

Okeehgeelee Community Middle School

2200 Pinehurst Drive
Greenacres, FL 33413
561-434-3200
www.okeehgeelee.org

Principal, Dr. David Samore

434-3205

Sixth Grade Office

Terri Livingston
Julia Zecca

434-3262

Assistant Principal
School Counselor

Seventh Grade Office

Elizabeth Morales
Julio Vega Ortiz

434-3203

Assistant Principal
School Counselor

Eighth Grade Office

Dwight Stewart
Isabel Parrado

434-3216

Assistant Principal
School Counselor

Clinic

Felice Krebs

434-3266

Nurse

Library Media Center

Julie Greene

434-3215

Media Specialist

ISA/ESOL Office

Coordinator
Julio Vega Ortiz

434-3236

Nitza Maldonado
School Counselor

ESE Office

Laura Winston

434-3258

Coordinator

Title 1 Office
Carmen Moreira

434-3246
Coordinator

School Police
Alex López

434-3250
SRO

After Care Program
Guillermo Rojas

434-3200

2014-2015 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August	17	School Begins
September	7	Labor Day
	14	Fall Holiday
	17	PDD*
	23	Fall Holiday
October	8	PDD*
	20	PDD*
	22	End 1 st 9 Weeks
	23	Teacher Work Day
	26	Begin 2 nd 9Weeks
November	11	Veteran's Day
	16	Teacher Work Day
	25-27	Thanksgiving Holiday
December	18	End 2 nd 9 Weeks
	21-31	Winter Holiday
January	1	Winter Holiday
	4	Teacher Work Day
	5	Begin 3 rd 9 weeks
	18	ML King's Birthday
February	4	PDD*
	15	Teacher Work Day
	23	PDD*
March	17	End 3 rd 9 weeks
	18	Teacher Work Day
	21-25	Spring Holiday Break
April		
May	30	Memorial Day
June	2	Student Last Day

ATHLETICS

To be eligible to participate a student must
Maintain a 2.0 GPA and conduct of 3's a& 4's

Baseball	Mr. Bischoff
Softball	Mrs. Hanley
Boys Soccer	Mr. Navarrete
Girls Volleyball	Ms, Asch
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Boys Basketball	Mr. Wellman
Girls Basketball	Mr. MacMillan
Cheerleading	Ms. Creese
Girls Soccer	Mrs. McMillon
Lacrosse	Mr. Lewanda
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Boys Volleyball	Mr. Millstein
Boys Track	Mr. Moreira
Girls Track	Ms. Portee

INTRAMURALS

Intramurals are available before and after school and
there is not prerequisite for participation.

Basketball	Tennis
Volleyball	Soccer
Cross Country	Flag Football
Golf	Board Games

*Professional Development Day(1/2) Dismissal 1:00 PM

SAC MEETINGS 5:30 PM

PTSA MEETINGS 6:45 PM

CLUBS

SEPTEMBER

10

SEPTEMBER

10

Club meetings are held before or after school.

OCTOBER	8	OCTOBER	8	Guitar	Junior Model United Nations
NOVEMBER	12	NOVEMBER	12	Academic Games	STEP Team
DECEMBER	10	DECEMBER	10	Running	Spanish
JANUARY	14	JANUARY	14	Yearbook	Student Government Association
FEBRUARY	11	FEBRUARY	11	Dance	National Junior Honor Society
MARCH	10	MARCH	10	Recycling	Newspaper
APRIL	14	APRIL	14	Literary Magazine	Science Fair
MAY	12	MAY	12		

Students must carry their Agenda Book with them at all times and WILL NOT be allowed out of class without a hall pass which is located in the back of the agenda. Students who lose their Agenda Book may purchase a new one for \$2.00 at the student's grade level office.

NOTICE — A copy of District Policies, State Law, and other information is available in any Grade Level Office.

AUTHORITY OF THE PRINCIPAL

The principal or a designated representative has the responsibility to develop policies for the control and direction of students while being transported to school or while in the school center. Principals also have the responsibility of implementing School Board Policies and Administrative Directives. The principal or designated representative may administer discipline or suspend a student from the school center or the bus. In case of suspension, written notice is given of the student's parent or guardian and the Superintendent within twenty-four hours of the suspension. The principal or designated representative may recommend to the Superintendent the expulsion of any student who has committed a serious breach of conduct.

