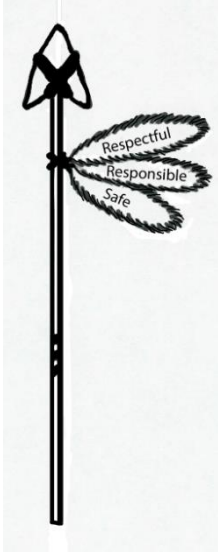


Exceeding Expectations!



Osceola Middle School

825 SW 28th Street

Okeechobee, Florida 34974

(863) 462-5070

Fax (863) 462-5076

<http://www.okee.k12.fl.us/oms/index.html>



Principal: Sean Downing

Assistant Principal: Erin Willis

2017-2018 Student Handbook

Welcome to OMS!

Welcome to Osceola Middle School! Being in middle school is an exciting thing! All adults at your school are committed to making OMS a school of success for each of you. For OMS to be a successful school for you, it will take a commitment by you as a student as well as by your parents or guardians. With all of us working together, we will provide the best education possible in a school setting that is caring, relaxed, and orderly.

Please review all information in this handbook with your parents or guardians to ensure understanding and provide the necessary direction for making this a successful year for you.

OMS MISSION STATEMENT

The faculty and staff of Osceola Middle School will provide an engaging, rigorous learning environment that is meaningful to middle school students. We will strive to equip students with the skills needed to be contributing members of a global society in the 21st century.

SCHOOL HOURS

- 7:30 AM** School office opens
- 7:30 AM** Students may arrive on campus
- 9:00 AM** Classes begin
- 3:40 PM** Dismissal begins
- 4:00 PM** School supervision ends
- 4:30 PM** School office closes

The 30-Minute Rule

Florida Statute 1003.31

For the purpose of limiting the liability as a school, the law provides that students are considered under the control and supervision of the school when they are on the premises during a reasonable time before and after school and while attending or participating in a school-sponsored activity at the school site. Reasonable time is defined as 30 minutes before and after school or the event. **Earliest drop-off time on school days is 7:30 A.M. Standard pick up times for OMS activities are as follows: detention = 4:30 P.M.; socials, volleyball, or soccer games = 5:30 P.M.; basketball games = 7:00 P.M.** Please be considerate and have a ride ready at the appropriate time.

ACCIDENTS

Every accident in the school building, on the school grounds, at practice sessions, or at any event sponsored by the school must be reported immediately to the person in charge and to the school office. Please provide the office with phone numbers so that we may contact parents in the event of an emergency, including home, work, cell, and pager numbers as well as the numbers of a second emergency contact person.

AFTERNOON DISMISSAL

Busing Riding the school bus is a *privilege* that may be denied due to improper conduct on the bus. Please remember that you are expected to obey the driver and respect the driver's authority and responsibility, remain seated in your assigned seat and face front when the bus is in motion, keep noise at a minimum, leave all food and drink off the bus, and behave in a manner that will help ensure you and your friends are transported safely. The yellow line in the bus circle marks a safe distance from the moving buses in the circle. Please stay to the building side of the yellow line at all times.

Bus passes will be issued for emergencies only.

What if you need to leave school early? A parent or guardian must check you out from the main office. They will be required to show picture ID each time. You may not leave early without permission from the office.

Parent Pick-up- The parent pick-up area is in the flagpole area and teacher parking lot of the school. Please follow the direction of staff members to make this process as efficient as possible.

