



Challenger Elementary

GALAXY GAZETTE

Tara Zdanowicz

Principal

Laferne McLean-Cross

Assistant Principal

FALL ISSUE 2019-2020

Hello Parents, Students, and Partners of Challenger Elementary,

We are here to provide your child with an excellent, well rounded education in a safe, caring environment; but there is so much more that goes into that process. We encourage children to be patient, have good manners, be considerate of others, be adventurous, and believe in themselves. Students will always benefit when parents partner with teachers, keeping the lines of communication open. We are all working towards a common goal: to guide our students (your children) to become successful individuals, ready to meet any challenge that comes their way.

As a large school we have protocols to ensure order and ultimately, a safe environment. All staff and students are required to wear school ID. All visitors must check in with a valid ID. We have a new dismissal procedure this year to increase student safety. Dismissal is at 2:45 PM. Walkers are released at the north gate. Car riders are dismissed as cars enter the carpool lane. All cars picking up students must have a Challenger car tag ID with the student's grade and name clearly printed. If you need extra, you may contact your child's teacher or the front office.

We are proud to be an "A" school. Our teachers are the very best in guiding students to achieve their goals when teachers and parents work together, students will benefit. Having sound instruction and parental accountability keeps students on the right track to achieve their academic goals.

I am looking forward to another amazing year here at Challenger. Our PTA does an excellent job of providing fun activities for students to enjoy as well as raising funds for our school. I encourage you to be a part of this amazing team.

With love,

Tara C. Zdanowicz, Principal &
Laferne McLean-Cross, Assistant Principal

COMING EVENTS:

September

- 2nd No School
- 9th PTA Domino's Fundraiser Kick-Off
- 13th Interims
- 20th SAC/SAF Mtg. 8:00 am
- 25th Dads to School Day 8:00-9:00 am
- 26th Fall Bookfair Begins
- 30th No School

October

- 7th Picture Re-Take Day
- 9th No School
- 11th SAC/SAF Mtg. 8:00 am
- 17th Early Release, 12:45 pm
- Harvest Fest 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
- 18th No School - Teacher Workday
- 21st 2nd Quarter Begins
- 23rd Red Ribbon Week

November

- 7th Read for the Record day
- 11th No School
- 12th Anti-Bullying Week
- 13th Report Cards Issued
- 15th SAC/SAF Mtg. 8:00 am
- 19th Interim Report
- 3rd Gr. Honor Roll 9:15
- 20th 4th Gr. Honor Roll 9:15
- 21st 5th Gr. Honor Roll 9:15
- 27th-29th Thanksgiving Break

Challenger Elementary

5703 NW 94th Avenue
Tamarac, Florida - 33321 754-322-5750
Rocketeers 754-322-5793
Absentee Number 754-322-5752
<http://challenger.browardschools.com>

District Website Address (www.browardschools.com)



Participate

The Role of Parents

Although a parent's role in their children's learning evolves as kids grow, one thing remains constant: we are our children's learning models. Our attitudes about education can inspire theirs and show them how to take charge of their own educational journey.

Be a role model for learning. In the early years, parents are their children's first teachers — exploring nature, reading together, cooking together, and counting together. When a young child begins formal school, the parent's job is to show him how school can extend the learning you began together at home, and how exciting and meaningful this learning can be. As preschoolers grow into school age kids, parents become their children's learning coaches. Through guidance and reminders, parents help their kids organize their time and support their desires to learn new things in and out of school.

An excerpt from PBS.org; Education: The Role of Parents

Honor Roll



If your 3rd – 5th grade child makes the Honor Roll, we want to reward that achievement by acknowledging those students in a special ceremony that will be held at 9:15 a.m. in our cafeteria: 3rd – Nov. 19th, 4th – Nov. 20th, 5th – Nov. 21st. Invitations to parents will be sent with your child a week prior to the ceremony. Students are asked to dress in their best attire (no jeans/denim) to receive their Honor Roll certificate from our Principal, Ms. Zdanowicz, and Assistant Principal, Ms. McClean-Cross.

Dads – Take Your Child To School Day

Wednesday, September 25, 8:00 – 9:00 am

Come to Caporella Aquatic Center across from our school for light refreshments before walking your child to school.

Dads, we honor you and the difference you make.

To report an excused absence, you can do one of the following:

Call the school's attendance hotline
754-322-5752

- Submit an online form using the school's website under Contact: "Report an Absence"
- Submit a note to the school's front office staff

Visit our Website For More Information

<https://www.browardschools.com/challenger>

Read for the Record November 7th



READ – CONNECT – SUCCEED

Sign up to #Readfortherecord with us on November 7th, 2019 to shine a light on the importance of closing the grade level readiness gap by building early language and literacy skills for every child.

