

PARENT GUIDE

2015-2016



Volusia County Schools

ACHIEVE

DEDICATION | COMMITMENT | RESPECT

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year and our 12th publication of the Parent Guide. The purpose of the Parent Guide is to provide you with information about the educational process and to share ways you may be meaningfully involved in your child's education. Parents are essential contributors and a major influence in their child's education and success.

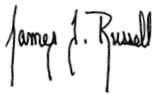
Our district's theme this year is **ACHIEVE: Dedication | Commitment | Respect**. This highlights the three guiding principles that are key to moving the district forward in a positive direction. We are dedicated to increasing student achievement by ensuring that our students receive the best education possible. With the commitment of students, families, volunteers, and the community, we can creatively find solutions to problems as a team. Lastly, mutual respect and building of positive relationships will allow all stakeholders to work together making our schools better and helping each and every student "achieve" success.

We invite you to be actively involved in your child's education and challenge you to motivate him or her to reach for the stars! Attend school events, establish accounts to access grades, participate in parent/teacher conferences; "Be There." Become an advocate through School Advisory Councils, parent teacher organizations or volunteer in your child's classroom! Your actions will let your child know that school is important. You are their main role model and your "dedication," "commitment," and "respect" will inspire your child to "achieve" greatness.

In addition to this guide, there is also extensive information on our district website at MyVolusiaSchools.org. Feel free to contact your school or any district office with questions, comments, or concerns.

With the guiding principles of "dedication," "commitment," and "respect," I am confident our students will "achieve" great things in 2015-2016!

Sincerely,



*James T. Russell
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 17—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;
- immunization records signed by a physician;
- record of a physical examination performed within 12 months prior to entry conducted by a health professional in Florida or in the state where the student resided at the time of the examination and who is authorized to perform the exam under such licensure; and
- two proofs of residence of the school district attendance area.



Connect ED

Connect ED school-to-home telephone messaging system 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 will receive a text message when the feature is "turned on" and at that time they will be able to 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.

2015-2016 School Immunization Requirements for School Entry and Attendance



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.

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: 845 Holsonback Drive, 386-274-0500
 Deland: 935 N. Spring Garden Avenue, 386-822-6215
 Deltona: 3151 Howland Blvd., 386-789-7507 or 386-789-7508
 New Smyrna Beach: 717 W. Canal Street, 386-424-2065
 Health Services – 386-734-7190, ext. 20448

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:

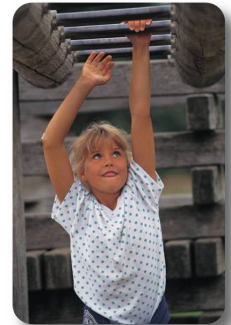
- Read a variety of literary and informational text (books, magazines, newspapers, and stories) and be able to explain what they have read
- Respond verbally and in writing to multiple sources
- Revise and edit writing, by correcting spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure
- Learn to read 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
- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- Associate learning with real-world situations
- Communicate scientific procedures and explanations
- 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
- 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 Festival, 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 over 3600 students. For more information, contact any school where the program is offered.



During the 2015-2016 school year, the School Board of Volusia County will offer this program at the following 40 schools:

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, Osteen, Palm Terrace, Pathways, Pierson, Pine Trail, Port Orange, Pride, Read-Pattillo, South Daytona, Spirit, Spruce Creek, Sugar Mill, Sunrise, Sweetwater, Timbercrest, Volusia Pines, Westside, and Woodward Avenue elementary schools.

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.

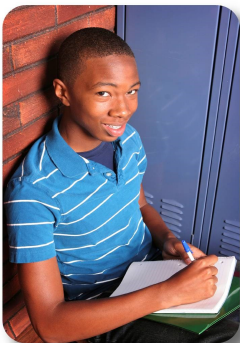


Middle School Parents and Families

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.

Online Learning Options

Several *online learning options* are offered to students in grades K-12. These options include Volusia Virtual Full-Time Instruction, Volusia Virtual Part-Time Instruction, eLearning programs, and more. For detailed information on Online

Learning Options, enrollment for the 2015-16 school year, and other graduation requirements, please refer to page 10 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.

