

A Message from the Principal

Hello Sea Lion Nation,

I remain eternally grateful for the community of support that we have and continue to build. Through you and this partnership we share, I have the privilege to be able to truthfully say that I come to work each day with both joy and appreciation. I thank you for that privilege and your continued commitment.

As a school we have had such an improvement overall. This includes a substantial increase and improvement in our school data compared to this point in time last school year. Community involvement is much more noticeable. We have earned an "A" school grade this year! This is such an amazing accomplishment that was only possible through the hard work of the students, teachers, faculty and staff, parents, and community members. The number one way that you can help your student be successful this year is to make sure students are present in school. If students are not present, they cannot learn the material presented in class. Thank you to those that come to school ready to learn and are striving for excellence.

Gooooo Sea Lions!!

Damian Rosado, Principal

School Address and Important Phone Numbers

Southwest Middle School
6450 Dr. Phillips Blvd. • Orlando, FL 32819
Phone: (407) 370-7200 • Fax: (407) 370-7210

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Front Desk | 5252221 |
| Secretary | 5252223 |
| Bookkeeper | 5252225 |
| Clinic | 5252229 |
| Attendance | 5252220 |
| Cafeteria | 5252226 |
| Media Center | 5252227 |
| Discipline Office | 5252244 |

Vision

A safe place where higher learning, creativity, and an appreciation for diversity lead to achievement.

Mission

To create a safe environment where learning is our priority, diversity is respected, and achievements are celebrated.

Core Values

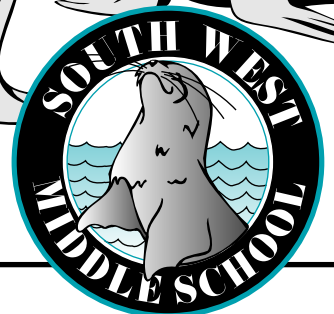
We are committed to providing:

- A Safe and Respectful Learning Environment
- Rigorous Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessments
- Supportive Interventions for Academics and Behavior
- A Caring Atmosphere Where Family Involvement is Embraced

VOL 32 | NO. 1 | NOVEMBER 2024

the SEA LANE

FOR THE PARENTS, STAFF & COMMUNITY OF SOUTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL





SAFE

Ms. Kia Myrick, SAFE Coordinator
Email: mukia.myrick@ocps.net

Below are resources that you can use if your child is ever in need of immediate mental health support or crisis intervention:

Mobile Crisis Services

Call 211 or 407-839-HELP for Mobile Crisis Services. Mobile crisis services are available to anyone ages 0-24 located in Orange, Osceola, or Seminole County at the time of crisis. A master level therapist will respond to homes, schools, or anywhere within the tri-county community, within 60 minutes to provide immediate on-site crisis stabilization. Crisis therapists also connect families with additional long-term services in order to maintain stabilization. Services are free but parental consent is required.

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org.

Ms. Kayla Rivers, School Social Worker
Email: kayla.rivers@ocps.net



Sports Schedule

3rd quarter- Basketball

Basketball Tryouts:
January 8th-10th

4th quarter- Track

Track Tryouts:
March 5th-7th



Testing

Students completed FAST Reading and Math Testing throughout the month of September and Progress Monitoring Assessments (PMAs) the first week of October. The next round of FAST testing will be on Tuesday December 3rd for Reading and Thursday December 5th for Math. Semester Exams and Quarter 2 PMAs will be administered during the week of December 9th. There will be a modified bell schedule sent out closer to the test window.

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OCPS 2024-25 School Calendar

| Date(s) | Event |
|----------------|--|
| Nov. 25-29 | Thanksgiving Break |
| Dec. 20 | End of Second Marking Period |
| Dec. 23-Jan. 3 | Winter Break |
| Jan. 6 | Teacher Workday/Student Holiday |
| Jan. 7 | Begin Third Marking Period, Begin Second Semester |
| Jan. 20 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, Schools and District Offices Closed |
| Feb. 17 | Presidents' Day/Teacher Non-Work Day, Schools Closed/District Offices Open |
| Mar. 13 | End of Third Marking Period |
| Mar. 14 | Teacher Workday/Student Holiday |
| Mar. 17-21 | Spring Break, Schools Closed/District Offices Open |
| Mar. 24 | Begin Fourth Marking Period |
| May 26 | Memorial Day Holiday, Schools and District Offices Closed |
| May 28 | End of Fourth Marking Period, Last Day of School |
| May 29-30 | Post Planning |



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 Orange County Public Schools
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 Orlando, FL 32802-0271