AGENDAS

The school has provided you with an agenda, which we expect you to use to record your assignments, class activities, important dates, and other important information throughout the year. It is an important communication tool between parents and school officials. Please keep the following in mind as you use your agenda:

1. **Every box, every day.** You should be writing **SOMETHING** in your content area box every day. This can be homework, the objective, Learning goals, etc. Please make sure you are using the agenda to keep learning organized.
2. **Hall Passes:** The two passes at the bottom of the agenda page are meant for **STUDENTS** going where they choose; bathroom, clinic, library, etc. Only two passes out of class a day!
3. **Care of Agenda:** You will be expected to treat your agenda like school property. Consequences may follow for deliberate defacement of school property. *We will replace your agenda for a \$5.00 fee, one time only, so please take care of it!*
4. **Parent signatures:** Your agenda is also a tool to enable communication between home and school. *A parent or guardian is encouraged to sign the agenda each evening as needed.*

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN

A re-inspection for asbestos containing materials is done every three (3) years, if required, at this school in compliance with 40 CFR Part 763.94 of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). This report is available for review at the Director of Operations office located at 938 NW 34th Street, Okeechobee, FL 34974

ATTENDANCE

It is necessary that you attend school every day! Being in school each day is the first step to being successful, both in school and in life. Failure to maintain good attendance will adversely affect participation in school events and trips.

Please Note: Attendance at school on Team Days or field trip days is still required.

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD ATTENDANCE POLICY:

It is the position of the Okeechobee County School Board that students must attend school on a regular and timely basis to maximize educational opportunities offered in Okeechobee County Schools. Florida Statute 1003.21 requires that all students between the ages of six (6) and sixteen (16) attend school regularly. Students who have

attained the age of sixteen (16) and who have not graduated are subject to compulsory school attendance until a formal declaration of intent to withdraw, signed by the student and parent/guardian, is filed with the district school board. Students are obligated to attend one hundred eighty (180) days of school each year. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to see that this law is obeyed.

Absences due to the following reasons will be excused:

- Illness or injury of the student
- Illness or injury to the student's immediate family necessitating the student's absence
- Death to a member of the student's family necessitating the student's absence
- Recognized religious holidays of the specific faith of a student
- Doctor and dental appointments of the student
- Pre-arranged absences of educational value and with the principal's approval
- Subpoena or forced absence by any law enforcement agency
- Major disaster that would justify absence in the judgment of the administration
- Head lice, a maximum of two days per incident

It is the responsibility of the parent(s) or guardian to provide a written statement or oral notification indicating the reason for the absences within two (2) days of the student's return to school. Please send a note to the teacher or call to give the reason for the absence and the date of absence. Please sign and date the notes to school. When the school is not notified of the reason for an absence, the absence is automatically marked as an unexcused absence. An unexcused absence is any absence which is not justified by the parent or guardian according to the allowable excuses (see above) or for which the reason is unknown.

Students may make up work following excused absences and receive full credit. Students may make up work following unexcused absences and receive 75% credit. All make up work should be completed within one week following return from absence.

In order for a student in grades 7 – 12 who are participating in a high school course, to earn credit in a course, a student should not be absent more than nine (9) days within a semester. A student who exceeds nine (9) absences in a course may earn credit in that class by earning a passing grade in at least one of the two nine week grade periods AND on the comprehensive semester exam for that course. Middle school progression still requires students to pass three out of four quarters in order to earn course credit. Other requirements may exist depending on course and Florida Statutes.

UNEXCUSED TARDIES AND EARLY RELEASES

Punctuality is necessary for a student to take full advantage of available educational opportunities. If a student is not in the classroom when the tardy bell rings, he/she will be classified tardy. An early release is defined as any release prior to the regular dismissal time. Any student in grades K-8, who accumulates any combination of five unexcused tardies and/or unexcused early releases (not including documented medical/dental appointments or other authorized reasons that constitute an excused absence), shall be deemed absent (unexcused) for one school day. A parent/guardian request for early release or late arrival shall be considered excused with documentation in accordance with procedures for excused absences. Tardies and early releases that are deemed excused will not accumulate towards an absence.

TRUANCY

A student is truant if he/she fails to be in school and on time unless the absence is excused as per Florida Statute 1003.01 (8).

After five (5) unexcused absences, a warning letter will be sent.

After nine (9) absences in a school year, a letter will be sent requiring a doctor's note for future absences.

After ten (10) unexcused absences, a second attendance letter will be sent to the parent or guardian, and the school counselor will schedule a Student Information Team (SIT) meeting.

