

Royal Palm Journal

Fall Edition

Lee County School District

September 20, 2016



Important Dates

Rosh Hashanah-No school October 3rd

Picture Day October 5th

Last Day of First Quarter October 14th

Teacher Duty Day-No school for Students October 17th

1st Report Card October 26th

Principal's Message

Welcome to a new school year at Royal Palm Exceptional School!

I trust that you and your family are doing well and are in good health. I would like to take a moment to welcome our new students and their families to our school. Additionally, I believe it is important to acknowledge our returning students and their parents. We are all looking forward to a successful year. The faculty, staff and I are excited about the upcoming school year and we have already been working to create an environment that gives every student the opportunity to be successful. A substantial amount of time will be devoted to ensuring high standards of academic learning which is essential to the development of our students. Royal Palm is proud of the challenging curriculum and caring environment we provide in which our students can learn, and I will work with our staff to build on our past successes. This staff is dedicated to ensuring a safe environment where our students can learn and every person is respected and protected. Sincerely, Robert Moretti Principal

Royal Palm Mission

Provide an opportunity for each student to be involved in a well-planned, structured program that is best suited to meet each individual's needs. Areas of attention are behavior, communication, socialization and academics. The ultimate objective is to assist students in the successful return to their geographical school.

Assistant Principal's Message

Welcome Back! I hope that the summer break provided each of you time for rest and relaxation. My name is Jessica Duncan and I am excited to have the opportunity to serve as the assistant principal at Royal Palm School this year. If you are at the school, please feel free to stop by my office. I look forward to working closely with the families of our students. The staff members have been preparing and planning for a great year at Royal Palm School. We are all committed to creating a positive learning environment where every student can learn and grow. We appreciate the support that our families have provided by ensuring that students get to school on time, ready to work and follow the rules. We are dedicated to helping students meet their goals and find new ways to achieve success! Sincerely, Jessica

FOOD DRIVE: It's that time of year again! The Salvation Army's 2016 Canned Food Drive begins on Monday, September 19, and runs through Friday, September 30. You can send in the following items with your child to school.: **Cans:** meat, tuna fish, Spam, beans, soup, fruit, vegetables, pasta meals, tomatoes; **boxes:** rice, pasta, potato flakes, **plastic jars:** peanut butter, jelly, pasta sauces; **bags:** rice, beans, or any canned or boxed goods you find in your home food pantry. **Please, for safety reasons, no glass containers. Do not send food past expiration date.** For more information or assistance, please contact your child's teacher. Together we can fight hunger in our community.



Box Tops for Education:

Dear Parents & Guardians - We want to tell you about the way that you can help Royal Palm Exceptional School. By participating in Box Tops for Education & Labels for Education you can help earn money and educational merchandise for our school.

Clip — Clip Box Top coupons from hundreds of participating products. Next, send the clipped coupons with your child to school to give to his/her teacher. Each Box Top is worth 10¢ for our school. Twice each year Box Tops will send a check to our school for each. Your clippings are much appreciated and valued.

WANTED



Classroom News

Elementary Ms. Winiarz and Ms. Hawkins 1st grade

Hurray for our First and Second Graders! We have 4 first graders and 4 second graders and we stay busy, busy, busy. Our First graders in math are mastering addition so that we can move on to subtraction! We have been able to use that information while playing some fun learning games. In Language Arts we are learning about nouns. My second graders in math are learning about place value (ones, tens, hundreds), writing numbers in three different ways, (ex. 45, forty-five, and $40+5$) and adding and subtracting 10 to any given number. In Language Arts we are also learning about subjects. We love coming to school and are practicing our goals to get along with each other and express our feelings in a positive way. Ms. Winiarz and Ms. Hawkins are enjoying seeing us grow and get better every day.

Ms. Barnes and Ms. Tindall 2nd & 3rd grades

Hello all !!!!! As we journey together through this new school year, we are so excited about the things we'll do and the places we'll see. With modern technology we will be involved in an array of activities to improve, enhance, and promote learning gains in the educational environment. We are looking forward to a wonderful experience!!!! Currently, we are also diligently working toward improving our behaviors, and I am very proud to announce that there are no students on level zero at this time. Our morning Social Skills activities has helped tremendously in this area. The character word for this month is Acceptance. The Barnes and Tindal Team has already planned our first field trip to see the Production of "The Most Famous Reindeer of All" on December 6, 2016 at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre. More information regarding this trip will be sent home at a later date! Plan to attend with us! The students' point sheets and homework will sent home daily in their communication folders. Please review its contents and discuss any problematic concerns or issues with your child. If you should require additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at the school's main number. I will be contacting you periodically to inform you of your child's progress or other pertinent information. As we move forward, let us develop a collaborative effort in assisting your child with meeting their educational dreams and aspirations.

