



WAKULLA COUNTY



2019-2020 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT





Robert Pearce
Superintendent

Verna Brock
District I

Melisa Taylor
District II

WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

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Cale Langston
District III

Greg Thomas
District IV

Jo Ann Daniels
District V

Dear Citizens of Wakulla County:

This year's Superintendent Report aims to give us a picture of all of the great achievements of our faculty, staff, and student's during the 2019-2020 school year.

Our district Teacher of the Year for 2019-2020 was Katrina Roddenberry from Wakulla Middle School. Mrs. Roddenberry is an innovative educator by any standard and brings enrichment to both her school and our community of educators as a whole.

The end of the 2019 school year saw Wakulla with a graduation rate that exceeded state averages and ranked among the very highest in Florida. Additionally, we continued with our trend of getting students industry certifications with 493 earned across the district. These and other programs were only on the trajectory to continue during the 2019-2020 school year.

While the Covid-19 pandemic put an abrupt end to the 2019-2020 year we were reminded of what makes Wakulla the strong community it is. Even in difficult circumstances we had numerous teachers and staff volunteer for EdPack dispersal and food delivery through the closure. Transportation and Food Service worked tirelessly to ensure that we could get meals out to our students and encourage everyone to stay safe and socially distance as much as possible.

Wakulla County Schools continues to work toward providing a rigorous and enriching education for all students. As we move forward with the new school year, it is our hope that we can continue to give students the opportunity to pursue their interests, build their skills, and engage with all areas of their education while staying safe and working through the unique challenges posed by what is to come.

Thank you all again for giving us another year with Wakulla County's children.

Robert R. Pearce
Superintendent



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Dear Citizens of Wakulla County:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve the past twenty years as a member of your School Board. I truly appreciate the trust you placed in me to work for our children. As my service comes to an end, I reflect on the blessing it has been to be a part of a truly amazing school system.

During these past twenty years we have built two new elementary schools, added wings to two others, renovated Wakulla Middle School, and are currently working on a new transportation building. We have also grown and improved our athletic facilities and our career and technical facilities. Our children are fortunate to attend some of the highest quality and best maintained educational facilities in the state of Florida.

Our district has remained financially solvent through multiple economic challenges over the past twenty years. A school system with stable financial management is key to preventing disruptions in a quality educational program. While some Florida school districts were making unwise spending decisions that ultimately led the Florida Department of Education to step in and take over the district, Wakulla County used its funding wisely and actually expanded educational offerings for students.

The Wakulla County School District is consistently among the highest rated school districts in the state. This is because the citizens of Wakulla County recognize that the key to our future is found in the quality of education our children receive today. The community support for our schools is second to none, which is why they are so successful. In addition, Wakulla County is truly fortunate to have hundreds of fine people working every day to meet the educational needs of our children.

On behalf of all your School Board members, let me assure you we will not waver in our commitment to providing the highest quality education to the children of Wakulla County. We are blessed to serve on a board where we are surrounded by an amazing group of educational leaders, teachers and staff all working together for the benefit of our kids. Thank you all for your commitment to our children.

Sincerely,

Greg Thomas
Chairman

We are proud of our schools!



The Wakulla County School District is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, which is an accreditation division of AdvancED.

VISION

We will provide a rigorous and appropriate education that results in success for all students.

MISSION

We are committed to success for all students, teachers, staff, and our community.

CORE VALUES *(governing our Way of Work)*

We will always:

- Make decisions based on the best interest of the students;
- Behave in an ethical manner;
- Prepare students for productive citizenship;
- Be willing to try innovative research-based programs;
- Employ highly trained and dedicated individuals who can work effectively in their assigned positions;
- Treat each person with dignity, and honor their right to be safe;
- Recognize the uniqueness and capability of each student;
- Set high expectation, and embrace a challenging curriculum;
- Celebrate our cultural heritage and the diversity that enriches our lives;
- Embrace (implement as an expected standard) technology to engage students and enhance education;
- Work to involve our community and all stakeholders in the educational process;
- Teach and practice responsibility and service to others;
- Teach students to be accountable for their own actions;
- Focus on continuous improvement for student achievement and professional growth;

We will never:

- Compromise or stop striving for excellence;
- Give up on a student.

DISTRICT STAFF

Robert Pearce
Superintendent

Randy Beach
Chief Finance Officer

Sunny Chancy
Chief Academic Officer

Angela Walker
Executive Director of
Human Resources

Randy Bristol
Executive Director of Facilities
& Maintenance

Tanya English
Executive Director of ESE
& Student Services

Krista Sharin
Coordinator of Special Programs

Timothy Stephens
Director of Technology Services

Jim Griner
Coordinator of Safety &
Risk Management

Pat Jones
Coordinator of Transportation

Lori Sandgren
Coordinator of Curriculum

Dod Walker
Director of Adult, Athletic and
Diversity Recruitment Programs

2019-2020



In the 2019-2020 school year the faculty and staff at CES, under the leadership of Principal Louis Hernandez and Assistant Principal Alena Crawford, continued carrying out Crawfordville's vision during this unprecedented time in history. Students at Crawfordville Elementary School experienced another great year of learning in an atmosphere of warmth, trust, and respect. Our teachers bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our students. The Cougar Family was joined by kindergarten teacher Rebecca Culley, 2nd grade teacher Tawanda Bowen, and 3rd grade teacher Amanda Gaines.

Parents and family members play an important role in the education of children. Crawfordville continued on its path to involve parents in their child's education through hosting numerous activities throughout the school year. There were opportunities to attend activities before school, during the school day, and in the evening that fostered parental involvement. Such events included our Annual Country Fair, Title I Annual Parent Night, Grand Luncheon, Parent/Teacher Conference Nights, Awards Assemblies, Winter Holiday Program, and the Annual Chili Cook-Off. One of the most memorable events of the year took place in September. Our campus hosted over 250 dads, granddads, uncles, brothers, and other male role models in honor of Donuts for Dads Day. This special day was our version of Florida's initiative "Dads Take Your Child to School Day" designed to highlight the significant difference dads and other male role models can make by taking a more active role in their children's educational experience.

