



# WAKULLA COUNTY 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 school year despite the unique challenges that came with it..

Our district Teacher of the Year for 2020-2021 was Deana Davis from Riversprings Middle School. Mrs. Davis is a wonderful educator who knows what it means to be resource to her teammates as a part of a community of excellence.

The end of the school year saw Wakulla continue to excel as 4th in the state of all 67 public school districts in Florida for both Fourth Grade English Language Arts and Mathematics.

While the Covid-19 pandemic made for one of the most difficult school openings in educational history, Wakulla worked together to make sure both distance learning and brick and mortar students were able to engage with enriching content over the course of the academic year.

Wakulla County Schools continues to work toward providing a robust education for all students. As we move forward with the new school year, we hope to target the areas in which our students might have had difficulty and work to make them new strengths.

Together we can continue to give students a safe and robust learning environment even in difficult times. Here at Wakulla County Schools we will always prioritize our students and enabling them to grow and flourish in all areas of their education while preparing to meet tomorrow's challenges. 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,

As your School Board Chair over the last year, my term began in the midst of a precarious time fraught with unprecedented challenges to our education system and lives with the onset of COVID-19. We lost loved ones, dear teachers, former educators, and beloved community members who dedicated their lives to our children and remind us that our purpose is to encourage and aid our citizens in successful endeavors for the benefit of the students of our community.

Because our children are our most important asset, my fellow board members and I have worked diligently with Superintendent Pearce and the many district administrators, school site administrators, teachers, and employees to provide stability, safety, and a foundational education that will continue to prepare our students to be some of the best in our country. We did so through exploring new instructional options such as district-designed virtual school options and plans for the continuation of learning had the need to close brick and mortar schools for an extended period of time occurred. Thankfully, our schools did not need to close and our teachers, with the help and support of each family, were able to maintain the rigor and standard of excellence that has kept Wakulla County School District at the top of Florida's schools year after year. The resilience, perseverance, and drive of our students, parents, faculty, and employees is a testament to our strong sense of community.

As a fiscally constrained county, we have still been able to increase academic programs and opportunities for students, increase the number of vocational programs to now include HVAC and Aerospace Technology while improving facilities at several school centers, building a new bus garage, and making required repairs to the WHS football field enabling us to install AstroTurf to make the best use of the field at WHS for boys and girls varsity, junior varsity, and middle school soccer, high school and middle school football, high school flag football, WHS band, and NJROTC. Additionally, the AstroTurf installation provides a safer and more readily available option for graduation and other student special events.

With so many obstacles to overcome this last year, I am truly proud of the care all levels of administration took to continue to provide the best education and support possible for our students.

I am honored to continue to serve you as your school board member and chair and pray for your safety and health as a community.

Sincerely,

Melisa Taylor  
Chair



# 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 2020 2021

**Robert Pearce**  
Superintendent

**Randy Beach**  
Chief Finance Officer

**Mike Barwick**  
Executive Director of Facilities  
& Maintenance

**Sunny Chancy**  
Chief Academic Officer

**Angela Walker**  
Chief Human Resource Officer

**Belinda McElroy**  
Executive Director of ESE  
& Student Services

**Amy Bryan**  
Coordinator of Mental Health Services

**Daniel Lilly**  
Director of Informational Services

**Krista Sharin**  
Coordinator of Special Programs

**Timothy Stephens**  
Director of Technology Services

**Pat Jones**  
Coordinator of Transportation

**Jim Griner**  
Coordinator of Safety &  
Risk Management

**Lori Sandgren**  
Coordinator of Curriculum

**Dod Walker**  
Director of Adult, Athletic and Diversity  
Recruitment Programs

### 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.





In the 2020-2021 school year the faculty and staff at CES, under the leadership of Principal Alena Crawford and Assistant Principal Lindsay Sparkman, fulfilled Crawfordville's vision during this unpredictable school year. Students at Crawfordville Elementary School experienced another great year of learning in an atmosphere of warmth, trust, respect, and flexibility. Our teachers bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our students. The Cougar Family was joined by kindergarten teacher Kayla Lee, 2nd-grade teachers Katelin Morris and Morgan Beaty, 4th-grade teacher Kimberley Wiley, librarian Susan Turpyn and art teacher Scarlet Tucker.

Parents and family members play an important role in the education of children. Crawfordville continued to involve parents in their child's education the best we could while keeping everyone safe. There were lots of virtual opportunities for parents and family members to stay in touch with their child's educational journey including title 1 family nights focusing on reading Wakulla, mystery science, celebrating diversity, and preventing a summer slide. Families could shop our bi-annual book fair together as well as be involved in a classroom fundraiser which raised money that allowed our teachers to purchase STEM activities, hands-on manipulatives, books, and much more for their students. Most of our teachers invited parents and family members to join a classroom connection that let them follow their child's learning and enjoy pictures along the way.

Students at CES read an impressive number of books this year. As a school, we read 106,049,410 words! Grade level word counts are as follows: Kindergarten-13,458 words; 1st-2,910,364 words; 2nd-10,299,721 words; 3rd-27,324,847 words; 4th-33,202,366 words; and 5th-32,298,654 words. CES celebrated their amazing readers with the Word Count Club as well as the 100 Books Read Club. Each grade level has different requirements; the 1st-grade goal is 100,000 words, the 2nd-grade goal is 200,000 words, the 3rd-grade goal is 500,000 words, and the 4th and 5th-grade goal is 1 million words. Between 1st and 2nd grade the 100 Books Read Club had 24 students and the Word Count Club had 48 students which is a total of 72 students recognized for their accomplishments with a certificate and a t-shirt. We are so proud of their hard work! Individual students with the highest word counts were 1st-Bayli Pinkerton (157,439 words), 2nd-Joseph Edwards (1,033,918 words), 3rd-Cooper Barrett (1,728,095 words), 4th-Grayson Cummins (2,243,073 words), and 5th-Riley Smith (4,044,950 words).