Ms. Stephens and Ms. Anderson 2nd & 3rd grades

Several second and third grade students in our class have asked me if their parent/guardian could come and visit our room or stop by and have lunch with us. Of course, you are invited any time! You will see a well-behaved class learning to be responsible for their own learning and behavior. We try to read a new story from our reading book every week. With each story, we learn new skills; vocabulary, phonics, grammar, comprehension, language, and fluency. A weekly assessment is given. Our reading series is Pearson Reading Street. It integrates very nicely with our math, science and social studies. Writing is integrated into our English Language Arts. We are working in declarative; telling sentences and interrogative sentences; asking sentences. We will continue to work on subjects/predicates as we write stories, using details and lots of colorful vocabulary. Students enjoy doing online research, creating digital journals. We are working with GoMath! and reviewing addition and subtraction, practicing skip counting and learning to multiply. Please practice subtraction facts, telling time, counting money and reading at home. I would LOVE to see you in our classroom. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer or just stop by room 139. Royal Palm's phone number is 337-3511. You are always welcome!

Mr. Shell and Ms. Sneed 5th grade

Welcome to our 5th grade students! We are off to a great start of a new school year. Students and staff have returned to school from their summer vacations with positive attitudes. We are enthusiastic for another year of learning! At this beginning of school, the staff of Room 309 are pleased with the academic and behavioral performances of our students. The students have produced circle maps and bubble maps. These maps are related to topics of themselves, class rules and school rules. Their most recent bubble map describes the physical characteristics of Japanese Giant Salamanders.

Ms. Rios and Ms. Harris

2nd & 3rd grades

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to a new school year! I am so excited to have your child in my class this year. We are going to learn so many new things together. We will be learning a lot and having fun too! This month we will be teaching about: Phonics - inflected endings and in Language we will be alphabetizing (ABC order). We will write a short personal narrative story and practicing words. During math time we will be working with different forms of numbers and different ways to show numbers. But this is just the beginning of this wonderful year. There is more to come!



Ms. Fisher and Ms. Walker

3rd grade

Hello to all my families at Royal Palm. My name is Ms. Fisher and I am your child's third grade teacher. We have had a very busy start this school year. Your child is currently working on correcting sentences, reading about how money is spent, difference between wants/needs, going to the market, where money comes from, adding/subtracting 3 digit number, collecting/graphing data, mapping skills and last, but not least social skills. I want all of my families to know you are welcome to our classroom any time. If you have any questions and concerns, please call. Lastly, if you need to help your child at home with any of their academics, visit the [Academic Plan](#) at the Lee County web site. It is a very useful site to track what your child is doing the entire year. Have a great year and keep in touch!! Sincerely, Ms. Fisher

Mr. Eady and Ms. Bidwell

3rd-5th grades

Hello teachers, students and parents! First, I would like to introduce my classes Helping Teacher, Ms. Bidwell. Ms. Bidwell is new to our Royal Palm family and is currently working towards being a teacher at Royal Palm. Each and every one of our students is doing a great job performing their daily tasks. We may have had some bumps here and there, but we have a great bunch of students that are eager to learn. In math we are currently learning our multiplication facts, which will help us flow into how to use multiplication to solve division problems. To make each lesson fun, we play "around the world" math facts. In language arts we implement daily AR time and the students write book reports on what they have read. We have a bunch of book worms in our class and love to utilize the 20 mins of reading. We are currently working on comprehension skills and following up the lessons with fun activities. One of the fun activities, was making a comic strip using contraction words. Homework is also a big must in our class and is assigned on a daily basis. Homework helps the student retain the information that was taught that day. If homework is completed students are able to earn computer time. Let's all have a great year of learning!

