

CITRUS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Winter Communication

A Message from
Superintendent
Sandra "Sam"
Himmel



MEASUREMENTS OF SUCCESS Spring Testing 2016

Our window for state testing begins on February 29, 2016. While there has been much debate about these assessments, our district has sustained a record of high achievement for the last 9 years. I am often asked what is it that leads to Citrus County School District's continuous "A" rating? My answer is simple; high quality teachers and staff, hardworking students, supportive families, and a caring community.

Information included in this publication will help parents and families better understand these tests, the test schedule, and ways to assist our students. All students in grades 3 through 10 will participate in English Language Arts (ELA) assessments aligned to the new Florida Standards.

These tests will help us better understand:

- How well students can read and comprehend texts of varying complexities.
- How well students can integrate information across sources to make a persuasive argument.
- How well students can use context to determine the meaning of vocabulary.

Students in grades 3 through 8 will take a test in mathematics along with secondary students who are taking Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry. Math assessments will demonstrate:

- How well students understand and use important math ideas, including number sense, algebraic thinking, geometry, and data analysis.
- How well students can use math facts and reasoning skills to solve real-world problems.
- How well students can make math arguments.

At 5th grade, our elementary students will also take a science test. At the middle school and high school level, our students will take tests in science and social studies. These assessments are aligned to the Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.

The Florida Department of Education has created an online portal with information, practice tests, and resources for the Florida Standards Assessments. This tool is available to school districts, schools, students, parents and the general public to access information about the new assessments at www.fsassessments.org. In addition, I encourage you to visit our school district website, www.citrus.k12.fl.us.

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Parents' Guide to the Florida Standards (FS)

Parents can promote student success by staying involved in their child's education, offering positive support and feedback and encouraging them to relax and do their very best. By staying connected with their student's school and teachers and taking advantage of online resources, school websites and portals, parents can stay informed and be best equipped to meet the needs of their students at home.

What can parents do to help their child prepare for success in English Language Arts Florida Standards?

- Students in grades K-12 should read stories and informational text. Some examples of informational texts are newspapers, magazines, technical manuals, science, social studies, and other content text books.
- Students should read text that becomes more complex as they advance through the grades. Ask your child's teacher for grade level appropriate texts. Visit your school or local library to see links on appropriate reading lists.
- Students should be able to answer questions based on the texts they read. Ask your child to find answers to questions in the text, write about a book he or she has read and to take a position from a character's perspective.
- Urge your child to use logical arguments to defend his or her opinion and research, explain reasons why, and support argument with facts and details.

What can parents do to help their child prepare for success in Mathematics Florida Standards?

- Work with your child's teacher to identify opportunities for enrichment or tutorials as needed.
- Assist your child with using mathematics terms precisely and making logical arguments.
- Ask your child's teacher for guidance on finding resources to help your child learn mathematics beyond the regular school day.
- Discuss mathematics with your child and have him or her explain these to you using pictures, graphs, etc.
- Urge your child to use logical arguments to defend his or her thinking and provide explanations supported by facts, details and accurate computations.

What can parents do to help his or her child prepare for success in science?

- Encourage your child to observe and question what is happening in the world around them.
- Ask your child's teacher for guidance on finding resources to help your child learn science beyond the regular school day.
- Discuss science ideas with your child and have him or her explain these to you using pictures, graphs, etc.
- Explore the following science resources with your child:
 - Scholastic Study Jams
<http://studyjams.scholastic.com/studyjams/index.htm>
 - PBS Learning Media
<http://wlrn.pbslearningmedia.org/>

What can parents do to help his or her child prepare for success in social science?

- Watch the news, read the newspaper or other news source and compare/contrast information from multiple sources on the same topic.
- Talk to your child about the meaning of graphs, maps, charts, quotes, and political cartoons that you find using these resources.
- Encourage your child to visit the following sites:
 - elementary school <http://www.timeforkids.com>
 - middle school <http://www.scholastic.com>
 - high school <http://cnn.com>

FLORIDA STUDENTS - EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR LEARNING

Florida  Students
educational resources for learning

HAVE FEEDBACK? HELP

Let's get started!