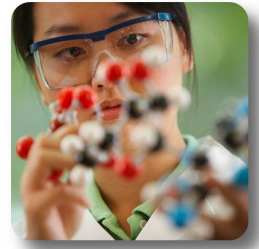
Middle-Schoolers Compete

Opportunities for middle-schoolers to exhibit and participate in annual events abound in Volusia County. Examples of past competitions are the Literacy Fair, Science Fair, Science Olympiad, Social Studies Fair, World Languages Festival, Fitness Festival, MATHCOUNTS, 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, 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)**, 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.

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, and culinary. 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 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, 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 Literacy Fair, Science Fair, Social Studies Fair, World Languages Festival, MATHCOUNTS, numerous music festivals and competitions, as well as community and school art shows and displays.

Career Connection

The **Career Connection** is a partnership among Volusia/Flagler County Schools, Daytona State College, Career Source (Workforce Development Board of Flagler and Volusia Counties, Inc.), and the business community. Career Connection partners (CADRE) provide opportunities for students to explore and plan for careers by giving them the tools necessary to make informed career decisions, and by helping them understand the connection between their classroom experiences and what the workplace demands. Opportunities include secondary and post-secondary career and technical programs of study, Career academies, job shadowing, internships, and cooperative education placements. More information is available at www.career-connection.org.



The Career Connection offers rigorous **Career and 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 or technical skill certificates 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 college-preparatory courses and career and 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 35 unique career academies in ten high schools. There are career academies for each of the career clusters.



Online Learning Options

Volusia Virtual Full-Time Instruction

Eligible students who choose to be a full-time virtual 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 our partnership with three online providers. Eligible 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 Virtual 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 at the start of the school year 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 Program

eLearning East (at Atlantic HS) and eLearning West (at University HS) 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 with 12 or more credits. 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. Referrals are made through the zoned school counselors.

New this year...Virtual Learning Labs

Seven area high schools offering an eLearning program on site for students. Those schools are: Deland, Deltona, Mainland, New Smyrna Beach, Pine Ridge, Seabreeze, and Taylor. Students should inquire with their zoned school counselor for enrollment consideration.

Teenage Parent Program is provided for male and female, pregnant and parenting students and their children. Eligible students take a credited online parenting course and receive free childcare at any licensed daycare of their choice. Two options are available: (1) The District-facilitated Program provides services for eligible students who wish to remain in their zoned schools and includes contracted childcare at any licensed facility of their choice. For additional information, contact Wendy Ferranti at 386-506-0014 ext. 38376.

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 do meet eligibility for ESE consideration under IDEA based on input from a team including the student's parent, 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 student's 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 student's needs.

For students with disabilities, the varying exceptionality model allows the district flexibility in serving the varying needs of students in the least restrictive environment, typically at the student's 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 www.myvolusiaschools.org.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) is a comprehensive program which provides instruction to improve English language proficiency of students at all levels. 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 mainstream education students. The students considered for these classes function at different levels of English, come from diverse backgrounds and may speak various native languages. Our teachers facilitate our students through the use of ESOL strategies, and accommodations in order to help them meet their instructional needs in a comprehensible manner.



The program objectives are as follows:

- Facilitate English language acquisition in listening, speaking, reading, and writing
- Ensure academic achievement
- Facilitate attainment of the curriculum standards
- Promote high expectations for English language learners

Our schools foster a challenging, positive, collaborative, and non-threatening environment that:

- Recognizes and values the ELL students' native language and culture
- Sets high expectations for all students
- Has a shared vision and common goals for all students

2015-2016 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 (NNAT2)	2	Sept. 28-October 2	Gifted Screening
PSAT	10-11*	October 14	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 th 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	Feb. 29-March 11 Testing Window	Florida Standards Assessment; measures writing proficiency
*FSA ELA	3-10	March 30-April 1 April 11-22 Testing Windows	Florida Standards Assessment; measures English/Language Arts proficiency
FSA ELA Mathematics	3-8	April 4-8 April 18-29 Testing Windows	Florida Standards Assessment; measures mathematics proficiency
FCAT 2.0 Science	5 and 8	April 11-15 Testing Window	Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test; measures science proficiency
FSA **Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 EOC Assessments	varies	April 25-May 13 Testing Window	End of course assessments; computer based; retakes offered in July, September. and December
Biology 1 Civics (Middle School) US History (High School) EOC Assessments	varies	April 25-May 20 Testing Window	End of course assessments; computer based; retakes offered in July, September. and December
Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Exams	9-12	May	Scores on AP and IB exams may qualify students for college credit. These exams apply only to students enrolled in the Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate programs.
Technical Skill Assessment and Industry Certification Exams	11, 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	11, 12	Ongoing	College Entrance Exam
ACT	11, 12	Ongoing	College Entrance Exam
District and School Selected Final Exams in Selected Grade Levels	K-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 11 th and 12 th 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 FCAT 2.0 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 <http://MyVolusiaSchools.org> under the "Parents & Students" tab.



