

Renaissance Charter School at Poinciana

NEWSLETTER



Principal: Mrs. Feliciano

August 10, 2016

Volume 40



Upcoming Events



*August 10th
First day of classes



Puma Family!

The faculty and I would like to welcome you to an exciting year at Renaissance Charter School at Poinciana! We have worked very hard to prepare for this school year, and we believe that our students will have a rewarding educational experience. I am excited about starting the school year! Education is a shared responsibility. It is important for us to keep open lines of communication between home and school. We must work as a team to guide your child(ren) toward success! This is accomplished by communicating with your child's teacher, attending school functions and assisting your child in understanding the importance of education and cooperation. You, as the parent, are a valuable component of your child's education. Parents are welcome at Renaissance Charter School at Poinciana and are encouraged to become involved. Our school offers many opportunities for volunteer services- please get as involved as your schedule will allow! Remember you must be OASIS approved prior to being able to volunteer, or attend field trips. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the school at (407) 569-0639.

Thank you for your continued support and welcome back!



Welcome our new Assistant Principal

Mrs. Sims

Dear Renaissance Charter at Poinciana Family,

It is an honor and absolute privilege to be the Assistant Principal at Renaissance Charter at Poinciana. Renaissance Charter School at Poinciana is invested in empowering students to excel academically, socially and emotionally and I feel fortunate to be joining such a dedicated team of educators and parents that are driven by student growth, collaboration and innovation. I believe that all children have a right to receive a competent education and I look forward to partnering with you to provide our students with a rigorous, engaging and high-quality educational experience.

With tremendous anticipation and enthusiasm, I bring a wealth of expertise and experience to Renaissance Charter at Poinciana. I have more than 17 years of experience in education with diverse populations. Throughout that time, my passion to empower students through literacy allowed me to enrich many students. My work gained the attention of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Office of Curriculum and Instruction. As a district curriculum support specialist, I provided trainings throughout the district and at the state level and created viable action plans to support school improvement initiatives. In 2011, I was appointed as an Assistant Principal. Strategic planning and sheer determination continuously showed student growth in a safe and engaging environment. In addition, my educational background includes an Educational Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership, Master of Science Degree in Urban Education with a specialization in TESOL, and Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education.

Through a cohesive partnership with everyone, I am confident that we will continue the rich history of academic excellence at Renaissance Charter at Poinciana. I thank you in advance for welcoming me as a part of this great community!

Best regards,
Shauana L. Hughes-Sims
Assistant Principal



Kindergarten News

Welcome families to our Kindergarten class for the 2016-2017 school year!

As a team, we are going to work together to get your precious babies on the track to where they need to be to get to 1st grade. We are going to work hard but have a lot of fun along the way. There are six kindergarten classes here at our school. **Ms. Horst, Mrs. Ramos, Mrs. Rawlins, Mrs. Sosa, Mrs. Alayon, and Mrs. Carraasquillo.** All six have a variety of knowledge and have excellent team work to prepare for such a great year ahead. Be on the lookout for information coming up on exciting events happening with our grade level!

Some notes to remember are that students will be getting a home learning packet on Mondays and it will be due on Fridays. Students will be given a weekly sight word assessment, so please practice reading the sight words each day.

We can't wait to have an excellent year with each of you and your children/families!

Thanks,
Kindergarten Team



First Grade News

My name is **Mrs. A. Sivers** and I am teaching first grade. I graduated from State University of New York at Oswego with a degree in Elementary Education. I taught third grade in upstate NY and then moved to central Florida, where I again taught third grade. Last year I taught Pre-K ESE in Key West. I am happy to be back in central Florida. My goal for our students is for them to achieve success in first grade.

Hi, my name is **Julia Quinones**, I am a first grade teacher. This is my fifth year teaching for CSUSA-POIN plus ten years in private and public schools in Florida as well as in Puerto Rico. I chose to teach because I enjoy working with children. Each of them are a complete different world, so unique and genuine they make you laugh or cry. The same way experience of teaching them and so they could learn... The same way I learn so much from them with their stories, and experiences. I will be teaching Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies but also building good values for them to work in harmony and order.



Second Grade News

We are the 2nd grade team:

Ms. Morgan has been teaching for the past 16 years. She has a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership, Bachelor's Degree in Elementary/ Psychology, and an Associate Degree in Computer Science.

Mrs. Jennings has been teaching for the past 5 years. She has a Master's Degree in Elementary Education, and a Bachelor's Degree in Human Development and Child/Family Studies.

Mrs. Finley has been teaching for 9 years. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education.

Ms. Lamboy has a Bachelor's Degree and has been teaching for the past 2 years. She is a United States Airforce Veteran.

Ms. Soto has been teaching for the past 26 years. She has a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership, a Bachelor's in Elementary Education and an Associate Degree in Medical Emergency.

Our goals for this year will be for all students in 2nd Grade to achieve the level required to move on to 3rd grade. Remember, it will be our testing grade for FSA! We will be working on several different standards preparing them for 3rd grade level. We will give an update on the different topics relating to the standards as we go along throughout the year.

We look forward to having a successful year!



Third Grade News

Welcome to 3rd grade Puma parents and students! I would like to introduce you to our third grade team. Our team has been working diligently to prepare for the upcoming year. We hope that you are as excited as we are to get started.

Ms. Jimenez comes to us from Puerto Rico. She has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Special Education. She comes to us with more than five years of teaching experience. We welcome her to our CSUSA family.

Mr. Yajnik is from India originally, and graduated from the University of Kentucky. He has a Bachelor's degree in Family and Consumer Science, and professional certification in Elementary Education. Mr. Yajnik comes to us from Broward County School District. Welcome aboard!

Mrs. Alvarado is a returning POIN (PUMA) teacher - she taught 4th grade last year. She began as a substitute, and has been teaching full-time since 2014. Mrs. Alvarado's degree is from New Jersey City University. Welcome to 3rd grade Mrs. Alvarado!

Ms. Sawyer is also a returning POIN teacher. Ms. Sawyer taught 2nd grade last year. She has been inspiring students since 2011. Ms. Sawyer has a Master's degree in Education, with specialization in Early Childhood Education and Special Education. We look forward to working with Ms. Sawyer in 3rd grade!

My name is **Ms. Wendland** and I am thrilled to lead this team of talented educators. My Bachelor's degree is in Liberal Studies, from the University of Northern Iowa. My certification as an educator is in Elementary Education. I have been teaching in Osceola County since 2007. This is my second year at POIN. I taught third grade here last year, and I am honored to serve our PUMA parents and students.

I ask that you please stay in contact with your child's teacher. Third grade is a very exciting year, but can also be very challenging. This is the first year that your student will be participating in state testing (reading and math), and it is a "MUST PASS" year for them. We must stay focused and on top of our work from the very first day, in order to have our students properly prepared. If you have concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at dwendland@poincianacharter.org.



Fourth Grade News

Welcome Back Parents!!

The Fourth Grade Team is excited and ready for a new year! Let me introduce you to the TEAM:

Ms. Flores is in her third year teaching at Renaissance Charter School at Poinciana and her second year in Fourth grade. She previously taught at New Horizon Church Preschool in the two year old and VPK classrooms and served as both Music Director and Assistant Director there. She is excited for this opportunity to teach your students!

Ms. Ruiz has been a Fourth Grade teacher at Renaissance Poinciana for four years now.

Ms. De Jesus has been with RCSP for 2 years now. She has a Master degree in Elementary Education and a Bachelor degree in Elementary Education. She has been teaching since 1985. She has taught in Puerto Rico, Virginia, Canada and now in Florida. She journals in ClassDojo on a daily basis and has a colorful Toucan in her classroom. GO TOUCANS! She can be reached at cdejesus@poincianacharter.org

Ms. Mayaka is new to Charter Schools USA and we are excited to have her on board! She comes to us all the way from Texas! She has two children, loves reading and enjoys adventures. We are happy to welcome her to the CSUSA family.

