



2022-2023 WAKULLA COUNTY 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 the great moments shared by our faculty, staff, and student's during the 2022-2023 school year.

Our District Teacher of the Year for 2022-2023 was Lesley Jamison an Instructional Coach that serves the entirety of our district. Mrs. Jamison is an excellent teacher who continues to use her passion for instruction to act as an invaluable resource to her colleagues. We appreciate her dedication to our students and everything she does for Wakulla County Schools.

Wakulla County Schools continues to provide a rigorous resilient and relevant education for all students. Wakulla was an 'A' District and was tied for 9th out of all 67 public school districts in Florida for District grade. As we continue forward with the school year, we hope to meet new goals and celebrate the accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students.

Together we can continue to give students the opportunity to pursue their interests, build their skills, and engage with all areas of their education. As we provide students a safe and robust learning environment with opportunities for enrichment, we hope to prepare them for working through the unique challenges posed by what is to come. Thank you all again for giving us another great year with Wakulla County's children.

Robert R. Pearce

Superintendent



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Dear Wakulla County Citizens,

The 2022-23 school year has been an exciting one providing many student and district accomplishments to celebrate. First, and foremost, Wakulla is an A District! After facing the challenges of the pandemic and bringing our students up to speed with the difficulties that brought, our teachers rose to the occasion to give their all and cultivate a love of learning in our students. This is evidenced in their earning of the A designation as only one in 16 of 67 districts, tying for 9th place in the State of Florida.

Among other major accomplishments this year, Wakulla High School initiated another Career and Technical Program adding Diesel Mechanics and extending the Drone Program into both middle schools. We introduced new certifications in WordPress, Entrepreneurship, and Python into the Information Technology classes, to join our extensive list of industry certifications that provide real opportunities for meaningful careers to our high school graduates. This Fall, we will break ground on the New War Eagle Academy to house our current and future CTE Programs.

Your Board Members and I truly appreciate the leadership of Superintendent Pearce as well as the myriad of department and educational leaders within our district office. Furthermore, it is the hard work, consistency, and creativity of our teachers and administrators who remain dedicated to our school system and your children, day in and day out. We have the finest teachers in the state.

On a personal note, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Board Chair for the last three years; it has truly been an honor. To all of you--our parents who so whole-heartedly support our teachers and district, as well as our community members—thank you for your support as we strive to bring the best education possible to our students while keeping them safe and healthy, as they are our greatest resource.

On behalf of the Wakulla County School Board, thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

Melisa Taylor
Wakulla County Schools Board 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.

DISTRICT STAFF 2022 2023

Robert Pearce
Superintendent

Randy Beach
Chief Finance Officer

Mike Barwick
Executive Director of Facilities & Maintenance

Sunny Chancy
Assistant Superintendent

Lori Sandgren
Director of Human Resources

Priscilla Colvin
Executive Director of ESE & Student Services

Amy Bryan
Coordinator of Mental Health Services

Daniel Lilly
Director of Informational Services

Krista Sharin
Executive Director of Special Programs and Assessment

Pat Jones
Coordinator of Transportation

Jim Griner
Coordinator of Safety & Risk Management

Holly Harden
Coordinator of Curriculum

Nicholas Weaver
Director of Student Services and Discipline

Richard Myhre
Director of Instructional Data

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.



This school year was nothing short of awesome! We could not of had a successful school year of 2022-2023 without our supportive administration, Alena Crawford (Principal) and Lindsay Sparkman (Assistant Principal). Our goal this year was to continue to fulfill our school's vision of providing an atmosphere of warmth, trust, and respect amongst all. We also wanted to provide our students with the tools that they needed to be successful through differentiated instruction in the classrooms. Another tool to help our students to be successful is strong communication between the school and families. We were excited to once again be an open campus this year, where families could come and join their students for lunch and of course attend some of our Title 1 nights! Some of our very successful Title 1 nights included Bingo for Books and the Chili Cook Off just to name a few! The amount of parent involvement was very exciting not only for us but the students as well.



Students were given many opportunities to be involved in some awesome clubs this year. Once again, the Student Council was an option for students in grades 4th and 5th. Student Council collected donations for pets to provide to our local animal shelter. Those students also assisted with a holiday food drive with provided a ton of food for some of our families in need. Another club that students were able to join was Odyssey of the Mind. This club was a great way for students to test their mind and to show what they know! We had eight students who not only participated in the club but competed against other schools in the district. Garden Club was back in full bloom this year! We had such a large number of fourth and fifth graders who participated that the club had to take place on different days to accommodate all the students participating! The students grew a beautiful garden which consisted of radish, broccoli, cabbage and much more! Lastly, students were able to participate in a new service club this year for the school and community, Optimist Club. Students in this club provided teachers and staff with goodies throughout the year as well as they held a food drive which provided food to go in caring boxes around the county.

Students pushed harder than ever when it came to reading this year! As a school, we read a total of 147,279,105 words total! Grade level word counts are as follows: Kindergarten-100,961, First grade-3,946,437, Second grade-11,563,001, Third grade-32,023,887, Fourth grade-34,720,733 and Fifth grade-61,730,093. We absolutely must mention some of the top readers who lead the charge! Olivia Tomberlin reached an incredible 7,074,318 words read this year and she is now on the plaque for most words read for a school year. Next up, Joe Edwards came in with 4,458,901 words read. Lastly, Taylor Thomas had a wonderful year with 4,033,879 total words read. Maddux Crawford in first grade lead the school in most books read, 602 in total!

Our students were motivated more than ever this year to read! We believe this is in part to our amazing librarian Bessie Andrews! She truly helped students to find joy in reading and it was contagious. Mrs. Andrews created our Word Club wall where students were celebrated for reaching their reading goals. There were over students from kindergarten up to 5th grade 200 students pictured on this wall!



Academics was not the only way that students could be celebrated here at CES. As a school we wanted to celebrate other successes such as outstanding behavior, great choices, being role models, and always striving to be better. One way that we celebrated students who stood out was to make them weekly paw pat winners. Students were announced on Friday mornings during announcements and once again celebrated in front of their peers in the cafeteria at lunch where they selected a prize from the prize cart. In addition to paw pat winners, some students were also selected as student of the week and were featured in the Wakulla Sun newspaper. Some of these rockstar students were Aubrey Deborde, Corbin Kinsey, Justice Simmons, Hunter Antrobus, and Sara Barwick.

Crawfordville students also pushed themselves to gain some knowledge in the technology world! Students in grades 4th and 5th participated in the ICT computer program. Students who mastered the program received a certificate at the end of the school year. Between 4th and 5th grade, we had a 95% pass rate!

Here at CES we have truly had a fun year with some special events that took place. One of the special events was Florida Wild Mammal Association came and visited our students and brought along some friends such as a skunk and a pelican to show our students and to teach them about some local animals. FSU also came to visit our students with their Science on the Move program where students were able to engage in hands on activities that promoted the fun in science. Another special event that took place this year was the play Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, which was performed by the high school. Many of our grade levels attended the play and really enjoyed it. Our students once again participated in our highly successful fundraiser Boosterthon this year. Students really rocked it, and we raised over \$25,000 for the school! This was celebrated with a fun color run where all students got to participate.

We were so fortunate this year to receive some grants that we have received in the past to help with continuous learning for our students. Second grade received a grant again to have a chicken incubator and hatch baby chicks for our students to learn about the life cycle. Mrs. Bartnick who is head of our Garden Club was also able to get another grant to support our garden. Sunblest Gardens also donated some wonderful supplies to help get our garden outside the library looking great again.

We all know that it truly takes a village to make a school run successfully. Here at Crawfordville Elementary we have some wonderful teachers who make up that village. Some of these wonderful teachers were also selected as our teachers of the month. Angela DenBleyker was our November teacher of the month and Katherine Hunter was our March teacher of the month. Lastly, Kelly Tomberlin who is our Associate Dean of Student Services, was selected as our Teacher of the Year.

All in all, 2022-2023 has been a very successful school year. We are excited to bring in the next year and reach new goals.



ALENA CRAWFORD – PRINCIPAL
CRAWFORDVILLE ELEMENTARY



2022 – 2023 was a positive year for Medart Elementary! Our faculty, staff, and students worked hard to overcome all obstacles to make it a successful year.

We kicked the year off with a big crowd for open house! Parents, students, and teachers were eager to meet one another in person to begin building a strong educational relationship. Students and their families continued to show up with the largest school advisory committee in recent years as well as three fun-filled Title I nights with a favorite being the STEAM hands-on event.

There were many things to celebrate among our Mustang faculty and staff, starting off with our employees being chosen by their peers to be recognized and celebrated for all their hard work. Congratulations to Lynn Sellers for Employee of the Month, Adrian Johnson for Teacher of the Month, Angela Swain for Teacher of the Month and Shari Smith for being our Teacher of the Year! The celebration continued during faculty and staff appreciation, during which we all felt the love from our community members and small business owners.

From sliming staff and enjoying popsicles to our state-qualifying Odyssey of the Mind team, our students had an amazing year! We had lots of smiles at Special Olympics, the Boosterthon dance fundraiser, Brain Brawl, parades, Project Learning Tree, concerts, and Winter Festival. Mustang teachers and students love learning and 2022-2023 was a blast for these awesome kiddos!

Parent and community relationships are important to our success, and ours stepped up big time this year! We are thankful and extremely appreciative for all the support we received from our parents and community members and everything that our faculty and staff do for our students and school. We can't wait to see what we accomplish next year and look forward to taking on the adventures that arise each day at Medart Elementary School.

GO MUSTANGS!!!



STAN WARD – PRINCIPAL
MEDART ELEMENTARY



Riversink Elementary School continued the 22-23 year on the EPIC journey that they started the year before, with lots of new and first-time accomplishments as well as many continued traditions of excellence and achievement by the Otter community. Mrs. Cutchen and Mr. Vernon were blessed with an unheard-of level of staffing consistency and the results of this amazing feat showed throughout the school! The accomplishments of the incomparable teachers at Riversink were evident even in the transition to the new FAST test used to measure student proficiency. The hard work of the students, teachers and teacher assistance showed through again with Riversink posting top scores in the district in almost all grade levels and subject areas as well as being above the state average in ALL measured fields for the second consecutive year!

With as much as the school is excited about reaching these important markers for testing success, Mr. Cutchen also believes that true education is best found with enrichment of the whole child through offering as much opportunity to learn and grow through differentiated instruction and life experiences. The second annual FUN RUN provided another chance for the community to help build revenue to support teacher technology needs! This year the top earners were able to ICE their principals during lunch and it was a stone-cold success. This event paired with the Spring Festival and basket auction provided the necessary means to purchase 8 Newline Boards to replace the outdated technology in the classrooms and keep the teachers on the cutting edge of what is available.

Many of the events that make Riversink Elementary a great place were able to be offered again. Field trips to Wild Adventures, Ruby Diamond Auditorium, the Tallahassee Junior Musium, Aunt Louise's Farm, Mission San Louis, and the High School Performance of Rudolf were all opportunities for students to learn and grow. The S.A.V.E. program conducted by the WCSO Resource Officer Amanda Marsh brought back wonderful guest speakers' Sam McGrew and Under Sherriff Billy Jones to speak on the importance of refraining from substance abuse and alcohol.

With all the hard work being put in by the teachers and students Mrs. Cutchen and Mr. Vernon kept up their end of the bargain and worked even harder to celebrate student achievement through many of the time honored traditions at Riversink. Bell Ringers for AR, Math Smarties Parties, Snow cones/ Kickball games for top AR classes, Homework Hero's Rewards program, ice cream sandwiches for Math Ninja's and the Million Word "Dunk your Principal" Party were all still in effect this school year. The addition of class wide perfect attendance rewards was a new program the Otter family got to celebrate and acknowledge. The improvement of attendance through positive reinforcement was evident from this new goal's inception. The second year of Junior Optimist Club lead by Mrs. Mari Kimbrel and JoAnn Daniels saw the addition of a campus beautification initiative that incorporated flower beds on the school site to Riversink. The Odyssey of the Mind Team continued the tradition of excellence by placing Fourth at the state competition. Mrs. Cassie Johnson and Mrs. Molly Jones worked with the team tirelessly on their topic and their success was well deserved.

To say that Riversink did not have a year of firsts in the accomplishment category would be a major fallacy. A select group of student were picked to participate in a Choral and Ensemble performance in Pensacola where in one day they learned three pieces of music taught to them by a professional conductor. And Riversink's very own Penelope Watters was selected to the All-State Choir, a first for the school, as well as winning the 4-H speech contest for the entire district and the North Region!

The adoption of the House System as the new standard for positive behavior development was also a first for Riversink and the district. It was met with strong support and great success as it was incorporated into the Otter way of life. Parents, administrators, SAC committee members and school board members were all interested in visiting on a House Day Meeting and they all had the opportunity to see student's learning about community involvement, donating to those less fortunate, environmentalism and self determination to name a few of the school wide goals. House Leaders Mrs. Watters, Mrs. Salib, Mrs. Sanders, and Mrs. Woods were able to guide and inspire the students to a new levels of what it means to be a member of a community.

The tradition of EPIC-ness was continued and celebrated as Riversink's faculty and staff were recognized for all of their dedication and hard work. Ms. Jennifer White was selected as employee of the month for all she does for the students at Riversink. Mrs. Casey Fletcher was the first semester teacher of the month and Mrs. Jennifer Gilbert was picked for the second semester representative. Kristen Cason earned the selection of Riversink's Teacher of the Year and was humbly honored though everyone expressed how well deserved it was. Although only a few can be selected it is evident that all the teachers and staff deserve to be recognized for their commitment to excellent and the accomplishments made by the students at Riversink. Although everyone that works at RES will tell you it is actually measured in the hugs, smiles and laughter of the students who walk through the halls, excited and eager to learn from people who love them as the unique and diverse individuals that all make Riversink such special place!



CATHERINE CUTCHIN – PRINCIPAL
RIVERSINK ELEMENTARY



The 2022-2023 school year welcomed Mr. Timothy Wheeler as Shadeville's new Principal. Mr. Wheeler was previously Assistant Principal at Wakulla High School. He also has experience working in Elementary and Middle School settings. Shadeville is excited to be under his leadership!

Throughout the school year, several Shadeville teachers and staff were recognized by the Wakulla School Board for their achievements. Ms. Allison Garrett and Ms. Brittany Muse were both honored as Teachers of the Month. Ms. Garrett teaches 4th grade Math and Science and Ms. Muse teaches 5th grade Language Arts and Social Studies. Ms. Marsha Dixon was honored as Shadeville's Teacher of the Year. Ms. Dixon teaches 4th grade Math and Science. In addition to our amazing teachers, Ms. Cindy Pandolfi and Ms. Wanda Harvey were both honored as Employee of the Month. Ms. Pandolfi is our front office secretary and Ms. Harvey is one of our fabulous custodians. Additionally, Ms. Sarojanie "Ro" Samlal was recognized by Tallahassee Community College during the college's 2023 Women's History Month Ceremony. Ms. Samlal is an ESE teacher at Shadeville and was recognized for her outstanding leadership skills and contributions to our community. We are very lucky to have all of these wonderful ladies a Shadeville Warriors.



After not being able to hold our Annual Fall Festival for several years due to social distancing, Shadeville welcomed it back in October! We were very excited to have our students and families attend a fun event while raising funds that go directly back into the classrooms. After hitting the fundraising goal, each student was able to throw a water balloon at Mr. Wheeler or Ms. Rodgers. The students loved a chance to soak their administrators!

We were also able to return to on campus Title 1 Nights. Our Title 1 Nights give families a chance to attend a fun activity while learning about ways to support their students at home. This year the Title 1 nights included Grade Level Expectations, Bingo for Books, Dr. Suess Night, and STEM Night.

In November, Shadeville sponsored a can food drive to help support local families. Each classroom competed to bring in the most items. Ms. Nichols Kindergarten class won the honor of pieing Mr. Wheeler, Ms. Rodgers or The Grinch! We look forward to continuing this tradition of giving back to our community.



Our students also got to enjoy field trips during the 2022-2023 school year. Our Fifth grade and Fourth grade students enjoyed trips to St. Marks Refuge where they learned about our local ecosystems. First grade visited Mission San Luis and downtown Sopchoppy where they learned about Apalachee Indians and Worm Grunting. Second grade and Fourth grade visited Wakulla High School to watch the play Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer. Third grade visited the Challenger Learning Center where they learned about Butterflies. At the end of the year, our Fifth grade students were able to enjoy their last activity together with the 5th Grade Field Trip to Wild Adventures.

This year we returned to Odessey of the Mind! We had two teams, a primary and intermediate. Both teams competed locally and were able to make it to the State OOTM Competition in Orlando! Our intermediate team placed 8th in their division! We are so proud of their progress!

Finally, Ms. Iamani George, our music teacher, produced the Spring Music Festival. This Festival featured 3rd-5th grade students, the Shadeville Singers and the Warrior Drummers. This production included all groups in addition to a skit that was intertwined into the performance. Our students loved the opportunity to let their talents shine!

We wrapped up the year with our Fifth Grade and SAVE Graduations! Held on the last day of school, it provides our students a way to celebrate their accomplishments as we wish them luck as future Bears or Wildcats!



TIMOTHY WHEELER – PRINCIPAL
SHADEVILLE ELEMENTARY



Riversprings Middle School is pleased to highlight the outstanding achievements and successes of our school community. It is with great pride that we share the remarkable accomplishments of our students, staff, and administration that have made this year another truly fantastic one for the Bears of Riversprings Middle School.

ADMINISTRATION TEAM AND NEW STAFF MEMBERS: We welcomed two new esteemed members to our administration team. Joining Principal Josh Sandgren and Assistant Principal Bethany Pafford were Katherine Spivey, Assistant Principal on Assignment in Student Services and Rebecca Stewart as Associate Dean of Discipline. Their dedication and expertise have brought invaluable contributions to our school, enhancing our ability to provide comprehensive support and guidance to our students. We also welcomed eight new staff members to our Bear Family this year. Each new addition brings their unique talents and expertise, further enriching our educational environment and ensuring our students receive the highest quality of instruction and support.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR: We are proud to announce that Bill Taylor, an esteemed member of our teaching staff, has been named the RMS Teacher of the Year for the third time. This accolade is a testament to Mr. Taylor's dedication, passion, and outstanding teaching career. His commitment to excellence continues to inspire both his colleagues and students alike.

AVID: Riversprings Middle School has once again been recognized as a National Demonstration School for AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination). This prestigious honor showcases our school's commitment to providing a college-bound culture that supports academic success for all students. Our AVID students had the opportunity to embark on college campus tours and visit the Florida State Capitol, where they engaged in meaningful discussions with Representative Jason Shoaf, expanding their knowledge and understanding of our government and higher education institutions.

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND: We are thrilled that our Odyssey of the Mind team once again successfully qualified for the State Tournament. Their exceptional teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving abilities have earned them this incredible opportunity to showcase their talent and represent Riversprings Middle School at the state level.

RMS DRAMA PERFORMANCE: This year, RMS Drama captivated audiences with their outstanding performance of the play, Sherlock Holmes. The enthusiasm and talent exhibited by our drama students highlighted their passion for the arts and provided our school community with memorable and captivating experiences.

BAND ACHIEVEMENTS: Our school band has experienced tremendous growth this year, and their accomplishments have been nothing short of incredible. Through their hard work, dedication, and talent, they have brought honor and recognition to Riversprings Middle School, both within our local community and beyond. To start, 48 student participated in solo and ensemble (38 of them receiving a superior rating), 25 of our students auditioned for the Big Bend All District Band and 10 of them were chosen to represent RMS in the band (3rd most of all middle schools), having our jazz band participate in the Music performance Assessment (MPA) for the first time in over a decade, Our Symphonic Band receiving the highest possible rating of Straight Superiors at MPA, and being the only middle school invited to participate in the FAMU Wind Band Festival. We have also had the opportunity to play within the community at the March School Board Meeting, Celebration of the Arts, and WI Graduation. Our beginning band shows us how bright of a future the program has with 55 dedicated students. They were able to play music that is typical of second year players in their first year. Many of them will be joining the top band (Symphonic) next year.

ATHLETICS: The Bears have had an exceptional year in athletics, with our student-athletes showcasing their skills and dedication in various sports. We are proud to announce that both the Girls' Soccer team and the Baseball team were Conference Runner-up. Furthermore, our Track and Field team has made significant improvements throughout the year, with both the boys' and girls' teams placing in the top 5 overall in the last two meets. We are also delighted to share the outstanding achievement of Aiden Colvin, who placed 5th in the running long jump in the Special Olympics. Aiden serves as a true inspiration to his fellow students and the entire Riversprings Middle School community. Our wrestling team has once again demonstrated their dominance and prowess in the sport, securing the North Florida Championship title. This victory showcases their exceptional skills, determination, and the remarkable coaching they have received. Additionally, the team successfully defended their County Championship title for the 20th straight year. We commend these athletes for their dedication, hard work, and teamwork, which have brought immense pride to our school.

ACADEMIC TEAM: The Riversprings Middle School Academic Team has achieved tremendous success, hosting and competing in various tournaments throughout the year. They have consistently excelled in their performances, proudly placing in every tournament they have participated in. Notably, they emerged as champions in the Wakulla County Tournament, sponsored by the Coastal Optimist Club. This victory highlights their exceptional knowledge, intellect, and dedication to academic excellence.

Furthermore, the tremendous achievements of our Academic Team have led to their qualification for the National Championship tournament. They had the privilege of representing Riversprings Middle School in Chicago in May, showcasing our school's commitment to rigorous academics and extraordinary scholars. We are immensely proud of their exceptional achievements and their representation of our school at a national level.

In conclusion, Riversprings Middle School has had an exceptionally successful year, with achievements in both athletics and academics. Our students have demonstrated their talent, dedication, and perseverance, bringing honor to our school and inspiring their peers. We express our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated teachers, supportive parents, and the entire school community for fostering an environment of growth and excellence.



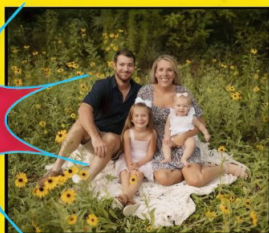
JOSH SANDGREN – PRINCIPAL
RIVERSPRINGS MIDDLE





Mrs. Lindsey Perez

Teacher of the Year



Wakulla Middle School's motto for the 2022-2023 school year was, "Challenge Accepted", and that is certainly what our faculty, staff, and students did daily to overcome obstacles and maintain academic excellence. Our school welcomed a new Dean of Students, Amanda Hofheinz and a new Associate Dean of Discipline, Leon Hillmon. They are WMS natives and supported an environment centered around a culture of learning, relationship building, and high expectations. As a school, we were thrilled to have them return to our Wildcat family! WMS Administration would also like to recognize our amazing teachers for their dedication to student success, planning and implementing engaging lessons, and building relationships with our students. Thank you to our parents for volunteering and dedicating time to support our students with their learning and exciting activities. We are also appreciative of our students for challenging themselves to raise the bar and achieve their goals.

Our very own 6th grade math teacher, Lindsey Perez, was honored as Wakulla Middle School's Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Perez's willingness to provide the highest level of education to her students is unmatched. She is constantly reviewing data, researching the latest ideologies, and building relationships with her students to know how to serve them best. Mrs. Perez is a teacher, mentor, National Junior Honor Society School Coordinator, and Teacher Coach. She can balance multiple tasks at once and guide new teachers to succeed in the classroom. She monitors the academic and behavioral progress of her students to know which direction to take her instruction. Mrs. Perez exemplifies competence, compassion, ethics, and professionalism as an educator. We could not be prouder to have a teacher like her working at WMS. Her prestige knowledge and unique implementation of the standards make an impact both inside and outside the classroom.

Wakulla Middle School's academic achievement is evident in our school through each content area. This year, our school ranked higher than the state's average for all content areas tested. At the conclusion of our school year, we celebrated our 8th grade students with an award ceremony. The ceremony recognized student leaders, athletes, and academic excellence.

This school year, our school was able to host pep rallies, dances, and a Spring Festival! We are always excited to bring the student body and staff together to celebrate and have a good time. One special event we put on was our Spring Festival. This was a day for the students to enjoy a day outside competing against each other on obstacle courses, participating in carnival games, and dunking Mr. Nelson in the dunking booth. Another exciting event was our Sneaker Ball Dance. This was an event to celebrate testing being over and for our students to dress up and wear their favorite sneakers to dance with their friends. A special shoutout to Sopchoppy native, DJ Butch, for mixing up the top hits for our students during the dance. Additionally, 8th grade students were given an opportunity to visit the Tuskegee Air exhibit Flightline Tallahassee put on at the airport. Our students learned about the accomplishments and contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen had on America's armed forces.

This year, our track team won the district's conference which qualified them for the state championship! Coach Isaacs worked tirelessly to coach them on skills and strategies of running, jumping, and throwing. With the support of the community, they were able to travel down to South Florida and compete! Wakulla Middle School's softball team also won the Regional Championship. Coach Balkcom and Coach Peck dedicated multiple days a week to train our girls on key techniques of hitting, new plays, and various skills to dominate the competition. Our Odyssey of the Mind team overcame many obstacles this season and was able to compete in the district and state competitions.

This year, our school had 42-million-word readers. Our top student from each month combined averaged over 840,000 words per month! Our Drama Club put on the production of High School Musical this past spring! All the set, costumes, and dances were created by the students. The show represented Wildcats on a whole new level. This show brought in crowds from all over the county to come and watch the Wildcats get their "heads in the game". We are so proud of our students for this huge accomplishment. Additionally, our first year of the drones' program was a huge success! 43 students worked incredibly hard to achieve their certification, and that was no easy feat!

Wakulla Middle School has a way of bringing students and teachers together as a family. As a Wildcat, we are committed to accepting the challenges that schools face daily to build an atmosphere where anyone who enrolls with us feels that they can accomplish their goals, are welcomed, can have a little fun, and learn a whole lot in the process. To our parents and community, we are proud to serve the students we have on our campus each day. Thank you for trusting us with your children! Wildcats... Challenge Accepted!



SIMEON NELSON – PRINCIPAL
WAKULLA MIDDLE



The 2022-2023 school year brought with it many amazing achievements for Wakulla High School and its students. Principal Michele Falk during her speech to the class of 2023, shared with them a reminder to never forget to keep raising the bar. From the growing CTE programs, phenomenal athletic teams, and entertaining Arts, WHS leads by example and continues to raise the bar, bringing many incredible opportunities for students, faculty, and staff.

ACADEMICS Wakulla High School's teachers continue to provide their students with the best education. WHS's 9th and 10th grade English as well as Geometry scored above the state proficiency percentage for their state testing. Biology as well as US History each scored well above state proficiency during the end of year testing. Our class of 2023 had an impressive 318 seniors' graduate. Haley Taylor was named Valedictorian and Brianna Ly was Salutatorian.



CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION At Wakulla High, Career and Technical Education (CTE) continues to have a positive impact on student achievement, giving them opportunities to use the knowledge they've gained even before graduation. 506 Industry Certifications were earned this year through the vocational programs offered at WHS. This year, the Medical Academy had a passing rate of 100%! Welding completed an artificial reef project with Eastern Ship Building and placed 3rd overall in the Lively welding competition. Automotive participated in a NASCAR simulation engine rebuild project. Building Trades raffled multiple projects including bookcases and Adirondack chairs. Our Culinary program prepared many treats for the Senior Citizens Center, shadowed chefs, and prepared meals for multiple programs. HVAC students were placed in on-the-job training (OJT) positions working in their industry. DIT participated in a major Shark Tank event and Engineering created and competed with classroom robots made from scratch.



PERSONNEL Wakulla High School's faculty and staff continue to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for learning, giving our War Eagles the foundation, they'll need as they move on to their next grand adventures. This year, educators Christa Gauger and William Pafford were chosen by their peers as the Teachers of the Month for September and January. Ms. Gauger continues to help her students learn and grow in Math teaching Geometry and Algebra 2 and is a member of the CTE Academy. As a member, she teaches HTML as well as WordPress to our students, which gives them the opportunity to become certified in WordPress. Mr. Pafford provides insightful information when teaching Economics to our seniors. In addition, as the wrestling coach, he helped students achieve Regional Runner up with 8 State Qualifiers and 3 State Placers. Wakulla High School is proud to have Kristina Sanchez as its 2022 Teacher of the Year! Ms. Sanchez is the Theater Instructor and has brought fun and entertainment to not only our school, but to our community as well. Her hard work, dedication, and encouragement to her students brings us fabulous theater productions you don't want to miss!

THE ARTS Wakulla High School's art department continued to excel in the 2022-2023 school year. Our theatre department produced three impressive shows, *The Beverly Hillbillies*, *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*, and *Matilda the Musical*. In October, *The Beverly Hillbillies* earned a Superior rating at District Competition, an award for best tech, an all-star cast award and an overall one act award. In April, with nearly each show being sold out, theater produced *Matilda the Musical*, which incorporated about 60 students performing high energy songs and extensive choreography as they got bullied by the villainous principal Ms. Trunchbull, played by junior Jackson Giddens.



Wakulla High School's Band never fails to bring football game halftime shows entertainment. During this year's halftime show, the marching band tried a new style of halftime show that incorporated competitive elements like more moving between sets and more technically challenging music. During Florida Bandmasters Association District 3 Marching Music Performance Assessment (MPA), the band received a Superior for their performance.

Winterguard went to their first regional competition of their season at Oakleaf High School located in Orange Park, FL where they placed 3rd overall in their class! During Solo and Ensemble over 25 band and colorguard students participated with over 90% of the students earning a Superior rating. Finally, Wind Ensemble went on to perform at the state level music performance assessment where they earned the rating of superior, something that hasn't been done at Wakulla High since 2015!

In April, WHS hosted the Celebration of the Arts which was a county wide arts showcase ranging from elementary school to high school showcasing art, music, and theatre performances.

ATHLETICS One of the most notable achievements the whole county celebrated was the Softball team's accomplishment of playing in the 4A State Championship for the first time in school history! Their skill and dedication helped them achieve State Runner Up! Teams competing in the State Regional Playoffs were Football and Baseball. Wrestling had 8 student athletes compete in the State Championship tournament. Girls Cross Country ran in the State Championship and Track and Field sent one female student athlete, Trista Heffren, who competed in the State Championship in the Javelin throw. Finally, Boys Golf had one student, Matt Rau, compete in the Regional Championship.

SOARING FORWARD We look forward with excitement and anticipation for all that our War Eagles will accomplish in the upcoming school year. It is without a doubt that Wakulla High School will continue to provide excellent educational and social opportunities for all our students. This is our Wakulla High.



MICHELE FALK – PRINCIPAL
WAKULLA HIGH



Wakulla County Adult Education serves students ages sixteen and over by providing student centered GED preparation classes. Wakulla County Adult Education offers GED day classes in Crawfordville as well as night classes in Panacea. The Crawfordville location also serves as one of the areas only Pearson Certified GED testing centers. Twenty-eight students earned a high school diploma by passing the GED exam. In May, Wakulla County Adult Education held a graduation ceremony in the historic Crawfordville Elementary School auditorium. Students were able to fulfill their dream of walking across the stage and graduating from Wakulla County Schools. The Crawfordville location is also home to the Adults with Disabilities Program and the Legacy Boutique.

TOLAR GRIFFIN- COORDINATOR OF ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION WAKULLA ADULT & COMMUNITY ED

It's been an exciting year at PreK. We've been busy learning through play and have met a lot of new friends along the way. Our Eaglets Tour 22-23 theme lived up to all expectations and sure felt like Life in the Fast Lane at times. We had great fun celebrating and working together to create an environment full of opportunities for our children to enjoy the learning process and strive to be the best that they can be.

During the year we celebrated many special occasions and milestones. Starting us off, we had fun celebrating Johnny Appleseed Day and all things apple....apple hats, bobbing for apples, apple art and apple treats for all. Additionally, in October, we had the pleasure of honoring Mrs. Rene' Lawhon and sending her off into a fun-filled retirement. She spent many, many years sharing her love with us and we'll miss her terribly. We wished her all the best as she gets some well-deserved rest. Our fall festivities also included a fun week of dress-up days in October and a cozy day of hot chocolate in our pajamas to watch Polar Express before the winter holidays. Dr. Seuss week is always a fan favorite in the spring, and we had lots of activities to celebrate and acknowledge his witty and wonderful books.

We were fortunate to have a visit from our local first responders, too. The children heard about fire safety and how to prepare and respond in an emergency situation. Of course, the highlight was seeing the fire truck and ambulance!

We have many wonderful teachers at PreK, but we had the pleasure of honoring Mrs. Nikki White as our September Employee of the Month and Mrs. Laura Wells as our Teacher of the Month in April. Mrs. Nikki does an awesome job assisting in whatever capacity is needed. She provides one-on-one and small group instruction in her classroom, helps each day at buses and willingly steps in to do whatever is needed to maintain a safe and orderly environment for our children. Mrs. Laura is our Speech Language Pathologist and does an amazing job supporting our little ones with communication difficulties. She also takes on many other tasks such as being our Wellness Coach, putting together our incredible yearbooks and heading up our Family Fun Day Committee. You'll see Mrs. Laura and Mrs. Nikki each morning at our Drop-Off area as well greeting each child with a sweet smile and warm 'good morning'. What a great way to start the day! Thank you, Mrs. Nikki and Mrs. Laura!!

Our Family Fun Day was a huge success thanks to our parents, students, faculty/staff and the many other people who donated time and money for our little ones. The competition was tough but rewarding for our top-selling classes as they got the pleasure of 'pie'ing Mr. H. each week. It was a total success, and we were able to celebrate together with an afternoon of fun and games and prizes and popcorn. What a fabulous time we had together!!

The year culminated in our annual PreK graduation and recognition of our little Eaglets completing this milestone and taking flight on their journey to the next big adventure....elementary school. They have worked hard and we know they're going to do amazing things!!

Finally, we are especially grateful to all of those who have made and continue to make PreK the wonderful place that it is. Working together for our little ones helps ensure their future success. There's no place like PreK and, honestly, there's nothing better than a sweet hug, a cute smile and love from a precious child! PreK is truly the happiest place on earth!!



LOUIS HERNANDEZ - PRINCIPAL WAKULLA PRESCHOOL



- Student Athletes of the Year
- Lively Librarian Award
- Art
- Florida Future Educators
- AVID
- Community Service Award
- Foreign Language
- Perfect Attendance
- Human Body Systems
- Associate in Arts Degrees
- Music
 - Band, Color Guard, Guitar
- Enlisting in Military
 - Marines, Army, Air Force, Navy
- Theatre
- English
- Principal's Award
- Math
- Seed Pearl Award
- Science
- National Honor Society
- Social Science
- Academic Recognition
 - Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, Summa Cum Laude
- CTE Program Completers
 - Aerospace, Automotive, Carpentry, Cosmetology, Culinary, Digital Design, Engineering, HVAC, Medical, Phlebotomy, Welding
- Honor Court Recognition
- Salutatorian
- Valedictorian
- Senior Class Officers
 - President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian

SCHOLARSHIPS

WHS SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS





EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES

The goal of the ESE department is always to ensure that students with disabilities are provided with all the excellent educational opportunities that general education students in the Wakulla County School system enjoy. Wakulla's commitment to students with disabilities was demonstrated in the most recent State Performance Plan reporting that Wakulla School District students with disabilities had a graduation rate 98.63%, well above the 82.30% target for the state.

The Legacy Café and the Legacy Boutique continued providing training opportunities for students with disabilities to develop employable skills through hands on participation in all facets of the food service industry and obtain paid positions. Students participating in the Legacy Café plan the menu, shop for the food and supplies, prepare and serve the food, collect money, and perform the maintenance duties (laundry, dish-washing and cleaning). The legacy Café catered two staff training events during the 22-23 school year and received great accolades from the partakers. Participating students come from the Wakulla High School Exceptional Student Education Program and the Program for Adults with Disabilities. Adults with Disabilities create hand crafted items and sell them in our community.

During the 2022-23 school year there were several changes that took place. Nicole Klees, our speech language pathologist serving students in middle and high school for many years, 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 to improve their academic success and post-school outcomes. Mrs. Klees continues to serve Wakulla as well as many other surrounding counties with this important mission.

October is Disability Awareness Month. The district itinerant team, led by staffing specialists Cori Revell and Jennifer Williams initiated several activities across the district to educate all students on the varying exceptionalities and to promote inclusion and appreciation of students with disabilities.

In December students with disabilities from Wakulla High School and Wakulla Institute made their annual visit to the FDLRS building in Tallahassee and showcased their entrepreneur skills. Students from the Legacy Café took orders, prepared and delivered lunches to the staff at the FDLRS building. The Legacy Boutique set up a display and sold handmade holiday crafts to FDLRS and FLDOE staff. Students created every item offered in the boutique, ranging from various types of soap, sugar scrub, and wooden soap dishes to handcrafted jewelry and stamped spoons, plus many holiday gifts.

In February Special Olympics were held at Wakulla High School. This event is organized each year by Mrs. Sharon Scherbarth-Simmons, teacher of students with visual impairments and orientation and mobility specialist. Wakulla County's Special Olympics athletes and their partners competed in an exciting day of track and field events and Bocce. Mrs. Scherbarth-Simmons partners with the Wakulla County Sheriff's Department to provide lunch for all of the athletes and their partners following the event. Wakulla's Special Olympics team progressed to compete in the statewide games in Orlando, Florida.





TITLE I, PART A

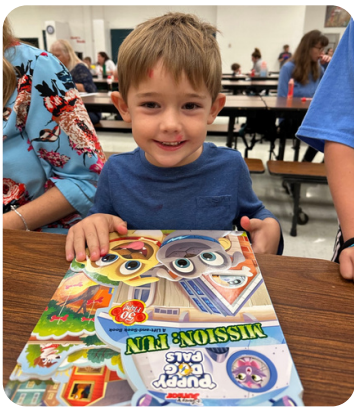
<https://www.wakullaschooldistrict.org/departments/special-programs-assessment>

Title I is a federally-funded program available to select schools, based on the percentage of students eligible for free and reduced lunch. Title I funds are supplemental funds used to increase student achievement. In Wakulla County, Title I serves all students and families in eligible public elementary schools through school-wide programs that provide additional instructional staff and other resources.

In the 2022-2023 school year, funding through Title I increased student achievement by providing:

- ✓ Highly-effective teachers for instruction;
- ✓ Instructional Coaches for professional development;
- ✓ Instructional software, technology, books and supplies;
- ✓ Extended learning opportunities of students.

2022-2023 TITLE I EVENTS



Our schools were thrilled to host in-person Title I events at their schools and had a blast reconnecting with families. Some examples of events held during the 2022-2023 school year were:

- If you Give a Kid a Book...Ways to Ensure your Child's Reading Success
- Cooking with Math at the Chili Cookoff
- STEAM Here, STEAM There, STEAM Everywhere. Participate in a hands-on STEM Activity
- A is for Attendance! Discussing the importance of attendance.
- Career Night



Look out for awesome upcoming events though school websites, emails, and newsletters!



TITLE I SCHOOLS



Crawfordville Elementary School
Principal: Alena Crawford



Medart Elementary School
Principal: Stan Ward



Riversink Elementary School
Principal: Catherine Cutchen





Shadeville Elementary School
Principal: Timothy Wheeler





COAST Charter School
Principal: Jeffrey LaChapelle


WAYS TO GET 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.



STUDENT ASSESSMENT

<https://www.wakullaschooldistrict.org/departments/special-programs-assessment>

PURPOSE

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 ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT THINKING (FAST)

In 2022-2023, Florida assessed students for the first time using Coordinated Screening Progress Monitoring System assessments, which are aligned to the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for K-12 and the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for VPK. FAST assessments include VPK through grade 10 English Language Arts and VPK through grade 8 Mathematics. All FAST assessments are computer-adaptive.

FAST assessments are administered three times per year.

PM1 occurs at the beginning of the school year and provides a baseline score so teachers can track student progress in learning the B.E.S.T. Standards from PM1 to PM2.

PM2 occurs in the middle of the school year when students have had an opportunity to learn the grade-level standards. This administration provides a mid-year score to compare to the baseline score from PM1.

PM3 occurs at the end of the school year and provides a summative score that will accurately measure student mastery of the B.E.S.T. Standards.

While PM1 and PM2 are for informational purposes only, PM3 is used for school accountability.

END-OF-COURSE & SCIENCE ASSESSMENTS

EOC assessments measure the B.E.S.T. Standards or other state standards 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 the EOC for each respective course. Students must score a Level 3 or above to be considered proficient and EOCs account for 30% of a student's grade in the course.

Students take the statewide science assessment in 5th and 8th grade.

STUDENT SCORE REPORTING

Student statewide assessment scores are accessible on the Florida Family Portal. Parents and guardians can access the Portal through their Focus parent account.



AT A GLANCE

2022-2023

READING PROFICIENCY  **2%**

Ranked 6th in achievement out of 67 school districts.

MATH PROFICIENCY  **3%**

Ranked 12th in achievement out of 67 school districts.

OTHER HONORABLE STATEWIDE RANKINGS

- Ranked 4th in achievement in U.S. History
- Ranked 6th in achievement in Biology
- Ranked 13th in achievement in Civics
- Ranked 14th in achievement in 5th Grade Science

ACT NATIONAL/STATE COMPARISON

Average ACT Composite Score

19.2



18.9



21.1



DISTRICT & SCHOOL REPORT CARDS

District and school performance reports can be accessed on Florida Department of Education's "Know Your Schools" portal at www.edudata.fldoe.org.