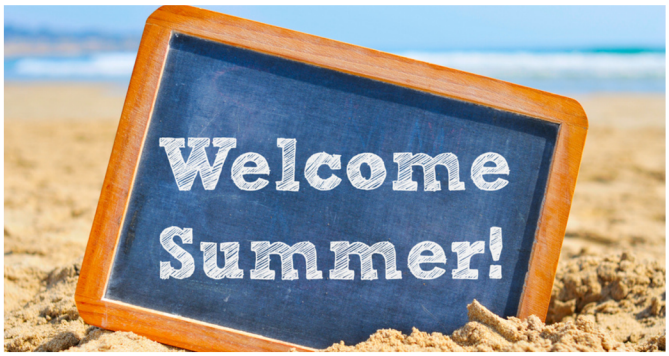
LEON COUNTY SCHOOLS TITLE I

SUMMER 2025 | QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 9, ISSUE 4



WHAT'S IN THIS QUARTER'S ISSUE:

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

As I reflect on the 2024-2025 school year, I am proud of the progress that our schools have made! Our dedicated administrators, teachers, and staff worked hard to engage, enrich, and empower their learning communities. Through Title I services, schools have been able to offer smaller class sizes, academic enrichment, tutoring, workshops for parents, and hands-on learning experiences. Title I remains committed to providing resources that will help students grow into individuals that will positively shape the world.

We could not have had a successful school year without the support of our community partners, volunteers, and parents. To our partners and volunteers, thank you for providing services and donations needed to help our schools thrive. To our parents, thank you for your commitment to education and feedback. Your responses to the Parent and Family Engagement Surveys help us plan for the upcoming school year.

When we work together, our children have the best chance to succeed.

Remember to check with your child's school or visit the Title I Parent Resource Center for information on summer programs and resources.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Dr. April Knight, Director
Title I Program

STUDENT ADDRESS VERIFICATION

Per *LCS Policy 5112, the parent/legal guardian of students transitioning from 5th to 6th grade and 8th to 9th grade must provide a primary and a secondary proof of address to receive a schedule at their new school.

The deadline to turn in your address verification was May 19, 2025. If you haven't already done so, please complete it as soon as possible.

YOUR STUDENT WILL NOT RECEIVE A SCHEDULE AT THEIR NEW SCHOOL WITHOUT THESE PROOFS BEING PROVIDED.

ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTATION

- Primary Proof: Homestead exemption, mortgage deed, lease, current rental agreement, or property tax record

-AND-

- Secondary Proof: Current electric bill (must be dated within 30 days; an activation notice is acceptable), vehicle registration, government mail (excluding a voter's registration card or driver's license)

SUBMITTING YOUR ADDRESS VERIFICATION IS EASY!

Go to your FOCUS Parent Portal account and follow the steps to fill out the form and upload two proofs of residency.

Please note: As a 5th & 8th grade parent, if you try to log into your FOCUS Parent Portal, you will not be able to access any of your student's information until the Address Verification is complete.

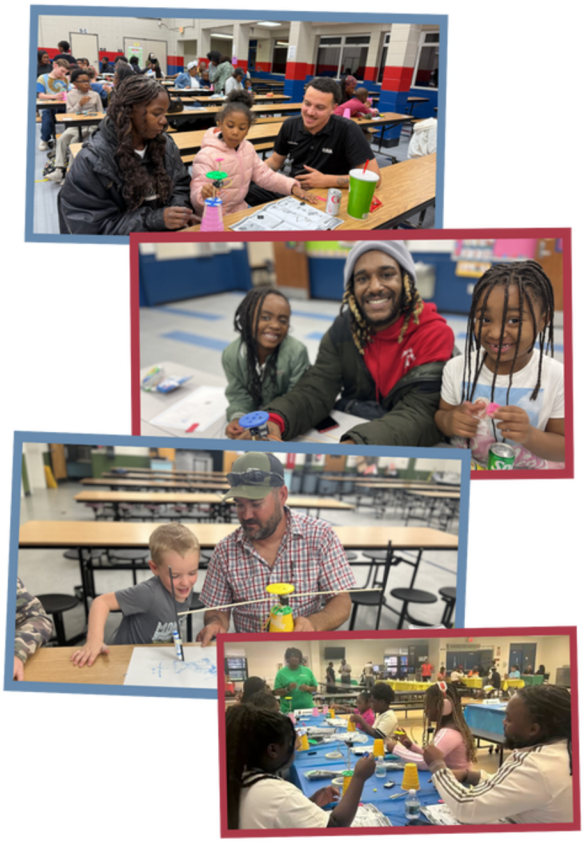
If you have an extenuating circumstance, please email lcsadmissions@leonschools.net for assistance in making sure you are in compliance.

