

Welcome back students and parents. I am excited to start another school year.

The staff had a great four days of preparation for the upcoming school year and once again our focus this year is based on a question we pose to all our students. “Are you working toward graduating on time, career and college ready?” It is our goal that students come to school each day with this question in mind and it is my expectation that our Lemon Bay staff prepares each day to help students achieve this goal. To help students achieve this goal, we are providing each student with a planner. We hope that students will bring the planner with them each day to record their daily assignments and homework. As well, our staff will be providing their lesson plans and homework online this year for all classes.

As we approach the start of the 2017-2018 school year, I have some advice for how families can make certain their children are prepared for a successful year.

- Access FOCUS, our online student information system, to review your child’s grades from last year. Talk with your child about areas of strength and areas that need improvement. Set achievement goals for the current school year and discuss specific strategies that will help your child achieve those goals.
- Access FOCUS to learn the results of the accountability tests your child took during the Spring testing season. On all exams, level 3 and above represent proficiency, while levels 1 and 2 mean your child did not earn a proficient score. Remember that the 10th grade FSA and the Algebra I EOC are the only two tests students are required to pass in order to earn a high school diploma. If your child did not earn a proficient score on either of those tests, know that they will have multiple opportunities to be re-tested. However, you should discuss with your child a plan for improving their test score. If you need assistance with this task, please make an appointment with your child’s guidance counselor.
- Attendance is important. Studies have found that students attending school daily have greater success in school and are more likely to graduate. Teachers prepare lessons for each school day and students attending school regularly will be able to keep up with the progression of learning in the classroom. Charlotte County has a new attendance policy for students. Information regarding the attendance policy is included in this publication. Please take time to read it with your child.
- Access FOCUS to monitor your child’s grades. Students will have classwork and homework that will help them prepare for the tests they will take in each of their classes to show learning is occurring. If students start to fall behind, it can be very difficult to catch up. This year Lemon Bay will offer three days of tutoring after school in the media center. Starting the week of August 28<sup>th</sup>, we will offer tutoring for one hour (2:10 – 3:10) every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- Encourage your child to get involved in extra-curricular activities. He or she could join a club, try out for a sport, or participate in band, chorus, or theater. Involvement in sports,

activities, and clubs will help students feel more a part of the high school and data has shown that students who are involved in high school have better attendance and grades.

- Finally, speak with your children about actively engaging in their education. If they have questions about what's being taught in class, they should speak up and ask for help. If your children have questions about their schedules or about graduation requirements, they should schedule an appointment to talk with a counselor. If your child has concerns about safety issues, they need to approach an administrator. My door is always open to students, and so are the doors of all members of our administrative team. We want to know if our students, or parents, have concerns, so that we can work together to resolve those concerns.

The entire staff is looking forward to a great school year.

Go Mantas!!!