Prioritized Severe Weather Make-Up Days

| Priority | Date | Current Use |
|----------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Oct. 25, 2024 | Professional Day/Student Holiday |
| 2 | Nov. 25, 2024 | Mon. of Thanksgiving Break |
| 3 | Nov. 26, 2024 | Tue. of Thanksgiving Break |
| 4 | Nov. 27, 2024 | Wed. of Thanksgiving Break |
| 5 | Feb. 17, 2025 | Presidents' Day |
| 6 | Mar. 21, 2025 | Fri. of Spring Break |
| 7 | Mar. 20, 2025 | Thu. of Spring Break |
| 8 | Mar. 19, 2025 | Wed. of Spring Break |
| 9 | Mar. 18, 2025 | Tue. of Spring Break |
| 10 | Mar. 17, 2025 | Mon. of Spring Break |



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Amber Eastwood, ARNP
 Ana Souto, ARNP
 Debbie Franks
 Office Manager



7635 Ashley Park Court • Suite 501
 Orlando, FL 32835

Curriculum News



ELA

How to help your middle schooler in ELA.

Sports, screens, sleepovers: The life of a middle schooler is busy and frenetic.

During this charged transition between the preteen and teenage years, it might seem like getting your kids to do their homework is enough. But the truth is, a reading routine remains as essential now to your child's schedule — and growth — as it was in elementary school. At this age, your child is reading for knowledge, further exploring their interests and discovering their subject strengths.

The chance to escape and enter another realm through books, if only temporarily, offers a way for middle schoolers to balance the tensions of adolescence. It's a moment of personal calm that can be found only in books.

Things you can do with your middle schooler *to encourage reading*.

- **Talk about what they're reading.** Asking your child what they like about their books compels them to make connections and think critically. Summarizing and sequencing events will challenge their reading comprehension (which is a significant component of standardized testing).
- **Play games that utilize reading.** If you have a family game night, try incorporating word- and vocabulary-based games, like Scrabble or Boggle. Completing crosswords in the morning is another opportunity for learning new words and practicing spelling.
- **Provide access to audiobooks.** Books on tape are an easy way to connect your child with the rhythms and pace of a story — and they're surprisingly successful among this age group. Whether you're heading on vacation or just back-and-forth to school, try listening to a book that appeals to everyone. Equip your child's mobile device with an audiobook platform as well, so they can listen on their own time.

For more ideas, please visit the source article <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/reading-resources/developing-reading-skills/17-ways-to-keep-your-middle-schooler-turning-pages.html>.

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Social Studies

6th grade World History students just finished learning about basics of History, Early Humans and the first Civilizations, Mesopotamia, and Mesoamerica. Did you know that the Mesoamericans never advanced past the stone age?

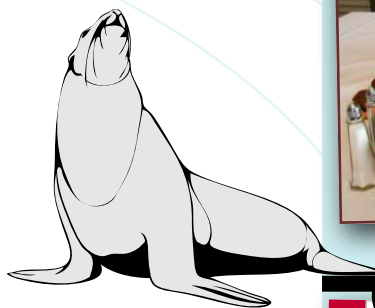


7th grade Civics students learned about the basics of Government, types of governments, the Declaration of Independence, and the early government of the United States during the first quarter. During the second quarter, students will learn about the US Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the three branches of the US Government.

8th Grade US History students have recently completed the units covering the settlement of North American and the French and Indian War. We are excited to begin Quarter 2 diving into the founding of our nation with the Causes of the American Revolution.

Science

8th grade science completed quarter 1 with labs, interactive notebook assignments, and digital assignments. Students were engaged in engineering activities using playing cards to support as many textbooks as possible. Labs also covered calculating acceleration and velocity. Quarter 2 will be focused on increasing student involvement in project-based learning and more lab activities. The 8th grade Science team is very excited for the activities in quarter 2.



Mathematics

6th grade math classes have spent the first quarter practicing number sense and exploring negative numbers with integers. In the second quarter they will study operations with fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals. We will explore the four quadrants of the coordinate plane, and investigate ratios, rates, and proportions. The 6th grade math teachers are confident those students who stay engaged will build a solid foundation for future mathematical challenges!

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Clubs News

C+Lions

This year, we have a new club on campus, the C+Lions. This is a competition club that will be part of the Orlando Robotics League First Tech Challenge. As a rookie team, we are still building our robot at the time of this article, but we have all of the components to build with. We are currently working on a logo and T-shirts.

