

SHARK TALES

Message from the Principal, Mrs. Axson

This week our students completed their State Progress Monitoring (PM#2) test in Reading and will be completing their State Math test next week. They will be taking these tests again in April or May, and at this time, we should see wonderful growth in both Reading and Math. Please remind your child to take their time when completing these tests, as they have plenty of time to complete these tests.

Just a reminder that Report Cards will be going home on Jan. 9th. Parents of 3rd-5th graders, please remind your child to complete their assignments with high quality and turn them in on time so their grades do not suffer. Many times, a student has a low grade simply because they did not turn in an assignment. Parents can always monitor their child's grades through Skyward and can help them be successful by encouraging them to always do their best.

WALL OF FAME

Wall of Fame Word: TOLERANCE

Carter - Aliana Perdomo-Angulo
Maldonado - Fabian Mercado Rivera
Booe- Lucca White
Montanez - Ezylah Chambers
Amerling - Sincere Owens
Dillingham - Abraham Betancourt
Dube - Kassidee Perna
Kucharek - Manuel Bravo Munoz

Crawford - Alexandra Malave
Moon- Amiyah Hosang
Egert - Isaiah Woolbright
Fish - Rukhsara Ismail



We will be having a holiday spirit week the week of December 15th-19th. Please see the flyer on page 7 of the newsletter.

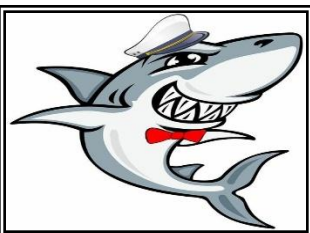


Don't forget that we are having an EARLY RELEASE Day on Friday, Dec. 19th, and there will be NO EXTENDED DAY! Please plan to have your child picked up in carline at 11:30.

Last Week's Wall of Fame Word: HUMBLE

Carter - Ian Salmeron
Maldonado - Lillian Chalupa
Booe- Ronan Garate
Montanez - River Southall
Amerling - Carsyn Lee
Dillingham - John Wheeler
Dube - Leandro Rodriguez
Kucharek - Amaya Flores-Morales

Crawford - Jordan Chesser
Moon- Ryker Lowery
Egert - Aiden Wheeler
Fish - Ava Lopez



NEWSLETTER!



We have plants growing!



T-SHIRT STORE NOW OPEN!

🦈 Great news , SHARK Families!

It's time to restock
your shirt, sweatshirt, and jacket
supplies!

Make sure to choose the correct size
category-
Youth or Adult before making your
purchases!

The store is only open until Dec. 19th, so
don't miss out! This will be the last
opportunity to purchase until August.

Thank you!

[https://marioncharter.itemorder.com/shop/
home/](https://marioncharter.itemorder.com/shop/home/)

[View Category Page](#)



Gildan YOUTH Heavy Blend Crewneck
Sweatshirt

\$16.45

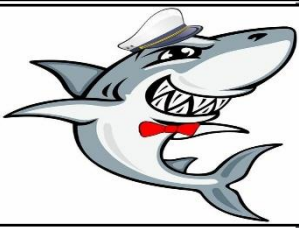


Port Authority YOUTH Value Fleece Jacket

\$35.98



Please have your child say "December!" to Mrs.
Axson AS SOON AS THEY GET HERE to earn
something special. 😊 Don't tell others, as it is a
secret to see if they are reading the newsletter.



NEWSLETTER!

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Please remember to keep your child at home if they are not feeling well. If your child has a fever, diarrhea, or are throwing up, they **MUST** be symptom free for 24 hours **WITHOUT** the aide of medicine before they can return to school.

If you have any questions, please call Ms. Tammy in the front office at 687-2100.

RESILIENCY SKILL OF THE MONTH:

PERSEVERANCE

Perseverance is the act of **not giving up** even when things get hard. It means continuing to try and work hard to reach a goal, even if you make mistakes or face setbacks. For example, perseverance is what helps you keep trying to build a tall block tower even if it falls down a few times, or keep practicing until you can ride your bike.

