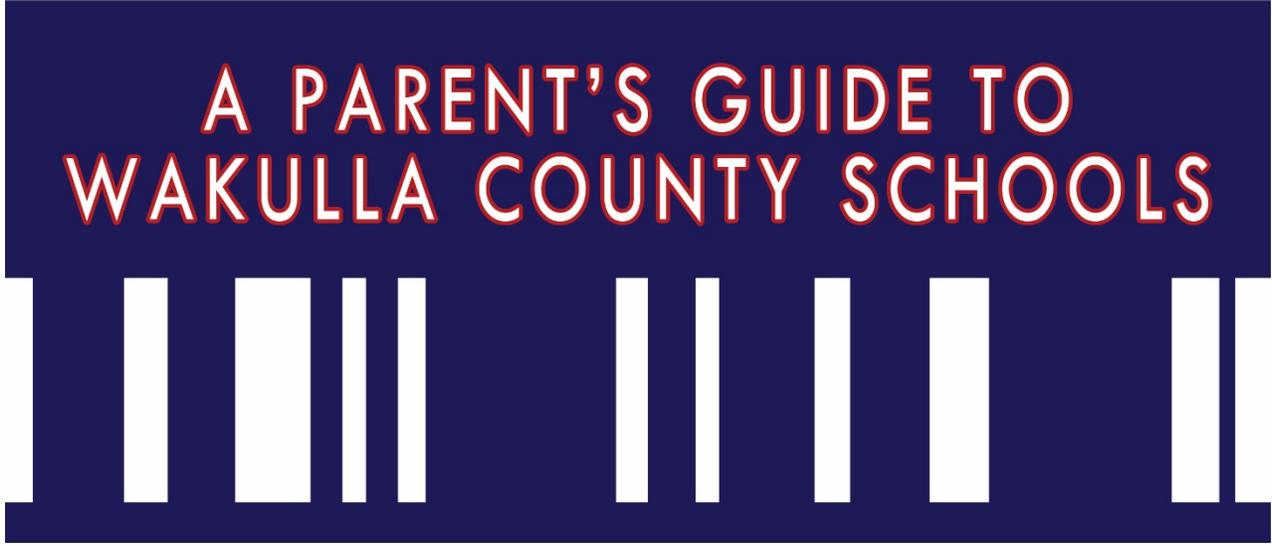




WAKULLA COUNTY ← **PARENT**

C O N N E C T I O N

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO
WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOLS



2019-2020

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The School-Parent Connection: A Parent's Guide to Wakulla County Schools

August, 2019

INTRODUCTION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Why a Parent Guide? This booklet is designed to be a “parent-friendly” guide through the basics of how your children progress through school and how you and the Wakulla County Schools can partner to ensure the success of every child. There are many sources which provide even more specific information at each school such as student handbooks, codes of conduct and attendance, curriculum guides, brochures, newsletters and much more. Just ask in the front office or the guidance office of each school.

Can we improve the Parent Guide? Your comments and suggestions will make this Parent Guide more helpful every year. Contact Sunny Chancy, Chief Academic Officer at 926-0065 if you have ideas.

Where can parents go for information about their children’s education? If you have questions, start at the school level. Below are listed numbers and websites that can help put you in touch with the people who are with your children every day.

District Office

Mr. Robert Pearce, Superintendent of Schools

850-926-0065

<http://www.wakullaschooldistrict.org>

Wakulla Education Center

Laura Kelly, Principal, Pre-K

850-926-8111

<http://www.wakullaschooldistrict.org>

Wakulla Institute/Pathways

James Vernon, Assistant Principal

850-926-0065

Crawfordville Elementary School

Louis Hernandez, Principal

850-926-3641

<http://www.wakullaschooldistrict.org>

Medart Elementary School

Stan Ward, Principal

850-962-4881

<http://www.wakullaschooldistrict.org>

Riversink Elementary School

Simeon Nelson, Principal

850-926-2664

<http://www.wakullaschooldistrict.org>

Shadeville Elementary School

Nicolas Weaver, Principal

850-926-7155

<http://www.wakullaschooldistrict.org>

Riversprings Middle School

Michele Yeomans, Principal

850-926-2300

<http://www.wakullaschooldistrict.org>

Wakulla Middle School

Tolar Griffin, Principal

850-926-7143

<http://www.wakullaschooldistrict.org>

Wakulla High School

Mike Barwick, Principal

850-926-7125

<http://www.wakullaschooldistrict.org>

Transportation Coordinator / Bus Garage

Pat Jones, Coordinator of Transportation

850-926-7550

Chief Academic Officer

Sunny Chancy

850-926-0065

Curriculum Coordinator

Lori Sandgren

850-926-0065

Principal on Special Assignment- Mental Health

Belinda McElroy

850-926-0065

Executive Director of Exceptional Student

Education/Student Services

Tanya English

850-926-0065

Chief Human Resources Officer

Angie Walker

850-926-0065

Director of Special Programs & District

Assessment

Krista Sharin

850-926-0065

Director of Food Service/Sodexo

Lisa McCloudy

850-926-0065

Coordinator of Safety & Risk Management

Jim Griner

850-926-0065

Director of Technology Services

Tim Stephens

850-926-0065

Director of Adult Athletics, and

Diversity Recruitment Programs

Dod Walker

850-926-1841

COMMONLY USED SCHOOL TERMS

Credit – Each high school level, yearlong course is worth one credit (135 minimum hours of instruction). A semester course is worth ½ credit. Credits in specific classes must be earned to complete part of the standard high school diploma graduation requirements.

DOE (Department of Education) – The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) guides school systems as they carry out the laws made by the Florida Legislature. The United States Department of Education oversees education throughout the country and works with the state DOE.

