

Friday, August  
26, 2022

# Viking Times

## Awesome Olsen MS Back-to-School Newsletter

Issue #1

### Principal's Message

Dear Awesome Olsen Parents,

I am overjoyed to welcome you to the 2022-23 school year! We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure that our children achieve their highest potential.

We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities.

We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she:

- 1) Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience
- 2) Completes all homework assignments given by teachers
- 3) Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills
- 4) Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life
- 5) Follows **BIG 5** School Expectations to include, but not limited to: Bring fully charged iPad to school daily; Wear student id around neck daily. Dress in required dress code; Turn off and has cellphone put away when on school campus
- 6) Completes Digital 50 daily
- 7) Knows and is able to explain his/her data



Big "5" Door Decorating Contest: Students participated in a door decorating contest to demonstrate their understanding of the Big "5" in their first period classes.

## The Big "5"

### Rules for positive school culture

At Awesome Olsen Middle School, we have adopted a set of school rules that ensures that our students have a blueprint to encourage success. We call this set of rules the Big "5".

The first rule of the Big "5" is respect. **Respect** is interwoven in everything we do. Always demonstrate courtesy.

Show respect for yourself and others by following the rules, by the way we speak, by your reactions to situations, and by the way you dress/groom yourself. Respect is the foundation of the Big "5" encompassing all behavioral expectations outlined in

Student voice levels should be at a minimal level so that any instructions shared by staff members can be heard and followed. Staff members are placed in specific locations to monitor movement and ensure student safety.

Students are required to be in class **ON TIME**, which means before the tardy bell rings. The first bell rings at 7:10 AM and students are tardy promptly at 7:15 AM. Students should move swiftly to class to ensure that they are in their desk, ready to learn when the tardy bell rings. **Tardiness** disrupts the learning environment and causes students to miss instructional time. We want to instill positive habits in our scholars that will last a lifetime.

Our last rule in the Big "5" is our **Electronics**

*(PRINCIPAL MESSAGE CONTINUED)*

8) Knows that WE (Parent and School) are working **together** for the success of your child- we believe in our children and need them to believe in themselves!

Please consider joining our school volunteer program as our students can greatly benefit from your involvement and contributions to the school's program and its operations. We seek volunteers to help us with the following activities:

- 1) Office support in the Family Support Office or Welcome Center (i.e., filing, helping with mailing, making copies)
- 2) Reading with children who need extra help
- 3) School-wide events
- 4) Student recognition events
- 5) Outreach (fundraisers) and recruitment of parent and community volunteers

You may contact Mr. Constantine, Assistant Principal at [chad.constantine@browardschools.com](mailto:chad.constantine@browardschools.com) to get involved today.

Without question, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [valerie.harris@browardschools.com](mailto:valerie.harris@browardschools.com). There is no question too big or too small and I absolutely LOVE to hear from our Awesome Olsen Parents. I am looking forward to the most AWESOME school year yet for our scholars! Together, WE shine!

Committed to Excellence,  
Principal Harris

the Big "5".

***The Big "5" CONTINUED***

The next rule addresses our school-wide **Dress Code**. All students are required to dress appropriately for school. Students should not wear anything that is inappropriate, distracting, or unsafe. Inappropriate dress disrupts the learning environment. Students must wear their student ID badges visibly around their necks daily. Students are not allowed to wear; ripped jeans, tights or leggings, slides or slippers, hats, bandanas, or skirts/shorts that are shorter than mid-thigh. This school year our scholars are allowed to wear Crocs in sport mode.

Students are required to **Walk to the Right** in our hallways at Awesome Olsen MS. Walking to the right allows for easier flow of traffic and enables students to travel to their destination in an efficient, safe, and timely manner.

policy. Cellphones and personal electronics are a hindrance to the learning environment and decreases your ability to be aware of your surroundings. Students should not use their cellphones and Air Pods on school campus. Any emergency contact with your child can be made by calling the direct school line (754)323-3800. As a VILS school, students have been provided an iPad with 2-year data plan to support their learning. iPads must be brought to school charged daily and used as an instructional tool. Students should not be engaged in video games and unauthorized YouTube videos.



## Employee Evaluations

Parents have the right to contribute to evaluations. Contact 754.323.3800 for more info

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# Let's Launch into Learning with Digital 50

Parents we need your help - Launch Date - September 6<sup>th</sup>!

How many of us understand Digital 50? Have you ever heard of it? If not, take some time to familiarize yourself with our intentional plan to ensure academic growth for ALL students. As a Verizon Innovative Learning (VILS) School we have provided our scholars with an iPad with digital data plan that allows them 24/7 access to learning.

The iPad is a tool that supports our academic goals for the 2022 - 23 school year. Parents we need your help to monitor the programs that your child is engaged in on the device outside of school. Studies show that kids and teens in America are spending more time than ever using screens and social media. A survey published by Common Sense Media, found overall screen use increased 17% from 2019 to 2021. Of particular concern to some is an uptick in social media use among children aged 8 to 12. Many of these platforms require that

users be at least 13 because of a law that prohibits companies from collecting data from children.

The iPad was provided to students as a tool to support their educational growth and increase a student's ability to complete their assignments at home. To help parents with monitoring the upcoming assignments, many teachers have posted assignments to Canvas where parents can see what their child is learning and what they are turning in. Our school has also developed a Digital50 program where students must complete daily additional practice of fifty minutes on the following applications:

- Monday Madness - i-Ready Math
- Tactful Tuesday - i-Ready Reading
- Witty Wednesday - ST Math
- Thrilling Thursday - Science & Civics
- Fun Friday - Naviance & Novel Reading



Digital 50 flyer with launch date of Sept. 6, 2022

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# Show What You Know!

## Student voice in the educational process.

At the beginning of each school year, we spend a few days to see what our scholars know. Students participate in beginning of the year assessments to assist us in creating an individualized plan for learning. The programs used to gather data are ST Math, Into Literature, Read-180 and i-Ready.

There is no need to prepare for these assessments, all we ask is that our students authentically engage in the process to provide a true educational picture. Our educational plan is only as good as the data provided to us by our students. Their participation is truly their way to give voice in the educational decision making.

We encourage our students to do their best because this information impacts their

scheduling, extended learning opportunities, tutoring, and instructional lessons. Their names are attached to these scores, and we will share the meaning of the data with our parents and students.

Last Thursday and Friday, all students enrolled in Language Arts took the Growth Measure Assessment which provides information about student Lexile score and a predictor of their readiness; above, on, or below grade-level. Students in Reading courses have taken a Reading Inventory assessment through Read-180. We are scheduled to take the i-Ready Reading diagnostic on Tuesday, August 30 and i-Ready Math diagnostic on Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. Encourage your child to get a good night's rest and be ready to show what they know!

## Student ID badges

### The latest updates

Awesome Olsen staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that every student has taken a picture and received their ID badges by the first week of school. State law mandates that every student wears their ID badges visibly around their necks while on school campus. Every student to date has received their ID and students who register are photographed during orientation and lanyard is provided.

Students who forget or lose their ID badges will immediately receive an additional badge to meet this safety requirement. Students will be provided two (2) ID badges for free, and any additional badges will be provided at a cost of \$5 per badge. Students who do not have the money will receive an obligation to cover the cost of materials needed to print color badges. Obligations follow students through high school and interfere with their ability to pay for field trips, online payments, and other school activities.

Parents, please encourage your child to place ID badges in their bookbags or a safe location so that they are less apt to lose them and incur additional and disciplinary consequences.



Awesome Olsen MS students proudly display their student ID badges for the 2022-23 school year!