



Middle School Parent Information Session



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AGENDA

- Attendance
- Communication & SIS Gateway
- Florida Statewide Assessments
- Test Taking Strategies
- Middle School Promotion & Grading
- Secondary Report Cards
- Resources for English Language Learners (ELLs)
- Mental Health & Wellness



Attendance Policies & Procedures for Middle School Students

- Middle School students must be in attendance for a minimum of 90 percent of the class time to earn a passing grade in a middle school course
- Students who are absent more than 10 percent of class time may earn a passing grade by demonstrating mastery as follows:
 - Earning a minimum grade of “D” for the quarter; and
 - Passing the quarterly assessment with a minimum grade of “D”.
- Students who successfully demonstrate mastery will receive the grade earned and the quarterly assessment is not factored into the grade. Students who do not demonstrate mastery will receive an “F” for the quarter.

NOTE: *Students who do not earn a minimum grade of “D” for the quarter may demonstrate mastery by passing the quarterly assessment with a minimum grade of 70% as referenced in the Course Recovery Options for Middle School Students section. Students who successfully demonstrate mastery via the quarterly assessment will earn a grade of D for that marking period. The high school attendance policy applies when a middle school student is enrolled in a high school credit course.*



TWO-Way Communication

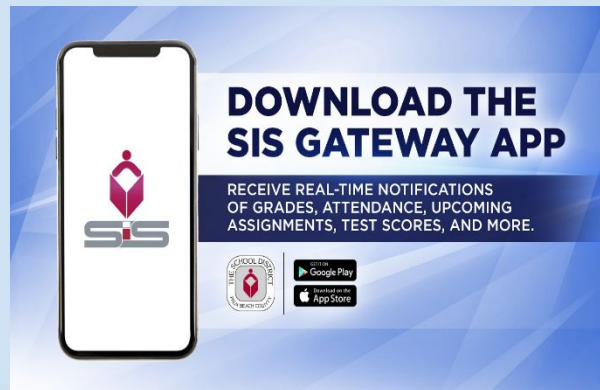
Communication between families and the school is necessary for student success. Students perform better academically when parents take active roles in their child's education. Opportunities for two-way communication include:

- Parent conferences
- Student daily journals/ weekly or monthly folder checks
- Parent-teacher organizations or school community councils
- Telephone calls
- E-mail or school website
- Be sure to check your child's grades and progress on Student Information System (SIS) Gateway



SIS GATEWAY

The Student Information System (SIS)



- Access schedule, assignments, assessment reports, grades, and attendance
- Email teachers
- Students access to *SIS Gateway* via the icon available on District's student portal
- Parents register for their *SIS Gateway* account using an active email address with an activation code provided by the school
- Parents are encouraged to review the information on *SIS Gateway* on a regular basis to prevent minor academic problems from becoming major ones

Spring Statewide Assessment Schedule for Middle School Students

Assessment	Students Tested	Test Dates
FAST Reading & Math, Third Administration (“PM3”)	Grades 6-8	April 15 - May 31, 2024
Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners ACCESS for ELLs	Grades 6, 7, 8 ELL students	January 22, - March 15, 2024
NGSSS Civics End of Course (EOC)	Students enrolled in courses	May 1 - 31, 2024
NGSSS Science	Grade 8	May 1 - 31, 2024
B.E.S.T. End of Course (EOC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra Geometry 	Students enrolled in courses	May 1 - 31, 2024



How to Help Your Child Prepare for Statewide Assessments

Before the Test

- Review information sent home regarding testing schedules and ways to help prepare your child for testing.
- Help your child in areas that are difficult for him/her by providing extra practice.
- Talk with your child's teacher if you have concerns about the test or testing situation.

On Test Day

- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast.
- Make sure your child is prepared with necessary materials, i.e. pencils, eraser, calculator.
- Remain positive and calm to reduce likelihood of test anxiety.

After the Test

- Talk with your child's teachers if you have questions about test results.
- Review tests with your child, especially any parts that he/she did not understand.

On a Daily Basis

- Assist with homework.
- Help develop good study habits, thinking skills, and positive attitude towards education.
- Ensure good attendance.
- Communicate with teachers.
- Encourage reading to increase vocabulary.



Middle School Promotion Requirements

In order for a student to be promoted to high school from the middle grades, they must successfully complete the following courses:

- Three middle grades or higher* courses in English language arts.
- Three middle grades or higher* courses in mathematics.
- Three middle grades or higher* courses in science.
- Three middle grades or higher* courses in social studies.
 - One of these social studies courses must be Civics. There is a statewide, standardized end-of-course exam for Civics that must be taken and factored in as 30% of a student's course grade.

