Registration

- A child must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1 to enter kindergarten.
- A child must be 6 years old on or before Sept. 1 and must have attended kindergarten to enter first grade.
- To find out which school your child will attend, as well as the documents you will need to register your child, call Pupil Assignment at 407.317.3233 or check the district’s website at www.ocps.net.

Special Programs

- Alternative Education 407.445.5544
- Career and Technical Education 407.317.3212
- Charter Schools 407.317.3484
- Exceptional Student Education 407.317.3229
- Gifted Education 407.317.3336
- Guidance 407.317.3394

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After the 2004 hurricane season, the district’s Calendar Committee was tasked with designating 10 days that can be used each school year as makeup time. The committee consists of parents, OCPS staff, students, community members and union representatives. The committee selected the following dates and makeup time order as most beneficial for students for the 2011-12 school year:

1. Oct. 14
   - Statewide Professional Day

2. Feb. 20
   - Student/Teacher Holiday (Presidents Day)

3. Nov. 21
   - Thanksgiving Break – Day 1

4. Nov. 22
   - Thanksgiving Break – Day 2

5. March 30
   - Spring Break – Day 5

6. March 29
   - Spring Break – Day 4

7. March 28
   - Spring Break – Day 3

8. March 27
   - Spring Break – Day 2

9. March 26
   - Spring Break – Day 1

10. Nov. 23
    - Thanksgiving Break – Day 3
Curriculum

Comprehensive Academic Achievement Plan (CAAP)

Orange County Public Schools is committed to educating all students so they can assume roles as responsible, contributing members of a democratic society. An effective curriculum is critical to the district’s success in meeting that goal. Through its Comprehensive Academic Achievement Plan, OCPS has developed a curriculum that provides consistency and instructional strategies to address the goal of intense focus on academic achievement. It is designed to meet the needs of all students in our diverse population, whether they are high academic achievers or need additional help to perform at grade level.

The district’s curriculum is based standards developed by the state of Florida that outline what students should know and be able to do at all grade levels and in all subject areas. Standards include language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, foreign language, art, drama, music, physical education, and health.

Each year, students in grades 3 through 10 take the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, commonly known as the FCAT. The state test is based on the State Standards for reading, writing, mathematics and science. The FCAT is used to assess how well schools are meeting the academic needs of their students. Additionally, students taking Algebra I, Geometry, and Biology I will be assessed by state-required end-of-course exams.

Elementary and Middle School Magnet Programs

During the 2011-12 school year, seven elementary and seven middle schools will have magnet programs. They are:

- Arbor Ridge School, Grades 6-8
- Carver Middle, Middle Years’ International Baccalaureate
- Durrance Elementary, Aviation/Aerospace
- Hillcrest Elementary, Foreign Language
- Hunter’s Creek Elementary, Dual Language
- Lake Silver Elementary, Mathematics
- Lee Middle, Middle Years’ International Baccalaureate
- Memorial Middle, Middle Years’ International Baccalaureate
- Mollie Ray Elementary, Digital Technology
- Princeton Elementary, Science
- Robinswood Middle, Middle Years’ International Baccalaureate
- Stonewall Jackson Middle, Middle Years’ International Baccalaureate
- Tildenville Elementary, Dual Language
- Windy Ridge School, Pre-K-8

No transportation is provided for students to elementary magnet programs.

School-Age Child Care

Many OCPS elementary schools offer school-age child care on campus. Children remain at school, enrolled in a safe, convenient, affordable program.

To meet the needs of each school community, principals may choose the OCPS Extended Day Enrichment Program or an approved program operated by an outsourced vendor. School-age child care offers supervision and a variety of enrichment activities for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. All school-age child care programs are fee-supported by those using their services. Daily activities typically include homework time, supervised free play, organized games, and a variety of hands-on enrichment to support student achievement.

For more information, contact your child’s school.
High School (Grades 9-12): Graduation Credit Requirements

In order to graduate with a high school diploma, students must earn 24 credits:

- 3 credits science
- 3 credits social studies
- 4 credits language arts
- 4 credits mathematics*
- 1 credit physical education with health components
- 1 credit fine arts*
- 8 credits electives*

To be awarded a high school diploma, in addition to earning the required number of credits, students must attain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) and earn a passing score on the FCAT. A Certificate of Completion, instead of a regular diploma, is earned if, along with the required credits, either a passing FCAT score or a 2.0 GPA is achieved. (A Three-Year Graduation Plan with a college or career preparation emphasis is available. Certain statutory requirements must be met including entry FCAT 3 scores, specified enrollment times, defined courses to total 18 credits and grade point average maintenance.)

For students entering 9th grade in 2011-2012: An online course for one of the required courses must be successfully completed.

*For students who entered 9th grade in 2010-11: Revisions for high school graduation pertaining to elective credits in major/minor areas of interest (academic, career and technical, or fine and performing arts) and electives as selected by the student as part of the personal education plan were changed in the 2010 Florida Legislative Session. A geometry credit was added as one of the four required math credits.

Florida sponsors several awards programs that offer certificates and scholarships to outstanding students. To participate in the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, students must earn 24 credits, meet specific course requirements, and attain the required score on an admissions test. For the Academic Scholars Award, students must also perform 75 hours of community service. The Gold Seal Award recognizes outstanding vocational students who complete a three-credit job preparatory program and maintain a specified grade point average. Honors diplomas are awarded to students who meet the requirements for a diploma and have a 4.0 grade point average or who obtain a score at the seventh stanine or above on an approved standardized achievement test using national norms, and have a 3.0 grade point average.