EOC (End of Course) Exams – Specific subject areas are tested by EOCs such as Civics, Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, U.S. History and Algebra 2 (if enrolled).

FSA (Florida Standards Assessment)- Exams students take for State Achievement data.

ESE (Exceptional Student Education) – Students with disabilities are given different types of instruction according to their needs. Gifted students are also considered exceptional students.

ELL (English Language Learners) – Students who do not have English as their native language are given different types of instruction as needed.

GLE (Grade Level Expectations) – What a student should know and be able to do at the end of each grade kindergarten through eighth.

GPA (Grade Point Average) – this is the sum of all the grades earned for high school courses averaged together on a scale of A=4.0, B=3.0, C=2.0, D=1.0. To graduate, a 2.0 (C) average is needed. Weighted GPA's give higher credit for honors, advanced placement, and college courses.

IEP (Individual Education Plan) – Exceptional Education students all have written plans of what their needs and goals are for the next year. Parents are involved in this process.

RTI (Response to Intervention) – Response to Intervention is a process that provides intervention and educational support to students at increasing levels of intensity based on their individual needs.

Remediation – This is extra help given to students who are not working on their grade levels. Remediation programs can be during the school day, after school, and/or during the summer.

Retention – This is when a child repeats the same grade in order to gain grade-level skills before moving to the next level.

SAC (School Advisory Council) – The SAC is a group of parents, educators, business/community members and others who develop school improvement plans and activities. These meetings are open to everyone.

Student Progression Plan – This is a document, which states the requirements for students to move from grade to grade and to graduate from high school. It follows Florida law and Wakulla County School board policies on student progress. It is on the Wakulla County Schools website at <http://www.wakullaschooldistrict.org/>.

Florida Standards – In Florida, these standards are what your child is expected to know at each grade level. They give teachers a framework of what to teach at each level. Report cards and the Florida Standard Assessment test are based on these standards.

PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

Elementary School

English Language Arts

- A. Student achieves a yearly grade average of 60% or above on grade level.
- B. Student shows satisfactory reading progress in Districtwide reading series.
- C. Student's Florida Standards Assessment scores are proficient in English Language Arts.

Retention: Third grade remains a mandatory retention grade for students who do not meet the criteria as determined by the state of Florida.

Mathematics

- A. Student achieves a yearly grade average of 60% or above on grade level.
- B. Student's Florida Standards Assessment scores are proficient in Mathematics.

Science and Social Studies

Student achieves a yearly grade average of 60% or above on grade level appropriate instruction based upon the current state standards and benchmarks.

PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

Middle School (Grades 6, 7, 8)

Middle School

1. **Promotion to 7th Grade**—Passing grades in three academic subjects required for promotion to high school (Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies).
2. **Promotion to 8th Grade**—Passing grades in six academic subjects required for promotion to high school (Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies).
3. Has taken the district or state norm-referenced test unless (s)he is an Exceptional Education student who qualifies for an alternate assessment.

NOTE: 12 specific academic courses (3 Language Arts, 3 Math, 3 Science, 3 Social Studies) and one career education course or its equivalent must be passed to be promoted to high school. The three courses in social studies, which shall include the study of World History, United States History including Florida History and Civics. Beginning in 2013-2014 and thereafter, all students taking Civics will take the Civics state EOC (end of course) exam, which will constitute 30% of the yearlong Civics grade.

Proficiency Levels

In addition to the above requirements for promotion, each student's progress from one grade to another will be determined, in part, on the student's ability to demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing, and mathematics. In accordance with state statute, the following levels of proficiency have been identified in these three areas. Any student identified as not meeting these levels will receive remediation in that area.

English Language Arts

- A. A grade of 60% or above in Middle/Junior Reading coursework completed on grade level.
- B. Florida Standards Assessment scores that are proficient as determined by the state of Florida.

Mathematics

- A. A grade of 60% or above in M/J Mathematics coursework.
- B. Florida Standards Assessment scores that are proficient as determined by the state of Florida.

PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

High School

10th Grade

A minimum, of four (4) credits must be earned in Grade 9, and a 1.0 grade point average (GPA).

11th Grade

A minimum of eleven (11) total credits must be earned in grades 9 & 10 including at least one (1) English, one (1) Mathematics, one (1) Science, one (1) Social Studies credit and a 1.5 GPA.

12th Grade

Eleventh grade students will be considered seniors after one year in eleventh grade. They must continue to work to meet the graduation requirements, including the appropriate number and type of credits and the required GPA.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

24 Credits

Passing Scores on 10th Grade Florida Standards Assessment in English Language Arts and required End of Course Math Exam (Algebra I).

2.0 cumulative GPA

- 4 English (substantial writing/literature)
- 4 Mathematics (must include Algebra 1 and Geometry)
- 3 Science (two with lab components) – Biology required beginning with 2011-2012 freshmen including a Biology End of Course Exam.
- 3 Social Science (1 United States, 1 World History, 1/2 American Government, 1/2 Economics)
- 1 Career and Technical (Vocational)
- 1 Performing Art
- 1/2 Personal Fitness
- 1/2 Physical Education
- 7 Electives
- 1 Virtual course

NOTE:

⇒ Direct entry into a four-year university and some scholarship requirements may include two years of the same foreign language, Algebra I, Geometry and two math courses at a higher level.

Students Entering Grade Nine in the 2014-2015 School Year and Forward

Academic Advisement Flyer—What Students and Parents Need to Know

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the diploma options?

Students must successfully complete one of the following diploma options:

- 24-credit standard diploma
- 18-credit Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL)
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma curriculum

What are the state assessment requirements?

Students **must pass** the following statewide assessments:

- Grade 10 English Language Arts (ELA) or a concordant score
- Algebra 1 end-of-course (EOC) or a comparative score

Refer to [Graduation Requirements for Florida's Statewide Assessments](#) for concordant and comparative scores.