Throughout the year, although it looked different, our students were involved in the learning process through a variety of special activities. Students participated in Fire Prevention Day, SAVE, Project Learning Tree Week (PLT), Dr. Seuss Day, and Read-Across America Day. Crawfordville was also one of eight schools to be awarded a mini-grant through Project Learning Tree.

Crawfordville students also worked to improve their computer literacy skills. Twenty-first-century students must build their repertoire of computer literacy skills. Over 70 fourth and fifth-grade students completed several industry certifications through the ICT program. This year we expanded the program to all our fourth and fifth-grade students during their special area time.

With a lot of time spent learning Crawfordville was able to throw in some fun by celebrating our fifth graders with a fifth-grade fun day, which of course involved pizza, outdoor games, and lots of laughs!

Our hard-working staff had several honors throughout the school year. Several teachers were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the school and teaching profession. Kirsten Brazier was our November 2020 Teacher of the Month and Miranda Bowen was our March 2021 Teacher of the Month. In November, Amber Allen was selected by her peers as Teacher of the Year!

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



ALENA CRAWFORD – PRINCIPAL

CRAWFORDVILLE ELEMENTARY



Even when confronted with a worldwide pandemic, Medart Elementary enjoyed an awesome 2020-2021 school year! Our theme this year was “It’s your move – get in the game”! After an unexpected ending to the previous school year, Mustang students and teachers were eager to get back into the routine of school. Although this was a different type of year than we had ever experienced, Mustang students still had opportunities to hear guest speakers virtually, participate in virtual educational field trips, and had hands-on learning opportunities that gave our students real-world opportunities to learn. One of this year’s experiences involved fifth-grade students having the opportunity to participate in a virtual field trip with the Challenger Learning Center, in Tallahassee. During this field trip, students were in charge of completing a space mission. Their success was based on working as a team and following directions to accomplish their mission. This experience was offered through a grant, so it was at no cost to our students or school. We are extremely thankful for the opportunities that our surrounding community continues to offer our students each year.

During the school year, teachers were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the school and teaching profession. Fourth-grade teacher, Amy Anderson, was our October 2020 Teacher of the Month and another fourth-grade teacher, Shari Smith, was our February 2021 Teacher of the Month. In December, fifth-grade teacher, Melissa Hill, represented Medart as she was selected by her peers as our Teacher of the Year! We are proud of our Mustang teachers for how dedicated they are to their profession, school, and students! They have all showed true dedication to our students and community throughout this challenging school year!

In January our PLT coordinator, Jessica Johnson-Langford, got creative and organized a virtual PLT event using Microsoft Teams. Working with Florida State University’s Sea-to-See program students were able to participate in a science presentation where they could learn about and view various species of sea life from our area. The presentation was titled Live Streaming with Animals. Students had an experience similar to in-person programs from previous years, although videos were used to enhance the experience. So, while students were not able to hold a sea star, they could see one eat. Students could also view the process of how hermit crabs change shells and other behaviors that the animals will not perform while being observed in touch tanks. This was an awesome learning opportunity for our students, and we appreciate our continued relationship with the great people of the Sea-to-See program.

As it is every year, math is one of the top priorities for the students at Medart Elementary. Ms. Katherine Spivey, Assistant Principal at MES wanted to create an interactive way for students to access important math facts that would help build their math knowledge and increase test scores. Ms. Spivey enlisted the help of a fifth-grade teacher, Richard Strickland, and the District’s Assistive Technology teacher, Melissa Martin. Together, they have created a plan for an interactive math wall that will highlight multiplication facts, shapes, number lines, key math vocabulary, and an area for problem-solving geared to students at each of the levels K-5. The various math skills will be placed in positions that will allow students to see, touch, and practice important mathematical concepts at each grade level. Having this located in the hall outside the lunchroom allows students to see it, practice it, and refer to it as they walk by several times each day.

There were many challenges to navigating through this school year successfully. We endured new daily procedures, quarantines, eating breakfast and lunch in the classroom, and many other changes that had an impact on how we are used to operating at the elementary level.

Throughout it all, we are extremely proud of the hard work, dedication, and effort our students, faculty, and staff have put in during the 2020-2021 school year. Everyone plays an important role in our success, and that has never been more evident than this school year. We are looking forward to another great year in 2021-2022 with our Magnificent Mustangs!



STAN WARD – PRINCIPAL





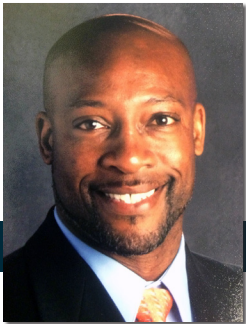
With all the challenges that the past school year brought for students, parents, and teachers it was quite evident that Riversink was up to the task. New protocols for student health and safety were implemented school-wide and it became a daily routine in short order. Masks, temperature checks, meals in the classrooms, and hand sanitizer galore became the new normal. This however never impeded the learning atmosphere and commitment to excellence that was present every day with the teachers and staff at Riversink. Adaptability and resiliency are both traits of an Otter and this was visible in every classroom. With this in mind, Mr. Nelson and Mrs. Cutchen had to think outside the box to provide the same levels of excitement and enrichment opportunities for students due to the limited access to community involvement and the inability to take students out into the world. This was not viewed as a hindrance however, rather it was embraced as an opportunity to grow and learn.

Several new and unique events were designed, with COVID-19 safety in mind, to engage and stimulate the students to achieve new heights. Also, a commitment to tradition was kept to ensure that several programs that were going well were not lost or forgotten during the eventful restructuring required to ensure student safety. The Million Word Pie Face Challenge was a smashing success in its inaugural year. Students who reached this milestone were allowed to “share” a pie with Mr. Nelson and Mrs. Cutchen during the end-of-the-year celebration. In its first year, 14 students met the mark. The annual kickball game between the teacher and fifth-grade class was greenlighted and continue as usual. The teachers won keeping the streak alive! Mrs. Cutchen’s math ninjas stealthily crept into their second year with great success. Students and teachers alike recognized the need to support local charities during these difficult times and they were committed to helping those in need. Money was raised for Operation Santa as well as The Senior Center of Crawfordville respectively through hat days each month.

