I would like to WELCOME BACK all of our returning students to Challenger 7 Elementary School and give a special welcome to all of our new students.

As we face the Class Size Amendment requirements once again this year (K-3 no more than 18 students average and 4-6 no more than 22 students average), I want to thank all of the students and parents in advance for their flexibility. Just a reminder that all class assignments are tentative as adjustments are made to meet these requirements. As always, together we will make this year even better than the last as our students continue to reach and exceed their academic potential.

Please help me in welcoming the following two new employees to the Challenger 7 family: Ms. Tami Lanterman (pictured left), our new assistant principal, has been with Brevard Public Schools for twenty-eight years, eleven as an assistant principal. She comes to us most recently from Audubon Elementary School. Mrs. Krystal Tydings-Couto, our new art teacher, (pictured right), has a Bachelor’s Degree in Fine Arts from Shepherd University and attended the University of Central Florida in preparation for her teaching certificate.

The Challenger 7 vision is Career and College Readiness. With the Florida Common Core State Standards driving the curriculum, students will have the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in a job or in pursuing a degree beyond the high school level. The Challenger 7 mission is that All Children Can Learn. The entire staff of Challenger 7 not only believes in this mission but exemplifies it throughout the school day. They set high expectations for every student and provide the instructional strategies necessary to move a child from his/her current level of understanding/skill toward the level identified as grade appropriate. This school year we will be focusing on prioritizing the Florida Common Core State Standards and identifying what progression of knowledge and skills is needed to be taught in order for students to be successful in mastering the standards. We will also be learning how to create high-quality units of instruction that help to focus the curriculum and teaching on the development and deepening of student understanding and transfer of learning.

Once again this school year, we are proud to be a Title I School. Title I is a federal grant program designed to give educational assistance to students living in areas of high poverty. Any school in Brevard County whose enrollment is comprised of more than 60% Free and Reduced Lunch students is identified as Title I. Challenger 7 currently has a Free and Reduced Lunch rate of 61.39%. There are forty schools in Brevard County identified as Title I. As a result of being Title I, Challenger 7 receives a budget of $174,600. This money can be used to improve academic achievement. Title I funds are flexible and can also be used for such things as professional development for teachers; support hiring additional teachers; improve curriculum; enhance parent involvement; purchase technology; to name a few. We also use Title I funds to continue to build our parent resource room located off of the Media Center. It is open during school hours for any parent to stop by and check out resources to take home that support the curriculum. Mrs. Denise Gillich is our Title I coordinator, so if you have any questions and/or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact her at 636-5801 ext. 3012.

Starting August 19th throughout the remainder of the school year, every Wednesday will be Early Release Day. The school day will end at 1:15. Early release Wednesdays will provide important opportunities for teachers to engage in professional learning along with collaborative and individual planning. This time is valuable, as it will support school and district efforts to continuously improve teaching and learning for all children.

It is important that ALL visitors on campus (whether you are just picking up, dropping off, or eating lunch with your child) report immediately to the front office and check in with either a driver’s license of state identification card. The sign in system identifies sexual predators/offenders immediately; thus ensuring the safety of all children on campus. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.


To request this document in an alternate format, please contact Kim Riddle, ESE Resource Teacher, 2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940 or telephone 321-633-1000 ext. 537.
The first Monday of every month there will be a **Chat with the Principal** scheduled from 8:00-8:45am in the conference room. Coffee and muffins courtesy of Port St. Java will be served. The dates are marked on the school calendar. This is a time when you can bring questions, comments, and/or suggestions to the principal or just come and visit. Student specific or teacher specific concerns are not for this time but can be addressed during a conference. Just sign in at the front office, and you will be directed to the conference room.

**The Challenger 7 Lost and Found** is housed in the cafeteria. The only exception to this is when an expensive item such as jewelry or a key is found, then these items are kept in the front office. Please be sure to write your child’s name on all clothing and lunchboxes so that they can be returned instead of being taken to Lost and Found. At the end of every nine week period, we take all unclaimed items and donate them to a local children’s home.

### School Rules

- No CD players, MP3s, iPods, video games, or any other hand held technology devices are permitted to be brought to school by students without their teacher’s permission. If cell phones are brought to school, they must be turned off and kept out of sight. Any child bringing a cell phone to school should stop by the front office and complete a “Student Cell Phone Contract.” Any student who is seen with the above-mentioned devices will be sent to the office.

- Parents are not permitted to wait outside the classroom windows when picking up their children. This is a distraction to the students during their final minutes of instruction. Once signed in, parents are welcome to wait in the front of the school until dismissal but no earlier than 2:00.

- During inclement weather (lightning and thunder or very heavy rain), rainy day dismissal procedures will be followed. **NO CHILD** will be permitted to walk/ride a bike home. It is IMPORTANT that you complete a rainy day plan.

- Students will be participating in PE activities every day; therefore, tennis shoes must either be worn every day or brought to school every day.

- If your child gets to school after 8:00, s/he is tardy. Between 8:00 and 8:15 the child can go directly to the classroom where the teacher will mark him/her tardy. After 8:15 they are to report to the front office.

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- No child will be released between 2:15 – 2:30 on regular dismissal days or 1:00 – 1:15 on early release days other than for emergency purposes.

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### Car Tags

Once again this year a policy is being implemented to assure the safety of all students being picked up through the car loop – **NO CARS WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE CAR LOOP TO PICK UP STUDENTS WITHOUT A CAR TAG**. We have car tags made that are color coded according to your child’s grade level and will have your child’s first and last name written on them. Additional car tags will be available from either the classroom teacher or the front office upon request. These tags can be rubber banded to your visor on the passenger side, and your visor put down for viewing of the car tag when entering the car loop. If you do not have a car tag, you will be directed to the front office to get one. Should you have someone else picking up your child in the car loop, be sure that they are given a car tag. Thank you for helping us to implement our new policy for the safety of all students here at Challenger 7.

### Car Loop Procedures

In the morning I ask that anyone using the car loop please pull up all of the way and DO NOT stop at the corner of the building. This causes the flow of traffic to stop. In the morning you are allowed to use the left hand lane for passing; however, I ask that you pass with caution. Just a reminder that the speed limit is 5 mph. This speed is set for the safety of all children, so please adhere to it. In the afternoon, signs are posted as to where your child will be waiting. **On rainy day dismissals**, the students will be in the same locations as indicated on the signs; however, they will be in the classrooms on the car loop side.

### Challenger 7 T-shirt Sale

If you did not get a chance to order a Challenger 7 T-shirt at registration, we are presently taking orders in the front office until August 28th. There is a display in the front office, if you would like to see what the t-shirt looks like. They are priced at $10 (CASH ONLY), and they are available in Youth XS-XL and Adult S-3XL. If you would like an order form sent home with your child, just send a note into your teacher requesting one or stop by the front office and pick one up. Profits will be used for student/teacher recognition and/or school supplies at the principal’s discretion.

### Welcome Back to School 2023

Challenger 7 will continue to implement a school wide positive behavior support (PBS) program this school year based on five STARR expectations: **Safety, Trustworthy, Always on Task, Respectful, and Responsible**. Throughout the school year, students will be taught what these expectations look like in the classroom, in the halls, on the playground, in the cafeteria, and in the restrooms. Each class will use these expectations to come up with their own classroom rules. Once the expectations have been initially taught, they will be reinforced throughout the school year with a reward system using tickets. More information will be published in future newsletters to keep you the parents informed about PBS since you play a critical role in reinforcing the expectations at home as well.