Tops. To refer friends to sign up, go to the Invite Friends section of the Box Tops app. (You can get there by tapping on the person icon in the upper-right corner of the app home screen.) You'll get a referral code that you can send to a friend. You'll BOTH earn Bonus Box Tops for our school when they scan their first receipt – that's extra cash that counts towards our Box Tops earnings goal of \$1,000.00 this year.

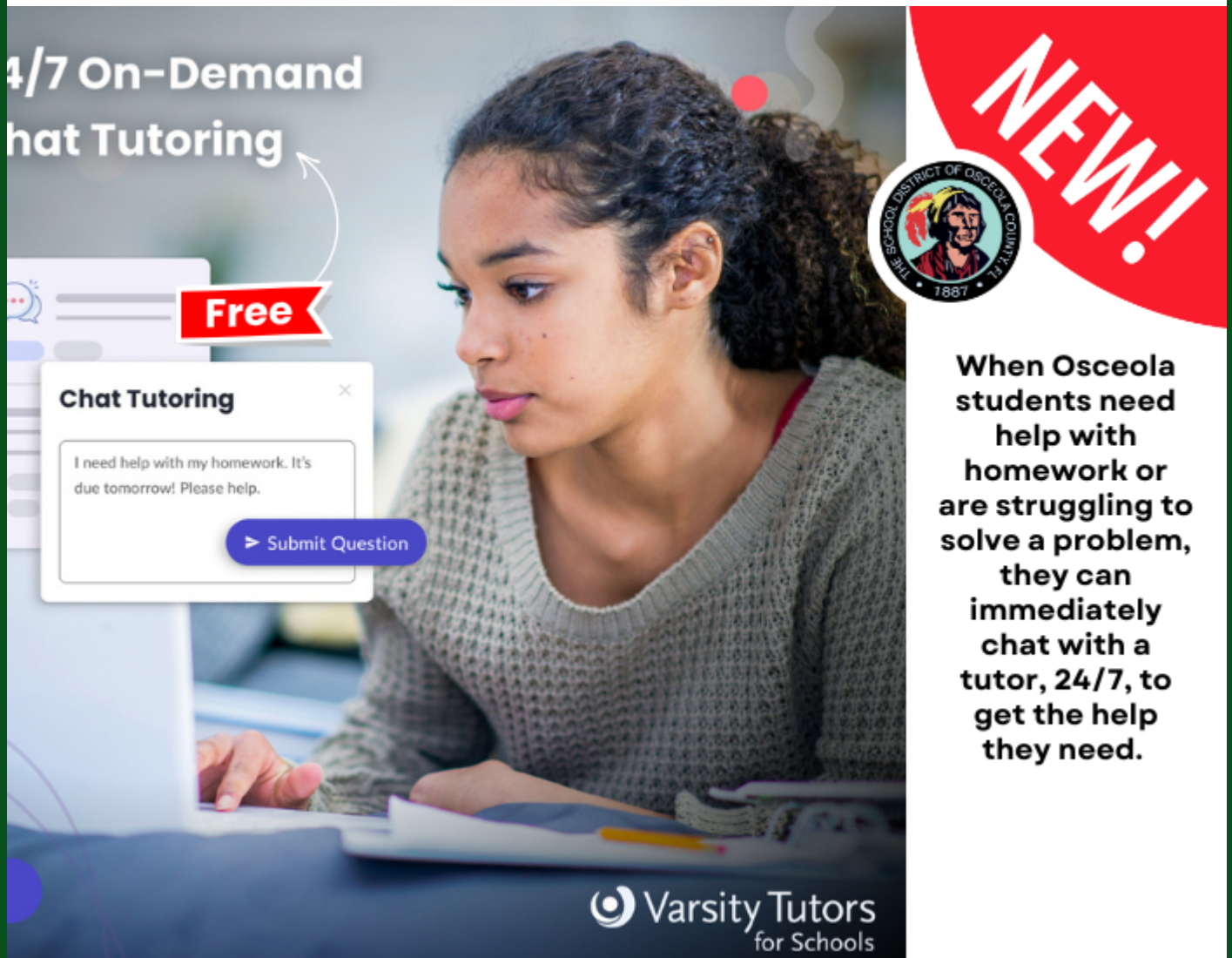
Thanks for your help!

<https://www.boxtops4education.com/s/get-the-app>

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## District News

District tutoring opportunity.



24/7 On-Demand  
Chat Tutoring

**Free**

**Chat Tutoring** ×

I need help with my homework. It's due tomorrow! Please help.

