



Quarterly Newsletter

January 15th, 2019



Mr. Weigum Principal

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

Achieving Starts with Believing

Many new changes happening in second semester for our staff and our ABC contract.

Celebrating Staff:

Join us in welcoming Ms. Jennifer Wagner as our new teacher in the ACE PreK program. We are very excited to have Ms. Wagner join us. She brings experience as a Prek Para and as a new teacher educated in this area she has a wealth of fresh ideas to help our young ones succeed.



Our staff nominated two outstanding individuals this year for our Teacher of the Year and our Employee of the year positions. Ms. Delagall was nominated by her peers as our OAA Teacher of the Year. Ms. Delagall is new to OAA this year and has stepped into our elementary classroom grades 2-5. A huge challenge considering she is responsible for all curriculum areas and students who have not been successful in their prior schools. Most teachers would find this a daunting challenge but Ms. "D" approaches everyday with a calming confidence, caring, and a can do approach that her students respect and perform for. She has an amazing ability to build relations with her students and assist them in dealing with their social emotional issues so that they can realize their academic potential. Her and her paraprofessionals work in a symphony of collaboration and engagement that

differentiates instruction not only for the age groups but to meet the requirements of each student's IEP. She does this with consistent expectations that are firm but yet express a caring approach that convinces her students "they can do it". Please congratulate Ms. Delagall for being our representative for all best elements of our OAA staff. Our Employee of the Year is Ms. Sarah Harrington and the ***District Employee of the Year. WOW CONGRATULATIONS MS. HARRINGTON!*** Ms. Harrington works as a paraprofessional in our ACE Prek unit. This unit educates 3-5 year old students with a variety of learning disabilities from ASD, medically handicapped to learning delayed and most of their students start school non-verbal. It is amazing to watch Ms. Harrington work with children in her classroom and the overall program. She has a natural instinct in working with disabled children that you would normally find in a seasoned teacher with specialized training. She is a quick study and an eager learner. Sarah takes on new challenges in her students with focused determination to do the best she can for each individual. Earlier this year we lost the teacher in her classroom. Sarah stepped up, took the leadership role and created a functional learning environment. Impressively, Sarah quickly learned our N2Y Unique educational system, PECS communication protocols as well as addressing the diversity of disability needs through commitment and dedication. Sara, as a paraprofessional has the skills and heart of a teacher and is a contributing asset to her team and most importantly to her students. An exemplary model of a top notch para. Thank you Sarah for representing us to the State level.

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

OAA Parent Notification of Highly
Qualified Staff,



2018-19

Changes to the ABC Contract:

The district has made two very critical changes to the ABC contract. The ABC stands for Attendance, Behavior and Credits. Completing all elements of this contract successfully qualifies students to return to their home schools. The first change is an adjustment to the A (Attendance). Students must now have a 90% or higher attendance rate regardless of excused or unexcused absences. This translates into only 4 days per nine week period. Sometimes students have no excuse under their control like medical emergencies. If students do have extended medical absences it is critical that they have notes from their physicians. This may help them when the apply to return.

In prior contracts the (C)redits meant students must have a 2.0 GPA for each qualifying nine week period. A second element has been added to this Credits part of the contract. All students must successfully complete a quarter long course in Social/Emotional learning. This course includes two major curriculum areas. An on-line, self-exploration program called Ripple Effects (<https://rippleeffects.com>) and the To Good for Drugs and Violence curriculum (<https://toogoodprograms.org/pages/how-it-works>). The To Good curriculum is sponsored by a New Horizons grant and is taught by Ms. Laura Jones. She is doing a wonderful job engaging students in difficult topics that many teenagers are dealing with today. If you have any questions or would like more information on these Social/Emotional learning curriculums please contact OAA and/or follow the links for more information



Don't Forget the **Family Nights at IRSC**, sponsored by the Okeechobee

Children's Mental Health System of Care. For more information contact Jane Kaufman
System of Care (SOC) Family Coordinator at 462-5125 or by email at
jane.kaufman@okee.k12.fl.us

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. Alvin Hamilton ESE, ESOL. Danyta Delagall ESE, ESOL and Heather Wagner ESE, Early Childhood, ESOL.

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