



Seminole County Public Schools 2008-2009 Report to the Community

The Chalkboard

Academics

Arts

Athletics



a "TRIPLE A"
experience:
Academics, Arts, Athletics



Seminole County Public Schools



SCPS: A “Triple A” Experience

Academics | Arts | Athletics



The “Triple A Experience” continues in Seminole County Public Schools! Despite budget challenges during unprecedented financial times, Seminole schools are committed to providing students with an impressive array of programs in Academics, Arts, and Athletics. Seminole County Public Schools (SCPS) is an “A” rated school district and is designated Academically High-Performing by the Florida Department of Education. SCPS remains focused on preparing 21st century students for success today, in college and for their careers of choice as they enter a globally competitive world.

The public schools of Seminole County focus on high levels of academic achievement for all students. All middle and high schools offer advanced course work,

including a comprehensive range of Advanced Placement courses at every Seminole County high school. Gifted and special needs classes begin at the elementary level and provide opportunities for acceleration and academic support.

A close look at school offerings finds opportunities for the arts at all three levels, elementary, middle and high school. Some of the courses are Orff symphonies, choirs and creative art at the elementary level; instrumental band and choral groups in middle school; and digital design, dance and drama in high school. Whether in the exploration stage or engaging in in-depth study, the arts help students discover and develop the creative genius within.

Athletically, Seminole students are recognized across Florida, and annually earn state titles in various sports. Physical education programs, which begin in kindergarten, emphasize the importance of physical exercise and fitness for life. Intramural athletics are offered in middle school, and high school students can choose from a vast array of sporting opportunities that include lacrosse, tennis, swimming, diving, volleyball, wrestling, and many other athletic extracurricular activities. In SCPS we believe that student engagement in athletics, clubs, the arts, school government

and/or civic groups provides important life lessons in teamwork, dedication and goal attainment.

With all the acclaim about Seminole schools, you might wonder about your return on your investment in public education. Last year, 5880 students earned over \$14.5 million in Bright Futures Scholarships. SCPS college ready rate is the highest in central Florida and SCPS’s graduation rate is 91%, which is 16% higher than the state average. Forty-five students earned National Merit Scholar designations and the county’s academic team finished 2nd in the state. Advanced Placement (AP) students earned scholarships to the nation’s best colleges. FCAT rankings are 1 or 2 in the region for every academic category and SAT scores remain above state and national averages. All high school bands earned Superior performance rankings. Technology is integrated into students’ academic experiences and over 20,000 classroom computers are used daily.

Academics, Arts, and Athletics are part and parcel of the “Triple A Experience” in Seminole County Public Schools, supporting our mission ‘to ensure that all students acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to be successful in life.’

Photo by Rae Marie, RaeMariePhotoReflect.com

District Report Card

SCPS Board

2008-2009

Members 2008-09

Student Achievement	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
District Grade	A	A	A	A
FCAT Reading	6 th	3 rd	4 ^{th*}	3 ^{rd*}
FCAT Math	5 th	2 ^{nd*}	3 ^{rd*}	4 th
FCAT Writing	5 th	4 ^{th*}	2 ^{nd*}	4 ^{th*}
FCAT Science	NA	7 th	6 th	4 th
AP/IB Tests	9873	10076	9978	10299
SAT Score	1041	1034	1043	1039
Graduation Rate	81.3%	83.4%	86.7%	91.1%

District Grade – state accountability grade for school district.
 FCAT Scores – state ranking of mean scale score for each subject tested. *(tied)
 AP/IB Tests - total number of AP and IB exams taken in the district.
 SAT Score - average score for previous year's graduating seniors who took the test.
 Graduation Rate - percent of previous year's students meeting the state criteria for a high school graduate.

Parent Satisfaction	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Parents feel welcome at school	94.5%	95.0%	94.4%	94.0%
My child feels safe at school	94.5%	94.5%	94.1%	93.6%
Teachers & administrators promote academic excellence	96.5%	96.4%	96.0%	96.0%
Schools operate in a professional and business-like manner	95.3%	95.3%	94.7%	94.4%
The overall quality of education students receive is good	96.7%	96.8%	96.6%	96.3%

The percent of the 21,996 respondents to the Parent Climate Survey in 2008-09 who agreed or strongly agreed with each item.

School Choice	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
School Transfers	4470*	5045	3765**	3459
Magnet School Transfers	2298*	2909	2974	3193
Charter School Students	618	869	552	561

School Transfers - total number of student transfers granted.
 Magnet School Transfers – total number of out of zone students attending magnet schools.
 Charter School Students - total number of students enrolled in charter schools.
 *Middle and High School Rezoning effect.
 **Decline is the result of the Grandfather/Rezoning students who have left the system since the rezoning in 2005-2006.

Community Support	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Business Partners	880	966	1084	1047
PTA Membership	24198	24658	23008	22330
Number of Dividends	22572	23598	24393	24163
Foundation Income	\$801000	\$864519	\$1080000	\$948,700*

Business Partners - total number of local businesses registered as official partners with the school district.
 PTA Membership - total number of PTA members registered in the district.
 Number of Dividends - total number of parent and community volunteers.
 Foundation Income - total amount of income to this nonprofit corporation (*year not completed).

Management	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Class Size Average (PK-3)	17.4	16.62	16.15	16.49
Class Size Average (4-8)	19.83	18.54	19.30	19.23
Class Size Average (9-12)	23.23	22.20	21.79	22.11
Average Building Age	12.4	11.9	11.7	11.1
Property Tax Rate	7.965	7.753	7.413	7.543
Admin Costs Ranking	14 th	11 th	13 th	TBD-1/10
State Funding Rank	56 th	50 th	48 th	58 th
Classroom Expenditures	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	TBD-1/10

Class Size Average - averages reported by DOE. Averages for grades K-5 represent self-contained classrooms. Averages for grades 6-12 represent classes for core academic subjects.
 Average Building Age - average number of years buildings have been in existence w/o major renovation.
 Property Tax Rate - total millage rate assessed by the School Board.
 Admin Costs Ranking - the comparative state ranking of administrative costs compared to classroom expenditures for the previous year. (the smaller the numerical ranking, the better the ratio).
 State Funding Rank - the comparative state ranking of per pupil funding received from the state (the smaller the numerical ranking, the greater the funding).
 Classroom Expenditures - the percent of the district's total operating budget for the previous year that was spent at the classroom level. Equals the total classroom expenditures divided by the total operating expenditures (the smaller the number the better).



Diane Bauer



Jeanne Morris



Sylvia Pond



Sandra Robinson



Dede Schaffner

District Report Card | SCPS Board

Special Programs

Helping Homeless School Children and their Families in Seminole County

There are hundreds of homeless families, or 'families in transition,' served by Seminole County Public Schools. The Families in Transition (FIT) program began in 2003 with only three identified homeless students and by the end of the 2008-2009 school year, has served over 4,300 homeless children. Of the over 1.2 million homeless children in the United States, 1002 of them attended school in Seminole County in the 2008-2009 school year.

In a difficult economy, a layoff and or employer cutback combined with one large unexpected expense can move a family from being a middle-class homeowner to residing on a friend's couch, staying in a motel, or moving into a shelter. Once a family starts living in a motel, living expenses increase, making it nearly impossible for the family to save enough money to rent an apartment. Saving up money for first and last month's rent, plus deposits

on utilities, becomes almost impossible. During the 2008-2009 school year, 14% of the FIT families lived in motels, 75% shared housing, 8% lived in shelters and 3% lived in inadequate housing. Within this student population, 14% are temporarily residing without a legal guardian.

Under the Federal Law, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, homeless

children have the right to continue in their school of origin with transportation provided for the remainder of the school year. In addition, homeless children have the right to the same quality of education provided to other children. Many receive free breakfast and lunch, school supplies, and



clothing. The FIT program assists with providing holiday gifts, Thanksgiving meals, refurbished bikes, refurbished computers, and coordinates an annual event that brings over 40 social service agencies together to assist the families in one evening, in one location. Working closely with the school social workers, FIT also provides referrals throughout the school year to local community agencies that help stabilize the family.

Calls to Seminole County's Resource Information Hotline (2-1-1) have increased from 4,000 to 14,000 in a year. In an effort to reduce future homelessness for SCPS students and Seminole County residents, FIT Coordinator, Beth Davalos is collaborating with Seminole County government and other agencies to create a homeless prevention plan, and more affordable housing for homeless families in Seminole County.

Seminole County Public Schools - The Future of Learning!

During the 2008-2009 school year, education plans in Seminole County Public Schools (SCPS) moved to include schools without walls – virtual school. SCPS is excited to announce the launch of two new virtual school options for home, private and public school students living in Seminole County. Virtual school meets the demands of today's digital learners. Students receive individualized instruction utilizing the Internet,

email, telephone, instant messaging, online collaboration tools and face-to-face teacher forums. The virtual format allows flexibility of time and location, while promoting the skills and self-discipline for success in the 21st Century. And there is NO COST to participate!

For families looking for a full time virtual schooling option, SCPS offers the Seminole Virtual Instruction Program (SVIP). This option is available

for students in grades K-12, although it is limited to students who were enrolled in public school the prior year. SVIP students are educated at home using outstanding curriculum and teachers provided by K12 (www.k12.com).

To learn more about the full-time SVIP program or the virtual courses offered through SCVS, please visit the SCPS district website <http://www.scps.k12.fl.us/virtualschool/> or call 407-871-7287.



in 2009-2010

District Winners

The Florida Department of Education designates a letter grade to each high school that is determined on a series of performance indicators earned on the 9th, 10th and 11th grade FCAT (Reading, Mathematics, Writing and Science). Points are earned for the percent of students who score as proficient, the percent of students demonstrating annual learning gains, and the performance of students in the lower quartile. A school can be dropped a letter grade if the lowest quartile students do not demonstrate annual learning gains in reading or mathematics.

Beginning in 2009-2010 a revised High School Accountability system will be utilized. The performance indicators noted above will count towards 50 percent of each high school's letter grade (maximum of 800 points); new performance indicators will count for the other 50 percent (maximum of 800 points). The new indicators include (but are not limited to) the National Governor's Association Graduation rate (an entirely new graduation rate calculation), the National Governors Association At-Risk Graduation rate, Student College Readiness (SAT, ACT, CPT scores), advanced course participation and performance (Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Dual Enrollment and Industry Certification). A potential total of 1600 points, beginning in the 2009-2010 school year of grading, will be used for designating each high school's letter grade.

Two Seminole County Public School business partners have been recognized by the Florida Commissioner of Education for their outstanding partnership activities: Scholastic Book Fairs and Special Editions Publishing, Incorporated. These two business partners exemplify the model of partnerships which support a philosophy of schools and community working together for our children.

For the past two summers **Scholastic Book Fairs** partnered with



Seminole County Public Schools to provide days of magical reading for the "Let's Read, Seminole!" initiative. During the summer, students across Seminole County were given access to books donated by Scholastic Book Fairs, transported on the bookmobile known as "The Big Red Book Bus," to promote reading. A generous portion of the proceeds from area business book fairs were donated to the "Let's Read, Seminole!" initiative with the primary purpose to keep the "Big Red Book Bus" on the road throughout the summer.

Special Editions Publishing, Inc. partnered with Seminole County Public Schools to produce the award winning annual report to the community known as The Chalkboard. This publication includes a variety of

information items and articles highlighting areas of interest from the past school year. A link to e Chalkboard is posted on the district's home page (www.scps.us); it has also been produced as a center insert in local publications such as the Success in Seminole magazine. Special Editions Publishing, Inc. also donates thousands of copies to the school district for distribution use during the school year at no cost. By partnering with Special Editions Publishing, Inc. on this project, costs to the school district for this publication have been substantially reduced.

YOUTH VOLUNTEER WINNER



Evan Williams was named as a 2008 Florida Outstanding Youth Volunteer by the Florida Commissioner of Education. Evan was at the epicenter of student activities while a student at Lyman High School. As Senior Class President, he led by example, assisting with Pasta for Pennies, Relay for Life, Lyman recycling, Red Ribbon Week, team assistant manager and sports announcer for several sports, and Peer Counselor – to name a few. Currently he is a student at Valencia Community College in Orlando, often returning to his alma mater to assist the Student Government Association with freshmen orientation and other special projects.

Construction

The Journey Back

For many years the school district has contracted with outside agencies to meet the educational needs of expelled students in a leased facility. For long term cost savings, the management of this expulsion alternative program will shift from ResCare (EXCEL) to Seminole County Public Schools in August 2009. Renamed "Journeys Academy", the program will provide core curriculum courses with the goal of returning rehabilitated students back to their assigned schools.

The school will occupy remodeled space at the Education Support Center Annex in Sanford, Florida. Designed by architect



Dawn Hetzer and constructed by BE&K Building Group, the new facility can accommodate

up to 400 students in thirteen general classrooms, two science demonstration labs, and three computer labs. Dining areas and administrative support spaces are also provided.

Journeys Academy will be staffed with SCPS teachers and administrators. Under the caring leadership of Principal Mike Icardi, students will have the opportunity for an excellent education, and a second chance to be successful in school.

Lions' Pride



On September 4, 2001, Seminole County voters approved an extension of the current penny infrastructure sales tax (the 7th cent) for an additional 10 years, with $\frac{1}{4}$ of the cent allocated for schools. The remainder of the revenue was set aside for City and County road and sidewalk projects.

Eleven schools were identified for construction projects under this funding program. Seminole

County Public Schools will complete their commitments to the public when the remodeling of Red Bug Elementary School is finalized in 2010 - a full year ahead of the 10-year milestone. Included in the list was a \$65M project at Oviedo High School, which is now finished after three years of major construction.

Designed by BRPH Architects and constructed by BE&K Building Group, the OHS campus was re-configured around two large courtyards. With a capacity of almost 3000 student stations, the project included the following features:

- New two-story classroom building
- New tech lab building
- New gymnasium
- Upgrades to the practice gym and new PE locker rooms

- New cafeteria and kitchen
- Renovations to the auditorium, and new band, vocal, piano, and drama suites
- Upgrades to all other existing classroom buildings and the administration offices
- Improved parking for students and staff, and a new bus loop

The Lions of Oviedo High School (students, faculty, parents, and staff) are proud of their new campus and are grateful to the district and community for their support.



Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)

in Seminole County

The State of Florida provides Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) to all four year old children. Children are entitled to participate if they are 4 years of age, on or before September 1 of the current school year. Parents may choose a school year program consisting of 540 hours, or a summer program of 300 hours.

During the 2008-09 school year the Seminole County Public School system served over 350 students in VPK. The program consisted of 26 classes at 17 different locations throughout the district.

The curriculum utilized by the district's VPK program is based upon Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten Standards and is developmentally appropriate and research based. Components of the High Scope Curriculum are incorporated into daily lessons, as is Breakthrough to Literacy. A math and science curriculum, and character education component is also integrated through the children's active day of learning. Parent conferences are conducted throughout the year and parents are encouraged to be a part of their child's first school experience.

It is the intention of the VPK program that all students will enter

Kindergarten ready to learn. When children enter Kindergarten they are given the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS) to determine their individual rate of readiness to enter school. Seminole County Public Schools School Year VPK program scored an average score of 272 out of a possible 300 regarding readiness rates. Additionally Seminole County outscored other central Florida districts by an average of 10 points.

The future of VPK in Seminole County looks bright! The program has expanded to include additional sites each year, based on community need and request.

NOTE: Students do not have to attend their zoned school; however they must reside in Seminole County. If you are interested in the Voluntary Prekindergarten program with Seminole County Public Schools, please feel free to contact the Prekindergarten (Pre-K) office at 407-320-0463 or access on the web: www.scps.k12.fl.us > Parents > Parents G-Z > Voluntary PreKindergarten.

 Visit our Bragging Rights website at: www.scps.us

Valedictorians

Class of 2009



Crooms Academy
Benjamin Benomar
Georgia Institute of Technology



Hagerty High
Jennifer Laster
University of Florida



Lake Brantley High
Ari Benjamin Seff
Emory University



Lake Howell High
Hussein Hussein
Stetson University



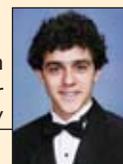
Lake Mary High
Bryce Grier
University of Virginia



Lyman High
Kara Poole
University of Florida



Oviedo High
Martin Trang
University of Central Florida



Seminole High
Faraz Yashar
Duke University



Winter Springs High
Andrew Scott Boik
University of Florida

VPK | Valedictorians

Student Calendar

2009 - 2010

Seminole Excels

FCAT:

Calendar | FCAT

Date of Board Adoption: May 27, 2008

Definition of Descriptions:

- Schools Closed = Teachers and students not in attendance; Educational Support Center open for business
- Schools Closed for Students - Teacher Work Day = Students not in attendance; Teachers are working & Educational Support Center is open for business
- School System Closed - Teachers, students, and employees at Educational Support Center not in attendance

Date	Event
*August 18- 21	Teacher Workdays
August 24	First Day of Student Attendance Start of 1st Quarter/1st Semester
September 7	School System Closed - Holiday
*September 28	Schools Closed for Students - Teacher Workday
October 27	End of 1st Quarter (45 Days)
October 28	Start of 2nd Quarter
*October 30	Schools Closed for Students - Teacher Workday
November 23	Schools Closed/Student Make-Up Day #3, If Needed
November 24	Schools Closed/Student Make-Up Day #4, If Needed
November 25	Schools Closed
November 26-27	School System Closed - Holiday
December 21	School System Closed/Student Make-Up Day #1, If Needed
December 22	School System Closed/Student Make-Up Day #2, If Needed
December 23 - January 1	School System Closed
January 4	Classes Resume
January 18	School System Closed - Holiday
January 19-21	Early Dismissal for Students
January 21	End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester (45 Days)
*January 22	Schools Closed for Students- Teacher Workday
January 25	Start of 3rd Quarter/2nd Semester
February 15	School System Closed - Holiday
March 26	End of 3rd Quarter (44 Days)
March 29	Start of 4th Quarter
*April 2	Schools Closed for Students - Teacher Workday
April 5 - 9	School System Closed - Spring Break
April 12	Classes Resume
May 31	School System Closed - Holiday
June 7- 9	Early Dismissal for Students
June 9	Last Day of Student Attendance End of 4th Quarter/2nd Semester (46 Days)
*June 10 - 11	Teacher Workdays

*Teacher Workdays as of March 13, 2009

 **Chalkboard/ 2008-2009 Report to the Community**
Published to provide information to the Seminole County taxpayers about public schools.

Further information may be obtained by contacting: Community Involvement/Public Information • Seminole County Public Schools • 400 East. Lake Mary Blvd. • Sanford, Florida 32773 • Phone 407-320-0184 • Regina Klaers, Editor • www.scps.us

"SPEAK OUT" Hotline is a key to safety

1-800-226-7733 • 24 hours a day • 7 days a week • www.scps.us

A Special Annual Report feature of success in Seminole Magazine
This report sponsored by



Success Magazine
The Authority on the Success Stories of the Future



Seminole County Public Schools | 2008-2009 | Report to the Community

Florida's A+ Program - 2009 School Grades
Schools throughout Florida are held accountable for the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) results. SCPS earned a District Grade of A in 2009, as has been done every year since the inception of district grades in 1999.

95% of Seminole County Public Schools earned either an "A" or "B" this year.

How does Seminole compare among Central Florida Districts? *Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Volusia.*

FCAT rankings Central Florida districts

Reading 09		Mathematics 09	
3 rd Grade	1 st	3 rd Grade	1 st
4 th Grade	1 st	4 th Grade	1 st
5 th Grade	1 st	5 th Grade	1 st
6 th Grade	2 nd	6 th Grade	2 nd
7 th Grade	1 st	7 th Grade	1 st
8 th Grade	1 st	8 th Grade	1 st +
9 th Grade	2 nd	9 th Grade	1 st +
10 th Grade	2 nd	10 th Grade	1 st +

Writing 09		Science 09	
4 th Grade	2 nd +	5 th Grade	2 nd
8 th Grade	1 st	8 th Grade	2 nd
10 th Grade	1 st +	11 th Grade	2 nd

A (+) mark indicates a tie.

Educational Equity

It is the policy of the School Board of Seminole County, Florida, that no employee, student, or applicant shall - on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (gender), marital status, age, religion, disability (Section 504/ADA) or any other basis prohibited by law - be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination and harassment under any educational programs, activities or in any employment conditions, policies, or practices conducted by the district. For any concerns regarding employees/applicants - contact the Executive Director/Professional Standards at 407-320-0097; regarding students - contact the Executive Director/Exceptional Student Support Services at 407-320-0216. Either Executive Director may be contacted at:
Seminole County Public Schools, Educational Support Center, 400 E. Lake Mary Blvd., Sanford, FL 32773-7127.