▶ Submit Question

**NEW!**

THE OSCEOLA DISTRICT OF OSCEOLA COUNTY FL  
1887

**When Osceola students need help with homework or are struggling to solve a problem, they can immediately chat with a tutor, 24/7, to get the help they need.**

**Varsity Tutors**  
for Schools

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## Mark Your Calendar

12/5-FAST ELA  
12/10-FAST Math

12/13-Chorus Concert 6-7  
12/18-Band Concert 6pm-Tohopeligia High School  
12/19-STEM Night/Jingle Mingle 6-8pm  
12/23-1/6-Winter Break (No School for Students)

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## Clubs

### Media Center Club

If you are interested in joining a Media Center Club. Please go to the school website: <https://osceolaschools.net/ncms> and click on media center and then media center clubs.



### STEM Clubs

Robotics, Odyssey of the Mind, and Sphero's

For more information,  
<mailto:Stephani.Mckeown@osceolaschools.net>

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## PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support) Expectations

Our mission at NCMS is to build environments in which positive behavior is more effective and more appealing to students than problem behavior. Students are recognized and praised for positive behaviors (i.e. Bear Bucks, Golden Tickets, Positive Referrals, etc.). Students can spend their Bear Bucks at our PBIS events/activities, dress down days, special cafe privileges, and at our Bear's Den in the Cafeteria.

**B**e Responsible  
**E**ncourage Others  
**A**ct Safely  
**R**espect All  
**S**trive For Success





# B E A R S

	<b>Be Responsible</b>	<b>Encourage Others</b>	<b>Act Safely</b>	<b>Respect All</b>	<b>Strive for Success</b>
<b>Hallway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During class have a pass</li> <li>• Walk face forward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep hands and feet to self</li> <li>• Hold doors for others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow Directions</li> <li>• Go directly to your destination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay quiet- classes are in progress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set a good example</li> <li>• Keep hallways clear and clean</li> </ul>
<b>Restroom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wait your turn</li> <li>• Throw trash in receptacle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect privacy</li> <li>• Use kind words and actions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use supplies and equipment</li> <li>• Wash hands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep water in sink</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go, flush, wash</li> <li>• Use time wisely</li> </ul>
<b>Assembly</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sit appropriately</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep hands and feet to yourself</li> <li>• Eyes and ears on speaker</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow directions from adults</li> <li>• Walk at all times</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay in designated area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate</li> <li>• Use appropriate applause</li> </ul>
<b>Cafeteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use an indoor voice</li> <li>• Raise your hand for help</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect other's space</li> <li>• Use kind words and actions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eat only your food</li> <li>• Sit with feet under table</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eat only your food</li> <li>• Put the trash in the trash can</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave a clean table, chair and floor</li> </ul>
<b>Library</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay on Task</li> <li>• Put things away in their proper place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect others trying to read and learn</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow directions from adults</li> <li>• Take care of books and equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return materials on time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be quiet</li> <li>• Use time wisely</li> </ul>
<b>Classroom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise your hand to speak</li> <li>• Stay on task</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pay attention to your teacher</li> <li>• Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself</li> <li>• Use kind words/actions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow instructions</li> <li>• Try your best always</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use classroom materials</li> <li>• Be ready to learn appropriately</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete your work</li> <li>• Organize</li> <li>• Participate</li> </ul>
<b>Bus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch for traffic when entering/exiting</li> <li>• Listen for your stop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep noise down</li> <li>• Use kind words/actions</li> <li>• Keep hands and feet to yourself</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report problems to adult</li> <li>• Keep track of your belongings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay seated face forward</li> <li>• Remember your bus number</li> <li>• Keep your backpack closed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen to bus driver</li> <li>• No eating or drinking</li> <li>• Keep track of your belongings</li> </ul>

## B.E.A.R.S. Den Store

The B.E.A.R.S. store for the academic year 2024-2025 is now open during the three lunch periods, from 11:08 am to 1:30 pm, depending on the DEN Time for each day.

Students that model our B.E.A.R.S. Expectations will be awarded with BEAR BUCKS to be utilized in our Den.

## NCMS Business Partners in Education

Brue Family Dentistry 407-979-4170

Carlyle Orthodontics 407-447-9060

Dr. Sandra Mauro, & Associates 407-505-2020

Hoffner Eye Care 407-207-2020

HomePride Realty Services Inc. (407) 846-0940

Lach Orthodontics 407-359-1960

Mansour Orthodontics 407-846-2150

Marcela Alzate Realtor 321-353-2424

Peter Luu Signature Group w/Premier Sotheby's 407-250-1958

UR Learning Solution 407-658-7575



## Welcome NEW Business Partner in Education

City Beautiful Ballet (a non-profit dance school)

<mailto:info@citybeautifulballet.com>

## Other News and Resources

### Donations

NCMS is always looking for donations of school appropriate jeans for middle school students. Please drop off fairly used or new jeans that are NOT distressed with holes, tears, or frays.

