

The Gator Gazette

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Welcome to 2024! I'm so excited to start another year with our gator staff and students. I wanted to take a minute to put out some reminders as we head into the upcoming year.

- Students are allowed on campus from 7:45-3:20. Please don't drop any students off earlier than 7:45 and all students should be picked up by 3:20.
- Please make sure you are following all drop off and pick up procedures.
 - No parents should be parking in the parking lot and walking their child across the drop off line. We understand the line can be long sometimes, but all parents are in the same boat of having places to be and schedules to keep. Please plan drop off according to your schedule so you can stay in the lane to drop your child off on the sidewalk with everyone else.
 - **Time saving tips:** If you need to be at work at a certain time, plan to be in line prior to 7:30 that way you will be one of the first cars that goes through. If you don't want to wait in line at parent pick up, arrive around 3:15. That's the end of the line, and you'll pretty much drive straight through
 - Remember to have your student put their lanyard around their neck before arriving at school each day
 - Students arriving or being picked up in a car should NOT be using the biker/walker door. That door is only for students legitimately walking or biking to school. If you are driving and dropping off your child you must use the drop off routes.

We appreciate everyone modeling safety and respect for our students so they don't see adults breaking rules and think it's ok for them to break them as well. We want all our gators to get to and from school safely. Thank you for your help with this. I hope we all have a healthy and happy New Year.

Mrs. Elek



Why Join PTO? We Need You!

Family support is essential to PTO success! Our PTO strives to create a welcoming, caring, and happy place for all Meadow Park children, families, and staff for years to come!



Make Connections

We strive to make positive changes for our school environment both inside and out. PTO supports teachers and staff in fun ways that create a positive, caring atmosphere!

Students of the Month

Congratulations to our Students of the Month for October, November, and December!

These students were chosen for representing Digital Citizenship, Gratitude, and Generosity in their classes.

Kindergarten: Jaslinn A, Ayla B, Jensen B, Mason C, Callie C, Kendall C, Sophia K, Beau M, Mila R, Charlotte SP, Jhannita T, Mia V, Kynlie W

1st Grade: Abigail A, Anthony C, Michael C, Hudson C, Anisa D, Nayely D, Anthony E, Ella H, Neveah H, Mina L, Macie L, Avery L, Antonietta P, Danielle W

2nd Grade: Rosalind C, Mason E, Peyton H, Ruby J, Emily N, Jesse N, Ella S,

3rd Grade: Ellouise B, Addilyn E, Avery H, Kingston M, Preston M, Jasmine M, Talon M, Brody M, Madilynn M, Hayden M, Yan MH, Joseph M, Stefan R

4th Grade: Annabelle A, Jake C, McKenzie D, Emmanuel M, Maurie M, Miah S

5th Grade: Wynter B, Gunner B, Veronica B, Erianna BV, Braylon H, Derek H, Laylah J-P, Rylee M, Neveah P, Taschaud P, Selena T, Karson W

Message from Officer Monty

Thanks to a grant-funded program through CCSO, Officer Monty has free helmets available at school for students. Whether students ride bicycles, skateboards, hover boards, or scooters (at home or to and from school), all students should be wearing a bicycle helmet. Check in with Officer Monty if your child is in need!

Words of the Month

Our PBIS Word of the Month for January is Self-control, and our February word is Kindness. We will be having a lot of conversations with students about having verbal and physical self-control as well as showing kindness to others. A lot of these conversations will be about choosing their words carefully and keeping their hands to themselves. We are seeing an increase in verbal threats and physical contact between students under the argument of “self-defense” We want students and families to know that no physical contact at school will be tolerated in any form. We have daily conversations with students about the difference between self-defense and retaliation. Standing up for yourself is encouraged, however, it doesn’t give you permission to put your hands on another person at school. We are encouraging students to use their words or get an adult to help, but making threatening statements or using any sort of physical contact to scare or harm others will result in suspension from school. Officer Monty will be reviewing safety procedures and anti-bullying strategies with students during his mid-year lessons in January. Please help us reinforce this with your child as we learn more about self-control this month.

Throughout October, November, and December, students learned about Digital Citizenship, Gratitude, and Generosity. We celebrated those students who exhibited these traits at our monthly PBIS parties.



Upcoming Events

Awards Ceremonies:

January 17th

- 8:45 - Kindergarten
- 9:45 - 1st Grade

January 18th

- 8:45 - 2nd Grade
- 9:45 - 5th Grade

January 19th

- 8:45 - 3rd Grade
- 9:45 - 4th Grade



Important Dates:

January 26th - 5:30-7:30

Glow Dance Party

January 30th - 4:00-8:00

Spirit Night - Chicken Salad Chick

February 8th - 6:00-7:30

Science Fair

February 19th

No School

February 22nd - 4:00-8:00

Spirit Night - Chick-Fil-A

March 1st - 4:00-6:00

Spring Carnival

March 13th - 5:30-6:30

PTO Meeting

March 15th

Teacher Work Day (students off)

March 18th - 22nd

Spring Break



State Testing

Each year, the students in Florida participate in standardized testing of the B.E.S.T standards. Students' progress is monitored (PM) three times annually. The assessments are given on two different platforms depending on the grade level. Kindergarten through second-grade students are assessed on a program called STAR. Students in third through fifth grades are tested on a program called Cambium. Regardless of the testing platform, the tests are called the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST). Mathematics and reading are evaluated in kindergarten through fifth-grade students, and writing is assessed in fourth and fifth grade. Unique to fifth grade, they are tested on science as well. Kindergarten through second-grade students took their mid-year test in December. Our third through fifth-grade students will take their test in January. The goal of progress monitoring three times a year is to see how information was retained from the previous year and the progress towards mastery of the BEST standard for the current grade level. Not only do we wish to see students master their grade-level content, but we also want to show learning gains. Our teachers and students put in a lot of hard work in preparation for FAST and love to celebrate the most minor achievements, as no achievement should go unnoticed.

FOCUS PARENT PORTAL

The FOCUS portal allows parents and students 24/7 secure access to information such as attendance, assignments, grades, and discipline. Please visit yourcharlotteschools.net/mpe and click on the Parent Portal link to get started today!



Classroom Highlights

Kindergarten



Kindergarten had a busy week before winter break! First, we made gingerbread houses and then went on a school hunt for the Gingerbread Man. He was so nice, he left us cookies because we figured out his clues. Later, we had a Reindeer Game day. We made crafts, reindeer food and even found out that one of Santa's reindeers was missing! We draw posters to help find the missing reindeer. Thankfully, Santa let us know the next day that Nugget, (his reindeer in training), had been found! We finished out the week with a visit from the Grinch and saw Santa! We know that we helped the Grinch grow his heart by all of the love we showed him!

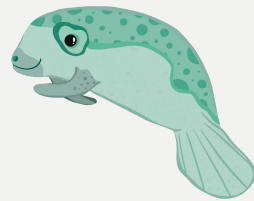


First Grade

First grade went on a field trip to Charlotte Performing Arts Center on December 6th. The students enjoyed a puppet show of the story *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister. The story depicts the impact that sharing can have on friendships. This reinforces the PBIS words of the month that students have been working on. At the end of the quarter, first graders read different versions of the story *Gingerbread Man*. Students identified story elements, compared and contrasted the books, and wrote to tell their favorite story. At the end of the unit, students got to decorate gingerbread cookies!

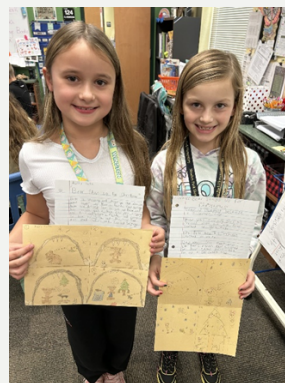
Second Grade

In November, second grade students visited the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center. Students waded into the cold water and learned about unique marine life, vital vegetation, and local water resources.