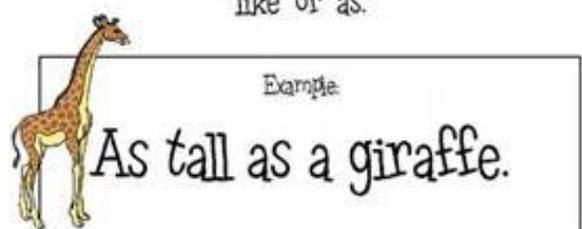
Ms. Richardson and Ms. Farmer

5th grade

Mrs. Richardson's class has been learning about common and proper nouns, similes and metaphors; about maps and how animals survive and how plants adapt to the environment. Our class is also learning two-digit and three-digit multiplication. In our story of the week we learned how immigrants faced a challenge and succeeded in building ten miles of railroad track in one day.

Simile

A comparison of two things by using the words
"like" or "as."



Classroom News

Middle School

Mr. Hebner and Ms. Midget

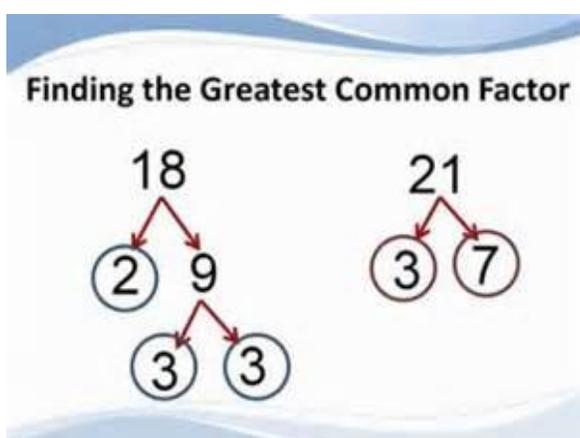
6th-8th Reading

Dear students, parents, and, families: Reading Class has been a real adventure.. Ms. Midget and I are both new to teaching at this level here at Royal Palm but we are off to a good start. The most challenging part is getting to know people who were strangers to each other a month ago. It takes some time and effort (for students and staff) to discover all of the things we like about each other. It is getting better day by day! We have been working on reading short stories and especially how to comprehend better by asking Who? What? Where? When? and Why? We call this strategy the 5Ws and use it when we summarize what we have read. HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT: Read one page (3 to 5 paragraphs) every school day to an adult or older brother or sister. Each student should be able to tell me Who? What? Where? When? or Why? for the passage they are reading. This exercise will improve your child's reading as well as give them a level of personal attention that all of us appreciate. We are waiting to begin a computer based reading curriculum using the Chromebooks in the classroom. I believe this will be very motivating and will give us more detailed information about how your student is progressing on their reading level. I am very pleased at seeing the dedication and professionalism of the teachers, staff and administration here at Royal Palm. Some schools talk about being a family, but this school is making it happen. I look forward to getting to know each of you in a more personal and positive manner as the year progresses. I sincerely appreciate the help and support that parents have demonstrated already in supporting the goals of their children. I plan to develop even better relationships ahead so we can help our students succeed.

Mrs. Lundy and Mrs. Meltzer

6th grade

We are so excited to be working with our wonderful 6th grade students. We are fortunate to have the wonderful Ms. Faye Henderson as our helping teacher. She keeps track of our points and levels, as well as being an excellent support for behavior. In Mrs. Lundy's math and science class, we are working on a lot of important skills. In Math, we have started with finding the greatest common factor and least common multiple and ratios, and will be working on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers and decimals. In Science, we are learning about the nature of science and scientific theories and laws. Students have math or science homework three nights per week. They are encouraged to work on their individual learning paths in Compass as well. I am with your students for the first two periods each day, and feel free to contact me via phone or email anytime! helenml@leeschools.net.