HEALTH EXAMINATION

Any student entering a Palm Beach County public school who has not previously been enrolled in a school in Florida must present a health examination at the time of initial entry. Every student entering grade seven must obtain a physical examination for school entry. An examination must be performed within twelve months prior to the first day of school, and given by a licensed, practicing physician (M.D., D.O., Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP)). The physical examination should be reported on the Florida DH form #3040 or an out-of-state DH form equivalent. The student may enter school without the completed form, and with evidence of scheduled appointment, within the next 30 days. Failure to obtain the necessary health documents will result in a student's exclusion from school.

A student who was previously enrolled in a public or private school in the state, withdrew, and is currently seeking entry into a Palm Beach County school, may satisfy the health requirement with the results from the previous school record.

IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

Proof of immunization is required. Parents **MUST** have their child's immunization records on the Florida HRS 680 form. Out-of-state parents may take their child's immunization records to one of the local health clinics or physician to have the information transferred to the appropriate form. NO OTHER DOCUMENTS ARE ACCEPTABLE. All 6th Grade Students are required to have the Hepatitis B vaccination series completed. If the vaccination series is not completed by the first day of school, the shot dates must be recorded on a temporary medical form with doctor's signature. **Without the temporary form and doctor's signature, your child cannot enroll in school.** All 7th grade students are required to have a second MMR. All 7th and 8th grade students are required to have a tetanus-diphtheria booster before entering school.

REPORT CARDS AND GRADING SYSTEM

Grades are based on the quality of work done, student's regular attendance, daily preparation, and promptness in completing assignments.

Student grades are based on a combination of teacher observations (oral presentations or reports, speeches, recitations, impromptu speaking, response to questioning, lab practical, and demonstrations or identification); classroom assignments (paper and pencil assignments, seat work, reports, term or research papers, models, projects, exhibits, poster, computer programs,

and homework); and examinations (paper and pencil tests, including essay, multiple choice and completion, oral test, and skill tests requiring demonstration). There will be sufficient marks recorded in each teacher's database to justify the grade recorded, as the nine-week's grade. Marks are not based on a single project.

Each teacher shall develop a nine-week assessment to be given to each student at the end of each marking period. The assessment shall cover the material presented during that marking period in order to document mastery.

Marks (with the exception of "I's" and "M's"), once recorded will not be changed without a review of the reason(s) and approval of the principal. Only in justified cases may a principal change a mark without teacher consent and only then with the approval of the superintendent based on such justifications. In either case, any mark change requires two signatures on a form indicating the change and the reason for the change. If initiated by a teacher, approval of the principal must be obtained. If initiated by the principal, approval of the teacher or the area superintendent must be obtained. Except during those times when the teacher is not on duty (between school sessions), the teacher will be consulted prior to the initiation of any grade change by the principal.

An "I" in any marking period must be changed to a passing grade according to the school guidelines for make-up work prior to the end of the marking period, or the "I" is automatically converted to an "F".

DESCRIPTION AND DEFINITION OF MARKS

<u>Mark of "A"</u> -	Superior (90%-100%)-Indicates thorough mastery of the subject or area as reflected in daily work, reports, tests, examinations.
<u>Mark of "B"</u> -	Above Average (80%-89%)-Indicates above average, consistent effort, as reflected in daily work, tests, reports, examinations.
<u>Mark of "C"</u> -	Average (70%-79%)-Indicated average achievement in daily work, reports, tests, examinations.
<u>Mark of "D"</u> -	Below Average (60%-69%)-Indicates below average achievement in majority of assigned areas.
<u>Mark of "F"</u> -	Failing (0%-59%)-Indicates unsatisfactory of failing work in a majority of assigned areas.
<u>Mark of "I"</u> -	Incomplete-Indicates a problem, which causes the student's work to be incomplete. For a transfer student it may also indicate the student's grades for the previous school have not been received.
<u>Mark of "M"</u> -	Valid Missing Work (Middle School Only)-Indicates the student was not scheduled in the class for the entire semester. Approval of the principal is required for the "M" grade.
<u>Mark of "W"</u> -	Withdrawn-Indicates withdrawal for a course. These grades are for report card purposes and do not appear on the final student's transcripts.

RETENTION/PROMOTION

State law has now made it illegal to promote a student based solely on age. Each student must demonstrate a basic level of knowledge in order to be promoted. Students must meet the following criteria in order to be promoted.

1. A minimum of 1.0 GPA overall in the following subjects: Math, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and one elective.
2. Pass a minimum of 5 out of 6 classes for the year.
3. Demonstrate a basic skill level as determined by the State on Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) test.