Students enrolled in the following courses **must participate** in the EOC assessments, which constitute 30 percent of the final course grade:*

- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Biology 1
- U.S. History

*Special note: Thirty percent not applicable if not enrolled in the course but passed the EOC (credit acceleration program [CAP]).

What is the CAP?

The CAP program allows a student to earn high school credit if the student passes an Advanced Placement (AP) examination, a College Level Examination Program (CLEP) or a statewide course assessment without enrollment in the course. The courses include the following subjects:

- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Biology 1
- U.S. History

What is the distinction between the 18-credit ACCEL option and the 24-credit option?

- 3 elective credits instead of 8
- Physical Education is not required
- Online course is not required

All other graduation requirements for a 24-credit standard diploma must be met (per section 1003.4282(3)(a)-(e), Florida Statutes [F.S.]).

24-Credit Standard Diploma

4 Credits ELA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELA 1, 2, 3, 4. • ELA honors, AP, AICE, IB and dual enrollment courses may satisfy this requirement.
4 Credits Mathematics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of which must be Algebra 1 and one of which must be Geometry. • Industry certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to two mathematics credits (except for Algebra 1 and Geometry). • An identified rigorous computer science course with a related industry certification may substitute for up to one mathematics credit (except for Algebra 1 or higher-level mathematics).
3 Credits Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of which must be Biology 1, two of which must be equally rigorous science courses. • Two of the three required course credits must have a laboratory component. • Industry certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to one science credit (except for Biology 1). • An identified rigorous computer science course with a related industry certification may substitute for up to one science credit (except for Biology 1 or higher-level science).
3 Credits Social Studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 credit in World History • 1 credit in U.S. History • 0.5 credit in U.S. Government • 0.5 credit in Economics with Financial Literacy
1 Credit Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts*
1 Credit Physical Education*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To include the integration of health
8 Elective Credits
1 Online Course
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must meet the state assessment requirements (see Frequently Asked Questions). • Students must earn a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale for all cohort years.

* Eligible courses are specified in the [Florida Course Code Directory](#).

Scholar Diploma Designation

In addition to meeting the 24-credit standard high school diploma requirements, a student must meet all of the following requirements:

- Earn 1 credit in Algebra 2
- Pass the Geometry EOC
- Earn 1 credit in statistics or an equally rigorous mathematics course
- Pass the Biology 1 EOC*
- Earn 1 credit in chemistry or physics
- Earn 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to chemistry or physics
- Pass the U.S. History EOC*
- Earn 2 credits in the same world language
- Earn at least 1 credit in an AP, IB, AICE or a dual enrollment course

*A student is exempt from the Biology 1 or U.S. History EOC assessment if the student is enrolled in an AP, IB or AICE Biology 1 or U.S. History course and the student earns the minimum score to earn college credit on the respective AP, IB or AICE assessment.

Merit Diploma Designation

- Meet the standard high school diploma requirements.
- Attain one or more [industry certification](#) from the list established (per s. 1003.492, F.S.).

What are the graduation requirements for students with disabilities ?

Two options are available only to students with disabilities. Both require the 24 credits listed in the table, and both allow students to substitute a career and technical education (CTE) course with related content for one credit in ELA 4, mathematics, science and social studies (excluding Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1 and U.S. History). The two options are as follows:

- Students with significant cognitive disabilities may earn credits via access courses and be assessed via an alternate assessment.
- Students who choose the academic and employment option must earn at least 0.5 credit via paid employment.

Where is information on financial aid located?

The Florida Department of Education's Office of Student Financial Assistance administers a variety of postsecondary educational state-funded grants and scholarships. To learn more, visit the [Office of Student Financial Assistance](#) website.

Where is information on Bright Futures Scholarships located?

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program rewards students for their academic achievements during high school by providing funding to attend a postsecondary institution in Florida. For more information, visit the [Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program](#) website.

State University System (SUS)

Admission into Florida's public universities is competitive. Prospective students should complete a rigorous curriculum in high school and apply to more than one university to increase their chance for acceptance. To qualify to enter one of Florida's public universities, a first-time-in-college student must meet the following minimum requirements (credit earned by industry certification does not count for SUS admission):

- High school graduation with a standard diploma, a minimum of a 2.5 GPA, and admission test scores meeting minimum college-ready test scores per [Board of Governors Regulation \(BOG\) 6.008](#)
- 16 credits of approved college preparatory academic courses per [BOG Regulation 6.002](#)
 - 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
 - 4 Mathematics (Algebra 1 level and above)
 - 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
 - 3 Social Science
 - 2 World Language (sequential, in the same language or other equivalents)
- 2 approved electives

[State University System of Florida](#)

The Florida College System

The 28 colleges of the Florida College System serve nearly 800,000 students. Colleges offer affordable, stackable, workforce credentials including certificate programs, associate in science degrees and associate in arts degrees, which transfer to a bachelor's degree program. Many colleges also offer workforce bachelor's degree programs in areas of high demand. All Florida College System institutions have open-door admissions for students who have earned a standard high school diploma, an equivalent diploma or have successfully earned college credit.

[Florida College System](#)

Career and Technical Colleges and Centers

Florida also offers students 49 accredited career and technical colleges or centers throughout the state, which provide the education and certification necessary to work in a particular career or technical field. Programs are flexible for students and provide industry-specific education and training for a wide variety of occupations.

[Secondary Career and Technical Education Directors](#)



TESTING

What are the tests my child takes?

When do they take them?

What are they for?

What do the results mean?

Kindergarten through 5th Grade – STAR Early Literacy or STAR Literacy is administered for English Language Arts (ELA) three times a year for all students. Results are used to assure student progress toward mastery of the Florida Standards for English Language Arts and Math.