Choose a subject area and then a course.



About Website

Welcome to FloridaStudents.org, your source for Florida Standards Student Tutorials and Resources.

This site is new and inside you will find resources located from all over the web to support your learning in language arts, mathematics, science, and civics.

Click on this link for the <http://www.floridastudents.org/#> website, your source for Florida Standards Student Tutorials and Resources.

This is a brand new site, loaded with resources from all over the web that will help student learning in language arts, mathematics, science, and civics.

This link that follows takes you to a video that gives a brief introduction to the site:
<http://www.floridastudents.org/Uploads/media/videos/FloridaStudentsWebsiteTutorial-v4.mp4>





TESTING TIPS

- Note test dates on your home calendar
- Schedule appointments and extracurricular activities on non-testing days
- Make sure your child is at school on time and relaxed
- Praise your child's strengths and make a plan to provide needed support in areas of identified weakness
- Praise your child for good effort even when he/she is struggling with learning
- Practice deep breathing with your child to help him/her learn to relax
- Eat a nutritious breakfast and get a good night's sleep

• The Night Before the Test:

Maintain the usual routine of the home and keep discipline consistent as a change can be confusing to your child and may impact how well your child performs the next day. Be encouraging of your child and explain that tests can be difficult, but that taking a test will show how well he/she can do.

• The Morning of the Test:

Have your child wake early enough to avoid rushing so that he/she will be on time for school. Encourage your child to eat a good breakfast, but do not force a heavy breakfast as this could make the child ill if nervous. Be positive as you send your child out the door and always send lots of encouragement from home.

• After the Test:

Reward your child's efforts by cooking a special dinner or allowing extra TV or game time. Remember to contact the teacher, counselor, or principal with any questions that you may have about the test.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR SCHOOL-RELATED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

The Teacher of the Year and the School-Related Employee of the Year Program provides an opportunity to acknowledge these professionals who exemplify excellence in our schools/departments.

In an effort to celebrate and honor the outstanding candidates that are selected from each site, an annual "Galaxy of Stars" event recognizes our Teacher of the Year and School Related Employee of the Year representatives with a catered dinner funded through the Citrus County Education Foundation.

The honorees for this year are as follows:

School/Department	Teacher of the Year	School-Related Employee of the Year	School/Department	Teacher of the Year	School-Related Employee of the Year
Citrus High School	Ashley Cooper	Brenda Krejci	Inverness Primary School	Jacqueline Howard	David Vientos
Crystal River High School	Linda Josey	Vickie Sparkman	Lecanto Primary School	Laura Elson	Jennifer Woods
Lecanto High School	Timothy Phillips	Diedra Newton	Pleasant Grove Elementary	Grace Kelly Gucciardo	Jane Baker
Citrus Springs Middle School	Deanna Hadley	Susan Moore	Rock Crusher Elementary	Cyndee Mullarkey	Mary Parrish
Crystal River Middle School	Tracy Gerrits Rash	Margarita Morales	CREST	Kelly Sieg	Loretta Smith
Inverness Middle School	Scott Miller	Warren Churchill	Withlacoochee Technical College	John Woythaler	Deborah Moore
Lecanto Middle School	Joellen Collazo	Joan McDonald	Maintenance		Jeff Carrier
Central Ridge Elementary	Kyle Jaecks	Kathleen Withrington	Food Service		Kelly Niblett
Citrus Springs Elementary	Mindy Weed	Denise Wells	Student Services		Mary Mann
Crystal River Primary	Gail Bockiaro	Hannah Sterbenz	Exceptional Student Education		Amanda Hernandez
Floral City Elementary	Gail Mayo	Laura Palmeri	Crystal River Transportation		Jill Bedford
Forest Ridge Elementary	Jessica Pardo	Kelly A. Johnson	Inverness Transportation		Jody Gaskins
Hernando Elementary School	Janie Bennett	Barbara Crapser	Lecanto Transportation		Elizabeth Klaver
Homosassa Elementary School	Adrienne Crowley	Kevin Knorr			

4-H / TROPICANA PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

The 4-H / Tropicana Public Speaking Contest helps students in grades 4-6 learn how to successfully write and deliver a speech. Sponsored by Tropicana since 1969, this annual event involves more than 150,000 students in over 50 Florida counties.