** STUDENT PROMOTION TO NEXT LEVEL: When students are promoted to the next level, from elementary school to middle school or middle to high school, the parent/legal guardian must provide current proof of residence in order to obtain a schedule prior to promoting to the next level.*

FAMILY STEM NIGHTS

The Title I Office, in partnership with FAMU's College of Agriculture and Food Science, hosted Family STEM Nights. These activities allowed families to engage in hands on experiments and explore various STEM majors and careers. One STEM activity allowed families to build and take home their very own Cup Wigglebot. Using a plastic cup, battery, tape, and a motor, participants created a robot designed to spin, wiggle, and move around the room. It was an exciting opportunity for families to learn about basic robotics in a fun and engaging way.

Once the Wigglebots were up and running, families took their creations to the next level by turning them into Scribblebots. With markers attached to their robots, the Wigglebots transformed into Scribblebots that left behind random patterns as they moved. This year, Family STEM Nights hosted over 175 participants! Family STEM Nights are a wonderful way to bring families together and to pique the interest of children in STEM fields.



WOMEN AND GIRLS IN STEM MENTORING EVENT

Over 80 fifth-grade girls from Title I schools took part in the Women and Girls in STEM Mentoring Event at the Challenger Learning Center. This year's theme, "InnovateHER: Celebrating Women and Girls Who Change the World," aimed to inspire girls in grades 5–11 by connecting them with women at different stages of their STEM careers.

The girls participated in speed networking activities which gave them a chance to meet and interact with women working in various STEM fields. They also had the opportunity to network with peers from other schools, explore stations featuring information about different STEM careers, and take part in hands-on activities. The event ended with a 3D film in the IMAX theater, showcasing women in STEM who are making a difference worldwide.

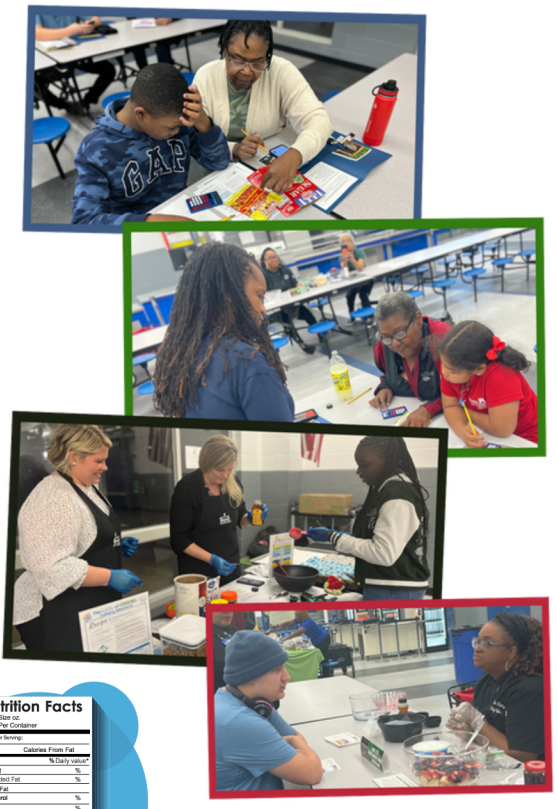
A special thank you to FAMU, FSU, and TSC for sponsoring this inspiring event.

MATH OF COOKING: CULINARY ADVENTURES

The LCS Title I Office hosted "The Math of Cooking: Culinary Adventures" at Godby High School. The event started with a lesson in the importance of reading food labels. Thomeca Hawthorne-Glover, Math Coach, guided families through identifying key information on labels, such as serving size, fats, and carbohydrates essential to supporting healthy habits.

Next, families rotated through different stations that highlighted the role of math in cooking. They learned that math is needed to accurately prepare meals and can create valuable family time. Each participant had the chance to sample various dishes prepared by master chefs and take home the recipes. The stations were led by Chef Fe from Fe-Nomenal Cooking, Chef Sam Burgess from Pineappetit, Chef Kesi Williams from Second Harvest of the Big Bend, and Chefs Christy Meresse and Samantha Harrison from LCS Dining Services.

