



OPES UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Sept. 12 Spirit Night at Dutch Fork HS Football Game**
OPES Students admitted with ticket that was sent home yesterday (parents/chaperones pay admission fee). Competition for Spirit Award (the elementary school with the most student tickets wins the award!)
- Sept. 13 Auditions for Elementary District Honor**
Choir 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Dutch Fork Middle School
- Sept. 16 Curriculum Night – 4 YR CD 6 pm CiCi's Pizza OPES Family Night**
St. Andrews Road location
- Sept. 18 PTO Committee Chair & Homeroom Parent Meeting 8 am Student Government Induction 1:30 pm**
- Sept. 24 Wendy's OPES Family Night**
Lake Murray at Irmo Drive location
- Sept. 25 PTO General Meeting**
(Dinner at 6 pm, PTO meeting at 6:45 pm, Programs begin at 7 pm)
Every Parent & Caregiver of OPES Student(s) are automatically members of the PTO! We hope to see you there!

PTO GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, September 25 6 p.m. Dinner
Bring Our Community Into The School

We will gather in the OPES cafeteria at 6 p.m. for dinner (sign up/payment sheets will be sent home in the red folder). The PTO General Meeting will begin at 6:45 p.m. and be followed immediately (7 p.m. approximately) with performances from various community based activities such as dance, karate, gymnastics, gyms, etc. These activities will be held at stations around the school and performances will repeat every 15 minutes, and you will be able to walk around and see different groups and what they have to offer your child. We hope to see you there!

Dear Parents,

On Sept. 8th - 26th, students in grades 2-5 will take tests called Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). We give students MAP tests to determine their instructional level. Students will be tested in the areas of Reading, Math, and Language. The comparison from Fall to Spring measures academic growth throughout the school year. Results from one year to the next in the areas of Reading and Math are also generated. MAP tests are taken on a computer.

MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for your child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. And with MAP tests, we can administer shorter tests and use less class time while still receiving detailed, accurate information about your child's growth. Over the next three weeks, your child will spend a total of about three hours completing these tests.

Each school year, students in grades 2-5 take the tests in August and March. Following each testing period, you receive a report showing your child's growth. Teachers use this information to improve instruction.

Partnering to help all children learn, parents and teachers have a profound positive effect on the lives of our children. Your child has been adequately prepared for this test, therefore no additional studying is required. All that is required is a positive attitude and a willingness to do one's best.

For more information on resources for parents, access the Document Library at www.nwea.org and download the online Parent Toolkit from the web site.

Sincerely,
Melanie Cohen, Assistant Principal

Dear Parents,

We are so glad to see each one of your children at school each day! As you know, regular attendance at school is necessary in order to make satisfactory educational progress. As a reminder, if your child must be absent from school for any reason, please send in a written excuse to school within three days of the student's return to school. Excuses may be handwritten and sent to your child's teacher. You may also fax them to the attention of Mr. Herndon at 476-4120 or emailed to KHerndon@lex5.k12.sc.us. Once your child has accumulated 10 or more total absences, a medical note will be required for the absence to be excused. An Attendance Improvement Plan will be developed for any student who accumulates three or more consecutive or five or more total unexcused absences. As a reminder, the following is an excerpt from the School Board Policy Manual regarding absences:

Regular attendance at school is necessary if a student is to make satisfactory educational progress. Therefore, students are expected and encouraged to attend school regularly and will present a written excuse for each absence. Absences from school are considered "lawful" or "unlawful" as they relate to truancy.

Lawful absences are those necessitated by the following:

- illness of the student to the degree that attendance in school would endanger her/his health or the health of others
- serious illness or death in the student's immediate family
- observance of recognized religious holidays of the student's faith
- appearances in court or an appointment with a legal officer
- appointments with a physician, dentist or other recognized licensed/certified medical practitioner
- participation in school-related activities that have received prior approval by the principal or his/her designee
- suspension from class or school
- unusual or unexpected mitigating circumstances as determined by the school

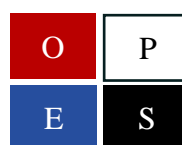
Unlawful absences occur when a student does one of the following:

- is willfully absent from school without the knowledge of her/his parent/guardian
- is absent from school without acceptable cause with the knowledge of her/his parents

It is our hope that every student attends class each day. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns regarding the attendance policy. I can be reached by telephone at 476-4100 or via email at mhcohen@lex5.k12.sc.us. Thank you for entrusting us with the care and education of your child.

Melanie Cohen, Assistant Principal

Andrew T. and Emily York at Riverland Hills Baptist Church Vacation Bible School this summer. The theme was Outrigger Island. They had a great time seeing each other over the summer.



Oak Pointe Elementary
1 River Bottom Road,
Irmo, SC 29063
Tel: 803 476 4100
Fax: 803 476 4120
<http://www.lex5.k12.sc.us/OakPointe.cfm>

COUNSELORS CORNER

Character Word for the month of September is:

Responsibility

Responsibility: *Moral, Legal or Mental Accountability*

"We work hard to do our best even when it is difficult."

September Service Project: We have a responsibility to our community

Pretty Blanket Campaign

Students please bring in new or used blankets and place them in Pioneer Place on the blanket located to the right of the entry way. These blankets will be given to Oliver Gospel Mission and Sharing Gods Love.

Student Government Elections will be held next week on Tues. Students will listen to short speeches and will be asked to vote for a Governor and Treasurer in 5th Grade and Lt. Governor and Secretary in 4th Grade. Student Government is headed up by Anna Gunn and Katie Walters. Student Government Induction Ceremony is scheduled for **Sept. 18th at 1:30** in the Mini-Theater.

Parenting Resource Tip from <http://www.Valuesparenting.com>.

One of the most effective and proven ways to strengthen a family (and to ensure the security and happiness of children) is to set aside one evening a week for "Family Night." Many families find that Monday nights work best since there seem to be fewer school, community, and church events scheduled than on other nights. Other families find that Sundays work best. The only real requirements for a good Family Night are that family members are together, that they have fun, and that they communicate. A good Family Night can be anything from playing a game together to going out together for dinner or dessert. What makes it work is commitment -- commitment to be there and to avoid other events or obligations one night each week.

Family Nights are also enhanced if some kind of family learning or character development goes on together. Although it should never sound or feel too much like school, "Family Night Lessons" can give real substance and help family members feel that they are progressing together.

DUTCH FORK HIGH SCHOOL ELEMENTARY NIGHT

Friday, September 12th at 7:30pm

Dutch Fork Athletic Dept. is inviting our students and staff to join them for a night of fun. Each student will be given a ticket for free admission to the game. This ticket is for the elementary student only, not parents. **General admission is \$6.00.**

Please wear your OPES red, white and/or blue! Each child will put their ticket in a box that has our name on it and these will be counted. The largest percentage of the school's student body will win the **Spirit Award Plaque** for the year. Two minutes before the half, schools participating will be invited down on the field-scoreboard end. Our students will be on the 50 yard line! **GO SILVER FOXES and OPES!**

Aquariums for classrooms & Science Lab Needed

We are in need of aquariums, lids, filters etc. of any size. We are not picky. Several grade levels do animal units and we are running out of space. If you have old fish or reptile aquariums lying around or know someone who does we will gladly take them off of your hands. Contact **Jennifer Hydrick** at jhydrick@lex5.k12.sc.us or call me at 476-4160.

Donate used printer cartridges & cell phones to help OPES

Did you know that the plastic in each printer cartridge takes more than 1,000 years to decompose, or that 1.5 million cartridges go to landfills each month? OPES is participating in the Green School Project, a program that reduces this incredible waste and earns money for our school. **We are collecting all makes and models of used printer, fax, and toner cartridges, as well as cell phones.** Please send these items in with your child or drop them in the office and we will get them to the appropriate place. Questions? **Please contact Ms. Hydrick by dialing 476-4160 or via email to JHydrick@lex5.k12.sc.us**

Auditions for the Elementary District Honor Choir!

Saturday, Sept. 13 Dutch Fork Middle School 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Auditions are open to all 4th and 5th graders in the District 5 Elementary Schools. Please see your music teacher at your school for more information or call Elise Helms at Irmo Elementary, 732-8275.

LUNCH AND LEARN

Media Safety Workshops

Presented by Mandy Glowacki, Parenting Services of School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties, Lexington County First Steps and the Community Round Table

LOL! BRB! TTYL! Do the language or phrases your child uses on the computer confuse you? Do you know how to keep them safe from the dangers that can come with surfing the internet? Technology is a very useful and important part of your child's life. This workshop will give you tips on making sure that your child is safe when they are using media, specifically the internet.

This workshop will bring together parents of children in Lexington & Richland School District 5 in an interactive environment to learn how to promote media safety for our children.

Tuesday, September 23

7:45-9:00 am @ The Village, Portable C or

11:45-1:00 pm @ District Office

-OR-

Wednesday, September 24

7:45-9:00am @ District Office or

11:00-12:15pm @ Chapin Library

-OR-

Thursday, September 25

7:45-9:00am @ Crooked Creek Park or

11:45-1:00pm @ The Village, Portable C

*Lunch or breakfast will be provided at each meeting. Registration is required to reserve your meal.

To Register: Call School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties Parenting Services Department @ 476-8240.

Addresses:

The Village, Portable C Irmo High School Campus

6745 St. Andrews Road Columbia

District Office 1020 Dutch Fork Rd. Irmo

Chapin Library 129 W. Columbia Ave. Chapin

Crooked Creek Park 1098 Old Lexington Hwy. Chapin



Be sure to collect your Box Tops for Education and turn them into your child's teacher!

Oak Pointe Participates in No Book Left Unread Summer Ready Challenge

Mariah J. was the top student reader and Laura Shirley was the top reader for our staff.

Students, faculty and staff were asked to keep track of how many pages they read during the summer and turn those in to the media center when school began. Ninety students and 17 faculty and staff members turned in their reading logs and came up with a total of 288,167 pages! This number represents 86,290 more pages than we read in the summer of 2007.

Way to go Pioneers!

WANTED: SPONSORS

for Grade Level Classrooms and Related Arts Classrooms

The OPES PTO is seeking sponsorships for our grade level and related arts classrooms. Sponsorships are \$100 per classroom & can be sponsored by a business, parents, grandparents – join with your fellow parents & sponsor your student's classroom! Sponsorships are tax-deductible. A certificate will be posted outside the classroom door throughout the school year. If you would like to sponsor a classroom, please see your child's homeroom parent.