Kindergarten-Within the first 30 days of school, kindergarten students take the FLKRS (Florida Kindergarten School Readiness Screening). This assessment gives an indication of how ready a kindergartener is for school and is used to help the teacher plan the kind of instruction your child needs. This assessment is a statutory requirement.

Grades K-12- Students across the district participate in formative assessment using STARMath (1-8) and STARReading (K-12). STARReading is associated with Accelerated Reader and is used for setting goals and monitoring progress. STARMath is used in the Fall as a universal screener for students in grades 6-8. It is used at other grade levels as determined by the teacher and the need of the student.

Grades 6th through 12th Grade – STAR Reading and STAR Math is administered three times a year in grades 6-8 and as needed in high school for students reading below grade level.

Grades 3 through 11 - In the spring, all third through tenth graders will take the Florida Standards Assessment in English Language Arts grades 3-8 will take the FSA for math. Students taking Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra 2 will take a state End of Course (EOC) exam which will count as their state math exam. A passing score on the Algebra I EOC is a graduation requirement.

****Grade 3**** - The FSA English Language Arts scores are used by the state in third grade to help determine promotion to fourth grade. This aligns with studies which show that students who are not reading at grade level by third grade will most likely struggle with school as it gets harder. This is the place to make sure they master the skills they need to move on. There is a summer reading program to help third graders who do not score on grade level. Use of the scores is in line with State Statute.

****Grade 10**** - The 10th grade version of the **FSA English Language Arts** is especially important. **The FSA English Language Arts must be passed in order to earn a regular high school diploma.** There are several more chances to pass the FSA English Language Arts if he/she does not pass it the first time it is taken in 10th grade. Freshmen entering 2011-2012 and after will take the Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, U.S. History End of Course (EOC) exams. Students must earn a passing score on the Algebra I EOC as a graduation requirement.

Grades 5, 8, and High School- Fifth, and eighth, graders take the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards Science Exam in the spring. High School students taking Biology will take state Biology End of Course Exam.

Instructional Materials

Your student(s) have access to the following online textbooks that align with the hardbound books they use at school. Each student should know how he or she can login to the websites.

- K-5 English Language Arts: Journeys series published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
<http://www.thinkcentral.com>
- K-8 Math: GoMath! Series published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
<http://www.thinkcentral.com>
- Science K-5: HMH Science Florida by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- Social Studies K-5: Network Social Studies Florida by McGraw-Hill

WHS: <http://whs.wcsb.us/Resources/OnlineTextbooksHomeworkHelp/tabid/62588/Default.aspx>

WMS/RMS: <http://wms.wcsb.us/Resources/OnlineTextbooksHomeworkHelp/tabid/55902/Default.aspx>

IMPORTANT HIGH SCHOOL TESTS

WHS Guidance Department 926-2221

PSAT—This is the **PRE-Scholastic Aptitude Test**. The scores count when the PSAT is taken in 11th grade as qualifying scores for **NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS**. These are prestigious scholarships that target the top juniors in the country. Colleges will try to persuade National Merit Scholars to come to their schools.

ACT—The **American College Test** scores can be used for scholarships, for admission to most colleges, and for placement in classes at any community college. There are four parts to the test: Reading, English, Math, and Science Reasoning. The scores are averaged together to make a composite score with 36 being the highest. The ACT is offered several times a year for a fee. Spring of 11th grade is a good time to start taking the ACT, which can be taken several times. Ask in the WHS Guidance Department or go online to register.

SAT—The **Scholastic Assessment Test** scores can be used for scholarships, for admission to most colleges, and for placement in classes at any community college. There are three parts to the test: Verbal, Math, and Writing. A perfect score is 800 in each, totaling 2400. The SAT is offered several times a year for a fee. Spring of the 11th grade is a good time to start taking the SAT. Ask in the WHS Guidance Department or go online to register.

PERT— Postsecondary Education Readiness Test. This is a state **College Placement Test** that is given by the high school to students who wish to take it and can qualify students for dual enrollment. Any of the three tests, PERT, ACT or SAT, can be used for entrance into any of Florida’s community colleges.

The PERT, ACT or SAT must be taken and certain scores earned in order for students to take college dual enrollment classes while they are still in high school. Students can earn credit that counts for both high school and college. (See Special School Services/Programs/Resources)

ASVAB—The **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery** is a test given by all branches of the military to assess a student’s abilities and career interests. Your child does not have to be interested in joining the armed services to take this test. It is a good career interest assessment. Ask for details in the WHS Guidance Department.

AP These are **Advanced Placement** tests that are taken in the spring of an Advanced Placement course. College credit can be earned for certain scores on the AP tests, depending on the college or university. Currently, Wakulla High School offers Advanced Placement courses in English, Calculus, Statistics, World History, U.S. History, Psychology, Computer Science, American Government, Macroeconomics, Art History, and Environmental Science.

NOTE: The more often students take standardized tests, the more familiar they will be with the content and format. This helps reduce test anxiety.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP AT EACH GRADE LEVEL

Educators understand that parents are the first and most powerful teachers a child can have. You probably do many or all of the suggestions listed below, and have many more of your own ideas of ways to make learning experiences happen every day. Ask teachers for their suggestion of ways you can reinforce your child’s learning outside of the classroom.