We have so much planned for your students this year, including projects, field trips and lots of fun! Thank you for the support so far. Make sure all first day packet forms have been turned in and make sure you have an email or other method in order to keep communication with your child's teacher open. We are so happy you are here and look forward to a great year!

GO
TEAM!



Fifth Grade News

Welcome back!

The fifth grade is happy to introduce themselves:

My name is Allen Howard. I am an Arizona native and I grew up in Phoenix. I am a U.S. Coast Guard and AZ Army National Guard veteran. I graduated from Arizona State University and I am now working on my Master's in Educational Leadership from Grand Canyon State University. Some of my hobbies and interests include reading, traveling, anything outdoors, and staying physically active.

I love to spend time with my family. I am originally from Kentucky, and have lived in Florida for almost three years now. I just recently moved to this area and I am so excited to spend more time at Renaissance Charter School at Poinciana!
Crystal Campbell

I enjoy more than anything spending time with my daughter! I love teaching, playing games, spending time with family, and traveling. I am looking forward to an awesome year with our new 5th graders!
Tammy Ribbey

I am a fully bilingual (Spanish/English) 5th grade teacher with 26 years of experience. I had taught high school American and World History, PE and health science, and coached basketball for twenty-nine years.
Mr. Rosario

This year in 5th grade, the students will be doing various activities across all academic areas. I hope that our passions and enthusiasm will encourage and excite our students. Our goal for our students is for all of our students to show academic growth this year and to meet or exceed on their end of the year assessments.



Sixth Grade News

English Language Arts

My name is Tamara Hunter. I am one of the Sixth Grade English Language Arts teachers for the upcoming school year. In my class, we will focus on writing and reading utilizing many resources including Reading Plus. We will work diligently to assure that all students are successful on the State tests and that by the end of the year, every student is prepared to make the step up to Seventh grade.

Greetings, my name is Katherine Armshaw, the other Sixth Grade Language Arts teacher for the upcoming school year. In my class, the students will focus on reading and writing, while utilizing many resources including Reading Plus and a variety of text books to ensure many opportunities to practice the skills to be successful on the State tests. By the end of the year, every student will be prepared to ascend into Seventh grade.

Science

Welcome to 6th grade science class! My name is Olga Binet and I'm very excited to be part of a big Puma family! In my classroom I expect students to BE scientists – we will observe and question the world around us, keep careful records of our activities in our laboratory notebooks, think critically, perform experiments, and draw conclusions. We will study cells, the human body, animals, and plants. We will study physics and space. I know we will have a successful, productive year and I look forward to being a part of the academic progress my 6 graders will make.



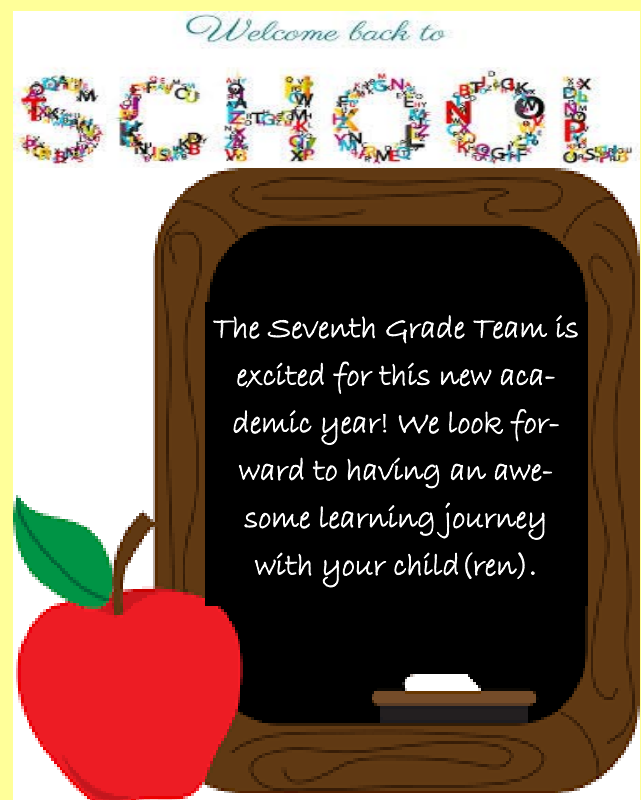
Seventh Grade News

Civics

Happy Back to School! Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! My name is Mr. Godfrey and I am the 7th grade team lead this year. My course is Civics. This class is extremely rigorous and I expect the best out of the students. My class focuses on the Governmental foundation and structure of America. In May there is an End of Course exam (EOC) which is worth 30% of your students overall grade for the year. It is very important that your students stays up to date with their work, attends tutoring, study's at home at least 15 minutes every night, and comes to me if confused or stuck on something. Please contact me with any questions, comments or concerns. My goal for the EOC is an 85% pass rate or higher!! I look forward to working with all of my parents in regards to their student's success in my class.

Mr. Godfrey

Jgodfrey@poincianacharter.org



Eighth Grade News

Language Arts

Welcome to 8th grade ELA!

My name is Robin Pragano, I am one of the 8th grade ELA teachers. I have a degree in History from American Military University. I will begin my Masters in Leadership in the Spring. This is my 15th year teaching, this is my second year at Renaissance, prior to this I was at Discovery Academy in Lake Alfred and Four Corners Charter School. I am very excited to get to know all of our 8th graders and look forward to securing their success on their path to high school. This is going to be a Great Year!!!

U. S. History

My name is Mr. Martin and I will be teaching American History this year for our 8th graders. Although this is my first year at Renaissance Charter, I taught for over ten years here in Osceola County at the high school, middle school, as well as at the community college level. As far as educational level, I received my B.A. from the University of Arizona, my M.A. from the University of Central Florida, and am now working on my PhD from Grand Canyon University. I am eagerly looking forward to this school year, and plan on making history “come alive” for all of my students. We will achieve this educational goal by making the course material interesting, relevant, and utilizing many forms of teaching strategies and instruction.



General News

Welcome Renaissance Charter School at Poinciana Class of 2017!

The 8th Grade team is excited to welcome you to your final year in Middle School. We have many amazing events planned and look forward to guiding you on your way to High School.

Language Arts

Dear 8th Grade Families,

My name is Ms. Taylor, I am one of the English Language Arts teachers for our 8th graders this year.

This is my second year teaching at Renaissance Charter School at Poinciana and I am very excited to continue the momentum from last year and help students expand their literacy. I graduated from the University of Central Florida in 2013 and am currently finishing my Masters of Teaching there. This year we will be working more on critical thinking skills while analyzing literary and informational text. We will be covering various writing styles, poetry, and novels in order to enhance literacy. I am eager to collaborate with you and help make your student's last year of middle school successful!

Middle School Intensive Reading

Hello, I'm Mrs. Zaida Hernandez, the Intensive reading teacher.

This will be my 4 year teaching at Renaissance Charter School at Poinciana, for a total of 30 years as an educator. I was born and raised in Puerto Rico. However, I moved to Kissimmee 13 years ago. Even though Spanish was my first official language, growing up, English was always my favorite subject. Therefore, it is my aspiration to share my passion for writing and reading with my students. This year in my class, students will be reading to keep on growing comprehension skills. I will give my very best every day and ask the same in return. I hope to have great ongoing communication with all the parents and I'm really looking forward for an excellent school year.

Thank you.



Special Subjects News

Elementary P.E.

I'm the Elementary Physical Education teacher. This is my second year teacher at Renaissance Charter School at Poinciana. I was born in Puerto Rico & went to Poinciana High School. I graduated from UCF where I earned a degree in Physical Education K-12. In my spare time, I play sports such as basketball & volleyball.

Elementary Spanish

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year!! My name is Leidiana Bowen. I will be your child's Spanish Teacher. I earned my Masters Degree from the South Florida University. I have been teaching at Renaissance Charter School at Poinciana for the last five years.

Elementary Technology

My name is Ms. Cross and I teach Elementary Technology. I've earned a Bachelor's degree from University of Maine at Farmington and have a certification in computer programming. I'm a third year teacher. I look forward to helping your student learn about computers this year.

