



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

Cynthia K. Kubit, Principal

Christie Torres
Assistant Principal

Jackie Hamilton
Guidance Counselor

Kimberly Syples
Reading Coach

Dear Central Elementary Parents and Families,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! We hope you had a great summer, where lasting memories were made! Our faculty and staff are excited to welcome you and your students back and to provide meaningful learning experiences where students can excel academically, socially and emotionally.

Our teachers have been working during the summer in professional development, planning sessions and getting ready to welcome back our students! We hope you will join us for Open House on Monday, August 8, 2022 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. as we welcome you back to school. We value you and know we are stronger through the commitment of our parents, families and community.

Our work this year will continue to focus on developing our Professional Learning Communities (PLC) for teachers, Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APTT) for parents, Data/Exemplar binders for students and providing a safe environment where students can learn through rigorous instruction. This will enable them to excel academically, socially, and emotionally. We look forward to a great school year where AMAZING things happen for our students! Thank you for your hard work and dedication during this past school year! Our FSA overall percentage went from 28 percent in 20-21 to 45 percent in 21-22! That truly is an incredible accomplishment and it is all due to the hard work put in by our students, staff, and families. We are a 'C' school and this new school year is an opportunity to continue this work and increase our school grade! We invite you to take advantage of the many opportunities and events this year to support student learning and make this our best year yet!

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

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: Wednesday, August 10, 2022

SCHOOL HOURS: 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.

ATTENDANCE/TARDIES/CHECK-OUTS: Did you know that Central Elementary had the highest attendance rates in Okeechobee Schools last year? Research shows that students with great attendance have higher achievement rates. 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. 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 Monday, August 8, 2022. 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). School t-shirts and yearbooks will be available for purchase.

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.

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.

GO PANTHERS!

Cynthia Kubit

Principal, Central Elementary School