**May include high school courses for high school credit.*

The statutory requirements for physical education (one semester each year) are found in [section 1003.455, Florida Statutes](#)



Middle School Grading

- Quarterly grades are determined by multiple measures, including classroom assignments, homework, examinations, tests, and/or quizzes
- Calculation of final grades:
 - Yearlong course = Average of grades from each of the four nine-week marking periods
 - Semester long course = Average of grades from the two marking periods
 - Course with an End-of-Course (EOC) assessment, such as Civics = Average of four marking periods count as 70% and Civics EOC counts as 30%
- Students must earn 4 “Quality Points” per subject area by the end of the course.
 - A = 4 quality Points (Outstanding)
 - B = 3 Quality Points (Above Average)
 - C = 2 Quality Points (Average)
 - D = 1 Quality Point (Lowest Acceptable)
 - F = 0 Points (Failure)

** Course recovery is an option for students who earn an F in a marking period of a middle school course in English Language Arts, mathematics, science, and/or social studies.*



Secondary Report Cards

Grades, report cards and additional information can be viewed in student portal and on SIS Parent Gateway

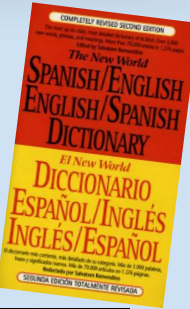
Marking Period	Report Card Distribution
3 rd Quarter 01/09/24 - 03/15/24	April 1, 2024
4 th Quarter 03/26/24 - 05/30/24	TBD



Supports & Resources for English Language Learners (ELLs)

Appropriate services are provided for all ELL students based on each student's language proficiency in accordance with an individual's ELL Plan

- School-based language support embedded into lessons.
- Collaboration with ESOL teachers, Community Language Facilitators (CLFs), and general classroom teachers ensure students receive accommodations and targeted skills per ELL Plans.
- Online technology-based literacy and language practice.
- Access to Word-to-Word Glossaries.
- Students may access the various content-specific online learning activities below by logging in to their portal.



Imagine Language & Literature



BrainPop ELL



Khan Academy



iStation



Achieve3000



Newsela



Nearpod



Unlimited 1:1 tutoring
Writing feedback
Multilingual tutors

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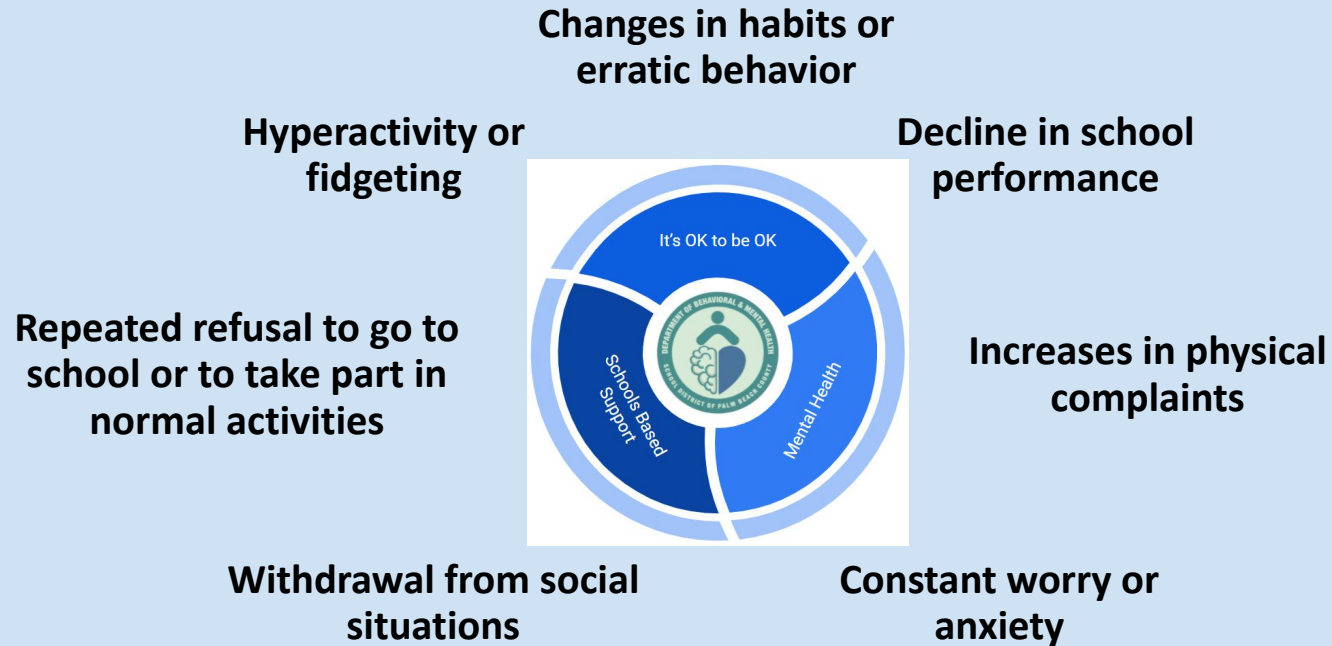


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Youth Mental Health

Mental health is our ability to live fully, engage with others, and respond to challenges. Recognizing signs of emotional or behavioral concerns can help to determine when to seek help so your child can reach his or her full potential.



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Wellness Resources

Supporting the whole child requires a team approach. Behavioral and emotional supports promote academic, mental health, and social-emotional well-being.

- Highly-trained and skilled professionals such as School Counselors, School Psychologists, and School Behavioral Health Professionals, are trained in youth mental health to recognize early signs of mental illness and distress.
- Community-based co-located agency mental health professionals and therapists provide therapeutic interventions. Parental consent is required prior to your child receiving ongoing therapeutic support.
- Social Service Facilitators support students experiencing a mental health crisis and collaborate with agencies with Behavioral Health Agreements.
- When concerned about mental health, reach out to a School Counselor, School Psychologist, or School Behavioral Health Professional at your school who can connect you to school and community resources. Your child's pediatrician may also provide a referral to a mental health professional.

It's OK to be OK. It's OK to not be OK. It's OK to ask for help.



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Questions . . .



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