



THE STAR GAZER



LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CHALLENGER 7!

2016-17 Bi-weekly Newsletter Issue 2

www.challenger.brevard.k12.fl.us

August 26, 2016

**Brevard
Public
Schools**

THE FUTURE
OF FLORIDA'S
SPACE COAST

To Serve Every Student with Excellence as the Standard.



Friday, August 26

- CANCELLED - Parent Night Out

Monday, August 29

- Volunteer Orientation-Cafeteria; 9am

Tuesday, August 30

- Surviving the Science Fair Parent Workshop; Grades 3-6; 6-7:30pm

Wednesday, August 31

- Early Dismissal at 1:15pm

Monday, September 2

- NO SCHOOL

Wednesday, September 7

- Early Dismissal at 1:15pm
- Domino's Pizza Night

Thursday, September 8

- Math Academy Grades PreK-6; 5:30-7pm

REMINDER: ALL visitors must sign in at the Front Office.



IMPORTANT NOTICE: Due to the amount of phone calls the front office receives on a daily basis and for the safety and security of all students on campus, **we will no longer relay telephone messages to students regarding a change to their afternoon dismissal procedures.** This often times is a disruption to required instructional time. **If**

the regular method of leaving school needs to be changed, parents must send a signed note to be given to the teacher. Only a written statement from the parent/guardian can be accepted as valid instructions. A student telling a teacher of transportation changes will not be accepted. Please give your child special written instructions and make after-school arrangements *before* you send your child to school. Please *do not email* the teacher with dismissal instructions as this can be easily overlooked. Students are not permitted to use the school telephone except in emergencies and with permission of office personnel. **Parents should communicate with their child how they will be going home each day.** (Authority: The Jessica Lunsford Act – August 2005, Section 1012.465, Florida Statutes, Amended August 2005)

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL PROCEDURES: Challenger 7 is a neighborhood school with 500+ students who arrive and dismiss from school as car riders, bike riders, walkers, and by daycare vans. This year we have more students who are car riders for arrival and dismissal than in past years. We ask for your patience each morning and afternoon as we try to make the car loop run more efficiently and quickly.

Please refer to the 2016-2017 Calendar of Events & Pupil/Parent Handbook, on pages 4 and 6 regarding arrival and dismissal procedures. Every student should have received a handbook at the beginning of school.

- Children who are transported to school by car must be dropped off in the car loop on the North side of the building. Parents are **NOT** permitted to drop off their children in the front bus loop. This bus loop is for daycare vans only.
- Please enter the car loop by turning **right** off Rena Avenue. Between the hours of 7:30 - 8am there is a "No left hand turn" sign posted. There will be multiple unloading stations along the car loop. For safety and efficiency, families are asked to **pull forward to the farthest available station** and wait for a safety patrol and/or staff member to assist their child(ren) out of the car. When you are ready to leave, you may proceed with caution and pull into the left hand lane.
- Parents picking up at the car loop during dismissal must display a car tag on their review mirror or on the dashboard. These tags are color coded by grade level, and your **child's name (first and last) must be neatly printed** on them.

- **In order to use the pick-up line at dismissal, cars must have the school-provided sign in the front windshield. Our safety procedures do not allow us to dismiss a child into a car without this sign. If you forget/lose your car tag you must show a valid ID in the car line and a new tag will be issued.**
- Families with more than one child will pick up **all** of their children at the **youngest child's** pick up location. During Rainy Day Dismissal, all cars will use the right hand lane only. You will stop at your usual spot; however, the children will be in the classrooms. The older students will not be sent to the younger siblings classroom, but will remain at their appropriate grade level.
- Staff supervision begins at 7:30am daily for drop off. **STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO BE ON CAMPUS UNTIL THIS TIME.** The only exceptions are students enrolled in C7's before school care, safety patrols, and students participating in strings.
- Dismissal begins at 2:30pm daily for pick up. Early Release is every Wednesday at 1:15pm.
- Please use the parking spots at the front of the school and sign in to the front office if your child is struggling with the transition to or from school. If this is an ongoing concern, your child's teacher is happy to help you develop a plan to ease the transition time.
- Maintaining a short distance between cars in the car line ensures a more efficient arrival and dismissal process and helps to keep cars off of Rena Avenue as much as possible.
- In the car loop, our staff members are focused on their safety duties. If you wish to visit with your child's teacher, please schedule a mutually agreeable time for a conference.

Thank you in advance for your positive attitude and good will for your fellow families! This will go a long way toward a smooth and stress-free time for all, and will help your child to have a good feeling about school.

Mission: All Children can learn.



Vision: College and Career Readiness

Maggie Rassel
Principal

Challenger 7 Elementary School
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Tami Lanterman
Assistant Principal



Classroom News



Welcome to all of our kindergarten students! We are excited to have you at Challenger 7 Elementary this year. We have been busy working on learning about the procedures, rules, and routines for being in school. We also started our year with learning about colors and shapes. Thank you to the parents who provided snacks for our shape party! Please work with your child at home to learn their letters (upper and lower cases) and letter sounds. They also need to be working on number recognition (numbers 1-10) and writing numbers (0-5). Each child also needs to be practicing how to write his/her name, with upper-case first letter and lower-case for the remaining letters. In about two weeks we will start sending weekly homework folders home with a short poetry activity, sight words, and reading log. Thank you to all of the parents who attended our Open House on the 23rd. We hope it was an informative evening for you!



