



Kurt S. Browning,
Superintendent of Schools



February 20, 2015

School Matters

Concerns About FSA Testing

Yesterday, I notified Florida Education Commissioner Pam Stewart of my concerns about Pasco's schools', teachers', and students' preparedness for computer-based standardized testing. The letter was attached as an addendum to the state's Readiness for Spring 2015 Computer-based Testing certification form, which also was accompanied by a spreadsheet detailing issues schools experienced during the district's Feb. 12 load test. View my letter here: <http://bit.ly/1z2brFk>.

Professional Development



The focus of this week's Insightful Educators Series is Learning Scales. Below are links to five videos, which include explanations from teachers and students regarding the purpose, construction, and implementation of this instructional strategy. An actual walk-through of how to create an elementary learning scale is also included.

1. Purposes of Learning Scales: <http://bit.ly/1AL9IRi>
2. Constructing Learning Scales: <http://bit.ly/1CN8afq>
3. How to Introduce Learning Scales to Students: <http://bit.ly/1JrAIE9>
4. Integrating Learning Scales in the Classroom: <http://bit.ly/1BqaOw8>
5. Example of How to Create an Elementary Level Learning Scale: <http://bit.ly/1LeFGjd>

Good luck, LOLHS Lady Gators, in the state basketball finals!

Congratulations!

Ann Altman has been selected as a 2015 Tyler Public Sector Excellence Award winner. This is a great honor for Ann and a tribute to her dedication to the ERP project and the district.

The **Gulf Middle School Thespian Troupe** recently participated in the State Thespian competition in Melbourne. Out of the 10 acts that participated, 6 earned Superior (highest rating) and 4 received Excellent. Congratulations to the students and their teacher, **Peter Nason**.

- Superior (Highest Rating)
 - Tad Andris (Solo Musical/"I'm Not That Smart" from 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee)
 - Sidney Dorey (Solo Musical/"Pulled" from Addams Family: The Musical)
 - Pryce Emerson (Monologue/Omelet)
 - Antonio Papanikas (Monologue/Manure Measles; Duet Acting/The Boys Next Door)
 - Megan Perlmutter (Duet Acting/The Boys Next Door)
 - Madalynn Rice (Monologue/In a Hundred Years, Who Will Know the Difference?)
- Excellent
 - Jay Batista (Duet Musical/"This World Will Remember Us" from Bonnie & Clyde)
 - Sidney Dorey (Duet Musical/"This World Will Remember Us" from Bonnie & Clyde)
 - Memphis Judy (Pantomime/Circle of Life)
 - Jake O'Brien (Pantomime/By a Nose)



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District Logo

Last week, the Communications Department began spreading the word about the new logo. They have updated the logos page on the Communications website with downloadable images and standards for using the logos, and added a new link on that page for ordering business cards. All administrators and clerical staff have received new letterhead templates and instructions for adding the logo to your email signature line, which everyone should have. There is no need to order new letterhead, envelopes, or business cards until you run out of those items with the old logo.



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Providing a world-class education for all students

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Stacking Layers II Symposium

Florida State University (FSU) is presenting an exploration of 3D printing technologies and research for students, teachers, innovators and entrepreneurs. The Stacking Layers II Symposium is scheduled for February 19-20, 2015, in Tallahassee. Stacking Layers presentations will be streamed live online and accessible on-demand after the symposium at <http://fla.st/16GaVH2>.

ECO Teacher Training

St. Petersburg College is teaming up again with the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and Extension to provide a week-long summer workshop July 27-31, 2015, for elementary and ESE teachers and pre-service students with a focus on environmental education. The 3rd Annual ECO Teacher Training Summer Camp will meet each day from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Brooker Creek Preserve. Interested teachers may register at <http://bit.ly/ECO2015>.

Bus Driver Recruitment

The district is hiring bus drivers. Starting pay is \$12 per hour. Please share this information with friends or family members you think may be interested. Anyone who is interested can call 813-794-1862 for more information.

Chasco Fiesta Hunger Walk

The Chasco Fiesta Hunger Walk, occurring on Saturday, March 14, promotes hunger awareness and raises funds for hunger relief in Pasco County. Sign up to participate at <http://bit.ly/1I95XmR> as an individual walker, create or join a team (you can join the Superintendent's team), or become a business sponsor.

Kudos

Principal Mellin: Earlier this evening my family and I were at dinner at the Cracker Barrel in Palm Coast. We had the privilege of sitting near **your students**. I would like to say privilege because every last student was very well behaved and used manners...There was a young lady with them. From the best I can gather she was the **Cheerleading Coach**...She epitomized the title: excellent role model. I would feel very blessed to have her teach/coach my children one day. -Scott Blanford

Vanessa Hilton: I wanted to send you a quick email to let you know how wonderful **Lisa Fisher** is! I emailed her with a question on how to better support one of my mainstream ESE students who is reading at a very low level. She...came out this morning, assessed my student, taught him some strategies as well as helped him set some goals, and provided an update for me, his reading teacher, and his parents. She will come back in two weeks to meet with him again to provide him the additional support that extends beyond his double block of reading...In my opinion, she exemplifies the type of support that truly makes a difference in schools.

-Jill Briscoe, Assistant Principal, Dr. John Long Middle School

Measles Information

The Department of Health is taking a proactive position with regard to measles. Although there are no confirmed cases in the state, the DOH in Pasco has been in touch with the district to help us prepare in the event a case is confirmed in one of our schools. Principals received a letter Tuesday detailing procedures they should follow. Next week, we will be sending a joint letter from the DOH in Pasco administrator and the superintendent to schools to send home with students. Since we have unvaccinated children in schools, it's important that we let parents know that we will remove unvaccinated students from any school at which a case is suspected – for 21 days or more. Staff should consult with their health care provider to make sure they have protection against measles.

This month is **Career and Technical Education Month**. To learn more, visit: <http://bit.ly/1AnstmS>.
