



The Star Shining Chronicles

Message from the Principal

Dear Sweet Parents,

It is such a pleasure to work with the highly professional staff at Frances K. Sweet, and we appreciate the continued support of our wonderful parents. October was a great month at FKS. Our teachers worked diligently with our children and provided engaging and challenging work for every student every day.

We would like to thank everyone that come out for our NFL (Night of Fun and Learning). Great information was shared and many conferences were had to help our shining stars shine. We would also like to thank you for supporting our Yankee Candle Fall fundraiser. We appreciate your support.

Again, it is our excellent teachers, shining star students, and parental support that allows F. K. Sweet to shine!

As always, we continue to reach for the stars with the BEST staff, parents, and students in the state of Florida!

D'Jion Jackson- Harris
Principal

November 1, 2018



Frances K. Sweet Magnet School

1400 Avenue O
Fort Pierce, FL 34950
(772) 468-5330
(772) 468-5334 Fax

Website: www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/fks/

Or www.stlucieschools.org

Office Hours

Monday- Friday
7:30am- 4:00pm

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Tardy and Early Pick Up Policy

Children entering school after 8:50 a.m. are considered tardy and must be escorted to the office by the parent. Students who are late to school in the morning and/or who are picked up from school early will be tardy for the day. **If your child has accumulated more than 5 tardies (excused/unexcused), They will not be recognized for Perfect Attendance.** Tardies will be either excused or unexcused based on Board policy. It is recommended that the parent provide written documentation within 3-days. If the student is either late to school or being picked up early due to a medical appointment, it is recommended that the parent provide the school with evidence of the appointment. In such cases, the tardy will be excused. **Every 6th unexcused tardy results in one unexcused absence.** These unexcused absences are given the same weight as any other unexcused absence and can effect perfect attendance and decisions to file a Truancy Petition.

Please Remember



For the safety of our students and staff, the district has installed a security feature. It is on the west entrance of the main entrance of the main office doors.

This feature allows office staff to release the door for all visitors. This will be your only way to enter the main office. The east entrance door will remain locked at all times. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.



Morning Policy

Student supervision begins at 8:10 a.m. **All students eating breakfast must report to the cafeteria.** If you bring your child to school and they eat breakfast, please be here no later than **8:30 a.m.** Breakfast is served each day from 8:10 a.m. – 8:40 a.m. **Breakfast will not be served after 8:40 a.m.** Also, all students arriving to school after 8:45 a.m. must enter through the west front office door with parents to obtain a tardy pass from the office.

Afternoon Dismissal

Please remember that all students being picked up need to exit at the west side of the building. For the safety of our students, we will continue to reinforce the policy that cars line up in a single line. Parents are asked to wait for their children to be brought to the car by a staff member. **In addition, we will not accept any dismissal changes after 2:30 p.m.**

Picking Up Children on Time



All parent pick-up children must be picked up by 3:15 p.m. If you are unable to pick your child up at this time, please consider making arrangements with the YMCA on campus for aftercare.



I Dress Neat at F.K. Sweet

Your children look absolutely wonderful each day! Thank you for supporting and encouraging your children to follow the FKS mandatory uniform policy that was approved by the School Advisory Council.

*Please read the Uniform Policy and consequences in the handbook that was sent home with your child the first day of school. Jackets and sweaters must be in dress code.

We would love to have your child's gently used uniform clothing that your child has out grown.

REMINDERS

Lunch Date



We encourage parents to spend lunch time with their children.

Family Vacation



When planning your family vacations, please be mindful of the school calendar. There is a copy of the yearly calendar in the front office and online at www.stlucieschools.org. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

Business Partners



We would love to have parents, neighbors and friends to become a business partner.

Please see Mrs. Capas in the office to find out more information.