MID TERM PROGRESS REPORT

Mid Term report for all students are given out at the middle of each nine week marking period for all classes. The child is to take it home and have it signed by a parent and return one copy back to the school the next day.

TESTING

The School District of Palm Beach County administers standardized and state tests throughout the year. Parents will be notified of testing dates and procedures. Tests are given at the following grade levels:

- 6-8 FCAT Writing
- 6-8 FSA Mathematics & Reading
- 6-8 SRI (Scholastic Reading Inventory)
- 8 FCAT Science

Areas that can be assessed by the district include reading, mathematics, language, science and social studies. Not all test items are administered at every grade level. Instead, the tests are distributed throughout the grades in such a way that most academic areas would be tested at least every other year.

COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE

The compulsory school age is five (by September 1) to sixteen.

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES

The District's expectation is that middle school students and their parent(s) or guardian(s) will assume responsibility for the student's regular attendance.

Absenteeism, excused or unexcused, regardless of the reason, negatively affects the continuity of the learning process. As a student's absenteeism increases, there is a greater responsibility for the school to deter future absenteeism, and there is a greater responsibility for the student to demonstrate that such absenteeism has not negatively affected performance.

All students are expected to attend school regularly and to be on time for classes in order to benefit from the instructional program and to develop habits of punctuality, self-discipline, and responsibility. There is a reasonable presumption that a student can limit total absences to five (5) absences per nine-week marking period. If a student cannot, absenteeism is deemed excessive.

To earn a passing grade in a nine-week marking period for a course, a student must be in regular attendance. A student who is not in regular attendance may earn a passing grade by demonstrating mastery on the 9-week exam.

The principal has an established appeals process to review the facts of excessive absences.

1. On the day that students return to school after having been absent from school, ***they must present a written excuse from their parent or guardian and obtain an admit slip from the attendance office, Room 144.*** The written excuses must

- contain reasons for their absences, date(s) of absences, and the parent's signature. Students must present the admit slip to each of their teachers to be signed.
2. Students are not allowed to attend or participate in extra curricular activities, i.e., dances, field trips, sporting events, on days they are absent from school without approval of the principal.

CUTTING CLASSES = DEFIANCE OF SCHOOL LAW

School attendance is a very important and serious part of each student's academic life. Because of its importance, strict attendance will be kept in each class in which the student is enrolled. Skipping classes is a violation of law and is subject to discipline by school and local policing agencies.

MAKE-UP WORK

Parents are asked not to request assignments for anticipated absences of less than three days. Please call the grade level office for make-up work.

It is the responsibility of students to inquire as to make-up work upon their return to school. It is not the responsibility of the teacher to remind them of the work missed.

For every absence, the student will have that same number of days to complete make-up work, unless there are extenuating circumstances, i.e., ESE modifications and/or 504 plan modifications.

In cases where more than one teacher requests a student to remain after school for assistance, the student will report in the order that the requests are made. Students must make arrangements for their own transportation. Students must make special arrangements to see teachers about make-up work or tests.

STUDENT CONDUCT

At the secondary level, teachers record their best judgment of how each student's behavior affects learning in the classroom. The following are the general descriptions used in secondary school. The numbers on the left are used to reference the description on the right when recorded on the report card. Student conduct indicators are separate from the grade earned for the marking period.

4 = Very constructive to learning

- Never needs to be reminded of classroom rules
- Does not talk out of turn
- Is respectful to all
- Regularly volunteers to answer questions and never hesitates to assist the teacher when asked to do so
- Occasionally asks insightful questions which contribute positively to the class work and/or discussion.

Summary: "A good student who needs to be reminded rarely to behave."

3 = Generally supportive to learning

- Is usually well behaved
- Is usually respectful to all
- Occasionally volunteers to answer questions and occasionally appears hesitant to assist the teacher when asked to do so

- Answers questions when asked by the teacher
- Never acts in a way which is negatively impacts classroom order and decorum

Summary: "A good student who needs to be reminded on occasion to behave."

2= Detrimental to own learning

- Is occasionally disrespectful to others
- Requires regular reminders regarding classroom rules
- Is regularly off-task
- Is falling behind due to lack of attention
- Needs reminders to get refocused
- Speaks out of turn occasionally
 - At least one parent contact made describing the nature of the student's misbehavior

Summary: "Behavior gets in the way of his/her own learning".

