Dear Awesome Olsen MS Family,

Your child has worked diligently all year long to prepare for the upcoming state assessments and they begin on April 3, immediately following Spring Break.

Teachers finalized their 3rd quarter grades on March 23rd and we are beginning the last quarter of the school year. And yet, it's NOT over. We need our students to push harder, give 150% effort, continue diligently practicing and completing ALL coursework to the very end.

Our children are beyond capable of passing every test given. The only thing that stands between your child and not merely passing, but soaring, on their state assessments is preparation, vision, and commitment.

Excellence does not come easy, but requires consistent, focused, unyielding hard work.

Awesome Olsen teachers have carefully designed and provided your child with Spring Break Learning to review the focused, important information your child should know and be able to do on each state test he/she will take.

Does your child have homework? YES Your child should be working on their digital 20 (FSAssessments.org, Achieve 3000, I-Ready, vocab.com, GIZMOS, News ELA)

Thank you for ensuring your child is taking full advantage of every opportunity we have created to ensure that your child has the knowledge, skills, and abilities he/she needs to master the content.

We also have FREE tutoring available for your child at our Awesome Olsen Friday Night Live (April 13th), Saturday Scholar’s Camp (April 7th), Afterschool Programs (Monday– Thursday 1:50pm-3pm), Thursday Algebra Tutoring (1:50pm -5:00pm).

We are committed to ensure that your child flourishes in a safe learning environment so he/she may become the very best he/she can be.

Thank you for entrusting your child to us. It is my prayer that your child has a safe, peaceful, and fun Spring Break.
Awesome Olsen’s Science Olympiad Team is indeed AWESOME  
By Jeff Scudder

The Awesome Olsen Middle Viking “Gold and “Red” teams competed at the South Area Science Olympiad competition at Miami University on Saturday, February 17, 2018 with amazing success! Preparing every Saturday for the competition since August of 2017, our teams outshone the majority of competing schools, which consists of the best private and charter schools in Miami, winning over 46 medals and placing 2nd and 3rd overall.

Olsen was the only public school at the event. This qualifies our Vikings for an automatic advancement to the state competition which will be held at the University of Central Florida, on March 24th, 2018.

A big thank you goes out our parent volunteers, our principal Ms. Harris and HEICO Engineering who has to date, donated over $84,000.00 in support of our Science Olympiad Program.

**Congratulations team!**

**Calling all 6 and 7th grader science nerds!** If you think you have what it takes to compete against the best, contact Mr. Scudder, the Science Olympiad director. Only serious scientists will be accepted.

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School Counseling Updates

By Ms. Rochelle Dalley, Director

**Straight A Honor Roll Assembly**

Our high achieving students were recognized in a Breakfast Ceremony on February 13, 2018. Families were invited to celebrate this accomplishment. We congratulate our 2nd quarter Honor Roll Students for all of their efforts!

**Honor Roll students waiting in line to receive Award**

**Naviance**

Students can access this invaluable resource through the Broward Single Sign-On. Naviance guides students through academic, career, and social planning. Under the “About Me” tab, students can set goals for their success and list task to complete towards their goals. They can explore colleges and universities and set a course towards their future. This tool includes a portfolio that the students access throughout middle school and into high school. All students have had the opportunity to explore Naviance during the school day, but this is a tool that can be accessed at home or on the go! We encourage students to log in and explore!

**Matriculation Visits**

Olsen hosted the High School Matriculation Visits in February. Broward County Public High Schools Counselors presented to our 8th grade students’ information about the programs offered at their schools. Students also completed course selection cards and were able to discuss options for High School course electives. This was a great opportunity for students to begin their transition to High School.

**Girls Group & Mentoring**

The AWOM (Angels Watching Over Me) Girls Group continues to meet. Ms. Sarah Akiba mentors our young ladies and allows them a “safe space” to share experiences and work towards solutions for personal and social concerns.

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“Whatever we believe about ourselves and our ability comes true for us.”

Susan L. Taylor, Journalist
Literacy Updates
By Dr. N Hassad, Literacy Coach
The Florida Standards Assessment in Writing starts on April 3rd! Students will either have to write an informative/explanatory essay or an argumentative essay after reading multiple passage sets (2-4). Our students have been practicing their writing skills since the school year started. Writing instruction will continue until the day before the assessment.

Essay Tips for Students
If you are asked to write an explanatory/informative essay, your essay must be based on ideas and information that can be found in the “. . . ” passage set. Manage your time carefully so that you can: read the passages, plan your response, write your response; and revise and edit your response. Be sure to use evidence from multiple sources and avoid overly relying on one source. Your response should be in the form of a multiparagraph essay.

Remember, if you are asked to write an argumentative essay, be sure to include a claim; address counterclaims, use evidence from multiple sources; and avoid overly relying on one source.

Please manage your time carefully! The test is 120 minutes long. Your essay must have an introduction, two or three body paragraphs and a conclusion. If you are pressed for time, select at least two pieces of evidence from each source and then select the strongest pieces to include in your essay.

Good luck!

FSA Writing Information

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<th>Type</th>
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<td>Computer</td>
<td>120 min</td>
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<td>2-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th</td>
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<td>Paper</td>
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We all have dreams. In order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline and effort.” Jesse Owens

Testing Dates

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<th>Date</th>
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“...”
Awesome Olsen Welcomes
Assistant Principal
Dr. Claire Norris

Dr. Claire Norris joins the Olsen family from McArthur High School where she worked for the past 12 years. She started as a reading and ELA teacher before transitioning to literacy coach and then behavior specialist.

Dr. Norris is originally from Nottingham, England. She came to the USA in 2001 to further her studies and has lived here ever since. She spent the first four years in Pennsylvania, where she became a die hard Pittsburgh Steelers fan, before moving to Buffalo, NY, and eventually to Broward County. Her family still lives in England, but she is lucky enough to see them twice a year.

Dr. Norris lives in Coral Springs with her husband (also a Steelers fan). When they aren’t working they love to travel and go to the movies.

She is incredibly excited to be a Viking at Awesome Olsen.

Welcome!

Education is the key to unlocking the world, a passport to freedom.  
– Oprah Winfrey

FLORIDA STANDARDS ASSESSMENTS (FSA)

FSA WRITES: Our 8th grade Florida Standards Assessment of Writing will be administered on April 4, 2018. This is a computer based test and students will type their responses on test day. Our 6th and 7th grade Florida Standards Assessment of Writing is administered on April 4-6, 2018. This is a paper based test and students will write their responses on test day. The FSA Writing assessment is administered in one session. This assessment is a percentage of the overall Reading score. Students must earn a score for this assessment in order to earn an overall score in FSA Reading.

FSA Reading and Math & End of Course (EOCs): After Spring Break, students will begin testing in ELA and Math assessments. Some students must also take the Algebra EOC, Geometry EOC, Civics EOC, and Science Assessment based on enrolled courses.

Are you ready? Please check with your teachers for information on Extended Learning Opportunities.

Awesome Olsen Extended Learning Opportunities

FRIDAY Night LIVE!

Saturday Scholar’s Camp April 7

Our next Extended Learning Opportunities are on Saturday April 7th (7:35 am – 12:00 noon) & Friday, April 13th from 2:00pm - 6:00 pm.

Register now to secure your spot!