



EAGLE'S EYE



SKYCREST ELEMENTARY NEWS

September 2019

Phone: 469-5987

Eliza Defant, Principal

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Skycrest Web site - <http://www.skycrest-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us>

Mission

Educate and prepare students for college, career and life.

A Message from Administration

Dear Skycrest Family,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! I am very excited to welcome each and every one of our families and students (new and returning) to this amazing school. We, at Skycrest, are committed to ensuring an equitable, engaging, and collaborative learning experience to ensure academic and behavioral growth for all students. Your active support, feedback, and cooperation are highly valued. With your support, partnerships with the local community, our staff's teaching expertise, and on-going professional learning, we will ensure student success and growth!

My name is Eliza Defant and this will be my official first full year as the Principal of Skycrest! I was a classroom teacher for 9 years for various grade levels including 1st, 2nd, and 5th grade. Thereafter, I became the Assistant Principal for Skycrest Elementary and then promoted Principal in December of 2018. My hope is you never hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback regarding our school. We strive to make this a positive learning experience for your child. I look forward to a great school year continuing to make academic progress towards being an "A" school.....GO EAGLES!!!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Eliza Defant, Principal
727-469-5987 x2103

Dates to Remember

- 08/30-09/05 Book Fair
- 09/02 Labor Day - No School
- 09/05 PTA/SAC, 5:00-6:00PM - Kona Ice Coming
- 09/05 Open House & Title 1 Night, 6-7:30PM
- 09/06 Picture Day- Uniforms Only
- 09/12 Midperiod Reports
- 09/12 International Café, 8:45AM
- 09/14 Skycrest Academy, Library, 8:00AM-12:00
- 09/27 Color Run, 4:00-6:00PM - Kona Ice Coming

School Guidelines

Remember Skycrest Students to always:

- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Safe
- Be an Active Learner

Gate Information

Morning - Gates open at 8:15AM and close at 8:45AM. If arriving after 8:45AM, your child needs to be brought in the front office.

Afternoon - Gates open at 2:55PM and close at 3:10PM.

If you pick up your child late from the office, late notices will be given out at 3:20PM.

Skycrest Elementary School Annual Color Run

Friday, September 27, 2019
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

This is a fun run/walk event for our students and families that help us to raise money for our Skycrest classrooms. The money raised helps grade level teams supplement field trips and supplies for student projects.

Please look for sign-up forms for the Color Run. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Baldino at baldinok@pcsb.org or Mrs. Flory at hopkins-floryj@pcsb.org.



www.pcsb.org/safetyconcern

What is a Title I School?

Title I schools receive federal dollars to fund the following:

- **Personnel** to help students succeed. At Skycrest, we have a full time Reading Interventionist, a Reading Coach, a full-time Social Worker and a full-time Multi-Tiered Systems Support coach.
- **Academic workshops/family nights** - Literacy night, STEM night, FSA/Middle School information night, and the Art and Student Showcase are offered to students and their families. We provide families with free books and the opportunity to learn strategies to help their children to be better readers, mathematicians, and scientists.
- **Materials for students** - Title I provides students with **Planners and Compacts**. In addition, money is spent to refurbish classroom libraries, purchase culturally relevant books for teachers to use in their classrooms and buy instructional materials needed to meet the needs of our students.
- **Professional Development** for staff members including a stipend to be paid to all staff who participate in school-based trainings after school. At Skycrest, we will be offering two book studies to build teachers capacity in equitable practices. As well as, working with instructional staff after school hours to delve deep into our student data and ELA standards plan focused instruction to meet the needs of our students.
- Provide **intervention kits** to remediate and enhance reading skills for all students. (LLI, SRA, Elements of Phonics, Elements of Vocabulary, etc.)
- **Promise Time program/ELP program** - after school tutoring program. Materials and funds for salaries were provided during the 2018-2019 school year. (Examples - Spanish club, ST Math Club, Boys club, Promise time tutoring groups, Coding club, Reading/Writing Club)

Why September Matters

Research has shown, that attendance habits established in September persist over the whole year.