Students at CES read an impressive number of books this year. As a school, we read 97,269,636 words! Grade level word counts are as follows: Kindergarten-59,618 words; 1st-449,289 words; 2nd-11,006,782 words; 3rd-11,090,941 words; 4th-31,237,621 words; and 5th-43,425,385 words.

We did not do a Million Word Club this year, but instead, we focused on a Word Count Club, with different requirements for each grade. Twenty-six teachers and students across all grade levels reached the grade-level goal. Mrs. Brazier's and Mrs. Parks' classes received the Sunshine Classroom Award and five kindergarten classrooms that received the 100 Book award (Pearce, Willis, Stallings, Cason, and Henderson). Individual students with the highest word counts were: KG-Ellie Morales (18,926 words), 1st-Joseph Edwards (35,119 words), 2nd-Fysher Antrobus (729,618 words), 3rd-Grayson Cummins (880,510 words), 4th-PJ Brazier (2,248,142 words), and 5th-Kendal Cole (3,933,499 words).

Throughout the year, our students were involved in the learning process through a variety of special activities. Students participated in the Spelling Bee, Battle of the Books, Student Council, Fire Prevention Day, SAVE, Project Learning Tree Week (PLT), Dr. Seuss Day and Read-Across America Day. Not only did students have amazing learning opportunities during the school day, but Crawfordville hosted several after-school enrichment activities: STEAM Club K-1, STEAM Club 3-5, Odyssey of the Mind, and Garden Club, all providing a chance for our students to apply their learning to new situations.

Crawfordville students also worked to improve their computer literacy skills. Twenty-first century students must build their repertoire of computer literacy skills. Over 40 fourth and fifth grade students completed several industry certifications through the ICT program. This year we expanded the program to our fourth-grade students through an afterschool club. This wonderful program will be available to fourth and fifth grade students again in the year to come.

Our hard-working staff had several honors throughout the school year. Several teachers were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the school and teaching profession. Kris Cason was our November 2019 Teacher of the Month and Christy Byrne was our March 2020 Teacher of the Month. In December, Heather Hatfield was selected by her peers as Teacher of the Year!

We love our Cougar families! We are looking forward to the year to come with the support of all our stakeholders.



LOUIS HERNANDEZ – PRINCIPAL

CRAWFORDVILLE ELEMENTARY

Medart Elementary shined bright in 2019-2020! Our theme this year was "Reach for the Stars"! Mustang students had many opportunities to participate in learning activities that were both fun and educational. Throughout the school year we had guest speakers, educational field trips, and hands on learning opportunities that gave our students real world opportunities to learn. Some of these experiences included educational field trips to Wakulla Springs and the Challenger Learning Center for fourth and fifth grade, Project Learning Tree week, and a Family Engagement Night that incorporated hands-on science activities for students and parents to enjoy. In addition, our third grade students were given the opportunity to watch a concert performance by the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra. We are extremely thankful for the opportunities our students are given to experience real world learning through field trip experiences.

During the course of the school year teachers were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the school and teaching profession. Fourth grade teacher, Sandra Whaley, was our October 2019 Teacher of the Month and first grade teacher, Gwen Fitzpatrick, was our February 2020 Teacher of the Month. In December, Ginni Brown represented Medart as she was selected by her peers as Teacher of the Year! We are proud of our Mustang teachers for how dedicated they are to their profession, school, and students!

In November, Medart Elementary became the first public school in Wakulla County to purchase a book vending machine. The vending machine was purchased through MES fundraising efforts. With support from the MES School Advisory Council, books were purchased for the machine to promote reading school-wide. Students earned tokens for academic success, Accelerated Reader achievements, behavior rewards, and more. This fun and educational vending machine encouraged our students to improve their reading skills!

We also held our first annual Science Expo in February. The Science Expo gave fifth-grade students at MES the opportunity to conduct an investigation or experiment of a scientific topic. This allowed them to utilize their science knowledge and skills through scientific understanding and implementation to conduct creative and innovative experiments and investigations. The Science Expo was conducted in conjunction with Wakulla Middle School's science program. WMS students acted as judges for the science expo categories. Awards were given for categories like the Grossest, Funniest, Most Likely to Explode, and more! This was a great experience for all participants.

Medart's Odyssey of the Mind team was coached by teachers Melissa Hill and Sandra Whaley. Odyssey team members included Brayden Britt, Neveah Cherry, Mattie McGuire, O'ren McMillan, Isaac Murray, Ava Pope, and Seth Ward. These shining stars qualified for the state tournament in the worldwide program "Odyssey of the Mind". Due to the pandemic our Odyssey team did not get to participate in the state competition, but they did a great job representing our school, district, and community at the regional competition by taking first place in their problem and division.

Our annual spelling bee was an exciting one this year! Our winners was fourth grader Braeden Pigott and the runner-up was fifth grader Hadley Brown. Braeden and Hadley both went on to compete in the Wakulla County District Spelling Bee where Braeden won and represented our county at the regional Spelling Bee in Tallahassee. This is a huge accomplishment and we are proud of our Mustangs!

A new afterschool club, "The Bucking Bookworms", was created at Medart Elementary this year to encourage students to read outside of the classroom. This club drew in students from kindergarten through fifth grade. Our goal was to instill a love of reading in our students. Reading for fun is a positive way to improve reading skills in the classroom, and also introduces students to a wide range of information. The "Bucking Bookworms" traveled to Tallahassee to hear author Kate DiCamillo speak, and each student received a signed book from the author!

We are looking forward to another great year in 2020-2021 with our Magnificent Mustangs!



