

PARENT GUIDE

2019-2020



All In!



VOLUSIA COUNTY SCHOOLS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with great anticipation and enthusiasm that I welcome you back to the 2019-2020 school year. This is the 16th year we have published the Parent Guide, and on the following pages you will find multiple resources to support your child's academic success, as well as information about immunization requirements, student dress code, school calendar, extended day and the new Before the Bell program for middle school students. This publication also includes state requirements for students at the elementary, middle and high school level, as well as on-line learning options.

Volusia County Schools is the 13th largest school district in the state of Florida with 85 traditional, alternative, virtual and charter schools and more than 7,500 employees. The district is fully accredited as a quality school system by AdvancED and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Again this year, we expect to welcome more than 63,000 students (pre-K through grade 12) to our classrooms.

We invite you to visit the district website (vcsedu.org) and your child's school website for the latest information, news and announcements. You will also find valuable information on the district's Facebook page (Volusia County Schools) and Twitter account (@volusiaschools). Parents who have questions or concerns are encouraged to contact their child's teacher or the school principal.

Our schools are eager to welcome you and encourage you to be actively involved in your child's education. Attend school events, establish accounts to access grades, participate in parent/teacher conferences, become an advocate through School Advisory Councils, parent teacher organizations or volunteer in your child's classroom! Your actions will reinforce the value of education in your child's life.

Our goal at Volusia County Schools is to build and strengthen a collaborative atmosphere that is dedicated to working in the best interest of our students. It takes more than our teachers, support staff, and administrators to accomplish this - we need you as a partner for our district to continue the work in reaching our shared goal of excellence for our students.

It is my honor and privilege to serve as your superintendent and I look forward to working with you in the 2019-2020 school year.

Sincerely,



Timothy Paul Egnor
Superintendent of Schools



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Your Rights as a Parent

There are times when you may need to be an advocate for your child at school. You may need to speak up when you see that your child's needs are not being met. Getting to know your child's school and teacher is the first step in being a good advocate. According to the Florida Department of Education you have the right to:

- Examine your child's school records and look at test results and teacher comments. If you see things you don't understand, ask the teacher or school principal for an explanation.
- Be a part of developing an individual educational plan to meet your child's needs if your child is in a special education program.
- Request parent-teacher conferences during the school year. Write down your questions and concerns before the meeting. Remember you are in a position to share important information as well as ask questions. (See page 19—Successful Parent-Teacher Conferences.)
- Ask for a review of the decision if your child is suspended from school.

Volusia County Schools' chain of support

If you have an issue with your child at school, first talk with your child's teacher. If the teacher is unable to help you resolve the issue, seek assistance from others. The chain of support is as follows:

- Your Child's Teacher....
- School Principal....
- Area Superintendent...
- Superintendent...
- School Board



Enrollment

Children eligible for kindergarten enrollment must be five years old on or before September 1. Children eligible for first grade enrollment must have completed kindergarten in a public or non-public school and must be six years old on or before September 1. Entrance requirements for any Volusia County public school include:

- a certified birth certificate or other legal evidence of date of birth;
- Florida Certification of Immunization record;
- State of Florida School Entry Physical health examination within the last 12 months;
- two different proofs of residence/address of the school district attendance area.



2019-2020 School Immunization Requirements for School Entry and Attendance



Immunizations

All students entering Volusia County Schools must have current immunizations, unless the student has a medical or religious exemption. Contact your physician or Volusia County Health Department.

<i>Immunization Requirements</i>															
Vaccine/Grade	# of Doses	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
DTP/DT/DTaP	4/5*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Polio (OPV/IPV)	4/5 **	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MMR	Shot #1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Measles/MMR	Shot #2	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tdap/Td	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hepatitis B	2/3***	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Varicella	2/1***	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

- * If the 4th dose of DTP/DT/DTaP is given on or after the 4th birthday, a 5th dose is not required.
- ** If the 4th dose of Polio (OPV/IPV) is given on or after the 4th birthday, a 5th dose is not required.
- *** Three dose series required for all students entering or attending pre-k and kindergarten. An alternative two dose hepatitis B vaccine series for adolescent 11 through 15 years of age has been approved. Children who receive the two dose series should be considered in compliance.
- **** Beginning with the 2008/2009 school year, children entering kindergarten will be required to receive two doses of varicella vaccine. The one dose varicella requirement started in the 2001/2002 school year. Varicella is not required if there is a history of documented disease. Two doses of varicella vaccine for kindergarten and grades one through eleven.

Meningococcal Disease

Meningococcal disease is a serious illness caused by bacteria. It is a leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2-18 years of age in the United States. Person-to-person transmission occurs with close contact with respiratory secretions or saliva. A dose of MCV4 is recommended for children and adolescents 11-18 years of age. For those who have never received MCV4 a dose is recommended at high school entry. For additional information please refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/mening/who-vaccinate.htm>.

Florida Certification of Immunization Form DH 680

Form DH 680, Florida Certification of Immunization is the only document that schools are permitted to accept as proof of immunization. The child's name, date of birth, parent/guardian's name, all the vaccines and dates, and the appropriate section(s) on the reverse side of the form, must be completed. If a child has not had all of the doses required to complete each immunization series, the Temporary Medical Exemption section (Part B) of the DH 680 should be completed by the child's primary care provider.

Volusia County Health Department Clinics

Main Line: 386-274-0500, www.volusiahealth.com
 Daytona Beach: 1845 Holsonback Drive, 32117
 Immunizations—386-274-0569
 New Smyrna Beach: 717 W. Canal St., 32168, 386-424-2065
 Orange City: 775 Harley Strickland Blvd., Suites 106, 108, &110
 386-457-6300

If a child has not completed a vaccine series (Hepatitis B, DTP, or Polio) which requires more than one shot over a period of months, a Temporary Medical Exemption, with an expiration date, must be completed on the DH 680 form.

What My Child Should Be Learning in Elementary School

The Florida Department of Education has implemented the Language Arts Florida Standards (LAFS) and Mathematics Florida Standards (MAFS). The Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) are being implemented in science and social studies. These standards provide learning goals for students in every grade. The following are some important skills from the LAFS, MAFS and NGSSS that your child should be learning in school, kindergarten through grade five:

- Read a variety of literary and informational text (books, magazines, newspapers, and stories) and be able to explain what they have read
- Respond verbally and in writing to multiple sources
- Revise and edit writing, by correcting spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure
- Learn to read and create maps, graphs, tables, and diagrams that visually represent information
- Learn to be creative and think critically through participation in the visual and performing arts
- Do hands-on projects in school
- Design and conduct scientific investigations—including experiments
- Associate learning with real-world situations
- Communicate scientific procedures and explanations
 - Develop movement competency and locomotor skills
 - Recognize healthy behaviors, including the importance of physical activity
- Build foundations in vocabulary and content for Physical Science, Earth and Space Sciences, and Life Sciences
- Attain required fluencies in mathematics such as operations with whole numbers and fractions
- Use the Standards of Mathematical Practice in order to solve real-world problems
 - Develop a conceptual understanding of place value; whole number, fraction, and decimal operations; measurement and data; geometry; and algebraic thinking
 - Attain required fluencies in mathematics such as operations with whole numbers and fractions
- Study and learn about other countries (traditions, foods, cultures)
- Study the history and geography of Florida and the United States
- Understand the basic structure of the U.S. Government and the rights and responsibilities of citizens
- Use a computer for simple writing assignments and educational programs



Elementary students may participate in the Science Exposition, Social Studies Fair, Fitness Festivals, World Languages Festival, STEM and robotics fairs and competitions, various music and art events, including festivals, competitions, and exhibits, as well as numerous other community and school events.