Ms. Lee and Ms. A. Walker

6th-8th Career

Dear Students, Parents, and Families, This year we are learning all about different careers and the skills needed to do the job. We have learned about how to apply for jobs and fill out applications. We learned the difference between applications and resumes and the benefits of each. We learned about income tax and the forms you fill out when first hired. We are also privileged to have many guest speakers. These people have donated their time to educate our class about their careers. The students have enjoyed the speakers so far. We have had Steven Danz, a mechanic, visit. He brought his tools and let the kids hold them and explained what they were used for. They asked many wonderful questions and several have been inspired to pursue that career. Mr. Jason Moore came from Apple Technologies. All the kids were hoping he would bring them iPhones! He talked about what he did with Apple and encouraged the kids to do their best in school to achieve their goals. Next, we had Mrs. Cathy Hillman from the Child Labor Bureau. She explained their rights and responsibilities as employees. They had many wonderful questions and many are excited about the day they can start working. We have had the privilege to have a former U.N. Ambassador from Belize come and speak to the class. This was an opportunity most students never experience. He explained what life was like growing up extremely poor in Belize and how he had to work at the school farm 6 days a week for 4 hours a day, just to pay for his high school tuition. He went on to receive an associates degree, bachelors, then masters, and he was recently awarded an honorary doctorate degree. He explained his typical day in New York as an ambassador and told us many wonderful stories. Mr. Ray Rosado was our latest speaker. He had an amazing story of triumph over adversity. He talked about his feeling of abandonment after his mother abandoned him and his siblings on the steps of a police station. He said he always had a goal to fly a plane. He told us how against all odds, he started his own pest control business and is finally (40 years later) taking flying lessons and will be flying the big jets in 2 more years. He encouraged the students to never give up on their goals and to work hard because there are people who believe in them. We look forward to hearing the rest of the guest speakers that are lined up. If you, or anyone you know would be willing to speak to our students about a job you have or one you have had, please contact me at jenniferlle@leeschools.net. Thank you so much and looking forward to a fabulous year!

Ms. Kunze and Mr. Casseus

6th-8th Social Studies

I am very excited to be part of the Royal Palm's team this year teaching social studies. Many thanks to my teaching assistant, Mr. Casseus, who has helped me with this. Mr. C has a great rapport with all the students and is a big help in the classroom. The sixth graders started the year learning basic geography, land forms and landmarks as we embark on our journey through ancient civilizations. This is an important year for the seventh graders. In May, they will take the 7th grade end-of-year exam which is all about American history and government. We will work all year learning about the origins & purposes of government, law, and the American political system. The 8th graders will have an exciting year as they prepare to transition on to high school. We will be studying American History from the beginning to the Civil War. All grades will have homework at least 3 nights a week. It is a big part of their grade so ask your student about it. Tests are given at the end of each chapter. After the tests are graded they are returned to the student so he/she can make corrections and improve the grade. The final grade is recorded after they make the corrections so they have the opportunity to get a good grade on the report card. If we work together it will be a great year! I am always available by phone or email and expect you to contact me with any concerns and I will do the same. Here's to a great year!!!!!!



Mrs. Morales and Ms. Candelaro

6th-8th Math

Dear Students, Parents, and Families, Wow, what a great start to this new school year! I have really enjoyed working with my math students and getting to know them! My teacher assistant Mrs. Candelaro (Mrs. C.), is absolutely amazing, and works so well with our students! Mrs. C., is without a doubt, my "backbone" in this classroom. In 6th grade we are learning prime factorization, in 7th grade we are learning how to interpret and answer statistical questions and in 8th grade we are learning how to solve multistep ratio and percent problems. This year, all homework is to be completed online. Students are responsible for completing 3 assignments weekly, online, at Khan Academy.



The students all know how to access this website. If you do not have online access, students are able to complete these assignments, at designated times, during the school day. If the students do not complete their homework assignments, their grades will significantly drop. Please encourage and remind your child of this process.

I am thankful to have the privilege of working and getting to know your child.

Mr. Weigand and Ms. Boston

6th-8th Language Arts

Hello Parents. Middle school language arts has gotten off to a great start. We have talked about goal setting, and utilized quotes as a means of interpreting literature and setting the tone for the day. Writing has been a focal point of our curriculum thus far. Students have been given prompts and specified topics to write on. They have copied this into their journals, Chrome-books, and their phones. On Fridays we have been focusing on vocabulary development and word attack skills. We have been utilizing flash cards and vocabulary terms from the textbooks. We have seen significant improvement in word attack skills which we believe will translate to improvements in reading fluency and comprehension. As we progress throughout the first quarter, we will continue to focus on writing skills. Students will be focusing on setting, characterization, and descriptive terminology. We will also be working on grammar, spelling, and parts of speech. Parents, we encourage students to read as much as possible on topics of interest to them. This will enhance vocabulary development, comprehension, fluency and also the writing process. We plan to provide various periodicals in the classroom such as magazines, newspapers, and books to further emphasize reading. If you have any questions or would like to contact us, please do not hesitate. We want to help our students progress in multiple areas this school year and we believe that working together will better enable this to occur.



Ms. Brown and Ms. McMillian

6th-8th Science

Dear Students, Parents, and Families: We have had a great start to this new school year! I have an amazing teaching partner, Ms. McMillian, who works to help the students with social skills. In sixth grade, we are learning necessary science skills like reading data tables and study skills like thinking maps. In seventh grade, we are adding on newer study skills and reviewing data before we move on into the wave unit, where we study about waves and their physical science properties. In eighth grade, we are learning



about how to read, represent data, and how science and society interact. This year this class is going to be a hybrid (part of it online and in print). Students are responsible for completing workbook pages, interactive science notebooks, homework/projects, and tests. Please encourage and remind your child of this process. These little things will help lead to a successful school year. I am looking forward to a great school year!

Classroom News

High School

Mr. Krachenfels and Ms. Blue

9th-12th Science

It is that time of the year again when students are back from summer vacations and anxiously looking forward to learning new things as well as meeting new people. We are working hard to ensure that each student gets a quality education and meets their behavioral goals. This year we offer environmental, integrated, and biological science courses. This school first school quarter (Q1) seems to be going by quickly, and we are fast approaching the time for the districts required academic course testing sessions. As you know each biology student is required to pass the biology end of course (EOC) exam in order to graduate. To help all science students pass this EOC exam, we are doing everything that we can to ensure that each student is fully prepared to take and pass this exam. In environmental science, we have been learning about the scientific method, effects of the Lake Okechobee water releases, and discussing how best to combat the Zika virus. In integrated science and biology, we are learning about the scientific method, cell theory, cell structure, cell organelles, and their functions.

We have also done some experiments and are looking forward to doing more. Again this year, Royal Palm will be conducting a science fair, and we are looking forward to any student and parent input you wish to give as to what projects they would like to see at our annual science fair.



If you have ideas let us know and, as always, feel free to contact us with any questions, or concerns that you may have!

Mr. Daly and Ms. Tivis

9th-12th Career

Greetings from Mr. Daly and Ms. Tivis' class. We continue to work with the students on employment skills and preparing for an independent adulthood. We are also continuing our work with the ExTRA Program. This program takes students off campus and puts them into employment experiences. We are expanding our roles this year to include both a Learning for Life Explorer Club and Post. These opportunities for secondary students allow them to investigate and participate in job shadowing and community service projects. We look forward to continuing our work with the returning students and assisting new students in developing the skills necessary to achieve their fullest potential. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me either by phone 239-337-3511 (best time is from 7am-7:30am) or via my district email kevinbd@leeschools.net.

Ms. Baez and Mr. Buckley

9th-12th Reading

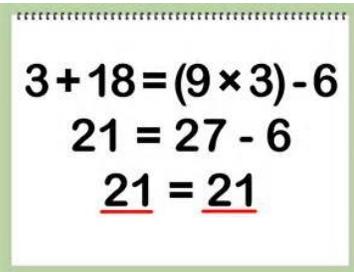
In 9th grade we are learning to identify the plot, describe the setting, and the characters in a short story. In 10th, 11th and 12th grade, we are learning to identify the author's purpose and how it helps us better understand the article. This year all homework is to be completed at home. Students are responsible for completing 3 assignments weekly, online at iLit and Edge B book. The students all know how to access this website. If the students do not complete their homework assignments and class work, their grades will significantly drop. Please encourage and remind your child of this process. Additionally, we have a new teacher assistant, Mr. Buckley, who works so well with our students!

Mr. Kendrick

Sup, Koalas! It's been a pleasure working with the high school students this year as their new English Language Arts instructor. They have been doing an excellent job in my class, though there is always room for improvement ;@) To begin with, we've been working on film and/or videos in the same way that we would traditionally analyze written texts. We assess the content, an individual's speech, her/his delivery, and one's hidden agendas and/or motives for presenting video seminars on complex topics.

Mr. Kovacs and Mr. Green

This year is really moving along. We have already reached the first interim. My new helping teacher, Mr. Green, and I will be helping



students with the various math classes. Critically important are the algebra classes. Algebra is the backbone of math, the language of math. If you learn algebra during your freshman year, it will make the rest of your math classes that much easier. You will not have to learn algebra and geometry at the

same time.

Dr. Moore, Mr. Cummings, and Ms. Thorton

What is my favorite part about teaching school? It is the way we have a "new beginning" each school year; time to focus on future opportunities and to watch the challenges of the past fade quietly away. We have a good group of young people in our class. Some are preparing for independent living while younger students are eager to master the skills needed to be successful in high school. One of the new events we are participating in is called the Koala Café. Life Skills classes are learning distributive education techniques. Additionally, they have the opportunity to improve social skills such as being polite and taking turns. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our new principal Mr. Moretti, welcome Ms. Duncan, and incoming faculty to our campus. The 2016-2017 school year offers great opportunities to succeed as we consider our slogan "Royal Palm- where choice determines your future." Far too often we hear about the consequences of the bad choices. Try your best to make good decisions. The choices we make as young adults often affect us the rest of our lives.

Lastly, thanks to the wonderful parents and caregivers who continue to be supportive as we work together to help these young people. We couldn't do it without you. Let's have a great year!

**Ms. Smith and Ms. Thomas**

Dear Students, Parents, and Families, After a busy summer, it is nice to be back in school. This new school year has gotten off to a great start. Ms. Thomas and I are excited to have our returning students back and to have two new classes of Freshmen. I feel very fortunate to have such a great helping teacher in Ms. Thomas. She was with me last year and I am grateful that she decided to stay with me this school year. We make a great team!! We are teaching three different subjects: US history, Economics, and World History. All of our classes are focusing on their behavior goals and what it will take for them to be successful at Royal Palm and later at their home schools. My goal is to have



each and every students focus on how they can change their behavior so that they can be successful at any school and in life.

The students are becoming familiar with google classroom. I am posting assignments and the students are

completing them using the chrome books. We are looking forward to a great and productive school year. Please always remember that we have your student's best interest in mind and we are doing our best to give them the tools they need to be the best citizen they can be.

9th-12th English**Ms. Senat, Ms. Christian, and Mrs. Lemos****9th-12th Life Skills**

Dear Students and Families, We have been in school for now six weeks. What a milestone! Our class name this year is Koala Life Skills. This year in Miss Senat, Mrs. Lemos, and Mrs. Christian's classroom we will be focusing on starting and maintain personal relationships with peers. This is highly important because we have range of students in different grades. Research shows that students who feel connected and feel safe within school setting, achieve higher in academics. To continue, academically we as a class will study civil rights, scientific inquiry, government, and economics. We encourage all families to be a part of our amazing Koala Klass!

Ms. Meltzer**Reading Coach**

Welcome back! To help your child become a better reader, read with them every day for at least 10 minutes. That could be you reading to them, or listening to them read to you (even when you're in the car). Expose your children to both fiction (make believe) and non-fiction (real) books. In addition all students have access to Compass Learning. A "learning path" is automatically generated based on your child's reading ability. They have access to this at home as well (compass.leeschools.net). Another great online resource is FloridaStudents.org. There are fun "games" available for students of all grades! Mrs. Meltzer Reading Coach/Media Specialist

School Counselor

Mrs. Cioffi, our school counselor, is busy with beginning of school work. She is checking to make sure that every child is scheduled appropriately. Also, Mrs. Cioffi is working to review credits with her secondary students. Her office is also busy with students that need to work through something happening in their lives. She helps them feel better and get back to class to learn.

Register to take Driver's Education Visit the web site <https://www.flvs.net/>

If you have had an account in the past, log in using your username and password. If you do not remember, call 1-800-374-1430. If you do not have an account, click on sign up FLVS Flex, grades 6-12. You will need to enter your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and parent/guardian information. You may request assistance from Mrs. Cioffi ONLY after you have tried on your own.



****Please take a moment to fill out the emergency card, code of conduct and food allergy form. These forms help us to ensure we can keep students safe and that we can get in touch with you in case of an emergency.**

According to Florida Statute 1012.42, we must notify parents of students who are being taught by out-of-field teachers. A teacher is out-of-field until the coverage/endorsement for a class that he or she is teaching is issued by the state of Florida. In addition, the certification and/or endorsement must appear on his or her teacher certificate. Individuals who are teaching out-of-field are certified in a least one area and are qualified to teach, but are required to take additional course work or testing to add a coverage/endorsement to their certificate. Please contact the school, 239.337.3511, if you need further clarification. The following teachers have agreed to teach out-of-field while completing course work and/or testing.

Out of Field

Essie Barns—ESOL (Endorsement), Roderick Eady—ESOL (Endorsement), Gloria Fisher—ESOL (Endorsement), John Kendrick—English 6-12, Alfreda Richardson—ESOL (Endorsement), Bethy Senat—ESOL (Endorsement), and Kevin Weigand—ESOL (Endorsement)