Citrus County Schools is thankful to collaborate with the University of Florida IFAS (Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences) Citrus County Extension Office in Lecanto to bring Tropicana to our students. Dr. Marnie Ward, Citrus County's 4-H Agent, works with schools to ensure that students have a positive experience throughout the contest period.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINNERS

Pictured from left to right: 1ST PLACE: Darla Edwards, Hernando Elementary, "Earworms"; 2ND PLACE: Ivy Lewis, Floral City Elementary, "My Move from a Big City to a Small Town"; 3RD PLACE: Carson Quinn, Lecanto Primary, "Not in My House"; HONORABLE MENTION: Logan Shaw, Forest Ridge Elementary, "Manatees."



MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNERS

Pictured from left to right: 1ST PLACE: Ruari Flick, Crystal River Middle, "Reasons Not to Play Competitive Soccer"; 3RD PLACE: Amberly Grace, Saint John Paul II, "My Photographic Memory...Well, Sort of"; 2ND PLACE: Taylor Koon, Inverness Middle, "Girl Power"; HONORABLE MENTION: Brody Vaughn, Seven Rivers Christian, "Mess? What Mess."

UPCOMING EVENTS

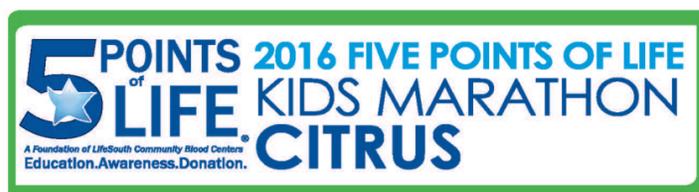
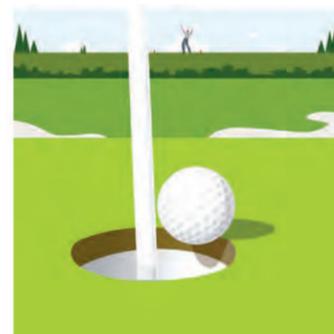
18th Annual Superintendent's Golf Classic

Saturday, April 16, 2016 – Sugarmill Woods Golf Club – 8:30 Shotgun Start
\$55 Registration Fee

Food • Door Prizes • Hole in One Prizes – 50/50 Drawing

\$1000 and \$100 Hole Sponsorships Available

Contact Bruce Sheffield 726-1931, ext. 2239, Phil McLeod 726-2241, ext. 4517
or Dave Hamilton 726-1931, ext. 2459



Participants will receive a T-Shirt and Kids Marathon Medal



Friday, February 26 at 6:00 p.m.
Lecanto High School Track

(3810 W. Education Path, Lecanto, FL 34461)

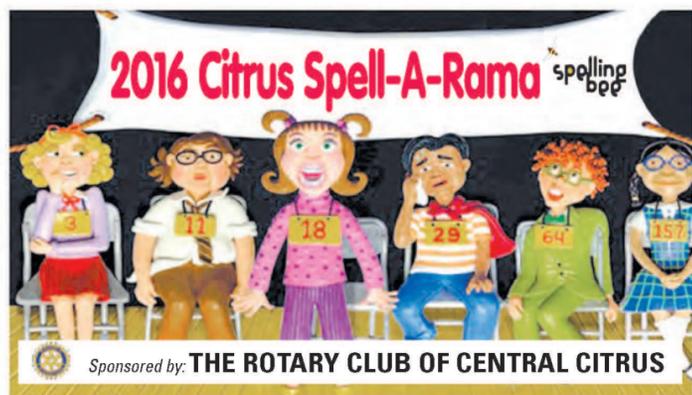
To register, visit www.fivepointsoflife.org or call 352-224-1623



Creating the Donation Generation

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Teachers/Students from each elementary school compete for the "Central Citrus Spell-A-Rama" Championship Trophy!



