

# Bear Paw Times

Volume 15, Issue 9 - May 1, 2024



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**MAY**

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## Message from the Principal

The start of a new year brings a renewed sense of excitement. After a summer of planning, we are ready to embark on this new journey. The first day of school is always full of nervous energy, as

students get to see their friends, make new ones or are just anxious about what a new grade has to offer. In my first year as the principal of Narcoossee Middle School (NCMS), I am proud of the accomplishments we have achieved, as a school, and how hard students have worked throughout the year.

This year, we welcomed a new Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). The PTO has partnered with us, and has helped us with parent engagement, teacher appreciation, and has been essential in our PBIS program flourishing. It is one of the reasons that we have seen our students feel, more than ever, connected to our school and learned what it means to be a Narcoossee Middle Black Bear. A second important reason is the relationships our teachers have built with our students. These relationships are essential to their academic partnership. In the words of Henry Thoreau: "If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them." Throughout this year, our teachers have, day in and day out, helped our students put the foundations under them. For some, those foundations will carry them onto another middle school grade, but for our 8th grade students it means preparing them to enter high school.

As we close this year, we will reflect on all the different activities, events, and all the challenges. We will smile as we remember the Staff vs. Students games, Karaoke, Social Hour, Robotics competition, and all the different sports that were played. You will be proud as you reminisce on the challenges you faced this year, and how you were able to overcome them. In the end, I remember the wise words of a magical Headmaster, "Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light". My hope is that school, and at this moment in time, Narcoossee Middle School, is your light.

Dr. Rivera Mieles  
Principal

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## AVID News



It is hard to believe the 2023-2024 school year is quickly coming to an end. Our AVID students in 8th grade are preparing for a major life shift as they select high school classes and depart NCMS with many college goals in mind. Our 6th and 7th grade AVID students have been prepared to move up with new knowledge about careers and skills to help them achieve academic success. We have learned so much this year in AVID and we are so proud to be the only school in Osceola County with 3 sections of AVID offered in our schedule. As an AVID National Demonstration School, we hold our AVID students to very high expectations and we believe each student is capable of unlimited success. We will finish this month

conducting AVID interviews with new applicants and preparing and planning for the 2024-2025 school year. Our plans are to continue to support all students at NCMS in their career and college readiness quest so that every student who passes through our school feels enriched with the knowledge to pursue their greatest dreams. Thank you for an AMAZING year in AVID!

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The AVID Trio would like to thank the NCMS students that participated in the AVID NCES visit! The students did an AMAZING job speaking about our wonderful middle school!

We would also like to give a huge THANK YOU to the teachers that allowed the students to participate!

The AVID Trio



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## Media Center News

All books must be returned to the library by May 29th. Don't wait till the last day of school to return your books. 8th grade students remember to see Mrs. Biela if you have any book fines so we can take care of it before you go to high school.

Our last book fair is May 10-17. All payments are accepted, please remember cash payments must be exact (any change under \$1 will be donated to the media center). Students can shop in the morning and during lunches and if they ask their teacher for permission.

**Media  
Center**



Look for more information about summer reading coming soon!

## Cheer News

*Want to be a High School Cheerleader?*


**What YOU NEED for TRYOUT WEEK!**

**1. READ ALL Commitment Pages** of the Commitment packet


**2. Have a 2.0 GPA**

**3. Current DIGITAL Physical from FHSAA (must be an FHSAA high school physical)** You can find this on the school webpage or contact our athletic trainer [laura.curtis@osceolaschools.net](mailto:laura.curtis@osceolaschools.net) from the school website. The physical must be uploaded to [aktivite.com](http://aktivite.com) and you must have clearance/approval for tryouts!

**4. COMPLETE the 2024- 2025 Prospect Google Form** (prior to attending the TRY OUT Clinic):  
LINK: <https://forms.gle/VH4YfhRj43TmMYcT6>

QR Code: 

**5. A total of 4 Teacher Recommendations**

 Printable Teacher Recs!

