CHARGER CONNECTION



Volume 3. No. 4

December 1, 2023



ALL IN, EVERYONE WINS!!

Inside This Edition: December Highlights

As we embrace the holiday season, here's a glimpse of the exciting happenings at Orange County Virtual School this December. Prepare for a well-deserved winter break, and don't forget to secure your yearbook to capture cherished memories. Congratulations to our Red Ribbon Week winners championing a healthy lifestyle. Stay tuned for a flurry of upcoming events, and ensure academic success with the latest testing information. Discover free WiFi hot spots powered by T-Mobile, promoting seamless connectivity for all. Join us in celebrating the remarkable achievements of our students in this month's spotlights. May your December be filled with joy, unity, and festive cheer!

All In, Everyone Wins!



December: where joy echoes in the halls, kindness sparkles in the air, and the warmth of shared moments fills our school with a festive glow."

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PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION

OCVS Parents and Guardians.

Here we are entering the last month of 2023 and entering 2024 before we know it! The holiday season is here and our school is bustling with so much excitement and activity. We have a lot happening on and off campus so be sure to view your teachers' announcement pages, their newsletters, our social media handles, and our OCVS website for updates.

I'd like to say congratulations to the elected senior class officers for the Class of 2024. It was such a close race. Thank you to all of those that took the time to run and vote. These officers are going to help make the senior year a memorable one. An additional congratulations to our newly inducted students to the National Elementary Honor Society. The induction ceremony took place this past Wednesday at campus. Your service, leadership and character are greatly recognized and appreciated.

I would like to say thank you to all of our students who have already completed Segment 1. We've had a GREAT 1st semester and we want to end STRONG. Students that are not completed yet should consider working through winter break to get completed because once we return, we will be moving into Segment 2. Please note that students who are not on track to be completed in their courses by December 22nd will be contacted by school counselors and/or administration to discuss the next steps for Semester 2. The discussion may include retuning to the zoned school, so let's put forth our best effort to be completed on time in all courses. I know that each and every student here at OCVS is capable of anything, so proud!

During this jubilant holiday season, I would like to take a moment to give kudos to my wonderful OCVS parents for partnering with me and my staff to ensure the best for our students. Our success comes from the collaboration, commitment and support you show for our students. I am grateful for the accomplishments we have reached so far this year.

As we prepare to spend time with our loved ones during this holiday season I want to wish you all a safe and memorable break and remind everyone to be intentional in the things that you do.

Have a wonderful break and I look forward to seeing everyone back in the New Year!

See you in 2024!





Your Proud Principal,
Wrs. Brandi Gurley

UPCOMING EVENTS & INFO

OCPS Parent Academy: December

Lunch and Learn Live Online

Will occur on Facebook and YouTube Live. Time: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 6, 2023: School Choice Options

Parents learn how to find the best school fit for their child using school transfers, magnet programs, alternative education programs, and charter schools.

Virtual Mini-Academies

The best of Parent Academy in a bite-sized 1 hour version on WebEx Webinar

Times may vary but are typically 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Click <u>HERE</u> to see December Mini-Academies and register:

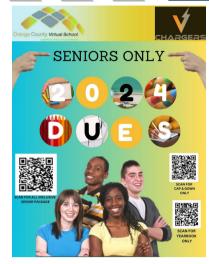
PCUF and You: Private Colleges and Universities of Florida Admissions Panel - Dec. 5th

Paying for College: Financial Aid Night - Dec. 12th

Dealing with Challenges and Community

Resources - 14th

Visit <u>www.parentacademy.ocps.net</u> for more information on these and all academy offerings.







The Foundation for Orange County
Public Schools proudly announces
Top Talent LIVE 2024! The foundation
will be accepting auditions for Top
Talent LIVE 2024 from January 22
through February 23, so get those
auditions in Chargers! All information
can be found on their website
www.foundationforOCPS.org

Proceeds from this event benefit the Foundation and provide arts enrichment for students experiencing poverty or homelessness.

UPCOMING EVENTS & INFO



Winter Break, No School - All OCPS schools will be closed from December 25th - January 5th, 2024.

