

Dear Parents,

Welcome back!

As Superintendent of Leon County Schools, I recognize the importance of creating a strong relationship between school and home. When we work together to educate our children, we create a learning environment that cultivates student success.

This brochure outlines the current state and district expectations for promotion. Meeting these expectations will prepare your child for academic success this school year and beyond. Your support at home will reinforce the efforts of your child's teachers.

Thank you for continuing to make education a priority. We appreciate your many contributions and look forward to a productive school year.

Sincerely,

Jackie Pons
Superintendent



Middle School -- Grades 6, 7, and 8

Students on Regular Pupil Progression

All students in middle school receive instruction in approved state and district grade-level objectives and competencies in mathematics, language arts, social science, science, physical education, career exploration, and elective areas. The Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) benchmarks identify the essential skills and knowledge in each of these subject areas. Satisfactory achievement of the benchmarks serves as an indicator of student progress. More specific information can be accessed at the Florida Department of Education NGSSS web site: [<http://www.floridastandards.org/homepage/index.aspx>].

In addition, Leon County Schools has set expected levels of performance for areas used to identify students who may need remediation and students who may be retained. No student may be assigned to a grade level based solely on age or other factors that constitute social promotion or administrative placement [§1008.25 (6) (a) Florida Statute (2012)].

Achievement Codes

An academic grade on the Pupil Progress Report Card is the measure of a student's performance on the NGSSS benchmarks appropriate for middle school.

On Grade-Level Codes

- A** 90% NGSSS benchmark proficiency
- B** 80% NGSSS benchmark proficiency
- C** 70% NGSSS benchmark proficiency
- D** 60% NGSSS benchmark proficiency
- F** Less than 60% NGSSS benchmark proficiency

All students are continually monitored for progress throughout the school year. Instruction is adjusted accordingly to help students reach their fullest potential. A student working below grade level or repeatedly earning a grade of "D" or "F" on the Pupil Progress Report Card is in danger of not meeting expectations for promotion to the next grade level.

Promotion Requirements

Promotion to high school requires that the student successfully complete the following academic courses with a grade of "D" or higher by the end of the 8th grade:

- three year-long English courses;
- three year-long mathematics courses;
- three year-long science courses;
- three year-long social science courses, one of which is civics;
- one semester of physical education for each of the three years*;
- a career and education course in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade which includes online access to career planning options and tools; and
- a personalized academic and career plan signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian [§1003.4156(1)(a)1-5, F.S., (2012)].

* *The physical education requirement may be waived if (1) a student is enrolled or required to enroll in a remedial course, (2) a student's parent makes a written request for the student to enroll in another course, or (3) the student is participating in physical activities outside the school day which are equal to or in excess of the mandated requirement. Parents are to be notified of the waiver options before scheduling the student for participation in physical education.*

Expected Performance Levels

State and district performance standards require that students in grades 6-8 must:

- earn a yearly passing final grade in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies;
- score Level 3 or higher on FCAT 2.0 Reading;
- score Level 3 or higher on FCAT 2.0 Mathematics and/or earn a passing score on an equivalent statewide End-of-Course (EOC) assessment [§1008.22, F.S., (2012)].

Additionally, eighth grade students must:

- score Level 3 or higher on FCAT 2.0 Science or earn a passing score on an equivalent statewide EOC assessment [§1008.22, F.S., (2012)]
- meet the state proficiency level on FCAT Writing.

Students With Disabilities

Students with disabilities are required to meet the same standards as non-disabled students unless they are working on SSS Access Points and taking the Florida Alternate Assessment instead of the FCAT 2.0.

Required Intervention

Intensive Reading [§1003.4156(1)(b), F.S., (2012)]

Students scoring a level 1 on the spring administration of the FCAT 2.0 Reading must be enrolled in and complete an intensive reading course the subsequent school year. Placement of Level 2 readers in either an intensive reading course or a content area course in which reading strategies are delivered shall be determined by diagnosis of reading needs.

Students who score level 1 or 2 on FCAT 2.0 Reading but did not score below level 3 in the previous three years may be granted a one-year exemption from the remediation requirement; however, the student must have an approved academic improvement plan in place, signed by the appropriate school staff and the student's parent/guardian for the year in which the exemption is granted.

Intensive/Integrated Mathematics

Students scoring a Level 1 or 2 on the spring administration of FCAT 2.0 Mathematics must receive remediation the subsequent school year. This remediation requirement will either be integrated into the student's required mathematics course at the next grade level or be achieved by enrolling the student in an intensive math class.

Note: Middle school students enrolled in Algebra I, Geometry, and Biology will be required to take the state authorized End-of-Course exam for each subject. See your school's guidance counselor for more information.

**Non-Discrimination Contact Information**

No person shall on the basis of gender, marital status, sexual orientation, race, religion, national origin, age, color, or disability be denied employment, receipt of services, access to or participation in school activities or programs if qualified to receive such services, or otherwise be discriminated against or placed in a hostile environment in any educational program or activity including those receiving Federal financial assistance, except as provided by law. An employee, student, parent or applicant alleging discrimination with respect to employment, or any educational program or activity may contact:

Dr. Kathleen L. Rodgers
Equity and Title IX Compliance Officer
(850) 487-7306
rodgersk@leonschools.net

A student or parent alleging discrimination as it relates to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act may contact:

Dr. Margot Palazesi, 504 Specialist
(850) 487-7161
palazesim@mail.leon.k12.fl.us



Leon County Schools
2757 West Pensacola Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32304
(850) 487-7100

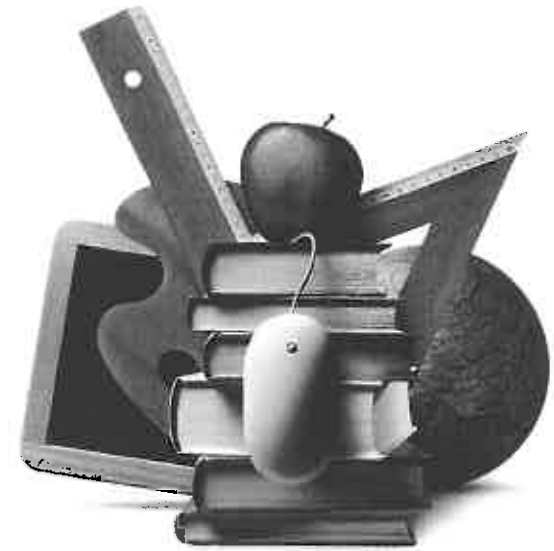
Superintendent
Jackie Pons

Leon County School Board
Dee Dee Rasmussen, Chair
Forrest Van Camp, Vice Chair
Georgia M. "Joy" Bowen
Maggie Lewis-Butler
Dee Crumpler

Prepared by
The Division of Teaching and Learning
Scotty Crowe, Assistant Superintendent

Department of Testing, Research & Evaluation
Paul Felsch, Director II
Clark Ale, Project Manager

2012-2013 Middle School Promotion Brochure



*Making the world a better place by
building the future together.*

Taking Action, Achieving Results!