ALL TRYOUT DATES ARE CLOSED, NO PARENTS ARE PERMITTED & ATHLETES NEED TO BRING THEIR OWN WATER!

**JOIN US FOR TRY OUTS!**  
**TIGER CHEERLEADING**

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*see coach Trujillo for more info...*

## DRAMA NEWS



## Attention Parents

### Tutoring

Tutoring is available after school on 5/2 & 5/9 from 4:40 to 5:40 PM.

A reminder that the End Of Course score for both Algebra I Honors and Geometry Honors is 30% of the total grade and mandated by the State of Florida.

Both tests are on May 13th and results should be in the next day.



### Box Tops for Education

We need your help to get more families to support the Box Tops program here at NARCOOSSEE MIDDLE SCHOOL. The more people that participate, the more our school can earn to help get the supplies it needs! This year, our goal is to earn \$1,000.00 through Box Tops.

PLUS, you can earn a bonus for our school by inviting your friends, family, and other parents at NARCOOSSEE MIDDLE SCHOOL to sign up and participate in Box Tops. To refer friends to sign up, go to the Invite Friends section of

app home screen.) You'll get a referral code that you can send to a friend. You'll BOTH earn Bonus Box Tops for our school when they scan their first receipt – that's extra cash that counts towards our Box Tops earnings goal of \$1,000.00 this year.

Thanks for your help!

<https://www.boxtops4education.com/s/get-the-app>

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## Mark Your Calendar

- 5/1 - Band Concert 6 PM
- 5/2 - PTO & SAC Meeting 5 PM
- 5/2 - Jeremiah Ice Spirit Night (all day)
- 5/3 - Gradventure Trip
- 5/6-5/10: Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5/8 - NO EARLY RELEASE (Wednesday)
- 5/8 - A Night in Broadway 6-8 PM
- 5/10-5/17: Book Fair
- 5/15 - NO EARLY RELEASE (Wednesday)
- 5/16 - EOY STEM Celebration 4:30-6 PM
- 5/17 - Special Olympics culminating event 2:30 PM
- 5/17 - 8th Grade Dance 6-8 PM
- 5/22 -8th Grade Awards 5:30-7:30 PM (by invitation only)
- 5/23 - PBIS B.E.A.R.S. Awards
- 5/24 - PBIS Fast Growth Party
- 5/27 - Memorial Day (Teacher Non-Workday/Student Holiday)
- 5/28 - 8th Grade "Donut" event
- 5/28 - PBIS Students vs Staff Basketball Game
- 5/29 - Last Day to Return Library Books
- 5/29 - End of 4th Grading Period/LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**
- 5/30 - Teacher Workday/Last Teacher Day

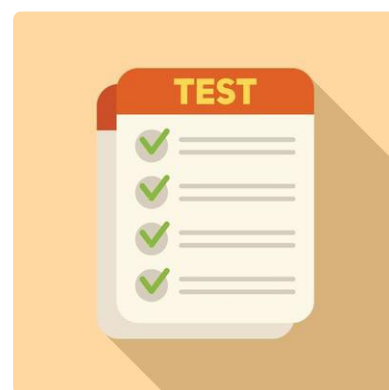
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## Calendar News

### Testing Information

#### May Testing Dates:

- FAST ELA- Thursday, May 2
- FAST ELA Makeups- May 3
- Civics EOC- Monday, May 6
- Biology EOC- Tuesday, May 7
- FSSA 8th Grade Science- Wednesday, May 8
- Algebra 1 & Geometry Bootcamp- May 9
- FAST Math- Thursday May 9



Makeups- Friday, May 10

Algebra 1 and Geometry EOC- Monday, May 13

Makeups- May 14-17



## NCMS Band Concert

Wednesday, May 1st

6pm in the NCMS Gym

Featuring the Advanced Band, Intermediate Band, Beginning Band & Jazz Band.

