

THE VIKING TIMES

Awesome Olsen Middle School's Student Run Newsletter



Awesome Olsen Middle School

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Valerie Y. Harris
Principal

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Awesome Olsen Parents and Guardians,

It has certainly been an exciting and smooth start to what promises to be an absolutely awesome school-year! No one can deny that COVID-19 poses challenges, but consistent implementation of district safety protocols has been a game changer in keeping everyone safe.

Endless opportunities are available for our scholars as they fully engage in academics, clubs, sports, after school activities, service, and leadership. We are excited to be a distinguished ICAN Magnet Academy that offers five academies for our scholars: Business; Education; Hospitality, Management and Tourism; Marine Science and Robotics; and Media and Music Conservatory.

Tremendous thank you to our scholars, faculty, and community, for your dedication and continued support to make Awesome Olsen Middle School much more than a school building, rather, home to all who enter.

I look forward to collaborating with Awesome Olsen Parents every Wednesday for Winning Wednesday Parent Town Hall Meeting. This is our opportunity to connect, collaborate, and keep you up to date with the latest school and district updates.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

While a large degree of normalcy has returned, so has state testing. We will be administering several assessments to assess your child's present level of performance and growth throughout the school year. We expect each child to grow a minimum of one year. For example, if your child enters the year at a sixth grade reading level, he/she should exit the year at a minimum of a seventh grade reading level.

We will meet with parents for our Awesome Olsen Curriculum Night on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 5:00pm at Awesome Olsen Middle School to discuss your child's grades, test scores, attendance, goals, and resources.

It is very important that our scholars are present everyday and on time. School begins promptly at 7:15AM and the school-day ends at 1:45PM. We know that traffic can be challenging. Please plan ahead, be patient as you follow the established traffic patterns, and follow the directive of staff as we work diligently to move each vehicle through the carline while simultaneously ensuring that each scholar exits his/her vehicle safely. Safety always comes first!

Communication is essential and we strive to connect to our scholars, parents, families, and community each and every day. We will continue reaching out to you with weekly robo-calls and text messages. We also encourage you to visit our website and follow our social pages including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for announcements, information, and celebrations.

Deepest gratitude to our entire Awesome Olsen Family!

We would not be the amazing school that we are without the support of all of US...

WE are Awesome Olsen!

Thank you and may you have a safe, healthy, and happy fall season!

Committed to Excellence,

Ms. Harris, Principal



OLSEN MIDDLE SCHOOL MAGNET SPOTLIGHT

MEDIA AND MUSIC CONSERVATORY

There are many academies in our school, one of them being our Media and Music Conservatory, taught by the wonderful Mr. Wagner. Band is where students can learn new skills and display their musical talents through performances. Mr. Wagner has said, "The Olsen Middle School Viking Bands and Chorus will perform concerts in the Winter, Spring, and at the end of the school year. We will announce those dates as soon as they are set!" As for the type of music that will be played, the band students "will learn and perform a wide variety of music including classical, jazz, and pop music."

When asked "what performances he looks forward to in the future?", Mr. Wagner said, "I always look forward to every performance, but I am particularly looking forward to the winter concerts. It will be the first-time students perform this school year." Additionally, Mr. Wagner mentioned that he is excited for the end of year because "they give our student musicians the chance to show what they have worked so hard to learn throughout the year."

Article by Jessica Patterson



Above: Awesome Olsen Scholars in Ms. Giaquinto's Business class.

Awesome Olsen Middle School iCAN Magnet Academy

BUSINESS

Ms. Giaquinto, the school's Business Academy teacher, has been at Awesome Olsen for four years. During this time, she has been teaching kids about career opportunities, getting into college, and entrepreneurship.

In this class, you'll be able to learn how to brainstorm effectively with a team that you could be assigned with. The students will also have the opportunity to make a digital-virtual business. With this digital-virtual business, the students will compete with other middle, and high schoolers to see who can come up with the most enterprising product.

Not only will students be able to learn about all these wonderful things about business, students will also be able to practice other core subjects and sub-subjects. For example, in this academy scholars can practice their language arts skills such as speaking, reading, listening and writing. Math will also be used in accounting such as budgeting, investments and finance.

Looking ahead, the students in the Business Academy are getting excited for the upcoming McFatter Virtual Field Trip and Career Week. Career Week is where parents come into the classroom and talk about their job, business, and service.

Article by Moises Nunez, Tomas Valencia Torres, Zamari Batista, Jamiya Smith, Xavier Ahmed, Isabella Santanelli, and Lauryn Yearby

OLSEN MIDDLE SCHOOL MAGNET SPOTLIGHT

ROBOTICS AND MARINE SCIENCE: CODING

There are a lot of classes in Olsen that are beneficial to a child's education and coding is one of them. At Olsen, the coding class is taught by Ms. Shelly Toth. Now that we know who teaches coding, let's talk about it.

What is coding? According to Ms. Toth, coding is when you create websites, games, or apps using a series of different codes. Some of the code writing programs they will be using are Java (apps & games) and Html (for websites). To quote Ms. Toth directly, "These computer programs are used in almost every aspect of modern, everyday life from gaming to shopping online using apps or even searching the web."

