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[www.bela.osceolaschools.net](http://www.bela.osceolaschools.net)  
 Wendy Honeycutt, Principal

Please visit us on the web at  
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### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Another "First Day" has come and gone at Bellalago Academy and the year seems to be off to a great start! There are several important reminders in this month's newsletter so be sure to read it carefully. We want all of our students and staff to be safe while on campus, so adhering to these policies will help everyone have a great year!

Please be sure to look over our **DRESS CODE** on the back of this newsletter to be sure your students are dressed appropriately for school. The dress code hasn't changed, but we want all of our students to be in dress code everyday and looking sharp.

Our first School Advisory Council Meeting will be on Monday, September 14 at 3:30, the location will be announced. We have changed the times of meeting this year to hopefully accommodate more parents' schedules and therefore have more parent participation at our meetings. Childcare will be provided during the meetings. We hope to see you there as we chart a course for Bellalago Academy for the 2015 - 2016 school year and beyond. If you have any questions about SAC, contact Sue Lourcey at 407-933-1690.

Sincerely,  
 Mrs. Honeycutt, Principal

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Chronic absence (missing 10 percent of school days) in kindergarten is associated with lower academic performance in first grade. If children are unable to make up for time on task, performance can be extended through 5th grade. By 6th grade, chronic absence is a clear predictor of a student's risk of dropping out. By ninth grade, missing 20 percent of the school year is a better indicator of dropping out than a child's test scores.

The School District of Osceola County is committed to the concept that students must be in school on a regular basis if they are to succeed. Non-attendance in a class is considered an absence unless the student is participating in a class activity.

$$5 = 1$$

**Five tardies** or **five early releases** or a combination of the two that equals five will result in **one unexcused absence** for the purpose of tracking truancy.

### NEW DISTRICT AND SCHOOL WEBSITE

The School District of Osceola County is debuting a new District Website as well as totally redesigning all school websites. The new Osceola District Schools website is [www.osceolaschools.net](http://www.osceolaschools.net). The redesign will make it easier to navigate through school and district websites as they will all be of the same format. Bellalago's new URL is: [www.bela.osceolaschools.net](http://www.bela.osceolaschools.net).

The School District will also be releasing an APP for parents in the very near future. This app will put news and information about the schools and district at your finger tips on your smartphone or tablet.

The District has also moved to a new parent outdial system for the new year. As a parent, you may only notice minor changes, but the use of the system will help the schools and district in communicating more easily with parents.

We are looking forward to the opportunities these tools will give us to better communicate with our parents. Communication is the key to a healthy relationship between school and home. If we can be of assistance please do not hesitate to contact us.

### Dress Code Policy

Parents, as you are shopping for school clothes for the new school year, please keep the following dress code requirements in mind. Violations of the dress code may result in disciplinary action.

**GENERAL:**

**Shirts and Undershirts:** Short and long sleeve Polo shirts and button down Oxford shirts w/ collars are acceptable. **Acceptable Colors are Dark Green, Royal Blue, Navy, White and Tan.**

- ◆ Undershirts may be worn in the colors listed above.
- ◆ All shirts and undershirts must be **solid** in color.

**All shirts must be tucked-in for grades 1- 8**

**Pants:** Docker-style dress pants, capris or cargo pants in **Navy, Tan or Black** are allowed.

- ◆ Spandex, fancy zipper styles, denim and stretch denim **are not acceptable.**

**Skirts, shorts & skorts:** Dress/uniform style in Navy, Tan or Black. Knee length preferred; at minimum must be longer than fingertips when extended by the side. Elastic waist is acceptable; elastic on cuffs is not; cutoffs are not acceptable

- ◆ **Jumpers:** Navy, Tan or black. Not plaid.

**Shoes:** Must be closed toe and closed heel. Tennis shoes and/or dress shoes with rubber soles are acceptable. Stacked or higher heeled shoes are not acceptable for safety reasons.

**ACCESSORIES:**

**Belts:** *Must* be worn with any bottoms that have belt loops.

**Jewelry:** Limited to small, inconspicuous items. *No* chunky chains, necklaces, bracelets, or large hoop earrings (no larger than a quarter). No more than 1 earring per ear or 1 bracelet per arm.

**OUTERGARMENTS:**

**Year round** - Cardigans/ button-up sweaters or zip-front sweat jackets in **black, navy, khaki or white** are acceptable for classroom wear when necessary. These must be solid in color, must zip, button or snap and may not have large print or graphics.

**Pullover sweatshirts are not allowed.**

**Office Hours**

**Monday - Friday**  
7:30 AM -3:30 PM

**Student day**  
8:10—3:00, Wed. 2:00

**Staff Hours**  
7:45—3:15

### **Bellalago Academy Mission**

Our mission at Bellalago Academy is to achieve lifelong learning by exploring education that is anchored in excellence.

### **Important Dates**

September 5  
**Instrument Rental Night**  
5:00 - 7:00 PM  
Band Room

September 7  
**Labor Day Holiday**  
No School/ Office Closed

September 14  
**Mathletes Meeting**  
Room 4-127

September 14  
**School Advisory Council Mtg.**  
3:30 - 4:30PM  
Location TBA

**School Calendar**  
[www.bela.osceolaschools.net](http://www.bela.osceolaschools.net)

### **Student Change of Dismissal Route**

For the safety and well being of your child, we need your assistance. Your child's teacher has been notified, by you, if your child is a walker, bike rider, bus rider, day care participant, private transportation or in the Extended Day Program. If your child needs to take a different route home you must send a note to the teacher indicating the change. Phone calls are only accepted in case of emergency. Please use the student identification number on your note. If no written notification is sent with your child, he/she will be sent home in the manner indicated on the teacher's list mentioned above. We are also unable to change dismissal route via a phone call. Written notification must be sent to the school for a dismissal route to be changed.

Please also remember, that students may only ride their assigned bus to and/or from school. They may not ride with a friend or to an alternate location.

Again, our goal is to have safe and happy children. With your help we will be able to accomplish this goal. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation in this matter.

**Administrative Team**

Wendy Honeycutt, Principal, Mark Ferguson, AP Elem., Kelly Rodgers, AP Middle  
John Armour, Dean 3-8, Millie Torres, Dean K-2