Check out this short video about perseverance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8x98fETiwVI>

A great story to read to your child about perseverance is "Perseverance Makes Me Stronger!". Click on the link to hear the story.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80EUzy6zOeM>

Resiliency Skills

The State of Florida has implemented resiliency skills and standards throughout all grade levels. These skills are intentionally designed to impart the value of resiliency in early grades, such as volunteerism, responsibility, and goal setting, and then support students as they demonstrate those concepts in higher grades. The standards embed concepts of civic responsibility through citizenship and mentorship to not only help students understand the value of these ideas but to actively engage in activities and exercises that will prepare them to be upstanding, responsible citizens.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

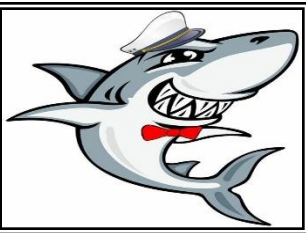
BE HERE! ON TIME! EVERY DAY! ALL DAY!

Our school mascot, Captain Clark the Shark will be visiting classrooms with the best attendance in the school each week! Ms. Wells will also be giving out \$5 Shark Bucks every day to a student in each grade level if they were here on time.

This Week's Winner: Mrs. Carter's Class



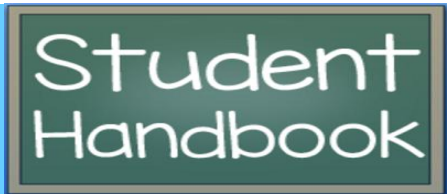
Text-A-Tip Hotline
352-877-2838



NEWSLETTER!



School will be closed
December 22nd - January
6th. Students will return
to school on **WEDNESDAY,**
JANUARY 7th!



Please take time to read our Student
Handbook located under the PARENTS section
on our school website at:
www.marioncharter.org

INFORMATION HIGHWAY -

PARENTS, WE WANT TO KEEP YOU
INFORMED. SCHOOL INFORMATION
CAN BE FOUND ON:
www.marioncharter.org
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
CONNECT TO YOUR CHILD'S CLASS
DOJO

Upcoming Field Trips:

Wednesday, Feb. 11th- 4th Grade to St. Augustine

Please make sure that you have
completed the Volunteer
Background screening process
through Raptor so that you can
chaperone on field trips and
volunteer for field day.

<https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/MT E2NTplbi1VUw>

Important Dates:

Friday, December 19th- EARLY RELEASE and
NO EXTENDED DAY!

December 22nd-January 6th- NO SCHOOL!

Wednesday, January 7th- CLASSES RESUME!



Just a reminder that NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES are
allowed in the classrooms per our school policy.
Children must turn in their phones and/or Smart
watches in the office for safe keeping and at the end
of the day, they may come pick them up at carline
time.



MCS Lunch Menu -December 2025

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Daily Milk Choices: White 1% Milk Chocolate FF Milk	1 Tortellini with Sauce Cheese stick Crunchy Carrots Mixed Vegetables Fresh Fruit	2 Pork Taco Nachos Fiesta Beans Corn Fresh Fruit	3 Chicken Empanada Potato Smiles Roasted Broccoli Fresh Fruit Juice	4 Chicken Alfredo Roll Sweet Peas Crunch Carrots Fruit	5 Pizza Mixed Vegetables Crunchy Carrots Fresh Fruit Fruit Juice
Menu options are subject to change without notice	8 Grilled Cheese Roasted Carrots Homemade Pickles Fresh Fruit	9 Walking Tacos Cheddar Dip Fiesta Beans Mixed Vegetables Fresh Fruit	10 Turkey &Gravy, Roll Sweet Potato Cass. Green Beans Holiday Cookie	11 Chicken & Rice Roll Black Beans Roasted Broccoli Fresh Fruit	12 Pizza Mixed Vegetables Crunchy Carrots Fresh Fruit Fruit Juice
	15 Chicken Drumstick Biscuit Mashed Potatoes Sweet Peas Fresh Fruit Juice	16 Beef Walking Tacos Cheddar Dip Fiesta Beans Mixed Vegetables Fresh Fruit	17 Grilled Cheese Crunchy Carrots Green Beans Fresh Fruit	18 Corn Dogs Cucumber & Tomato Roasted Broccoli Fruit Cup	19 BAG LUNCHES Fresh Fruit Fruit Juice EARLY RELEASE NO EXTENDED DAY
	22 NO SCHOOL! WINTER BREAK!	23 NO SCHOOL! WINTER BREAK!	24 NO SCHOOL! WINTER BREAK!	25 NO SCHOOL! WINTER BREAK!	26 NO SCHOOL! WINTER BREAK!
	29 NO SCHOOL! WINTER BREAK!	30 NO SCHOOL! WINTER BREAK!	31 NO SCHOOL! WINTER BREAK!	1 NO SCHOOL! WINTER BREAK!	2 NO SCHOOL! WINTER BREAK!