Teachers will return on January 8th for a teacher workday. All students will return on Tuesday, January 9th.

A reminder that all students should be completed in their courses by Friday, December 22nd.



Students in Grades 6-8 who are interested in participating in the OCPS SPANISH Spelling Bee can call or text Ms. Ruiz at (407) 553-2604. The deadline to enter your name for the contest is **December 5**. Students at all levels of Spanish learning may participate.



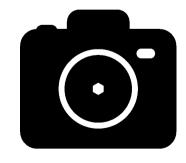
Next Meeting Date: Thursday, January 25, 2024 Time: 2:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Meeting Link: click here

If you are interested in joining SAC, please contact Manal Sohel at manal.sohel@ocps.net.

School Photos - Fall Make-Ups

Grades K-11 January 17, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. OCVS Campus No appointment needed



TESTING

We are preparing now for **FAST PM2** which will take place in December. Students should receive an email to their OCPS student email accounts right after the Thanksgiving break with their testing links and usernames. If you have not received your email by December 1st, <u>please email us</u> to let us know. Just a reminder that all students will be scheduled to take FAST PM2 remotely. If you would like to complete the FAST PM2 at campus, please register <u>HERE</u>.

Remember that FAST is for students in grades K-10 (Reading) and K-8 (Math). Elementary students will test with their classroom teacher. Students in grades 6-10 should monitor their OCPS Student Emails to get testing links and directions. FAST Math is for students taking elementary or middle school-level math classes. If you are a middle school student taking Algebra 1 or Geometry, you will not take FAST Math but will take STAR Math instead.

If you are in grades 10, 11, or 12 and are missing either your Algebra 1 or FAST Reading requirements, you can sign up on our website under the High School Testing Information and Calendar link.

Click here to view our website: ocvs.ocps.net/students/testing info

All information about testing can be found on the OCVS Website at www.ocvs.ocps.net Families can click on "Students" and then "Testing Info" to access everything they need for testing this year.



TECHNOLOGY

TECH UPDATES

Full-time OCVS students are eligible for a **FREE** wifi hotspot with a monthly data allowance through a generous partnership with **T-Mobile EmpowerED**. To qualify students must not have wifi at home or have wifi that is strong enough to have everyone connect their devices at the same time and still be able to complete homework without websites loading slowly or being kicked offline. **Sign up here for a wifi hotspot** Wifi hotspots are delivered to OCVS and you will be contacted when yours is available for pickup.



CONTACT US

Please visit

<u>https://ocvs.ocps.net/media_center</u> for information regarding devices.

Donna Dalton

Assistant Principal donna.dalton@ocps.net

Phillip Sardin

Technology Support Representative phillip.sardin@ocps.net



STUDENTS: DO YOU KNOW HOW TO CHECK YOUR OCPS EMAIL??

Your OCPS email is the email that is your OCPS student id number such as

480XXXXXXX@students.ocps.net which the school uses to communicate important information such as testing information. To check your OCPS email go to Google Drive from Launchpad and then click on the dots next to your profile. This will display the GMAIL icon, which will be your student email.

Click on the link to watch a "How To" video for help.

https://ocps.instructuremedia.com/embed/9ef5e8 4a-db1f-45f3-ad53-219ae7af387b

Do you know the difference between FLVS email and OCPS email? FLVS email is on the FLVS platform. The email link is at the top of the screen inside of VSA on FLVS. It is what is used most frequently by our teachers to communicate with students.

COUNSELORS CORNER

Honor Roll Information:

Greetings families, we are excited to celebrate another year of academic achievement. We wanted everyone to be aware of the criteria for Honor Roll at OCVS:

- Honor Roll will be awarded per semester, not yearly.
- Courses will need to be completed by the end of the semester according to the school calendar.
- The Code of Conduct has to be completed and acknowledged.

We will be awarding General Honor Roll and Principal's Honor Roll per semester:

- General Honor Roll As & Bs
- Principal's Honor Roll all A's

You can contact your student's counselor if you have any questions. Thank you.

