



March 3, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Next year a few curricular changes will be made at Oasis Elementary School and we want to briefly communicate the plan.

First, we have changed our accelerated program. Starting next year, this platform will operate like a full-time gifted program where services will be provided every day; this means there will no longer be a part time or pull-out gifted section. Furthermore, all accelerated classroom teachers will be required to have a gifted endorsement on their teaching certificate.

All accelerated classes will automatically accept qualifying gifted students, and will also accept high performing students in the grade level based on a student portfolio. These portfolios will be based on classroom work, grades, FSA test scores (if applicable) STAR reading and math levels, special projects, and writing samples. A committee of teachers will review each intended student's portfolio and determine whether or not it would be acceptable to place the non-gifted student into an accelerated classroom.

At the end of this year and moving forward, students already in an accelerated classroom will be informed at the end of each school year, if they did not place into an accelerated classroom for the upcoming year. If you do not wish to have your child evaluated by his/her teacher for accelerated placement, please let them know as soon as possible.

The accelerated classrooms, like the rest of the grade level, will teach the required Sunshine State Standards. In addition, they will also provide enrichment of those standards with a focus on critical thinking, as well as appropriate application of skills using a problem based learning approach.

Another upcoming change is that we will no longer have WIN classrooms. Instead, for math we will ability group across each grade level. As a safe guard, classrooms with remedial needs will have the assistance of a resource teacher every day to help differentiate the curriculum, which will directly address areas where students are most challenged. Reading classrooms will also use differentiation strategies daily to meet the reading needs of all students. For example, resource teachers will meet with those struggling in specific areas and provide either small group or one-on-one assistance.

I hope this information clears up some of the early questions you may have about our continuously improving educational system. In the meanwhile, if you have further questions about the above mentioned changes, or any curricular issue for the upcoming school year, I will be at the PTO meeting on Thursday, March 8th at 6:30 p.m. at Oasis Elementary cafeteria, and would be happy to discuss them with you. We are *Four Schools, One Vision*.

Sincerely,

Jacquelin Collins
Superintendent

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