Pictures

with Santa!

BRING YOUR OWN CAMERA

SATURDAY
December 13th 2025
10am - 2pm

(ONLY 30 CHILDREN PER HOUR WILL BE ACCEPTED)

MUST CALL/TEXT US TO RSVP
AND SAVE YOUR CHILD'S SPOT!

PHONE: 352-207-9793

3233 SE MARICAMP RD SUITE 604





Monday December 15th - Friday, December 19th

Marion CharterSchool

Monday
12/15

Elf Day

Dress like an elf, wear elf ears, or an elf shirt

Tuesday
12/16

Jolly Jeans

Wear a winter holiday shirt with jeans or jean shorts

Wednesday
12/17

Grinch Day

Wear a Grinch shirt or **Green**

Thursday
12/18

Wacky Tacky Day

Wear an ugly sweater or holiday accessories like bells, light necklaces, etc.


Friday
12/19

The Polar Express

Wear appropriate pajamas since today is an **EARLY RELEASE DAY** and **NO Extended Day!**

WINTER READING CHALLENGE

B I N G O *for kids*

BOOK ABOUT WINTER	BOOK OF SHORT STORIES	BOOK RELEASED THIS YEAR	READ INSIDE A PILLOW FORT	BOOK IN A SERIES
READ WEARING PJs	BOOK WITH A # IN THE TITLE	READ A CLASSIC	INTERACTIVE BOOK	A TO Z BOOK
FUNNY BOOK	READ AFTER DINNER		A FAIRY OR FOLK TALE	BOOK OF POETRY
BOOK WITH A COLOR IN THE TITLE	ATTEND LIBRARY EVENT OR STORY TIME	BOOK WITH NON-HUMAN CHARACTERS	BOOK ABOUT MUSIC	BOOK WITH RHYMES OR TONGUE TWISTERS
CHAPTER BOOK	BOOK SET IN ANOTHER COUNTRY	NON- FICTION BOOK	BOOK BORROWED FROM SOMEONE	BOOK INSPIRED CRAFT

Driven for a Healthier You!



The Department of Health in Marion County's Mobile Health Unit serves county residents in their communities throughout Marion County. It provides services such as immunizations and other preventative healthcare needs. For more information or opportunities to partner with us, please contact Tammie Durden at 352-644-2627 or Tammie.Durden@FLHealth.gov

Visit Marion.FloridaHealth.gov for more information on the department and its services.

Come see us at

Interfaith Soup Kitchen
435 NW 2nd Street, Ocala, FL 34475

Wednesday, December 10 • 9:00–12:00 P.M.

Services offered are:
Preventative Healthcare Services
Health Screenings
Education
STD/HIV Testing



"Do the good that presents itself to be done."

- St. Vincent DePaul

2025 Holiday Help Drives

Information for Applicants

Each year, Blessed Trinity and Brother's Keeper helps hundreds of families during the holiday season. **Eligible families receive food for Thanksgiving and food & gifts for children 12 and under at Christmas.** This year we are partnering with Toys for Tots. It is only through the generosity of many others in our parish and community that we're able to provide this assistance each year.



