



Aug 2, 2023

Dear Koala Families,

Welcome back to school for the 2023-2024 school year. I am proud of the work that was done last year by students, teachers, staff, parents and volunteers. Bay Meadows is expected to earn an **A** rating by the Florida Department of Education for the 22-23 school year again and be among the top ten percent of schools in OCPS. Congratulations Koalas!

Our theme this year is **Set Sail for New Adventures**. As a STEAM Career Academy we incorporate project-based learning through cross-curricular thematic units of study focusing on STEAM career exploration. We continue to grow our STEAM program and set goals to lead all students to success. This year we have added **dance** as part of our physical education program. Students will have art, music, dance and traditional physical education classes each week. Teachers will begin the year reviewing policies and procedures ensuring safe learning environments are established for a successful year. Here are a few reminders to help create successful routines and procedures.

Meet Your Teacher

We look forward to seeing you at Meet Your Teacher on Tuesday, August 8, 2023. Kindergarten, 2nd and 4th graders attend 8:30 am-10:00 am and 1st, 3rd and 5th graders attend 10:30 am-12:00 pm. Classroom assignments will be posted inside the hallways and staff will have class lists to help guide you to the correct buildings. PTA and after school fee based vendors will be in and around the cafeteria. We encourage you to bring your child's school supplies during Meet Your Teacher. Supply lists can be found on our website.

First Day of School

All students will walk to their classrooms on their own on the first day of school. We will not distribute visitor passes for parents to go to the classrooms due to safety concerns and parking limitations. K-2 students will receive a name tag during Meet your Teacher and we ask your child to wear their name tag the first three days. Staff will help children find their classrooms. In addition to locating the classroom during **Meet Your Teacher**, the school will be open on Wednesday, August 9th from 4:30-6:00 pm. Anyone that was unable to attend Meet Your Teacher during the day can practice walking their child to their new classroom and anyone that feels their child may need additional practice may stop by the school. Teachers will not be in classrooms during this time and classrooms will be locked.

Arrival:

Students will be allowed to enter the building at 8:15am. K-2nd grade students enter through **Building 5**; New this year... 3-5th grade students enter through **Building 7** because all third grade classes are now in Building 7. Older students escorting younger students should enter through Building 5, drop off and continue to their classroom. Breakfast service begins at 8:15 am. Students not eating breakfast will report to their classrooms and sit outside of their room until the teacher welcomes them for the day at 8:35am. Staff supervise as students read a book or complete a quiet task provided by the teacher. **Students are tardy when not in the classroom at 8:45am.**

Dismissal:

We have over 500 car-riders which creates congestion and a long carline at the start of the school year. You are encouraged, if possible, to walk or car-pool. Be mindful of speed limits in our parking area and car loop. We have NEW traffic patterns and cell phone usage is not allowed in the carloop. Students identified as car-riders will go home in a car; students identified as walkers/bikers will exit through the walker/bike-rider gates. Parents of walkers/bike riders, please complete the dismissal release form during Meet Your Teacher.

If your child is a car-rider, please remain in your car for pick up using the car loop. All students will be assigned a **Pick Up Pass**. Please have the **Pick Up Pass** displayed in the car window each day. The **Pick Up Pass** will be required in the event we have Rainy Day dismissal. *Take a picture of your Pick Up Pass so you always have it otherwise the person picking up will be required to go to the front office to show identification and be listed as a contact in Skyward. A

Important Dates

Aug 8, 2023

Meet Your Teacher

K, 2, 4 8:30 am-10:00 am

1, 3, 5 10:30 am-12:00 pm

Aug 9, 2023

School open for students to practice finding their classrooms 4:30-6:00 pm

Aug 10, 2023

1st day of school

Aug 17, 2022

PTA General Meeting - Zoom @ 6:00pm

Aug 24, 2022

SAC meeting - Media Center @ 4:00pm

Aug 25, 2023

PTA Popsicle Playdate 4:00-6:00 pm PE Pavilion

Reminders

- Rolling backpacks are not permitted
- Students are tardy if they are not in their classroom at 8:45am
- Notify the **office** by 2pm (1pm on Wednesdays) if you have to change how your child goes home for the day
- Early pick-up must be done prior to 2:40pm. Students will not be called down from class after this time. (1:40 pm on Wednesdays)
- Anyone picking up a student (car, walker, bike rider) should bring the **Pick Up Pass**. You may get additional **Pick Up Passes** through the front office by showing an ID.