The District Attendance Officer will visit the home and provide written notice of the state statute.

After fifteen (15) unexcused absences, the principal initiates a Truancy Referral, which is forwarded to the Director of Student Services, who may initiate the process to:

- File a legal charge against the parent/guardian
- File a legal charge against the student
- Refer the family for intervention services

What do you do if you are absent? Have your parent or guardian call the attendance secretary (462-5070) the day you are absent so we know where you are. Otherwise, the secretary will make every attempt to call your parent. Bring a written excuse, signed by your parent or guardian, when you return to school. The excuse must include your full name, the date that the note was written, the date(s) of your absence, and the reason you were out. Turn in the note to your 1st period teacher when you return to school. The teacher will send the note to the attendance secretary with the daily attendance folder.

How do you get make-up work following an absence? If you were absent for one or two days, check with each of your teachers about work that needs to be made up when you return. If you are absent for three days or longer, your parents or guardians may call the school office to request make-up work. The attendance secretary will contact the team to send your assignments to the office. The assignments will be available by 4:00 p.m. the following day. You have one week following an absence to turn in all make-up work, per student progression.

What if you are late to school? All students are expected to be to class on time! If you arrive late to school, report to the main office for a late slip. If you have been detained in the office, or by a teacher, you must receive a pass from that person before going to your next class.

Where do you go when dropped off at school? Your ride must drop you off in the west parking lot near the cafeteria no earlier than 7:30 am. You must go directly to a pre-identified computer lab and wait there until the 8:35 bell rings unless you have a pass to do otherwise. Be sure to follow the rules posted in the computer lab, or you may lose your privilege to come to school early

AWARDS

All students are responsible for making OMS a better place. By working hard, respecting yourselves and others, you make school a positive place. Students will be rewarded during the year with team days, awards, and other special recognition programs.

BICYCLES/ SKATEBOARDS/ SCOOTERS/ MOTORCYCLES/ AUTOMOBILES

Bicycles are to be parked and locked in the bicycle racks at the front of the school immediately upon entering the school grounds and are not to be used during the school day for any reason. If skateboards and skates are used as a transportation method to school, they must be left in the front office immediately upon entering school grounds and they may not be used on the school campus at any time. Motorcycles or automobiles driven by students are not allowed at school.

BOOKBAGS/BACKPACKS

Students are permitted to carry book bags/backpacks to school. Personal items brought to school are the responsibility of the students. The school is not responsible for loss, theft, or damaged property.

CAFETERIA

To encourage good nutrition, a well-balanced lunch is offered at a reasonable price. Students are encouraged to prepay for meals by turning lunch money (in a cafeteria envelope) to any cafeteria employee. Thanks for helping keep the cafeteria a quiet, clean, comfortable place to eat by following these school-wide cafeteria expectations:

1. Wait your turn.
2. Remain in your seat.
3. Talk quietly.
4. Clean up your area.

CLINIC

The clinic is open from 8:15 to 3:45 on school days. You must have a pass from your teacher in order to visit the clinic. If you are ill, the clinic staff must call home for you. Please make sure the office/clinic has the correct emergency contact information at all times. A rest area is available for emergencies only.

What if you have to take medicine at school? Your parent must sign an authorization form approved by the Okeechobee County School Board, which is available in the school clinic and the main office. The medication, ***in the original prescription container***, must be turned into the school nurse along with the authorized form ***by the parent/guardian***. The medication will be administered in the clinic where records are kept on all medication use. You are responsible for remembering to come to take your medication at the appropriate time. Remember that no student is permitted to carry medication of any kind with them at school unless noted on updated annual student health care plan.

CLUBS / ACTIVITIES / ATHLETICS

What rules govern clubs, activities, and athletics?