The need to go the virtual and social distance in some aspects of education was inevitable and once again Riversink was up to the challenge. The fifth-grade teaching team of Mrs. Kimbrel, Mrs. Heller, and Mrs. Johnson were able to still offer the Tropicana Speech Contest to their students in a unique way. Instead of the top speeches being selected and read in front of the entire student body, each student read their speech in their “Pod” and the top speeches were then videoed and shared school-wide. Title One parent nights were moved to virtual platforms and were an overwhelming success due to the commitment of the parents to participate in this initiative as it was available in a non-traditional setting. An open house was only offered for incoming kindergarteners and their parents to help them orient to the transition to elementary school but also respect the need for social distance and student health and safety. While all of this was different and new, it was embraced by the teachers and community and helped make the school year the absolute best it could be regardless of the circumstances.

Every teacher and staff member at Riversink is a rockstar but several rose to the top and were recognized for their excellence during this school year. Mrs. Victoria Foreman was selected as Employee of the Month and Mrs. Molly Jones and Mrs. Lisa Wilson were both chosen as Teachers of the Month in December and April respectively. First-grade teacher Mrs. Amy Gaylord was the RES Teacher of the Year, selected for the amazing job that she has done in the classroom while also serving as a mentor teacher, teacher coach and for setting the benchmark for others to see by already completing the mandatory reading endorsement to meet new state requirements in elementary education. She holds both a Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree in Physical Education and Health as well as an endorsement in elementary education and early childhood reading. Her philosophy in education is believing in the power of “yet”. Everyone can learn and grow but some haven’t reached their potential... yet! Her work ethic and dedication are contagious to those around her and this recognition was well deserved according to her peers.

Riversink would like to thank all the teachers and staff as well as the community for all the hard work and additional commitment that went into making this particularly challenging school year to be the absolute best that it could be. Here is to looking forward to the year to come!





Shadeville Elementary experienced a year like no other during the 2020-2021 school year. After five long months out of school, our faculty and staff were eager to get back with our students. With the uncertainty of COVID-19, many procedures were put in place to keep our students and employees safe. These changes included students remaining with their teacher all day, eating lunch in the classroom and quarantines. Through all these changes, our Warriors persevered, and we were able to have a fun filled- educationally productive school year!

Shadeville is blessed with a faculty that is committed to reaching every student where they are and ensuring they are successful. Three teachers who were recognized by their fellow teachers as going above and beyond were Amanda Coker, Marsha Dixon and Kim Morgan. Ms. Coker and Ms. Dixon were each honored as teacher of the month, while Ms. Morgan was chosen as Shadeville's teacher of the year! We are lucky to count them as part of our Warrior family.

This year added eight new teachers and three paraprofessionals. We are ecstatic to introduce the newest additions to our faculty and staff. Kathryn Register joined our Kindergarten team; Tammy Wade joined first grade; Makenna Wright joined our second grade team; Latoya Harvey joined third grade; Erin Brown joined fourth grade; and Brittany Barnes-Muse and Missy West joined fifth grade. Additions to our phenomenal group of paraprofessionals are Sharon Hill and Traci Feltman. We are incredibly lucky to welcome such a talented group of staff and educators to Shadeville.

As we welcomed our new teachers and paraprofessionals, we also had to say goodbye to some of Shadeville's finest. We had five employees retire at the end of the school year: Amy Sheddan, JoAnna McCown, Carol Hairston, Debbie Marsh and D'Arcy Brazier. All five employees gave their all to Shadeville and they will definitely be missed. Along with our retirees, it was announced in April that Mrs. Frankie Harvey would be transferred to Wakulla High while Mrs. Eden Rodgers would replace her as Assistant Principal. Last, but not least, at the end of the school year, we learned that Deputy Hunt would be transferred to Riversprings Middle School. He was a great role model to our students and made a huge impact at Shadeville Elementary. All of these members of the Shadeville Faculty will be missed.

Annually, students and families look forward to the Shadeville Fall Festival. The Fall Festival is a time-honored tradition that provides an opportunity for our families to gather and help raise money for our students. Due to Covid procedures and social distancing, Shadeville was not able to hold the fall festival this year. Luckily, through innovative planning, Shadeville held its first Fun Run! The Fun Run gave our students and families a way to support our school while providing a safe alternative to the festival. Through the Fun Run, Shadeville was able to meet our fund-raising goal! With these funds we are able to purchase items such as playground equipment, supplies and materials.

Reading is the foundation of a child's education, and we challenge our students to read for at least 20 minutes daily. Our students accepted this challenge and read millions of words during the 2020-2021 school year! Shadeville's Reader of the Year, with the most words read for the entire school, is Kaelynn Fontenot. The following students were the top reader for their grade level: Cordelia Thompson-5th grade; Alexa Weaver-4th grade; Naughtia Jones-3rd grade; Katelyn Weaver-2nd grade; Bowen Wells- 1st grade; and Lucas Gonzalez-Kindergarten.

As we move forward to 2021-2022, we are excited about getting back to normal and having the ability to celebrate with our students and families again. We want to thank everyone for their support throughout this year and we are looking forward to another stellar year at Shadeville!



NICHOLAS WEAVER – PRINCIPAL

SHADEVILLE ELEMENTARY





The 2020-2021 school year brought many new challenges and new opportunities. We may have been limited in some of the activities we were able to do, but the creative and fantastic team of RMS teachers and administrators made this another wonderful school year. We started the year led by our new administration team of Josh Sandgren as principal and Bethany Pafford as Assistant Principal. Riversprings also saw several members of the Bear Family honored throughout the year and Deana Davis was named Riversprings and Wakulla County Teacher of the Year.

