Welcome Kindergarten Students!!

**Orientation for Kindergarten students:** On Thursday, August 27th you will have an opportunity to bring your child to school for a 15 minute Meet and Greet. During this time only one parent and the student will be allowed to come in to see the classroom and meet the teacher. Social Distancing guidelines will be required. Temperatures will be taken and the health screening will be completed prior to coming into the school. Masks must be worn at all times. Siblings of the kindergarten students will not be allowed into the building. You will receive your appointment time via email. If you do not arrive during your designated time, you may be turned away.

**Staggered Start**: On this day, Kindergarten students come to school only one day between Monday, August 31 and Thursday, September 3. Students will be in the class with only three or four other classmates during this time which will enable them to get know their teacher and a few friends on a very small scale. We have found that this is very helpful with the transition to Kindergarten. Our Kindergarten teachers and staff will meet you in the parent drop-off line at 8:40. This will give you time to meet the teacher and drop your child off at a less congested time of the morning. If you have children in other grades, you can drop them off prior and wait…you will need to exit the drop off line, or you can drop off all of your children at the same time as you drop off your Kindergarten student. You will receive your child’s staggered start date via email.

**Arrival:** On Friday, September 4th, all Kindergarten students will begin! Drop off on this day and every day this year will begin at 8:00. Please do not get out of your car. We ask that while you are in the line, you prepare your child for exit from the vehicle. Make sure that they have everything they need and are ready to go when staff come to the car door. Students **MUST** exit from the passenger side of the vehicle. Please adjust car seats so that children can exit on the passenger side.

**Breakfast and Lunch:** Osceola is a CEP school which means that breakfast and lunch is free for all of our students. Upon arrival, students will get their packaged breakfast and move to their classroom to eat. We ask that if your child is eating at school, they arrive as early as possible so that they will not miss instruction as they finish eating. The academic school day begins at 8:25.

**Dismissal:** Student safety is our number one priority during afternoon dismissal, therefore, we ask that you follow these procedures at all times:

* During the meet and greet, we will provide the parent with a **car card/hang tag**. All vehicles picking up students must have the car card prominently displayed from the rear view mirror for *each child* they are picking up. Please display the card upon entry of school premises and until you exit school premises. Without a car card, drivers will be directed to park and go directly to the school office to be cleared with proper ID.
* Pants clothes hangers work perfectly for this. The cards on the dashboards are not as effective as they sometimes prove difficult to see.
* All students must enter the vehicle from the passenger side. NO EXCEPTIONS.
* **All drivers and passengers must remain in the car** and allow student(s) to enter the car (with assistance from staff if necessary).
* **DO NOT park and walk over to pick up children** from the office while they are in line or at the parent pick-up loop.

It is extremely important that your child’s teacher knows how he/she is getting home each day and even more important that it is as consistent as possible. Any changes that have to made during the day must be sent to Sheila Lawshe in the front office prior to 2:00. Mrs. Lawshe’s email is: [Sheila.Lawshe@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Sheila.Lawshe@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

If your child is going to walk home, he/she must be met at the walker gate by an adult who is on the child’s pick-up list. If an adult is not there, your child will be brought back to the office and you will be required to come to the office to pick him/her up.

**Birthday cupcakes and snacks:** Due to COVID-19 we are not allowed to bring in unpackaged snacks, cakes, cupcakes etc. to share. If you would like to purchase cupcakes to be delivered to your child’s class at lunch for their birthday, please contact our Cafeteria Manager, Carole Simmons. Her email is: [Carole.Simmons@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Carole.Simmons@stjohns.k12.fl.us) She will have prepackaged cupcakes and will bring enough out to the children in your child’s class to celebrate their birthday.

**Volunteers:** We love our volunteers and everything they do for us. At this time we are not allowing volunteers to help in our classrooms or lunch visitors. Parent conferences and visits to the school must be pre-scheduled with the teacher and/or the front office.

**Student supplies:** If you are unable to attend the Open House, we are asking our families to bring their student supplies to school on Thursday, August 27th.   Please bring your student supplies wrapped and labeled with the teacher’s name, your child’s name and the grade level.   Team members will collect the materials and take them to the classrooms. We will be taking materials from 8:30-11:00 and 1:00-2:30.

**Face coverings:** Students will be required to wear face coverings while moving through the halls or using common areas of the school including bathrooms. They will not be required to wear face coverings if able to social distance in the classroom. Face coverings will be required on arrival until temperature is taken prior to the start of instruction. Face coverings will be required for students on school buses where social distancing is not possible.