



Kurt S. Browning,
Superintendent of Schools



School Matters

April 30, 2015

End-of-Course (EOC) Exams Update

After much consideration, I have decided that for the 2014-2015 school year, district EOCs (including 2nd and 5th grade art, music, and PE) will not be required. However, in accordance with expectations, each teacher must administer a standards-based assessment in each class in all grade levels. To provide greater flexibility to our schools, teachers have the option of selecting a teacher-developed and principal-approved instrument, or they may administer the district-developed EOC. The principal must certify that any teacher-developed exam measures the Florida Standards for that course. For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/1Is1iux>.

Support the Lightning

The Tampa Bay Lightning play the first game of the Eastern Conference semifinals against the Montreal Canadiens on Friday, after winning the best of seven series against the Detroit Red Wings last night. To support our hometown team on their skate to the Stanley Cup championship, employees may wear Lightning team gear tomorrow (Friday). School principals have the flexibility to allow their staffs to wear Lightning clothing.



Legislative Update

On Tuesday, April 28 at 1:15 p.m., the Florida House gavelled out early, ending their session even though there were still 3 days of session. The Florida Senate has continued to meet and debate legislation. Yesterday, Senate President Andy Gardiner sent a letter to House Speaker Steve Crisafulli formally requesting the House reconvene because he believes the House violated the Florida Constitution by leaving too early. Speaker Crisafulli replied indicating that the House will only return for a special session to address the budget. The Senate may petition the Florida Supreme Court for a ruling. Both chambers still must host a budget conference where they will construct and pass the budget for the next fiscal year. Governor Scott must sign their budget by June 30 at 11:59 p.m. Governor Scott announced today that he will focus on crafting a state budget before July 1st that continues funding for critical state services.

Pasco County 9-1-1 Center

What Happens When You Call 9-1-1?

A Pasco County Public Safety Communications (PSC) emergency communications officer triages the call using a state-of-the-art computerized dispatch protocol to ensure an appropriate response to each call for service. The appropriate emergency dispatcher then dispatches the closest deputy, paramedic, and/or firefighter. While the emergency dispatcher is sending first responders, the emergency communications officer is simultaneously gathering information that is vital for the first responders.

IF YOU CALL 9-1-1, DON'T HANG UP!

Even if you accidentally dial 9-1-1 while attempting to call another number, emergency responders still must be dispatched. And, if you need help, hanging up will only slow down the response. If you have any questions about 9-1-1 service, please contact Terry Goswick, PSC Operations Manager, at 727-847-8163 x7634. For more information, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1JDQPO4>.

Kudos

I am so grateful to be a colleague of **Brenda Roberts**, who has taught me so much over the years by being an extraordinary educator and mentor to all who have the pleasure of knowing her and working with her. We are so thankful for the dignity, compassion, uplifting and confidence building you have supported our families to experience. You believe in every child who enters your life and support each one to soar as high as they can. Brenda, we honor you for bringing true meaning to all the core values and mission of Head Start. —Angela Porterfield, Director, Early Childhood Programs



Congratulations to Lisa Kern, Florida School Health Association 2015 Supervisor of the Year!

