



ALACHUA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Alligator Times – September 2021

Principal: Heather Harbour ♦ Assistant Principal: Kelitha Rainer

Important Dates

- M. Sept 6 Labor Day Holiday – No School
- T. Sept 7 Write Score Writing # 1
- Th. Sept 9 Virtual Open House
- T. Sept 14 Progress Reports Go Home
- W. Sept 29 September Green Party

Crossing Guard Needed

Alachua Police Department is looking to hire crossing guards. Please contact Sergeant Hunt by phone 352-672-5068 or by email chunt@apd.

Safety News

Just a friendly reminder to please use the car drop off/pickup line when dropping students off in the morning. Please do not drop children off in the parking lot due to safety concerns.

Title I News

Please be on the lookout for a recording being sent to you for our Annual Title I Meeting. Due to Open House being virtual this year, we will send this out ahead of time for you to view. It will also be placed on the AES website for viewing at a later date. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mrs. Baughtman who is our Title I Lead Teacher. Her email is: baughtjl@gm.sbac.edu.

Virtual Open House

Our fully virtual Open House is scheduled for next Thursday, September 9 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Your child’s teacher will be emailing you details with directions on how to access their session virtually on or before Friday, September 3. We know you will find the sessions to be informative. If you have any questions about Open House, please contact your child’s teacher.

Assistant Principal Message

Welcome students and families to the 2021-2022 school year! I am pleased to serve as your Assistant Principal again this year. I look forward to working with all of you. I am here to assist you with any questions you may have concerning your child’s academic success or strategies you can use with him/her at home.

I would like to mention that the first step to assuring your child has a chance at having a successful school year, is to ensure that he/she attends school regularly, on time, and with limited early checkouts.

Listed below are four reasons why attendance is important:

- Students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve at higher levels than students who do not have regular attendance.
- When students miss school, they miss important information as well as content that is vital to continuous learning and success in school.
- Teachers plan structured group activities that foster cooperative learning strategies in the classroom. When students are absent, they miss the opportunity to collaborate with their peers and explore new and exciting things.
- Attending school regularly teaches students how to be responsible and dependable learners.

I look forward to our partnership.

~Mrs. Rainer

Media News

Greetings from the media center! We have had a wonderful first month back to school. The students have enjoyed being able to check out some of their favorite books. Students have been learning about the Dewey Decimal System and how it can help them find books in the media center. They have also been refreshing their memories on internet safety. September is both American Founders and Hispanic Heritage Month. Students will have the opportunity to work on activities related to both of these subjects. Constitution day falls on September 17. Students will be learning about what the Constitution is and why it is important. As a reminder, if your student has library books that are overdue, please return them as soon as possible. Lost books must be paid for to clear student accounts and allow them the opportunity to enjoy new books. Students can always check Destiny through MyPortal to see what books are in the library to make it easier to find books when coming to the media center.



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Third Grade News

Welcome third grade families! We are off and running. It is so great to see everyone back on campus. Our students are already learning about our classroom rules and procedures as well as where things are located on our school campus, and what we expect from all of our Alachua Alligators. In ELA we are learning about author's purpose and how to have constructive conversations. In science we are learning about the scientific method and what it takes to be a scientist. In math we are rounding as well as beginning our math Acaletics. We have had visits from Officer Young, Ms. Davis, and Ms. Harrell sharing with us information on school safety, behavior expectations, and upcoming guidance lessons.

Fourth Grade News

Our fourth grade Alligators have already been working hard and learning a lot! This month in math, we are working on addition and subtraction up to six digits before learning to multiply one-digit numbers by numbers up to four digits. We have also begun our daily Acaletics math club program. Our first monthly Acaletics Scrimmage will begin on September 23. In ELA, we are starting a new curriculum program that we are very excited about. For our first unit, we will be studying the topic of observing nature. We are also working hard in IRLA to become better readers. To help with this at home, we are asking our students to read for thirty minutes each night. Children who read thirty minutes per day are being exposed to at least two million words a year and are twice as likely to be successful at their grade level expectations. We are starting off strong with writing. We will take our first Write Score assessment on September 7. In science, we are studying earth's place in space. We are learning about Earth's rotation and revolution, and the moon's phases. We look forward to a wonderful rest of the year!

Fifth Grade News

Greetings from fifth grade! We are off to a great start this year! Fifth graders have been spending time learning all about their new teacher and classmates, as well as new policies, procedures and expectations. In IRLA time, we have been working on reading stamina and are reading independently for up to thirty minutes. During ELA we have been learning all sorts of new activities and routines to help us become stronger readers. Writing time has included practicing different types of writing and sharing our writing with others. We were also introduced to Acaletics during math time which is a great way for us to learn many math standards in a short amount of time. We have focused on place value in math, but remember it's really important to have those multiplication facts memorized, so keep practicing those daily! In science, we've been introduced to the scientific method and what it takes to be a scientist. Finally, our first lessons in social studies have been focused on geography. Whew! That's a lot of learning in such a short time! Fifth grade teachers would like to remind families that it's very important for students to read at least twenty minutes at home each night and to get a good night's rest each and every night. We are so excited to see what this year has in store for us!

Art, Music, and PE News

Art News:

In September third graders will be working on Picasso portraits with oil pastels. Fourth graders will also be using oil pastels and the art elements of color and line for their warm hands/cold hands project. In fifth grade we will be learning about color theory. Fifth graders will be mixing the primary colors and creating color wheel eyes with tempera paint.

Music News:

Our first few weeks in music have been a blast! We have been learning our music room procedures and how to sit in "musician position." Ask your child to show you "musician position." We even learned proper technique for playing the drums and xylophones. Third grade performed "Say Hello," fourth grade performed "Palo," and fifth grade performed "Zangalewa" on the instruments. We look forward to celebrating Hispanic Heritage month in September. Here at Alachua Elementary we have two ensembles that meet after school. The Alligator Chorus is open to third, fourth, and fifth grade students and rehearses twice a week. The Alligator Mallet Ensemble is open to fourth and fifth grade students and also rehearses twice a week. More information regarding these ensembles will be sent home soon.

PE News:

During physical education (PE) class, we will learn about teamwork, sportsmanship and giving 100% effort on and off the court or field of play. Programs include the Morning Mile (walking/running club) and Alligator All-Stars (PE student of the month). We will learn and play lots of games and activities during PE class each week. Emphasis will be on the importance of teamwork and winning with class and losing with grace.

Learning goals for AES Alligators:

- Learn the benefits of physical activity and regular exercise.
- Make healthy and balanced eating choices.
- Practice sportsmanship, teamwork and cooperation.
- Give 100% effort and have fun!

The Alligator All-Stars program recognizes AES students who have excelled in the area of physical education and have displayed the traits of great effort, listening, teamwork and sportsmanship during PE class each month. One boy and one girl from each grade level are selected each month for this honor. All Alligator All-Stars are rewarded with an ice cream celebration near the end of the school year.

GO ALLIGATORS!