The Riversprings Band program continued to reign superior. The Symphonic Band was comprised of 22 seventh and eighth-grade students; Concert Band saw 25 dedicated seventh and eighth graders, and 40 new band students joined the ranks in Beginning Band. Wakulla County hosted its Music Performance Assessment (MPA) this year, and the Symphonic band earned all Superior ratings on their concert music. Individually, an RMS record 24 students performed 23 solos and/or ensembles for the Solo & Ensemble judging, with 18 acts receiving a Superior rating and five receiving an Excellent. Fifteen students participated in the RMS Jazz Band, which is extracurricular and meets once a week after school.

Students from Mrs. Sutton's Art classes competed in an art contest called, "Art In The Capitol". The winner, Kaylee Turner, had her artwork on display at the Florida Capitol from January through March 2021. Makinzie Davenport, Lillian Mitchell, and Blakley Wright received Honorable Mention, Destiny Thomas was Third Runner-up, Second Runner-up was Raena Taylor, and the First runner-up was Kaydance Miller. Mrs. Sutton's Art students also participated in the Crawfordville Lions' Club Peace Poster Contest, "Peace Through Service." Placing Third Runner-up was Jenna Marks, Second Runner-up was Jenna Boccaccio, First Runner-up was Amaya Riggles, and the Winner was Sophia Jacobs.

Emma Hallaian placed first and Kendall Coleman placed second in this year's Coastal Optimist Club Oratorical Contest. Both young ladies went on to represent the district in the regional competition. The Coastal Optimist Club also sponsors an essay competition, and Chloe Kennedy took home first place, Ronin Taylor placed second, Jackson Crow placed third, and Lillian Watters received one of two Honorable Mention awards for the district. Chloe went on to represent our district in the regional competition.

As an AVID National Demonstration School, our AVID program continued to prepare our students for the future with virtual tours of college campuses. Students also continued their service to the school community by managing the school recycling, and the raising and lowering of the American flag each day.

RMS athletic teams had another outstanding year, with every team enjoying a winning record this season. Our football team had a record of 4-2, placing third in the Conference and first in the District. Our volleyball team went 12-3 during the regular season while placing second in the Big Bend Conference. Boys' Basketball won a school-record 13 games, with only 3 losses, and were County Champs and placed second in the Conference. Girls' Basketball also had a winning season, going 7-3 and winning the County Championship. Our Boys' Soccer team and Girls' Soccer team both brought home the District Championship, and both had winning seasons, with the Boys going 9-1-1 on the season and placing second in the Conference, and the Girls going 5-3-4. Our wrestling team brought home another County Championship, having held that title now for 18 years straight, and were 7-1 in their Dual meets for the year. Baseball won the District Championship and had a record of 8-4-2. Our Softball team also ended the season with a 9-5 winning record. In Track, the RMS team placed second in the Conference and had 5 students qualify for the state tournament.

RMS closed the year with a Chess Tournament among our Chess Club participants. Troy Thaxton check-mated his way to first place, edging out Jacobi McQueen. While we honored our awardees at each grade level with in-classroom mini-ceremonies, the RMS administration held a breakfast for the eighth-grade students who made the Honor Court, having earned the highest cumulative average over their 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade years.

Our faculty celebrated the retirements of two long-time Bear faculty members, Mina Sutton and Scott Rossow, as well as the retirement of former Bear principal Dod Walker. Though things may look a little different around campus without these familiar faces, we look forward to another exciting school year in 2021-2022.





The 2020-2021 school year was a school year unlike any other. The challenges that all schools experienced this year were unique but, another testimony of how educators adapt, change, and overcome for their students. Wakulla Middle School would like to send a very special thank you to our faculty members for overcoming this year and working together for the benefit of our students. Thank you to our parents for being understanding and willing to support our school through dedicating extra time to support our students with their learning. Thank you to our students for challenging themselves and working hard to meet their goals. Although this year was one like no other, our WMS team came together and supported our students so that they would finish the school year out on top! We are so proud of our Wildcat Family and the dedication they had for the school this year!

Our very own Associate Dean of Student Services, Jessica Pichard, was honored as Wakulla Middle School's Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Pichard serves as our Mental Health Coordinator, Testing Coordinator, and Guidance Counselor. She is on campus to provide various supports for the teachers and students. She is also our Student Advisory Council Chair and one of our head cheerleading coaches. WMS is honored to have a person like her working at WMS, her extensive knowledge and stand-out qualities provide a safe and enriching environment for all students on campus.

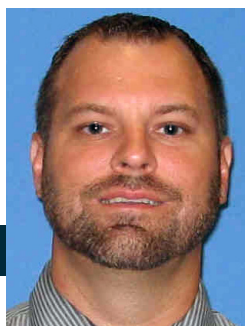
This school year, our homeroom classes worked together to collect full Thanksgiving meals for families in our area that needed assistance. The pandemic was difficult, with a large number of our families suffering from job loss. This challenge allowed our students and faculty members to come together and serve a greater cause. Together, we were able to provide over 25 Thanksgiving meals to local families. Wakulla Middle School could not be prouder of our students for their willingness to help others.

Wakulla Middle School's academic achievement is evident in our school through each content area. During our 8thGrade Spring Award Ceremony, several students were recognized for their outstanding academic performance. Samuel Marr, Makenzie Anderson, Makenna Sanders, Mason Blair, Taylor Cook, Kelsey Sanders, Jenna Cross, Kaylie Walker, Steven Dandridge, and Kathryn Taff were selected as Wakulla Middle School's 2020-2021 Honor Court. Samuel Marr was also recognized for being Wakulla Middle School's Oracle Award winner. This award is given to the student in the 8th grade with the highest grade point average. Makenzie Anderson was recognized for being Wakulla Middle School's Laureate Award recipient. All of these students are examples of what it means to be a Wakulla Middle School Wildcat. We are so proud of our students for their dedication to academic excellence.