ELEMENTARY

Our full-time applications are open now for grades K-12! Do you know of someone who is not currently an OCVS full-time student but has mentioned to you that they are interested in joining our amazing family? New students can apply here: https://ocvs.ocps.net/attend_ocvs/enrollment

CONTACT US

Katie Ballard, School Counselor Elementary K-5 Katherine.Ballard@ocps.net 407-391-5896



MIDDLE SCHOOL

If you have not chosen your two electives for the 2nd semester, now is the time to do so!

Below is the link to our OCVS Course Catalog for all your middle school elective options: OCVS Course Catalog

Please reach out to your School Counselor if you have any questions.

CONTACT US

Matthew Ireland, School Counselor 6-8 Last Names A-L matthew.ireland<u>@ocps.net</u> 407-502-3585

Jane Mills, School Counselor 6-8 Last Names M-Z Jane.Mills@ocps.net 407-553-2106



HIGH SCHOOL

High School Chargers, as we get closer to the end of this first semester, please be sure you are on pace in your classes. All Segment 1 courses should be 100% complete before the Winter break. Please reach out to your teachers and your school counselor if you are struggling to remain on pace.

If your class ends in December and you need to add a semester 2 class, please do so now. Here's the link to our list of available courses OCVS Course Catalog.

Juniors, if you have not yet done so, please schedule your Junior meeting with your counselor. At the meeting, your counselor will review your graduation status and discuss next year's courses.



ESE DEPARTMENT

From the computer of ESE Teacher, Ms. Jodi Keyek (6-12) Hey Test Takers! - that's all of us, even math folks.

You know the typical and trusted test-taking strategies. Get a good night's sleep, eat a good breakfast. etc.

As a Math teacher, I'd like to add:

BEFORE THE TEST

Be comfortable with your calculator: Know the buttons and how to perform certain operations. For example, the "square root" button (add a graphic), where is it, and do I push it <u>before</u> the number or <u>after</u>? Some calculators have you type in the number before the square root sign, others have you put the square root sign first.

Get to know where the reference sheet is and what is on it. That Pythagorean theorem and distance formula will be on the test! When you get your exam, those things in your head you are trying NOT to forget, JOT them down, key formulas or definitions, on the margin of your paper so if you forget them when you're in the middle of the test you can look back at what you jotted down. For example: if you are trying to remember the difference between complementary and supplementary, jot it down on your test paper when they say you may begin. It will free up some needed space in your mind.

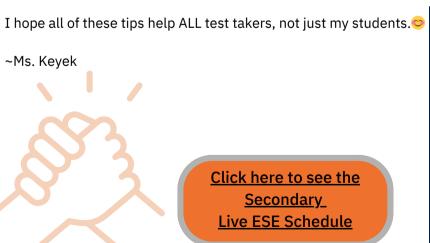
DURING THE TEST

We all have heard "Mark your answers clearly on the answer sheet, answer all questions and pace yourself, watch your time." Again as a math teacher, I'd like to add these:

Check your answer choices. Some may be able to be eliminated right away. For example, the angle of a regular polygon cannot be more than 180 degrees, distances cannot be negative, and if you are finding an equation of a line and you find the slope, see if you can eliminate answers that don't have that slope before you look for the y intercept.

And <u>lastly</u>, when you think you have the answer, **go back and read the question again**. Does it ask for the variable or something else, the angle? the length of AB?

I tell all my students, "You know all the math you need, it's the reading of the problems that may trip you up".







ESOL DEPARTMENT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

While not expected, many of our ELL students worked on classes during the Thanksgiving Break! We are so thankful that you have made education a priority in your families!

7 LY students have completed all four core classes already!! We still have 4 weeks to go before Winter Break! Excellent work!

Imagine Learning is available to students who qualify!

This interactive program is designed to increase English language fluency and vocabulary development. Parents of students who qualify would have received information about Imagine Learning from Mrs. Davitt. Please reach out to

Mrs. Davitt with any questions: 407-990-1863

Star Student:

Nerelizabeth Rosario, 2nd grade: Nerelizabeth has been with OCVS since kindergarten! She participates in Live Lessons and teacher study sessions. She attends ELL Study Hall twice a week with the focus is on reading fluency. Nerelizabeth automatically utilizes the reading strategies she has learned and also uses the resources available on Educator and other reading platforms we use.