Middle School Spanish

¡Bienvenidos a Renaissance Charter School at Poinciana!

My name is Señora Ramos. I am the Spanish teacher for Middle School. I have been teaching for the last twelve years, three of which have been at POIN. I earned my B.A. at Baruch College and my M.A. at Hunter College in New York City. I look forward to engaging your child in a productive and rigorous Spanish speaking environment. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me at ERamos@poincianacharter.org.
¡Gracias!

Middle School Speech & Debate

My name is Xavier Zayas. I graduated from UCF with a Bachelor's in Social Science and minored in Psychology, Sociology, and Mass Communication. I will be teaching Speech and Debate for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. This is my second year at POIN and I'm very excited for this upcoming year.

Elementary Art

Welcome back for all that are returning and welcome to anyone that may be new to our Puma family! My name is Ryan Michael Gleason and I am proudly the visual arts teacher for grades K-5. I am originally from snowy Buffalo, NY, but I have lived in sunny Florida for 4 years. Besides being a teacher, I practice what I instill as a local artist as well as a graduate student at UCF. I am confident that this year will be full of amazing work and continued learning which will expand on the excellence of last year.

Music

Hello! I am the elementary Music teacher at Renaissance Charter School at Poinciana. I got a Master Degree in Music Education in University of Puerto Rico. I have been teaching music for 11 years. This is my second year teaching in POIN. I'd like to create a Music Band this year with the students. We already have a Chorus and Recorder program.



Middle School Physical Education



My name is Coach Lee and I will be teaching middle school Physical Education and I am the Athletic Director. This will be my second year teaching at Renaissance Charter School at Poinciana. I was born in South Korea and raised in South Florida. I graduated from Florida International University in Miami, Florida. Where I earned my degree in Physical Education K-12. In my spare time, I like to play different sports such as basketball, golf, football, soccer and volleyball. I am happy to announce that we will be adding two new sports that we will be participating in for the 2016-2017 school year. Soccer and Track will be added in addition to Cross Country, Basketball, Flag-Football, and Cheerleading. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding my PE class or Athletics. I look forward to teaching and coaching your children.

OTHER NEWS**A MESSAGE FROM THE FRONT OFFICE**

August 10th, 2016 through May 31st, 2017

Students must be in class by 8:00 a.m. to be marked present for attendance.

Students can arrive to school as early as 7:25 a.m. Teachers will be available to receive students at this time. Breakfast will ONLY be served from 7:25 am to 7:55 am.

Students arriving to class after 8:00 a.m. will have an unexcused tardy for attendance.

After 8:00 a.m. Parents/Guardians must bring their student into the front office and sign them in before the student can go to class.

Please DO NOT drop your student off in the front of the school or the school parking lot, YOU must bring your student into the front office and sign them in after 8:00 a.m.

If you must pick up your student early from school, YOU must have the student signed out by 2:00 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

No students will be released through the front office after 2:00 pm Mon., Tues., Thu., & Fri and 1:00 p.m. Wed.

Release of students through the front office will resume at 3:30 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. for students in the After Care program MON., TUES., THU. & FRI. AND 2:30 p.m. Wed. Please bring your student's number placard or proper ID.

Anyone wishing to pick up a student that is not their own must have the student's number placard or must be listed as an AUTHORIZED person to pick up student; please provide appropriate ID.

Parent's wishing to enter the school for any business must provide proper ID for scanning and must sign in upon entering and sign out upon leaving the building.

All Volunteers must be OASIS approved and must provide proper ID for scanning upon arrival and before they are allowed to begin fulfilling their volunteer obligations.

All volunteers must sign out upon leaving the building.



OTHER NEWS**A MESSAGE FROM THE FRONT OFFICE**

**The front office will be CLOSED promptly at 2:00 pm M-T-TH & F
and 1:00 pm W.**

The office will re-open at 3:30 pm M-T-TH & F and 2:30 pm W.

Thank you for assisting us in maintaining a safe learning environment for your students.