Extended Day Enrichment Program (EDEP)

EDEP was developed in response to the present and growing need for supervised programs for elementary age students during the out of school hours. The program offers supervised enrichment programs, including homework monitoring and academic enrichment, exploration of fine and performing arts, technology, and recreational activities, as well as development of friendships and leisure time skills to approximately 3600 students. During the 2019-2020 school year, the School Board of Volusia County will offer this program at 40 schools. For more information, contact any school where the program is offered:

Blue Lake, Champion, Chisholm, Citrus Grove, Coronado Beach, Cypress Creek, Deltona Lakes, Discovery, Edgewater, Enterprise, Forest Lake, Freedom, Friendship, George Marks, Holly Hill, Horizon, Indian River, Longstreet, Manatee Cove, McInnis, Orange City, Ormond Beach, Osceola, Osteen, Palm Terrace, Pathways, Pierson, Pine Trail, Port Orange, Pride, Read-Pattillo, South Daytona, Spirit, Spruce Creek, Sugar Mill, Sunrise, Sweetwater, Timbercrest, Volusia Pines, and Woodward Avenue elementary schools.

Before the Bell is a new program in 2019-2020 for middle school students offering supervision, homework time, games and sports prior to the school day from 6:30 a.m.—9 a.m.

The “Middle School” Years

Why a “Middle” School?

Between the ages of 10 and 14, children experience more physical changes than at any other time in their lives except from birth to age two. Children “in the middle” are often characterized by mood swings and feelings of insecurity. Their behavior can vary from mature to immature. They may feel confused and perplexed by their rapidly changing bodies, while their need for approval increases.



When friends become essential to them, middle-schoolers want to dress alike, walk alike, and talk alike. They value approval from adults but need approval from their friends. In order to meet these dramatic changes, the school has had to change from within. Middle schools (grades 6-8) in Volusia County are student-centered institutions where children reach high standards and high expectations as they transition from childhood to adolescence. Middle school teachers in Volusia County Schools are dedicated to academic progress. As students work toward independence, teachers encourage students to develop a positive identity by establishing and maintaining high standards and high expectations for all students.

Middle School Parents and Families

National research has shown that children are more successful in school when their parents and families are involved in their education. The middle school staff is eager to work with families. When possible, conferences are arranged so that families can meet with all of the student’s teachers at the same time. Volusia County middle schools are designed to bridge the gap between elementary schools and high schools.

Middle-Schoolers and the Florida Standards



The curriculum for middle-schoolers represents high standards and high expectations. Each subject taught has its own curriculum map — a living document that demonstrates the alignment between Volusia County’s curriculum and the Florida Standards (as well as Florida’s Next Generation Sunshine State Standards where applicable). The curriculum maps confirm what students should know and be able to do by the time they reach high school.

Promotion

In order to be promoted from grade 6 to grade 7 to grade 8, a student must make acceptable progress in at least five of seven courses per grade level to include at least three of the four core courses: English, mathematics, science, and social studies. In order to be promoted to grade 9, middle school students must successfully complete three courses in English, three courses in mathematics, three courses in science, and three courses in social studies (one of which must be Civics).

Online Learning Options

Several *online learning options* are offered to students in grades K-12. These options include Volusia Online Learning Full-Time Instruction, Volusia Online Learning Part-Time Instruction, eLearning programs, and more. For detailed information on Online Learning Options and other graduation requirements, please refer to page 11 of this guide.

Course Retrieval Labs are available at each middle school as a blended learning environment to recoup a passing grade in one or more quarters of a course. The labs provide a competency-based, online curriculum coupled with a face-to-face certified teacher to help them remain on track for promotion. More information can be obtained through each school’s guidance department. To learn more about a student’s online learning options, please visit www.volusiaonlinelearning.com.

Middle-Schoolers Compete

Opportunities for middle-schoolers to exhibit and participate in annual events abound in Volusia County. Examples of past competitions are the Battle of the Books, Science Fair, Science Olympiad, Social Studies Fair, World Languages Festival, Fitness Festival, MATHCOUNTS, Spelling Bee, STEM and robotics fairs and competitions, numerous music festivals and competitions, as well as community and school art shows and displays.

Exploring the Opportunities in High School



All public high school programs meet or exceed state requirements. Extensive offerings are available in language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, music, dance, theatre, art, world languages, career and technical education, and physical education. High schools also have specialized credit retrieval labs, which provide an opportunity for high school students to retrieve failed credits through a competency-based, online curriculum and remain on track for graduation. Specific courses, including elective offerings, vary between schools based on student demand, community needs, and staff availability.

High School Students and the Florida Standards

The curriculum for high school students represents high standards and high expectations. Each subject taught has its own curriculum map — a living document that demonstrates the alignment between Volusia County’s curriculum and the Florida Standards (as well as Florida’s Next Generation Sunshine State Standards where applicable). The curriculum maps confirm what students should know and be able to do by the time they graduate high school.

Special academic programs include **Advanced Placement (AP)** at all high schools, which offers students the opportunity to take college level courses while still in high school. Many colleges give credit and/or advanced college standing to students who attain an acceptable score of three or above (5-point scale) on an AP examination.

The **International Baccalaureate (IB)** program is offered at DeLand and Spruce Creek high schools and necessitates a specific entrance requirement. This program is designed for students seeking admission to competitive four-year, postsecondary institutions. Students must take a sequenced curriculum and participate in exit exams, which could qualify the student for college credit or advanced standing.

The **Cambridge AICE** program is offered at Deltona, New Smyrna Beach, Pine Ridge, Seabreeze and University high schools and necessitates a specific entrance requirement. This program is designed for students seeking admission to competitive four-year, post-secondary institutions. Students must take a sequenced curriculum and participate in exit exams, which could qualify the students for college credit or advanced standing.

Students will have the opportunity to earn the **Florida Seal of Biliteracy**. This graduation distinction is earned with 4 years of a world language with a 3.0 average or the required score on an approved assessment. Eligible students must also earn the required ELA FSA score. The Seal of Biliteracy is intended to identify students with 21st Century global and linguistic competency for prospective employers and college admissions. It is also intended to honor the multiple cultures and languages in a community.