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, 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-based Positive Behavior Support (PBS) 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 PBS 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 several educational opportunities within Volusia County. The educational programs are staffed with certified teachers and are operated/monitored by the Volusia County School Board. Riverview and Highbanks Learning Centers and the Department of Juvenile Justice educational programs have implemented original credit labs to deliver their curriculum and facilitate transition for their students back to their zoned schools. Many of the sites are operated through a collaborative agreement, contract, or charter between the school district and various community agencies, including the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). For more information visit the Alternative Education website at <http://MyVolusiaSchools.org>. Select the "Schools" tab, then "Alternative Education."

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.



Student Dress Code

For the 2015-2016 school year, the School Board of Volusia County will continue enforcing the district-wide dress code which has been in place for four years and applies to every student in a Volusia County public school.



The dress code establishes minimal guidelines for the appearance and dress of students. Basic requirements follow; however, the complete guidelines can be found in Policy 217, which is posted on the district's website at <http://MyVolusiaSchools.org>:

- **HEAD** - No caps, visors, hoods, bandanas, or other head gear, except with administrative permission.
- **UPPER GARMENTS** - All garments must cover shoulder to shoulder. All garments must be long enough to clearly overlap the beltline or stay tucked. **NO** halter tops, tank tops, spaghetti straps or muscle shirts.
- **LOWER GARMENTS** - Undergarments and the buttocks **MUST** remain entirely covered even while seated. Dresses, skirts, and shorts must be at least mid-thigh or below in length. **No rips/tears or skintight items.**
- **FOOTWEAR** - Shoes must be safe and appropriate. No slippers or shoes with wheels are permitted on campus. Cleats may be worn for appropriate extracurricular sports in proper areas.
- **ACCESSORIES** - Clothing, jewelry, and accessories must not convey inappropriate messages.

Garments that are distracting or inappropriate are prohibited, including those with see-through materials, skintight items or clothing with rips and tears.

Other things to know:

- Students may wear special clothing related to a school sponsored activity or program, as permitted by the principal (such as ROTC uniforms, t-shirts on spirit days, sports jerseys, etc.)
- All schools have the option of adopting a standard dress code (uniform) when developed and agreed upon in collaboration with the School Advisory Council.
- The dress appearance of any student shall not be extreme, to the point of creating a disturbance, or be hazardous to the student and/or others, or school property, whether or not the specific case is outlined in the requirements.

Let's Work Together to Keep Our Students Safe

Volusia County Schools continues to work hard to educate students, parents and the community about keeping our students safe while walking or biking to and from their school or bus stop. Please do your part to keep our students safe. Watch out for pedestrians and bicyclists. Expect children to be walking or riding bikes to and from school or their bus stop between the hours of 6 am to 9 am and 1 pm to 5 pm. Use the parent pick-up and drop-off loop. Obey the speed limits and stay alert. Urge your friends and neighbors to use caution when driving before and after school. We must work together to keep our students safe.

Tips for Walking Safely

- Wear bright-colored clothes or wear reflective gear in low light or if it is dark.
- If listening to music, only wear one headphone or earbud.
- Don't talk or text on your cell phone.
- Children under 10 years old should cross the street only with an adult.
- Walk on the sidewalk if there is one.
- Walk facing the traffic, as far from the road/traffic as possible, if no sidewalk is available.
- Use traffic signals and marked crosswalks if available.
- Look for traffic at every driveway and intersection.
- Stop at the curb or edge of the road and look left, right and left for traffic before crossing the street.
- Give drivers time to see you before crossing the street.
- Keep looking for cars while you are crossing.
- Walk; don't run.
- Obey all traffic signs and signals.

Tips for Biking Safely

- Always wear a helmet that is properly fitted.
- Bike with a friend whenever possible.
- Always obey all traffic signs and signals.
- Ride on the right side of the road or trail in a single file (one bicycle behind another).
- Ride in the same direction as other vehicles.
- Go straight across railroad tracks.
- Always use proper hand signals when turning and stopping.
- Yield to pedestrians and alert them with a bicycle bell or your voice when passing.
- Remember, bicycles are vehicles and riders must follow Florida traffic laws.