PBIS News

Our school-wide Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) initiative is:

- S - Stay Safe
- T - Take Responsibility
- A - Always Engaged
- R - Respect Others



Please encourage your child to work hard and obey the **STAR** Expectations so they may earn Dojo points to enjoy the events that we have planned for the school year. If you have any extra time and would like to help with the monthly event, please call the school at 468-5330 or attend the monthly PTO meetings.

Your support and cooperation is greatly appreciated!



Giving teachers the tools to educate our children starts with making it easy for members of the community to provide funding and support. Adopt-A-Class increases opportunity for student success by empowering teachers with community partners to purchase resources for their classroom.

To find out more, please contact the Education Foundation at 772-429-5505.

Education Foundation Coupon Book



Coupon books are being sold for \$25.00. All proceeds will be used to support our students at FKS. Please contact the school if you would like to purchase a book. Thank you for your support!

Title 1 News



A reminder for all parents: A copy of the Parent Involvement Plan and School Improvement Plan is available in the office for parents to view at any time.



Microsoft's Student Advantage Program provides free downloads of the full version of Microsoft Office (Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, OneNote, Publisher, Access, etc.) for all St. Lucie County students, in District operated schools, for use on their personal and mobile devices.

- District students can download the software on up to 5 devices.
- Download and activation requires a student network username and password which is provided to all actively enrolled students.

Here are the steps:

1) Download Office 365 ProPlus from the "Install Now" link below

2) Activate by signing in. The username is *[your student's unique Student ID#]*@stlucieschools.org

ex. 56xxxxxxx@stlucieschools.org

3) The password is the same one students use at school to log in the network.

Early Release Days



2018-2019

12/21, 1/23, 2/13, 4/3,
6/3, 6/4

THANKSGIVING BREAK

11/19-11/23

WINTER BREAK

12/24-1/7

Parents, please remember that on early release days school ends at 1:15pm. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER UPDATE!

We love our Volunteers!

IMPORTANT: Applications will now have to be resubmitted every new school year. This application is good for volunteering and chaperoning for your child's field trips. Thank you!

Steps for Volunteer Application

- Go to the District Website: www.stlucie.k12.fl.us
- Click on the "Volunteers" tab on the top of the page.
- On the right side of the page, click on the "Click to register here" link.
- You will be prompted to create a username and password. Please keep this for your records.
- Under the Position heading, select **Volunteer**.
- Under the Assignment heading, select **Volunteer (Non-Paid)**.
- Under the Location heading, select **St. Lucie Schools**.
- Click on the **Search for Posted Positions** button.
- Select **Volunteer** and click **Apply for Posted Position**.
- There are three mandatory sections that must be completed before the application will be accessible for clearance and approval. A government issued photo ID will need to be uploaded. When complete, submit the application. It will be reviewed, a background check completed, and an email will be sent.



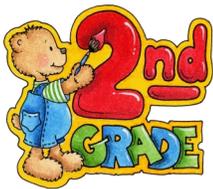
CLASSROOM NEWS



Spiders, bats, and pumpkins, oh my! Kindergarten had a fantastic October. Did you know that spiders are not insects and bats are nocturnal? While engaging in conversations about these interesting units, we also focused on motion and how everyday objects move. The students continue to impress us with their insightful responses. We concluded the month by having our Sense Celebration where the students were able to participate in fun activities that explored our senses. Thank you to all parents who volunteered or donated items to help make fabulous memories. We look forward to seeing what fun things the month of November brings!