(Note: Requirements may change due to revised state legislation.)

Please call your student’s guidance counselor for specific information about programs, courses, requirements and help in planning for your child’s future.
Rigorous Academic Opportunities

Each high school offers a variety of programs designed to meet the needs of its students. For full information about the opportunities featured on this page, please contact your school guidance counselor.

**Advanced Placement Program:** Students have the opportunity to take entry-level college courses. National exams in Advanced Placement courses are given at the end of the school year. If a student scores well enough on the exams, the courses may be used for college credit.

**Dual-Enrollment College Courses:** Students take entry-level college courses to earn high school and college credit. The student does not pay the college’s application fee or costs for tuition and books.

**International Baccalaureate (IB):** This extremely rigorous worldwide high school program includes specific curriculum, evaluative tests, and credentialing.

**Honors Courses:** Courses with this designation are also offered as part of the high school schedule. Several middle schools are implementing honors courses and programs of advanced academic studies for student readiness for any of the above programs of rigor.

**Dual-Enrollment Vocational Courses:** Students can attend classes at a vocational-technical school for part of the day to get specialized training not available at the high school campus.

**Specialized Tech Training and Career Academies:** Students are prepared for employment and postsecondary education. Academic subjects and technical education are integrated for students to apply what they are learning to real problems and situations. Programs also are available for students who want to attend school part-time and work part-time.

**Extracurricular Activities and School Clubs:** Students who have specialized interests may join clubs involved with topics such as math, computers, foreign language, business, science, art, or drama.

High School Magnet Programs

Magnet programs have been established at numerous Orange County public schools to provide an opportunity for students to engage in intensive study in specific areas. Some programs accept students from across the district while others only accept students from specified schools.

For a complete list of magnet programs, information about eligibility and application procedures, please visit the School Choice Services website at www.schoolchoice.ocps.net or call 407.317.3484.

Career and Technical Education

Career and Technical Education offers a wide range of learning opportunities (online and classroom) for adults and secondary students including:

- Adult education - GED Prep, ESOL, Citizenship
- Adult high school credit
- Apprenticeship programs
- Career training
- Career pathways
- Co-enrollment
- Continuing education
- Customized business and industry training
- Personal interest
- Career academies
- College credit
- Dual enrollment
- GED exit option
- Industry certifications

For information about our locations and course offerings, please call 407.841.TECH (8324) or visit us online at OCPSTechCenters.net.

Teacher Qualifications

The No Child Left Behind federal law requires that school districts hire highly qualified teachers. All schools are to have teachers certified in the major core academic subjects. Currently, schools notify parents whose children may be in the classroom with a teacher who is teaching out of the field of their certification. Teachers must take yearly courses to obtain extended certification in the subject areas that are being taught. You may learn more about this by contacting your school principal.
Educational Choice: Parent Options

Parent Choice Options
Educational choice provides parents with options on how best to educate their children. Parents may choose to send their children to a charter school or to participate in the online Orange County Virtual School. Parents may choose to home educate their child through provisions in state law that recognize the right of the parent to select this type of educational placement. They may choose magnet schools or request a school transfer based on majority-to-minority racial diversity, medical, psychological or other needs-based transfers as allowed by School Board policy.

Florida’s Differentiated Accountability model and the Title I NCLB Adequate Yearly Progress status allow parents in low-performing schools to request choice options for their children, which can include transfers or Supplemental Education Services (tutoring). Opportunity Scholarships are available for students in schools that receive a grade of “F” for two years in a four-year period, and McKay Scholarships for exceptional education students may be used to attend private schools with a voucher for tuition.

For more information, visit the Parent’s page on the OCPS website at www.ocps.net. For transfer information, call Pupil Assignment at 407.317.3233.

Home Education
The purpose of the Home Education Program is to allow parents to comply with the compulsory school attendance law while teaching their children at home. To start a Home Education Program, a parent must provide written notice to the district school superintendent of intent to establish and maintain a Home Education Program for students ages 6 through 16. The parent assumes the responsibility for providing curriculum, educational materials, and evaluations necessary to determine student progress. A family may enlist the help of a tutor, the Florida Virtual School, correspondence courses, or other means to provide the sequentially progressive instruction. Requirements of the Home Education Program can be obtained on the School Choice page of the OCPS website or by calling 407.317.3314.

Charter Schools
Charter schools are public schools that are sponsored by OCPS but are governed by a separate governing board. Charter schools are not required to follow district policies but must adhere to most state and federal rules and regulations. They receive state tax dollars to operate. In 2011-12, 31 charter school sites are serving students in Orange County.

For a complete list of charter schools, contact the School Choice Services office at 407.317.3484 or visit www.schoolchoice.ocps.net.
Orange County Virtual School

Orange County Virtual School (OCVS) offers full-time enrollment to students in grades K-12 through an online educational delivery system. Home-educated students in grades 6-12 may enroll as well. OCVS offers equitable access to high-quality, individualized education through the Internet. Virtual learning provides flexibility of time and location, and promotes development of the skills, attitudes and self-discipline necessary to achieve in the 21st century. OCVS offers students the opportunity to earn a standard high school diploma entirely online.