Now that you know what coding is and how you'll be practicing it. Let's have a debate. Is coding a necessary skill or is it a hobby? Though many might believe that a skill like coding is not a necessary skill to have, they're wrong. In fact, coding is one of the most demanding jobs in the market today due to our generation's love for technology. To quote our very own coding teacher, "The skills included in learning to code (i.e. problem-solving, critical thinking, teamwork, and persistence can be applied to all aspects of life."

So, we have learned that coding is creating various websites, games, or apps, and how coding can benefit you in life. Now let's talk a bit more about coding itself and the rules that apply. "People have often described coding as if it's like learning a new language. What do you think, Ms. Toth?" When it comes down to actually sitting at a



Above: Awesome Olsen Scholar learning to code.

computer and writing the code, it may seem taxing, exhausting, or confusing; however, that is not the case. As described by Ms. Toth, it can actually be very fun and rewarding both during and after the writing stage. Throughout this process, it can be very easy to forget about the mechanics of the coding language and get into the flow which can make it exciting. In coding, you have to remember that a computer is not a living thing and that it can only do the things you program it to do. You might as well program to do something fun.



Above: Robotics and Marine Science scholars learning to problem solve.

OLSEN MIDDLE SCHOOL MAGNET SPOTLIGHT



Above: Robotics and Marine Science scholars learning to problem solve.

Okay, so we know what coding is and what you'll be doing, but I have a feeling that you will want to know what will help you in the future and what skills you will gain from taking this class. Ms. Toth said one thing that really stood out, "Out of everything, I teach my students, I truly believe the most important thing is the ability to think critically, problem-solve, collaborate with others, and persevere even when things get challenging." Although these skills come in very handy when coding, they also transfer to real life quite effectively. Think of it as a practice-run for your new skill set. All throughout this year and the next, the ability to succeed in learning the vast majority of coding "languages" will help you significantly.



Above: Robotics and Marine Science scholars learning to problem solve.

Finally, we arrive at the most important question, "Do you think that this coding class might take their focus off of their core classes?" As a teacher of science, coding compliments her core subject nicely as they both "utilize" the same basic skills. Much like in science class, coding must always test hypotheses ("like when checking if a code works,") sometimes debugging ("coming up with a new hypothesis,") analyzing data, being persistent, and especially having to "think outside the box." As Ms. Toth stated, "All of these are key components of both coding and science." So, the answer is no, it would not distract them; in fact the class should act to help organize their minds in a way that can be applied to almost anything.

Article by Althea Welch

ROBOTICS AND MARINE SCIENCE: SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

The Awesome Olsen Science Academy Is filled with awesome educators and scholars. Each teacher has put in hard work to teach the kids that go to Olsen no matter what the circumstances.

One of the teachers in the science academy is Mr. Scudder, he teaches biology and science Olympiad and every year his team goes to state. Last year, his team made 6th place, this year he plans on teaching his team hard work. He believes with full confidence, his team will win the most medals in the building events, and lastly, he thinks anatomy and physiology and mission possible are the most extreme events. He has a huge amount of confidence in every one of his students.

Article by Damontaye Jackson, Mu'Rissa Sears, Ryan Alcide, and Briella Francois

OLSEN MIDDLE SCHOOL MAGNET SPOTLIGHT

HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM

Ms. Johnson is the Culinary teacher here at Olsen Middle School and Culinary classes are a part of the Hospitality and Tourism Academy. Ms. Johnson has spent years dedicated to the industry by attending culinary school and working in hospitality for over 5 years.

Ms. Johnson mentioned that “students will begin cooking when they learn the safety basics of cooking.” She also said that the type of cuisine students make will depend on the students.” This is good because it will challenge students' creativity by allowing them to make a plethora of different dishes. In addition, students will learn that healthy food can also taste good. Lastly, culinary cooking should be more fun than it is difficult.

Article by Ne’Siah Lanier, Gianna Madtes, and Juniela Albarran

EDUCATION

The class is about career clusters and pathways and it’s important because it teaches about training or career.

Ms. Martin’s inspiration to become a teacher is her love of children – she likes to watch them grow as individuals. Ms. Martin has been teaching for 3 years and wanted to teach this subject because she wants to help students learn about the endless real-world opportunities and careers there are within education.

Article by Mallieka Hossain and Benjamin Sosa



Above: Awesome Olsen Scholars wearing polo shirts representing each of the five iCan Magnet Academies. Polo shirts are available to purchase through the school website.