High schools offer specialized **career academies** that are characterized as small learning communities that focus on a specific career area. Examples include health, engineering, law, science, finance, world languages, culinary, and performing arts. Academies allow students to learn about careers through guest speakers, field studies, job shadowing, mentoring, and even internships. Career academies are part of the extensive career and technical education curriculum offered throughout the district. Career academies have specific entrance requirements for admission, including an application.



Volusia County Schools' partnership with Daytona State College and Bethune-Cookman University also offers the opportunity for **dual enrollment**. Students who meet the minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) and test score requirements may take college courses that count towards high school graduation and college degree requirements. These courses are provided free of charge to the students.



Extracurricular programs are offered at all high schools and include, but are not limited to, student government, band, chorus, dance, theater, service organizations, athletic teams, and special interest clubs. These offerings are dependent upon the specific needs of each high school community.

Volusia County high schools offer a wide range of academic programs and a variety of scheduling options. The annual high school showcase, typically held in December or January at the Volusia County Fairgrounds, offers students and their families an opportunity to explore all high schools and their academic programs, as well as other opportunities that are available at the high school level. Requirements and procedures for enrolling at schools other than the zoned school are available as well. Families can also contact individual schools to learn about specific program offerings and requirements. Selecting the opportunities that are right for the student is an important key to high school success.

Opportunities abound for high-schoolers to exhibit and participate in annual events abound in Volusia County. Examples of past competitions are the Science Fair, Social Studies Fair, Academic Team, World Languages Festival, MATHCOUNTS, STEM and robotics fairs and competitions, numerous music festivals and competitions, as well as community and school art shows and displays.



THEATER



Career Connection

The **Career Connection** is a partnership among Volusia County Schools' Career & Technical Education department, local business and industry partners, Career Source Flagler-Volusia (Workforce Development Board), and postsecondary partners. Career Connection partners provide opportunities for students to explore and plan for careers by giving them the tools necessary to make informed career decisions, and assist them in understanding the connection between their classroom experiences and what the workplace demands. Opportunities include secondary and postsecondary Career & Technical programs of study, career academies, job shadowing, internships, and cooperative education placements. More information is available at www.myvolusiaschools.org/cte.



The Career Connection offers rigorous **Career & Technical Education (CTE) Programs** in career clusters relevant to student interest and career opportunities. A CTE program consists of three or more job preparatory courses that culminate in the opportunity to earn industry certification in a career area of interest. Classroom learning is enhanced through program specific work-based experiences. Business and industry partners also provide curriculum input to add real-world activities into the classroom. Students select CTE programs that match their career goals. Broad CTE career cluster areas are: Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources; Architecture & Construction; Arts, A/V Technology & Communication; Business, Management & Administration; Education & Training; Engineering & Technology Education; Finance; Government & Public Administration; Health Science; Hospitality & Tourism; Human Services; Information Technology; Law, Public Safety & Security; Manufacturing; Marketing, Sales & Service; and JR ROTC.

Career academies are schools-within-a-school that integrate academic courses and Career & Technical education courses through a common career theme. Academies provide rigorous and relevant curriculum that utilize extensive business partnerships to incorporate industry standards into the classroom and to provide field studies, job shadowing, internships and on-the-job training to students. Volusia County offers 41 unique career academies in ten high schools.



Online Learning Options

Volusia Online Learning Full-Time Instruction

Students who choose to be a full-time online learning student take all of their classes from home rather than the traditional brick and mortar school while residing in Volusia County. The district offers its students a full-time virtual program option for grades K-12 through Volusia Online Learning and our partnership with two online providers. Students may apply for full-time virtual instruction during the enrollment period. Once admitted, students may receive the use of a computer and assistance toward Internet access if there is none available in the home AND the student qualifies for free/reduced lunch program. Families new to the district should enroll at their zoned public school prior to applying for full-time virtual instruction. Apply online at www.volusiaonlinelearning.com.



Volusia Online Learning Part-Time Instruction

Offered to students in grades K-12, virtual courses are included in the student’s daily course schedule either during or beyond the school day. Students should apply for courses at www.volusiaonlinelearning.com. Courses will begin in August and end in May (following the school district calendar) with open, rolling enrollment throughout the school year to accommodate transfer students.

Part-time virtual courses fulfill the following:

Online Course Graduation Requirement. For all students, beginning with the class of 2015, at least one course required for graduation must be completed through online learning, as per Section 1003.428, F.S. A semester course will fulfill this requirement (.5 credit) but NOT half of a full-year (1.0 credit) course. An online course taken for high school credit during grades 6 through 8 fulfills this requirement. Special note: This requirement does not apply to a student who has an individual educational plan which indicates that an online course would be inappropriate or to a student who is newly enrolled in a Florida high school with less than one academic year remaining until graduation.

Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) in support of grade and/or course acceleration, as per Section 1002.3105, F.S. Students and their parents should consult their school counselor for more information and criteria to access these options.

eLearning Labs/Virtual Learning Labs

These are blended learning centers offering individualized self-paced online learning for students wanting to earn credits at their maximum pace, moving toward graduation. The eLearning program offers a unique opportunity to students at each high schools. Students should inquire with their zoned school counselor for enrollment consideration. When requirements for graduation are met **students will receive a diploma from their zoned high school**. With teacher assistance, goal setting sets cooperative pacing, encouraging students to master skills as they move on to more difficult materials — until they complete the requirements for each course.



Teenage Parent Program is provided for male and female, pregnant and parenting students and their children. Eligible students take an online parenting course and receive free childcare at any licensed daycare of their choice. The district-facilitated program provides services for eligible students who wish to remain in school with aspirations for graduation and includes contracted childcare at any licensed facility of their choice. For additional information, contact Marianne Blair at 386-734-7190 ext. 20694.

Exceptional Student Education (ESE)

Volusia County Schools (VCS) is committed to providing a continuum of supports for *all* students. When students struggle academically or behaviorally or have other barriers to learning, strategies and interventions are put in place to address student needs. This continuum of supports applies to students who are solely general education students as well as those students who have been identified as a student with a disability or as a gifted student. Both students with disabilities and students identified as gifted receive services and supports through the district's Exceptional Student Education (ESE) department.

Most areas of suspected disability as identified under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004 require consideration of a child's response to intervention (RtI) as an essential eligibility component. An RtI framework seeks to ensure that students receive evidence-based interventions targeted to their area of need so that appropriate supports can be put in place. When students meet eligibility for ESE consideration under IDEA based on input from a team including the student's parent (s) or legal guardians, an Individual Education Plan (IEP) is developed with a level of support identified. Students with disabilities receive specially designed instruction and accommodations to meet their educational needs. Further, serving the student in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) to meet the students' needs is a foundational principle required by IDEA and is adhered to by VCS. In the case of students identified as gifted, an Education Plan (EP) is developed to meet the students' needs.

For students with disabilities, the varying exceptionality (VE) model allows the district flexibility in serving the varying needs of students in the least restrictive environment, typically at the students' zone school. A major benefit of the VE model is that it enables a more fluid fading of supports so that students can more readily access the general education classes within their zone school when appropriate.