Pre-K and Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read to your child. • Say the alphabet. Talk about sounds you hear in words— ”What do you see that starts like car? (cat) • Read alphabet books together. • Help them make up silly rhyming words like big pig, fat cat. • Help your child put story events in order (what came first, second...) • Play counting games like, “One, two buckle my shoe.” • Work on counting to 100 and matching the number of objects to a number. • Use calendars to work on all sorts of things—days of the week, months, numbers, sequences, seasons, etc. • Give your child small tasks that require following directions: “Put one spoon beside each plate.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read to your child. • Listen to your child read words and books to you. • Take your child to the public library. • Ask your child to repeat events from a story in order. • Play word and number games that make your child follow directions like BINGO, Candy Land, Chutes and Ladders. • Look for words that begin the same, end the same, rhyme, etc. on cereal boxes, magazines, road signs, anything. • Help your child name coins and count pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. Talk about how much is left when adding items and taking them away. • Help your child recognize difference shapes (circle, square, rectangle...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read to your child. • Have your child group objects into ones, tens, hundreds. • Listen to your child read to you. • Help him/her figure out the meaning of unknown words. Have him/her tell you a new word every day, listen for new words and use them in conversation. • Add and subtract items with your child. • Measure different objects with rulers, tape measurers, yardsticks. • Ask what your child did in school today and go over any work brought home. • Talk about words and ideas that mean the same thing: yard—lawn pretty—lovely small—minute great—wonderful

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP AT EACH GRADE LEVEL

Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read to your child. • Have him/her read to you. Ask what new words mean. • Talk about fractions. Pizza, oranges and other everyday items are great for seeing fractions. • Encourage your child to write letters to relatives, thank you notes, etc. • Go over work brought home from school. If he/she got a math problem wrong, can he/she show you how to do it now? • Talk about history and geography in ways that make sense to your child—family history, or who in the family lived through important historical events—where someplace is on the map, and what it’s like there—the land, people, weather, etc. • Help your child make routines for getting ready for school: homework in backpack, backpack by the door... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have your child read to you whenever possible—a recipe while you are cooking, directions while you are driving, etc. • Provide books and magazines. Ask his/her teacher if you’re not sure what is the best for this age. • Ask more thoughtful questions than just what happened in a story or article like “What would you have done in that situation?” • Have your child keep a record of how much television he/she watches in a week, total the time and show you the figures. Do the same with computer game time. Set limits on these. • Observe natural events like lightning strikes. Ask about what he/she is learning in science. • Ask him/her to show you what he/she is learning about fractions and decimals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If your child wants to go somewhere special or wants something important, have him/her persuade you in writing using specific reasons and details. • Talk about percents when you shop—how much off is a 15% discount? Work in money management tips as well. • Discuss ways to improve your neighborhood, town, etc. What are concrete ways your child can help others? Read to someone younger, cook for someone elderly, pick up trash? • Use calendars and clocks with hands to have your child figure out how long it will be until some important event. Ask him/her to explain how he/she figured it out. • Encourage quiet reading time just for fun. • Discuss ideas and tolerance of cultures different from yours.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP AT EACH GRADE LEVEL

MIDDLE SCHOOL—GRADES 6, 7, 8

- Get your child a “planner” - any notebook with a calendar in it that he/she can write in assignments and important due dates, practices, appointments, etc.
- Involve your child in activities that involve measurement and reading directions, such as programming equipment, cooking, building, or assembling items.
- Require your child to read something that interests him/her (sports magazines, teen novels, etc.) for 30 minutes each day without the television on.
- Know what web sites your child is exploring online and who they are chatting with. Be familiar with their accounts on Facebook.
- Reward what they do well and help them find solutions to areas they struggle with. For example, if time management is a problem, have them keep a journal for one week on television, computer, and phone time. Go over this with your child and see realistic ways he/she can find more time for doing homework and reading.
- Stay in touch with teachers, guidance counselors, and school officials if you have concerns about attendance, tardiness, poor grades, and/or behavior problems.

HIGH SCHOOL—GRADES 9, 10, 11, 12

- Reward responsible behavior (use of the car, going out with friends) and set realistic consequences that match the severity of the offense for poor choices (breaking curfews, alcohol/drug use).
- Require needed time for sleeping, healthy eating, studying and reading. If he/she says there is no homework, have your teen read over notes from class that day. This is the best way to learn material and study for a test instead of “cramming”. Homework doesn’t have to be only written work.
- Ask about what’s going on in and out of school. Judge the best times for talking—driving somewhere or whenever he/she is not overly tired or in a rush. Try open-ended questions like, “Tell me about what you are working on in science” so you don’t get yes or no answers. Know when big tests and projects are coming up.
- Know your teen’s friends and communicate with their parents. Be familiar with their accounts on Facebook.
- Know when progress reports and report cards come out and ask to see them. For these dates, call the school, read newsletters mailed home, or read the Student Handbooks that go home at the beginning of every year. Many teachers now have your teen’s assignments online. Ask the teacher or visit the school’s web site. Call your teen’s counselor for a parent-teacher conference if you have concerns.