1= Detrimental to own learning and learning of others

- Is often disrespectful of others
- Constantly and consistently requires reminders regarding classroom rules
- Almost always off-task and bothers others around him/her so that they are off-task as well
- Is unfocused consistently and creates an atmosphere which disturbs the learning process of others.
- Speaks out of turn occasionally
 - At least one parent contact made describing the nature of the student's misbehavior AND a Discipline Referral submitted to administration

Summary: "Poorly behaved, bothers others and gets in the way of others' learning."

Parents are asked to schedule a conference with the teachers

Note: The Code of Student Conduct reflects a requirement for the appropriate conduct in order to attend extra curricular activities and field trips. Teachers will determine criteria to be met in order to participate. A student who receives discipline referrals, fights, or is disruptive, may be excluded from participation.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Students are not permitted in the buildings before 8:55 am. Students are to remain in the Quad, covered pavilion area, cafeteria and authorized areas until the first bells rings. In case of inclement weather, the building will be opened to allow the students inside to the cafeteria.

Any student who needs to see a teacher before school must present a hall pass signed by the teacher to the staff member on duty at the entrance. ***It is a violation of the conduct code to be in the hallways without a pass.***

EARLY DISMISSAL

In the event a student must be dismissed early from school, the parent or guardian must report to the main office and request the student be dismissed. Proper identification will be required.

No student will be released after 3:15 p.m.

VISITORS

Visitors must report to the main office upon arrival and obtain a visitor's pass.

No unauthorized person is allowed on the school grounds at any time.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

The school web site address is: www.okeeheelee.org . Please visit this website to obtain up to date information about the school.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Counseling, both individual and group, is available to all Okeeheelee students. School counselors are located in the grade level offices. Students who wish to discuss problems confidentially are urged to arrange an appointment by stopping in their grade level office to make an appointment through the grade level secretary.

TARDINESS TO SCHOOL

When students are tardy to school, (9:00 – 9:50) they are to report directly to class. Students who arrive **after 10:00** am are to go to the Attendance Office for a pass to class.

TARDINESS TO CLASS

Teachers will follow our school-wide Discipline Plan to deal with tardy students. **A student is declared "tardy" if he/she is NOT in his/her seat by the tardy bell.** Students will be warned followed by a teacher detention. Chronic tardiness will result in a discipline referral to administration.

FIELD TRIPS

A signed permission slip must be on file with the sponsoring teacher before a student will be allowed to leave campus on a field trip. Teachers and chaperons will have complete authority during the trip. *Regular school conduct and dress code apply.* Parent permission must be in writing. **Telephone calls cannot be accepted.** Sponsoring teachers will provide permission slips to parents or guardian in advance of the time for field trips.

BICYCLE RIDERS

Students who ride bicycles to school are to place them in the area provided for that purpose. **At all times bicycles must be locked.** It is also recommended that all students record their serial number and have their bicycles registered in their local communities with the police. Bicycles must be walked, once they are on campus. Bicycle helmets are required by law.

WITHDRAWALS

A parent or guardian must send a written request for withdrawal to the appropriate grade level office two days prior of the withdrawal. All books must be returned and obligations fulfilled when a student withdrawals. Pupils must be enrolled at least fifteen days during any nine weeks period before receiving a grade.

Student Withdrawals Prior to End of Term

A student in grade 6, 7, or 8 who leaves before the close of the school year receives grades on the report card covering the periods in attendance. If the student withdraws from school with passing grades within two calendar weeks of the closing date, the statement, "Recommended for placement in grade ___" may be written on the report card in lieu of "Promoted: Grade/level___."

Students who withdraw from school during the last two weeks of the year must show evidence that the withdrawal is mandatory, and they must complete work as assigned by the teacher and approved by the principal. **No exams will be administered early.**

SCHOOL GROUNDS

Upon entering school grounds, students are to remain on the grounds. ***Leaving campus will result in disciplinary action.*** Students are not allowed to leave school grounds at any time. After school hours students are not to be in or near classrooms or buildings without special authorization or to attend scheduled activities. **Students without adult supervision who arrive before 8:30am or remain after school past 4:30pm are violating the policy of the School Board of Palm Beach County Schools.** *Okeehchee has the legal right to remove unsupervised students before 8:30am and after 4:00pm from the school grounds.*