1st grade students are having a blast! In math, we are practicing counting to 120, understanding our tens and ones places, and comparing numbers that are less than, greater than, or equal to. We are learning and practicing math with fun, hands-on math games and songs! In science, we are learning about states of matter and understanding the properties of each type of matter. Our science lessons are hands-on and engaging, where students can observe and touch different types of matter like slimy oobleck and solid ice cubes! In reading, we are reading and examining story structure, sequence of events, and main idea and details. We are becoming better readers each and every day by practicing producing single syllable words by blending sounds, including consonant blends. Our exciting upcoming events include a visit from The St. Lucie County Fire District on October 18th and our Character Day Parade on October 31st. Please continue to have your child read 15-20 minutes each evening and practice their sight words. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

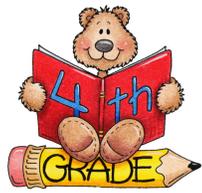


Second graders have been working very hard this first nine weeks. Students have been learning new information and building on information that they've learned in first grade. In math, students have been working on place value of hundreds, tens and ones; skip counting, comparing numbers, and reading and write numbers. We are now going into learning how to add and subtract with regrouping. This is a challenging skill, please continue to practice addition/subtraction facts with your child as we will also continue to practice in class. Students knowing their math facts will greatly help them with their math skills. In reading, students have been working on identifying the main topic of a multiparagraph text as well as using text features to locate key facts or information. In Science, students have been learning about the three states of matter. In writing, student have been working on writing paragraphs focusing on the introduction paragraph, details, supporting details, and the conclusion with teacher modeling the step by step writing process. Please make sure your child is reading nightly so that they will continue to improve their reading skills (word recognition, fluency, comprehension) and making sure they are completing their homework. We appreciate your continued support throughout the rest of this school year!

CLASSROOM NEWS



The month of November will be a busy one for third graders. We will start off the month of November by concluding a two week unit study on Basic Economics. We will then begin a three week lesson on Energy. The children will be able to understand types of energy and they will be able to identify forms of energy. We will be using various types of text to help the children understand energy. As we read the text, we will be focusing on comparing and contrasting two text on and text features in our informational text. As we move into the unit and begin to read our literature, our focus will be on characters in the story and looking at how events in a story build on earlier sections of the story. In Math, we will begin to learn how to measure geometric area and perimeter. It is important that your child is fluent with their multiplication facts. Please continue to review these facts nightly with your child. Feel free to use Math Magician as a computer based game program to help with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts.



Fourth grade students had an amazing trip to St. Augustine at the end of October. It was definitely a day of educational fun! Students had the opportunity to take several guided tours in this historic city. First, students toured the Fountain of Youth where they will see several demonstrations depicting what life in Florida was like when Native American tribes inhabited the land. In addition, students toured the Old Jail and the Castillo de San Marcos, the oldest U.S. masonry fort. This was an amazing opportunity for students to experience the history of Florida!

RESOURCE NEWS



Intermediate Challenge students are into STEM and Energy this month. Fourth graders worked cooperatively to design coolers using what they learned about insulators to keep ice from melting. Fifth graders designed solar ovens using their knowledge of conductors to melt marshmallows. Both of these activities were engaging and competitive! Students have also completed math projects on order of operations, lattice method, and quadrilaterals. We look forward to investigating other forms of energy such as sound energy and solar energy before we dive into units on force and motion.



Our ESE department has been busy supporting our students to help to ensure that they are being successful in the general education curriculum. We are conducting small group reading and math instruction to help to remediate weak skills, working on IEP goals and objectives, as well as providing testing accommodations to ensure our students' success on their assessments. We truly appreciate all of our wonderful parents and students and are so grateful for the work you do at home with them and for the IEP meetings that you attend! As always, please feel free to contact your child's ESE teacher or Mrs. Adams, our wonderful Student Support Specialist, with any questions or concerns.



This month has been a very busy one in Art. We had our Art to Remember orders go home, and I was so excited to see all the orders come back! I love their art just as much as all of you. We also completed our first self-critique in grades 2-5. The students looked back at their art and really thought about what they learned. We also completed our first contest in 1st - 4th. Our VWF judges had a very hard time choosing who would go on to the second round! We also just celebrated our annual ART FAIR! Thank you to those that donated time and/or baked goods! Mrs. Williams Key Lime Cake did not even last the first hour without selling out. Thank you to all the parents and students who came out to create any have fun! We really did have a REXcellent time!