She has a positive attitude and enthusiasm for learning and working with her teachers! Nerelizabeth is certainly one of OCVS' Shining Stars!





Ms. Donna Dalton
Assistant Principal

Phone: 407-553-2117 donna.dalton@ocps.net



Ms. Madeline Cruz OCV\$ 7006 Edgenuity Support Ph. 321-306-6399 madeline.cruz@ocps.net Late night: Thursday



Ms. Maria Davila OCVS 7006 Edgenuity Support Ph. 321-306-6557 davilam2@ocps.net Late night: Thursday



Ms. Diane Davitt
OCVS 7001 & 7004
K-12th Grade
(Spanish & Portuguese)
Study Hall
Imagine Learning
Ph. 407-990-1863
diane.davitt@ocps.net
Late night: Monday
On Campus: M/Tu/F



Ms. Ana Ramos
OCVS 7001 & 7004
Compliance Specialist
Ph. 407-801-4776
ana.ramos@ocps.net
Late night: Wednesday
On Campus: M/Th/F



COACHES CORNER

ELA

All full-time OCVS students are offered **ELA/Reading support** by their grade-level Reading Coaches! This is a great opportunity to enhance ELA skills, such as reading comprehension and vocabulary, while also discovering and mastering some excellent **test-taking strategies**!

Offered to ALL Full Time OCVS Students:

Offered EXCLUSIVELY to Homeroom Reading Students:

Weekly Test Prep. Sessions Weekly Open Reading Labs K-8: Exact Path

9-12: Khan Academy

Fun Friday: Book Bites (excludes 3rd Friday of

each month)

Weekly Standard-Based ELA Live Lessons
Weekly Open ELA Study Hall
1:1 ELA Tutoring (by appointment)
MTSS Tier 3 Intervention (invite only)

Junior/Senior Face-to-Face Test Prep Boot Camp (invite

only; dates to be determined)

All students are encouraged to attend the open reading labs for Exact Path and Khan Academy!

ATTENTION HOMEROOM-ENROLLED STUDENTS: Please remember that, per the OCVS Student/Parent Handbook, it is an expectation that all Homeroom-enrolled students attend live lessons with their assigned Reading Coach. Be sure to attend at least one Test Prep. and/or standard-based ELA Live Lesson each week.

EXACT PATH (K-5th): Open Exact Path reading labs are offered to all K-5 students every Tuesday from 6:30 am-7:30 am & 6:30 pm-7:30 pm, as well as every Thursday from 1 pm-2 pm. To join the lab, visit: tinyurl.com/OpenLab2324.

KHAN ACADEMY (6th-12th): Open Khan Academy reading lab is offered every Tuesday from 10 am-11 am. To join the lab, visit **tinyurl.com/SainteLiveLink**

ATTENTION HOMEROOM-ENROLLED STUDENTS: Please remember that, per the OCVS Student/Parent Handbook, it is an expectation that all Homeroom-enrolled students attend live lessons with their assigned Reading Coach. <u>Be sure to attend at least one Test Prep. and/or standard-based ELA Live Lesson each week.</u>

For K-8 Reading Support:



For High School Reading
Support:



Scan your grade-level QR code to the left for more information about Reading Support, including live links and schedules:





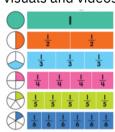
COACHES CORNER

MATH

Understanding the concept of fractions will help your future.

I know what you are thinking - fractions? I hate fractions! Well, first of all - hate is a strong word for a number. Also, if you find fractions super difficult and avoid them at all costs, these resources are for you. Just as knowing your alphabet helps you to read, and understanding fractions will help you with problem-solving. Check out the visuals and videos below.

Practice Math with a Purpose.





Elementary Example:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSTlQjxznUg

Middle School Example:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CA9XLJpQp3c

High School Example:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWQweMVO2Ss

Grades 6-12, Practice Skills with Khan Academy

Khan Academy is available on launch.ocps.net. If you are unsure how it works, reach out to your middle or high school coach. We will get you set up with work that is best for you.