STAN WARD – PRINCIPAL

MEDART ELEMENTARY





Zig Ziglar states *"Your attitude, not your aptitude, will determine your altitude."* Riversink Otters understand this philosophy and worked to rise to new heights this year. Our school implemented several new programs that allowed students to experience maximum growth. For example, our fourth and fifth grade students worked diligently on acquiring new industry certifications in computer essentials and cybersecurity. In total, they were able to complete 55 certifications all together. This was an impressive achievement and we look forward to having even more certifications in coming years.

At Riversink, we take every opportunity to celebrate student achievement. We started a million word reader program this school year. We had twenty-two students read over a million words. Caden Stokley Crum, Mirri Craig, Collin Fletcher and Logan Haas were able to read over two million words. We also had many mathematicians that were able to celebrate with quarterly math fact parties. Our Otter staff takes every opportunity to highlight student achievements.

Keeping with tradition, our fifth grade Otters participated in the S.A.V.E. program through the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office. Four outstanding students wrote about substance abuse and violence education. These students were Payton Durand, Nakiah Gross, Logan Haas and Mariah White. They presented their speeches during a S.A.V.E. graduation.

Other events that deserve recognition is our Brain Brawl competition and Spelling Bee. We had two teams in an academic excellence competition. The winning team members were Ronan Taylor, Sophia Guess, Adalyn Moore, Marynette Kutty and Kaylin Rose. Our annual Spelling Bee was a fierce competition. It went multiple rounds with extremely difficult words. Our winner was Destiny Avery and our alternate was Logan Haas.

The excellence that Riversink continues to maintain would not be possible without our tremendously talented staff. Our Otter staff selected Mari Kimbrel as the teacher of the year. Mrs. Kimbrel is currently a fifth grade teacher. She is certified in k-6, has a reading endorsement, ESOL endorsement and is ESE certified. Mari strives for excellence every day and believes in the power of a positive relationship with students. We also celebrated Vicki Strickland as the Teacher of the Month for October. Ms. Strickland has served as an educator for over 40 years. This was her last year of teaching and we wish her much happiness in her new season of life. Other honors went to Mikki Wilson as employee of the month. Mrs. Wilson works as the Data Entry Clerk for Riversink. She is always professional and willing to help. Lastly, Mr. Breon Parker was named paraprofessional of the month. Mr. Parker serves in our Emotional Behavioral Classroom. He is one of a kind and has an amazing connection with our students.



SIMEON NELSON – PRINCIPAL

RIVERSINK ELEMENTARY

Shadeville Elementary School is a community of thoughtful learners, experienced educators, and supportive parents. Our school provides an engaging and well-rounded environment, and nurtures a variety of learning styles and interests. The educational programs at the school are tailored to be both relevant and challenging. It is our desire that each of our students will develop a love for learning that will inspire them throughout their lives.

The 2019-2020 school year at Shadeville Elementary, under the guidance of Principal Nicholas Weaver and Assistant Principal Frankie Harvey, faced new challenges during an unprecedented time in history. The administrators, faculty, and staff persevered with open minds and strong support for their students, parents, and community members.

SES teaching staff is represented by a group of individuals who encompass a broad range of backgrounds and experiences. This year, SES said goodbye to three retiring teachers. Judy Paris, a fifth grade teacher and previous Wakulla County Teacher of the Year, Susan Jamison, our Media Specialist, and KG teacher Kim Scott, retired. Several new additions rounded out the Warrior faculty. Bailee Mardis and Felicia Pietrzak joined our first grade team. Tammy Wade joined our second grade team. Latoya Harvey joined our third grade team. Allison Garrett joined our fourth grade team. Emily Bridges and Brittany Barnes became members of our fifth grade team. Betsy Williamson joined as Media Specialist.

Deputy Brandon Hunt proudly served as our School Resource Officer. Maggie Greene, Jennifer Hallaian, Sandra Weeks, and Chelsie Bailey were hired as paraprofessionals to assist faculty and students.

Parents are important partners in education and are truly involved in each aspect of a successful school. Parents were involved in many SES activities throughout the year. Events took place during the school day and in the evenings, giving a wide range of opportunities to participate in the school culture. Events included Grand Luncheon, Dad's Day, Donut's for Dad's, Parent/Teacher Conference Nights, Awards Assemblies, Kindergarten Circus, Title 1 Parent Night, Star Students, and a Costume Parade. Bingo Night replaced the annual Fall Festival due to inclement weather on the original festival date and turned out to be a huge success with amazing participation from parents, students, and community members.

SES Warriors read an exceptional amount of books this year! Students read a total of 122,499,231 words during the school year which is slightly less than the previous school year but still an awesome achievement considering the impact of Covid-19. SES had one 6 Million Word Reader, one 4 Million Word Reader, two 3 Million Word Readers, four 2 Million Word Readers, and twenty-three 1 Million Word Readers for a total of 31 members in the Million Word Readers Club. The following students represented their grade level with the highest word count: Raelyn Prentiss (Kindergarten - 33,007 words), Katelyn Weaver (1st grade - 346,035 words), Kaeden Kilgore (2nd grade - 1,298,226 words), Alexa Weaver (3rd grade - 6,029,167 words), Kylee Miller (4th grade - 3,034,510 words), and Annabella Vernon (5th grade - 4,029,456 words). Representing the whole student body population and receiving the Highest Word Count award for the 2019-2020 school year was Alexa Weaver!

Students participated in several clubs and competitions throughout the school year. These extracurricular activities help strengthen the school community. In addition to helping students explore their passions, they were allowed the chance to widen their social circles and work with different teachers as well. These activities include Brain Brawl, Student Leadership, Spelling Bee, Safety Patrol, Red Ribbon Week, Canned Food Drives, and the Project Learning Tree activities. Alexa Weaver and Jasmine Carnivale represented SES at the Wakulla County Sodexo Future Chef Challenge. SES's Odyssey of the Mind team, coached by Starla Perry and Kerry Adams, competed in "The Fashion Bug" challenge. Students were challenged with designing costumes and creating a commercial to advertise their creations. Team members included Michael Nall, Kaeden Kilgore, Katelyn Weaver, Kendyl Byrd, Edison Zak, Bowen Wells, and Jackson Yarbrough.