OCVS teachers and guidance counselors live locally and are sensitive to the diverse needs of Orange County students. OCVS teachers have consistently demonstrated successful student completion rates in Florida. OCVS graduates move on to attend various universities around the nation. As a public school, OCVS does not charge tuition fees.

To enhance the virtual school experience for students, OCVS offers traditional extracurricular activities to provide students with opportunities to collaborate with their teachers and classmates. OCVS offers the following “face-to-face” extracurricular activities:

- Open house
- Monthly enrichment “work days”
- Field trips
- College planning seminars
- Community service activities
- “Do Something” Club
- Formal graduation ceremony for seniors

Orange County Virtual School is a franchise partner of Florida Virtual School for middle and high school curriculum. OCVS partners with FLVS Connections Academy and K12 Inc. for its elementary school program. OCVS is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA). For information regarding enrollment, please visit the OCVS website at www.ocvs.ocps.net or call 407-317-3327.

Florida Virtual School

Florida Virtual School (FLVS) offers virtual education solutions to K–12 students, schools, districts, and states across the nation and throughout the world. Florida Virtual School’s mission is to provide students with high-quality, web-based courses to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in the 21st century. FLVS offers more than 100 courses — everything from Learning Recovery® to Advanced Placement. These courses are offered at no cost to Florida public, private, and home-school students. FLVS is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation, and courses are NCAA-approved. If you would like more information about FLVS’s curriculum, professional and individualized instruction, and scheduling, visit www.flvs.net or call the school office at 407.513.3587.
Family Literacy Services
The district has several state and federal grants and initiatives to promote and provide services and resources for family literacy. All program components employ methods that are essential to literacy. A few of these include Tiny Tots, Families Building Better Readers and Mysteries in the Middle. Tiny Tots is an early literacy program for children 0-3 years of age and their parents, which is funded by the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County. A two-hour playgroup is offered each week which provides a variety of parent-child activities designed to strengthen the parent-child relationship, provide socialization, and increase early literacy skills. The goal of the playgroups is to enhance each child’s language and phonological development. To learn more about the program, please visit earlychildhood.ocps.net. Families Building Better Readers is a family involvement project sponsored and developed by the state for kindergarten through grade five, while Mysteries in the Middle is for middle school families. Many schools have parent resource centers. Title I activities place a strong emphasis on training parents to become their children’s first and most important teachers. Additionally, the four Career and Technical Education Centers offer parent education programs for family literacy. Please call your school office for more information about programs that may serve your school.

Character Development Initiative – Change Starts with Me
Character is vital in achieving success in all areas of life. Not only is character development important to students’ success in school, but it is also critical to the accomplishment of their future goals in life. Orange County Public Schools now has a standardized curriculum called Change Starts with Me, which teaches character traits to all students throughout the school year. The Character Development curriculum is sent to each school on a monthly basis to support schools in teaching and promoting positive character:

- August: Positive Attitude
- September: Citizenship
- October: Cooperation
- November/December: Responsibility
- January: Respect
- February: Caring
- March: Self-discipline
- April: Perseverance
- May: Trustworthy
- June/July: Integrity

To be effective, character education and development must involve the entire school community and must reach out to parents and community members. With this in mind, the Orange County Public Schools Character Development curriculum also has a monthly family newsletter, which is available to parents at their child’s school or online at www.safeschoolshealthystudents.ocps.net. This newsletter offers family engagement activities that focus on each monthly character trait.

To foster this common language in our community so that shared character development traits may be recognized, discussed and supported across community boundaries, the website www.changestartswithme.org was established to encourage a network of partnerships within our community.

How exciting it will be if children, families, neighborhoods, organizations and municipalities are united in our approach to promoting and teaching the same character traits at the same time. Together we can make a difference. Please visit changestartswithme.org and determine how you can support this community initiative! Change starts with YOU.
English language learners (ELL) in OCPS are provided comprehensible instruction through specialized programs such as: English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), One-Way Developmental Bilingual Education (K-3), Two-Way Developmental Bilingual Education (K-8) and Sheltered Instruction (K-12).

Students are identified for ELL specialized programs by their answers to the home-language survey questions. These questions are as follows:

- Is a language other than English used in the home?
- Did the student have a first language other than English?
- Does the student most frequently speak a language other than English?

Students who answer “yes” to any of the questions will take an English Language Proficiency Test. This test is given at the student’s home school.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) instruction enables all ELLs to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English. The National ESOL Standards and the Florida Sunshine State Standards for Language Arts are the curriculum for ESOL.

In bilingual education programs, children study science, math, and social studies in the home language and work on listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English every day. Physical education, music, art, and other electives are taken in English with peers in the same grade level. When bilingual education programs are not feasible, the district offers comprehensible instruction to ELL through the use of ESOL strategies in content classes, Sheltered Instruction and/or ESOL/Language Arts. The sheltered instruction approach uses English at the student’s level of English proficiency to teach grade-level subject area courses.

More than 161 languages are spoken in our schools, and ESOL is offered at elementary, middle, and high schools. At the secondary level, students receive instruction in English from an ESOL teacher each day, but are placed in regular classrooms for their academic courses where teachers use ESOL strategies. ELLs also take the ESOL, listening, reading, writing, and speaking elective courses that focus on English language acquisition skills. All teachers who work with ELLs are trained and are highly qualified to work with these students.
Alternative Education “Centers for Success”

Under the Alternative Education “Centers for Success,” the district offers educational services to several categories of student needs in non-traditional settings.