Wakulla Middle School believes in empowering students to branch out and try new clubs and sports. We believe that students can succeed both in the classroom and outside of the classroom. This year, our 2020 Wakulla Middle School Track and Field team had an outstanding year. Coach Thomas Ferguson and Coach Samantha Isaacs want to send a special congratulations out to the "Season's Best" Athletes. The following students hold the best record for the 2020 season at Wakulla Middle School:

100m Hurdles -	Jayla Harris (8th grade) and Andrew Nelson (8th grade)
100m Dash -	Jayla Harris and Evan Graham (8th grade)
1600m -	Hadley Brown (6th grade) and Adam Pfeifer (6th grade)
200m Hurdle -	Alexis Green (7th grade) and Dax Dichio (7th grade)
200m Dash -	Taylor Cook (8th grade) and Isaiah Carroll (8th grade)
3200m -	Hadley Brown (6th grade) and Nick Craig (6th grade)
400m Dash -	Taylor Cook and Dax Dichio
800m Dash -	McKenzie Anderson (8th grade) and Dax Dichio
Discus -	Hannah Hall (6th grade) and Christian Swisher (8th grade)
High Jump -	Jayla Harris and Andrew Nelson
Long Jump -	Makiya Cash (6th grade) and Dax Dichio
Shot put -	Alexis Green and Christian Swisher
Triple Jump -	McKenzie Anderson and Christian Swisher

These students worked hard, and it has paid off immensely for them. They are wonderful student-athlete role models and excellent assets to Wakulla Middle School. This year was one that we all will certainly not forget. We wish all our 8th graders luck as they move forward to Wakulla High School!



TOLAR GRIFFIN – PRINCIPAL

WAKULLA MIDDLE





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

A notable influence on student achievement is the success of WHS's career and technical education (CTE) program. During the 2019-2020 school year, even amidst the global pandemic and school closure, 210 students earned industry certifications through their vocational programs. In 2019, WHS added a new aerospace program to the list of CTE vocational programs, which saw two students pass their certification in its inaugural year. We are also extremely proud of our Medical Academy graduates, this year 100% of students passed their CNA certification exams.

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

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

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

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

During these unprecedented times of Covid-19 and school closures, Wakulla High School was not remiss in honoring the Senior Class of 2020. WHS hosted their very first drive-through graduation on Friday, May 22, 2020. Graduates and their families, under the direction of the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office, remained in their vehicles as they received their high school diplomas from Superintendent Pearce. The ceremony was broadcast over the radio and streamed live on Facebook via our Wakulla High School social media page; therefore, allowing all members of Wakulla County to fully participate in this auspicious event further exhibiting the irrepressible character of our Wakulla War Eagles. Finally, the 2019-2020 school year saw the close of one chapter and the beginning of another. Principal Michael Barwick moved to the district office as the new Building and Maintenance Director and Riversprings Middle School Principal Michele Yeomans took over as Wakulla High School's new principal. We wish both Mr. Barwick and Mrs. Yeomans good luck in their new positions.



MICHELLE YEOMANS— PRINCIPAL  
WAKULLA HIGH





"Grit is the stubborn refusal to quit." Students in Adult Education embraced their "grit" and persevered towards educational goals in 20-21. A total of 39 students were served in both Adult Basic and GED Preparation. This translated to 24 related Adult Education students and 10 Wakulla Institute students walking across the stage to receive their GED or High School diploma. The historic Crawfordville Gymnasium was the site of proud parents, grandparents, and siblings enthusiastically sharing in the uplifting event in the presence of the Wakulla County School board, Superintendent, and Program Director. Adult Education Director, Dod Walker delivered an eloquent message to graduates on stage, reminding them to persevere through bumps and turns along their journey as this is the key to success.

With the conclusion of the graduation ceremony, many students have embarked on post-secondary education to further their career goals. Whether it be Southeast Lineman Training Center, a military enlistment, Lively Technical College, or Tallahassee Community College, students have eagerly embraced the next chapter of their life.

The 2020-21 school year was a challenge for every school and Wakulla Institute (WI) faculty and staff worked very hard to keep students engaged and learning while practicing COVID-19 safety protocols. An average of 80% of students qualified to return to their home schools on grade level by the end of one year. Annually, 72% of students that are placed in the Pathways program return to their home schools after the 9-weeks grading period in which they were placed.

With the closing of the Legacy Café for the 20-21 year, students with the Adults with Disabilities program found it necessary to devise alternative ways of promoting Legacy Boutique creations. Azalea Park served as the backdrop for two craft bazaars in October and December. This venue allowed students to showcase their creative projects to a larger community audience. Additionally, a student received technical training to post products online through social media. This student became responsible for the management of the online site. The online interface also allowed Legacy Boutique to reach additional individuals.



Throughout the year, Legacy Boutique was reminded of how blessed they are for those donating supplies to be recycled by students. Unused lumber, small tables, old doors, spindles, fence pickets, antique bottles, and keys were donated for restoration by the boutique. The students utilized wood sanding, painting, sewing, crocheting, stamping, paper cutting, ironing, vinyl cutting, and heat pressing skills in the creation of items. Many students carried these job-training skills with them as they found part-time employment with several local businesses. These businesses include Promise Land Thrift Store, Senior Citizen Center, Winn-Dixie, and T-Shirt Envy in Tallahassee.

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

## WAKULLA ADULT & COMMUNITY ED



Wakulla County wanted their students' schools opened and with the support of the community, school board, faculty, and staff we were able to do so with many precautions in place. The Wakulla County Pre-K was no exception to this. The students, parents, faculty, and staff all worked diligently to keep everyone safe and still have students on campus to learn. The theme for the 2020-2021 school year was "Pre-K: Positive, Respectful, Energetic, Kind." Teaching students that having a positive attitude, being respectful of everyone, having energy for learning, and being kind were the attributes needed to have a successful year.

