

# Oakridge Head Start/Early Head Start September Newsletter

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## Back to School!! 2018-19

School has started back and we are so glad to see everyone. There is so much learning going on. The classrooms are filled with excited children and teachers. This is going to be a great year. We will be learning all kinds of new things this school and we teachers are excited to see what the year has in store for us here at Oakridge.

Please be sure to call your child's classroom whenever you are running late. It is still very important to keep your child's teachers updated about anytime they are absent or late.

Be sure to dress your kids appropriately for the weather and remember always closed toed shoes

### Parent Reminders: Important Dates

Closed: Labor Day-September 3

Closed: September 17 teacher duty day

Parent meeting: September 24 at 200p

Parent involvement HS: September 24 115p

Parent Involvement EHS: September 24 245p



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*Welcome to the new school year at Oakridge Early Head Start & Head Start! CDS Corner*

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year! We hope you had a restful and refreshing summer break. We would like to welcome all of our returning families this year and give a special greeting to those families who are joining us here at Head Start for the first time.

My name is Jennifer Tinstman, and I am the new Child Development Specialist or CDS for your child's center this year. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns at any time, 386-235-4480, [jtinstman@mfcs.us.com](mailto:jtinstman@mfcs.us.com). I look forward to meeting each of you, if I have not already done so, at an upcoming center event or next parent meeting.

Working together with you, we can build a positive and nurturing environment where your children will learn and grow as they explore and discover the world around them. Together as a team, we are partners in making our preschool a fun place for your children to come that encourages them to learn and develop at their own pace. I thank you in advance for your help in working with us to provide the best learning experience possible for the children.

It is great to see the children's happy faces every day at school. Please remember that attendance is very important to your child's successful learning experience and we hope to see your child at school each and every day. You can help to stress the importance of being at school each day with your child by making excellent attendance a priority at this young age which will lead to lifelong positive attitudes about school and learning.

We are looking forward to a wonderful school year together! 😊

## **FA Corner:**

Hello All,

We are at the beginning of another school year, 2018-2019!

My name is Tiwanda Saxton and I am YOUR Family Advocate!

I can be reached at (386) 366-8242 ext. 2007

Fax# (386) 366-8234

Email: [tsaxton@mfcs.us.com](mailto:tsaxton@mfcs.us.com)

Please remember that we are always accepting applications, so spread the word!

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## What's happening at Oakridge Headstart?

### Ms. Mary and Ms. Elaine classroom 1

Welcome parents/guardians!! In classroom 1 we are learning about social skills and how we interact with others. We conduct meet and greet each morning to encourage language (expressive, receptive) skills, as well as, working with each other on a daily basis.

Ms. Mary will be absent from the classroom this month. We welcome Ms. Vicky as the teacher in the classroom who will work together with Ms Elaine each day during this time.

### Ms. Carolyn and Ms. Arnessa Classroom 2

We would like to welcome our parents and children to our class. It is a pleasure to be a part of teaching your child through play. Our shining stars are welcoming their new friends into the classroom, learning each other's names through Second Step and learning the classroom and playground rules. We look forward to working with you and your child. Together we can make a difference! You can help by sending us well rested children with a hug and a kiss fresh on their minds. This sets the stage for a lovely day. Please feel free to contact us at any time if there is a question or situation that you would like to discuss. You will receive additional communication throughout the school year. We look forward to building a relationship with you and your child and thus providing the best education that we are capable of giving.

Happy Birthday! Ayden will be turning 5 on the 24<sup>th</sup>

**Mrs Carolyn + Mrs Arnessia**

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## What's happening at Oakridge Early Head Start?

### Ms. Rachael and Ms. Ja'Kera Infants Classroom 3

In the infant room we are all starting to become mobile. We have several that are learning to walk, which is pretty exciting. We have been working on sitting at the table when we eat our meals. If you could please help us with working on that at home.

We have two birthdays this month.

Annaleigh is turning 1 on September 5<sup>th</sup>

Noah will be turning 1 on September 5<sup>th</sup>

### Ms. Sheila and Ms. Jody's Toddlers Classroom 4

This month we are going to learn about farm animals and their sounds. We are also learning color recognition and shapes.

We would like to welcome Katerah to our class.

We welcome Ms Jody to our classroom this month. She has many years of experience in early childhood education and will be working together with Ms Sheila now completing our classroom 4 teaching team!

## Policy Council Update – August 2018

The August Policy Council Meeting was held on Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Members participated via video conference from the administrative office in their county. Six policy council members were present. Eight staff members were present. Policy Council members who could not attend the meeting were contacted to obtain their approval or disapproval on voting items.

The following **reports were approved:** *Budget, Credit Cards, Meals and Snacks, Service Areas and Centers. Details of the approved Enrollment/Attendance Report included the following:* The average daily attendance of nine Early Head Start classrooms in Volusia County was below 85% in July 2018 due to family travel or illness.

Heidi Rand, Director of Early Learning Programs, advised the Policy Council members that our agency will return any unused Early Head Start **grant funds** for the current program year to the federal government. The unused funds were originally identified for expenses related to opening Early Head Start classrooms. Several unavoidable factors temporarily delayed the opening of these classrooms. The classrooms are expected to be opened in 2018-19. The return of the funds will not affect the amount of our Early Head Start grant award for the next program year.

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**New hires** for the following positions in Volusia County were approved: 3 Family Advocates, 1 Community Outreach Coordinator, 4 Early Head Start teachers and 1 substitute teacher.

**New hires** for the following positions in Hernando/Sumter Counties were approved: 1 Family Advocate, 1 Early Head Start teacher, 1 Head Start teacher and 1 part time Extended Day teacher.

Policy council members were asked to encourage parents at their sites to consider **Policy Council participation**. A special request for Policy Council members to help recruit more children and families was also made.

The **next Policy Council meeting** is scheduled for 9:30am on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at Lake Sumter College in Leesburg.

## Parent Meeting

We held our first parent meeting on Monday , August 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr Michael spoke about policy council participation and pedestrian safety . Teachers shared what the children have been working on in the classrooms and the new CDS shared contact information with the parents and talked about the importance of good attendance. Our family advocate discussed what was needed from parents in regard to their child's dental forms and their physicals and immunizations. Parents were notified of upcoming important dates.

The next parent meeting is scheduled for Monday 9/24 after Head Start dismissal.