Some students require more intensive services than can be met in general education with ESE supports and attend a school other than their zone school because of the low incidence nature of their disability. Students served in multi-VE, students who have been identified as needing separate classes because of significant emotional/behavioral disabilities and a small group of VE students needing full time separate class services within the VE feeder pattern are examples of students who may be assigned to schools other than their zone school. It should be noted that students with physical impairments or mild/moderate sensory impairments can often be appropriately served within a VE model. In addition, gifted elementary students also may be assigned to a school other than their zone school.

Parents suspecting that their child may have a disability are encouraged to contact the chair of the Problem Solving Team (PST) at their child's school. This team of educational professionals will help identify interventions and supports for a student to be successful (i.e., in general education or ESE if eligible). More information on ESE and PST can be found on the district website at vcsedu.org.



English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) is a program that provides instruction to improve the English language proficiency of English language learners (ELLs). ESOL instruction integrates instructional techniques for teaching English as a Second Language in accordance with the curriculum standards requirements. The curriculum provides an equal amount of instruction, scope and sequence as that of the general education students. The students considered for these classes function at different levels of English, come from diverse backgrounds and speak various native languages. Teachers facilitate students through the use of English Language Development Standards (ELDS), ESOL strategies and accommodations in order to help them meet their instructional needs in a comprehensible manner.

The ESOL Department holds several parent night meetings called Parent Leadership Councils (PLC). During these PLC meetings parents, teachers, school staff and community groups are provided training opportunities and information. The goal of our Parent Leadership Council is to empower parents to become active participants in their child's education.

In addition the ESOL Department manages the Title III Federal Grant. The purpose of this grant is to provide funds to improve the education ELLs, by helping them learn English and meet student academic achievement standards.

ELLs in Volusia County are impacted through the following:

Tutoring Program

Tutoring opportunities are made available to ELLs. Schools identify students based on student academic and language data. This may include research based computer programs.

Adult Literacy Classes

Adult English classes are offered in order to enhance English speaking abilities of families of ELLs.

Summer School Program

Summer School is offered for identified ELLs. The Summer Program for ELLs focuses on language and vocabulary enrichment through science content, at the elementary level. At the secondary level the Summer Program focuses on Reading and language development.

Professional Development

Department staff facilitates and delivers professional development in the areas of ELDS, Florida Standards, and best practices when working with ELLs. District staff is available to provide direct assistance to sites in need of ELL support.

Parent Trainings

District wide and school based opportunities keep parents informed in Spanish and English about educational initiatives, expectations, best practices, and how to help their children. These activities include classes, workshops and meetings.

Technology

Schools and students are provided with research based, supplemental technology. This may include hardware, iPads and apps, computer programs and web based resources.

Supplementary Materials

Schools and students are provided research based supplemental materials.

Private School Support

The ESOL department collaborates with private schools. This takes place through coordination between the school district and private school officials.

The ESOL Department also provides free classes to teachers to help them meet their state requirement for endorsement or licensure; *it also provides support to schools in maintaining compliance with records as required by state and federal guidelines.*

2019-2020 Testing Table

This table shows the standardized tests that are given.

<i>Name of Test</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Purpose of Test</i>
FLKRS	K	Within first 30 instructional days	Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screening
Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT3)	2	September 24	Gifted Screening
PSAT	10-11*	October 16	Preliminary SAT; identifies academic potential for advanced course work and assists parents and students in planning the student's high school program of studies. *Only 11- grade students who opt to pay and participate in this test are tested.
DRA	K-2	Ongoing	Developmental Reading Assessment; provides data on student's reading accuracy, fluency, and comprehension levels
FAIR-FS	3-12	Three times/year	Florida Assessment for Instruction in Reading; Florida Standards; measures student's strengths and weaknesses in reading
Writing Prompts (Language Arts & Subject Areas)	2-12	Ongoing	Measures response through writing samples on an assigned topic
FSA ELA Writing Component	4-10	April	Florida Standards Assessment; measures writing proficiency
*FSA ELA	3-10	Grade 3 April Grades 4-10 May	Florida Standards Assessment; measures English/Language Arts proficiency
FSA ELA Mathematics	3-8	May	Florida Standards Assessment; measures mathematics proficiency
Statewide Science Assessment	5 and 8	May	Measures science proficiency
FSA **Algebra 1 and Geometry EOC Assessments	varies	May	End of course assessments; computer based; also offered in July, September and December. Results constitute 30% of a student's final course grade.
Biology 1 Civics (Middle School) US History (High School) EOC Assessments	varies	May	End of course assessments; computer based; also offered in July, September and December. Results constitute 30% of a student's final course grade.
Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) and Cambridge (AICE) Exams	9-12	May	Scores on AP, IB, and AICE exams may qualify students for college credit. These exams are required of students enrolled in the Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or Cambridge AICE courses/programs. *A student not enrolled in an AP course may sit for an AP exam by paying the current exam fee.
Technical Skill Assessment and Industry Certification Exams	6-12	Administered when students complete their coursework.	Scores on Industry Certification exams may qualify students for college credit and/or meet certain employment criteria. These exams apply only to students completing a Career and Technical Education Program.
SAT	Varies	Ongoing	College Entrance Exam, parent registers student for test.
ACT	Varies	Ongoing	College Entrance Exam, parent registers student for test.
School Selected Final Exams in Selected Grade Levels	6-12	Final Exams	Measures mastery of the course objectives and is part of the student's final grade.
ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)	11, 12	Varies from school to school	Provides information related to a student's aptitude for various careers. Used to match student aptitude with appropriate military training schools.
*Note: Students are required to pass the Grade 10 ELA assessment prior to graduation. Students who have not met this requirement will have multiple opportunities during the 11th and 12th grade to take the Grade 10 ELA retakes for graduation purposes.			
**Note: Students are required to pass the Algebra 1 End of Course exam prior to high school graduation. Students who have not met this requirement will have multiple opportunities to retake the EOC exam for graduation purposes.			

FSA (Florida Standards Assessment)

The Florida Standards Assessment is a test given to Florida students to measure what they know and are able to accomplish in reading, writing, and mathematics. The Florida Standards are broad statements that describe what a child should know and be able to do at every grade level. Students in grades 5 and 8 will still continue to take the Statewide Science Assessment.

The Florida Standards is part of Florida’s plan to improve student achievement. It helps ensure that children in Florida will receive an education that will prepare them to meet the challenges of a changing world and workplace. All public school students in grades 3-10 are required to take the FSA. (See Testing Table.)

Achievement Levels

Achievement levels describe the success a student has achieved on the Florida Standards tested on the FSA. Achievement levels range from 1 to 5, with Level 1 being the lowest and Level 5 being the highest.

