



Okeechobee County School Board

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Chairperson
Amanda Riedel
Vice Chairperson
Melisa Jahner
Members
Joe Arnold
Jill Holcomb
Malissa Morgan

September 28, 2020

Dear Parents,

As your child's first teacher, you are a critical part of his/her instructional team. Being on the team means you need to know how your child's learning is progressing, and what to do if there is unfinished learning from last year, gaps in understanding, or learning loss due to a lack of learning opportunities during school closure.

After completing our first full month of school and our initial round of progress monitoring, we see clearly that some of **our students are struggling** with getting into the routines for learning and the mindset needed to persist when things get hard.

What you should know and how you can help:

- Please check [Skyward Family Access](#) at least twice a week to ensure you know your child:
 - has turned in all assignments
 - has been present for class everyday
 - is mastering the work and making passing grades
- If you need access to your Skyward account, please call your school's data processor.
- Each school is making plans to help struggling students. Please ask your child daily if they have notices, letters, reports or invitations from their teacher or the school. Schools will be sending detailed progress monitoring reports, letters to tell you if your child has a significant reading deficiency, is in danger of failing, needs an intervention meeting/plan, or is struggling with social or emotional health.
- In addition to asking your child for communication from school, please check your email and return any calls from school daily. All Okeechobee County School phone numbers begin with 863-462-XXXX.
- Unlike the final grading period last school year, there is no plan to put in place a failure floor for students' grades. Grades will be placed in the Skyward gradebook exactly as the student has earned. **Zeros will not be replaced by 50 grade points.**
- If your child is participating in synchronous learning (option 2) or Okeechobee Virtual (option 3), you play a much bigger role in your child's success. Currently, children in these options are missing so many days of school they are in danger of not meeting the grade level expectations and will be retained in their current grade next year. Missing 10 percent or more of school days due to absence for any reason—excused, unexcused absences and suspensions, can translate into third-graders unable to master reading, sixth-graders failing subjects and ninth-graders dropping out of high school (attendanceworks.org).

The end of the first grading period is October 15, 2020. Now is the time to reorganize your time and resources, if your child is struggling. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher or school administrator for more help and resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ken Kenworthy", is written over a horizontal line.

Ken Kenworthy
Superintendent



Achieving Excellence: Putting Students First!