Our students enjoyed many school wide-events; Halloween Dress Up Week was a huge success in October, Johnny Appleseed Day was celebrated in September, and Polar Express Day rounded out the fun in December. In March Wakulla County Pre-K celebrated Dr. Seuss with a week of dress-up that we're sure Dr. Seuss would've been proud to see. Students, faculty, and staff all participated and dressed to express their favorite Dr. Seuss books.

An "in-house" field trip occurred as we welcomed Wakulla County Emergency Management with a fire truck, an ambulance, a fire rescue truck, and firemen to demonstrate the proper way to avoid fires and be safe.

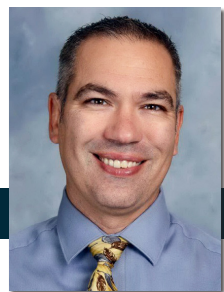
Students also had a gardening project where they worked with a warm bed to create fertilizer for plants and growing cherry tomatoes, beans, strawberries, and peppers to eat at school for snacks. The students planted trees and bushes for "Project Learning Tree" and were able to watch them grow as well. They planted a Catawba tree, two citrus trees, and four blueberry bushes on campus and will get the pleasure of watching them continue to grow. It was a tremendous learning experience from start to finish!

Pre-K celebrated the outstanding work efforts of Tiffany Spears as she was recognized as the October 2020 Employee of the Month. Cynthia Foster was the March 2021 Employee of the Month due to her hard work and dedication to the students and school. Each award recipient is selected by a majority vote of their peers. Wakulla Pre-K is very fortunate to have such a diverse, dedicated, talented educational teaching staff who provide a safe, fun, play-based learning environment daily.

The Wakulla County Pre-K would like to thank all stakeholders for their support during a very trying year. With support from the entire community, we were able to make it through a year that has been like no other. We look forward to having a wonderful school year as things begin to get back to normal.

**LOUIS HERNANDEZ - PRINCIPAL**

## WAKULLA PRESCHOOL





## COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS

National Honor Society  
International Moose Youth Awareness  
Wakulla County Youth Baseball Association  
Wakulla County Arts Coalition Theatre  
Wakulla County Arts Coalition Music  
Crawfordville's Women's Club  
Crawfordville Elementary School  
Riversprings Elementary School  
Wakulla Chamber of Commerce  
Wakulla 4-H Scholarship  
Gage Pitman (Tallahassee Builders Association)  
Joshua Douin Memorial Scholarship  
Rufus Williams Memorial Scholarship  
Mike Falk Memorial Scholarship  
Houston Taff Memorial Scholarship Softball  
Houston Taff Memorial Scholarship Baseball  
Randolph Nelson Memorial Scholarship  
Dayna Snell Memorial Scholarship

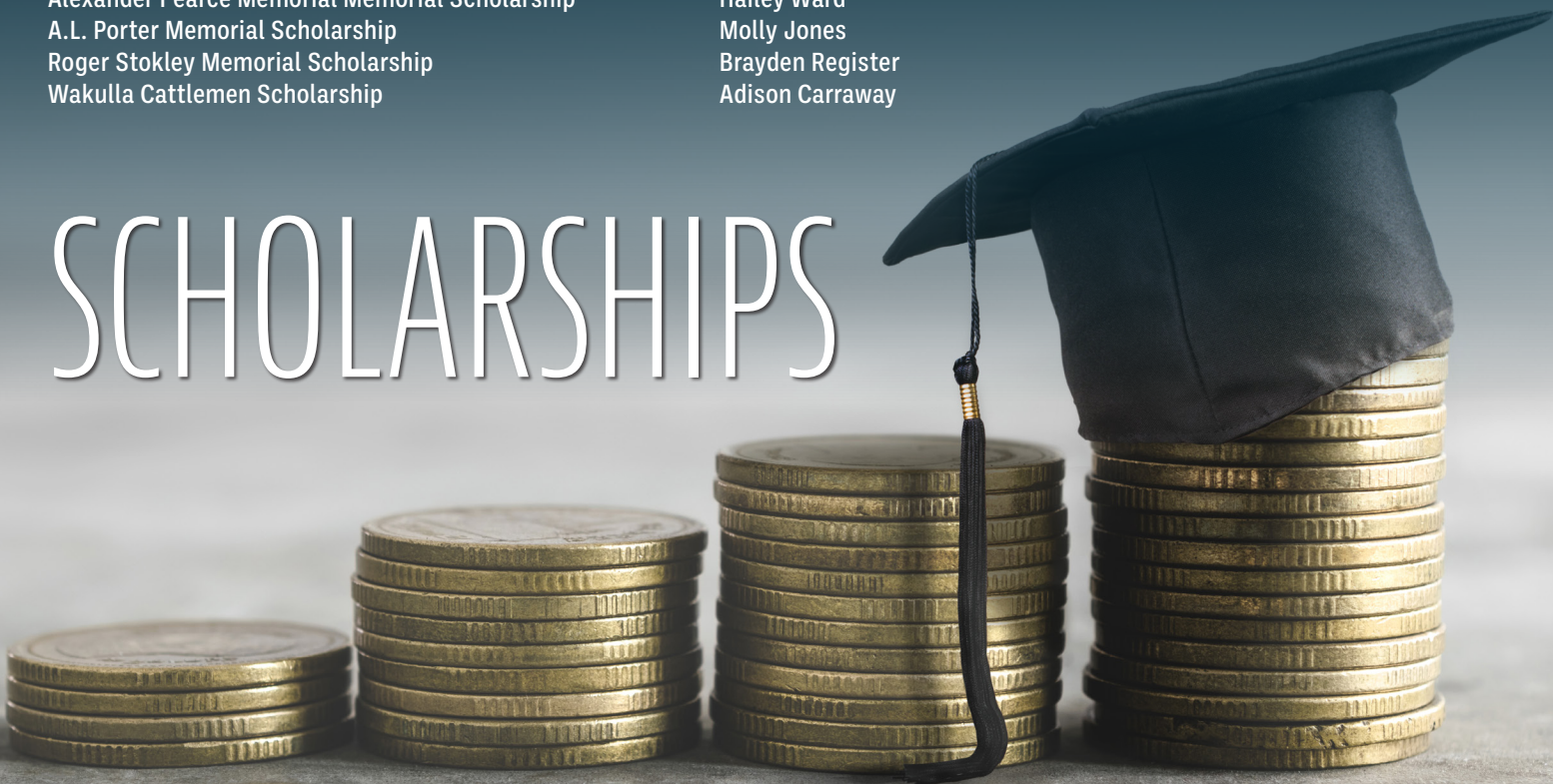
Ian Cross  
Reagan Frink  
Kolten Langston  
Katherine Teller  
Carter Wessinger  
Adison Carraway, Avery Carraway  
Jackson Osteen, Aden Barksdale  
Cole Baggett, Emma Vaughn  
Molly Jones  
Ian Cross  
Samantha Bentley  
Paul Kilgore  
Timari Brown, Khamari Brown  
Logan Dykes  
Brandie Seber  
Kolten Langston  
Desmond Greene, Treasure Porter  
Carson Thomason

## WAKULLA ACADEMIC BOOSTERS

Henry Vause Vocational Scholarship  
Henry Vause Vocational Scholarship  
Henry Vause Vocational Scholarship  
Henry Vause Vocational Scholarship  
Grady F. McKenzie Scholarship  
Wildwood Men's Golf Association Scholarship  
Frank Snyder Memorial Scholarship  
Wakulla Men's Association Scholarship  
Keiser Memorial Scholarship  
Gilbert Memorial Scholarship  
Distler Golf Scholarship  
Anita Townsend Nursing Scholarship  
Bonner Vocational Scholarship  
Brann Vocational Scholarship  
Townsend Vocational Scholarship  
McKenzie Vocational Scholarship  
Paul Dubay Memorial Scholarship  
Alexander Pearce Memorial Memorial Scholarship  
A.L. Porter Memorial Scholarship  
Roger Stokley Memorial Scholarship  
Wakulla Cattlemen Scholarship

Erica Odom  
Raymond Hatchman in memory of Christian Hamilton  
Jamilynn Lewis  
Kianna Albert  
Samantha Bentley  
Ellie Nelson  
Conner Oaks  
Justin Kilpatrick  
Aidan Tucker  
Emma Vaughn  
James Hazen  
Tamill Timmons  
Steven Adams  
Ian Cross  
Avery Carraway  
Sean Glenn  
Jackson Merrick  
Hailey Ward  
Molly Jones  
Brayden Register  
Adison Carraway

# SCHOLARSHIPS



# SPECIAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES

## EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES

The 2020-21 school year was an exceptional one in the Student Services and Exceptional Student Education Department! 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. One quality indicator of exceptional student education in the WCSD is evidenced by Wakulla County's students with disabilities graduating at 94.1 percent compared to the state's average of 82.6 percent.

This year brought many opportunities to learn and grow. At the beginning of the school year many students were learning online through the Canvas platform. Teachers and students were trained in how to use Canvas and explored ways to provide accommodations and specialized instruction in a virtual format. Many IEP meetings, staff meetings and trainings were held through MS Teams. By midyear most of our students returned to the traditional brick and mortar school setting, but the technology skills learned will enhance education for years to come.

October is Disability Awareness Month and the Wakulla School District celebrated in several ways. Short videos that promote inclusion were shown in all schools and students participated in engaging class activities to teach about various disabilities. White Cane Awareness Day was held Oct. 15th. White Cane Awareness Day emphasizes the critical role that this tool plays in visually impaired individual living with independence and informing the students about its true significance.

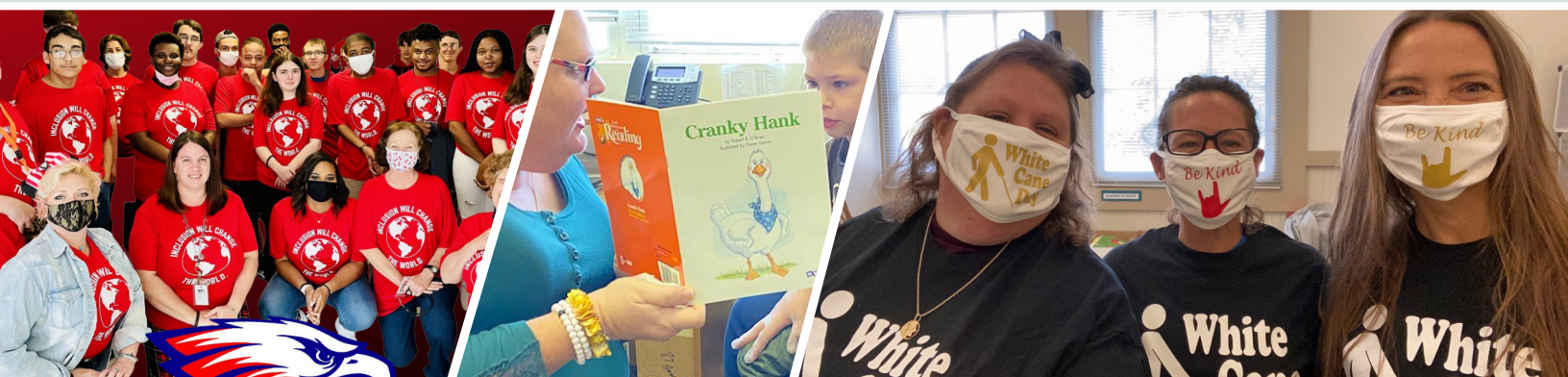
On March 3, Special Olympics Florida-Wakulla County athletes, partners, coaches and teachers from Riversprings Middle School, Wakulla Middle School and Wakulla High School joined in on the 'Spread the Word' campaign. The Spread the Word campaign was founded in 2009 by two youth leaders as 'Spread the Word to End the Word'. The campaign started here in the United States and dedicated its first 10 years to addressing a form of exclusion: the word 'retard(ed)'. Over those 10 years, leaders and self-advocates collected millions of digital and physical pledges to end the 'R-word'. That advocacy continues by spreading awareness that the 'R-word' and other exclusionary language can be hurtful to others.