THE PERSON WHO
DOES THE WORK IS
THE <u>ONLY</u> ONE WHO
LEARNS.

- HARRY WONG



We can help you build confidence as you work on learning math. Come to our sessions - we would love to have you!

Use the QR code to access our schedules.

ATTENTION HOMEROOM-ENROLLED STUDENTS: Please remember that, per the OCVS Student/Parent Handbook, it is an expectation that all Homeroom-enrolled students attend live lessons with their assigned Math Coach. <u>Be sure to attend at least one Test Prep. and/or MATH Live Lesson each week.</u>

Contact us for more details about interventions offered in your grade level/subject area.

OCVS CLUBS NEWS

Chargers, we would like to offer some amazing opportunities to participate in different clubs throughout this school year. Please sign up and participate! We look forward to seeing you!



OCVS CHESS CLUB

Please join us for our monthly OCVS Elementary Chess Club Meeting on Thursday, December 7th at 3:00 at the following <u>link</u>. New students are always welcome to join! Come learn a new game and develop your strategic thinking. **Club Sponsor:** email Chad Houvouras at chad.houvouras@ocps.net



BLACK STUDENT UNION

The B.S.U. is thankful for their November events such as painting historical Black figures and/or what the Black culture means to them. They also were invited to attend the FAMU Presidential College Fair at the Hyatt Grand Regency Hotel while meeting the Vice President of the college. Our next event is a Friendsmas PJ party on Tuesday, Dec.12th, 2 pm-3:30 pm. There will be a voluntary gift exchange as well. Please RSVP if you wish to participate in the party AND/OR the gift exchange. The gift exchange is not mandatory to attend the event. If you are required to be on campus that day to work with your teacher to get on pace you must get teacher approval to participate. If you have any questions or concerns please contact:

Club Advisor: Mrs. Monique Parker 407.203.9424

Email: monique.parker@ocps.net

You can follow the club on Instagram @ocvsbsu





INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Join us for our virtual meeting on December 7th at 2:30 pm. We will be planning our in-person club activity for January. Please sign up using the link below and we will send you the link for the meeting: https://forms.gle/MZ35e1AhxsDsBtem8

The International Club at OCVS provides an opportunity for OCVS students to share their cultural background with others, and to promote the language and culture of different countries while providing an atmosphere of spreading knowledge, tolerance, and diversity. Intended grade level: 6th-12th **Club Sponsors:**

Ms. Ruiz (407) 553-2604 /sulamita.ruiz@ocps.net Mrs. Davitt (407) 990-1863 / Diane.Davitt@ocps.net

OCVS CLUBS NEWS (CONTINUED)

DO SOMETHING CLUB

Tuesday, November 14, the Do Something Club volunteered for the first time for United Way. We helped setup tables/stations for groups to come in and assemble 4,000 Thanksgiving meals that can be distributed to three local counties. We were so efficient that we finished a 4-hour job in 2 hours! Mrs. Lyon is so proud of all who attended and represented OCVS so well today! The club will be volunteering at Clean the World on December 1st. We appreciate everyone participating and volunteering for such great causes!



ELEMENTARY SPANISH CLUB

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY NEWS

Our NJHS members will be on campus again on Dec. 1st for peer tutoring. We look forward to working with you. As Segment 1 comes to a close, be sure to add your name to the interest list if you would like to be a member of our National Junior Honor Society. There will be a Spring induction ceremony for all students on the interest list that meet the eligibility requirements and are selected for membership by our faculty council. Click HERE for the details and the link to sign up!

Contact Ms. Harry at 407-574-3422 if you have any questions.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The OCVS Chapter of the NHS is off and running! Speeches for Officer elections for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Historian took place on November 29th - our candidate speeches were so impressive, that voting will be difficult! Good luck to all NHS leaders! Our Second Harvest Food Bank volunteering resumes in December. Our group packs food for families in need of help due to food insecurity. If you and your family are able, Click Here to Donate or volunteer!



