

TIGER TIMES



To provide the children of the Northside a structured and nurturing learning environment that is focused on rigorous academic standards, character development, self-discipline, personal and social responsibility and family involvement.

Principal's Welcome Letter!

Volume 2, issue 1 - September

September 2011

For those of you I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet, my name is Charles McWhite. I am entering my second full year as the Principal of Tiger Academy. As our mission statement reads, I am committed to ensuring that your child is provided with a structured and nurturing learning environment. This is best accomplished with a strong parent-school partnership, and I look forward to your input in making Tiger Academy the best elementary school in Jacksonville.

The importance of our parent commitment to Tiger Academy is realized through the volunteerism we require from our fami-

lies. This commitment is vital to our success. Please remember that your volunteer hours can be served in many different ways, such as by working with our PTA and its president, Mrs. Sabrina Carter. Our volunteer coordinator, Ms. Haynes will be conducting volunteer orientations and can alert you to the many volunteer opportunities available. As a staff, we will be working to increase parent involvement and make sure that we are responsive to your needs and concerns.

This school year has gotten off to a tremendous start. The opening



Charles McWhite

Tiger Academy Principal

week went very smoothly. Students and staff are energetic and excited to be back. I am looking forward to a great year. Thank you for choosing Tiger Academy for your child's educational provider.

Tiger Academy Teachers

Ms. Marguerite Stewart - Pre-K
mstewart@firstcoastymca.org

Ms. Elyse Marhefka - Pre-K
emarhefka@firstcoastymca.org

Ms. Susan Harper - Kindergarten
sharper@firstcoastymca.org

Ms. Cashelle Johnson - KDG
cjohnson@firstcoastymca.org

Ms. Rodina Hughes - 1st Grade
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Ms. Kelly O'Dowd - 1st Grade
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Mr. Kenny Dikas - 2nd Grade
kdikas@firstcoastymca.org

Ms. Nailah McNeil - 2nd Grade
nmcneil@firstcoastymca.org

Ms. Cherrise Sterling - 3rd Grade
csterling@firstcoastymca.org

Ms. Michelle Zayas - 3rd Grade
mzayas@firstcoastymca.org

Ms. Nicole Grayson - 4th Grade
ngrayson@firstcoastymca.org

Ms. Tonia Fuller - 4th Grade
tfuller@firstcoastymca.org

OPEN HOUSE

Tiger Academy will host its annual Open House on Thursday, September 15th at 6:00 p.m. Come and visit your child's classroom, find out valuable information about course curriculum and classroom specific topics, and get to know their daily schedule and routine. Participate in question and answer sessions and sign up for teacher conferences. Thank you in advance for taking an active role in your child's education. See you at Open House.



Tigers Bring It!!

The Tiger Academy school theme for 2011-2012 is **TIGERS BRING IT!** BRING IT is an acronym that embodies a set of ideals which will serve as a guide to govern our actions everyday. We believe by focusing on these principles, we will be able to establish a student body of college-bound scholars who are socially well adjusted. Encourage your Tiger Academy scholar to BRING IT! everyday.

- B - Believe in Yourself
- R - Responsibility
- I - Intelligence
- N - Never Give Up
- G - Generosity
- I - Integrity
- T - Take Charge

Tiger Academy Attendance and Tardy Policy

Regular school attendance is a necessary part of a student's education. Excessive absences and/or tardies impair a child's educational progress, impacts whether the child passes or fails a grade, and may result in the child being reassigned to their home school location.