Holiday Sign-Ups: **Monday, October 13 through Tuesday, December 5***
Mon. & Fri. 9am -11:30am and Tues., Wed., Thurs. 9am-2:30pm
**Cut-Off for Thanksgiving food applications is Fri. November 14*

Who's Eligible: THANKSGIVING FOOD & CHRISTMAS FOOD: **Families with at least one child under the age of 18 residing in Marion County.**



CHRISTMAS TOYS: **Families with at least one child 12 and under living in one of the following zip codes:**
34420, 34421, 34433, 34434, 34473, 34474, 34475, 34477, 34478, 34479, 34483

Applicants Need: **Photo ID** with Marion County address,
Social Security cards for adults and children,
Birth Certificates for all children,
Lease and Utility Bill to prove residency and zip code
Proof of food stamps qualification (if eligible)



Pick-Up Dates/Times: Thanksgiving: **Tuesday, November 18** from 9:00am-4:00pm
Christmas: **Tues., Dec. 16 or Wed., Dec. 17** from 9am-4pm
**Clients will be assigned a pick-up time/day*

Pick-Up Location: **Knights of Columbus Hall** | 1510 SE 3rd Ave, Ocala, FL 34471
Located at the north end of the Blessed Trinity parking lot
***Bring Photo ID of the applicant when picking up**

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
320 NW 10th St., Ocala
(352) 622-3846

THRIFT STORE
320 NW 10th St., Ocala
(352) 732-7988

SOUP KITCHEN
435 NW 2nd St., Ocala
(352) 789-8139

MAIL TO
5 SE 17th St.,
Ocala, FL 34471



<https://www.iesmarion.org/ourprograms>

Interfaith provides a wide array of services. All services are based upon availability of resources and volunteer staffing. Hours may change due to severe weather or other unforeseen circumstances. If you have further questions, please contact our helpdesk at (352) 629-8868.

Our goal is simple – to help as many people in the community as we can.

Essential Services

Hours: Monday - Friday, from 9:00am – 11:30am and 1:00pm – 4:00pm.

Location: 421 NW 1st Street, Ocala.

Required for Services: You will need to bring proper identification including a photo ID. We will provide one-time service for those lacking requested documentation.

Food Assistance is available to each household one time per month as a supplement for those needing assistance with groceries. As the majority of food is received by Interfaith as a donation, we cannot guarantee specific food items. We also provide food assistance with other community partners at Fellowship, Dunnellon and Marion Oaks. For information about these pantries, please call our office.

Hygiene items such as soap, deodorant and other essentials are provided when available.

Reading Glasses are made possible through a partnership with the Lions Club, upon availability.

Identification Cards are provided for those that have recently moved to the area from out of state or county. This program is made possible through a partnership with our local Tax Collector's Office. Required documentation varies, please call for more information.

Gas Cards for medical appointments at Shands Hospital in Gainesville, as available. In rare circumstances this program also helps people get to other hospitals around the state for specialized care or critical medical procedures.

Work Boots for Jobs are provided in partnership with local employment agencies, for those needing work boots or non-skid shoes required for gainful employment. Requires letter from employer (on letterhead) with need of specialized footwear.

Boutique and Shower Ministries

Location: 435 NW 2nd Street, Ocala.

Required for Services: none

Free Clothing Boutique is open throughout the week for those in need.

Hours: Monday - Friday, from 9:00am – 11:30am and 1:00pm – 3:30pm.

Shower Ministry For those experiencing homelessness, our shower ministry includes a hot shower, towel, and hygiene items as available, as well as clothing from the Boutique.

Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00am - 1:00pm

Center for Life Services

Hours: Monday - Friday, from 9:00am – 12:00pm and 1:00pm – 4:00pm.

Location: 108 N Pine Avenue, Ocala.

Required for Services: Photo Identification. Other documentation may be requested as needed.

The Center for Life exists to meet the urgent healthcare needs of those without insurance or enough income to afford professional care.

The Prescription Assistance Program provides assistance with prescription medications and primary care visits. Funding for this program is provided in partnership with the Marion County Hospital District and proceeds from the Interfaith Thrift Store.

Patient Assistance Program aids with applications to pharmaceutical companies that provide medications directly to clients at no cost to them. Only available from participating manufacturers and with physician assistance.

Mental Health Counseling provided free of charge to clients without health insurance, trauma-informed mental health services by a Licensed Mental Health Counselor who is also a Certified Clinical Trauma Specialist. This program provides hours of professional counseling to individuals who otherwise would not have access to this critical service. Services are contingent on work-load capacity of our therapist.

Charley's Garden is a special place where parents can memorialize children that were lost before birth due to abortion or natural causes. This space is created to promote spiritual and emotional healing. For more information or to memorialize a child, call 352-629-8868.