Testing Tips

- ✓ **Show your child you are supportive**
- ✓ **Discuss materials sent home with your child**
- ✓ **Ensure your child gets a good night’s sleep**
- ✓ **Make sure your child eats a good breakfast**
- ✓ **Have your child at school on time**



Academic Proficiency and Promotion Requirements

Report cards are provided at regular intervals to keep parents fully informed of their child’s academic proficiency. If your child has not demonstrated mastery/proficiency (grade C or better) in a reading, language arts, mathematics, or science course, he/she is not meeting minimum state and district expectations. Promotion is based on how well students are performing according to the Florida Standards. The Volusia County School Board has established criteria for student progression, which includes state and district requirements. The Student Progression Plan can be accessed on the district’s website at vcsedu.org.



Student Services

The Student Services department provides a wide array of assistance programs, specialized services, and comprehensive services to students, staff, and parents. The Student Services department includes school counseling services, school social services, school psychological services, positive behavior support, and health services.



School Counseling Programs include four essential components: Counseling Curriculum, Responsive Services, Individual Planning, and System Support. Counselors assist students in acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary for successful academic, emotional, and social development. Our comprehensive developmental counseling program recognizes that parents, school personnel, and community members each have an important role to play and valuable resources to contribute in assisting students as they strive to meet their academic and personal goals.

School Social Services serves as a vital link between the home, school, and community in order to help students increase academic and social/emotional success. School Social Workers are professionally trained in social work and counseling. Their skills and expertise enable them to deal with the multiple needs of students. They work with students both individually and in group settings, make home visits, collaborate with school staff and community agencies, conduct social and developmental assessments, and provide information and referral services in order to help meet the needs of students and families. The School Social Services department includes the areas of compulsory school attendance enforcement, crisis prevention and intervention services, case management services, child labor law compliance, foster care and homeless education services.

School Psychological Services provides on-going consultative services with teachers, parents, and students regarding school related issues, providing healthy and effective alternatives to address learning and behavioral difficulties. School psychologists assist teachers and problem-solving teams in developing classroom intervention strategies for students whose learning skills and abilities or social/emotional adjustment interferes with their educational progress. In addition, school psychologists are professionals with specialized training in both psychology and education who assess the intellectual, academic, behavioral, and emotional strengths and weaknesses of students through the use of individual assessment instruments, direct observation, progress monitoring tools, and interviews. School psychologists' efforts help students succeed academically, emotionally, and socially.

School-wide Positive Behavior Intervention & Support (PBIS) teams, as part of the Volusia County Behavioral Initiative (VCBI), work to improve school climate by inspiring a safe and civil learning environment for all students and adults. Members of the Student Services department, working collaboratively with school-based PBIS teams, assist with reviewing current practices, identifying school climate strengths and areas of concern, and problem-solving to develop a customized plan for maintaining a positive and proactive behavioral approach designed to teach social and personal competencies.

School Health Services are provided to students in grades Pre-K through 12. These services are considered to be both preventative as well as treatment directed. School nurses and health aides address the needs of students who enter the clinic with an assortment of health issues. Services provided are intended to supplement, rather than replace, parental responsibility. School nurses and health aides encourage parents to monitor their child's health, and encourage the use of physician, dentist, and community health agency services. It is expected that children who receive services through the school health program will have fewer visits to physicians and emergency rooms, fewer days lost from school due to illness, and will receive daily monitoring for chronic health conditions.

Alternative Programs

The **Alternative Education** program offers educational opportunities for approximately 3,000 students at seven sites in Volusia County. The educational programs are staffed with certified teachers and are operated/monitored by the Volusia County School District. Many of the sites are operated through collaborative agreements or a contract, between the school district and various community agencies, including the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Halifax Health and the Florida United Methodist Children's Home.

Help Stop Bullying

Bullying is a widespread and serious problem that can happen anywhere. It is not a phase children have to go through, it is not "just messing around," and it is not something to grow out of. Bullying can cause serious and lasting harm.

Although definitions of bullying vary, most agree that bullying involves: **1) imbalance of power** — people who bully use their power to control or harm others, and the people being bullied may have a hard time defending themselves; **2) intent to cause harm** — bullying is not an accident, the person bullying has a goal to cause harm; and **3) repetition** — incidents of bullying often happen to the same person over and over by the same person or group. Bullying can take many forms. Examples include: **verbal** — name calling, teasing; **social** — spreading rumors, excluding people intentionally, or breaking up friendships; **physical** — hitting, punching, shoving; or **cyberbullying** — using the Internet, mobile phones or other digital technologies to harm others.

Children who are bullied may:

- Come home with damaged or missing clothing or other belongings
- Have unexplained injuries or complain frequently of headaches, stomachaches, or feeling sick
- Have trouble sleeping or have frequent bad dreams
- Have changes in eating habits
- Hurt themselves
- Lose interest in visiting or talking with friends
- Be afraid of going to school or other activities with peers
- Lose interest in school work or begin to do poorly in school
- Appear sad, moody, angry, anxious or depressed when they come home
- Feel helpless or talk about suicide
- Often feel like they are not good enough
- Blame themselves for their problems

Here are some strategies to share with your child about bullying:

- **Tell them to stop.**
- **Walk away.** Do not let bullies get to you. Walk away and ignore them.
- **Protect yourself.** Sometimes you cannot walk away. If you are being physically hurt, protect yourself.
- **Tell an adult you trust.** Talking to someone can help you figure out the best ways to deal with the problem. In some cases, adults need to get involved for the bullying to stop.
- **Find a safe place.** Go somewhere that you feel safe and secure like the library, a favorite teacher's classroom, or the office.
- **Stick together.** Stay with a group or individuals who you trust.
- **Find opportunities to make new friends.** Explore your interests and join school or community activities such as sports, drama, or art. Volunteer or participate in community service.

Children who bully others may:

- Become violent with others
- Get into physical or verbal fights with others
- Be sent to the principal's office or receive detention often
- Have extra money or new belongings that cannot be explained
- Be quick to blame others
- Not accept responsibility for their actions
- Have friends who bully others
- Need to win or be best at everything

What to do when your child is the bully:

- **Act quickly**—address the behavior before it gets out of hand, starting with finding out WHY the behavior is occurring.
- **Have a talk**—calmly explain the accusation of bullying and ask for an explanation. Listen.
- **Set realistic consequences**—don't be in denial, but don't overreact.
- **Take away the tools**—if the situation involves Cyberbullying. Then educate your child about on-line bullying.
- **Assess your parenting style**—be honest with yourself about how your behavior may influence your child's behavior.



Volusia Connect

Volusia Connect, provided by SchoolMessenger, is our school-to-home telephone messaging system which allows the superintendent and school principals to send periodic and personalized messages to all parents and families with one recorded phone call. Parents are encouraged to list current phone numbers on the Emergency Information Card for each student. Only the numbers listed will be used.

The one-way text messaging feature requires an effort to make sure cell phone numbers are collected and input properly so they can be uploaded to the automated calling system. Parents may periodically receive a text message and may opt-out if they do not wish to continue receiving messages in this format. There is always the ability to call the school to opt in or out at any time during the school year.

Student Appearance, Dress and Uniform Code

The School Board of Volusia County recently made modifications to the mandatory school uniform policy for secondary students. The mandatory school uniform code will be in effect at all schools in the 2019-20 school year. All clothing and accessories can be purchased from the store of your choice.