Absences

More than 15 absences out of the 200 day school year is presumed to be excessive, and the staff of Tiger Academy will take all appropriate steps, in addition to those outlined below, to work with the child's family to ensure the child attends school. Excused absences shall be classified as the following:

- Illness of the student;
- Serious illness or death in the student's family;
- Inclement weather;
- Official religious holiday;
- Other conditions deemed to be considered excused as determined by the Principal

Tardies/Early Dismissals

Tardiness is disruptive to the learning environment and can have a negative impact on student achievement. Excessive tardiness and early check outs (**more than 1 time per week/6 per quarter**) will be addressed according the following policy:

1-3 tardies per quarter	No Action by the School
4 tardies per quarter	Parent receives a letter from the school
5 tardies per quarter	Parent must attend an attendance intervention meeting
6 tardies per quarter	Student's enrollment in Tiger Academy discussed

When a Tiger Academy scholar is tardy, parents must come into the office and sign them in. Students who arrive after 8:10 a.m. must be accompanied by an adult in the front office in order to receive a tardy slip. If no Tiger Academy staff member is out front, students must be walked in. Thank you for your compliance with this policy.





TIGER ACADEMY & COMMUNITY FIRST PRESENT DEPOSIT DAYS

Tiger Academy students have a wonderful opportunity to learn the value of savings and financial responsibility with the help of Community First Credit Union. Through the **Deposit Days** program, students learn how to save money in a high dividend First Youth Advantage Account.

Representatives from Community First Credit Union will be on campus **EVERY OTHER TUESDAY** beginning on August 30th to receive deposits from students with a Youth Advantage Account. **With a minimum of \$5 deposit, you may enroll your child.** Once enrolled, you may send deposits on the selected

dates. If you would like for your child to join the Deposit Days program, you may get a form from the school, or you may contact the Community First Northside Branch Manager, Ms. Cynthia Holt, at 904.371.8053.

Deposit Day Dates 2011

Sep 13 & 27

Oct 11 & 25

November 8 & 22

Dec 6

Classroom Visitation Policy

Tiger Academy administration and staff encourages parents and guardians to work closely with their scholar's teachers. In order to maintain a productive learning environment, instructional time and safety must be highly respected, valued and guarded. In order to do this, visiting parents and guardians must adhere to the following Tiger Academy visitation policy:

- ◇ All school visitors must sign-in at the front office first and obtain a visitor's badge.
- ◇ If you have a message for a student or staff member or wish to get something delivered to your child, please report to the office. The office will contact the teacher and arrange for someone to pick it up at an appropriate time. Please do not go directly to the classroom door to make deliveries.
- ◇ Parents wishing to observe in class are to schedule visits with the classroom teacher at least 24 hours in advance, unless alternative arrangements have been made by the teacher or principal. The principal or classroom teach-

er may end any parent observation if it is determined to interfere with instruction.

- ◇ Instruction begins promptly at 8:00. Teachers are unable to have parent conferences during class time. Conferences will only occur during non-instructional time.
- ◇ Most Wednesdays are scheduled staff meetings for the teachers, starting promptly at 4:00 pm. Therefore, on Wednesdays teachers are unable to meet with parents directly after school for informal or formal conversations. Thank you for your understanding with our professional development time.
- ◇ There are no classroom visits or early dismissals after 3:00 p.m. If you must pick your child up early, please arrive prior to 3:00.
- ◇ The principal retains the authority to deny access to the school of any individual who has or may disrupt the learning environment, or who lacks a valid purpose for entering the school.
- ◇ No parties may be held in classrooms before 2:30. If you wish to celebrate your child's birthday at school, please make advance preparations with your child's teacher.



Tiger Academy – September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
FAIR TESTING THIS MONTH	Kindergarten State Assessment month			1	2	3
4 VPK State Assessment month	5 Labor Day No School	6 GED ACADEMY 5:00	7 Mothers Bring IT in Books	8 Fathers Bring IT in Books Parent Nutrition Class 6:00	9 Million Word Kickoff Parade	10
11	12 Volunteer Orientation	13 Deposit Days BOD Meeting	14	15 Open House 6:00	16	17
18	19 School Lunch Eligibility Forms are Due	20 GED ACADEMY 5:00	21	22 Parent Nutrition Class 6:00	23 Family Read Aloud 6:00	24
25	26	27 Deposit Days	28	29 Ident-a-Kid Parent Nutrition Class 6:00	30 Progress Reports Go Home	



Tigers Today...Leaders Tomorrow

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It is easier to build strong children than it is to repair broken men.

~ Frederick Douglass

