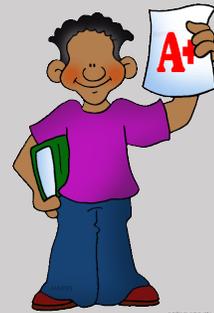


KEEPING YOU INFORMED



Much of the information in this quarterly newsletter consists of highlights of the detailed information that has been sent out previously. This is meant to serve as an overview of that information.

#1. READING ENDORSEMENT

There has been an abundance of information provided by Lori Sandgren on this topic. As Mrs. Sandgren navigated through many of the unanswered questions asked to DOE over the past few years, she has provided many opportunities and choices for teachers to take classes towards earning the Reading Endorsement. Fortunately, on October 4, 2019 DOE provided answers to some of the questions Mrs. Sandgren and many others have been asking. The detailed information received from DOE was sent in an email fairly recently, but below are the highlights:

- Memorandum sent by Jacob Oliva on October 4, 2019
- DOE contact is Richard Myhre at Richard.Myhre@fldoe.org
- “House Bill 7055 states that beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, intensive reading interventions must be delivered by a teacher who is certified or endorsed in reading. This bill became effective in July 1, 2018, giving districts two years to plan for the implementation of this section.”
- All retained students in third grade are required to receive intensive reading interventions.
- All teachers are not required to earn the Reading Endorsement, but All teachers who provide intensive reading interventions ARE required to have it.
- If you do not have your Reading Endorsement by next year (2020-2021) and have students in your classroom needing intensive reading instruction by you, you will be identified as an Out-Of-Field (OOF) teacher and must meet all of the OOF requirements by the following year: complete at least two reading endorsement classes PER YEAR within one calendar year from the date of initial appointment to the out-of-field assignment, and each calendar year thereafter until all requirements are completed. You do not have to complete all five competencies of the 300 hours mandated by DOE within one year, but you do have to take at least two classes during the year you are OOF.
- No long term substitute teachers or paraprofessionals may provide intensive interventions
- The district was required to turn in a reading plan for approval by DOE and through PAEC that includes the methods and strategies that will ensure that Wakulla teachers who provide intensive interventions are appropriately certified. Wakulla’s Reading Plan has been approved.
- New information will be provided for you from our Instructional Department and/or Lori Sandgren as it is received.

#2. BEST & BRIGHTEST UPDATES

The disbursement of funds for all categories of Best & Bright is scheduled for no later than December 2019. Below are the highlights of the MOU between WCTA and the District that was approved by the Board on October 21, 2019. The complete MOU can be found on the District webpage under the Human Resource tab.

RECRUITMENT AWARD

- Only newly hired teachers are eligible for this one-time award.

- Newly hired for Wakulla County is defined as a teacher who is hired after the end of the previous year, for the current school year, by the first FTE, and has never been employed by Wakulla County prior to the current year.
- Must be a content area expert.
- The amount awarded for the Recruitment Award will be no greater than the amount awarded for the Recognition Award
- October 31 is the deadline for all new hires to turn in documentation for being an “expert.”

RETENTION AWARD

- SES and WMS qualified for this
- Teachers who earned a HE for the 2018-2019 SY at these schools and are still at one of these schools will receive \$2,500, and those who earned an E will receive \$1,000.

RECOGNITION AWARD

- **ALL** teachers who taught in a public school in the state of Florida and provide a copy of their 2018-2019 evaluation by October 31 showing HE or E for an overall rating will receive this award. If you were employed in Wakulla County during the 18-19 school year and received an overall HE or E evaluation, you do not need to turn in an evaluation. The district has a record of this.
- State statute states that a school principal must recommend a teacher for this award. All principals at all school have recommended that all teachers who qualify for this award receive this award.
- ALL teaches and other instructional personnel will include: full time classroom teachers as defined by Florida Statute and interpreted by Wakulla County, media specialists, staffing specialists, SLP’s, instructional coaches, therapists, and other full time Wakulla County teachers, paraprofessionals, pre-k teachers, CDA’s and others.
- The amount of this award will be determined after the other three awards (Recruitment, Retention, and Principal) have been determined. An equal disbursement will be given to all teachers scoring a HE or E on their evaluation. Paraprofessionals and CDA’s will receive 25% of the amount awarded to teachers in this category.

PRINCIPAL AWARD

One school principal is eligible for this \$5,000 award.

#3. FOOD SERVICE

A new food service software will be used at the point of sale (cash register) beginning November 5th. This new software will create a slight learning curve for each school and may slow down lunch lines as our new cashiers and managers learn the system. Implementation will begin slowly, a few sites at a time, to help alleviate typical issues with new programs. Our Food Service Department has done an amazing job utilizing “back to basics” with paper and pencil as their sole record keeping method since our recent ransomware attack.

Wakulla County’s 2020 Future Chefs Event is scheduled for Thursday, March 12th. A detailed informational flyer about this event will soon be sent home to all 3rd, 4th and 5th grade elementary students. Be on the lookout!

#4. SCHOOL SAFETY

An additional Guardian, Leonard Reid, has been added to our District Safety Team. Mr. Reid’s primary duties will include assisting with safety at the Wakulla Institute and other schools on an as-needed basis. We now have one SRO at each school and one Guardian at each secondary school. Please continue to wear your

name badges, notify administration if someone is on your campus without a WCSB badge, and continue to help keep our campuses safe. Our SRO's and Guardians are continually walking the halls, monitoring the outsider perimeters, keeping a watchful eye at each school, and making their presence known throughout the school. Continual communication about safety with your students and promoting "See Something Say Something" will help keep us all safe.

#5. A+ Money

December 2019 is the expected date for disbursement of these funds to all eligible employees.

#6. MEET & GREET

On November 21st at 9:00 in the School Board Room there will be a "Meet & Greet" for all of our Fall 2019 practicum students and interns. The purpose of this meeting is to meet Superintendent Pearce and hear about teaching opportunities in Wakulla. Attendees will be given the opportunity to complete an online application before leaving and ask questions about employment.

#7. ESE TEACHERS

Remember to schedule one day each nine weeks for an additional planning day outside of your classroom. Talk with your principal to select the best day to do this.

#8 General Knowledge Test

We have provided a link under the Human Resource Department tab on the district website with information about the GK and how to receive support for this test. This same link provides information for those who hold a 3-year temporary certificate. Please reference this link or contact Angie Walker at angela.walker@wcsb.us if you have questions about the GK or temporary certificates.

#9 HEALTH INSURANCE

There is a scheduled meeting with the district, WCTA and our insurance providers on December 5th to continue asking questions and investigating possible alternatives and/or solutions to the increasing cost of health insurance.

#10 DATES TO REMEMBER

November 11	Veteran's Day Holiday	December 19	Exams
November 15	Progress Reports	December 20	Exams/Early Release
November 25	Thanksgiving Holiday	December 23	Winter Holiday begins



There is no self-made

such thing as a man. You will

reach your goals only with the help of others.

George Shinn

Thank you for being an educator in Wakulla County. You make this the best place to live and work!