For additional tips on vehicle/pedestrian safety, visit:

www.flhsmv.gov/SafetyTips/index.html.

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.



Be There

WHY BE THERE?

When you connect with your child every day, your child benefits for life. When he or she knows you care and are concerned about education, the following occurs:

- Achievement in school improves; students earn higher grades and test scores and enroll in higher-level programs
- Children want to go to school
- Courses are passed, credits earned and students are promoted to the next grade
- Self-confidence improves
- Children have better social skills and behavior at home and at school
- Students graduate from high school and go on to postsecondary education



Be There.

Work, errands, family commitments, food shopping, laundry, cell phones . . . all the things that keep you busy day in and day out. There's an easy way to connect with your child while going through these routines. Just take a moment to look him or her in the eye, give a hug, ask a question or share your knowledge. That single action, of taking the ordinary and making it extraordinary, will reassure your child, no matter what age he or she is, that you care. Your child will feel your support and become more confident to succeed in life and in school. Be There for your child, the results will last a lifetime.

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 2014-2015 school year over 25,890 volunteers (of all age ranges) gave 833,475 hours of volunteer service valued at more than \$18 million. (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. The volunteer application process must be completed prior to volunteering. Please allow at least three weeks to process your volunteer application. This process is renewed every five years (annually for mentors). The school will inform you when your volunteer clearance requires renewal. For more information contact your school's volunteer coordinator or the Volunteer/Partnership Programs Department at x38379.

Also visit our website at www.MyVolusiaSchools.org, select "Departments," and then select "Volunteer & Partnership Programs."

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 schools’ advisory councils, community members also provide valuable input in the District Advisory Council, 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 29 years through the “Volusia Partners” program. Recognizing that a strong public school system is essential to the prosperity of our community, over 515 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, 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 x38381.

FUTURES Foundation for Volusia County Public Schools

Established in 1985, FUTURES Foundation for Volusia County Schools is a direct support organization which assists our Volusia County School District. FUTURES’ mission is to increase business/community involvement in our public schools and provide programs and activities beyond the financial capabilities of the school district. For the 2014-15 school year, FUTURES funded more than \$97,000 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 \$1,400,000 in creative, innovative teacher classroom mini-grants for specialized projects created and designed by Volusia County teachers. FUTURES Mini-Grant Program now uses an on-line system at www.FindItFundItVolusia.com/Volusia/ for teachers to apply for these grants and promote their project’s funding needs.



FUTURES also provides college tuition scholarships for selected financially eligible high school students through the Take Stock in Children program. Take Stock students receive college scholarship funding upon completion of the program’s requirements which include achieving a cumulative 3.0 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 the Tomorrow’s Leaders leadership development program for high school juniors, the 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 our website at www.FuturesVolusia.org to learn of the many other activities FUTURES Foundation provides in support of Volusia County Public Schools.

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.

No Child Left Behind

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

The No Child Left Behind Act (federal legislation) requires that school districts hire highly qualified 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 schools must notify parents of students who are instructed by teachers who are teaching out of their field of certification. Out of field teachers continue their course of study to obtain additional certification in the out of field area. Questions should be directed to your school principal.

Tutoring

Identified Title I schools offer to all students scoring in the lowest quintile on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) the opportunity to participate in free after school tutoring. This tutoring is provided by certified Volusia County teachers at the zoned school campus. Students receive tutoring for two hours per week. Should demand exceed available funding, students in greatest academic need receive priority. Information regarding the tutoring services will be sent home at the beginning of the school year. Call your school for more information or contact the Title I STAR Tutoring office (386-734-7190, 386-255-6475, 427-5223, or 860-3322, ext. 33225).

Title I Public Schools

Elementary Schools: Blue Lake, Champion, Chisholm, Citrus Grove, Deltona Lakes, Discovery, Edgewater Public, Enterprise, Forest Lake, Friendship, Indian River, Longstreet, Manatee Cove, McClinnis, Orange City, Ormond Beach, Ortona, Osceola, Osteen, Palm Terrace, Pierson, Port Orange, 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

Alternative: AMI Kids, Halifax Behavior, Highbanks Learning Center, Riverview Learning Center, Volusia Detention, Stewart Treatment

Charter Schools: The Chiles Academy, Milburn Middle, Richard Middle High

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

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 Involvement Plan (PIP). 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.