## 8th Grade News

May 3rd - Gradventure Trip

May 17th - 8th Grade Dance 6pm-8pm

May 22nd -8th Grade Awards 5:30-7:30pm (by invitation only)

May 28th - 8th Grade "Donut" forget the memories event  
(donuts & superlative awards)



### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance & Awards Night Information

#### Dance: Friday May 17<sup>th</sup> 6pm-8pm

It is a Narcoossee Middle School tradition to host an 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance at the end of the year. This dance is for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students of Narcoossee Middle School ONLY.

To be eligible to attend the dance students must meet the following requirements:

- Follows Bears Expectations
  - If you have an Out of School Suspension (OSS) in Q3 or Q4 you are **ineligible** to attend
  - If you have excessive In School Suspensions (5) in Q3 or Q4 you are **ineligible** to attend
- Arrives to class on time regularly
  - If you have excessive tardies (10 or more) in Q3 or Q4 you must be placed on a tardy contract before earning eligibility to attend.
- Return all library books or pay for lost books
- Attend school on May 17<sup>th</sup>
- Administration reserves the right to allow or deny eligibility for any reason.

**Dance tickets will be on sale for \$5 from May 6<sup>th</sup>-May 15<sup>th</sup> before school.**

At the dance students are expected to follow all school & district rules. Students that behave inappropriately will be removed from the dance and could have further consequences.

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#### 8<sup>th</sup> grade Awards: Wednesday May 22<sup>nd</sup> 5:30-7:30pm (by invitation only)

This evening is meant to celebrate our Narcoossee Bears that have been exemplary members of the bears community. This is a time for us to celebrate students and what they have accomplished during their time at our school. Students are nominated for awards by the teachers, deans, staff, and administrators at NCMS. Students that are receiving an award will receive an invitation to the event by **Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**.

##### Awarded Categories:

**Principals Award:** These students have qualities that demonstrate superior academic dedication, model citizenship, and involvement in extracurricular activities that make Narcoossee Middle School shine. These students embody all of the qualities of the top students here at Narcoossee Middle School.

**Academic Excellence:** These students have achieved academic success by being on the A/B Honor Role for their entire career at NCMS.

**Character Award:** These students exemplify what it means to be a fine and upstanding citizen at Narcoossee Middle School. Participation in community service, kindness towards others, strong work ethic, and empathy are only a few of the admirable qualities that these students all embody.

**Perseverance Award:** This award signifies a student's perseverance to strive for success and never give up. Their teachers nominated them for this award based on the tremendous improvements they have made and obstacles they have overcome.

##### Special Areas of Interest Awards:

Athletics	Latinos in Action	Robotics
AVID	Math Team	Spanish
Band	NJHS	STEM
Battle of the Books	Odyssey of the Mind	Theatre
Chorus	Orchestra	Yearbook



## Teacher Appreciation Week

Teachers' Appreciation Week would be observed from May 6th to May 10th, 2024.

Teachers' Appreciation Week is celebrated annually during the first week of May, and it is an extra week dedicated especially to celebrating teachers.

It is more than just a gesture of appreciation, it is a tribute to the impact teachers leave on individuals, communities, and society as a whole.

Teachers hold significant significance in shaping the young minds by imparting them with knowledge and life skills that will aid them in their growth throughout their lives.

They act as educators as well as mentors, counselors, and role models. Teachers Appreciation Week is a chance to show gratitude for their valuable work.

### When did Teacher's Appreciation Week Start

Eleanor Roosevelt played a role in convincing Congress in 1953 to have a special time to express gratitude for teachers and for their hard work.

Teachers' Appreciation Week officially started after the meeting with Congress, but it wasn't until 1980 that it became an official national holiday.

Initially it was celebrated in March, but it got moved to the first full week of May in 1984.

**NCMS WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF OUR TEACHERS FOR ALL THAT THEY DO!**

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## Memorial Day

Memorial Day is observed in America on the last Monday of May (5/27/24), and it is a day to commemorate and remember the men and women who lost their lives while in service for the US military. It is a federal holiday, and as such, businesses and schools are closed, and most people have the day off work.



It officially became a federal holiday in 1971. Traditionally, people will visit cemeteries and memorials for American soldiers, and there are several parades around the country.