CONFERENCES WITH TEACHERS

Parents are always welcome to our school. Parents who would like a conference should schedule an appointment through the appropriate grade level office secretary. Teachers may not leave their classes during instructional time to talk to a parent. Conference times are from 8:30 am – 8:55 am each morning on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.**

ACTIVITY BUS

The Activity Bus is available Monday through Thursday to those students staying after school for the purpose of a school-sponsored activity (defined as participation in a club, team sport, musical performance or practice, aftercare or remediation). **The Activity Bus is not for the purpose of transporting students detained for disciplinary reasons.** Students who miss their assigned bus upon school dismissal should report to the Main office to make arrangements for transportation. The activity bus is a privilege. *Any failure to maintain proper conduct will result in removal from the bus.*

TRESPASSING

If a student suspended out of school it is a violation of local law for a student to leave their home during school hours. It is also illegal for a student from one school to trespass on another school campus at any time (before, during and after the regular school day), and such trespassing may result in further disciplinary action. The principal of the student's school will be the final authority as to the number of days the suspension will be in effect.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND/OR TELEPHONE NUMBER

Parents or guardians will be requested to notify the school promptly of any change of student's address and/or telephone number(s) where parents or guardian can be reached in an emergency. ***It is mandatory that the school have an emergency phone number on file to contact parent/guardian in case of illness or accident.*** When an emergency contact is not available, the school will make use of emergency medical services. Expenses incurred will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

DRESS CODE 2015 – 2016

At Okeeheelee Middle School, we recognize that **appearance matters**. Proper dress code impacts good behavior. In an effort to ensure the proper atmosphere of learning, we have a clear, unambiguous dress code for all students.

ALL CLOTHES must FIT PROPERLY and not be EXCESSIVELY LOOSE FITTING or EXCESSIVELY TIGHT. All clothing must be worn AS INTENDED, for example, NOT BACKWARDS or INSIDE OUT. **NOTE: Repeated dress code violations which have been preceded by warnings and consequences will result in out of school suspension since it clearly shows repetitive disobedience and insubordination.**

THE FOLLOWING CLOTHING IS ACCEPTABLE:

1. SHIRTS: Only three kinds of shirts may be worn. **POLO and T-SHIRTS must be obtained at Okeeheelee Middle School. We sell shirts at "cost", i.e., we make no profit.**

- a) **Solid colored "polo" style.** THREE colors: gray, teal, or a shade of blue.
- b) **Solid colored T-shirts,** Colors: gray, teal, or a shade of blue. *Self Check: The wearer places open hand and base of neck and does NOT touch skin.*
- c) **Solid oxford style collared shirt.** TWO colors: gray, a shade of blue. An "**oxford style collared shirt**" is defined as a **solid-colored** dress shirt with a soft button-down collar. No more than two buttons may be undone at the neck.
 - It is not acceptable for students to wear "layered" shirts unless all shirts worn conform with dress code. *EXAMPLE: Shirt beneath outer shirt.*
 - It is not acceptable to wear shirts extended below the arms held at the side with fingers bent in toward the body at a right angle.

1. SWEATSHIRTS AND JACKETS

All outerwear will be prohibited *before* a declared date in the autumn and *after* a declared date in the spring of each school year.

- **NOTE:** Sweatshirts and jackets CANNOT be used to cover up a dress code violation. Heavy shirts are NOT a sweatshirt, sweater or jacket.

2. PANTS

- ALL PANTS MUST BE A **SOLID** COLOR.
- It is not acceptable to tuck pant legs into shoes or socks, roll closed or wear elastic ankle ties.
- Only long pants are acceptable. *Pants rolled up above ankles are not acceptable.* **"Long" is defined as extending to the feet.**
- All pants must fit properly **and be worn at the natural waist.**
- Pants must have **no holes, no ripped openings,** extreme styles, and no pockets on the pant legs.
- Sweat pants, warm-up pants, and blousy pants are not permitted.
- Boots may be worn with pants tucked in them.

3. DRESSES AND SKIRTS:

- Dresses must comply with solid school colors (gray or any shade of blue).
- Dresses and skirts must reach the top of the kneecap.
- Slits must not reach above the top of the kneecap.
- Dresses must have a cap or sleeve on the arm or shoulder.

4. FOOTWEAR FOR BOYS AND GIRLS:

- Must have a closed toe and heel
- Heels must be no taller than one inch

5. MORE FORMAL ATTIRE

- Students may be permitted to wear more formal or "dress up" clothing. For example, all athletes must wear more formal clothing on game days.
- Also, should a student wish to do this on any other day, such as wear a sport jacket, suit and/or tie, this too is acceptable.