3rd grade has had an amazing 2nd Quarter. We have been working on many reading and writing skills. In Math the students have been working on fractions. There is a program called "Frax" that helps the students with fractions. If they can work on this program at home, it would be very beneficial. Please continue to have conversations with your children about making good choices at school and using kind words.

Third Grade



Mrs. Specht and Mrs. Carter's classes worked on visualization. They listened to a story, drew 4 pictures that they visualized, and then wrote a summary about their pictures.

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade has been very busy during the second quarter!! We are excited for our 2nd quarter Read Day, celebrating those fourth graders who met or exceeded 100% of their quarterly AR goal!! We are reading Sunshine State books, earning lanyards, and becoming better and stronger readers. We are working on our CHEC books to prepare for our 2 day field trips to Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center in January, where we will go on a hike as well as take a boat trip. We are very excited to actually see our Florida vegetation and wildlife right in front of our eyes!! We are learning new writing, reading and math strategies and practicing our words of the month daily. We look forward to seeing what the second half of the year brings!!

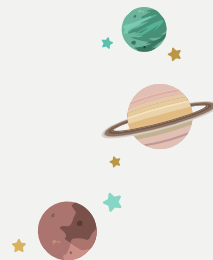


Fifth Grade

5th graders learned about and created a model of the landfill in STEM class with Mrs. Harvey from Keep Charlotte Beautiful. After the 5th graders completed their lesson in STEM, they were provided a field trip to the Charlotte County Landfill and Recycling Center to explore and learn about the landfill in real life. Students traveled to the top of the landfill in the school bus and got to witness a trailer being crushed. They were also taken to the water filtration system and the recycling center off of Veterans.



The fifth- grade scientists created aliens with at least five adaptations to help them survive on the planet from our Solar System assigned to each group. They did an amazing job, and should be very proud of their finished projects!



The Title I Family Center is open each week on Thursdays after school and Fridays before school. Students and their families may choose books to check out PLUS get a "keeper book" every time they visit.

During Literacy Week, on **January 23rd**, there will be an Open Media Night. Students will listen to a story while parents/guardians will attend an informative presentation all about the AR program. Then, students will have the opportunity to take an AR test to show how their progress is tracked.

Family Reading Experience



MPE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND SUPPORT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Meadow Park's 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year, Kim Amann, and Support Employee of the Year, Ashley Ermisch. They both represent Meadow Park so well! Thank you, ladies for your "can do" attitudes and your endless commitment to our MPE students!



Leadership Clubs

Our students are hard at work modeling positivity and leadership around our school. Some of our clubs have major accomplishments to celebrate:

Girls on the Run and Gritty Gators ran their 5K in December. These students trained all semester to accomplish their goals!



The **Recycling Team** won first place in the Recycle Bowl! What is the Recycle Bowl? It is a friendly competition between schools to see who can recycle the most leading up to America Recycles Day on November 15th. These students recycled over 2,500 lbs in just one month!



Did You Hear?

The state released our school grade for the 22-23 school year, and Meadow Park increased our grade to an even higher B. We are only 2 points from an A, and our overall points have us in the top 4 elementary schools in Charlotte County! Congratulations to our staff and students for a job well done!

REPORTING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES OR THREATS

Students, parents, CCPS employees, and members of the community have a responsibility to report suspicious activities and potential threats to schools. Any suspicious activity or threat shall be promptly reported to one of the following individuals, agencies or reporting tools:

- School Resource Officer or local law enforcement agencies.
- School Administrator or any available staff member.
- The **FortifyFL Reporting APP** or to the Crimestoppers Tipline (1-800-780-TIPS).
- Contacting the Supervisor of District Security and Emergency Management at (941) 255-0808
- Calling 9-1-1.

Note: Reports may be done anonymously.