Volusia County Schools' school uniform policy is mandatory for all elementary, middle and high school students. The complete guidelines can be found in Policy 217 posted on the district's website at <https://vc.edu.org>

Let's Work Together to Keep Our Students Safe

See Something, Say Something. Volusia County Schools is a part of a statewide initiative called FortifyFL. It's an anonymous reporting app that allows anyone to report a threat involving schools. You can download the app on your phone or go to the FortifyFL website.

There are also 49 guardians located at elementary and charter schools. Volusia County Schools has a partnership with the Volusia County Sheriff's office and other local police departments to staff schools with armed personnel.



Successful Parent-Teacher Conferences

One of the best ways to find out how your child is doing in school is through a parent-teacher conference. The following tips will ensure a successful result for your child.

Before the Conference Tips for Parents:

- ✓ Teachers are contracted to be in school during school hours and for a short period of time before and after school. You will need to arrange to come to school during that time for the conference.
- ✓ Teachers must have 24 hours notice before a parent-teacher conference is scheduled.
- ✓ If you anticipate language differences, ask for an interpreter. The conference can be scheduled for a time when the interpreter can be present.
- ✓ Find out how your child feels about school (ask what he or she likes best or least and why).
- ✓ Prepare questions or concerns you wish to discuss.
- ✓ Everyone's time is valuable. Please be sure to be on time.

During the Conference Tips for Parents:

- ✓ Parent-teacher conference may bring up all kinds of feelings. REMEMBER: the conference is an opportunity to work with the teacher as a team.
- ✓ Since conference time is limited stay focused on the topic.
- ✓ Share observations from home about your child's strengths and weaknesses.
- ✓ Share relevant medical information concerning your child's general health, allergies, vision problems, etc.
- ✓ Share any relevant changes in the family situation.
- ✓ Listen carefully and ask the teacher to explain any terms or concepts you don't understand.
- ✓ Ask for more information or examples/samples of student work or behaviors that are relevant to the topic of the conference.
- ✓ If the teacher points out areas where your child needs to improve, ask for a plan to help your child make the improvements and ask how you can help.
- ✓ Be sure to sign and ask for a copy of the Record of Conference Form.
- ✓ If necessary, make an appointment for a follow-up phone conversation or conference.
- ✓ If you feel uncomfortable with the manner in which the conference is progressing, politely stop the conference and request the presence of an administrator.

After the Conference Tips for Parents:

- ✓ Follow through on suggestions made during the conference.
- ✓ Continue the open lines of communication throughout the year.



Parent-Teacher Support Groups

PTA (Parent Teacher Association) and PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association) make up the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the United States. A not-for-profit association of parents, educators, students, and community members, the PTA encourages parental and public involvement in public schools. PTA provides members with parent education, leadership training, and a powerful voice of advocacy on behalf of all children. PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) is an independent group which also supports children and educational issues.

Volunteers in Public Schools

Studies have shown that children whose parents are involved at school have a greater self-esteem, a more positive attitude toward school, improved performance, and better behavior. School volunteer programs benefit all participants. Parent volunteers have a greater understanding of the educational process while receiving direct satisfaction of helping children succeed. School staff receive a helping hand, while the community reaps the reward of millions of dollars of work provided free. During the 2018-2019 school year, over 24,800 active volunteers (of all age ranges) gave more than one-million hours of volunteer service valued at more than \$22.8 million dollars. (www.IndependentSector.org)

Volunteer opportunities are everywhere, from helping in classrooms/special areas, chaperoning on field trips, tutoring/mentoring, to holding leadership positions in parent organizations/advisory councils. To volunteer, fill out an online volunteer application and have your government issued identification with photograph scanned into our Raptor Visitor Management System. Once approved, your application will be valid for one school year, through June 30, 2020. For more information contact your school's volunteer coordinator or the Volunteer/Partnership Programs Department at x38379 or 38381. Also visit our website at <https://vcsedu.org>, select "District" and then "Volunteer & Partnership Programs" for more detailed information.

School Advisory Council (SAC)

Each school annually develops a School Improvement Plan (SIP) through their School Advisory Council. This advisory group is made up of school staff, community members, parents, business partners, and students. Members participate in the following actions designed to improve student achievement:

- Develop/review the school's mission statement
- Use national, state, and district education goals as guiding principles
- Examine all aspects of the school when developing the School Improvement Plan (SIP)
- Prioritize the needs of the school
- Develop strategies for improving the areas of need
- Develop a plan for measuring the results of the SIP
- Assist in the preparation and evaluation of the SIP
- Assist in the preparation of the school's annual budget
- Decide how to spend the SAC funds to meet the SIP goals
- Assist in recruiting and retaining other SAC members

Contact a school administrator if you are interested in serving on your school's advisory council.



Community Involvement

An old proverb says “It takes a village to raise a child.” Our Volusia community provides our schools with volunteers and participates on a variety of committees and councils. In addition to serving on individual school’s advisory councils, community members also provide valuable input to the District Advisory Committee, the African-American Advisory Committee, and the Latino Advisory Committee.

Volusia Partners

Businesses and civic organizations have enhanced the quality of education in Volusia County Schools for more than 30 years through the “Volusia Partners” program. Recognizing that a strong public school system is essential to the prosperity of our community, over 480 Volusia Partners took an active role last school year. Partnership activities included: sponsorship of school events and incentive awards, financial contributions or donations, employee release time to volunteer and/or mentor, sponsorship of programs or extracurricular clubs, adoption of a classroom or school, job-shadowing opportunities, development of career academies, and participation on School Advisory Councils. Businesses and civic organizations of any size may serve as a partner. For more information contact the business partner coordinator at the school of your choice or call Volunteer/Partnership Programs at x38379 or 38381.

FUTURES Foundation for Volusia County Schools



Established in 1985, FUTURES Foundation for Volusia County Schools is a non-profit 501(C)(3) direct support organization which assists in providing programs for students, teachers and staff within our Volusia County School District. FUTURES’ mission is to engage business and civic leaders to promote and achieve educational excellence for the Volusia County School District. Its vision is that all Volusia County School students are equipped and prepared for college or career success. FUTURES provides a variety of recognition, leadership development and scholarship programs impacting students, teachers and staff.

For the 2018-19 school year, FUTURES funded more than \$82,000 in School District Education Foundation State Matching grants to provide both enrichment and remedial activities for students. These state funded matching grants had a direct impact on student test scores and performance. Over the years, FUTURES also has funded more than \$1.8 million in creative, innovative teacher classroom mini-grants for specialized projects created and designed by Volusia County teachers. Their Teacher Mini-Grant Program uses an on-line system at www.FindItFundItVolusia.com/Volusia for teachers to apply for these grants and promote their project’s funding needs. Check-out this website in October for this school year’s creative ideas which need funding.