Clinic Services

Through partnerships with Hope Clinic and the FreeDOM Clinic, clients can receive free medical, vision and dental services.

Hope Clinic (Medical): for an appointment, please call (352) 629-8868.

Freedom Dental and Vision: appointments are made at www.freedomclinicusa.org.

Housing Programs

Addressing housing insecurity and ending homelessness one person at a time through supportive housing options with wrap-around services: **Interfaith Duplex** offers housing to single women who were previously sheltered in our emergency homeless shelter and who also suffer with a disabling condition.

Grace Way Apartments in partnership with Marion County Community Services, with the support of our County Commissioners, this program offers two types of housing assistance:

Support Housing: provides 5 units and staff support to end homelessness for individuals who are experiencing chronic homelessness with a disabling condition.

Low Income Housing provides 8 units for housing individuals and families with income at or below the 50% of the AMI for Marion County.

Engagement Center

Hours: Monday - Friday, from 9:00am – 4:00pm.

Location: 421 NW 1st Street, Ocala.

The focus of the Engagement Center will be to meet the individual needs of those experiencing homelessness through partnerships with other local agencies. Services focus on:

Obtaining identification documentation

Employment services in partnership with Career Source

Work related needs such as steel toe boots, uniforms, and non-skid shoes

Transportation services such as free bicycles or bus passes to medical appointments or job-related needs

Help finding affordable housing and connection to partner agencies that may be able to help with start-up costs

Social security services such as help filling out disability paperwork or initiating the disability claim

Referrals to partner agencies that provide mental health services or substance abuse recovery programs

Programs to develop soft skills for job preparedness

Literacy and GED services in partnership with the Marion County Literacy Council and Howard Academy.

Basic life skills

Shelter for People Experiencing Homelessness

Hours: Shelter staff are available daily 3:00pm – 9:00pm.

Applications Available: Monday - Friday, 9:00am – 11:30am and 1pm – 4:00pm.

Location: 435 NW 2nd Street, Ocala.

Required for Services: You will need to bring proper identification including a photo ID. Other documentation may be requested. Assistance is based on bed availability. Due to safety issues, we are not able to assist anyone in an active domestic violence situation. Please call the Domestic Abuse Hotline: 800-799-7233.

Our Shelter Program provides a safe haven and transitional services for women, single parents, and families experiencing homelessness. Residents are provided with all their basic needs while staying with us. We offer a three-month program for those seeking self-sufficiency and stability. This includes weekly case management meetings, budgeting, life-skills, mental health & trauma counseling, art therapy, bible study, parenting classes and goal setting. Our goal is to help individuals and families end their homelessness.

Food 4 Kids 'Backpack' Program

This program provides weekend meals to children at risk of hunger. Participants are referred by school personnel. Backpacks are filled with food for every child in the household and can include: canned meat, shelf-stable milk, peanut butter and jelly, soup, applesauce, oatmeal, pasta, etc.

Thanks to our donors and volunteers, we partner with nearly 40 schools in Marion County. The program can support up to 1,800 students, providing more than 200,000 meals each school year. Food 4 Kids makes a huge difference in the lives of children by enabling them to focus on learning instead of their hunger and keeping them healthy and nourished. A \$25 monthly donation will provide the food needed to fill a backpack for one child for the month.

For more information please go to: <https://www.iesmarion.org/ourprograms>

8 Habits of Healthy Kids[®]

Healthy kids:



Spend at least 1 hour a day being physically active

Spend less than 2 hours a day watching TV and playing video and computer games



Eat at least a total of 5 fruits and vegetables everyday

Snack on healthy foods and less junk food and sweets



Drink or eat at least 3 low fat dairy foods a day

Drink at least 2 glasses or bottles of water a day instead of soda



Eat less fast food and make healthier fast food choices

Eat smaller amounts - bigger is not better



How can I help my child **SUCCEED** in school?



Stay involved and feel free to contact your child's teacher with any questions or concerns.

Ask your children about school and encourage them to talk about their day.

Do not talk negatively about your child's teacher or school.

Read with your child **every** night.

Make sure your child is getting plenty of sleep and is ready for school each day.

Help your child with his/her homework **every** night.

Teach your children to be responsible for their actions and their schoolwork.