



# Oak Ridge Elementary School

*Home of the Soaring Eagles*

4530 Shelfer Road ♦ Tallahassee, Florida 32305 ♦ 850-488-3124

Dr. Jasmine Smith, Principal

Terri Martin, Assistant Principal

September 30, 2020

Dear Parents,

Believe it or not, we are halfway through the 1st Nine Weeks of school. Time is truly flying by. Today, Progress Alerts have been posted for you to view on our Parent Portal. I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you to clarify expectations for assignments and grading for both Brick and Mortar as well as Digital Academy students at Oak Ridge during the continued COVID-19 pandemic period.

First of all, let me say that we are fully sympathetic to the fact that Distance Learning is still new for teachers, students, and parents. We greatly appreciate your continued support as we have worked to distribute hundreds of devices, address technological glitches, and learn how to navigate Canvas. I cannot thank you enough for the monumental support that you have provided to your children. We are blessed to work with such amazing students and families.

I am also truly proud of the efforts that our teachers and staff have made to be supportive of students and families as we all learn how to navigate this very different period of time in education. I couldn't ask for a finer group of educators to work with each day.

**I want to be sure that everyone remembers that our grading policy and student expectations are the same for both our Brick and Mortar and Digital Academy students.** If you are not certain of the grading weights that are being used on your child's grade level, please be sure to contact your child's teacher as soon as possible. In elementary schools all around Leon County, assessments make up the bulk of a child's grade.

However, many of our teachers have made adjustments to their typical methods of testing students and have excused students who have had difficulties with technology and have been unable to log in to class at times.

Please know that we will not be able continue to make such exceptions on a large scale for the entire first semester. Doing so would not allow us to meet our goal of providing Oak Ridge students with the best educational experiences possible.

As we continue to work together, please help us to support our students by communicating with us as much as possible. Direct communication both verbally and in writing with your child's teacher is vitally important right now. Students who do not log in to DA sessions or who do not complete their assignments on time (including Special Area classes) will be given zeros as well as marked absent when deemed necessary.

Students who are not logged in on time for assessments may have to reschedule (if possible) with their teacher. Our teachers are working tremendously hard to support students learning in two different settings, so time is definitely precious.

Please know that we will be certain to communicate our expectations and deadlines to you in a timely fashion. We want to be as respectful as possible of the obligations of our students and families as well.

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We will provide updated Progress Reports to you during the week of October 12th so that you can have a true picture of your child's progress and academic performance as a Brick and Mortar or Digital Academy student at Oak Ridge prior to the end of the 1st Nine Weeks.

In closing, let me share again how proud I am of the work and dedication that everyone has exhibited through this unprecedented time. I know that without parental support, our school would not be successful. You continue to work hard to support our teachers as they work with your child to be academically successful, but more importantly, your commitment to this team effort has been phenomenal.

I hope that you find the information in this letter helpful. Please continue to reach out to your child's teacher or to an administrator if you still have questions. We are here to support you and will continue to do our best as a school family.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

*Jasmine C. Smith, Ed.D.*

Jasmine C. Smith, Ed.D.  
Proud Principal  
Oak Ridge Elementary School