**A CHECKLIST OF
TIPS FOR PARENTS**

<p>ACADEMIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Make sure that your child has all the appropriate materials at home & school like paper, pencils, pens, rules, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Call or e-mail your child's teacher. Ask him or her any questions that you might have concerning your child. <input type="checkbox"/> Review homework, progress reports, report cards, lunch notes or any written materials sent home by the school. <input type="checkbox"/> Discuss with your child each day the details of his/her day at school. Did any special things happen? Does he/she need help with homework? <input type="checkbox"/> Set a specific time and place for homework to be done. 	<p>BUILDING RESPONSIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a set routine for your child. You could do a daily routine, or by the week. <input type="checkbox"/> Hold your child responsible for his/her actions. Make your child accountable for the good and the bad choices made every day. <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that your child attends school every day, and is on time. <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage your child's participation in extracurricular and after-school activities. <input type="checkbox"/> Educate your child on the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco use. <input type="checkbox"/> Make house rules. Make a list of consequences if they are broken. <input type="checkbox"/> Give simple chores around the house such as feeding the animals and washing the dishes.
<p>HOME & SCHOOL CONNECTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at school when possible. <input type="checkbox"/> Attend open house, special events, field trips, sporting events, or other activities at school. <input type="checkbox"/> Become familiar with the School Improvement Plan, Student Progression Plan, Sunshine State Standards, FCAT requirements for promotion, and grade level expectations. All are online. <input type="checkbox"/> Attend a conference with your child's teacher. Ask questions about goals for the year. <input type="checkbox"/> Communicate on a regular basis with teachers in person, on the phone, e-mail, or in writing. 	<p>WAYS FOR PARENTS TO GET INVOLVED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reward responsible behavior. <input type="checkbox"/> Mentor a child within the school system. <input type="checkbox"/> Join the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). <input type="checkbox"/> Join the School Improvement Team. <input type="checkbox"/> Attend workshops/training sessions at school. <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Open House. <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to information that is sent home by the teacher or school.
<p>BEHAVIOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Watch for sudden changes in your child's school work, attitude, or grades. <input type="checkbox"/> Be aware of school expectations of your child. Make them practice these rules in and out of school. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinforce positive behavior such as respect for one's self and others, hard work, and responsibility. <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor what your child watches on T.V. and for how long each day. <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor computer use and sites visited. 	<p>ATTITUDE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lead by example. Show them how to be more responsible, or a better friend, or a hard worker. They learn by watching you. <input type="checkbox"/> Set short-term goals for your child to meet each nine weeks. <input type="checkbox"/> Celebrate good or improved grades and meeting goals with a special event. <input type="checkbox"/> Praise them for their accomplishments. <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage your child to do his/her best in and out of school.

SPECIAL SCHOOL SERVICES/PROGRAMS/RESOURCES

This is a brief list of services, programs, and resources offered at Wakulla County Schools. There are many more. Ask for information at the front desk or in the Guidance Office about any special programs unique to your child's school. Also, ask for more extensive information at each school about the programs listed below.

Preschool Programs

The Preschool Programs provide the basic building blocks for early learning by providing hands-on experiences that are age-appropriate for young children. They include: Head Start, Exceptional Student Education and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten. The Head Start program is designed for preschool children of economically disadvantaged families. The Exceptional Student Education Program serves preschool students with disabilities. Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten is a program open to all Florida four-year-olds. Call the Wakulla Education Center at 926-8111 for more information.

Elementary

Title I

The Title I program is designed to meet the needs of students in grades K-5 who need help with their academics. The purpose of the program is to diagnose, prescribe, and individualize instruction in reading/language arts and mathematics to help students work on grade level.

After School Academic Programs

After School Academic Programs are offered at all elementary schools at certain times in the year for students who are in need of extra help to pass the standardized assessments or who are not passing their core academic classes.

Summer School

A summer reading program is offered to third graders who have not met the standardized assessment requirements for promotion to fourth grade.

Middle School, High School, and Adult Education Programs

Credit Recovery

Middle and high school students can retake academic courses they have failed through some school day and summer programs.

Dual Enrollment

High school students who qualify can take TCC, or FSU courses for both high school and college credit. There is no cost to the student for tuition, fees, or books. Ask in the Wakulla High School Student Services.

Early Admission

Students who qualify can enroll for their entire senior year as a college freshman and take all of their courses off campus at TCC or FSU. There is no cost to the student for tuition, fees or books. Students early admitting at FSU will not be allowed to enroll for online courses.

Advanced Placement AP courses for possible college credit are offered at the high school level in English, Calculus, Statistics, World History, U.S. History, Psychology, Art History, and Environmental Science.

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)

This is a voluntary national program that students must be recommended for and apply for. It is an academic support program for 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade college prep students who meet specific requirements.

18- Credit Option

This is legislation that has specific requirements to graduate in three years. Ask for information at the WHS Student Services.

Early Head Start

This is designed to provide parenting teens and their children with educational and support services. This program is a voluntary program in which students are given the opportunity to continue their education while addressing such needs as: childcare, transportation for the student and child, parenting skills, and career awareness. Ask in the WHS Student Services.

Performance-Based Exit Option

This program gives students who are over age for their grade the opportunity to graduate with a regular high school diploma by completing an abbreviated curriculum, passing the FCAT, End of Course exams and passing the GED. Students cannot receive a diploma before their regular graduating class. Call the Sopchoppy Education Center for more information (962-2151).

General Education Diploma (GED)

The GED program gives individuals sixteen or older the opportunity to attend classes designed to prepare them for the GED test. Classes are offered at convenient times and locations in the district. Call 926-1841 for more information.

Pathways

Second Chance is an involuntary intervention program offered to students in grades 6-12 as an alternative to suspension and/or expulsion. It is also an involuntary placement for some students to make up credits due to failing grades and/or poor attendance.

Adult and Community Education

Adult and Community Education programs serve as a place for learning and activity opportunities for all ages. Wakulla Education Center offers adult vocational Workforce Development classes. Call 926-1841 for more information.

All School Levels

English Language Learners (ELL)

ELL services are provided to students who qualify based on an assessment of their ability to understand, speak, read, and write English. Students are provided with intensive English language instruction in the basic subject areas.

Extracurricular Activities

There are many school-sponsored activities like clubs or athletic teams that take place either before or after school. Ask for information at each school.

Exceptional Student Education (ESE)

In Florida, students who have special learning needs because of a disability qualify for exceptional students services. Exceptional education is designed to help students with disabilities progress in school, meet their goals, and prepare for life after school.

To receive exceptional education services your child must be eligible for at least one of the exceptionality categories. There is a Response to Intervention process to see if your child may be eligible to receive exceptional education services. If you have questions, you can begin by contacting your school guidance counselor. If your child is below the age of 5, you could contact the Staffing Specialist at 926-8111.

If your child is eligible for exceptional education services, a team will develop an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Parents are important members of this team. An IEP is a written plan that describes the individual learning needs of a student with a disability, the Exceptional Education services, supports, aids, and accommodations and modifications that will be provided to the student.