The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 1118 (d) states the following: “As a component of the school-level parental involvement policy developed under subsection (b), each school served under Title I, Part A shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State’s high standards.”

Website Resources for Parents

Volusia County Schools
Florida Dept. of Education
US Dept. of Education
Academic & college planning
Ask for Kids
Anti-drug site for parents
College preparation
Education Place
Especially for Parents
Family Education Network
FCAT 2.0 practice
Florida PIRC (Family Network on Disabilities)
Florida PIRC (USF)
Florida Virtual School
Funbrain
Kids Numbers (Math)
National PTA
Parent Information Center
Scholastic Place
Sites for Parents

www.MyVolusiaSchools.org
www.fldoe.org
www.ed.gov
www.flvc.org
www.askforkids.com
www.drugfree.org
www.collegeboard.com
www.eduplace.com/parents
www.ed.gov/parents
www.familyeducation.com/home
<http://fcats.fldoe.org/fcat2/fcatitem.asp>
www.fndfi.org/programs
www.floridapartnership.usf.edu
www.flvs.net
www.funbrain.com/parents
www.kidsnumbers.com
www.pta.org
www.parentinformationcenter.org
www.scholastic.com/parents
www.sitesforteachers.com



Kid Friendly Websites

American Library Association
A Plus Math Games
Cool Science for Kids
Funbrain
Make Believe Comics
News-Journal Newspaper in Education
Public Broadcasting Service
Reading is Fundamental
Reading Rockets
Science News for Kids
Starfall
Virtual Flashcards

www.ala.org
www.aplusmath.com
www.hhmi.org/coolscience
www.funbrain.com
www.makebeliefscomix.com
www.nieworld.com
www.pbs.org
www.rif.org
www.readingrockets.org
www.sciencenewsforkids.org
www.starfall.com
www.studystack.com

ParentPortal

ParentPortal is a tool designed to enhance the communication and involvement of parents in their child's education in Volusia County Schools. The ParentPortal allows parents to monitor their child's progress by providing Internet access to data regarding grades, attendance, discipline, academic history, graduation verification, standardized test results and more, in a secure password protected environment.

Want to "Get Connected?" To access ParentPortal all you need is a ParentPortal authorization code, an e-mail address, and access to the Internet. (There are many Internet Service Providers who provide free e-mail accounts.) Call your school if you do not have the authorization code for your child, then go to our district's website at <http://MyVolusiaSchools.org>. Click the "Parents" icon located at the right side of the page, then click the "Parent Portal" link under the "Toolbox" tab. Follow the prompts to create an account.

Gradebook/Volusia Instructional Management System (VIMS)

Our online Gradebook transforms the teaching, learning and communication experiences for Volusia teachers, families, and students. Through Gradebook students and parents have access to up-to-date attendance, grades and assignments directly from the teacher's gradebook 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from any computer and most mobile devices with an Internet connection. Gradebook is available in all schools.

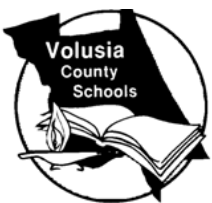
To access the Gradebook, your child's school will provide you with a secure login and password along with directions for creating an account. If you have any questions regarding grades or accessing the Gradebook, please contact your child's school.

Parent Self-Assessment Checklist

The following checklist provides information on parental behaviors that promote student achievement. Think about these statements and place a check next to those that you meet and reflect on those you could give additional attention.