Tues., Feb. 16, 2016 • Show Starts at 6 p.m.
 "Don't Miss a WORD!"
 Place: Forest Ridge Elementary

DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 P.M.
 Come have dinner with us! Pizza, hotdogs, popcorn & subs available for purchase!

Citrus County Regional Science & Engineering Fair (RSEF) February 2, 2016 – Citrus County Auditorium



Date	Time	Location	Event
Monday 2/1/16	4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Citrus County Auditorium	Registration and Project Set-up (Projects must be set-up during this time to be eligible to participate.)
Tuesday 2/2/16	8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (Secondary) 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (Elementary)	Citrus County Auditorium (Students ARE NOT allowed in Auditorium until 8:30 am)	Project Judging (Parents ARE NOT allowed in Auditorium during Judging)
Tuesday 2/2/16	4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.	Citrus County Auditorium	Public Viewing – (All projects are required to remain on display during this time)
Tuesday 2/2/16	6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.	Citrus County Auditorium	Project Removal (Projects must be picked up by 8:00 p.m.)
Friday 2/5/16	6:00 p.m.	Curtis Peterson Auditorium	Science Fair Awards Ceremony

The purpose of the Citrus County Regional Science & Engineering Fair is to recognize scientific talent in the pre-collegiate youth of Florida and allow these students the opportunity to share their ideas with one another and experts in their field of study.

The top 20 scoring projects, 10 from Junior Division and 10 from Senior Division will go on to participate in the State Science and Engineering Fair (SSEF) of Florida held in Lakeland at the end of March.

For more information, please contact Dawna Boley, (352) 726-1931 ext. 2213, or BoleyD@citrus.k12.fl.us.

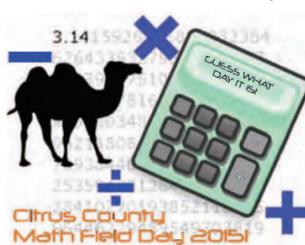
MATH FIELD DAY 2016

Saturday, April 30, 2016 • West Citrus Elk's Lodge, Homosassa

Math Field Day is a competition that affords middle and high school students the opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have acquired during their courses throughout the school year.

It strengthens school spirit, encourages teamwork and promotes interest in the field of mathematics.

Another benefit of this competition is that it allows students to work collaboratively while fostering the tenacity of each other. Students are able to share thinking and problem solving strategies while working through the problems together.



With over 40 years of competitions, many people work together to make this event a truly memorable occasion for nearly 400 middle and high school students.

Nearly 80 school Administrators, Teachers, and Staff members volunteer to make this event a huge success.

Breakfast and lunch is provided to our students courtesy of the West Citrus Elk's Lodge.

This year's event is sponsored by the Citrus County Education Foundation and Suncoast Credit Union.

For more information, please contact Beverly Tidwell, (352) 726-1931 ext. 2228, or TidwellB@citrus.k12.fl.us.

PARENTS CORNER

Homework Diner

Homework Diner, funded through United Way, is an after school tutoring program offered at Inverness Middle School and Crystal River Middle School. The program takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays and begins with a snack while the students work on math homework with the help of teachers and peers. The program includes standards based Math activities, cooking activities, and computerized remediation/enrichment programs. The students are then joined by their family if possible, for a hot meal. Bus transportation is provided to take them home. The results of this program have been very positive and our goal is to eventually offer this program to Lecanto Middle School and Citrus Springs Middle School. The cost of the program is approximately \$37,000 per year.

If you have any questions, please contact the schools directly.

Inverness Middle School 726-1471
 Crystal River Middle School 795-2116

Family University Nights Title I

Please join us for our second semester Family University nights! We will have pizza and refreshments provided for our families. The focus will be on utilizing technology in the classroom, online learning, and best math practices.

March 3, 2016	March 15, 2016	April 5, 2016
Pleasant Grove Elementary	Lecanto Middle School	Crystal River Middle School
6:00-7:30 p.m.	6:00-7:30 p.m.	6:00-7:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact: Trish Douglas, Coordinator of Title I, 726-1931 ext. 2227, or DouglasT@citrus.k12.fl.us.