THE FOLLOWING CLOTHING IS UNACCEPTABLE:

- ❖ **Beads** of any kind, *including rosaries* worn as necklaces.
- ❖ **Bandanas** of any kind.
- ❖ **Oversized necklaces, chains or medallions** (Administration will be the judge).
- ❖ **"Grills"** (metallic teeth coverings) of any kind.
- ❖ **Belts with loose end worn hanging from the waist.**
- ❖ **Athletic jerseys, sleeveless, or tank tops of any style.**
- ❖ Oversized, stretch, nylon or sweat pants.
- ❖ **"Brazilian" pants (excessively tight stretch pants) are prohibited.**
- ❖ Elastic/stretch athletic-style headbands.
- ❖ Shorts of any style or length including Capri pants.
- ❖ Sheer, see-through, or midriff clothing.
- ❖ **Torn or ripped clothing.**
- ❖ Sharp jewelry including dog/cat chains or collars and wallet/belt chains.
- ❖ Flip-flops, sandals, bedroom slippers, or spike heels.
- ❖ Make-up and other hair grooming aids used outside of restrooms.
- ❖ Sunglasses unless a doctor's permit is on file. Contact lenses and glasses must be of standard style and not appear distracting.
- ❖ Haircuts, clothing, or other marking that is offensive, suggestive, indecent, distracting, or associated with gangs.
- ❖ **Hats** or head coverings (unless they are required for safety, medical, or specific religious reasons).

The administration is the final judge on what is distracting and/or unacceptable clothing.

STUDENTS' GUIDELINES

1. Upon arrival at school (**NO EARLIER THAN 8:30am**), students are under the authority of the school and all of its policies and procedures. Students are to follow the instructions

of all school personnel. Students arriving prior to 8:30am cannot be assured supervision since teachers are not on duty until 8:30am.

2. Students may not leave campus after arriving at school unless they are signed out from the Main Office by a parent/guardian or authorized person listed on the student registration form/clinic card.
3. Students are expected to leave the campus after school is dismissed. It is the parent's responsibility to care for their child after school. Unless students are involved in a school related activity, such as athletics, intramurals, clubs, etc. *they are **not** remain on campus after dismissal. **Students who linger on-campus beyond 30 minutes after the end of the school day will be directed off campus.***
4. Students must walk on campus. No running is allowed, except in Physical Education classes.
5. ***Students are not permitted to bring items to school which are distracting or disruptive*** such as toys, candy, chewing gum, MP3 players, sports balls (e.g., basketballs, footballs), and the like. No items may be brought to school to sell or exchange/swap on school property.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

THIS SECTION INFORMS STUDENTS OF UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE RULES ARE BROKEN. IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING RULES ARE BROKEN, SCHOOL STAFF MEMBERS ARE AUTHORIZED TO USE APPROPRIATE CONSEQUENCES:

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS

- ◆ Threatening or harassing a person. ***Bullying is considered a form of cowardice and will not be tolerated at any time.***
- ◆ Fighting
- ◆ Hitting or hurting another person; this includes "slap-boxing"
- ◆ Hurting another person with any object or weapon
- ◆ Having and/or hiding a weapon
- ◆ Intentionally making false accusations that jeopardize the professional reputation, employment or professional certification of a teacher or other member of a school staff
- ◆ Starting a fire (arson); having, using, or selling illegal mood modifiers, including alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs
- ◆ Possession of tobacco/drug paraphernalia/alcohol
- ◆ Making a bomb threat engaging in sexual harassment and/or committing sexual violations
- ◆ Stealing, lying or cheating
- ◆ Forcing someone to give money, possessions or other things of value to another (extortion)
- ◆ Committing robbery
- ◆ Damaging or destroying property, including graffiti
- ◆ Gambling or other criminal acts
- ◆ Leaving class or school without following school procedures
- ◆ Refusing to obey school personnel
- ◆ Having or giving out indecent material
- ◆ Not attending school/cutting class
- ◆ Misbehaving on school buses
- ◆ Displaying disruptive conduct
- ◆ Using unacceptable language such as profanity
- ◆ Violating dress code

- ◆ Bringing distracting items to school including, but not limited to radios, audio recorders, beepers, laser pens and telephones. **NOTE: Cell phones activated without teacher permission will be confiscated**
- ◆ Being tardy
- ◆ Bringing toys or games to school without teacher permission
- ◆ **Chewing gum/candy**
- ◆ **Food or drink in hallways or classrooms**