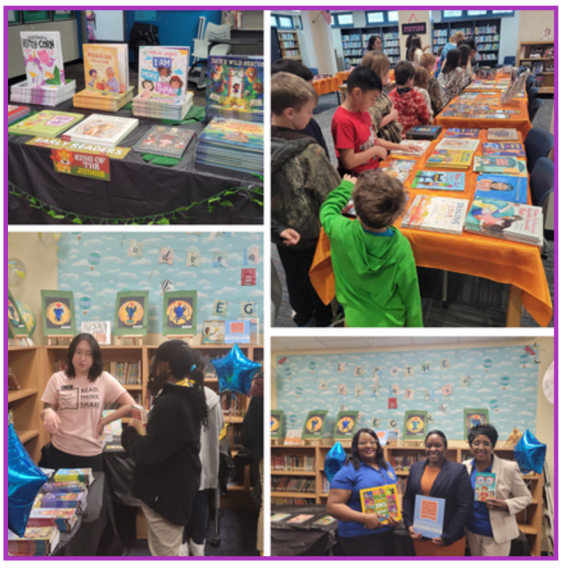
Who knew math could be so delicious!



MIDTOWN READER

Title I partnered with Midtown Reader, the Community Foundation of North Florida, and WCTV to host free book fairs at Fort Braden K-8 School, Apalachee Tapestry and Magnet School, and Oak Ridge Elementary School. Students in grades Pre-K-5th grade received two free books! This allowed students to start or add to their personal library. In addition to the free books, students received small trinkets like bookmarks, stickers, and posters of some of their favorite book characters.

At Fort Braden, students also had the chance to meet author Rosanne Parry! Students learned about the importance of bringing words to life through reading and writing about experiences. As a bonus, each student received a copy of her brand-new book!



SUMMER 2025

PARENT CORNER

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 4

REPORT CARDS

We made it! Friday, May 23rd, marked the last day of the fourth nine-week grading period. Report cards will be available through the Focus Portal on **May 30th**.

Families need a Focus Portal account to access student's grades and attendance. Contact your child's school for the parent portal letter which includes your child's name, student ID, and parent portal pin. Then visit: https://leon.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/auth/ and follow the directions that are included on the letter.

STAY CONNECTED

Make sure that your contact information is up to date so that you don't miss any important updates, especially over the summer. If you haven't already done so, please be sure to sign up for the Remind messaging system and the district's FOCUS communications system. These systems help keep families informed and also strengthen the connection between school and home.

Strong communication between parents and teachers is key to your child's success. If you ever need suggestions on how to support your child's learning at home, don't hesitate to reach out to your child's school.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ORIENTATION THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025	
School Level	**Time**
Elementary	**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

ORIENTATION FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2025	
School Level	**Time**
High School	**8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**
Middle School	**10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

SUMMER PLANNING TIPS FOR PARENTS

As summer begins and your child looks forward to all the fun ahead, it's a great time to think about simple ways to keep them learning during the break. Below are easy tips to help your child stay on track while still enjoying other activities.

Tip #1: Schedules and Routines

"One challenge of summer is the lack of the regular routine that school provides. Before summer starts, sit down with your child and set some simple expectations for their day. Help them create a basic schedule – when to wake up, what to do during the day, and when to go to bed. It doesn't need to be complicated, but having a routine will help them stay on track " (Edmentum, 2025).

A summer program may help keep a regular routine.

Tip #2: Keep the Pace

"As you set your summer schedule, make time for learning and review. There are online activities that offer fun, age-appropriate lessons that reinforce what your child learned during the school year. Try adding 15–30-minute blocks for learning each day. Consistent practice, even in small amounts, can make a big difference" (Edmentum, 2025).

Also consider previewing items such as words or math that may help prepare for the next grade level.

Tip #3: Encourage Reading - Check for Comprehension

"Help your child develop a love for reading by visiting the library regularly. Let them choose books they enjoy and feel free to ask the librarian for suggestions. Read together and introduce your child to different kinds of books" (Edmentum, 2025).

Check for understanding by having a conversation comparing the book to another book that was read or a real-world event.

Tip #4: Explore Interests and Hobbies

"Summer is a great time to try new hobbies or focus on activities your child loves - painting, photography, gardening, crafting, or music. Encourage them to spend some time each day on their interest. Set up a quiet space in your home where they can focus on their hobbies, and provide resources to help them explore new activities" (Edmentum, 2025)

Tip #5: Rest, Relax, Enjoy

Summer can be lots of fun! Spend quality time with family - playing board games, exploring outside, etc. Remember, it's okay to have some rest, relaxation, and a day where you do nothing. Rest and relaxation may help with recharging physically and mentally as you enjoy the summer and gear up for a new school year.

https://www.edmentum.com/articles/summer-planning-for-parents/