dismissal map with **NEW CAR LOOP procedures** will be provided in the first day packets. In hopes of expediting the car line, each lane of the car loop is designated for a pick-up area. If you **only** have a **3rd, 4th, or 5th grade student** to pick up, please stay in the far right lane and pick up your child outside of **Building 7** then proceed to the crosswalk where you will be directed to change lanes to exit. If you have a K, 1st or 2nd grade student and with an older sibling, please stay in the far left lane. Once you get to the crosswalk, you will be directed to change lanes and all your children will get in the car outside of Building 5 (K,1, 2 students & their older siblings).

Discover Before/After Care

Students enrolled in the Discover program will enter and exit through **Building 7** at the far end of the school. Parents should use the parking lot then escort and sign-in their child(ren). Pick up from Discover does not begin until 3:45pm. Please use the **parking lot** and not the car loop during drop off and pick up from Discover.

Communication

Bay Meadows is active on social media through the official Facebook page and the PTA page. Our school website is regularly updated and many resources are provided. All families have access to Skyward Family Access and their child’s Canvas Courses along with the Student Body Canvas course. Our daily announcements produced by the News Crews are uploaded to the Canvas Course.

Class DoJo is no longer supported by OCPS as it violates FERPA and the use of student information. We are disappointed we are unable to use this platform and it will take time to adjust to the new resource, **Talking Points**. More information will be shared soon and we will be deactivating the Class DoJo page.

Each Sunday a Connect Orange message will be sent with voice recording, email and a text. Please check your child’s Skyward account or contact the school registrar, Ms. Gil, to make sure your contact information is accurate with phone and email to receive the weekly updates. You can OPT-In to receive text messages by typing the word **YES** to **68453**.

From the OCPS Student Code of Conduct & Student Handbook

The OCPS Student Code of Conduct is reviewed at the beginning of each quarter with all students and can be found online at OCPS.net. OCPS stands in **loco parentis** (Latin for “in place of the parent”) while a student is in the physical custody of the school and is responsible for investigating all allegations of student misconduct within its jurisdiction using the preponderance of the evidence legal standard. Therefore, OCPS employees are authorized to interview students and obtain witness statements from students involved in offenses of the Code, however, any student may refuse to participate in an investigation. It is important to note that if the behavior is believed to be criminal and a violation of Florida Statutes, the school resource officer, or law enforcement, if the school resource officer is not available, may participate in the investigation.

Parents/guardians may request their student not participate in student discipline investigations without authorization from the parent/guardian by submitting the request, in writing, to the school administration annually. Refusal to participate in the investigation does not prohibit OCPS from continuing with the investigation and administering an appropriate disciplinary consequence. In addition, refusal does not prohibit the school resource officer, or law enforcement, from continuing the investigation and imposing criminal penalties if warranted.

Students in PK-2 will receive a copy of the Bay Meadow’s Student Handbook and the handbook can be found in agendas for students in grades 3-5. The handbook outlines school procedures.

I am excited for the adventures this new year will bring. Parents, thank you for sharing your child with us each day. The responsibility for their safety and learning is my priority and it is a privilege to serve this community.

Ms. Dorries, principal

After School Vendors
Core Sports Academy Discover Fine Arts Matter Girls on the Run Girl Scouts iSports Little Rookies/Play TGA Super Awesome Cool Pottery
Before & After School Clubs
****COMING SOON**** 21st Century Learners Art Club Honor Society Dance Club Kindness Club Koala Chorus Run Club STEAM Dream Team Student Council Club sign-ups will be announced by the sponsors prior to the club starting through classroom teachers.

Pick Up Pass
Please display the Pick Up Pass from the Rearview Mirror for car-rider pick-up or bring the Pick Up Pass when meeting walker and bike riders at the gates. A Pick Up Pass will be required for Rainy Day dismissal at the doors of Buildings 5 and 7 or you will need to report to the front office with identification for your child to be released.

