



2nd Quarter

Principal Newsletter

October 29, 2019

LaVilla Parents,

We had a great first nine weeks of the 2019-2020 school year. We experienced a lot of celebrations...new landscaping for the front of our school, gorgeous banners hung on our theatre, and recognition from the Arts Schools Network as a leading Integrated Arts School. We promised a fun and exciting 20th anniversary school year and we can't wait to see what the second quarter brings. This newsletter includes a few upcoming events and important information.

1. First quarter report cards went home with students today. Please make sure you ask your student for the report card this evening. If you have any concerns about the report card or grades, reach out to your student's teacher. Remember that we encourage all parents to register for a FOCUS account by visiting www.duvalschools.org, clicking on the Parents tab, and then Focus Schools Software. If you need assistance with this, please call us at the school at 904.633.6069.

2. Tomorrow, Wednesday the 30th, is an Early Release Day. The remaining Early Release Days for this semester are scheduled for November 13 and December 11.

3. This Thursday is Halloween and we are excited to see all the creative costumes! Please keep in mind that costumes must be long enough for regular dress code, masks that cover the face are not allowed, along with fake weapons or swords. Our PTSA is hosting a Halloween Dance immediately after school on Thursday. Students who are already PTSA members get into the dance for FREE. All others can pay \$10 at the door for entry. The dance will be held from 3:30-4:45pm. Students can wear costumes, but all regular school rules are required.

4. Saturday, November 16, is LaVilla Night at the Jacksonville Icemen Hockey game! Our Vocal students will perform prior to the game at 6:30pm and the game starts at 7:00pm. Tickets cost \$20 and \$5 from each ticket will go directly to the art area OF YOUR CHOICE! Make it a family

night and purchase your tickets by using this link: www.jacksonvilleicemen.com/lavilla2019 . A flyer with more information about this event went home with students today.

5. Our Guest Artist Series for the 20th Anniversary Celebration will be kicked off with our Vocal Department this Saturday, November 2. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for students. This concert is comprised entirely of original musical works composed by LaVilla graduates and faculty. Among the many debut performances, we will feature a song cycle commissioned for our 20th anniversary year by up and coming composer, Maggie Nicks, who graduated from LaVilla in 2008, several sections of an original ballet setting of "Their Eyes Were Watching God" composed by LaVilla students, and a contemporary setting of a poem by LaVilla poet Shana Holzendorf. We hope you will join us!

6. We are continuing to make plans for our upcoming Showcase performance at the Florida Theatre in April and we have been working with Haskell on plans to construct a new outdoor performance venue and sculpture garden. Be on the lookout for sponsorship opportunities to help make these projects a reality for our students, faculty, and community.

7. We have many more performances and academic events scheduled for this nine weeks, so make sure you check out our performance calendar on our website at www.duvalschools.org/lavilla and follow us on Facebook and Instagram at TheLaVillaSchoolsoftheArts.

Thank you for being our partner and encouraging student success at the best art middle school in Duval County and Florida!

Sincerely,

Lianna Knight

Principal

Arts.Academics.Excellence.