- Encourage your child to read every day. Listen to your child read, spend time talking about stories, and model good reading habits.
- Monitor your child's homework and review class work.
- Monitor TV viewing, video game playing, and Internet usage.
- Talk positively with your child about school.
- Ask your child daily what he or she learned in school. Promote conversation. Be a good listener.
- Maintain high expectations of your child. Tell him/her everyday that he/she is the "best and the brightest." Also, remind your child daily to be kind and obedient. Give lots of praise.
- Encourage your child to work hard and stick to a task, even when it seems difficult.
- Communicate concerns about your child with teacher(s) or guidance counselor.
- Promote regular school attendance. Plan shopping trips, haircuts, even doctor ap-pointments, if possible, after school hours.
- Send your child to school on time each day. Plan ahead the night before by or-ganizing clothes, book bags, and homework.
- Promote healthy habits such as proper nutrition and adequate rest.
- Be supportive of after-school programs and special tutoring designed to get your child on or above grade level.
- Communicate through scheduled conferences with your child's teacher and guidance counselor. Ask for ideas on how to work with your child at home.
- Visit your child's classroom. Follow the school's security procedures when visiting the school.
- Make every effort to follow the chain of support if you have a concern about your child. Talk to the teacher before going to the principal. Meet with the principal before going to the area superintendent.
- Volunteer your time. Your approved volunteer application must be on file at the school. Also, let the teacher know if you have an area of expertise that you could share with the class.
- Ask the school for help if needed. The school may be able to assist you or refer you to someone who can help.
- Access the Just for Parents Community on the Florida Department of Education website at <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/family-community/activities-programs/just-for-parents-community/index.html> . The mission of the Bureau of Family and Community Outreach is to empower families and communities with resources and information needed to promote a high quality education for their children. The Bureau reaches out to serve Florida's diverse families and communities in a number of ways.
- Ask the teachers about standardized testing and how you can help prepare your child.
- Inquire about local, state, and national requirements.
- Be familiar with school and classroom rules and expectations.
- Participate! Attend Open House, parent work-shops and meetings, student perform-ances, and scheduled conferences.
- Make the most of school to home communication by opening a user account on ParentPortal and Volusia Instructional Management System (to access Gradebook).
- Be there! Make ordinary moments extraordinary by connecting with your child during the daily routines of life.





2015-2016 School Calendar

August 18 (Tuesday)Preplanning Begins–Teachers Report
 August 24 (Monday)First Day of School for Students
 September 7 (Monday).....Labor Day Holiday
 September 21 (Monday) ...Professional Development Day/Student Holiday
 October 23 (Friday)Teacher Duty Day/Student Holiday
 November 11 (Wednesday)Veterans Day Holiday
 November 24(Tuesday).....Thanksgiving Holiday Begins–End of Day
 November 30 (Monday)Classes Resume
 December 18 (Friday).....Winter Holiday Begins–End of Day
 December 19 (Friday).....Teacher Duty Day
 January 4 (Monday)Classes Resume
 January 15 (Friday)Teacher Duty Day
 January 18 (Monday).....Martin Luther King’s Birthday Holiday
 February 15 (Monday)Presidents’ Day Holiday
 March 17 (Thursday)Spring Holiday Begins–End of Day
 March 18 (Friday).....Teacher Duty Day
 March 28 (Monday)Classes Resume
 May 30 (Monday)Memorial Day Holiday
 June 7 (Tuesday).....Last Day of School for Students
 June9 (Thursday)Last Day of School for Teachers

Early Release Days

All students will be released approximately one hour early on the 31 Wednesdays listed below.

August.....26
 September.....2, 9, 16, 23, 30
 October7, 14, 21, 28
 November4, 18
 December.....2, 9, 16
 January6, 13, 20, 27
 February.....3, 10, 17, 24
 March2, 9, 16, 30
 April.....6
 May25
 June1, 7 (Tues.)



Grading Periods/Report Card Dates

Period	Days	Grade Period Begins	Midterm Period Ends	Grade Period Ends	Grades on Parent Portal	Report Card Distribution
1	42	Aug. 24, 2015	Sept. 23, 2015	Oct. 22, 2015	Oct. 27, 2015	Oct. 30, 2015
2	45	Oct. 26, 2015	Dec. 2, 2015	Jan. 14, 2016	Jan. 20, 2016	Jan. 25, 2016
3	42	Jan. 19, 2016	Feb.17, 2016	March 17, 2016	March 22, 2016	March 29, 2016
4	51	March 28, 2016	April 27, 2016	June 7, 2016	June 13, 2016 (elementary) June 15, 2016 (middle/high)	June 16, 2016 (elementary) June 21, 2016 (middle/high)

The School Board of Volusia County

Mrs. Linda Costello, Chairman
 Mrs. Ida D. Wright, Vice Chairman
 Mrs. Linda Cuthbert
 Dr. John Hill
 Mrs. Melody Johnson

Superintendent of Schools

James T. Russell

VISION STATEMENT

Through the individual commitment of all, our students will graduate with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to be successful contributors to our democratic society. (approved 4/14/92)

For an electronic or Spanish version of this Parent Guide and more extensive information please visit <http://MyVolusiaSchools.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