Students who missed fewer than 2 days in September, continued to average fewer than 2 days absent each month. Students who missed 2 to 4 days in September, were 5 times more likely than those who missed fewer than 2 days to be chronically absent for the year. Nearly 9 out of 10 students who missed more than 4 days in September, were chronically absent that year.

Chronic Absences (or missing 2 or more days of school a month, whether excused or unexcused) as early as Pre-K, is associated with poor reading skills and retention in the 3rd grade. By the 6th grade, it is considered an early warning indicator that a student will drop out of high school.

What You Can Do To Reduce Your Child's Absences From School

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or other parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

Library News



Reading increases knowledge and vocabulary, lowers stress, and supports your child's emotional growth. But perhaps the best benefit is the lasting bond you create with your child when you read with them. We invite

you to visit our Scholastic Book Fair and experience a celebration of reading that provides families the opportunity to get involved in a universal mission: encouraging kids to read every day so they can lead better lives. Our Book Fair theme - Arctic Adventure - surrounds students in the celebration of reading with hundreds of fun, engaging, affordable books for them to discover. Giving kids access to good books and the opportunity to choose books that will motivate them to read more. And like most acquired skills, the more kids practice reading, the better they'll get!

When: Friday, August 30th through Friday, September 6th. We will be open from 5:30-7:00pm on September 5th.

Where: Skycrest Elementary Library

Skycrest Elementary is a Healthy School!

Skycrest Elementary School has been awarded a National Healthy School Award from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation! Through physical activity, nutritious food, and health education, we are committed to promoting a healthy environment to learn and grow. Studies have shown that healthy students have higher achievement, better attendance, and better behavior. Find out more about wellness policies and how you can support school wellness at www.pcsb.org and search school wellness.

Healthy "Eats" for Kids!

Parents are welcome to send birthday or classroom "Eats" at any time. Please be aware, our county is participating in a federal government wellness policy. As a result, snack suggestions are limited to ideas listed below. Please check with your child's teacher for any classroom allergies.

Fruits/Veggies

Fresh Fruits

Fresh Vegetables

Raisins or other dried fruits

Canned fruits in natural or light juices

Cereal Bars

Rice Krispies Treats

Quaker Oatmeal Bars

Unsweetened Cereals

Bakery Items

Bagels

Mini Muffins

Grains

Crackers

Baked Tortilla Chips

Pretzels

Graham or animal crackers

Goldfish crackers

Munchies Kids Mix

Baked Chips

Miscellaneous

Low-fat cheeses

Peanut Butter

Salsa

Sugar-Free gelatin

Yogurt (8 oz or less)

Beverages

Bottled water

Flavored water (0-calorie)

100% fruit juices

100% vegetable juices

Low-Fat milk (flavored or unflavored)

Enterprise Village Volunteers Needed

We will be in need of 5th Grade parents to volunteer this year on October 10th for the Enterprise Village field trip.

If you are interested, please contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Paulk in the front office, phone (727) 469-5987.

Volunteer Information

Returning Volunteers: Please reactivate in Focus for the new school year.

New Volunteers: (Fieldtrips, special events and classroom assistants) Registration is done on-line this year, please go to pcsb.org/volunteer registration.

Dismissal

Students may arrive on campus at 8:15AM. Kindergarten and Pre-K walkers will dismiss at the gate on Cleveland. Daycare vans will drop off AND pick-up in the bus circle on Corona. Grades 4-5 car riders will dismiss at the Orion circle. Grades 2-3 car riders will dismiss at the Bus Circle on Corona. Kindergarten car riders will dismiss at "Lollipop" circle on Orion. Please do not drop off your child earlier than 8:15AM.

YMCA

YMCA is available for before and after care (6:30AM-6:00PM) - located in the cafeteria. Contact Ms. Destiny at 727-469-9469 for more information. Registration and information at <https://www.ymcasuncoast.org/afterschool-care>.