We also welcome other school appropriate clothing such as polo shirts, spirit shirts, kaki's, bermuda shorts, belts and sneakers.

In addition, the school accepts various donations of school supplies. We thank you in advance for your generosity!



### Free Crisis Services

Does your child need social, emotional, or mental health stabilization? Devereux's Mobile Crisis Services, provides free crisis services with trained counselors. Services are available 24 hours a day, every day including weekends and holidays. Dial 2-1-1 or 407-839-HELP (4357).

### ONE MORE CHILD Anti-Trafficking Mobile Team

If you or someone you know has been forced or coerced to perform sexual activities, or promised false opportunities, text or call us to set up a meeting with a mentor, advocate, or clinician.



#### YOU MAY BE A VICTIM IF:

- You are not free to come and go as you wish.
- You are involved in the commercial sex industry (prostitution, stripping, pornography) with a trafficker, or you are under 18.
- You do not have control over your own personal documents/money.
- You were recruited to your job through false promises.
- You are forced to provide labor or commercial sex.

#### SERVICES INCLUDE:

- trauma-informed counseling
- psychoeducation
- court accompaniment

- life skills
- mentorship
- case management
- free food boxes & hygiene items
- access to 24/7 hotline
- advocacy
- referrals to other providers
- interpreter services available

For more information: <https://onemorechild.org> or [antitrafficking@onemorechild.org](mailto:antitrafficking@onemorechild.org)



### Important Information for 7th Grade:

All students entering 7th grade must provide the school with an updated immunization record (FL form 680/white form). All 7th grade students must have (1) Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine and all other required vaccines must be up-to-date.

After receiving the Tdap, please email the form to: [ncmsregistration@osceolaschools.net](mailto:ncmsregistration@osceolaschools.net)

For FREE Vaccines, contact The Osceola County Health Department at 407-343-2066. Located on Fortune Road in Kissimmee.

### Adult Learning Opportunity/Oportunidad de aprendizaje para adultos!

#### ALCO

Nighttime English Classes for Adults at ALCO or at Narcoossee Middle School.

English Classes each Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30-8:30 PM.

For more information, contact Carolina Figueroa at NCMS 407-891-6600 or ALCO at 407-518-8140.



You may apply at: <https://otech.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/apply/>

#### Clases de Ingles para Adultos en ALCO o Narcoossee Middle School.

Clases cada martes y jueves de 5:30-8:30 PM.

Contacte a Carolina Figueroa en NCMS al 407-891-6600 o ALCO al 407-518-8140 para mas información.

Puede presentar su solicitud en: <https://otech.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/apply/>



### Narcoossee Middle School- Home of the Bears

AVID National Demonstration School

*Mission Statement: Our number one priority is student achievement with high expectations being the responsibility of our entire school community.*

**Website:** [www.ncms.osceolaschools.net](http://www.ncms.osceolaschools.net)

**Location:** [2700 North Narcoossee Road, St. Cloud, FL, USA](#)

**Phone:** 407-891-6600, **Fax:** 407-891-6610

**FaceBook:** <http://www.facebook.com/NCMSbears>

**Instagram:** ncmsblackbears

*Dr. Francisco Rivera Mieles, Principal*  
*Lucile Schneider, Assistant Principal*  
*Jamie Hopkins, Assistant Principal*  
*Carolina Figueroa, A-F Dean*  
*Marlenys Vargas-Ortiz, G-O Dean*  
*Samantha Alfred, P-Z Dean*  
*Ronaldo Ortiz, A-F Counselor/PBIS*  
*Dr. Gloria Martinez, G-O Counselor/MTSS/FIT*  
*Maria Morales, P-Z Counselor*  
*Heather Biela, Media Specialist*  
*Marisha Smalling, Literacy Coach*  
*Gabrielle Tandlich, Math Coach*  
*Frances Velez-Collazo, Testing Coordinator*  
*Meg Hodge, RCS*  
*Marianela Abreu DeJesus, ESOL Compliance*  
*Kremsa Susla, Psychologist*  
*Michelle Lauria, Social Worker*  
*Marisol Losada, Occupational Therapist*  
*Bethany Contreras, Speech Therapist*  
*Clifford Childs, Computer Technician*



**Francisco Rivera**

Francisco is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters