

SUPERINTENDENT'S BULLETIN

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ISSUE 37

News for School Board Members and District Personnel



Dear School Board Members and District Personnel,

I have visited many classrooms since the start of the school year, and I am very excited by what I have seen. Major recognition goes to classroom environments. They are organized, energizing and inspirational. It definitely helps to have signage in classrooms and schools that is meaningful, doesn't become boring and helps students navigate their days. I am one of those people that like to read the room. That means an inspirational quote can make my day, a clearly written I can statement helps me to know what we are going to learn, and written schedules let me know when I can take my next break. That's why I like agendas with time frames given. It helps to know how long I am going to have to listen to someone. Students really appreciate it when you give all those visual cues to help them through the day. Keep up the great work in this area. We'll have better behavior and more learning going on if you do.

Yours in education,
Terri

ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

September starts our Fall EOC retake exams for high school students. Beginning September 11th, students will have an opportunity to retake their Civics, US History, Biology, Geometry, Algebra or FAST Grade 10 ELA assessments. Students may retake exams for many reasons including improving a grade in a course, meeting graduation requirements or to try and earn qualifying scores for the Scholar Diploma designation. It is important that students take advantage of these testing opportunities to meet their requirements for graduation. If you have any questions about testing please contact your school in regards to scheduling for the exams.

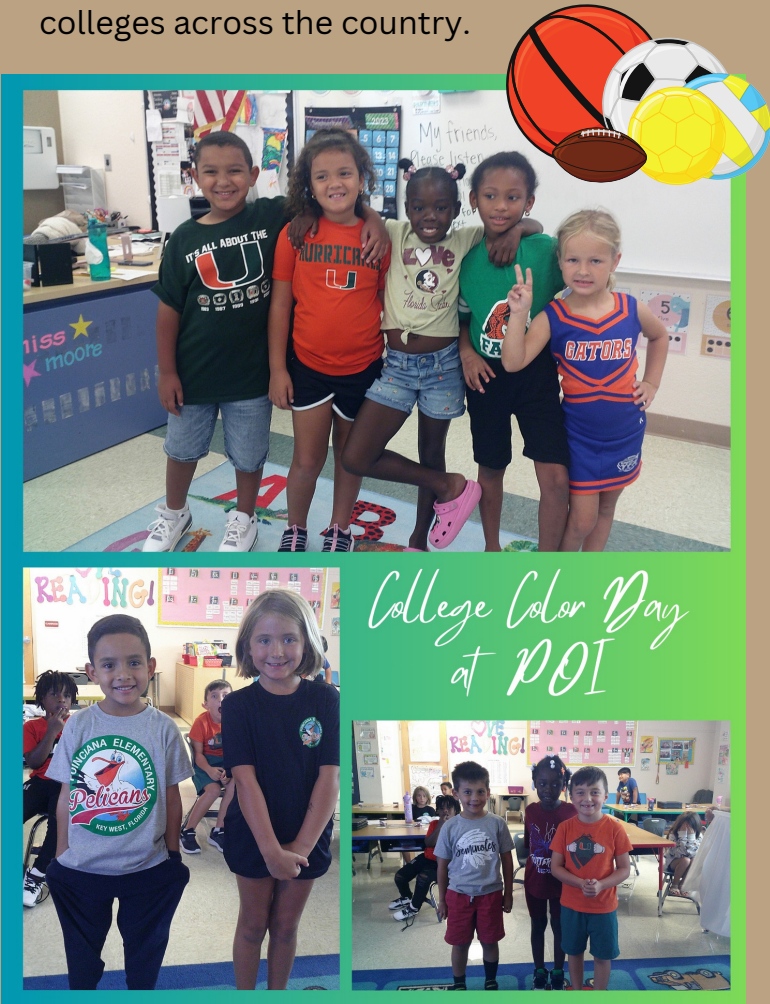
COMMUNITY RELATIONS



Schools have opened with a positive climate and IBelieve expectations. Across the district, there have been student orientations and Open Houses for parents and the community. Our use of the Focus parent portal is up by over 1000 users and we continue to increase our lines of communication so that parents can stay connected to their child's education. Focus and our website are now able to provide language translation with one click of a button.



Friday was College Color Day, an opportunity to shine the light on the many colleges across the country.



EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

Our school therapy teams are up and running serving students across the county. We have our first district ESE meeting in September and it is an opportunity for all staff to collaborate on the best practices for students with special needs. The Exceptional Student Education Department has many challenges this year. Foremost, our loss of the third Florida Department of Education Bureau Chief in a few short years. Our words for the 2023-2024 school year are “Breathe” and “Patience.”

FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE

The Finance team is very pleased and proud to present to the Board our Annual Financial Report (AFR) FY22-23 and our Final Budget Book FY23-24 on September 5th. Everything is simply perfect! We are in good financial condition at the end of the 22-23 school year. We are looking forward to another year of Excellence in Financial Reporting! We also secured a vital \$2 million allocation from the State toward affordable housing. This allocation marks a crucial step in our transition plan of the Trumbo Admin Building. As always, we appreciate School Principals' and Department Heads' patience throughout the summer and during the budget process. We definitely couldn't have done it without you.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

The Department of Human Resources has processed more than 70 new substitute teachers for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. HR Specialists are currently updating the list of 350 substitutes by reaching out to confirm their desire to remain active. This process ensures the most qualified and motivated individuals are available when needed. By proactively communicating required procedures with school staff, HR assists to ensure volunteers will be cleared in a timely manner to attend school events and trips. Over 60 new volunteers were cleared this month to assist in our schools. HR Specialist, Christopher Mendez, visited the Upper Keys schools during open house events to distribute volunteer flyers and answer questions from parents. Lower Keys HR Specialists will also attend upcoming open house events to provide information on how to become a volunteer. This engages the district with parents and enables them to be more involved in the education of their children. Certification Specialist, Daniella DeLucia, sent communications to instructional staff to ensure they are prepared to satisfy requirements for recertifying professional educator certificates to renew before June 30, 2024.

OPERATIONS AND PLANNING

Aside from vehicle maintenance and fueling, the Stock Island Operations Annex includes a two-story warehouse providing the District access to surplus inventory and instructional materials. The first floor of the Operations Annex consists of open warehouse shelving and storage while the second floor provides space for staging and redistribution of textbooks and associated teaching materials, as well as records retention. Upper and Lower Keys mail and delivery services are managed from the Annex by Warehouse Coordinator, Manuel “Manny” Murillo. Director of Construction & Distribution Services, Doug Pryor says, “having access to a strategically located warehouse provides better receiving, storing, and distribution flexibility. The goal is to provide operational goods and services to schools, departments, and locations throughout the District in an efficient and effective manner”.



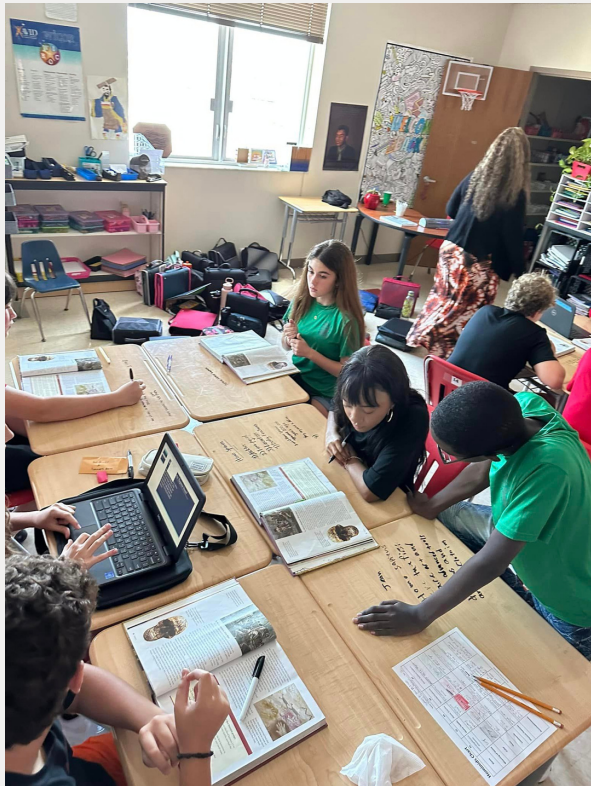
Pictured Above:
View of Operations Annex located in Stock Island

Pictured Below:
View of the warehouse at Operations Annex



TEACHING AND LEARNING

With the new year comes the need to explain high expectations for students and the goal of including students in their own learning. The Teaching and Learning Team, along with the Superintendent and district staff, have been in classrooms each week to see what the learners are doing, and we are excited to see hands on activities, an emphasis on reading and positive classroom cultures. Classroom walk-throughs by administration and the district team are a priority this year as is supporting the implementation of the state standards in instruction. The Teaching and Learning team provided professional learning before school started to both new and veteran teachers on an array of topics. They will spend the next six weeks visiting each school staff to connect and provide more in-depth information regarding resources and support for teachers.



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