1. In order to qualify for participation in school clubs and activities, students must meet eligibility requirements which may include: attendance, behavior, and be free of fines and fees. There may be additional participation requirements depending on the event.
2. Students must be in attendance at school in order to participate in any after school practice or event. If the after school activity is scheduled for Saturday, the student must be in attendance the previous school day.
3. Each club is governed by a club constitution. Each activity is governed by the sponsoring entity. Athletic teams are governed by the OMS Athletic Handbook
4. Students must maintain eligibility according to FHSA Guidelines and/or district policy by maintaining a 2.0 GPA each semester.
5. Due to the need to issue receipts/regulations for handling money, we will only accept fees associated with socials, school functions, team days, etc. only during the times specified by the sponsor.
6. ****Monies collected prior to a Team Day or other school function often require advanced payment for the school to write a check to the hosting organization. If a student opts to not participate, or becomes ineligible prior to a trip or activity he/she is not guaranteed a refund. All refund requests must come through the Principal and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.***
7. All regular school rules are in effect during all school-sponsored activities.

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

In accordance with Florida Statutes 1006.07, the Okeechobee County School Board has adopted a Code of Student Conduct prescribing the rules and regulations for the control, discipline, suspension and expulsion of students. These rules and regulations are intended to promote an atmosphere within the school which is conducive to learning as well as to ensure the protection of the rights of students. Inherent to a democratic society is the fact that rights entail responsibilities. Self-respect and respect for others are major goals of the Code. Students have the right to avail themselves of a free public education; however, students have a responsibility not to interfere with the education of other students. The Code of Student Conduct enumerates rights, responsibilities, and consequences for students attending Okeechobee County Schools specifying very strict consequences for drugs, alcohol, tobacco, weapons, violence, and vandalism. Each student will receive a Code of Student Conduct at the beginning of the school year. **It is important that you and your parent read and become familiar with the rules and policies conveyed in this document.**

Specific OMS Conduct

OMS classrooms are governed by the following school-wide expectations for behavior in the classroom:

1. Follow directions quickly.
2. Raise your hand for permission to speak.
3. Raise your hand for permission to leave your seat.
4. Make smart choices: keep hands, feet, objects, and hurtful comments to yourself.
5. Keep your dear teacher happy

Students displaying positive behaviors will be rewarded with Spears, which can be exchanged for privileges, supplies, prizes, or treats. Students will earn consequences for inappropriate behavior, including (but not limited to) warning, lunch/AM / PM detention, time out, or referral.

You have a responsibility to yourself and to others to conduct yourself appropriately throughout the school day. Listed below are some of the school rules for Osceola Middle School not specifically mentioned in the Code of Student Conduct:

1. Students are not permitted to display drawings or writing on any possessions, including but not limited to clothing, notebooks, book bags or self. This includes gang-related symbols.
2. Loitering, or sitting on campus, is not permitted before or after school.
3. Couples are not permitted to embrace or display other overt signs of affection. (PDA)
4. All non-school items should remain at home, such as: toys, stuffed animals, trading cards, fidget toys, laser pointers, large amounts of money, expensive jewelry, items to sell, etc. Non-school items will be sent to the office and a parent must pick them up. Items not claimed by June 30 will be discarded.
5. Permanent markers, whiteout, and gum are not permitted on campus. Repeat offenses could result into more severe consequences.
6. Consumption of candy, food, and drinks is permitted if provided by the classroom teacher. Must be consumed in assigned class prior to leaving that hour. Water is permitted in a sealed, non-glass, clear bottle, at the classroom teachers' discretion.
7. Students are not permitted to engage in activities related to gambling.
8. Items from the cafeteria (except water) may not leave the cafeteria after the lunch period ends. Additionally, outside food items can only be provided for your own child(ren).

Self-Discipline

Self-Discipline is being responsible for your choices and thinking about the consequences of those choices before taking action. I can demonstrate responsibility by:

- being responsible for my actions, attitudes, and moods.
- setting priorities and goals I strive to reach.
- seeking first to understand then to be understood: LISTEN before I talk!
- being RESPECTFUL. I don't have to put others down to get what I want.
- understanding that I am not perfect, mistakes are opportunities to learn.

