

# Bear Paw Times

Volume 16, Issue 10 - May 2025



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**May**

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## **Message from the Principal**

Dear NCMS Parents/Guardians: It is hard to believe this is my second year as the principal of Narcossee Middle School (NCMS). In many ways, last year was incredible, as one of our most

significant accomplishments was that we became an A-rated school and the highest-performing middle school in the school district. It was due to the hard work of all our students and staff who persevered throughout the year, which resulted in a strong performance on every standardized test in every grade level.

As we continue to build on last year's successes, I wanted to showcase all the wonderful activities and programs that have thrived and continue to thrive at NCMS. We are still AVID strong, as we have three magnificent teachers who continue to run an incredibly successful program and who are able to use our school for an AVID showcase for the second year in a row. In terms of academic clubs, we still offered VEX, Sphero, Odyssey of the Mind, Battle of the Books, Mathletes, and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). Additionally, the media center underwent a transformation, as we are trying to make it a place where students can feel connected to literacy daily. One of the ways we do so is by hosting author visits, so students can have first-hand experience with published authors and gain insight into the writing process. Moreover, we are in year two of our PBIS revamp, and I'm happy to say that it is going strong with karaoke, social hours, soccer penalty shootouts, and staff vs. students' games. In addition, the PBIS BEAR store continues to open, and we partnered with PBIS to host our Winter FAST Party, where students earned pizza, a treat, and time with their friends as they listened to music. This year, they had to be on track to meet their learning gains and proficiency compared to last year's PM3 to earn the reward.

At NCMS, we not only focus on academics, but we also are very focus on the arts and sports. We've had two amazing concerts for band, chorus, and orchestra that displayed the musical talents of our Black Bears. Our students have been able to participate in multiple Music Performance Assessments (MPAs), and some of our students were selected for All-County Band, Jazz Band, and Chorus, which is an incredible honor. In athletics, we have remained competitive in all middle school sports with active participation by students in tryouts and by parents during home and away games.

Even though last year was amazing, this year, we remained focused and reflected on the areas we could improve on, as my goal is always to ensure Black Bears can become the best versions of themselves. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward", and at NCMS we never stop moving.

Dr. Francisco Rivera Mieles  
Principal

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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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## Band News

Band Spring Concert!  
Wednesday, May 14th  
Tohopekaliga High School Auditorium  
6pm  
See Ms. Hawkins for ticket information in room 1-115



All bands: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced & Jazz will be performing 😊

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## AVID News

It is hard to believe the 2024-2025 school year is quickly coming to an end. Our AVID students in 8th grade are preparing for a major life shift as they select high school classes and depart NCMS with many college goals in mind. Our 6th and 7th grade AVID students have been prepared to move up with new knowledge about careers and skills to help them achieve academic success. We have learned so much this year in AVID and we are so proud to be the only school in Osceola county with 3 sections of AVID offered in our schedule. As an AVID National Demonstration School, we



hold our AVID students to very high expectations and we believe each student is capable of unlimited success. We will finish this month conducting AVID interviews with new applicants and preparing and planning for the 2025-2026 school year. Our plans are to continue to support all students at NCMS in their career and college readiness quest so that every student who passes through our school feels enriched with the knowledge to pursue their greatest dreams. Thank you for an AMAZING year in AVID! Remember, NCMS is #AVIDstrong!

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## Media Center News

Please make sure you return your library books. You can drop them off outside the media center or bring them to Mrs. Biela.

8th Grade Students: Please make sure you check that your account is clear. Do not go to high school with library books or fines on your account. Mrs. Biela will help you clear your account.

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## Thank You Partners in Education!

Special thank you to the following Partners in Education for sponsoring our Teacher Appreciation Week.

UR Learning Solution- Lisa Marie Velarde

Lach Orthodontics Specialist- Dr. Lach

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Thank you to all of our Partners in Education for their continued support of our students and staff. Listed are a few things that our PIE donation supports.

FIT program (food for our families in transition)

Book fair gift certificates for students

Back packs for students

Gradventure for 8th grade students who could not afford to attend

Positive Referral treats

Honor Roll treats

Teacher Appreciation treats

Bus Driver Appreciation Day

Bear Awards treats and much more.

