



### STUDENTS AND THE CUSTODY LAWS

The person who registers a student must be the legal guardian, according to the information that you, as parents, give us. The legal guardian has rights regarding the student. The legal guardian who lives with the student lets us know who may or may not pick up the child from school or whom we can call on in an emergency.

You list those names on the registration form and on the emergency card, so it is important that you give us the most up-to-date information you can. Non-custodial parents, step-parents, and grandparents MAY also have rights.

**In most cases BOTH parents have the right to see the student, pick up the student, and have information about the student UNLESS there is a court order that specifically says otherwise. Without a court order we cannot exclude parents from their rights to their own child. They will be allowed to pick the child up at the school.**

Please, if you are experiencing custody problems, we need to know and to have copies of any current court orders. We are asking for the information not to intrude in your life, but to help safeguard your student.

### PAPERWORK, PAPERWORK, PAPERWORK

Your child will bring many pieces of paperwork home the first week of school. Please take the time to review each document. Some papers are for your information and some need to be signed and returned.

### FLORIDA COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW

Please understand that we must follow the Florida law concerning attendance. Students with 10 or more absences are reported to the social worker and after 15 EXCUSED OR UNEXCUSED absences a doctor's excuse is required for all subsequent absences. Doctors' excuses must provide that the student's condition justifies the absences.

### FIRE DRILLS

We are required to have 10 fire drills during the school year. Two of these drills **must** happen during the first two weeks of school. Other important safety drills will follow throughout the school year.

### SPECIAL DIETS & ALLERGIES

Parents, don't forget that we need a note from your doctor or health care professional before we can make substitutions in your child's diet. We cannot use last year's note. It must be a new request. To reach the cafeteria call 822-6986 ext. 21899.

**FDLE** You can access the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's website to check on the status of Sexual Offenders and Predators in your neighborhood by logging on to [www.floridaoffenderalert.com](http://www.floridaoffenderalert.com).

### Get involved in your child's school!

#### Join PTA, and or SAC

We waited until the beginning of the school year to nominate and vote on our PTA and SAC membership so we could include YOU! PTA deals with raising funds, offering support for teachers, and providing the extras. SAC is a decision making body of individuals. We work with helping to set policies in place for the school.

The first PTA and SAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 10th. PTA will be in the media center at 5:30 with SAC immediately following at 6:30. Please join us!

September 10, October 8, November 13,  
January 14, February 11,  
March 12, April 8, May 13

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS—2012-2013

August 20.....First day of school for 12-13 school year  
August 22.....Early Release Wednesday  
August 29.....Early Release Wednesday  
September 3.....Labor Day Holiday / No School  
September 5.....Early Release Wednesday  
September 12.....Early Release Wednesday  
September 19.....Early Release Wednesday  
September 21.....Professional Dev. Day—No school for students  
September 26.....Early Release Wednesday  
October 19.....Teacher Duty Day / Student Holiday  
November 12.....Veteran's Day / No School  
November 20.....Thanksgiving Holiday Begins- End of the Day  
November 26.....Classes Resume  
December 20.....Winter Holiday Begins- End of the Day  
December 21.....Teacher Duty Day  
January 7.....Classes Resume  
January 21.....Martin Luther King's Birthday/ No School  
February 18.....Presidents' Day / No School  
March 11.....Teacher Duty Day  
March 22.....Spring Holiday Begins for Students- End of the Day  
April 1.....Classes Resume  
May 27.....Memorial Day Holiday  
June 4.....Last Day of School for Students  
**\*All students will be released approximately one hour early on Early Release Days**

### Community Events Available On-Line

A listing of events and programs sponsored by community organizations is available on the district's website at <http://myvolusiaschools.org>. Simply select the "Parents & Students" tab and locate *My Student* then click "Flyers-Community Events/Programs." New flyers are posted on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Be sure to check back frequently for events and activities occurring throughout Volusia County.

### Open House

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Primary 6:00-6:45

Intermediate 7:00 - 7:45

Special area and resource teachers 6:30 - 8:00

### BOXTOPS BOXTOPS BOXTOPS

We will continue to collect BOXTOPS for EDUCATION this year.

### T-shirts, T-shirts, T-shirts!!

We will be selling school t-shirts for students at the Meet Your Teacher event. T-shirts will be \$5.00 this year. We do have a limited amount of t-shirts from previous years that we are selling at a reduced price of \$3.00.

### BYOT

Bring Your Own Technology A growing trend around the country allowing children to "Bring Their Own Technology" to school. This is a program that we will implement at GME for the 12-13 school year in grades 3—5. Join us for a parent meeting on August 30 at 6:00 PM. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of PTA and the support of SAC, we have been able to purchase ipod touches to supplement the availability of devices in all classrooms grades 3—5.