This is only a snapshot of information about Exceptional Student Education. If you need additional information on Exceptional Student Education please contact the Exceptional Student Education Office at 926-0065 or contact FDLRS/Miccosukee (Florida Diagnostic Learning and Resource System - parent services) at (850) 487-2630.

COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS IN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION

ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
DD	Developmentally Delayed
EBD	Emotional Behavior Disorder
FAPE	Free Appropriate Public Education
H/H	Hospital Homebound
HI	Hearing Impaired
InD	Intellectual Disability
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
OHI	Other Health Impaired
OT	Occupational Therapy
PT	Physical Therapy
S/L	Speech and Language
SLD	Specific Learning Disability
VE	Varying Exceptionalities
VI	Visually Impaired



Florida Immunization Requirements for School Entry 2018 - 2019 School Year



	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
DTP/DTaP 3-5 shots	***	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Polio 3-5 shots	***	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MMR- 1 shot	X													
MMR – 2 shots		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hib	***													
Hepatitis B Series	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tdap									X	X	X	X	X	X
Varicella- 1 shot or documented history of chicken pox	***								X	X	X	X	X	X
Varicella- 2 shots or documented history of chicken pox		X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Pneumococcal Conjugate Shots	***	X	X	X	X	X	X							

Pre-Kindergarten

4 DTP/DTaP shots

3 Polio shots

4 Hib shots: The number of doses of Hib may vary according to age that series was started or vaccine used. If child was over 15 months when first vaccine was given, one dose will be given.

1 MMR shot

3 Hepatitis B shots

1 Varicella (chicken pox) shot

4 Pneumococcal Conjugate shots: The number of shots may vary according to the age the series was started or vaccine used. If child was over 15 months when first shot was given, one dose will be given.

*** Pre-K students must have started the series and have a current immunization certificate.

Kindergarten and Grades 1-6

5 DTP/DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis) shots: If the 4th DTP/DTaP vaccine is administered on or after the fourth birthday, a 5th DTP/DTaP is not required.

4 Polio The fourth dose of polio should be given on or after child's fourth birthday & prior to kindergarten entry. If the fourth dose of polio was administered prior to the fourth birthday, a **fifth** dose of polio is required for kindergarten entry only.

2 MMR shots

3 Hepatitis B shots

2 Varicella (chicken pox) shots for **KG & grades 1-6**

1 Varicella (chicken pox) shot for **grades 7-12**

Grades 7-12

- 5 DTP/DTaP shots
- 4 Polio shots
- 2 MMR shots
- 3 Hepatitis B shots
- 1 Tdap shot for **grades 7-11**
- 1 Tdap or TD shot for **grades 11-12**
- 1 Varicella (chicken pox) shot for **grades 7-12**

For Parents:

*Please schedule your child's health check-up as soon as possible with your child's doctor. Vaccinations are normally given at this appointment. **Don't forget to take a copy of your child's shot record to their appointment!** If you do not have a shot record, get a copy from his/her previous health care provider or school. ***Your child may not be able to receive immunizations without a record of previous shots.*** Children without insurance or with Medicaid may receive immunizations at the Wakulla County Health Department. Call 926-0400 for an appointment. Others may also receive vaccinations at the Health Department on a case-by-case basis. (See below for contact information for the Immunization Nurse.)*

If your child is entering Kindergarten or the 7th Grade, they must bring proof to the school of having received the required vaccinations. Proof is: A valid Florida Certificate of Immunization, Form DH 680, printed on blue or white paper. Students that are new to the Florida school system or who are retained must also meet immunization requirements for the grade they will be attending.

EXEMPTIONS:

There are two types of exemptions: **MEDICAL** and **RELIGIOUS**. Your child's Doctor (MD or DO) must fill out the DH-680 form (part C) indicating a valid reason for medical exemption. Only the Health Department can grant a RELIGIOUS Exemption.

If you have questions, you may contact one of the following:

The registrar at the school your child will be attending.

The Wakulla County School Health Coordinator, Lori Lawhon, RN at 926-7125 ext. 276.

The Wakulla County Health Department Immunization Nurse, Kris Whitten, LPN at 926-0405.

MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINES

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1 What is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is a serious illness, caused by a bacteria. It is a leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2-18 years old in the United States.

Meningitis is an infection of fluid surrounding the brain and the spinal cord. Meningococcal disease also causes blood infections.

About 2,600 people get meningococcal disease each year in the U.S. 10-15% of these people die, in spite of treatment with antibiotics. Of those who live, another 11-19% lose their arms or legs, become deaf, have problems with their nervous systems, become mentally retarded, or suffer seizures or strokes.

Anyone can get meningococcal disease. But it is most common in infants less than one year of age and people with certain medical conditions, such as lack of a spleen. College freshmen who live in dormitories have an increased risk of getting meningococcal disease.

Meningococcal infections can be treated with drugs such as penicillin. Still, about 1 out of every ten people who get the disease dies from it, and many others are affected for life. This is why *preventing* the disease through use of meningococcal vaccine is important for people at highest risk.

2 Meningococcal vaccine

Two meningococcal vaccines are available in the U.S.:

- **Meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (MPSV4)** has been available since the 1970s.
- **Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4)** was licensed in 2005.

Both vaccines can prevent **4 types** of meningococcal disease, including 2 of the 3 types most common in the United States and a type that causes epidemics in Africa. Meningococcal vaccines cannot prevent all types of the disease. But they do protect many

people who might become sick if they didn't get the vaccine.

Both vaccines work well, and protect about 90% of those who get it. MCV4 is expected to give better, longer-lasting protection.

MCV4 should also be better at preventing the disease from spreading from person to person.