CONSEQUENCES FOR UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

1. Telephone call to parent.
2. Warning letter.
3. Parent/teacher conference.
4. Detention
5. Saturday school detention
6. Alternative school placement
7. Suspension. **NOTE: According to School Board policy, suspended students are considered to be trespassing if on or near campus during the suspension period.**

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students have basically the same rights under the Constitution as do adults. It is the intent of this statement of student responsibilities to provide students with the greatest amount of freedom which is possible within the law and commensurate with an effective teaching-learning process and the school's responsibilities for student health, safety, and welfare. This includes the rights of assembly, privacy, gaining knowledge through learning, freedom of speech and student publication, participation in school programs and activities, and freedom from discrimination. Responsibilities include observation of the rules of conduct, attendance, and respect for persons and property.

Policy 5.0921 P.B. County School District Gang Control Policy

The purpose of the Palm Beach County School Board Gang Control Policy is to address problems associated with youth gangs through proactive education and disciplinary action, where necessary. The policy is divided into four sections; definition of gangs, operational policy and procedures, notification and review.

A. DEFINITION OF GANGS (Florida Statute Section 894.03)

1. Youth and street gang - Any ongoing organization, association or group of three (3) or more persons, either formal or informal, which meeting BOTH of the following criteria:
 - a. Has unique common name or common identifying signs, colors, or symbols.
 - b. Has members or associates who, individually or collectively engage repeatedly in, or have repeatedly engaged in criminal activity.
2. Youth and street gang member - A person who meets any two (2) of the following criteria:
 - a. Admits to gang membership
 - b. Is a youth up to age 21 who is identified as a gang member by a parent or guardian.
 - c. Is identified as a gang member by a documented reliable informant.
 - d. Resides in or frequents, a particular gang's area and adopts their style of dress, use of hand signs, symbols, or tattoos, and associates with known gang members.

- e. Is identified as a gang member by an informant of previously untested reliability and corroborated by independent information.
- f. Has been arrested more than once in the company of identified gang members for offenses, which are consistent with usual gang activity.
- g. Is identified as a gang member by physical evidence such as photographs or other documentation.

B. OPERATIONAL POLICY AND PROCEDURES

1. The school administration shall justify in writing any restrictions of symbolic expression as follows and prior to imposing such restrictions shall articulate:
 - a. Which item of dress, expression, or article is being restricted, and
 - b. The basis of the administrator's belief based on articulated facts that the exercise of the prohibited activity would materially interfere with or substantially disrupt school activities.
2. The type of dress, apparel, activities, acts, behavior or manner of grooming displayed, reflected, or participated in by the student shall not:
 - a. Lead school officials to reasonably believe that such behavior, apparel, activities, acts or other attributes are gang related and would materially interfere or substantially disrupt the school environment or activity and/or educational objectives;
 - b. Present a physical safety hazard to self, students, staff, employees, or other persons authorized to be on the school campus.
3. If the student's behavior or other attribute is in violation of these provisions, the principal or designee will request the student to make the appropriate correction. If the student refuses, the parent/guardian may be notified and asked to make the necessary correction. The principal will take appropriate corrective and disciplinary action.
4. Students identified as being gang involved, influenced or affiliated shall be provided assistance and/or programs which discourage gang involvement or affiliation, enhance self-esteem, encourage interest and participation in school or other positive activities and promote membership in authorized school organizations.
5. Training to provide increased awareness of the threat to the safety of students, staff and school property which gang-related activity poses shall be provided by School Police on an as-needed basis. Additional presentations shall be made available to individual schools, staff or students at the request of the principal. Presentations shall provide training in current identification symbols, used by those involved in gang-related activity and shall include the identification of hand signals, apparel, jewelry, and/or other pertinent gang-related information.

C. NOTIFICATION

The principal shall notify the student body of the Palm Beach County School Board Gang Control Policy through classroom presentations and/or assemblies.

D. REVIEW PROCEDURE

Student and/or parents who are in disagreement with handling of gang related issues and/or corrective and disciplinary action associated with the gang control policy may utilize the District Grievance Procedure D.2.031, SB5.18. However, where symbolic expression is restricted, the principal/designee shall complete the grievance process within 48 hours during which time the implementation of disciplinary action shall not be delayed.