Students, regardless of interests, must be avid in using computers whether it be to create a file, write a report, or research a certain subject. SES students finished several industry certification courses during the 2019-2020 school year. All fourth and fifth grade students were given the opportunity to complete the challenging curriculum. Students exceeded the goal of 40 industry certifications by earning a total of 99 certifications; 72 more than the previous school year! Students earned 36 Communications

certifications, 3 Gaming certifications, 3 Computing certifications and 57 Cyber Security certifications. Fourth Graders earned 25 of the certifications while fifth graders earned 74 certifications. Fourth and fifth graders will continue this program next year.

Students were rewarded for excellent behavior throughout the school year by participating in "Arrow" Pep Rally's. The "Arrows" program was initiated to encourage students to Aim high with a positive attitude, Respect themselves and others, exhibit Responsible Behavior, Obey the rules the first time, be a Warrior who displays kindness, and make SES a Safe place to be. Arrows were entered into weekly drawings and collected throughout each grading period for big prize drawings during each Pep Rally.

During the course of the year, numerous employees were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the school and teaching profession. Lisa Brown was chosen by her peers as Teacher of the Month for September 2019. Cindy Pandolfi was recognized in December as Employee of the Month. Betsy Williamson was chosen as January's Teacher of the Month. To cap off the teacher recognitions, ESE teacher, Ro Samlal, was selected as SES's 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year.

Although the 2019-2020 school year ended in an untraditional manner; faculty and staff members, teachers, students, and parents continued to work hard and prepare students for a promising 2020-2021 school year.



NICHOLAS WEAVER – PRINCIPAL

SHADEVILLE ELEMENTARY

The 2019-2020 school year was nothing like anyone expected, but it certainly was an interesting one. While we did not get to do all we planned to do, we still had a very successful year.

AVID students visited with the Tuskegee Airmen at the Tallahassee Airport. Hailey Kemp, Madison Gilley, Bricyn Kennedy, and Donelle Gay were issued the Red Tail Spirit Award for designing and giving a presentation on the Tuskegee Airmen. Their presentation was given to teachers as RMS hosted Bay County for an AVID seminar, and again to students as our school celebrated Black History Month. The Black History Month Assembly and Celebration was student-led, and featured the RMS Jazz Band as well as Guest Speaker Sam McGrew. AVID Ambassadors went to Shadeville Elementary School to read and interact with several of the elementary school classes throughout the year. RMS AVID students raised over \$300 for Camp Boggy Creek, a camp for children who are affected by cancer. RMS started donating annually to the camp when one of our RMS Bears attended the camp several years ago. Students also participated in a canned food drive at Thanksgiving and a change drive to buy Christmas presents for classmates and their families who needed assistance this holiday season. AVID also promoted "Wear Blue Day" to advocate and bring awareness for Diabetes and the people living with it, including several of their peers.

Our amazing Academic Team competed in five tournaments this year, three of which were hosted at RMS. At the first tournament, the Riversprings Middle School Fall Invitational, we fielded three teams and took 3rd, 5th, and 9th place. Our second tournament was the Lewis Falcons Middle School Academic Tournament in Pensacola, where our team came in 5th place. Our third tournament was the Riversprings Middle School December Open, which used high school questions. Our team came in 3rd place. Next was the Aggie Middle School Challenge in Pensacola, where our team placed 2nd. Our last was the 2nd annual Riversprings Middle Spring Break Invitational. We fielded three teams, one of which tied for first place. The Academic Team earned a qualifying bid to the National Academic Quiz Tournament National Championship, for the fourth year in a row and the fifth time overall. Unfortunately, the National Tournament was cancelled.

Riversprings once again hosted the Nature Coast Odyssey of the Mind Regional Tournament on February 22, 2020, comprised of area teams including 7 teams from Wakulla County. Riversprings placed second in their category.

The Riversprings Symphonic Band, comprised of 40 seventh and eighth grade students, entertained the crowd at several RMS football home games. The band earned an Excellent on their concert music at this year's Music Performance Assessment (MPA). In addition, they earned a Superior rating for their sight reading. Our Concert Band, made of 18 seventh grade students, scored a Good and an Excellent in sight reading. Both bands' ratings were as close as possible to the next highest rating. Individually, 13 students performed solos and/or ensembles for the Solo & Ensemble judging, with 11 acts receiving a Superior rating and two receiving an Excellent. Five students earned the honor of participating in the All-District Band. RMS Chorus comprised of 54 students continued to impress this year, and earned an Excellent rating on their MPA, and an Excellent in sight reading. Students Georgia Gumphrey, Brooke Millender, and Madalyn Stewart represented our county in the FMEA All State Honor Chorus. The RMS Drama Troupe continued to amaze as they performed their fall musical this year, "Peter Pan."

Elli Kieser placed second and Mahala McDonald placed third in this year's Coastal Optimist Club Oratorical Contest. The Coastal Optimist Club also sponsors an essay competition, and Taylor Thorne took home first place, and Sadie Callaghan placed second in the district. Taylor went on to represent our district in the regional competition.

Matthew Nelson and Gabe Bruce represented RMS in the county Spelling Bee.

Eighth grade Integrated Science classes under the direction of Mrs. Carol Broome designed interactive mini-lessons to demonstrate the phases of the Moon and the movement of the Earth and Moon. These mini-lessons were presented to fifth grade students from Shadeville Elementary, who came over to visit and take part in the this student-led instruction.

RMS athletic teams had another outstanding year. Our football team was undefeated going into the last game of the regular season. Our volleyball team went 13-0 during regular season while holding first place in the Big Bend Conference with an 8-0 record. Not only did the team, have an undefeated season, they also beat Taylor County for the Big Bend Conference Championship. Our boys' soccer team placed second in the conference and the boys' basketball team placed third. Our wrestling team brought home another County Championship, having held that title now for 17 years straight.

