

# Principal's Newsletter

Midway Elementary School of the Arts

April 2019

## Midway Elementary School of the Arts Mission:

*"Through reflective and collaborative practices, we provide a positive academic and arts-linked experience, where all students reach their highest potential and become life-long learners."*

### Upcoming Events

#### Tuesday, April 2nd

4th/5th FSA Writing

#### Wednesday, April 3

3rd grade FSA Reading

#### Thursday, April 4th

3rd grade FSA Reading

Kinder Registration

7am-7pm dance room

#### Saturday, April 6th

9-11 am Saturday Academy Grades 3-5

#### Monday, April 8

5th grade to Kennedy Space Center-Buggs, Silver, Wood

#### Tuesday, April 9th

Student of the Month

4th grade to St Augustine

#### Wednesday April 10

5th grade to Kennedy Space Center Smith Davis

#### Thursday April 11

5th grade to Kennedy Space Center Lochiatto, Swisher

#### Saturday, April 13th

9-11 am Saturday Academy Grades 3-5

#### Monday, April 15

5th grade to Kennedy Space Center Arguetta

#### Friday, April 19th

First grade to the Central Florida Zoo

#### Saturday, April 20th

9-11 am Saturday Academy Grades 3-5

#### Tuesday, April 23rd

6 pm SAC Media Center

#### Friday, April 26th

Kinder to Crayola

1st grade to the zoo- second half

#### Saturday, April 27th

9-11 am Saturday Academy Grades 3-5

#### MAY 1, 2

4th and 5th grade FSA Reading

#### May 7, 8

3rd-5th grade FSA Math

#### May 9, 10

5th grade FSA Science



Dear Midway Families,

As April begins, we are entering the last 9 weeks of the 2018-19 school year. It is very important that our students have a strong finish to the school year. The fourth quarter is filled with opportunities for learning. Please work to maintain strong habits and routines at home and at school.

We encourage all families to stay consistent with attendance and homework routines. The attendance reward field trip will be on Wednesday, May 22nd to Sea World for all students that met the goal of less than 4 absences, 4 tardies and only checked out 4 times early.

Please also make sure to take time to read each night - reading development is very important for every student. All students visit the media center weekly and should be reading to increase their love of literature.

Our third, fourth, and fifth grade students will begin taking FSA's this month. These tests can be challenging and are a good opportunity for students to show their perseverance. We don't want students to be nervous or have too much pressure for the FSA. Our students have worked hard all year and will excel if they put forth their best effort.

Thank you for your continued support in your child's education.

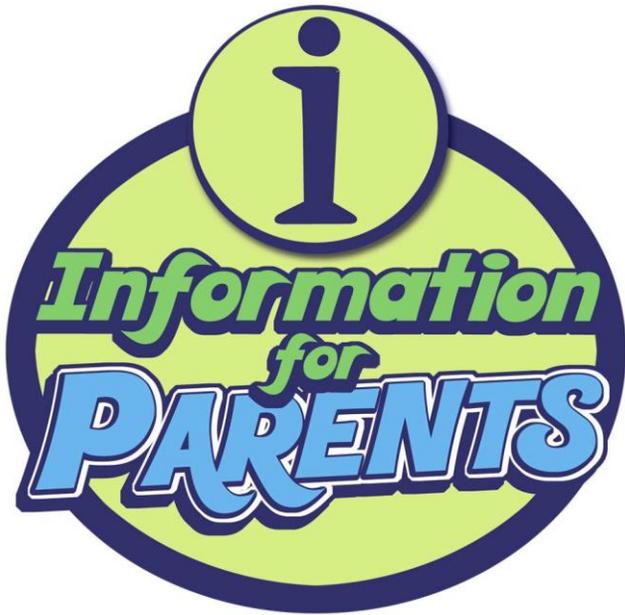
Mrs. Lambert, Principal

## Attendance Continues to Matter!

- Starting in Kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.
- Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school — and themselves.
- Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick.
- Performance groups require consistent attendance, as do all the leadership groups
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session

***As we approach testing time, please be mindful of testing dates and time when removing your child from class.***



**Midway Elementary** is seeking parent feedback on our 2019-2020 Parent and Family Engagement Plan! With meaningful consultation from families, our Parent and Family Engagement Plan (PFEP) is developed annually to strengthen student academic achievement and establish expectations for family engagement. Please reach out to [Barbara\\_kellar@scps.us](mailto:Barbara_kellar@scps.us) if you would like to offer your input! A hard copy of our existing plan is available for your review in the front office as well.

**There are countless websites designed to help your child at home if needed. Many of these sites are free and can become an asset when used properly and monitored by a parent.**

**This one has been kid tested and teacher approved:**

The following website provides fun videos for the kids and allows them to review skills that were taught in class. This is a great way to review for homework skill pages and tests.

[https://www-k6.thinkcentral.com/content/hsp/math/gomath2015/na/grk-6/on\\_the\\_spot\\_videos\\_9780544251519\\_/index.html](https://www-k6.thinkcentral.com/content/hsp/math/gomath2015/na/grk-6/on_the_spot_videos_9780544251519_/index.html)

**REMEMBER:** If you don't have computer access at home the public library and SCPS Early Learning Center have computers available.

# Parent & Family Engagement Invites You to Our April Workshop



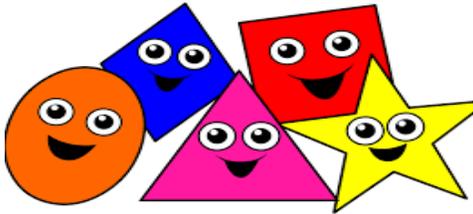
April 18, 2019  
5:30 pm– 6:30 pm  
Parent Resource Center  
1101 S. Bay Ave, Sanford

## Creating Pathways to Success

Did you know that there are educational and career resources available to SCPS students before they reach high school? Parent & Family Engagement and ePathways are teaming up to help families learn how to prepare their students for college and beyond! An Edward Jones Financial Advisor will be on site to share financial planning resources for your students' education. It's never too early or late to start saving!



Visit our website at [www.scpstitle1family.com](http://www.scpstitle1family.com)  
and click on the Family Resource Center link to RSVP!



### Three ways to boost reading comprehension



As your child gets older, he will be expected to read and understand more complex text. He will transition from *learning to read* to *reading to learn*. To help your child, encourage him to:

1. **See the big picture.** Before reading an assignment, have your child think about what he will be reading. What is the title of the chapter or assignment? Does it offer any clues about the reading? He should look for other clues, such as subheadings, words in boldface or italics, pictures or graphs.
2. **Take notes.** Most good students take notes on what they read. Taking notes while reading will make it easier for your child to comprehend and remember information. It will also make reading active and engaging. Your child should write down the most important ideas in the reading assignment.



He should also write down any words he doesn't know so he can look them up later.

3. **Make connections.** The best way to remember new information is to relate it to something you have already learned. When your child finishes a reading assignment, have him answer questions such as: How is this topic similar to something else I have learned? What key ideas did I already know? What new information did I learn?

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**Congratulations to the following students for attaining their  
Math License**



**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**Tristan Raines**  
**Nathan Bodie**  
**Taniya Hillery**  
**Linisa Colon**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**Kalani Valentin**  
**Noel Brown**  
**Matthew Moore**  
**Alanis Rivera**  
**Adrianna Cerez**



**Our Reading Counts program is underway! Just to reiterate, *Reading Counts!* is an independent reading program for Grades K–12 that combines reading practice and software-based assessment. Students choose from popular and engaging book titles, read the books, and take the corresponding quizzes. This technology-based reading program creates a personalized and engaging learning environment that ensures independent reading accountability. Upon completion of quizzes students will receive points to help them win prizes.**

**Please talk to your child about books they have been reading and prizes won for home reinforcement.**

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## FSA Testing Tips to help your Child.

FSA Testing will Start April 2<sup>nd</sup> for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

### How can you help before testing?

Have your child read for focused periods of time to increase reading stamina.

Have your child practice reading “less interesting” materials.

Ask questions about what they have read.

Ask them to make real world connections to the concepts they are learning in school (example: identify the theme of an episode of their favorite television show).

Have them prove/disprove answers.

### Reducing Stress

Stress levels depend on individual children.

1. Make certain you are calm when discussing FSA with students.
2. Discuss tests with kids, but keep in mind their personalities.
3. Depending on your child, it may put them at ease to see the sample assessments online.
4. Make a game plan of the strategies that he/she is going to use. If they get stressed during the test, how will it be best for he/she to get back on track and calm themselves down?

### Here are some tips to help your child On Test Day

#### **Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast**

Many teachers report that students who don't do well on tests haven't gotten enough sleep, and haven't eaten breakfast on the morning of the test. Doing both of these things will ensure that your child is working at full capacity

#### **Remain positive**

Staying calm will help your child stay calm. If she gets nervous about the test or is likely to experience anxiety during the test, help her practice some relaxation techniques that she can try once she's taking the test.