CRIME STOPPERS SAFE AT SCHOOL PROGRAM

Crime Stoppers of the Treasure Coast, through the Safe at School Program, provides a means for total anonymity of students who report crimes or suspected criminal activities. To report a crime, call 1-800-273-TIPS (8477).

DRESS CODE

We believe that appropriate dress is essential to an orderly and productive school atmosphere. How you dress is a reflection of how you feel about yourself and how others see you. Students are expected to come to school well-groomed and neatly dressed. It is the joint responsibility of every student, parent, or guardian, and administrator to see that the dress of the student is appropriate and does not interfere with the teaching/learning process. Any time missed due to dress will be unexcused.

Appropriate Dress for OMS Students is:

1. Shirts should be **long enough to fully cover the midriff and all undergarments**.
2. Sleeveless shirts with a collar may be worn. See-through blouses are acceptable dress as long as no undergarments are visible.
3. Logos or images depicting inappropriate or vulgar language, sex (including innuendo or sexual overtones), drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products, or those that have been identified by the school as gang related, are not permitted at school.
4. Pants, shorts, and skirts must be **worn at the natural waist**, not showing underwear, **no shorter than three inches above the knee**, and not so long, so tight or wide that they cause a distraction, disruption, or safety hazard. If pants have holes or slits, the holes or slits must not reveal skin. Pajamas are not acceptable dress. Students with a habit of wearing pants too large to remain at the waist could be placed on a special dress code whereby they will be expected to wear a belt and tuck in their shirt.

5. Students must wear shoes at all times during the school day. Sneakers are needed for PE class. Bedroom slippers are not appropriate for school.
6. Students may wear sunglasses, hats, or other protective wear while outdoors. Hats and sunglasses are not to be worn in the building at any time. Violations will result in hats or sunglasses being confiscated, sent to the Dean's office, and must be picked up by a parent or guardian.
7. Gym Class: Students will be required to change for gym class into clothing and sneakers suitable for athletics. Gym clothing must meet the above requirements for school dress.

Please Remember. . .

- If there is a question on appropriate dress, the final decision will be made by the administration.
- Items of clothing and accessories (jewelry, hair color, or other adornments) that cause a distraction, disruption in the learning process, or safety hazard are inappropriate.
- If you do not meet the dress code, you will be sent to the Dean's office, where your parent or guardian will be contacted to correct the dress code violation. If no one can be reached, you will be expected to wear a substitute from the school's collection. Students will return to class when properly dressed.
- Repeat dress code offenses could result in more severe consequences.
- Wearing a jacket will not be an acceptable correction to inappropriate dress.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students may have an electronic device (cell phones, i-pods, tablets, etc.) in their possession during school hours.

Devices must be off and out of sight (backpack or locker) prior to entering the classroom at the start of the day. The device will be taken away if the following occurs:

- The device being heard or seen during unauthorized times.
- The device is used to photograph or record without adult permission.
- The device is being used during transitions to and from the class and restroom.

Once taken, the device will be sent to the dean's office and only a parent can pick it up from the school at the end of the school day. Headphones are acceptable upon entrance and exit of the school building before and after school, permitting they do not prevent the student from following directions quickly. Headphones are not to be worn during the day without adult permission for educational purposes. All devices brought from home are the individual student's responsibility. The school will not be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged devices.

FEES

All fees (lost and damaged Chromebooks, library fines, restitution, cafeteria costs, etc.) and monies will be collected by the office staff and forwarded to the school bookkeeper. Fees may be paid before, during or after school by students and at any time by parents. Only cash or checks made payable to Osceola Middle School in the exact amount are accepted. **Nonpayment of fees may disqualify a student from participating in school events.**

FIRE DRILLS

Fire drills are required by law as an important safety precaution. At the sound of the signal, everyone must clear the building by the posted route as quickly and as quietly as possible. When the alarm sounds, walk quietly and in a single file line to your class's designated area. Stay with your class, and await further instructions. Do not re-enter the building until the all clear signal is given. Upon entering the building, return immediately to your assigned area.

GUIDANCE SERVICES

What can the guidance counselors do for me? The counselor can help you understand your problems, educational plans, vocational plans, personal development, home, and family relations. Many other topics of interest are explored through both group counseling and individual conferences. Counselors will keep information confidential unless disclosure is legally required to prevent danger to the student or others.

Guidance counselors assist with parent/teacher conferences. Have your parent call 462-5070 to schedule a conference if necessary.

How can I see my guidance counselor? Students can log in to the portal and complete an office sign-up electronic request. Specify the nature of your concern and someone will address it as time permits.

HALL TRAVEL

You are responsible for creating a nice hallway environment for everyone by following these school-wide expectations for hall travel:

1. Have your signed agenda.
2. Walk on the right.
3. Leave space between you and the person in front of you.
4. Keep noise to a minimum.
5. Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.

How do hall passes work? You must have a pass when you are in the hallway during school hours. **Only two passes are allowed a day, please plan accordingly.** Take advantage of restroom opportunities before school, during lunch, and at the end of the day as permitted. Have your teacher sign as approval. Give your agenda to the teacher or school personnel you visited on the pass, and be sure they sign and write the time when you leave. It is your responsibility to be sure you have a pass!

HOMELESS EDUCATION

Students who are identified as being homeless or displaced have specific educational rights in the state of Florida and will qualify for free lunch if they meet criteria. The Okeechobee County School District is happy to share this information with you. If you are interested in learning more, please ask us for a Homeless Education Brochure. You can also find the information at this website: <http://www.okee.k12.fl.us>

INSURANCE

The school has no accident insurance. Students are offered inexpensive insurance at the beginning of the school year. All students should be covered on some insurance policy. Students in vocational classes are required to have insurance. The county school board supplies secondary insurance for athletes injured during an athletic event. The Florida Kid Care Program also offers health insurance to those who qualify. Information on insurance is available in the office. Call the school office 462-5070 for more information.

LATE WORK

Late work shall not be granted full credit. For assignments other than homework and practice classwork, late work shall be accepted for one week from the due date, and the student will receive no less than one-half of the earned credit for the assignment. This deadline may be extended with the approval of the teacher or principal.

LOCKS AND LOCKERS

All locker and lock purchases will be on a first-come first-served basis. A combination lock must be purchased from the school at the cost of \$5 per lock. If all lockers have been issued, your name will be placed on a waiting list for the next available locker in your team. Check with your teacher for information.

Can you share a locker with a friend? Absolutely not! Students who share lockers place themselves and their belongings at risk, and they will lose their locker privileges. If you abuse lockers or are continually tardy to class, you may lose your locker privileges.

Reminder: According to Florida Statutes, 1006.09, a student's locker or other storage area is subject to search upon reasonable suspicion for prohibited or illegally possessed substances or objects.

LOST AND FOUND

All lost and found items should be brought to the main office. If you lose something, check with the school secretary in the main office. Items not claimed are donated to charity following the winter break and again after the school year ends.

MEDIA CENTER

Students may use the Media during selected times.

How do you check out a book? Each book has been electronically coded for security purposes and must be checked out and scanned using individual student names. Books are due 2 weeks from the date of checkout and should be returned to the book drop located in the checkout counter immediately upon entering the media center. Any book more than 2 weeks overdue may be subject to fines and/or replacement fees. This could result in being ineligible to participate in school activities.

What happens if you lose or damage a library book? Many of our library books are new and very expensive. Please help us keep our library book collections new and in good shape. A media aide/specialist checks the condition of the returned book. If there is damage, the student and parent are notified. The choices for repair or replacement are as follows: student/parent pays full price and receives the book to keep; student/parent pays half price, which allows us to keep the book and repair it; or a damage fee is assessed based on the previous condition of the book and amount of damage.

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, gender, age, national or ethnic origin, genetic information, political beliefs, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, if otherwise qualified, social and family background or on the basis of the use of a language other than English by Limited English Proficiency (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 Board shall comply with all federal and state laws which include the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 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
(863) 462-5000 Ext. 267

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students scheduled into PE are expected to participate in class activities. Students will be required to change for gym class into clothing and sneakers suitable for athletics. Gym clothing must meet the above requirements for school dress. Students must also wear sneakers that are flat and safe, which tie or Velcro. Parental notes for legitimate, short-term excuses from physical activity will be accepted for a maximum of 2 days. If a student needs to be exempt from PE for a longer period, a doctor's note or a PE Waiver must be turned in to the office stating the reason and must receive prior to approval.

PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

To be promoted students 6th and 7th grade students must receive a yearly passing grade in five of six subjects. Eighth grade students must pass all core content classes in at least 3 out of the 4 nine week grading periods throughout the year. In order to pass a course, a student must earn a passing grade (a "D" or better) in three of the four nine weeks. The final promotion decision is made by the principal and as prescribed by Florida Statute. Any student not meeting these requirements will be required to make up any lost credits with using the district's course recovery program on their own time.

REPORT CARDS/PROGRESS REPORTS

Report cards are distributed at the end of each nine week grading period and are yours to keep. Report cards contain academic grades as well as attendance data. Scholastic or academic grades will be given according to the following scale: A= 90-100, B= 80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=0-59. Progress Reports are issued 4 weeks after the beginning of each nine weeks.

TELEPHONES/MESSAGES

Telephones are available for teacher use in most classrooms. Phones are not available for general business that should be handled at home before coming to school. Students may use the phone in the main office to contact

parents with permission from the classroom teacher and office staff. Remember that the clinic must make all calls regarding student illness; students may not call home from the classroom.

TEXTBOOKS and CHROMEBOOKS

Students will be issued a district provided Chromebook and/or textbook. Students are expected to properly care for textbooks and Chromebooks and assume full responsibility for the care of books loaned to them. Books are issued by the teacher and must be returned to the same teacher upon completion of the year or withdrawal from school. If you lose or damage a textbook or Chromebook, you will be assessed a fee to replace or cover the damage. Upon payment for a lost or damaged book, another book may be issued. Students and parents are encouraged to purchase Chromebook insurance for a nominal fee which will protect against accidental damage. For more information please refer to page 7 section 8 of the Okeechobee County School Board Chromebook Handbook. **Nonpayment of fees may disqualify a student from participating in school events.**

TITLE I

Osceola Middle School is a Title I school. All students receive supplemental services through staff, materials, and supplies supported with Title I funds. The purpose of Title I is to help ensure that all children have the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach proficiency on challenging state academic standards and assessments.

VISITORS

All visitors on campus must check in and obtain passes from the office. Students are not allowed to bring guests to school during regular school hours.

VOLUNTEERS

Parents or other interested adults wishing to become volunteers must fill out an application and provide two references. After review of the application is complete, the approved volunteer list will be forwarded to the teams, who will utilize them as needed.

WARNINGS

- A recommendation of expulsion may be made for any student found to have intentionally made false, injurious accusations against a teacher or other member of the school staff, according to the school district Code of Student Conduct. Also, the parent or guardian of such student may be liable for any expenses incurred by the falsely accused person in the defense of the charges made, and the student and parent or guardian may be sued for slander/libel or will be held liable as provided by law.
- School boards may assign more severe consequences than normally authorized for violations of the Code of Student Conduct when the offender appears motivated by hostility toward the victim's real or perceived gender, race, religion, color, sexual orientation, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, political beliefs, marital status, age, social and family background, linguistic preference, or disability
- Exhibiting a firearm or weapon within 1,000 feet of a school or possessing a firearm on school property or possessing an electric weapon, destructive device or other weapon on school property is a third degree felony.
- When any student, parent, or other person commits an assault or battery upon any elected official or employee of a school district, regardless of whether he knows or has reason to know the identity or position or employment of the victim, and the elected official or employee is on school property or is away from school property on official school business, the offense for which the person is charged shall be classified:

Assault = First Degree Misdemeanor

Battery = First Degree Misdemeanor

Aggravated Assault = Second Degree Felony

Aggravated Battery = First Degree Felony