Riversprings also saw several members of the Bear Family honored this year. Ingrid Funderburke was celebrated as Wakulla County Employee of the Month for February. Deana Davis was selected as the Wakulla County Teacher of the Month for November, and Bethany Pafford was honored as the Wakulla County Teacher of the Month for March. Jessica Wells, RMS Athletic Director and Associate Dean of Discipline, was named Riversprings Teacher of the Year.

We look forward to the challenges that the 2020-2021 school year will bring. Our Bear Family will be charging headlong into the new year under the leadership of Principal Joshua Sandgren and Assistant Bethany Pafford.



MICHELLE YEOMANS – PRINCIPAL
RIVERSPRINGS MIDDLE



Wakulla Middle School accomplished another amazing school year! A very special thanks goes out to our teachers who planned and implemented engaging lessons for our students. Thank you to our parents for volunteering and dedicating time to support our students with their learning. Thank you to our students for challenging themselves and working hard to meet their goals. Although this year was one like no other, our WMS team came together and supported our students so that they would finish the school year out on top! We could not be more proud of our Wildcat Family and the dedication they had for the school this year!

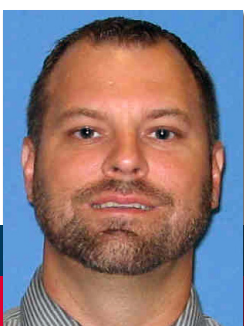
Our very own 8th Grade Science Teacher, Katrina Roddenberry, was honored as Wakulla Middle School and Wakulla County School District's Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Roddenberry sees the importance of hands on learning and enriching science lessons so that her students can have a solid understanding of how science impacts our life. Katrina Roddenberry also leads a group of 8th grade students in a nation NASA challenge every year. We could not be more proud to have a teacher like her working at WMS, her prestige knowledge and unique implementation of the standards make her stand out both inside and outside the classroom. In October, we recognized Mrs. Deneen for being WMS' Teacher of the Month! She is a 7th grade ELA/Critical Thinking teacher and encourages her students each day to expand on their writing abilities. She is also our Girls' Cross Country Coach where she incorporates the importance of living a healthy lifestyle with training the students on increasing their running abilities. We are very thankful that Mrs. Deneen is part of our Wildcat team! In February, we recognized Jessica Pichard for being WMS' Teacher of the Month! Mrs. Pichard is our Associate Dean of Student Services and works with students that need additional supports and direction in order to be successful! Mrs. Pichard is also Wakulla Middle School's Cheerleading Coach. We appreciate the dedication and outstanding work these ladies put towards helping our students be successful.

This school year, our 6th graders experienced a unique look into the Wakulla Springs for Florida LIFE program which is a way for students to learn how science affects their daily lives through outdoor science lessons. Through this learning, our students were able to gain a wealth of knowledge and have first-hand experience of the content being taught in the classroom. A huge thank you to our sixth grade science teachers for bringing science alive for our students. Under the Direction of Amanda Hofheinz, our AVID students were able to take a tour of Florida State University. This field trip allowed the students to become familiar with the various programs and fields that Florida State, and other universities have to offer. By researching and developing understanding of these programs, our students can start planning their long term goals for after high school!

Wakulla Middle School's academic achievement is evident in our school through each content area. Although our school ended abruptly and we were not able to conclude the year with our Spring Award Ceremonies, our students had notable success worth celebrating. Jordyn Hatfield, Zhaniya Reed, Isabella Taff, Kane Tucker, Nathan Braverman, Parker Lawhon, Lily McMillan, and Riley Carraway were recognized for being on our 2019-2020 Honor Court. Sh'Kaiyah Elmore and Preston Trahan were honored with being our 2019-2020 Seed Pearl winners. This award is given to our students for making tremendous growth during their time at Wakulla Middle School. Logan McManus was our 2019-2020 Oracle and Noah Alford was our Laureate. We could not be more proud of the amazing accomplishments our students made this year!

Wakulla Middle School believes in empowering students to branch out and try new clubs and sports. We believe that students can succeed both in the classroom and outside of the classroom. This year, our football team made an excellent achievement by becoming the 2019 Big Bend Conference Champions. Joe Medley, Billy Monroe, Tommy Ferguson, and Bill Peck dedicated a large portion of their time to these young men in order to make this happen. They worked tirelessly to mentor and coach them on learning plays, routes, and defensive blocks. We could not be more proud of our football team for going undefeated all season long! Wakulla Middle School Band competed in their annual All-State competition where they received a Superior rating. Haley Shimer is a fearless leader that demonstrates her students' talents through their performances.

This year was one that we all will certainly not forget, but our team worked and was successful with the time that we did have at school! Our faculty and staff came together to do what they could to support the students at home during the last couple of months at school! A special shout out all of our cafeteria staff for making the quick transition from cooking to putting bagged meals together so that our students did not go hungry while they were at home. Another special shout out to our bus drivers for delivering the meals to our students! It is stories like these that make me proud to be a WMS Wildcat!



TOLAR GRIFFIN – PRINCIPAL

WAKULLA MIDDLE

It is well known in Native American folklore that one of the greatest strengths the eagle possesses is its ability to fly above a storm. The 2019-2020 school year was not without its fair share of storms and our Wakulla War Eagles proved to be both strong and resilient. Wakulla High School began the 2019-2020 school year as one of the top 10 schools in the State of Florida for our 2019 graduation rate. Over the last seven years we have steadily maintained our tradition of excellence as our graduation rates continue to rise. Class of 2020 upheld this outstanding achievement boasting an extraordinary graduation rate of 99.7%, graduating 322 of 323 students, an incredible increase of 4.7% from the previous school year.

A notable influence on student achievement is the success of WHS's career and technical education (CTE) program. During the 2019-2020 school year, even amidst the global pandemic and school closure, 210 students earned industry certifications through their vocational programs. In 2019, WHS added a new aerospace program to the list of CTE vocational programs, which saw two students pass their certification in its inaugural year. We are also extremely proud of our Medical Academy graduates, this year Instructor Kristi Lawhon saw 100% of her students pass their CNA certification exams, no small feat for our resilient Class of 2020!

