



Directors's News

Dear Parents,

I suspect if the Commissioner of Education, majority of superintendents, and most teachers were asked when do students "drop out" they would all reply between the 10th and 11th grades. ***They would all be wrong.*** It is unfortunate that most talk about and quote "high school drop out rates." That is when they quit, NOT drop out. They quit because they are so discouraged and/or so behind that being a quitter is preferred to the feeling of being stupid. These kids were not happy, self confident and successful students at the end of their 10th grade year, start 11th and then just decide to "drop out", that does make any sense.

Students start dropping out in kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, etc. Whether you realize it or not, the Academy has had a philosophy and program of Drop Out Prevention since the first day in 2001. It goes by a different name "What is best for kids!" We do our best to have students succeed at every grade by caring about them every day. Our latest school wide Data Based Math Program, which will expand to all

subjects, is just another part of our program.

In math, and soon to be in all subjects, the entire class will not move on until they reach a level of success and every child that has not achieved the needed skills will be placed in a recovery program. This combined with outstanding teachers, more paraprofessionals per teacher than any other school, and an outstanding computer and learning lab program, will give each child the greatest opportunity to succeed and progress through the system.

The Academy ***DOES NOT*** produce quitters. The Academy prevents drop outs "The Academy way", then, now, and always will in the future.

You can hang this one on your refrigerator door!

Thanks,

Mike

Michael G. Rom, Ph.D.
Director
Academy at the Farm Charter

8th Grade News

The 8th Grade Career class is working hard to create active plans to ensure success in high school and in their careers. Please be aware of the parent nights available at our feeder schools for incoming 9th graders. At these events you and your child can find information on high school registration and course availability. There will be flyers sent home in their Career class with details of dates and times.

Congratulations!

This year, thanks to Mrs. Williams, our art classes submitted 75 pieces of art work to the Pasco County Fair. Our display looked fabulous and once again reflected favorably on our school. The following students received Honorable Mention for their art work: Kamile Hernandez, Gabriel Lovett, Theo Burns, Madison Pool, Giselle Guerrero, Cody Van Dyke, Zackary Springfield, Gabriella Hurst and Bayli Baker.

We've Got Cookies!



Our cookies are in! Please see your Girl Scout Representative if you haven't received your cookies yet. We have some extras, so we will set up a table for anyone interested in buying more. Look for the table before and after school. I'd like to thank Amanda Reutimann and Tracey Boltin for all of their help with the cookie sales. The Girl Scouts will be meeting every other Tuesday at 2:45. The Daisy Group meets in Mrs. Reutimann's classroom and the Brownies and Juniors in Mrs. Elkins's classroom. We will meet on March 9th and March 23rd. In April our scheduled meeting dates are April 6th and April 20th. Contact either Amanda Reutimann or Mrs. Whatley if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!

FCAT is HERE!

Next week our students will be taking the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test starting on Tuesday, March 9th. We have done our part to teach the necessary skills for your child to be successful to the best of his or her ability. Your child has worked extremely hard preparing. Now it is your turn. Please see that the following things are attended to to ensure success:

1. SCHOOL STARTS AT 8:00- If your child is tardy, they will not be allowed to enter the classroom and disrupt the testing.
2. Speak to your child about doing their very best.
3. See that your child gets a good night's rest each night.
4. See that your child eats a well balanced breakfast so that they are able to think clearly.
5. Assure your child that they will be successful and that they should not be nervous.

3rd Annual Shelby Hines Make a Difference Walk

Our AATF family is once again banding together to raise awareness and funds for students at our school with special needs. Our school provides an “inclusion” environment for close to 80ESE students with special needs. The school also provides physical, occupational, and speech therapy at a cost of \$80,000 per year. In order to provide this therapy, supplemental revenue is needed. Our goal this year is to raise \$40,000 to offset half of these costs. Shelby Hines, Honorary Chair, has been at the academy for seven years. She has cerebral palsy due to an adverse reaction to her immunizations. Shelby, like many of our students, requires regular therapy; including speech, occupational, and physical. Please help us provide quality care and education for these very special children. It truly makes a difference!



Everyone can make a difference!

Set a Family Goal

Fundraiser packets were sent home on March 5th with the students. Please work with your children to set a family goal. Complete the Goal Card and send it back with your child as soon as possible. Please respond generously with the amount that you believe can be donated from your friends, family, and community. When the Goal Cards are returned by the student, they will receive a I make a difference bracelet to wear to raise awareness of our cause.

The following prizes will be awarded to the families that raise the most money:

1st place: \$150 Toys R Us Gift Card, \$200 Home Depot Gift Card, 8GB iPod Nano, \$50 iTunes Gift Card, Pin Chasers Family Fun Pack, \$25 Gift Certificate to Iron Mike's Cleaners, and more

2nd Place: \$100 Wal-Mart Gift Card, \$50 iTunes Gift Card, \$25 Gift Certificate to Iron Mike's Cleaners, and more

3rd Place: \$50 Target Gift Card, \$25 iTunes Gift Card, \$25 Gift Certificate for Iron Mike's Cleaners, and more

Survey for Parents of Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) in Exceptional Student Education (ESE)

How well are we, Academy at the Farm, supporting your involvement in your child's education? The Florida Department of Education is conducting a survey designed to provide the state information on how well schools are supporting parent's involvement in their child's education. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), states must report this information to the federal government on an annual basis. The survey will be available to parents February 1 through July 1, 2010. All parents of children with IEPs in preschool to 12th grade are encouraged to participate. Parents can go online to www.ESEsurvey.com to complete the survey. The results are reported to the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, as part of Florida's Annual Performance Report and are posted on the Florida Department of Education's Web site at www.fldoe.org/ease. This survey, conducted only once a year, provides parents with a unique opportunity to be heard. This year's survey deadline is **July 1, 2010**.

- Make A Difference Walk
Saturday, 3/27 at 9:00am
Dade City Judicial Courthouse
- Kick off with family packets home on 3/5
- Family goal cards due on 3/10 for a wristband
- All donations due by 3/23 to count towards the contest.
- Pep rally on 3/26, will announce amount raised and teacher/class winners. Family winners announced at the walk.
- All details including prizes are listed on the website <http://www.academyatthefarm.com/mad.htm>

What's Happening in March

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1	2 Read Across America Day	3	4	5 Make a Difference packets go home	6
7	8 Go to bed early for FCAT	9 FCAT	10 FCAT Family Goal Cards are Due	11 FCAT	12 FCAT Make Up	13 Running Club-5k at Zephyrhills High
14	15 Board Meeting ZHS Parent Night	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20
21	22	23 PHS Parent Night	24 WCHS Parent Night	25	26 Middle School Dance Make a Difference Pep Rally	27 Make a Difference Walk
28	29	30	31			

- *Spring Break will be from April 2nd to April 11th
- *Spring Concert will be April 20th
- * The PTO Auction will be April 22nd

Do you need something to satisfy your sweet tooth?
We still have many boxes of World's Finest Chocolate to sell for our fund-raiser. Pick up your box from Mrs. Linda today!

Have you ordered your yearbook yet?
If not go to www.iostensyearbook.com to place your order.
If you have pictures of any school event please submit them to www.images.iostens.com the login in ID is: **400006315** and the password is: **yearbook10**
The yearbook committee needs your support to make this yearbook better than ever!