Student Government

Southwest SGA is off to a great start! Our focus this first marking period has been on leadership: identifying what leadership is, what it entails, what it looks like, etc. On November 6th, some of the members of SGA will be attending a Leadership Workshop as part of Disney's Imagination Campus. We plan to bring what we have learned back to the Sea Lion Nation. During the second marking period, we will continue our partnership with Junior Achievement of Central Florida to learn about financial literacy as well as having career guest speakers.

Elections for leadership positions were held on October 7th. Please congratulate the following students for their new positions:

President: Novak Petrusic

VP: Tedy Messinger

Secretary: Sawyer Brooks

Treasurers: Austin Backovsky and Alexa Phillips

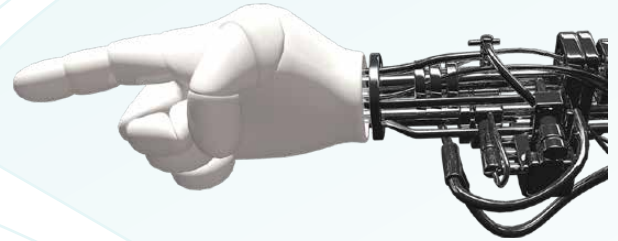
6th grade Rep: Grace Williams

8th grade Rep: Olivia Perdomo

We plan to hold a special election for 7th grade Rep soon.

Chess Club

Our Chess Club has met several times and had some great lessons and matches. As a reminder, Chess Club meets on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays of each month.



STEM

Thank you PTSA for our new Bambu A1 Mini 3D Printer. This will help expand student printing opportunities for their own designs.

Orchestra

Rockestra 2024 is being held at LBVHS on Monday, October 21 and 7 PM. Come rock out with our orchestra as they perform classic rock and pop hits by Joan Jett, Heart, Imagine Dragons, Black Violin, and more! Free admission.



A few spots are left!



We need you!

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Yearbooks

Yearbooks pre-orders are available online. Yearbooks are pre-order only to be distributed at the end of the year. Prices increase on December 1st. Visit JOSTENS.COM/BUYYEARBK to preorder. You can also call 1-877-767-5217 to speak with a representative.


Yearbook Recognition ads are the perfect way to commemorate achievements and celebrate milestones. In addition, revenues from Recognition Ads help our school create a better yearbook. To purchase your ad online, follow the steps below. The deadline to order an ad page is January 21, 2025.

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School Ad Content Guidelines
Our school reserves the right to edit ads per our guidelines. Please make sure all submitted materials are appropriate for school publication.


How are the ad prices determined and what is the money used for?
Recognition ad prices are determined by our school. Revenue from recognition ads helps the school create a better, more affordable yearbook.

How is the ad deadline determined?
The ad deadline is set by our school based on the production schedule for the yearbook.

Can I create my student's ad on my mobile device?
Yes, yearbook ads can be created online from both desktop and mobile devices.



(800) 358-0800
jostensadservice.com/student





School Counselors

6th Grade Counselor

Ms. Jill Jay, Jill.Jay@ocps.net

7th Grade Counselor

Mr. Claribar Guerrero,
Claribar.Guerrero@ocps.net

8th Grade Counselor

Mr. Rene Guity, Rene.Guity@ocps.net

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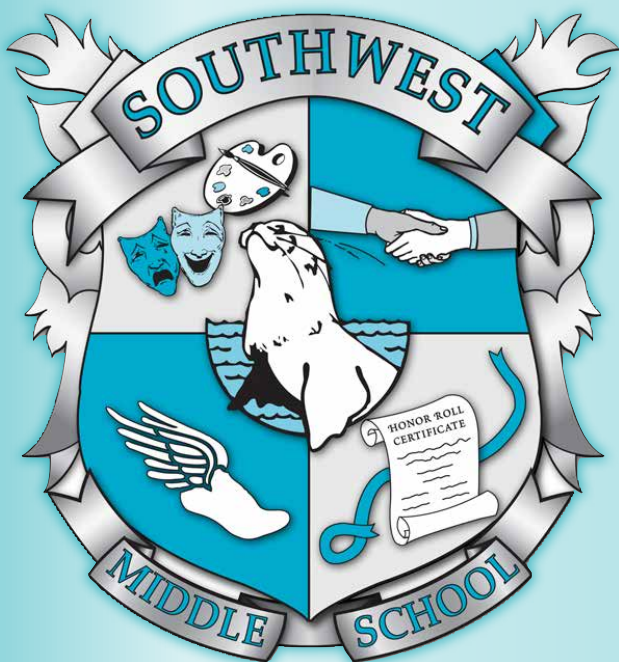
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and more!