3 Who should get meningococcal vaccine and when?

A dose of MCV4 is recommended for children and adolescents 11 through 18 years of age.

This dose is normally given during the routine preadolescent immunization visit (at 11-12 years). But those who did not get the vaccine during this visit should get it at the earliest opportunity.

Meningococcal vaccine is also recommended for other people at increased risk for meningococcal disease:

- College freshmen living in dormitories.
- Microbiologists who are routinely exposed to meningococcal bacteria.
- U.S. military recruits.
- Anyone traveling to, or living in, a part of the world where meningococcal disease is common, such as parts of Africa.
- Anyone who has a damaged spleen, or whose spleen has been removed.
- Anyone who has terminal complement component deficiency (an immune system disorder).
- People who might have been exposed to meningitis during an outbreak.

MCV4 is the preferred vaccine for people 11-55 years of age in these risk groups, but MPSV4 can be used if MCV4 is not available. MPSV4 should be used for children 2-10 years old, and adults over 55, who are at risk.

How Many Doses?

People 2 years of age and older should get 1 dose. (Sometimes an additional dose is recommended for people who remain at high risk. Ask your provider.)

MPSV4 may be recommended for children 3 months to 2 years of age under special circumstances. These children should get 2 doses, 3 months apart.

4 Some people should not get meningococcal vaccine or should wait

- Anyone who has ever had a severe (life-threatening) **allergic reaction to a previous dose** of either meningococcal vaccine should not get another dose.
- Anyone who has a severe (life-threatening) **allergy to any vaccine component** should not get the vaccine. Tell your doctor if you have any severe allergies.
- Anyone who is **moderately or severely ill** at the time the shot is scheduled should probably wait until they recover. Ask your doctor or nurse. People with a **mild illness** can usually get the vaccine.
- Anyone who has ever had **Guillain-Barré Syndrome** should talk with their doctor before getting MCV4.
- Meningococcal vaccines may be given to pregnant women. However, MCV4 is a new vaccine and has not been studied in pregnant women as much as MPSV4 has. It should be used only if clearly needed.
- Meningococcal vaccines may be given at the same time as other vaccines.

5 What are the risks from meningococcal vaccines?

A vaccine, like any medicine, could possibly cause serious problems, such as severe allergic reactions. The risk of meningococcal vaccine causing serious harm, or death, is extremely small.

Mild problems

Up to about half of people who get meningococcal vaccines have mild side effects, such as redness or pain where the shot was given.

If these problems occur, they usually last for 1 or 2 days. They are more common after MCV4 than after MPSV4.

A small percentage of people who receive the vaccine develop a fever.

Severe problems

- Serious allergic reactions, within a few minutes to a few hours of the shot, are very rare.
- A serious nervous system disorder called **Guillain-Barré Syndrome** (or GBS) has been reported among some people who received MCV4. This happens so rarely that it is currently not possible to tell if the vaccine might be a factor. Even if it is, the risk is very small.

6 What if there is a moderate or severe reaction?

What should I look for?

- Any unusual condition, such as a high fever or behavior changes. Signs of a serious allergic reaction can include difficulty breathing, hoarseness or wheezing, hives, paleness, weakness, a fast heart beat or dizziness.

What should I do?

- **Call** a doctor, or get the person to a doctor right away.
- **Tell** your doctor what happened, the date and time it happened, and when the vaccination was given.
- **Ask** your doctor, nurse, or health department to report the reaction by filing a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) form.

Or you can file this report through the VAERS web site at www.vaers.org, or by calling 1-800-822-7967.

VAERS does not provide medical advice.

7 How can I learn more?

- Ask your doctor or nurse. They can give you the vaccine package insert or suggest other sources of information.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
 - Call **1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO)**
 - Visit CDC's National Immunization Program website at www.cdc.gov/vaccines
 - Visit CDC's meningococcal disease website at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/d11n/diseases/meningococcal.htm
 - Visit CDC's Travelers' Health website at www.cdc.gov/travel



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Before and After School Childcare Programs:

Wakulla Senior Citizens Council 926-7145

Behavior Management:

Capital City Youth Services (850) 508-5802 available 11a..m. -7:00 p.m.

Children's Home Society, Family Connection 921-8989

Career Counseling:

Big Bend Work Force Center 926-0980

Counseling:

Apalachee Center for Human Services 926-5900

Capital City Youth Services 926-5529 or 576-6000

Helpline24 224-6333

School Counselors- contact your child's school

Disc Village, Wakulla County Human Service Center 926-2452

Wakulla County One Stop Community Center (850)745-6042

Free Materials and Information:

Florida Department of Education <http://www.fldoe.org>

Office of Family Involvement <http://www.fldoe.org/family/pdf/bfco.pdf>

The Partnership for Family Involvement in Education

National: <http://www.thefamilyworks.org>

Florida: <http://www.fndfl.org/partnership>

National Parent Information Network <http://www.npin.org>

FCAT Explorer <http://www.fcatexplorer.com>

Florida PTA <http://www.floridapta.org>

Parents Place <http://www.parentsplace.com>

Family Education Network <http://www.familyeducation.com>

ParentSmart <http://www.parentsmart.com>

Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) 487-2630

Healthcare:

Children's Medical Services 487-2604

Capital Regional Medical Center 656-5000

Tallahassee Memorial Hospital 681-1155

Wakulla County Health Department 926-0400

Wakulla Medical Center 984-4735

Housing:

Wakulla County Housing Department 877-1908

Wakulla County Low-Income Home Energy Assistance 926-3122

Library:

Wakulla County Library 926-7415

Wilderness Coast Public Library 926-4571

Recreation Activities:

Wakulla County Recreation Department 926-7227

Workshops/Training:

Family Network on Disabilities 847-0010 <http://fndfl.org>

Wakulla County Extension Service 926-3931