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# Testing Information

## Testing REMINDERS:

In order to be prepared for testing, students should have their computers charged, eat a good meal, come prepared, on time, and be well rested 😊 If your child has lost their charger, you can purchase a new one on [Myschoolbucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com) or you can purchase one somewhere else as long as the charger is 65W.

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

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## Upcoming Testing Dates

- **Monday, May 5** – FAST PM3 ELA Reading (modified school-wide schedule)
  - **Tuesday, May 6** – FAST PM3 Math (modified school-wide schedule)
  - **Thursday, May 8** – Biology & FSSA Science (modified school-wide schedule)
  - **Tuesday, May 13** – Civics EOC (modified school-wide schedule)
  - **Thursday, May 15** – Algebra / Geometry EOC (modified school-wide schedule)
  - (Students who have small group testing or FLVS may have different testing dates)
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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.



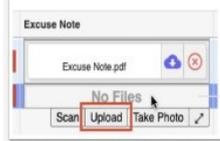
UPLOADING AN  
ABSENT NOTE IN  
PARENT PORTAL

## 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](http://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.

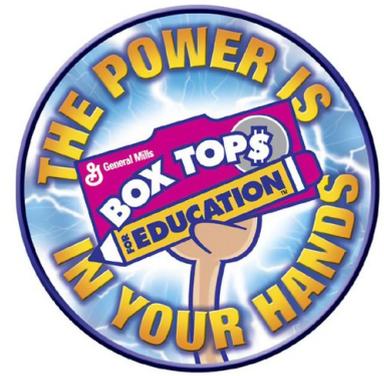


## Box Tops for Education

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>

## District News

District tutoring opportunity.

An advertisement for Varsity Tutors for Schools. It features a young woman with dark curly hair sitting at a desk, looking at a laptop. Overlaid on the image is a chat window titled 'Chat Tutoring' with a 'Free' badge. The chat window contains the text: 'I need help with my homework. It's due tomorrow! Please help.' and a 'Submit Question' button. In the top left corner, it says '24/7 On-Demand Chat Tutoring'. In the top right corner, there is a red banner with the word 'NEW!' and a circular logo for 'THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OSCEOLA COUNTY FLORIDA' featuring a portrait of a man and the year '1887'. At the bottom right, the Varsity Tutors for Schools logo is visible.

24/7 On-Demand  
Chat Tutoring

**Free**

**Chat Tutoring**

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

Submit Question

**NEW!**

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

## Mark Your Calendar

5/2-Gradventure

5/5-FAST ELA

5/6-FAST Math

5/8-Biology and Science  
5/13-Civics EOC  
5/15-Algebra/Geometry EOC  
5/16-8th Grade Dance  
5/28-8th Grade Awards Ceremony  
5/29-FAST FEST  
5/30-8th Grade Promotion Ceremony (During School)  
Last Day of School

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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

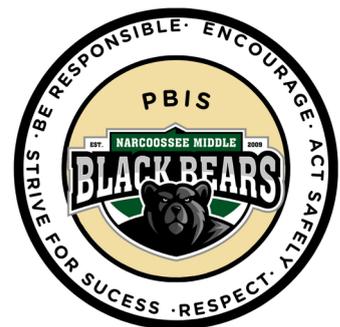
For more information,  
<mailto:Stephani.Mckeown@osceolaschools.net>

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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.

Be Responsible  
Encourage Others  
Act Safely  
Respect All  
Strive 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 TO OUR NEW BUSINESS PARTNER, OSCEOLA FLAG FOOTBALL!



Osceola Flag Football.pdf

Download  
321.6 KB

## 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.



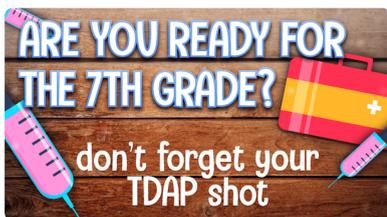
#### YOU MAY BE A VICTIM IF:

- 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/>

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*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*



## **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



**Francisco Rivera**

Francisco is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters