



Central Elementary School
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Dear Central Elementary Parents and Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We hope you had a safe and prosperous summer. Our faculty and staff are excited to welcome you and your students back and to provide meaningful learning experiences where students can excel.

Our theme this year is “*Wild about Learning!*” and our teachers have been working throughout the summer in professional development and planning sessions in order to kick off a new year! We hope you will join us for *Open House* on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. as we welcome you back to school. We value *you* and know we are stronger as a school with the commitment of our parents, families, and community.

Our work this year will continue to focus on developing our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) for teachers to improve instruction, Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APTT) for parents, Data/Exemplar binders for students, and providing a safe environment where students can learn through rigorous and engaging instruction. This will enable students to excel academically, socially, and emotionally. We look forward to a great school year where Central Elementary Students are *Wild about Learning!*

Thank you for your hard work and dedication during this past school year! This new school year is an opportunity to continue our work to increase student achievement and recognition for all of our Panthers! We invite you to take advantage of the many opportunities and events this year to support student learning and student health and well-being. Let's make this a great year!

Here are a few helpful reminders for this year's kick-off!

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: Thursday, August 10, 2023

SCHOOL HOURS: Aim to be here by 8:00 a.m. Classes officially begin at 8:10 a.m. with adult supervision and drop off beginning at 7:40 a.m. Any student dropped off after 8:10 a.m. must be accompanied into the office and be signed in by an adult. Students will be dismissed at 2:50 p.m. and adult supervision ends at 3:15 p.m. We will offer After-Care at Central again this year. After-Care registration is open and the link is available on the Okeechobee School District website under the *Quick Links* tab or by visiting our Facebook Page.

ATTENDANCE/TARDIES/CHECK-OUTS: Did you know that research shows that students with great attendance have higher achievement scores. 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. Changes in transportation must be received before 1:30 p.m. Students will only be released to parents in the pick-up line. After 3:15 p.m. students may be picked up from the office.

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

OPEN HOUSE: Our first family event will be Open House on Tuesday, August 8, 2023. Watch our Facebook account for more details at: www.facebook.com/CentralElementaryOkee This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet your child's teacher(s), complete forms, purchase school t-shirts and yearbooks, as well as sign up for parent committees.

AGENDAS: All students will be provided with a school agenda which contains our Student Handbook in the front. It's important to read the Student Handbook which contains our school's policies and procedures. We ask that you and your child review and sign the Student Contract (Compact) located at the beginning of your child's agenda.

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 Community Partners*. These organizations are opportunities for you 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 at home.

Let's get *WILD about LEARNING!* GO PANTHERS!

Cynthia Kubit

Principal, Central Elementary School