



Quarterly Newsletter

October 10, 2018



Mr. Weigum Principal

Mr. Albert Whiteside - Dean of Students
Ms. Jennifer Mangold - Reading Coach
Ms. Christine Finch - Behavioral Specialist

Achieving Starts with Believing

On behalf of the faculty and staff of **Okeechobee Achievement Academy (OAA)** I would like to welcome back all of our students and parents. The 2017-18 school year will offer a lot of changes.

OAA continues to focus on the individual student and their social emotional health as well as their academics. Our belief remains that students must be ready to learn before they can learn. The Okeechobee County School Board recognizes the challenges that face some of our students and families at the same time recognizes the high costs of students who drop out of school. OCSB is committed to doing the very best we can to give an alternative hope to those at the highest risk of dropping out. School and district staffs have worked hard to provide our community with a program that will give additional options and support to students who need an alternative.

The keys to every child's success are simple; know how to read and write well, be able to apply mathematical concepts and understand how to be a responsible, ethical citizen. To help children develop these essential skills takes a special, combined effort by all three critical players in these children's lives; their schools, their families and their community. Our teachers use a wide variety of researched based methods including; Behavioral Tools, peer coaching, counseling and community partnerships to help each student realize their potential. Our mission is to provide our students a positive, stimulating, and safe learning environment that promotes the development of individual responsibility, acceptable social skills, and academic growth. Upon returning to their former schools, our students will be able to make appropriate We have and excellent staff that have a depth of knowledge and experiences in working with at risk youth and families.

This past year OAA was successful in collaborating with South East Florida Mental Health Network (SEFMHN) in receiving a grant to fund several partnerships focused on providing services to students and their families. In partnership with SunCoast Mental Health we served over 105 students and families with various mental health support services. This was an unprecedented success in reaching out and connecting student and family needs at times when they are needed most. This partnership was successful because we were able to directly accommodate the family during the intake process and the provide assistance to students during time of crisis not just at a scheduled time. Regretfully this partnership did not transition to this school year but what is arising is a partnership with both New Horizon and SunCoast offering a diversity of choices for our parents and students.

NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

The School District of Okeechobee County has adopted Board Policy 6.43, Unlawful Discrimination Prohibited. No person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, disability, if otherwise qualified, social and family background or on the basis of the use of a language other than English by LEP students, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity, or in any employment conditions or practices conducted by this School District, except as provided by law.

The School District of Okeechobee County is in compliance with all federal and state laws which include the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), Title IX, Section 504, Florida Education Equity Act, Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2008 (GINA), and the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act.

Any employee, student, applicant for admissions, or applicant for employment who believes he/she has been discriminated against or has been harassed by another employee, student, or third party is encouraged to use the Equity Plan Grievance Procedure for filing complaints. You may file with: principal or immediate supervisor, District Equity Coordinator/Director of Human Resources or the Superintendent.

Director of Human Resources
Title II, Title IX and the Florida
Education Equity Act Complaints and
ADA/Section 504 Complaints
700 SW 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, FL
34974

In continued collaboration with Systems of Care (SOC) we are working closely with Ms. Jess Olney who is SOC's Youth Advocate. Ms. Olney is working to build relationships with our youth and staff. Assisting both at OAA and facilitate and support youth during their transition back to their home schools. Thanks Jess!

In addition SOC has also purchased a program called Ripple Effects to support our students with their social emotional questions. The program is designed both to guide students in areas of need as well as to allow them to confidentially explore areas they want to address. We look forward to getting this project started in the second quarter under the leadership of Ms. Finch our Behavioral Specialist, Ms. Sickels our classroom teacher and Ms. Olney of SOC.

Okeechobee School District and OAA staff work proudly to keep the best qualified teachers available to teach your students. However, from time to time either qualifications change or assignments change due to school and student needs and therefore some OAA staff temporarily become out of field. Joseph Szentmartoni Science 6-12, La'Ike McNeil Math 6-12, Alvin Hamilton ESE, Dawn Bowe ESOL., Danyta Delegall ESE.

OAA Parent Notification of Highly
Qualified Staff, Quarter 1.



2018-19

October 10th, 2018