Eligible "at-risk" students may attend one of the School-to-Work programs: the Universal Education Center, the Florida Mall Education Center, or the East Orlando Education Center. In these programs, students attend classes half-day and work half-day. The BETA program is available for teen parents and their children. In other programs, students are involved with juvenile justice, community-based programs, residential programs, and social services within Orange County. All students enrolled in “Centers for Success” receive instruction in the standard K-12 curriculum, as well as ESOL and ESE services, as required.

Programs under the Alternative Education “Centers for Success” are staffed by OCPS teachers, administrators and support professionals. If you would like information about these programs, please call 407.245.1555.

GED Testing

The GED Series Tests cover information that is relevant to the skills employers expect from a high school graduate. GED preparation classes are offered at no cost at Orange County’s Career Education Centers. Any individual wishing to take the GED test must attend a pre-test registration. Registration is conducted at the five area centers: Orlando Tech, Mid Florida Tech, Westside Tech, Winter Park Tech and Winter Park Tech Avalon Campus. To register, prospective test candidates must be 18 years of age, have a valid State of Florida ID/drive’s license or acceptable government-issued identification, Social Security card/taxpayer’s identification card, and pay a test fee.

Individuals 16 and 17 years of age should speak with their high school guidance counselor before withdrawing from school to attempt the GED course of study. Prospective underage testers must have exhausted all alternative means of getting back on track and have an extraordinary circumstance that would prevent him/her from continuing their regular high school studies. Underage testing is conducted in accordance with Orange County School Board policy and the Department of Education.

The current GED test is valid until Dec. 31, 2013. Starting Jan. 1, 2014, anyone that has not obtained scores adequate for the GED State of Florida High School Diploma, will have to test on the new test format. Individuals who successfully complete the GED Test will be awarded a State of Florida High School Diploma.

The GED office is located at 445 West Amelia St., Orlando. For more information, please call 407.317.3200, ext. 2645/2646 or for general information call 407.317.3985. You may also visit the website www.reinventme.net.

Guidance and Academic Advisement

The primary goal of the Comprehensive Guidance Program is to promote and enhance learning for all students. The school counselor, a certified professional with a master’s degree, is the organizer and coordinator of the Comprehensive Guidance Program at the school site.

School counselors support students in their efforts to learn, assist them in their personal, social and global/multicultural citizenship development as well as guide them in their transition from school to careers. They teach many life skills, such as respect for the feelings and beliefs of others, conflict resolution, test-taking skills, and college and career planning. They conduct small-group sessions focusing on issues such as divorce, grief and loss, anger management, self-concept and decision-making skills. Counselors consult with families, teachers and community members in an effort to help students achieve.

School counselors are located in every middle school and high school and the majority of elementary schools. They have the same goal as parents: to ensure that students acquire the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to reach their full potential. Parents are encouraged to contact their child’s counselor for additional information specific to the school.
Exceptional Student Education Department

The purpose of the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Department is to ensure the appropriate education of all students with disabilities by establishing high expectations, removing barriers for students and teachers, modeling effective practices and sharing information and expertise. Programs and services are available for students ages 3 through 22 with autism spectrum disorder, deaf-blindness, emotional behavioral disorders, hearing impairments, cognitive disabilities, orthopedic impairments, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairments, traumatic brain injuries and visual impairments. Services are available for infants and toddlers with vision and hearing disabilities.

The primary focus of ESE is to help students access the general education curriculum. A student’s primary educational need(s), identified in an Individual Education Plan (IEP), are met through the use of accommodations, services, specialized instructional materials, and behavioral approaches that are research-based and exemplify best practices. Eligible students are served in the least restrictive environment, as appropriate to the student’s identified needs.

Screening, evaluation and referral services are available to preschool children ages 3 through 5 at Preschool Diagnostic Intervention Services (PDIS). Parents who would like more information may contact the center by calling 407.317.3503. School-age children needing evaluation services are referred through their school guidance counselor.

Other Exceptional Student Education Department resources include: Parent Ambassadors (407.317.3200, ext. 2614); Florida Diagnostic Learning Resource System (FDLRS - pronounced “Fiddlers”), which serves as a resource for parents and teachers of students with disabilities (407.317.3660); and the Florida Department of Education, which offers a parental choice program for ESE students through the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program. For specific information about the McKay program, please visit the OCPS McKay website at www.ocps.net (under the Departments tab), visit the state’s website at www.floridaschoolchoice.org, or call the district office at 407.317.3279.

For more information about ESE programs and services, please contact your child’s guidance counselor or the staffing specialist at the school. You may also contact the Exceptional Student Education office at 407.317.3312.

School Social Work Services

School social workers serve as liaisons between home, school, and community by providing casework services to address the educational and social/emotional needs of students and families, to encourage regular attendance, and to make referrals to appropriate community agencies.

School social workers often visit homes and provide help to students who have a need for glasses, dental work, medical care, clothes or financial aid. Contact your school or Learning Community office to access social work services.
Mentoring and Tutoring

The COMPACT program now operates in 16 school locations serving almost 1,500 students. The Foundation for Orange County Public Schools sponsors a mentoring initiative for students as they progress from middle to high school. Special grants from the state and federal government also provide programs and services to schools through 21st-century learning grants, Title I Supplemental Education Services funds and Migrant Education. For more information, call your school, call the COMPACT office at 407.317.3200, ext. 2796 or visit www.compactinc.net. You can also contact Community Resources at 407.317.3323.