Connect with children by reading aloud with them. This builds language and literacy skills and provides positive reading experiences that instill a love of reading.



Essential Info

School Uniforms

Challenger is a uniform school. All student are required to wear their school uniforms every day except if they are participating in our "dress your way" fundraiser every Friday. Students can dress their way (appropriate for school) for \$1.00. **These items are never appropriate for school:** cut-off jeans, jeans with holes in them, leggings, sleeveless tops, flip flops or sandals.

Early Dismissal Policy

If you change the way your child is going home, decide this before your child leaves for school, and send a note to the teacher explaining how your child will go home that day or you may email us at

challengerdismissalchange@browardschools.com

Birthday Celebrations

Birthdays are milestones for children of all ages. At Challenger we recognize that children enjoy sharing their special day with classmates. We have many children with allergies, so we ask if you want to bring a treat, bring a small store bought snack for each child. Please NO CAKES OR BALLOONS.

WHAT IS THE SAC COMMITTEE?

The School Advisory Council (SAC) is a team of people representing various segments of the community—parents, teachers, students, administrators, support staff, business/industry people and other interested community members.

WHAT ARE THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE?

SAC members gather to discuss the school's academic plan and progress. They discuss the School Improvement Plan - a plan made of goals and objectives established for the school determined by needs. The purpose of the School Improvement Plan is to increase student performance. The SAC committee assists the school principal with budget and recommends how school monies are spent or allocated.

Parents are encouraged to attend the monthly meeting of the SAC committee at Challenger. School Advisory Forum (SAF) meets immediately after SAC each month.

School Improvement Plan

School staff and parents jointly develop the plan. It includes yearly objectives and activities that will be implemented at the school level. You can access this plan at <https://www.browardschools.com/challenger>. If you would like to review a hard copy of this plan or translation is needed, please contact [Maria Koval](mailto:maria.koval@browardschools.com) at (754)322-5750.

School Parent and Family Engagement Plan

School staff and parents jointly develop the plan as part of the School Improvement Plan. The plan includes the parent activities to be implemented through the school year and an evaluation of last year's parent engagement program. You can access this plan at

<https://www.browardschools.com/challenger>.

If you would like to review a hard copy of this plan or translation is needed, please contact Kerry Gerlach at (754)322-5750.

District Parent and Family Engagement Plan:

District staff and parents jointly develop the plan. The plan includes the parent activities to be implemented through the school year and an evaluation of last year's district parent engagement program. You can access this plan at https://www.browardschools.com/cms/lib/FL01803656/Centricity/Domain/13545/Parent%20Engagement/LEA_PARENT_FAMILY%20PLAN_18-19.pdf. If you would like to review a hard copy of this plan or translation is needed, please contact Linda Howard, Title I Program Specialist at 754-321-1410.

School Public Accountability Report (SPAR),

School grades, state assessment reports: The School Public Accountability Report contains several types of data (indicators) designed to inform parents and the general public about the progress of Florida's public schools. This report meets the public reporting requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and certain additional information of interest on the status of Florida's schools. In addition, the Florida Department of Education publishes school grades, the results of the state assessment of Florida schools. You can access these reports at <http://doewebprd.doe.state.fl.us/eds/nclbpar/index.cfm>. If you would like to review a hard copy or if translation is needed, please contact Joy Solomon at (754)322-5750.

In accordance with F.S. 1012.34

Parents interested in providing input into the performance evaluations of Challenger Elementary instructional and/or administrative evaluations may contact our office at (754) 322-5750 by April 10, 2020.

PTA Events

Turkey Run!



November 26th

Look for fundraiser fliers going home

Harvest Fest

Oct. 17

6:30-8:30 pm

Friendly costumes
welcome

Please, no toy guns/weapons



WHAT IS PTA? WHY JOIN PTA?

The number one reason to **join** the **Parent Teacher Association** is to benefit your child. In doing so, you also help your school. But there are many more PTA advantages:

- **GET CONNECTED**

There's no better way to know what's happening in your school.

- **DISCOVER GREAT RESOURCES**

The PTA offers a variety of **programs** designed for parents as well as students.

- **TAP INTO A NETWORK**

PTA functions are opportunities to meet other parents and teachers, building rapport and discussing issues that are on your mind. You can share ideas, concerns, and experiences.

- **WATCH YOURSELF GROW**

By volunteering with your PTA, you put your skills and hobbies to use for a noble cause—your child and all children in the community.

- **SPEAK UP**

PTA can be a way for you to more effectively suggest change at your child's school.



THE SLICE THE PRICE PIZZA CARD

- Sells for \$10.00.
- It's good for buy a large pizza, get a large pizza free from Domino's.
- Can be used for multiple purchases (buy 5 get 5, buy 8 get 8.)
- Can be used as many times as you want until it expires.



Collect those Box Tops.
Every top adds up!