SEPTEMBER WORD SEARCH

K	Z	X	W	M	G	Z	V	R	Z	K	T	A	H
G	M	W	S	B	U	S	I	N	E	S	S	C	O
U	A	V	I	V	G	R	I	U	Y	W	V	A	S
A	R	S	E	H	Q	M	U	S	I	C	B	D	P
T	I	M	C	D	D	Y	M	M	U	K	F	E	I
X	N	S	S	C	I	E	N	C	E	A	H	M	T
I	E	A	B	V	Z	N	L	Q	Q	D	B	Y	A
P	C	Y	I	D	X	H	P	Z	N	V	I	J	L
Y	C	K	P	O	H	X	T	C	Z	E	I	A	I
M	I	H	Q	Q	R	O	B	O	T	I	C	S	T
R	B	A	E	F	Z	R	N	K	S	T	B	N	Y
T	O	U	R	I	S	M	O	Q	C	S	Q	A	W
Y	G	A	Z	E	D	U	C	A	T	I	O	N	S
K	F	G	D	B	I	R	H	O	O	W	L	Y	K

Try and find these Academy themed words:

- Academy
- Media
- Music
- Business
- Education
- Robotics
- Marine
- Science
- Hospitality
- Tourism

VIKING ATHLETICS: SOCCER RECAP



Above: Olsen Middle School Boy's Soccer Team after their final match of the season against Hollywood Academy. Alongside them are Coach Ms. Gatlin and Athletic Director Mr. Bellinger.

The soccer game of Olsen middle school against Beachside Montessori was highly anticipated by many students. However, on Wednesday 22nd September, it was cancelled owing to heavy rainfall and lightning in the area. The next day, the team had an opportunity to play against Attucks Middle School but unfortunately that game was also cancelled due to bad weather after only 10 minutes of play.

On Tuesday 29th September, the Vikings played what was likely to be their last of the season against Hollywood Academy of Art and Science. While the result didn't go our way, the team played well together nonetheless with top individual performances all around. One highlight of the game was a goal from Olsen Student Tomas Valencia Torres.

The next sport that Olsen Middle School will be participating in is basketball. More information on how to get involved will be available in the coming weeks via morning announcements and the our very own Athletic Director, Mr. Bellinger.

Article by Anastasia Ramnarine

SEPTEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH: COOPERATION

Cooperation is one of the most important things in school and even in daily life. Cooperation is working with others to achieve a goal. Cooperating with others is important in order to be successful in almost everything you do. People cooperate with each other by working well with others, offering ideas, respecting each other's opinions, and following the rules.

The following students have done an outstanding job in exhibiting cooperation in their classrooms:

6th Grade: Lyiale Higgs, Bervely Seide, Yaklin Moreno, Isaiah Cunningham, Bradley Perez, Jonrick Brooks, Alani Rodriguez, Ethan Thomann. and Eleanor Udegbe.

7th Grade: Ke'Untae Jackson, Raquel Marsh, Annabella Sherman, Amanda Liberato, Ne'Siah Lanier, Thomas St. Cyr, Beatrice Lochard, Jayden Weddeburn, Aziza Wood.

8th Grade: Eudes Beaubrun, Kavya Pachigar, Karl Stenor, Taliyah Jean-Baptiste, Aleannah Telfort, Athena Hawn, Me'Kaiyah King, Ladoria Fox, Nelson Nusa Gonzalez, Donovan Cunningham, Aaron Ramirez, Moises Nunez.

Article by Samantha Chiarello



Above: Scholars posing with their Student of the Month Certificates!



Awesome Olsen Middle School

VILS iPAD Distribution

Get Your Device Today
in Three (3) Simple Steps:

- 1 Student completes Digital Citizenship Course in Canvas.**
- 2 Parent Attends Parent Orientation**
- 3 Parent signs and returns required documents sent home with students.**

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Michael Casas
(michael.casas@browardschools.com) or call 754.323.3865

AWESOME OLSEN MIDDLE

Please Join Us!

CLUB

RUSH 2

Begins October 4th
1:50pm - 3:00pm

Join us for Awesome Olsen's 2nd Club Rush! The clubs schedule (picture right) begins on Monday October 4th. Clubs will run from 1:50pm-3:00pm unless otherwise specified.

Students will meet with club advisors to learn about the requirements of the club and meeting dates. Clubs are connected to our magnet programs and support student learning in each of the academies.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
1st Week	VEX Robotics Mr. Jones	First Priority Ms. Robinson Chorus Mr. Wagner Debate Club Ms. Samuel VILS Tech Club Mr. Casas	Jazz Band Mr. Wagner Yearbook Club Ms. Krause	Chess Club Mr. George & Ms. Weisel
2nd Week	National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) Ms. Martin Journalism Club Mr. Anderson	SGA Ms. Martin AmeriCorps TBA	Gay Straight Alliance Mr. Herrera Career Association (JFG) Dr. Hassad	Chess Club Mr. George & Ms. Weisel
3rd Week	VEX Robotics Mr. Jones	First Priority Ms. Alesia Robinson Chorus Mr. Wagner Debate Club Ms. Samuel VILS Tech Club Mr. Casas	Jazz Band Mr. Wagner Yearbook Club Ms. Krause	Chess Club Mr. George & Ms. Weisel
4th Week	National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) Ms. Martin Journalism Club Mr. Anderson	SGA Ms. Martin AmeriCorps TBA	Gay Straight Alliance Mr. Herrera Career Association (JFG) Dr. Hassad	Chess Club Mr. George & Ms. Weisel



Comic by Matias Pica