Programs for Gifted Students

Orange County Public Schools is committed to an educational program that recognizes the unique value, needs and talents of individual students — including students identified as gifted. Gifted students need a qualitatively different educational program that takes into account their unusual intellectual abilities and provides them with a greater range of challenges than those offered by the standard curriculum.

In Florida, students are eligible for gifted services if they meet the criteria outlined in Florida Board of Education Rule 6A-6.03019, FAC. A gifted student is one who has superior intellectual development and is capable of high performance. Eligibility criteria include a demonstrated need for the program, a majority of gifted behavioral characteristics as indicated on a standard scale or checklist, and superior intellectual development as measured on an individually administered test of intelligence.

For more information, visit www.ocps.net or call 407.317.3316.

Report Cards and Progress Reports

Report cards are sent home every nine weeks to provide information about your child’s progress in school, including grades, behavior and attendance. Grades reflect a teacher’s assessment of your child’s classroom performance based on tests, projects, checklists, classroom assignments, homework and classroom observations. A teacher may indicate on the report card that a conference is needed. Some schools use a parent conference to distribute the report card. Please contact your child’s teacher if you have any questions on your child’s progress in school.

Midway through the grading period, each child takes home a progress report so that the student and the parents or guardians will have an idea of how the student is progressing. If needed, a parent may request a weekly progress report.
Online Parent Access

Access your child’s classroom progress using the district’s online ProgressBook. Your school will provide you with a username and password.

Student Progression/Promotion

Each student’s progression to the next grade level is determined upon proficiency in reading, writing, science and mathematics, including specific levels of performance on statewide assessments at selected grade levels. Retention decisions are based on more than a single test score. Students who do not meet these performance levels must receive remediation or be retained within an intensive program that is different from the prior year’s program. For retained students in all grades, subsequent during-year promotion is permitted if performance requirements are met.

The principal has the responsibility for all final decisions regarding initial placement, non-promotion, and promotion with remediation. Decisions will be based on the instructional needs of the child.

If a third-grade student does not achieve above a Level 1 on FCAT Reading, the state requires mandatory retention to extend the time of skills preparation so that the child will be ready for performance in the fourth-grade curriculum. Six good-cause exemptions are defined regarding second language learners, exceptional education students, the use of alternative test scores or a portfolio of student work showing mastery, or prior history of retentions as specified in the law.

K-3 parents are notified each school year concerning the third-grade mandatory retention. For grades 4 and 5, if a student does not achieve a score on FCAT Reading above a Level 1, the student will be retained unless an exemption criterion is met. These exemptions are similar to the good-cause exemptions for third grade.

To be promoted in grades 6 through 8, middle school students must score above a Level 1 in FCAT Reading and successfully pass the equivalent of four full-year courses, three of which must be from the areas of English/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. Exemptions from retention are similar to exemptions listed above. Per state law, an eighth grader is required to pass three courses in English, mathematics, science, and social studies in order to be promoted. A semester course on career and educational planning or its equivalent also has to be successfully passed.

Please visit the Parents’ page of the OCPS website to access the Student Progression Plan.

Standardized Testing

Standardized tests are given to large numbers of children in a standard way: the same directions, the same test conditions, and the same amount of time allowed. Parents receive information about any standardized tests that their children take.

Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)

The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) was revised this year and it is now referred to as FCAT 2.0. The revision was necessary to align the FCAT with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and is still designed to assess how well students have met the new standards adopted by the State Board of Education. These standards and expectations set out what students are expected to know and be able to do at each grade level. The FCAT is given to students in grades 3 through 10 and includes a test of reading and mathematics.

A separate writing test is given in grades 4, 8 and 10. Finally a science test is given in grades 5, 8, and 11.

In order to graduate, students need to pass the FCAT reading and math tests. They will have multiple opportunities to pass before graduation.

The state of Florida is moving away from the original FCAT in high school and moving toward end-of-course (EOC) exams, which will be administered on a computer. These EOC exams will be phased in over the next several years and will include Algebra 1, Geometry, and Biology.

Exceptional education students are expected to participate in the FCAT assessments. Only in specific cases will an IEP (Individual Education Plan) identify the Alternate Assessment as the appropriate test. Accommodations on the FCAT for exceptional education students may include the following (as listed on the student’s IEP): help
in reading the writing, math or science test; responding to the test; extended or interval time schedules; special setting and/or assistive technology.

After the end-of-course exams are implemented, they will be required for graduation. The graduation requirements will change for students each year during this period. It will be even more important to be in contact with your student’s guidance counselor about the specific graduation requirements that apply to his or her graduating class.

For more information about the FCAT or the End-of-Course exams, visit the Department of Education website at www.fldoe.org or the FCAT Explorer website at www.fcatexplorer.org.

District Assessment Programs
The district has developed an extensive program of benchmark tests in grades 3-10. The primary purpose of these tests is to see how students are learning the reading, math, and science benchmarks that will be tested on the FCAT so that interventions can occur before students take the FCAT.

Florida Assessment for Instruction in Reading (FAIR)
The Florida Department of Education developed and uses an assessment to monitor the progress of students in learning reading skills. The Florida Assessment for Instruction in Reading (FAIR) is administered three times per year in grades K-12 and measures pre-reading skills, vocabulary, and comprehension.

For the College-Bound Student
Your school guidance counselor is the key contact for academic advice to prepare for college. Information on courses, testing timelines, application and admittance, and other appropriate dates can all be found in your school’s guidance office.

For additional information on college preparation, visit the Florida Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students (FACTS) website at www.facts.org.

SAT
The SAT is a test of reasoning based on knowledge and skills developed by the student in school coursework and is used for college admissions. The new SAT that was introduced in March of 2005 provides three separate scores: math, critical reading and writing. Achievement tests in various subject areas are offered in conjunction with the SAT. The best time to take an achievement test is just after finishing the course so the information is fresh. Additional information about the SAT, PSAT and AP tests is available at www.collegeboard.org.

PSAT
The PSAT is designed for sophomores or juniors. It can be used as practice for the SAT, which the student will take the following year. In the 11th grade, it is used to determine which students will participate in the National Merit Scholarship Program. The state of Florida pays for all sophomores to take the PSAT.

ACT
This test also is used for college admission. It is designed to measure classroom achievement in four areas: English, mathematics, reading and science. Additional information is available at www.act.org.

PLAN
Like the PSAT, the PLAN, previously called the P-ACT, is designed for sophomores and juniors as a practice test for the ACT.

Advanced Placement Exams
Advanced Placement examinations allow students enrolled in AP courses to demonstrate college-level achievement in many subject areas. Students who successfully demonstrate high achievement may receive college credit, advanced standing in a subject required in their college curriculum, or both. The tests are given in May. Please see your child’s guidance counselor for specific information and advice.

School Improvement Plans
At each school, the School Advisory Council (SAC) develops a school improvement plan, which means creating a plan for the future. Schools need to know where they are, where they want to be and how they can best get there. The school district has a strategic planning process that helps School Advisory Councils set goals and establish strategies for reaching those goals. It helps the school, parents and students create a shared vision and provide each other with support for achieving success.

The district and learning community provide support for schools as they implement their plans. The district and learning community will also provide additional support to a school that is in need of assistance. Comprehensive school reports are also provided to schools so that they can conduct needs assessments and evaluate their progress.
# Testing Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEST</th>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FAIR</strong></td>
<td>Aug. 29-Oct. 18, 2011</td>
<td>Grades K-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec. 1-Feb. 6, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 5-May 23, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FCAT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Feb. 28-March 1, 2012</td>
<td>Grades 4, 8, 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Apr. 16-27, 2012</td>
<td>Grades 3-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Apr. 16-27, 2012</td>
<td>Grades 3-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Apr. 16-27, 2012</td>
<td>Grades 5 and 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PSAT</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 12, 2011*</td>
<td>Grades 10 and 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Florida End-of-Course Exams (EOC)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SEMESTER 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Algebra I</td>
<td>Dec. 12-16, 2011 or</td>
<td>Middle and</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan. 16-20, 2012</td>
<td>High Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(To Be Determined)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEMESTER 2</td>
<td>Apr. 30-June 1, 2012</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. History</td>
<td>(One Week – To Be Determined)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>May 7-25, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geometry</td>
<td>(One Week – To Be Determined)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Algebra I</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct. 1, 2011</td>
<td>For the college-bound high school student.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 5, 2011</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dec. 3, 2011</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jan. 28, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SAT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sept. 10, 2011</td>
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<td>Oct. 22, 2011</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dec. 10, 2011</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Feb. 11, 2012</td>
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<td>April 14, 2012</td>
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<td></td>
<td>June 9, 2012</td>
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<td><strong>Advanced Placement (AP)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 7-18, 2012</td>
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* All high schools are expected to administer the PSAT to all tenth graders on Wednesday, Oct. 12. October 15 may also be offered.
Immunization Requirements

All student immunizations must be up to date to attend school in Orange County. The immunizations are recorded on a Florida Certification of Immunization (DH 680) form, which can be obtained through the Orange County Health Department or your doctor’s office. All students entering Orange County public schools for the first time should have a Florida's Standardized School Entry Exam Form (DH 3040) with documentation of a physical exam that has been completed within the last calendar year.

In an effort to reduce the incidence of meningitis in adolescents and young adults, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that parents of pre-adolescent students (11-12 years old) consult with their physician or the Orange County Health Department regarding the administration of the meningococcal vaccine.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) is on the rise in the United States. Parents can protect their children from its severe consequences by following the recommended series of vaccinations for this disease. For further information, contact the Orange County Health Department at 407.836.2502.

All Grades Require
- DTaP Series
- Polio Series
- Hepatitis B Series
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
**PRE-Kindergarten**
H. Influenza Type B (HIB)

**Kindergarten**
If 4 doses were administered prior to age 4 years, then a fifth dose will be required
Inactivated poliovirus vaccine (Polio)
Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Grades
2 doses Varicella (Chickenpox)

**Pre-K & Grades 4-9**
1 dose Varicella (Chickenpox)

**Grades K-12**
2 doses Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)

**7th Grade**
Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)

**Grades 8-12**
Tetanus, Diphtheria (TD) Booster (Tdap is acceptable)

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**Medication at School**

Do not send medications to school with your child. This practice puts your child, as well as his/her peers, at risk. Should your child require medication while he or she is at school, please contact your school's nurse or health assistant to obtain the appropriate forms.

