

Educational Choices and **INNOVATION**



Osceola County
SCHOOL DISTRICT



NEW THIS MONTH:

Importance of Attendance - Missing School Adds Up!

School Spotlight - Pleasant Hill Elementary

Hispanic Heritage Month

Important Dates

Importance of Attendance - Missing School Adds Up!

The 2023-2024 school year has begun, and we want to take a moment to emphasize the importance of students attending school on a regular basis. Over two decades of research indicate that children who attend school regularly achieve academic success and are more likely than their peers who are chronically absent to excel not only in grades K-12 but in college, the workforce, and beyond.

Students that experience **chronic absenteeism** (*missing two or more days of school a month-18 days or 10% of the school year - excused or unexcused absences*) during **grades KG thru 5th** are likely to **fall behind** as they miss valuable information necessary to build a solid foundation in the areas of **reading and math**; this can cause students to **struggle** throughout elementary school. Unfortunately, these absences have also been **linked to course failure** during the middle school years and indicate that some students **drop out** at the high school level.

Below are some tips to help keep your child in attendance and learning.

- Don't let your child stay home unless they are sick. Keep in mind complaints of stomachache can be a sign on anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- Develop back-up plans for getting your child to school if something comes up.
- Take a few minutes each day to talk with your child about their day at school.
- Emphasize the importance of being at school to learn and socialize with their peers.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in season.
- Create and use the FOCUS Parent Portal to check your child's attendance and make sure that they are marked present in all of their classes.
- Communicate with the school and your child's teacher.
- Ask for help when you need it.

Help your child succeed in school and in life by making school attendance a priority.

“Attend today, and achieve tomorrow.”

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

PLEASANT HILL ELEMENTARY

Home of the Pandas



Pleasant Hill Elementary is a community of leaders committed to cultivating a safe and caring learning environment that enables all students to become college and career ready through a rigorous curriculum that challenges students at all levels. The staff at Pleasant Hill is a dedicated group of educators with the common goal of reaching students at their academic level and maximizing their growth potential. Pleasant Hill Elementary will equip students with the tools necessary to be successful today, tomorrow, and for the future. The road to success begins at Pleasant Hill.

Who We Are:

AVID Demonstration School
Imagine Learning School of Excellence

Enrichment Offerings:

Battle of the Books
Bookmark Buddies
Chess Club
Garden Club

Arts:

Disney Musical in Schools
Musical Theater
Art Club
Chorus

Clubs:

Morning News
Running Club
Safety Patrol
Scouting

Visit www.osceolaschools.net/phes to learn more about our school.

Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15th through October 15th

Driving Prosperity, Power, and Progress in America

Hispanic Heritage Month is observed annually in the United States. During this time, there are many festivities and learning opportunities that celebrate Hispanic communities, their cultures, rich histories, diversity and the contributions made to U.S. history. Hispanic Americans have contributed to various industries, such as music, film, sports, literature, and politics. In keeping the momentum of this year's theme: *Driving Prosperity, Power, and Progress in America*, it is important to share that the Hispanic community contributes over \$800 billion to the U.S. economy annually through Hispanic-owned businesses.

As of July 1, 2022, according to the United States Census Bureau, Florida and twelve other states have one million or more Hispanic residents—totaling 63.7 million Hispanics in the U.S. or 19.1% of the total population. While the Hispanic community makes up 19.1% of the population, it also brings over 4 million Hispanic-owned businesses to the U.S.—approximately 10% of all the businesses in the country. The 2020 State of Latino Entrepreneurship identified construction, finance and insurance, transportation and warehousing, and real estate as some of the top businesses owned by Hispanics. While the top 5 states for Hispanic-owned businesses are Texas, New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona, and California, 30 % of Florida's real estate transactions are made by Hispanics that are investing in real estate according to the National Association of Realtors.

Join in on the fun and check out one or all of the many things to do during Hispanic Heritage Month in Central Florida.

- Osceola County Welcome Center - ¡Hola History! Exhibit
- Kissimmee Hispanic Heritage - Ford Taste of Latino Festival
- Downtown Orlando - Festival Calle Orange
- Viva Osceola 2023
- Lake Nona Hispanic Heritage Festival
- Tampa's Perry Harvey Sr. Park Viva Tampa Bay Hispanic Heritage Festival

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

September 4th - Labor Day - No School

September 22nd - Prof. Dev. Day/No School

October 13th - Teacher Work Day/No School

SAVE THE DATE - 2023 CHOICE Fair

Thursday, November 16th at Osceola Heritage Park