Welcome to 1st Grade! We are still working hard to learn all of our STARR expectations. This week begins homework and spelling tests! Make sure you're practicing those spelling words during the week and reading for 20 minutes every night at home. At this time of the year, you may count reading to your child as minutes read on their reading log. Please let your child's teacher know if you need books on your child's level to read at home. We look forward to a great year in 1st grade!



Welcome back! We are off to a great start! In reading, we are focusing on finding the main idea, and the details that support it. We are also working on comprehension and fluency. When reading with your students every night, please ask them lots of questions about what they read! (*Who was the story about? What did they do? Why do you think they said that?*) In math, we are learning about place value, and words such as value, digit, hundreds, tens, and ones. In social studies, we are starting the year off with map skills. We will learn about cardinal directions, compass rose, map keys, and the different types of maps. In science, we will begin with scientific inquiry and how to make good observations, then move into the life cycles of plants and animals. We are also working on STARR expectations. Please remind your students to be a STARR student every day! We're looking forward to a great year!



We are in full swing with our academics! In math, we have been doing rounding. Students will be moving into reviewing addition and subtraction as well as knowing the properties of addition. In reading, we will begin our third story with testing on Friday. Every Friday there is a spelling test, grammar test, vocabulary test and a comprehension test based on our story for that week. Please remember to check your child's planner for homework, notes and important information.



Welcome to Fourth Grade! We have started the year off with a bang and have already completed an Olympics unit in social studies. The kids really enjoyed it and learned a lot. In reading, we are working on text and graphic features. In language arts, we are learning what a complete sentence looks like and the different types of sentences. In math, we are deep into multiplication. Please make sure your child studies the fact we are working on nightly. It is imperative he/she learn them as soon as possible. In science, we are learning about plants. This week in social studies we are beginning Unit 1 and learning map skills. It's going to be a great year!



In reading, all classes will be using Scholastic Storyworks magazines, so each class will be working on various 5th grade stories, topics, and skills. In language arts, students will begin paragraph writing and essay format in the coming weeks, as we continue working with mentor sentences. In math, we are working on place value and the relationship between each. This will lead us into understanding how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals. Please make sure your child is doing their nightly math practice. Over the next 7 weeks in science, we will be learning about the life sciences. We will investigate plants, animals, and the human body! We are still working on our geography unit in social studies. Students are working in groups as they "Tour the States". They are learning life skills as well as United States geography.



In science, we are learning about the Scientific Method and how it applies to Science Fair projects. There will be a Science Fair Help Night for parents on Tuesday, August 30th from 6:00-7:30pm to give parents ideas about how to help their children with their projects. Science Fair projects are due on November 3rd with the question/problem being due on Friday, September 9th. In social studies, we are learning about what historians do, as well as studying geography, economics, and citizenship. Each week the students are also doing a "Daily Geography" assignment, in which we practice using geography skills with maps, atlases, and globes, as well as learning geographic terms. We are also learning about the origins of the Gregorian calendar, which we currently use. We are currently focusing on the following reading skills: text features, citing text evidence and analyzing the text. We are also reviewing these reading skills as well reading main idea and details, summarizing, and character traits. MyON and Istation are available again this year for use at home and in class. Letters were sent home to all parents earlier this week giving information about Istation. In math, we are reviewing place value, fractions, prime numbers and other standards that focus on the area of number sense. The first 6th Grade Math Academy will be held on Thursday, September 8th. More details will be coming home with students soon.



Please be aware of the day your child has PE. They need to be dressed appropriately to enjoy their PE experience. Improper apparel or footwear may result in not being able to participate or enjoy PE. Remember to send your child to school with a water bottle on a daily basis, but especially on PE days. *Thanks! - Coach Binderup*



Chess Club is starting on Tuesday, August 30th from 2:30-3:15 in Mr. Mugge's classroom (303). It will be held each Tuesday until December 13th. Permission forms are available in Mr. Mugge's classroom. Space is limited to the first 20 permission slips that are returned. If more than 20 students are interested in joining, there will be a waiting list created. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Mugge at ext. 5009.



Surviving the Science Fair, a parent event put on by Title 1, will be held in the cafeteria on Tuesday, August 30th, beginning at 6pm. This event is for parents and students in grades 3 - 6. Childcare for students in PreK- 2 will be provided. Please RSVP to Denise Gillich or Jessica Olds at 636-5801 ext. 3012 or email olds.jessica@brevardschools.org. Our first ever **Math Academy will be on Thursday, September 8th.** We will be serving dinner at 5:30pm and breakout sessions will begin promptly at 6pm. This will be a night for the parents to learn about the math your children are learning as well as how to help your child with their math at home. Childcare will be provided. If you have questions or comments about our Title 1 Program, please contact Denise Gillich or Jessica Olds at 636-5801 ext. 3012 or email at olds.jessica@brevardschools.org.

The next newsletter will be published on Friday, September 9, 2016.

If you have any questions about any item in this newsletter, please contact the school at 321-636-5801.