NOTES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS AUTHORIZATION FOR MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION.

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**Did you know there are over 7,000 chemicals in cigarette smoke and at least 70 are toxic and can cause cancer?**

**There is NO safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke!**

**Fact:** Children exposed to tobacco smoke are more likely to develop respiratory infections, ear infections, and asthma attacks.

**Fact:** Children, whose parents smoke, are twice as likely to become future smokers.

**Make sure your child breathes clean air.**

Make your child’s environment 100% smoke and tobacco-free. Be a role model.

**CALL FLORIDA QUITLINE**

1-877-U-CAN-NOW

(1-877-822-6669)

for free counseling, nicotine replacement therapy, and to increase your chances of quitting tobacco successfully.

Made possible by funding from the Department of Health and Human Services.
Illness
Do not send your child to school if he or she has a rash, fever, eye drainage, severe vomiting or diarrhea, a productive cough, or any symptom that may be an indication of communicable disease. Students with any of these symptoms will be sent home. If your child has any of these symptoms, please notify the school that your child is ill and request a doctor’s note so that your child’s absence can be excused.

You set the goals. We’ll help you meet them.

Whether you’re playing a sport year-round, or taking a few laps around the park, CORA helps active people meet their goals. Rehabilitation from our licensed Athletic Trainers, Physical Therapists and Occupational Therapists can make a huge difference in getting you back to where you want to be.

CORA’s REHABILITATION & SPORTS MEDICINE PROGRAM meets the prevention and treatment needs of:

- Injured athletes at the secondary and collegiate level
- Participants in leisure sports activities
- Aging individuals

The Program may benefit those with:

- Post-operative injuries (such as ACL reconstruction, meniscus tears, rotator cuff repair)
- Acute and chronic musculoskeletal injuries
- Acute and chronic sprains and strains
- Low back pain
- Tendonitis and bursitis

The initial visit includes a comprehensive assessment to establish an individualized treatment plan. The treatment team includes a nationally certified and state-licensed athletic trainer and/or physical therapist. The athletic trainer communicates closely with referring physicians, family members, athletic trainers, and coaches—if needed, to ensure all parties are involved in goal setting and decision making. Additionally, a home exercise plan is established and family education provided, thereby ensuring optimum functional outcomes.

A physician referral is required for treatment. Physicians may initiate specific treatment protocols or request an evaluation and subsequent treatment sessions. Prescribed physician orders will be precisely followed.

Contact your physician today!
To find the CORA Clinic nearest you, visit us at www.corahealth.com • 866.443.CORA

CORA
Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine
Volunteering at School

Volunteering is a special way to get involved in your child’s education. As an ADDitions school volunteer, you can contribute in many ways: accompanying your child’s class on field trips, helping as a classroom assistant, or even serving on the School Advisory Council (SAC).

Parent volunteers get a close-up view of their child’s school. Seeing how your child is taught can also give you ideas on how to help your child at home.

The Partners in Education program matches schools with resources (human and material) through business partnerships to achieve educational excellence. OCPS is always looking for businesses to join with schools and the district to educate our young people for a better tomorrow.

If you are interested in becoming a school volunteer or a business partner, contact Community Resources at 407.317.3323.

Parent-Teacher Support Groups

Schools also have schoolwide parent-teacher support groups. The majority of these support groups are Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) and Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSA). Local school-unit PTAs and PTSAs are part of the Orange County Council of PTA, as well as the Florida PTA and National PTA. PTA provides members with parent education, leadership training and a powerful voice of advocacy on behalf of all children. PTA also pursues legislative initiatives adopted by its members in Orange County and has been named as the Orange County Public Schools’ parent group of choice.

School Advisory Council

Each Orange County public school invites parents to get involved in our schools. Each school must have a School Advisory Council (SAC) that is ethnically, racially and economically representative of its community. This council is an umbrella group that brings all the stakeholders together to work on improving a school.

Members of the SAC are selected according to procedures established by the school and school board in compliance with the requirements of state statutes. Each SAC is composed of the principal and representatives of teachers, education support employees, parents, community members, and students. High schools and technical centers must have students on SACs. Student membership on middle school SACs is optional.

Teachers, education support employees, students and parents are elected to the SAC by their peer groups. Community members are selected by the principal, acting as an agent for the school board or by a process developed by the SAC.

Other district advisory councils to the superintendent include the African American Advisory Committee and the Hispanic Advisory Committee. For information on either of these committees, call 407.317.3202.

School Improvement Plans

At each school, the School Advisory Council (SAC) develops a school improvement plan, which means creating a plan for the future. Schools need to know where they are, where they want to be and how they can best get there. The school district has a strategic planning process that helps School Advisory Councils set goals and establish strategies for reaching those goals. It helps the school, parents and students create a shared vision and provide each other with support for achieving success.

The district and learning community provide support for schools as they implement their plans, as well as additional support to a school that is in need of assistance. Comprehensive school reports are also provided to schools so that they can conduct needs assessments and evaluate their progress.

Where to Get Help

The Public Information Office is a clearinghouse for questions and/or concerns when you’re not sure where to call for help. Staff members can either provide the information you seek or put you in touch with the appropriate office to answer your questions. They’re ready to assist and can be reached at 407.317.FIND (3463).
Grant a Wish for Your Child’s School or Teacher with just One Click!

