

## Central Elementary School 610 S.W. 5th Avenue Okeechobee, FL 34974 Tel. (863)462-5077 Fax (863)462-5082

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Dear Families of Central Elementary Students,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year at Central Elementary School, Home of the Panthers! I hope you have enjoyed your summer. We look forward to kicking off a new school year of learning together. Thank you so much for choosing Central Elementary to educate your children.

We will strive to continue our pledge of putting students first and we continue to commit to raise a strong culture of successful life-long learners, through the building of strong relationships. We will focus on safety, student achievement through rigorous and data driven instruction, character education, social-emotional well-being, and building a culture of reading in a diversity rich learning environment. We believe that all students are empowered to achieve success when immersed in a powerful learning community that values a diverse student body and is centered on core values, as well as a shared commitment to achieving academic excellence. It is our belief that as we focus on our mission and vision for our students, our school will excel!

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: August 10th

**SCHOOL HOURS:** Classes officially begin at 8:10 a.m. with adult supervision and drop off beginning at 7:30 a.m. Any student dropped off after 8:10 a.m. must be accompanied, into the office, by an adult to be signed in. Students will be dismissed at 2:50 p.m. and adult supervision ends at 3:15 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE/TARDIES/CHECK-OUTS:** To the extent possible, we ask that students arrive on time and attend school everyday, all day. Not only do we not want students to miss valuable instructional time, but it can also interrupt the instructional time of others. We ask that you try to schedule appointments for your child after school. In the event that you need to checkout your child prior to the end of the day, please do so no later than 2:30 p.m. Students will only be released to parents in the pick-up line. <u>After</u> 3:15 p.m. students may be picked up from the office front gate.

**MEALS:** Breakfast and lunch will be provided at no cost to all students.

**OPEN HOUSE:** Our first family event will be OPEN HOUSE on August 5th. Watch our Facebook account for more details at: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/CentralElementaryOkee">https://www.facebook.com/CentralElementaryOkee</a>. This will be a wonderful opportunity for you and your child to meet your child's teacher and take a tour of the school. This is a great time for children to become acquainted with their teacher and their school. School t-shirts will be available for purchase, as well as yearbooks. Parents of Kindergarten students may walk their child to the door only, the morning of August 10th.

**AGENDAS:** All students will be provided with a school agenda which contains our Student Handbook in the front. We ask that you and your child sign the Compact at the end of the Student Handbook as we all agree together to value education and do our part.

**VISITORS/ACCESS:** We hope to slowly increase family events as the year progresses, such as Open House, Award Programs, and other Family Engagement Events. Campus access will continue to be limited, but we will gladly take your call in the office to set up a phone conference or Zoom Meeting with your teacher(s) should you need assistance.

**PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT:** During Open House, you will have the opportunity to learn more about AND join our *School Advisory Council* (SAC), *Parent Teacher Organization* (PTO), and *Panther Partners*. These organizations are opportunities for stakeholders to give input regarding our school budget, school improvement initiatives, fundraisers, school activities and student incentives. Throughout the year, workshops will be provided to help families support academics both at school and home.

I look forward to working with you as we help each child at Central Elementary meet their goals and have a successful school year! Enjoy the remainder of your summer and I will see you soon!

**GO PANTHERS!** 

Cynthia Kubit

**Principal, Central Elementary School**