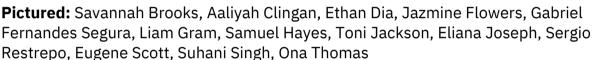
OCVS CLUBS NEWS (CONTINUED)

NATIONAL ELEMENTARY HONOR SOCIETY

We would like to congratulate our newest inductees to the OCVS Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society. The ceremony was held on campus this past week with students, faculty, and families. We are very proud of their accomplishments both academically and as leaders within our school community.







Not pictured: Harmony Gray, Aeryn Gonzalez, Ada Shankster, Eric Su; NEHS

Sponsors: Mrs. Valerie Messer and Meghan Chanvana



























Science club members met at campus this past week to do some hands-on experiments. Members were enlightened while they were immersed in a hands-on experience. Students had to work together to accomplish a mission using mirrors and lasers to see how light reflects. They also experienced other hands-on demonstrations that showed reflection of light.









LITERACY COMMITTEE

As we prepare for Winter Break, what are you reading? Please encourage your students to take a break and curl up with a good book. At OCVS, students can access **e-books** using the **SORA App** on the **OCPS Launchpad**. In addition, our students in grades K-5 can practice their reading skills using **EXACT Path**, an individualized program that provides our students with the "just right practice" at their reading level. Students in grades 6 - 12 can use KHAN Academy, which again, can be accessed on the OCPS Launchpad.

In January, the entire State of Florida will participate in the <u>16th Annual Celebrate Literacy</u> <u>Week.</u> The theme for Celebrate Literacy Week is <u>Believe in Your "Shelf" - Building Resiliency</u> <u>Through Reading!</u> At OCVS, we will have daily reading challenges (and prizes too!) to help deepen our students' knowledge and support of the Florida Resiliency Initiative. Be on the lookout for the daily challenges on your Teacher's Announcement Pages as we are looking forward to seeing your "Shelf."





MONTHLY CELEBRATIONS

February - Black History Month

March - Women's History Month

March - National Irish American Heritage Month

April - National Arab American Heritage Month

May - Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

May - Jewish American Heritage Month

June - Caribbean American Heritage Month

June - Immigrant Heritage Month

CONTACT US

Literacy Committee

S.A.F.E. CORNER

S.A.F.E. SPACE



Congratulations to our Red Ribbon Week coloring contest winners!

Prizes will be coming home in the mail!

Elementary:

1st Place: Nerelizabeth Rosario, 2nd grade 💰



Middle:

1st Place: Journey Sparkman, 6th grade



2nd Place: Gatlin Planas, 8th grade



3rd Place: Adiel James, 6th grade



High:

1st Place: Sydney Saha, 9th grade



Tie for 2nd Place: Coralie Knudson, 12th

grade



And Coralys Montes-Rolon, 10th grade







CONTACT US

Jenna Faber SAFE Coordinator Jenna.Faber@ocps.net 321-234-4791



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS

The Class of 2024 held elections for their senior class officers. It was a very close vote! Some elections were decided by 1 or 2 votes! So, this means.... YOUR VOTE MATTERED!!! Their Favorite Senior Class Advisor, Dr. Williams would like to say thank you to all those who took the time to run and congratulations to the newest Senior Class Officers at OCVS.















PARTNERS IN ED

Build relationships between businesses/ organizations and schools that enhance student learning and provide students with even more opportunities for success.

Own a business that would benefit from supporting OCVS?

Sign up here:

https://ocps.samaritan.com/custom/503/volunteer_home
Or Contact Laynie.Foskett@ocps.net and Megan.Tousignant@ocps.net

Additions Volunteer Sign-Up: How to become an OCVS Additions Volunteer

Step 1: Click on this link. It will take you to the ADDitions School Volunteers page for OCPS Click on the blue box Step 2: Ouick Links Click on the circle labeled Volunteers Step 3: Look for the School Dropdown menus, and find Orange County Virtual School. Click on the opportunity labeled #1- Become an ADDitions School Volunteer 2023-24 with ORANGE COUNTY VIRTUAL SCHOOL Public Schools **ADDitions** Step 4: SIGNUP

CONTACT US

Laynie Foskett

<u>Laynie.Foskett@ocps.net</u>

Megan Tousignant

Megan.Tousignant@ocps.net