233.47 Responsibility of pupils, parents, or guardians for instructional materials.

(1) All instructional materials heretofore or hereafter purchased under the provisions of this chapter shall be the property of the district. When distributed to the pupils, such materials shall

be merely loaned to the pupils of the school while pursuing the courses of study therein and are to be returned at the direction of the principal or teacher in charge. Each parent, guardian, or other person having charge of a pupil to whom or for whom materials have been issued, as provided herein, shall be held liable for any loss or destruction of, or unnecessary damage to, such materials or for failure of such pupil to return such materials when directed by the principal or teacher in charge, and shall be required to pay for such loss, destruction, or unnecessary damage as provided by law.

(2) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit parents, guardian, or other persons from purchasing from the District School Board instructional materials adopted by the State under the provisions of the School Code.

NOTICE TO PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIANS REGARDING NEWS COVERAGE OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

At various times during the course of the school year, representatives of the news media (including print, radio, and television) will request access to school campuses to cover school activities and events. The School Board allows the news media to visit school campuses for this purpose.

TRANSPORTATION

BUS ASSIGNMENTS - Information

The County governs bus transportation for students living more than two (2) miles from school.

A student is subject to the authority and discipline of the bus driver at all times. The bus driver notifies the school administration if any problems occur. Parents of the students involved will be notified. Riding the bus is a PRIVILEGE.

Occasionally we get requests to allow a student to ride a different bus for a day or a period of time for a number of different reasons. We CANNOT approve such requests because of County Policy and insurance reasons. We regret that we cannot make accommodations for such reasons. We regret that we cannot make accommodations for such reasons as piano instructions, slumber parties, etc.

COUNTY BUS RULES

- a. Students must stand off the roadway for the bus.
- b. Students must keep their arms and heads inside the bus at all times.
- c. Students must be seated at all times when the bus is in motion.
- d. Students preparing to board the buses should cross the roadway in front of the bus, BUT NOT UNTIL THE BUS DRIVER HAS GIVEN THE SIGNAL TO CROSS.
- e. Riders should not engage in unnecessary conversation with the driver because this creates a dangerous situation.
- f. Students are to observe classroom conduct except for ordinary conversation.
- g. Students must obey the driver since the driver is in full charge of both bus and students.
- h. The driver has the right to assign pupils to certain seats to promote order and safety on the bus.
- I. Eating, drinking, or smoking is absolutely forbidden to all students riding buses. This includes chewing gum.
- j. Students wishing to ride buses must be on time - the bus cannot wait for those who are tardy.
- k. Bus students must get on and off at their assigned school bus stop. No one is to ride a bus other than the one assigned.

THE OBSERVANCE OF THE FOREGOING RULES IS COMPULSORY. PENALTY FOR NOT OBSERVING RULES COULD RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS INCLUDING BUS SUSPENSION. The school principal has the authority to suspend him/her temporarily or permanently from riding the bus.

BUS SUSPENSION

The Principal or the designated representative may suspend any student transported to and from school at public expense from the privilege of riding a school bus for a period not to exceed ten (10) school.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER CIRCULATION PROCEDURES

Photo identification cards will be issued to all students and will be used throughout their time at Okeeheelee Middle School. These cards will be necessary for item checkout in the Library Media Center. A fee will be charged for any card replacement. Books may be checked out for a period of two weeks. Renewals are granted one time per book. The book drop can be used to return books before and after school.

BOOK FINES

Overdue books will be fined \$.10 per day excluding weekends and holidays. Notices of lost materials, prices, and overdue fines will be sent home with the student.

MEDICATIONS

Students requiring the use of medications must keep them in the clinic. Prior to use, the parent must turn in the proper authorization form signed by the physician and parent. Upon delivery of med by parent, the parent must also present a picture ID to the school nurse and the prescription label must be on the jar.

ACADEMIC GAMES

See your teacher for information.

Mathematics Season:	August-October
Social Studies Season:	October-December
Language Arts:	January-February

BEFORE/AFTER CARE PROGRAM

Okeeheelee offers an after-care program from 4:00-5:30 PM. We also offer tutoring classes in the morning beginning at 7:30 AM. Please contact the Main Office at 434-3260 for more information. Bus transportation will be provided at 5:20 PM.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE RECOVERY (COMPASS)

Students are offered the opportunity to attend a COMPASS if they failed an academic subject. Students who successfully complete the COMPASS class will have the 9-week grade changed from an "F" to "D" through "A", depending on the results of their performance in COMPASS.