Undeniably, WHS's consistent high performance is not achieved without the passion and dedication of our faculty and staff. This year, educators Dalynda Vause and Jessica Mapes were chosen by their peers as the Teachers of the Month for September and January, respectively. Mrs. Dalynda Vause plays an integral role in our Career and Technical program as a Career Specialist. Mrs. Jessica Mapes was selected not only for her role as a Student Advisor in Guidance, but also for her tremendous work as Wakulla High School's Testing Coordinator. Wakulla High School is proud to have Ms. Victoria Pope as its 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Pope is not only the high school's Media Specialist Librarian, she is also our Special Areas department chair, our social media and public relations coordinator, and has received the faculty superlative of Most School Spirit.

The 2019-2020 school year saw several War Eagles proudly represent Wakulla High School at the national and state level. Notably, Senior Alexandra "Ally" Harden earned the title of Commended Scholar from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Ally was one of 34,000 students recognized as Commended Scholars due to her high score on the PSAT/NMSQT. She scored in the top 3 to 4 percent in the nation. Junior Gracie Lawhon was honored as Wakulla School District's 2020 Sunshine State Scholar, having been one of only 103 students in the State of Florida to be selected for this prestigious group of peers.

Extra-curricular activities and clubs enjoyed many noteworthy endeavors during 2019-2020. Two new clubs were re-established this year: Dance Club and Spanish Culture Club. National Honor Society, sponsored a school-wide service project, including a Bingo for Bottles fundraiser event, to purchase a brand-new water fountain/bottle filling station. This new, EZH2O bottle filling station—which chills and filters water—is the first system of its kind in a Wakulla County School. A group of 32 students, including many members of the Diversity Club, were able to participate with the Wakulla High School's Civil Rights Tour, now in its third year. This year's itinerary included many historic locations including the Dexter Parsonage and the Peace and Justice Memorial Center in Montgomery, AL.

Wakulla High School's performing arts department continued to shine this past school year. The drama department presented two very successful performances last fall, Alice in Wonderland and The Last Illusion. Troupe 5036 had an outstanding showing at districts with 16 of its members earning superiors for either their solo or group performances. Particularly, Adriana Fortier received Best in District in Technical Design and was selected to be District One's Technical Representative for the State Festival. Dominic Vargas won the All-Star Cast Award. Our Wakulla War Eagles Marching Band had an exceptional performance at District MPAs garnering multiple Superior ratings. Art students, under the guidance of Mrs. Cassie Tucker, participated in a special project for the Florida State University Coastal and Marine Laboratory located in St. Teresa. Seventeen students collaborated together to brainstorm and paint the "Coral Conservation" mural which is currently on display at the laboratory.

Many of our Wakulla War Eagle athletic teams dominated their seasons this year. Varsity football made it to Final Four of FHSAA Class 5A state playoffs, earning the titles of District and Regional Champions all along their road to state. Varsity volleyball was District Champions and made it all the way to the Elite Eight of FHSAA Class 5A. Our Girls Cross Country Team qualified for FHSAA cross-country state finals. This was the first time since 2014 that our girls have qualified as a team! Our Lady War Eagle Varsity soccer team, led by Coach Paul Rivera, won District Champions for FHSAA Class 3A. Even though our athletic seasons were not allowed to continue into the Spring, Wakulla High School saw many student athletes sign to colleges across the nation. On a historic note, three of our Lady War Eagle flag football players signed to play flag football in its inaugural year at the collegiate level. Womens flag football, in partnership with the National Football League, is now National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) sanctioned female collegiate sport. Christeney Byrd signed to Coffey College in Missouri, Leah Lewis signed to play at Warner University in Florida, and Ja'daa Wilson will be a dual athlete for women's basketball and flag football at Kansas Wesleyan University in Kansas.

During these unprecedented times of Covid-19 and school closures, Wakulla High School was not remiss in honoring the Senior Class of 2020. WHS hosted their very first drive-through graduation on Friday, May 22, 2020. Graduates and their families, under the direction of the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office, remained in their vehicles as they received their high school diplomas from Superintendent Pearce. The ceremony was broadcast over the radio and streamed live on Facebook via our Wakulla High School social media page; therefore, allowing all members of Wakulla County to fully participate with this auspicious event further exhibiting the irrepressible character of our Wakulla War Eagles.

Finally, the 2019-2020 school year saw the close of one chapter and the beginning of another. Principal Michael Barwick moved to the district office as the new Building and Maintenance Director and Riversprings Middle School Principal Michele Yeomans took over as Wakulla High School's new principal. We wish both Mr. Barwick and Mrs. Yeomans good luck in their new positions.

While many things are still yet unknown, we can count on one thing to hold true. Wakulla High School will continue to strive toward our school's mission and rise above any storm to provide excellent educational opportunities for all of our War Eagles!



MICHAEL BARWICK – PRINCIPAL
WAKULLA HIGH



"A river cuts through a rock not because of its power, but its persistence." Despite experiencing the effects of the Covid-19 school closing in the spring of 2020, the Wakulla Adult Education programs achieved many successes. The unprecedented events of masks and social distancing continued to be a test of strength and individual resiliency for students in the GED program. Prior to spring break, students in Adult Basic and GED Prep were utilizing a blended curriculum to master content skills. After the COVID campus closing, students continued their efforts from home with GED online software and printed materials. Many students extended their studies during the summer months, taking advantage of testing dates offered in the district operated Pearson-Vue testing center. A total of 53 students were served in both the Adult Basic and GED Preparation Programs. In spite of the shortened 2019-2020 school year, 20 students persevered to attain their GED.

Following the achievement of their GED, four graduates plan to extend their education with college enrollment at local institutions. Six graduates have chosen to pursue vocational & technical education. Two students have gone on to pursue a military career, while the remaining eight will join the work force population.

The Adults with Disabilities program continued to flourish during the 19-20 school year. Students collaborated to brainstorm avenues for creating a pleasurable Legacy Café experience for customers. Students enjoyed providing lunches to the Wakulla Public Library for scheduled workshops, assisting shoppers in the Boutique, and serving regular Café patrons on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Legacy Café and Boutique were delighted with the opportunity to serve lunch and set-up a pop-up boutique for a group of 25 or more employees at the Florida Department of Education in Tallahassee.

In the Legacy Boutique, students developed and broadened their skills to provide custom t-shirts and other items for wrestling tournaments at RMS and WHS. They designed and assembled 72 t-shirts for state-bound wrestlers and their families. Additionally, they worked to fulfill bridal shower and wedding orders. Products included bridal party etched glassware, Bride & Groom table banner, Bride & Groom personalized treat jars, table number candles, and mint scented sugar scrub. Students also completed large orders for Christmas soaps, assorted greeting cards, and Christmas kitchen towels.

Although the 2020-21 school year will bring new challenges, the students of the Wakulla Adult Education program are motivated to face them head-on in order to accomplish educational and vocational goals towards a future of self-sufficiency and independence.

DOD WALKER- DIRECTOR OF ADULT, ATHLETIC AND DIVERSITY RECRUITMENT PROGRAMS

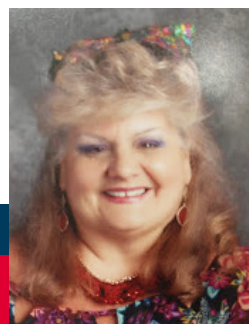
WAKULLA ADULT AND COMMUNITY ED

Our theme for the 2019-2020 school year was "A Place to ROAR About." From an on looker's perspective, it may appear that our students are just playing. In actuality, play is serious business and an important developmental milestone in a preschooler's education. Students and teachers looked forward to the annual Silver 4 Seniors and Spirit Week dress up days. Our students also enjoyed several school wide-events where parents were invited to participate in the learning process. Johnny Appleseed Day was celebrated in September, Trunk or Treat in October, Pow Wow in November and Polar Express Day in December. In addition, several "in-house" field trips occurred as we welcomed Wakulla County Emergency Management with a fire truck, the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office visited with McGruff the Crime Dog, the Forestry Department, owls from St. Francis Wildlife Refuge and a local family that brought a few of their farm animals for the students to "visit with." Students also had a gardening project called "Cabbage Patch" and grew cabbage to sell at the carnival. Books and Bytes visited and students experienced hands on activities that went along with the storytelling.

Pre-K celebrated the outstanding work efforts as Eunice Donaldson was recognized as the October 2019 Employee of the Month, Toyia Williams as December 2019 Teacher of the Month, Ashley Ward as March 2020 Employee of the Month and Tina Fleming as the 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year. Each award recipient is selected by a majority vote of their peers. Wakulla Pre-K is very fortunate to have such a diverse, dedicated, talented educational teaching staff who provide a safe, fun, play-based learning environment on a daily basis. Ms. Laura Kelly, the Pre-K Principal, retired after many years of dedicated work to Wakulla County Schools. As a kindergarten teacher, staffing specialist, assistant principal and principal, Ms. Kelley brought her best every day to her school. She loved being around our youngest learners and drew such joy from seeing their excitement and enthusiasm from learning. Her plans always centered around what would be in their best interest with an emphasis on fun. These little guys learn best through play and her activities were consistently centered on the whole child and creating experiences that encouraged exploration and learning through those activities. Ms. Kelley was also very mindful of supporting her staff and providing them with the tools necessary to be successful in the classroom. Her wisdom and advice was invaluable at our school, but she was also open to new ideas and different approaches – all with an ever-mindful focus on what was best for the children. We will miss her jovial laugh and smiling face at PreK, but will remember just how much she impacted all of the lives that she touched. These ladies are truly the heartbeat of our preschool program.

LAURA KELLY – PRINCIPAL

WAKULLA PRESCHOOL



GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL/PROGRAM ENROLLMENT FOR DISTRICT

	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Crawfordville Elementary	612	554	553	550	583	609
Riversink Elementary	460	462	482	468	455	498
Shadeville Elementary	580	559	576	593	604	610
Medart Elementary	502	479	517	517	478	402
Riversprings Middle School	499	497	507	516	539	572
Wakulla Middle School	568	605	588	570	512	525
Wakulla High School	1300	1370	1412	1445	1462	1412
District Drop-Out Prevention Prog.	45	36	48	85	58	40
District Pre-K Program	389	384	321	319	270	271
Total	4910	4946	5004	5063	4961	4939

NON DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The School Board of Wakulla County, Florida does not discriminate in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, marital status, disability, genetic information for applicants and employees, or any other reason prohibited by Federal and State law regarding non-discrimination. See 34 C.F.R. 100.6(d); 34 C.F.R. 106.9; 34 C.F.R. 110.25. In addition, the School Board provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. See 34 C.F.R. 108.9. Disabled individuals needing reasonable accommodations to participate in and enjoy the benefits of services, programs, and activities of the School Board are required in advance to notify the administrator at the school/center at which the event or service is offered to request reasonable accommodation. The lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to any opportunity or event associated with Wakulla County Schools. The designated Equity Coordinator, Title IX and Section 504 Compliance Coordinator as required by 34 C.F.R. 100.6(d) is Angie Walker, Executive Director of Human Resources, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327; 850.926.0065; angela.walker@wcsb.us.



SPECIAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION •

The focus of the ESE department is always to ensure that students with disabilities are provided with all of the excellent educational opportunities that general education students in the Wakulla county School system enjoy. One quality indicator of exceptional student education in the WCSD is evidenced by Wakulla County's students with disabilities graduating at 94.6 percent compared to the state's average of 80.6 percent. The WCSD commitment to students with disabilities does not end with graduation. Students with disabilities who are nearing high school graduation or who have already graduated are encouraged to join the WCSB Adults with Disabilities program, where they learn how to run a restaurant, which developed into the successful Legacy Café. The Adults with Disabilities program also started the Legacy Boutique to show and sell unique crafts and creation. Mrs. English, ESE Director, stated "These Programs give our students yet another way to learn employability skills, which is the central theme of the program. We encourage their entrepreneurship." October is National Disability Awareness Month and as a culmination of that month long celebration, the Wakulla County Schools Adults with Disabilities Program took their skills on the road to Florida's Department of Education, specifically to the BEES (Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services) personnel. Students served the lunches they made and also brought their Legacy Boutique crafts to show the BEES staff.

During the 2019-20 school year there were several changes that took place. Long time staffing specialist Tracy Dempsey was offered a position with Project 10: The Transition Education Network whose goal is to assist Florida school districts and relevant stakeholders in building capacity to provide secondary transition services to students with disabilities in order to improve their academic success and post-school outcomes. Mrs. Dempsey continue to serve Wakulla as well as many other surrounding counties with this important mission. The WCSD welcomed Robin Petrick to serve as the new staffing specialist. Ms. Petrick came to the district with 25 years of experience as staffing specialist in Leon and Okaloosa County as well as experience as a Regional Florida Inclusion Network facilitator. Mrs. Petrick was already well acquainted with Wakulla County as she had worked closely with Mrs. Dempsey and Mrs. Eden Rodgers, ESE Specialist at WHS, to implement the Peers as Partners program, which supports building relationships between general education students and students with disabilities. In the position of Regional Local Assistive Technology specialist, Melissa Martin transferred from Wakulla Middle School to replace Mrs. Heather O'Steen who resigned. In March, Mrs. Tanya English, Executive Director of ESE and Student Services, retired after 38 years of dedicated service to the Wakulla County School District. At her retirement celebration Mrs. English noted, "I am grateful I got the opportunity to serve and advocate for students with disabilities. I've had the chance to work with the most incredible teachers, specialists, paraprofessionals and administrators who use the welfare of our students as their compass." Mr. Pearce stated, "Mrs. English was a solution-oriented problem solver who put the needs of students as her first priority. She was also great at mentoring others and keeping our school administrators in the loop on ESE and Student Services issues." Mrs. Belinda McElroy, former principal at CES and Mental Health Coordinator was appointed as new ESE Director in March and immediately faced a challenge as school districts across the state shut down due to the COVID19 pandemic. Mrs. McElroy worked closely with fellow directors, the Florida Department of Education and her staff to develop methods for continuing to provide for the educational needs of students with disabilities in the face of unprecedented circumstances.



TITLE I •

Title I is a federally funded educational program designed to provide supplemental funds to assist schools with helping students meet the state's challenging academic standards. The amount of money given to each school depends on the number of students from low-income families enrolled in the school. The goal of Title I is to increase student achievement through effective instruction, professional development for staff, and parent and family engagement.

Wakulla County's Title I Schools for 2019-2020 included: Crawfordville Elementary School, Medart Elementary School, Riversink Elementary School, Shadeville Elementary School, and COAST Charter School.

The district works closely with all Title I schools to identify needs and develop an annual School Improvement Plan with actionable steps to achieve data-driven goals. All Title I initiatives must be aligned with School Improvement Plans. In 2019-2020, funding through Title I increased student achievement by providing highly-effective teachers for instruction, instructional coaches for professional development, instructional software, technology, books, supplies, and extended learning activities for students.

Wakulla County School District recognizes the importance of parent and family engagement. Research shows that when schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning, children tend to perform better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more. Parent and family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. Title I schools host events with embedded 'links to learning' to help parents learn how to help their children at home.

Ways to be involved:

- ✓ COMMUNICATE: Keep in touch with your child's teacher through telephone, e-mail, and parent-teacher conferences.
- ✓ BE AN EXAMPLE: Show your child that education is important by attending Title I events, reading at home, and showing your child that you support his/her progress in school.
- ✓ VOLUNTEER: Help at your child's school.
- ✓ LEARN: How to help your child with classwork, homework, and future educational plans.
- ✓ GET INVOLVED: Join and/or participate in School Advisory Council meetings and other school/parent organizations.

TESTING

Assessment is a vital part of the instructional process. The Wakulla County School System utilizes testing to determine appropriate placement of students, to guide instruction, and to assess content mastery. Testing provides administrators, teachers, and parents an opportunity to assess how students compare to other students in Florida and in the Nation. Essentially, assessment results are used to revise the curriculum to better meet the needs of students..

FLORIDA STANDARDS ASSESSMENT TEST (FSA)

The primary purpose of Florida's K-12 statewide assessment program is to measure students' achievement of Florida's education standards. Florida's educational standards were developed with the goal of providing all students with an education based on high expectations. The Florida Standards Assessments include: grades 3-10 English Language Arts (Writing component in grades 4-10), grades 3-8 Mathematics, as well as the Algebra I and Geometry end-of-course-exams (EOC).

END-OF-COURSE-EXAMS (EOC)

EOC assessments measure the Florida Standards or the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) for specific courses, as outlined in their course descriptions. All students enrolled in Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology, US History, and Civics are required to take an assessment in the spring of each year. Students must score a Level 3 or above to be considered proficient on an EOC.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and early closure of schools, the Florida Department of Education cancelled all Spring 2020 statewide assessments. STAR Reading and Mathematics data, the district's universal progress monitoring tool, will be used to assess student mastery of content and student learning gaps. This data will be used to implement instruction and interventions to meet individual student needs.

AMERICAN COLLEGE TEST 2019

The American College Test (ACT) is one major test used for college admission.

	WAKULLA	STATE
English	21.1	19.5
Math	20.5	19.5
Reading	23.2	21.2
Science	21.4	19.7
Composite	21.7	20.1

2019-2020 GRADUATION RATE

Wakulla High School: 94.5%
State: 91.6%