FuelMySchool.com is the official OCPS Partners in Education online provider for school needs and fundraising! The organization was started right here in Orlando by two moms. FuelMySchool.com has granted more than 200 wishes and has raised more than $60,000 to help Orange County Public Schools.


Find your school’s wish list and help your school by granting a wish! School wishes range from pencils and calculators to technology, volunteers and mentors and are updated throughout the school year. (Bookmark it on your browser and check it often!)

Shop at your favorite online brand name stores and make money for your school at the same time!

Before you shop online, always go to FuelMySchool.com! Shop the same way you always shop online, but first click on FuelMySchool.com and your school’s online mall. Then, click on your favorite name brand store and you’ll be connected to that store’s web site. The store will pay a percentage of your purchase back to Fuel My School, which in turn passes it back to YOUR SCHOOL. It costs you nothing and your personal information is not stored.

Buy a car for yourself or the new driver in your family and a $200 donation comes directly back to your school!

An easy way to make an online donation to your school!

Fill’er up more...

- Spread the word to family and friends
- Post on your Facebook and Twitter
- Shop through at the holidays and for all special occasions
- Purchase big ticket items and vacations

Together we can fuel our schools to enhance educational opportunities for our children.

HELP FUEL YOUR SCHOOL TODAY!
The Foundation for Orange County Public Schools develops and focuses community resources to make a meaningful difference in the success of OCPS students and teachers. Through its core programs, the Foundation connects:

- Investors with classrooms through the Teacher Grants Program;
- Community volunteers with low-performing students through Read2Succeed;
- Businesses with individual schools and with the entire school district for multi-school initiatives; and
- Professionals with students through the annual Teach-In Program.

Classroom Teacher Grants: Nearly $200,000 is awarded annually to teachers for innovative projects, equipment and supplies in key areas such as math, science, literacy and health. During the 2010-2011 school year, 355 teachers received grants that impacted more than 41,000 students in 99 schools.

Read2Succeed: This mentoring program matches volunteers with 2nd graders struggling to learn to read. An award-winning program, Read2Succeed mentors help build literacy skills while building students’ self-esteem and self-confidence. During the 2010-2011 school year, approximately 475 mentors worked with 500 students in 55 schools.

District and School Support: The Foundation provides district and school support by matching teacher and school needs with investors who want to make a sustainable difference. The Foundation also manages funds for district programs and individual schools. During the 2010-2011 school year, it managed more than $875,000 for 47 district and school funds.

Teach-In: Each year on a single day in November, thousands of adults go back to classrooms to share their knowledge and experience with students in every grade. In 2010, 3,689 volunteers were in 152 schools and made approximately 6,400 presentations about career possibilities.

As a parent, you can help the Foundation support your school:

- **Volunteer.** Become a Read2Succeed mentor and make a presentation to students during Teach-In.
- **Stay informed.** Learn what’s happening in our schools and throughout the district; get to know your School Board member and share your views; and attend School Board meetings.
- **Make a gift.** Financial and in-kind gifts enable the Foundation to support initiatives and programs designed to help students achieve learning gains. You also may purchase a “Support Education” license tag for your car, and your $20 donation helps students, teachers and schools.

For more information or to donate, contact the Foundation at 407.317.3261 or visit our website at www.foundationforocps.org.
Building Program Update 2011-12

In 2002, voters approved a half-penny sales tax to renovate/repair existing schools and build new classrooms. Orange County Public Schools has one of the largest and most successful construction programs in the United States. Since 2003, 31 new additional schools have been built and 57 schools have been renovated or replaced. Nearly $1 billion is budgeted for constructing, planning and designing school projects through 2013.

Scheduled Openings/Completions for 2011
NEW SCHOOLS
Lake Nona Middle
Forsyth Woods Elementary
Wetherbee Elementary

Comprehensive Renovations/Replacements
Apopka Middle
Azalea Park Elementary
Chickasaw Elementary
Edgewater High
Hunter’s Creek Elementary
Lake Sybelia Elementary
MetroWest Elementary
Orange Center Elementary
Rosemont Elementary
Southwood Elementary
Waterbridge Elementary
Winter Park Elementary
Winter Park Ninth Grade Center
Scheduled Openings/Completions for 2012

Aloma Elementary
Cypress Springs Elementary
Evans High
Princeton Elementary
Rock Springs Elementary
Siplin Road Area Relief Elementary
Siplin Road Area Relief Middle
Walker Middle
Winegard Elementary
Zellwood Elementary
School children of all ages benefit from our financial literacy presentations in their classrooms. In fact over the past two years, we’ve taught over 9,000 students the value of saving, budgeting, credit, basic money management skills and much more.

To help teach kids the value of saving, we offer a variety of youth accounts based on age. Plus check out both, our Savings Incentive Program and Savings Builder Share Certificate, which reward long term savings.

Accounts for teens and young adults include a FREE Visa® Debit Card or ATM card, Visa Re-loadable Prepaid Card, and checking with no monthly fee. In addition, CFE offers free education and confidential financial counseling to all members.

To learn more about CFE and our financial services, call the Member Service Center at 407-896-9411 or 800-771-9411 outside Orlando, option 3, or visit mycfe.com.