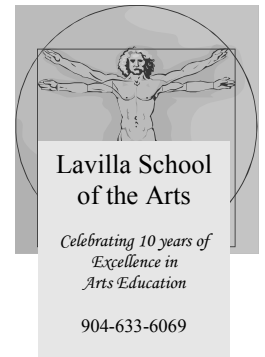


LASOTA Connections



Welcome to LaVilla 2009-2010

September 15, 2009

Oh, the Places We'll Go!

Volume 2, Issue 1

We are excited to celebrate our 10th year as LaVilla School of the Arts. Together we look forward to living our theme of "Oh, the Places We'll Go"! So much will be happening that I feel a need to cover some basics that may keep all of us on track for the year:

information on how to sign up for a secured log-on that will access your child's grades and course information.



Teacher web-sites will operate from the same system.

Try to avoid scheduling appointments at the same time when several visits are required as this means the same class will be missed repeatedly, and the student's instructional time will be affected.

- ◆ Check the school website regularly for teacher updates and e-mail addresses. It's a great way to know what is expected academically and in the arts.

- ◆ School hours are 8:25 am-3:25 pm. If you need **early care**, a 7:00 am study hall is available at a reasonable cost. Students dropped off prior to 7:45 am will be placed in the study hall and a fee charged for the service. Remember, we are located in a downtown business district and leaving any student unsupervised is not safe. Teachers and staff are not available to supervise earlier.

- ◆ **Late student pick-up** after 3:45 may result in a late fee. Please be sure that your child knows how he/she will go home in the afternoon.

www.duvalschools.org/lavilla/

- ◆ **Drop-off items or messages** interrupt the instructional day. Only exceptional or emergency matters should require items or messages to be delivered. While we would like to accommodate you, our office staff is very small for a school of over 1100 students. Middle school students are learning to be responsible for themselves. This is a learning experience and the consequences of forgetting something may be the best teacher. In emergencies we are always willing to help. Please help us protect the instructional day.

- ◆ It's good to remind your LaVilla student that by School Board rule, he/she must have a **C average** in all arts classes to return to LaVilla for the following year. Beginning with good grades and focus in the arts will assure success!

- ◆ **Breakfast** is served at 7:55 am. After eating, students return to their am wait areas. Students eating breakfast go through the gate to the left of the front door, take the walkway to the rear door and enter the hall to the dining room.

- ◆ **CompassOdyssey** and FCAT Explorer are available at school and home for help in meeting standards. Students have been given access codes for these programs. If you have questions about accessing either on-line program from home, please contact us.

- ◆ **Early Pick-up** must be done prior to 2:55 pm. Please schedule appointments and adjust pick-up with this in mind. Students will not be called until someone is at the school to sign them out.

- ◆ Soon our **OnCourse Parent Portal** will be open. You will receive

LaVilla's data for the NCLB School Accountability Report is available on the district website at www.duvalschools.org. Click on *Our Schools* and go to *Instructional Research and Accountability*.

You may ask for a hard copy in our main office.

School Advisory Council
9/22/09
4:30
Main Conference Room
School Improvement Planning

Join PTSA!

Support your child's school.

Thank you Volunteers for all you do!



Coming Events:

- **2:10 p.m. Early Dismissal Dates**
 September 23
 October 7 & 21
 November 4 & 18
 December 9
 January 6 & 20
 February 3 & 17
 March 3 & 24
 April 14 & 28
 May 12
- **No School**
 October 26—Teacher Planning
 November 11—Holiday
 November 26 & 27—Thanksgiving

Welcome New Staff

Please join me in welcoming the following to LaVilla:

Antonio Banks, Assistant Principal
Velvet Wilson, Curriculum Office
Patricia Dixon, Guidance Office
Theresa Moreau, Vocal Music Teacher
Kimberly Barker, Language Arts Teacher

We pride ourselves in gathering the most talented and professional staff at LaVilla. You may expect the best from our administrators, teachers and staff.

VISITING THE SCHOOL

We have more visitors at LaVilla than most schools. While we love it when you come, please remember these guidelines:

- ◆ Always check in at the Main Office.
- ◆ Classroom visits require a pre-arranged appointment. Teachers need to be able to know how your visit will fit into the instructional day.
- ◆ Please return your visitors pass when you leave.
- ◆ Conference time with teachers should be scheduled ahead of the visit during teacher planning periods so that their full attention can be given to your concerns in a private setting.

Volunteer hours are tracked for district and state data reporting. THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!



PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE: WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

I am pleased that so many of our students were able to view our President's welcome back to school message. It was truly supportive and inspiring for our students to hear how other students are committed to their own education. Knowing that our nation's leader, like many who have preceded him, is encouraging student success is motivating to all of us in education.

Due to many factors, including the time of the message, some students who wanted to watch did not get to see the speech. As an accommodation, we have placed the video on our school share drive so that students who wish to view the address may do so from any school computer. The written text is also available.

Academic materials that you find objectionable can be substituted after contacting the teacher for acceptable materials that meet the standard.



There is no doubt that the flu season is here. Some of our students and teachers have reported influenza A symptoms. We are

encouraging hand sanitation and custodians are doing extra surface cleaning. Please review the notices we sent home earlier and remember:

- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, elbow or sleeve. Throw the used tissues away.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick with a flu-like illness, stay home until you are "fever free" without the use of fever reducing medication for 24 hours or until you have been symptom-free, whichever is longer, except to seek medical care or other necessities.

WHAT'S IN YOUR CHILD'S BACKPACK?

Most of our communications go home with the students. We also attempt to get messages to you via the webpage, using our newest call system with automated messages and occasionally by U.S. mail. In these economic times, many items are sent via students. Help get your notices of booster activities, field-trips, performances etc. by encouraging your child to pass it on to you as soon as possible.