The Spread the Word campaign has broadened to a global campaign that is intended to educate and encourage everyone to work toward inclusion of all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This focus on moving toward inclusive language recognizes that we are all able to make a difference and create socially inclusive places to learn, work, and live in our community. Our team of athletes, partners, coaches and teachers wore red shirts on March 3rd with the words "Inclusion will change the world" in support of this campaign.

We were delighted to be able to hold a modified version of Special Olympics during the 2020-21 school year. Instead of the district-wide games normally held at WHS, each school held their own Special Olympics with the assistance of Student Services personnel.

## MENTAL HEALTH

The mental and emotional health of Wakulla County Students has always been important, but in the midst of a pandemic it has become a top priority. The Mental Health Team gave a Wellness Assessment to every student in the district in the Fall of 2020 and then followed up with anyone reporting a low score. Our school social workers continued to stay busy throughout the year, completing 577 mental health screenings and making 552 counseling referrals. They also maintained a caseload for counseling, facilitated re-entry meetings and responded to crisis situations. The Mental Health Coordinator worked with local agencies to make sure that needed services were in place and helped families overcome obstacles related to services. Due to the growing mental health concerns of students, a Mental Wellness Review Committee was also established to help with discipline issues related to mental health. Wakulla County has always been on the cutting edge in educational advancements and that continues with the increased focus on mental health.





## TITLE I OVERVIEW

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

The district works closely with all Title I schools to identify needs and develop an annual School Improvement Plan with actionable steps to achieve data-driven goals. All Title I initiatives must be aligned with School Improvement Plans.

In 2020-2021, funding through Title I increased student achievement by providing:

- ✓ highly-effective teachers for instruction;
- ✓ instructional coaches for professional development;
- ✓ instructional software, technology, books, supplies, and;
- ✓ extended learning opportunities for students.



## PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Wakulla County School District recognizes the importance of parent and family engagement. Research shows that when schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning, children tend to perform better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more. Parent and family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, parent and family engagement looked a little differently this year. Title I schools hosted virtual events with embedded 'links to learning' to help parents learn how to help their children at home.

### WAKULLA COUNTY'S TITLE I SCHOOLS

Crawfordville Elementary School  
Medart Elementary School  
Riversink Elementary School  
Shadeville Elementary School  
COAST Charter School

### WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

**COMMUNICATE:** Keep in touch with your child's teacher through telephone, e-mail, and parent-teacher conferences.

**BE AN EXAMPLE:** Show your child that education is important by attending Title I events, reading at home, and showing your child that you support his/her progress in school.

**VOLUNTEER:** Help at your child's school.

**LEARN:** How to help your child with classwork, homework, and future educational plans.

**GET INVOLVED:** Join and/or participate in School Advisory Council meetings and other school/parent organizations.

### 2020-2021

#### TITLE I VIRTUAL EVENTS

**ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING** - Learn about the Title I program and how it helps our schools.

**READ, WAKULLA!** - Learn about the importance of reading and how to improve your child's reading skills at home.

**STEM NIGHT** - Learn about a free resource called Mystery Science and participate in a science activity with your child.

**CELEBRATING DIVERSITY** - Celebrate and learn about diversity and cultural history.

**LOOKING FORWARD** - Take a peek into next year's expectations and learn how to prevent the "summer slide."

All 2020-2021 events are accessible on Wakulla County School's Title I website at  
<https://www.wakullaschooldistrict.org/TitleI>.

# ASSESSMENT

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

## FLORIDA STANDARDS ASSESSMENT TEST (FSA)

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

## END-OF-COURSE-EXAMS (EOC)

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

District and school performance reports can be accessed on Florida Department of Education's "Know Your Schools" portal at [www.eddata.fldoe.org](http://www.eddata.fldoe.org).

## Know Your Schools

Find and Compare Florida Public Schools

Search by Zip Code, School, or City



## AMERICAN COLLEGE TEST 2020

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

	WAKULLA	STATE
English	20.4	19.2
Math	19.8	19.2
Reading	22.7	21
Science	21.2	19.9
Composite	21.2	19.9

## 2020-2021 GRADUATION RATE

Wakulla High School exceeds the State's graduation rate by 5.6%.

### 2020-2021 GRADUATION RATE

Wakulla High School	95.6%
State	90.0%

## NON DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## SCHOOL/PROGRAM ENROLLMENT FOR DISTRICT

	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
Crawfordville Elementary	554	553	550	583	609	617
Riversink Elementary	462	482	468	455	498	472
Shadeville Elementary	559	576	593	604	610	579
Medart Elementary	479	517	517	478	402	341
Riversprings Middle School	497	507	516	539	572	557
Wakulla Middle School	605	588	570	512	525	508
Wakulla High School	1370	1412	1445	1462	1412	1441
District Drop-Out Prevention Prog.	36	48	85	58	40	48
District Pre-K Program	384	321	319	270	271	328
<b>Total</b>	<b>4946</b>	<b>5004</b>	<b>5063</b>	<b>4961</b>	<b>4939</b>	<b>4891</b>