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## Clubs

**Book Club:** Meets on Mondays 9:00-9:20 AM



**Battle of the Books:** Meets on Wednesdays 9:00-9:20 AM

**Yearbook Club:** Meets on Fridays 9:00-9:20 AM

For more information about these clubs, such as how to join and more, please contact:  
Ms. Biela at 407-891-6600, ext. 32400 or <mailto:heather.biela@osceolaschools.net>



## STEM Clubs

### End-of-the-Year Celebration

The end of the year party for Robotics, Odyssey of the Mind, and Sphero's will be on May 16th in 7-107 from 4:30 to 6pm.

For more information,  
<mailto:Stephani.Mckeown@osceolaschools.net>

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## PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support) Expectations

Our mission at NCMS is to build environments in which positive behavior is more effective and more appealing to students than problem behavior. Students are recognized and praised for positive behaviors (i.e. Bear Bucks, Golden Tickets, Positive Referrals, etc.). Students can spend their Bear Bucks at our PBIS events/activities, dress down days, and at our Bear's Den in the Cafeteria.



- Be Responsible
- Encourage Others
- Act Safely
- Respect All
- Strive For Success

### MAY PBIS NEWS

To date we have a total of 1,247 positive referrals. That's amazing! Keep it up black bears till the end of the year!

We have three upcoming PBIS events in May. On May 23rd we will be giving out awards to students that have modeled our B.E.A.R.S. Expectations throughout the school year. May 24th will be our PBIS Fast Growth Party. Finally, we will have our last PBIS event that will feature students playing basketball against our NCMS staff. We look forward to ending this school year full of fun and encouraging activities.



# NCMS PBIS UPCOMING EVENTS

BE RESPONSIBLE- ENCOURAGE OTHERS - ACT SAFELY -  
RESPECT ALL - STRIVE FOR SUCCESS

**MAY  
23**

**PBIS BEARS AWARDS**

**MAY  
24**

**PBIS FAST  
GROWTH PARTY**

**MAY  
28**

**BASKETBALL GAME  
STUDENTS VS STAFF**

## NCMS Business Partners in Education

Brue Family Dentistry 407-979-4170  
Carlyle Orthodontics (407) 447-9060  
Caroline Vansevenant Realtor (407) 946-5675  
Dairy Queen (Narcoossee/St. Cloud) (321) 805-4648  
Esteem Dental & Orthodontics 407-476-5650  
Garcia Family Orthodontics (407) 857-0800  
HomePride Realty Services Inc. (407) 846-0940  
Huntington Learning Center, St. Cloud (407) 789-3688  
Jeremiah's Italian Ice (407) 313-0782  
Mansour Orthodontics (407) 846-2150  
Peter Luu Signature Group w/Premier Sotheby's (407) 250-1958  
Publix Corporation  
The Naked Cupcake (407) 308-5736  
Ur Learning Solution (407) 658-7575  
WAWA Gas Station on Narcoossee Rd/Boggy Creek



### A BIG THANK YOU!

We would like to take this time to thank all of our amazing Partners in Education for their continued support and contributions to NCMS . The funds and/or items donated were used for the

- \*Positive Referral Treats
- \*Honor Roll Events
- \*Book Fair (sponsored over 30 students w/\$15 gift certificate to purchase a book)
- \*Weekend Snack Backpack for our FIT students (Family in Transition)
- \*Teacher Appreciation Week
- \*Certificates for a free small Jeremiah Ice
- \*Pizza Hut free personal pan pizza
- \*\*And much much more!!!!

**Our students, teachers and staff are successful because of our partners!**

## Other News and Resources

### Donations

NCMS is always looking for donations of school appropriate jeans for middle school students. Please drop off fairly used or new jeans that are NOT distressed with holes, tears, or frays.



We also welcome other school appropriate clothing such as polo shirts, spirit shirts, kaki's, bermuda shorts, belts and sneakers.

In addition, the school accepts various donations of school supplies. We thank you in advance for your generosity!