Through its Take Stock in Children Program, FUTURES provides college tuition scholarships and mentors for selected financially eligible high school students. Take Stock in Children scholars receive a college tuition scholarship upon completion of the program’s requirements which include achieving a cumulative 2.5 GPA upon graduation, remaining drug, alcohol, crime & gang free, and meeting with a mentor weekly for 30 minutes on campus during their high school years.

Other FUTURES programs include Tomorrow’s Leaders, a Leadership Development Program for high school juniors; Turn Around Recognition Program for middle and high school students; First Year Teacher Awards; Principal of the Year Awards; Superintendent’s Outstanding Achievement Awards; and the Teacher of the Year Program.

Please visit www.FuturesVolusia.org to learn more about the investment FUTURES provides within Volusia County Schools and how you may become involved. VCS employees may support FUTURES through payroll deduction which is easily accessed via the e-portal’s payroll tab. Another way to show your support is through the purchase of the “Support Education” specialty license tag which provides \$20 from each purchase or renewal to FUTURES Foundation for vehicles registered in Volusia County. It’s as easy as visiting www.LicenseToLearnFL.com.

Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015

Parent Choice Options

Educational choice provides parents with options on how best to educate their children. In addition to public schools, parents may choose to send their children to a charter school or to participate in the online Volusia Virtual or Florida Virtual middle and high school. They may choose to home educate their child through provisions in state law that recognize the right of the parent to select this type of education. Other options parents may consider include controlled open enrollment, alternative schools and dual enrollment.



The federal No Child Left Behind Choice transfer is no longer available. All students attending a Title I school through a NCLB-transfer may remain in the school of choice until the student completes the highest grade in the school. McKay Scholarships for exceptional education students may be used to attend another public school or private schools with a voucher for tuition while the Opportunity Scholarship Program and corporate income tax credit scholarship program offer additional options.

Teacher Qualifications

Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (federal legislation) requires that school districts hire state-certified teachers in all core academic subject areas. Parents have the right to request and receive timely information on the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher and, if applicable, the services provided by and the qualifications of their paraprofessionals. Schools must notify parents of students who are instructed by teachers who are not state-certified. Questions should be directed to your school principal.

Out of Field Teachers

A teacher is out of field when he/she is certified to teach, but is not teaching in the area of his/her certification. In accordance with the collective bargaining agreement with our teachers, a teacher may be out of field for one year. Any teacher who is out of field in areas other than ESOL or Gifted, must register for the test required to be in-field and sign an agreement that they will complete the in-field requirements prior to the end of the year. ESOL and Gifted require coursework and have longer than a year to complete.

1012.42, Fla. Stat. requires the following:

"A parent whose student is assigned an out-of-field teacher may request that his or her child be transferred to an in-field classroom teacher within the school and grade in which the student is currently enrolled. The school district must approve or deny the parent's request and transfer the student to a different classroom teacher within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 2 weeks, if an in-field teacher for that course or grade level is employed by the school and the transfer does not violate maximum class size pursuant to s. 1003.03 and s. 1, Art. IX of the State Constitution. If a request for transfer is denied, the school must notify the parent and specify the reasons for the denial. An explanation of the transfer process must be made available in the student handbook or a similar publication. This subsection does not provide a parent the right to choose a specific teacher. "

There are two ways you can check to see if your child's teacher is out of field. First, you will receive a letter from your child's school notifying you that the teacher is out of field. Second, you can check our website at www.myvolusiaschools.org. Click on Departments, Human Resources, Certification, Out of Field. There you will find information about being out of field as well as a list of teachers who are considered out of field and the area in which he/she is out of field.

If your child is assigned to a teacher who is out of field and you wish to request that your child be transferred to an in-field teacher, please contact the school's principal. Transfers are based on the availability of an in-field teacher, and cannot violate class size requirements.

Title I

Title I Mission Statement: Through service and leadership, we will ensure fair and equal opportunities for school communities to attain a high-quality education.

What is Title I?

Title I is a federal program that provides funds to schools for additional academic services. The Volusia County School District receives funds based on the number of students in our district who are economically disadvantaged and are eligible for the Free and Reduced Price Meal Program. These funds are then distributed to schools that have a high enrollment of economically disadvantaged students.

Schools spend Title I funds to help students meet the state's high standards in reading, math, writing, and science. Some of the services and strategies that may be used to help students are:

- Intervention classes and additional instructors
- Additional training for school staff
- Extra time for instruction
- Special learning events and training for families
- Tutoring
- A variety of teaching methods and materials

Title I schools offer training to support parents in the education of their families. Designed with the busy parent in mind, the sessions serve to assist parents as their child's first and best teacher. Areas of training may include:

- Academics (reading, writing, math and science)
- Family Literacy
- Learning Styles

Title I Public Schools

Elementary Schools: Blue Lake, Champion, Citrus Grove, Deltona Lakes, Discovery, Edgewater Public, Enterprise, Forest Lake, Friendship, Indian River, Longstreet, Manatee Cove, McInnis, Orange City, Ormond Beach, Ortona, Osceola, Osteen, Palm Terrace, Pierson, Pride, Read-Pattillo, South Daytona, Spirit, Starke, Sugar Mill, Sunrise, Timbercrest, Turie T. Small, Volusia Pines, Westside, Woodward Avenue

K-8 School: Holly Hill

Middle/High School: T.D. Taylor

Middle Schools: Campbell, Deltona, Galaxy, Heritage, Southwestern

High School: Mainland, Pine Ridge

Alternative: Halifax Behavioral Services, Highbanks Learning Center, Legacy Scholars, Riverview Learning Center

Charter Schools: Richard Milburn 8-12

School Parent Involvement Plan (PIP)

Since family support is so critical to student success, Volusia County Schools seek to increase family involvement in education. With input from families, every school that receives Title I funds must develop an annual Parent & Family Engagement Plan (PFEP). This plan outlines how the school will help families support their children's academic success, increase family involvement in school-related activities, and foster communication between the home and school. Students from families that are highly involved are more likely to succeed academically.

School-Parent-Student Compact

Title I schools and families work together to develop a School-Parent-Student Compact. A compact outlines how parents, school staff and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. Through the compact, schools and families form a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

Website Resources for Parents

Volusia County Schools	www.vcsedu.org
Florida Dept. of Education	www.fldoe.org
US Dept. of Education	www.ed.gov
Academic & College planning	www.flvc.org
Anti-drug site for parents	www.drugfree.org
College Preparation	www.collegeboard.com
Education Place	www.eduplace.com/parents
Especially for Parents	www.ed.gov/parents
Family Education Network	www.familyeducation.com/home
FSA Practice Tests	https://fsassessments.org/
Family Network on Disabilities	www.fndusa.org
Florida Virtual School	www.flvs.net
Funbrain	www.funbrain.com
Kids Numbers (Math)	www.kidsnumbers.com
National PTA	www.pta.org
Parent Information Center	https://picnh.org
Scholastic Place	www.scholastic.com/parents



NEW for 2019-2020: FOCUS Parent Portal & Gradebook

We are excited to rollout our Focus Parent Portal as part of our new Student Information System, Focus School Software. The Focus Parent Portal will replace the VCS Parent Portal and Gradebook and is designed to enhance communication between parents/guardians, students and school staff. Your new Focus Parent Portal account will allow you to monitor your child's grades, attendance, discipline, academic history, progress toward high school graduation, standardized test results and more in a secure, password-protected environment.

To access the Focus Parent Portal, parents/guardians must first register for an account. To register, you will need your child's alpha ID, birthdate, and an authorization PIN from your child's school. Parents/guardians may register for their Focus account at the district's website at <https://www.vcsedu.org>. Click the "Parents" icon and follow the prompts to create an account.

Parent Checklist

The purpose of the Florida Parent Checklist is to support parent’s involvement in their child’s educational progress by identifying actions and linking to resources that:

- Strengthen the child’s academic progress, especially in the area of reading;
- Strengthen the child’s citizenship, especially social skills and respect for others;
- Strengthen the child’s realization of high expectations and setting lifelong learning goals; and
- Emphasize communication between the school and the home.

Academic

- Support reading with age appropriate home activities.
- Ensure that your child has a consistent time and place to do homework.
- Ensure that your child has access to materials needed to complete assignments.
- Discuss school work regularly with your child.
- Attend workshops on helping your child at home.
- Visit the local library and encourage your child to check out books of interest.
- Read to/with your child on a daily basis.
- Set an example by reading in your home and discussing what you’ve read with your child.
- Ask your child to explain his/her math homework.
- Emphasize the importance of education and doing one’s best in school.

Resources

- ◆ Just Take 20 - Justtake20.org
- ◆ Just Read, Families! - Fldoe.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/families
- ◆ FloridaShines.org - Floridashines.org/
- ◆ Florida Standards Family and Student Resources - <https://www.floridastudents.org/>
- ◆ Floridastudents.org - Floridastudents.org
- ◆ AskALibrarian.org - Askalibrarian.org
- ◆ Exceptional Student Education -Parent Involvement - Forparents.florida-ese.org
- ◆ Special Education Toolkit - <https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Special-Education-Toolkit>

Citizenship

- Teach and reinforce positive behaviors such as respect for self and others, hard work and responsibility.
- Ensure that your child has a regular routine.
- Encourage your child to accept responsibility for his/her actions.
- Ensure that your child is in attendance and on time to school each day.
- Monitor and promote your child’s participation in extracurricular and after-school activities.
- Monitor your child’s television viewing.
- Reinforce the school’s behavioral expectations.

Resources:

- ◆ Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support - <http://flpbis.cbcs.usf.edu/>
- ◆ Helping Your Child Become a Responsible Citizen - <https://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/citizen/index.html>
- ◆ Bullying Prevention - <http://www.fldoe.org/safe-schools/bullying-prevention.stml>
- ◆ Engaging Youth in Service - <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/civic-engagement-and-volunteering>

Setting Goals

- Express the belief in your child’s ability to be successful.
- Encourage your child to set short– and long term—educational goals.
- Celebrate academic accomplishments.

Resources:

- ◆ FloridaShines Find-a-Career - <https://www.floridashines.org/find-a-career>
- ◆ Help Kids Start to Think About Careers - <https://www.usa.gov/education?source=kids>
- ◆ Financing Future Education Goals - <https://www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college>

School to Home Communication

- Communicate regularly with your child’s teacher(s) in person, by telephone, through email or writing.
- Prepare for and attend parent-teacher conferences and/or other individualized student meetings, such as Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or Academic Improvement Plan meetings.
- Attend open houses, science fairs, plays and musical performances, field trips, sporting events, curriculum nights and other school activities.
- Volunteer in the school setting when possible.

Resources:

- ◆ Tips for Communicating with Teachers Effectively - <https://www.parenttoolkit.com/academics/advice/tips-for-successful-parent-teacher-conferences>
- ◆ Parent-Teacher Conference Tip Sheets - https://globalfrp.org/content/download/402/3731/file/GFRPTipSheet_ParentTeacherConference.pdf
- ◆ The Parent-Teacher Conference - <http://www.readingrockets.org/pdfs/edextras/19842-en.pdf>



2019-2020 School Calendar

August 6 (Tuesday) Preplanning Begins–Teachers Report
 August 12 (Monday) First Day of School for Students
 September 2 (Monday).... Labor Day Holiday
 September 16 (Monday).. Professional Development Day/Student Holiday
 October 14 (Monday) Teacher Duty Day/Student Holiday
 November 11 (Monday)..... Veterans Day Holiday
 November 25 (Monday) Thanksgiving Holiday Begins
 November 25 and 26 will be used as makeup days for inclement weather if needed
 December 2 (Monday) Classes Resume
 December 19 (Thursday)...Teacher Duty Day/Student Holiday
 December 20 (Friday) Winter Holiday Begins
 January 6 (Monday) Classes Resume
 January 20 (Monday).....Martin Luther King’s Birthday Holiday
 February 17 (Monday) Presidents’ Day Holiday
 March 13 (Friday) Teacher Duty Day/Student Holiday
 March 16 (Monday) Spring Holiday Begins
 March 23 (Monday) Classes Resume
 May 25 (Monday) Memorial Day Holiday
 May 29 (Friday) Last Day of School for Students
 June 2(Tuesday) Last Day of School for Teachers

Early Release Days

All students will be released approximately one hour early on the 34 Wednesdays listed below.

August 14, 21, 28
 September..... 4, 11, 18, 25
 October 2, 16, 23, 30
 November 6, 13, 20
 December..... 4, 11, 18
 January 8, 15, 22, 29
 February..... 12, 19, 26
 March 4, 11, 25
 April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
 May 20, 27



Grading Periods/Report Card Dates

Period	Days	Grade Period Begins	Midterm Period Ends	Grade Period Ends	Grades on Parent Portal	Report Card Distribution
1	43	Aug. 12, 2019	Sept. 11, 2019	Oct. 11, 2019	Oct. 17, 2019	Oct. 23, 2019
2	41	Oct. 15, 2019	Nov. 13, 2019	Dec. 18, 2019	Jan. 8, 2020	Jan. 13, 2020
3	47	Jan. 6, 2020	Feb. 5, 2020	March 12, 2020	March 18, 2020	March 25, 2020
4	49	March 23, 2020	April 22, 2020	May 29, 2020	June 3, 2020 (elem. only)	June 9, 2020 (elem. only)

VISION STATEMENT

Ensuring all students receive a superior 21st century education.

The School Board of Volusia County

Mr. Carl G. Persis, Chairman
Mrs. Ida D. Wright, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Linda Cuthbert
Mr. Ruben Colón
Ms. Jamie M. Haynes

Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Timothy P. Egnor



For an electronic or Spanish version of this Parent Guide and more extensive information please visit vc.edu.org.

You may also call any number below, extension 20000.

Daytona Beach	255-6475	DeLand	734-7190
New Smyrna Beach	427-5223	Osteen	860-3322