### Free Crisis Services

Does your child need social, emotional, or mental health stabilization? Devereux's Mobile Crisis Services, provides free crisis services with trained counselors. Services are available 24 hours a day, every day including weekends and holidays. Dial 2-1-1 or 407-839-HELP (4357).

### ONE MORE CHILD Anti-Trafficking Mobile Team

If you or someone you know has been forced or coerced to perform sexual activities, or promised false opportunities, text or call us to set up a meeting with a mentor, advocate, or clinician.



#### YOU MAY BE A VICTIM IF:

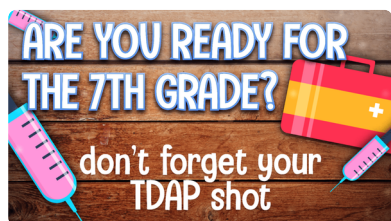
- You are not free to come and go as you wish.
- You are involved in the commercial sex industry (prostitution, stripping, pornography) with a trafficker, or you are under 18.
- You do not have control over your own personal documents/money.

- You are forced to provide labor or commercial sex.

#### SERVICES INCLUDE:

- trauma-informed counseling
- psychoeducation
- court accompaniment
- life skills
- mentorship
- case management
- free food boxes & hygiene items
- access to 24/7 hotline
- advocacy
- referrals to other providers
- interpreter services available

For more information: <https://onemorechild.org> or <mailto:antitrafficking@onemorechild.org>



#### Important Information for 7th Grade:

All students entering 7th grade must provide the school with an updated immunization record (FL form 680/white form). All 7th grade students must have (1) Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine and all other required vaccines must be up-to-date.

After receiving the Tdap, please email the form to: <mailto:ncmsregistration@osceolaschools.net>  
For FREE Vaccines, contact The Osceola County Health Department at 407-343-2066. Located on Fortune Road in Kissimmee.

#### Adult Learning Opportunity/Oportunidad de aprendizaje para adultos!

**ALCO Summer is available! June 11-27th and July 9-25th**

Nighttime English Classes for Adults at ALCO or at Narcoossee Middle School.

English Classes each Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30-8:30 PM.

For more information, contact Carolina Figueroa at NCMS 407-891-6600 or ALCO at 407-518-8140.



You may apply at: <https://otech.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/apply/>

#### Clases de Ingles para Adultos en ALCO o Narcoossee Middle School.

Clases cada martes y jueves de 5:30-8:30 PM.

Contacte a Carolina Figueroa en NCMS al 407-891-6600 o ALCO al 407-518-8140 para mas información.

Puede presentar su solicitud en: <https://otech.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/apply/>



## AVID National Demonstration School

*Mission Statement: Our number one priority is student achievement with high expectations being the responsibility of our entire school community.*

**Website:** [www.ncms.osceolaschools.net](http://www.ncms.osceolaschools.net)

**Location:** [2700 North Narcoossee Road, St. Cloud, FL, USA](#)

**Phone:** 407-891-6600, **Fax:** 407-891-6610

**FaceBook:** <http://www.facebook.com/NCMSbears>

**Instagram:** ncmsblackbears

*Dr. Francisco Rivera Mieles, Principal*

*Lucille Schneider, Assistant Principal*

*Jamie Hopkins, Assistant Principal*

*Carolina Figueroa, 6th Dean*

*Marlenys Vargas-Ortiz, 7th Dean*

*Samantha Alfred, 8th Dean*

*Peter Swanson, Dean/MTSS*

*Ronaldo Ortiz, 6th Counselor*

*Brenda Lopez, 7th Counselor*

*Maria Morales, 8th Counselor*

*Dr. Gloria Martinez, Lead Counselor/FIT*

*Heather Biela, Media Specialist*

*Marisha Smalling, Literacy Coach*

*Gabrielle Tandlich, Math Coach*

*Hector Alvarez, Testing Coordinator*

*Meg Hodge, RCS*

*Marianela Abreu DeJesus, ESOL Compliance*

*Kremsa Susla, Psychologist*

*Michelle Lauria, Social Worker*

*Marisol Losada, Occupational Therapist*



**Francisco Rivera**

Francisco is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters