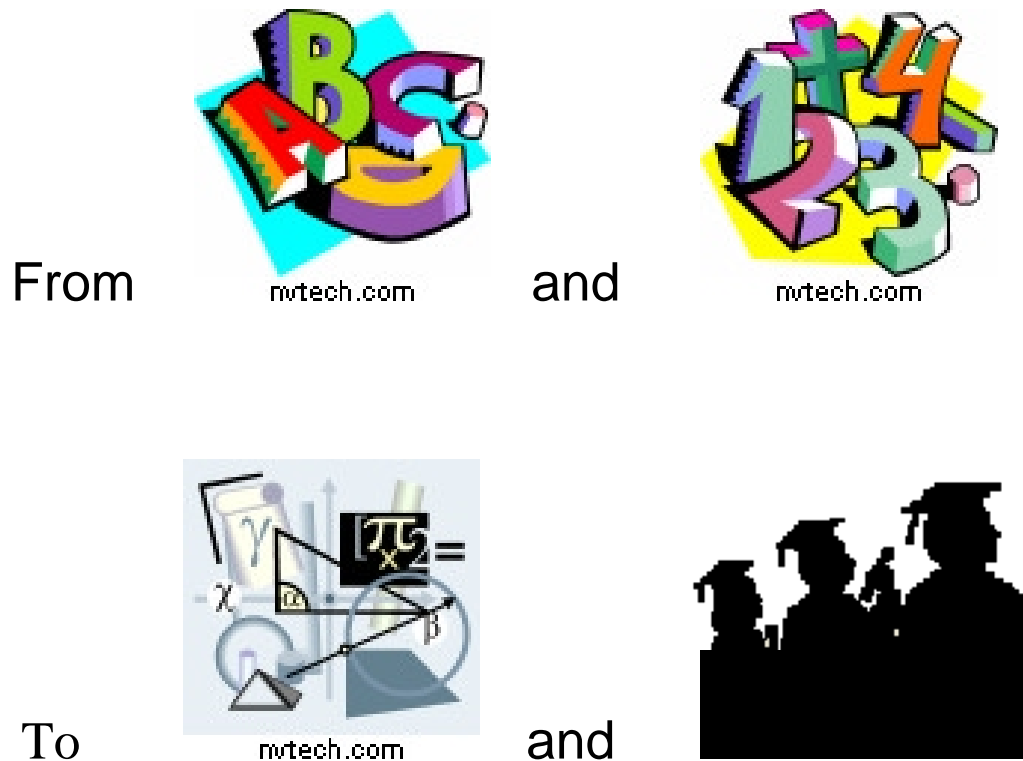


Meeting the Challenge

Helping your child progress through
Bradford County Schools



Parent Guide 2009 – 2010

August 18, 2009

Dear Parents:

Welcome to Bradford County schools for the 2009-2010 school-year. I am excited about the new opportunities we have as we begin this year. Administrators, faculty, and staff have spent many hours in preparation and I look forward to it being a positive experience, with students reaching their highest level of academic achievement.

To maximize your student's potential; I invite you to be involved in the educational process. This guide has been compiled to make this easier for you. You'll find information that will benefit parents of Pre-K students through seniors in high school. Please take a few minutes to look through it. I encourage you to also attend open house at your child's school and call to set up an appointment with his/her teacher(s) to learn more specific information.

I appreciate you working together with me and the other members of the Bradford County School system to make this a productive school year. Our primary objective is to prepare students for their future. Together, we will see our students' dreams become reality.

Sincerely,

Beth Moore
Superintendent

Bradford County Schools	District Contacts
Bradford High School.....966.6075	District Office.....966-6018
Bradford Middle School.....966.6705	Curriculum.....966-6032
Bradford Career Tech Center.....966.6764	Exceptional Student Education.....966-6014
Brooker Elementary School.....966.6887	Transportation.....966-6730
Hampton Elementary School.....966.6884	Food Service.....966-6026
Lawtey Community School.....966.6795	Accountability & Title I.....966-6816
Renaissance Center.....966-6830	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>“Nothing you do for children is ever wasted.” -Garrison Keillor</p> </div>
Southside Elementary School.....966-6061	
Starke Elementary School.....966-6045	
Rainbow Pre-K Center966-6039	

School Calendar	Testing Schedule
Pre-Planning.....August 18-21	FCAT Retake Grades 11-12.....Oct 12-16
First Day for StudentsAugust 24	FCAT Writing.....Feb. 9-11
Labor Day Holiday.....September 7	FCATMarch 9-19
Professional Development Day.....September 28	SAT-10..... April 12-16
End of 1 st Nine Weeks.....October 22	
Veteran’s Day Holiday.....November 11	
Thanksgiving Holidays..... November 23-27	
Christmas Holidays.....December 21-January 1	
Planning Day.....January 4	
Students Return.....January 5	
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.....January 18	
President’s Day Holiday.....February 15	
End of 3 rd Nine Weeks.....March 25	
Planning Day.....March 26	
Spring Break.....March 29-April 2	
Planning Day.....April 30	
Memorial Day Holiday.....May 31	
Last Day for Students.....June 10	
Graduation.....June 11	
Post Planning.....June 11-14	
	<p>Early Release Days</p> <p>August 26 September 23 October 21 (no meetings) November 18 December 2 January 13-15 February 24 March 17 April 14 May 5 June 8-10</p>

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How to stay on top of what's happening in school

- ❖ Attend the start-of-school open house. Meet the teachers. Ask the teacher what will be covered and what you can do to help.
- ❖ If your child has an Individualized Educational Plan or Progress Monitoring Plan attend the meeting so that you can be involved in the planning process.
- ❖ Ask to see your child's planner or agenda.
- ❖ Ask to see your child's work.
- ❖ Read the school newsletter. If available, visit the school's website.
- ❖ Attend meetings of the School Advisory Council where parents and teachers make budget decisions and plan ways to improve student performance.
- ❖ Know when progress reports and report cards are sent home and check them.
- ❖ Spend time at your child's school & volunteer.
- ❖ Highlight the positive. Small achievements need to be praised.
- ❖ Remember that it is your right to be part of your child's education.
- ❖ Make sure your child attends school. By law, children up to age 16 must come to school. Your child can't succeed in school if he doesn't attend regularly.

Keeping Parents Informed

The following items will help you keep up to date on school activities and ready to respond to the big and little concerns.

A Current School Calendar

Holidays
Teacher workdays
School grading periods

Phone numbers

Principal
Teacher
Administrative staff

Code of Conduct

Discipline policy
Dress code
Attendance policy

School Handbook

Policies related to school site

For a calendar of events in the district and school contact information visit our website: <http://www.mybradford.us>

Acknowledgements

School District of Bradford County credits Okeechobee, Okaloosa, and Indian River school district for content assistance with this document

Words you'll need to know.....



Testing Terms

American College Testing Program (ACT)

This test provides students with information on their skills in the four major curriculum areas of English, math, reading and science reasoning. The ACT is used in the review of applications for admission to many colleges and universities.

Alternate Testing

Term used for testing of students with disabilities for whom FCAT is not appropriate. Brigance and Life Centered Community Education Curriculum are two examples.

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)

This is a test which identifies a student's skills and competencies in preparing for the workforce.

College Placement test (CPT)

This test measures basic math and communication skills needed to enroll in college

Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading (FAIR)

This test is given four times each year to students in Grades K-5. Its purpose is to monitor student progress. The items tested include letter naming, the ability to read phonetically, and reading fluency.

Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)

FCAT is a series of tests (Reading, Math, Science, and Writing) given during the spring to every public school student in Florida grades 3 through 10. During the days of testing all students take a math and a reading section. In grades 5, 8, & 11 there is a science section and in grades 4, 8, and 10 students are also testing in writing.

PLAN, ACT

This test measures English, math, reading and science reasoning.

Pre-Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)

This is designed for sophomores or juniors. It can be used as practice for the SAT. In the 11th grade it is used to determine which students will participate in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT I and SAT II)

This test provides students with information on their verbal and math abilities as related to how well they will perform academically in college. The SAT I is used in the review of applications for admission to many colleges and universities.

Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS)

It is given during the first 30 days of Kindergarten to determine a child's developmental readiness for school.

Stanford Achievement Test (SAT-10)

SAT-10 is given in grades 1st and 2nd every spring. This test covers reading and math and it gives us a score to compare our students to other students in the United States.

Programs

Cooperative Education

Nearing the end of their completion of their vocational program students are employed in a business, instead of attending class, for the purpose of gaining knowledge and experience. Students must meet specific standards to be in the program. Contact the Bradford-Union Vocational Center for more information.

English for Speakers of Other Languages - ESOL

ESOL is a program for students who do not speak or write English well. Assistance is provided to students so that they are better able to participate in the regular classroom. The first step to get into an ESOL class is to fill out a "Home Language Survey". If the answer to any of the three questions on the survey is yes, your child is given a test to see how well they can speak or write English. The school will then decide how your child can best be served to help them.

Exceptional Student Education - ESE

A program designed for students who have an Academic Improvement Plan and are still having problems with success in the classroom. If you think your child is not receiving the help they need, you may contact the school guidance counselor for a meeting with the Family Support Team to discuss testing for special services.

Migrant

Migrant workers and their families are the focus of special federal and state programs because repeated moves, poverty, health needs, social isolation, language barriers, and school disruption affect them. The purpose of the migrant program is to ensure that children of migrant workers have access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, provided to other children. We have a migrant advocate to help with school enrollment, attendance, and help the children do better in school. The advocate also works between the home and the school to assist families in learning how to find services.

Performance Based Diploma Program

Performance Based Diploma Program is designed for students who have been unsuccessful in the regular program of study and need smaller classes and closer monitoring. It is offered at the Bradford Vocational Center.

Title I

This program provides additional help for students who are lacking skills in reading and/or math. Because of our free and reduced lunch count percentage each elementary school is a school wide Title I school, which means Title I funds can be used to help all

students attending this school. The funds are used for purchasing reading materials, and support teachers and services.

Plans

Individual Education Plan (IEP)

An IEP is a written statement for each child with a disability that is developed to address the student's individual educational needs. The plan lists accommodation the student needs as well as academic goals and teaching methods. It is updated annually.

K-12 District Reading Plan

This plan is comprised of 5 components: leadership and monitoring, professional development, elementary student achievement and instruction, middle school student achievement and instruction, and high school student achievement. Together these components give a complete picture of what is occurring in each school in regard to reading. The plan is available at <http://www.mybradford.us>.

Language Enriched Pupil Plan (LEP)

A plan designed for students who are having language difficulties in the regular classroom and need individual assistance and monitoring by a specialized instructor.

Progress Monitoring Plan (PMP)

Previously called the Academic Improvement Plan (AIP). This is a plan that parents and teachers work together to develop when a child is having trouble keeping up with the skills required at his grade level. A PMP can be written at any time during the year. It is designed to address the child's individual needs. A district wide PMP monitors each student's progress on the Sunshine State Standards with 3 assessments (minimum) given each year.

Student Progression Plan

This plan explains federal, state, and local rules regarding a student's progression from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Topics such as: course of study, report cards, graduation and retention are covered in the plan. The purpose is to ensure that each student in the Bradford District Schools is placed in an instructional program in which the student can achieve academically and develop emotionally, socially and physically. A copy of the Student Progression Plan is available at your student's school and on the Bradford district website. The plan is available at <http://www.mybradford.us/curriculum>

Other

Family Support Team

Your school's guidance counselor, your child's teacher, and the principal meet with you when your child is having any difficulty in school. The reasons could be related to attendance, behavior, or academics.

Retention

Students who do not move on to the next grade level at the end of the year due to failure to meet academic standards.

Response to Intervention (RtI)

RtI is a problem solving process, not pre-referral for staffing into Exceptional Student Education programs. It is an early intervention and prevention process that utilizes school Student Success Teams to find solutions to a student's lack of response to the core curriculum or behavioral expectations. The goal is identification and implementation of interventions over a period of time that will increase student success.

Qualifications Of Teachers

Bradford County strives to have the most professionally qualified and caring teachers available. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) requires that, by the end of the 2006 school year, all teachers in core academic subjects must be highly qualified in their area of teaching assignment. Teachers are considered to be highly qualified if they (1) have a bachelor's degree; (2) have full-state certification; and (3) have demonstrated subject-matter competence in the area(s) taught.

In addition to the federal NCLB requirements the state of Florida requires school to notify parents if their child's teacher is "out-of-field". An out-of-field teacher is one who is not yet certified in the area they are assigned to teach.

As a parent you have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of any teacher who is instructing your child. If you have questions or concerns about the qualifications of your child's teacher, you may contact the school or Personnel Director at the District office for information.

Sunshine State Standards

What teaching, grades, and tests are based upon

Classroom instruction in every subject is based upon the Sunshine State Standards. These standards are developed by the state, cover every academic subject, and are followed by every public school in Florida. A copy of the standards is available in the Curriculum Department or at www.floridastandards.org.

Though public schools are sometimes criticized for "teaching" the FCAT, in reality, teachers are teaching the standards that are measured by these tests. The standards and student progression go hand in hand. Teachers' grades show how well students are performing according to these standards. These are skills your child will use throughout life.

Each spring Bradford County public schools are tested in reading, math, writing, and science on the FACT to measure how well students have learned these standards. Your child's performance on those tests can affect whether or not he moves on to the next grade. All students who want to earn a standard high school diploma must be able to pass the FCAT.

Why students are tested – What the results mean

Throughout your child's school years, he will take dozens of standardized tests, including the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (grades 3-10).

Standardized tests show how well your child is doing compared to others and tracks his progress over time. Your child's teacher has all the testing records for your child and uses them to see if there's a problem that requires additional help or a different way of teaching. Tests also help teachers identify student's strengths in order to provide more challenging academic opportunities. Schools use test results to develop school-wide plans for improving academic performance. All testing results are available to parents.

Results from the FCAT are separated into levels. Each level tells how well your child is performing on the standards for that grade. Level 3 is considered on grade level.

Understanding Each Level:

Level 5 is the highest. It indicates that the students can handle the most challenging material.

Level 4 shows performance above grade level.

Level 3 indicates a student is learning, as he should.

Level 2 is a yellow flag that a student needs to work harder and receive extra help.

Level 1 is a red flag that the child is performing far below where he should be and may not be promoted to the next grade.

FCAT Writing

A writing prompt is scored from 1.0 -6.0. 3.5 is considered on grade level.

FCAT Accommodations

Testing accommodations are any changes or adjustments to standard testing procedures or materials intended to enable eligible students (ESE, ESOL, 504) to participate in assessments and/or to better show knowledge or skills.

Changes or adjustments cannot alter what the test is measuring. Changes must be based on the child's individual needs and documented on the appropriate plan. The following types of accommodations are allowed for FCAT:

Different presentation – in large print, Braille, signed or oral

Different responding – writing in test booklet, separate paper, Braille, or verbally answering questions.

Different scheduling – use of extended time, take the test over several brief sessions

Different setting – in small groups, individually or in a specialized classroom to accommodate special lighting or equipment.

Different assistive devices – calculators, technology devices, or visual, auditory magnification devices.

Accommodations should not be new to the student. These accommodations should also be used regularly in the classroom.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Florida Statutes require that a student entering a Florida public school for the first time must present certification of a school entry medical examination performed within the twelve months prior to enrollment in school. Documentation of the examination must be recorded on the proper Department of Health form. Without such certification, a medical appointment notice from a licensed physician signifying that the child is scheduled for a physical examination within a thirty-day period must be presented to the school. A child may then be allowed to register and enter school. If the child fails to present evidence of a school physical examination within the thirty-day period, the principal will remove the child from school until the requirement is met. Failure to comply may result in the student being referred to the truant officer.

A child shall be exempt from the medical requirements upon receipt of a written notarized statement of the parent or guardian of such student stating objections on religious grounds. This written request must be entered into the child's permanent record.

IMMUNIZATION

A child who is entering a Bradford County School for the first time must present one of the following properly documented items:

1. A current valid certificate of immunization; or
2. Certificate of exemption for religious reasons; or
3. Certificate of exemption for medical reasons.

A thirty-day temporary written exemption may be issued by the Bradford County Health Department to permit a child who transfers into the district to attend classes until the records can be obtained. If, at the end of the thirty-day exemption period, the parent or the student fails to present a proper immunization certificate, the principal will temporarily exclude the student from school. The school administrator will instruct the parent to present the proper immunization certification to the school before the student will be allowed to re-enter.

IMMUNIZATION AND RECORD REQUIREMENTS

Forms Required for Immunization Documentation:

- Department of Health Form 680
- Ask your doctor, clinic or county health department to fill out the Department of Health Form 680 for you. Don't forget to take your child's immunization record with you.

Immunizations Required for Preschool Entry (age-appropriate doses as are medically indicated):

- Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis Series
- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)
- Hepatitis B (effective in 2001-02 school year)
- Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR)
- Polio Series
- Varicella (effective in 2001-02 school year)

Immunizations Required for Kindergarten Entry:

- Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis Series
- Hepatitis B Series
- Measles-Mumps-Rubella (two doses of Measles vaccine, preferably as MMR)
- Polio Series
- Varicella (effective in 2001-02 school year)

Immunizations Required for 7th Grade Entry:

- Hepatitis B Series
- Second Dose of Measles Vaccine (preferably MMR vaccine)
- Tetanus-Diphtheria Booster

Immunizations Required for Child Care and/or Family Day Care (up-to-date for age):

- Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis
- Haemophilus influenzae type b
- Measles-Mumps-Rubella
- Polio
- Varicella (effective July 2001)

For more information, contact your [County Health Department](#) or private physician.

See Attachment A for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended immunization schedule.

Meningococcal Vaccines

What Y O U Need To Know

1. What is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is a serious illness, caused by a bacterium. It is a leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2-18 years old in the United States. Meningitis is an infection of fluid surrounding the brain and the spinal cord. Meningococcal disease also causes blood infections.

2. Who can get it?

Anyone can get meningococcal disease. But it is most common in infants less than one year of age and people with certain medical conditions, such as lack of a spleen. College freshmen who live in dormitories have an increased risk of getting meningococcal disease. Meningococcal infections can be treated with drugs such as penicillin. Still, about 1 out of every ten people who get the disease dies from it, and many others are affected for life. This is why *preventing* the disease through use of meningococcal vaccine is important for people at highest risk.

3. Meningococcal vaccine

Two meningococcal vaccines are available in the U.S.:

- **Meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (MPSV4)** has been available since the 1970s.
- **Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4)** was licensed in 2005.

Both vaccines can prevent **4 types** of meningococcal disease, including 2 of the 3 types most common in the United States and a type that causes epidemics in Africa.

4. Who should get meningococcal vaccine and when?

MCV4 is recommended for all children at their routine preadolescent visit (11-12 years of age). For those who have never gotten MCV4 previously, a dose is recommended at high school entry. Other adolescents who want to decrease their risk of meningococcal disease can also get the vaccine.

5. How can I learn more?

- Ask your doctor or nurse. They can give you the vaccine package insert or suggest other sources of information.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
 - Call **1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO)**
 - Visit CDC's National Immunization Program website at **www.cdc.gov/nip**
 - Visit CDC's meningococcal disease website at **www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/meningococcal_g.htm**

Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Immunization Program

Meningococcal 10/7/05 Vaccine Information Statement (Interim)

PROOF OF DATE OF BIRTH

Before admitting a child to pre-kindergarten or kindergarten, the principal shall require evidence that the child has attained the age at which he or she should be admitted in accordance with state law.

If the first prescribed evidence of birth date is not available, the next evidence obtainable in the order below will be accepted:

- a. An official birth certificate indicating the child's date of birth
- b. A duly attested transcript of a certification of baptism showing the date of birth and place of baptism, accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parent
- c. An insurance policy on the child's life which has been in force for a least two years
- d. A bona fide contemporary Bible record of the child's birth, accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parent
- e. A passport or certificate of arrival in the United States, showing the age of the child
- f. A transcript of record of age shown in the child's school record, of at least four years prior to application, stating date of birth
- g. If none of these above noted evidences can be produced, an affidavit of age sworn to by the parent, accompanied by a certificate of age, and signed by a public health officer or a licensed practicing physician. This certificate shall state that the health officer or physician has examined the child and believes that the age stated in the affidavit is substantially correct.

How to enroll your child in school

In order to enter kindergarten, a child must be 5 on or before September 1. In order to enter first grade, a child must be 6 on or before September 1. Enrolling in school for the first time is easy. All you need is a birth certificate, proof of a medical examination within one year of the date your child starts school, and a current utility bill with your name and address for proof of residence. Proof of your child's immunization is also required.

Kindergarten

All students entering kindergarten will be evaluated within the first 30 days of school to determine whether they are ready to learn. Kindergarten is the year that children begin receiving formal instruction in reading, writing, and mathematics. Because children do not learn at the same pace, your child may be advanced or need more help than children in his age group. If you have questions or concerns about your child's development, contact your child's teacher

What your child is learning in kindergarten

Ask your teacher to explain what he or she will be covering. Here are just a few examples.

- ❖ Learns that words are made of different sounds and that letters represent those sounds
- ❖ Represents amounts with numbers up to 20, verbally, in writing & with manipulatives
- ❖ Describe, sorts and classifies objects by color, shape, size, and position
- ❖ Dictates or writes with pictures or words
- ❖ Predicts events in a story
- ❖ Follows simple directions
- ❖ Sequences first, next and last in a story
- ❖ Recognizes a penny, nickel and dime

How to help your child do better

- ❖ Practice the alphabet by pointing out letters wherever you see them and read alphabet books together.
- ❖ Read rhymes to your child. Ask him to name rhyming words (e.g., bat, cat, mat).
- ❖ Help him look for patterns (red, green, red, green) in the world around him.
- ❖ Ask your child to tell what came first, second, third, etc., in a story.

1st Grade

In first grade the language and literacy skills of students are developed and they become real readers and writers. If your child's teacher detects a problem in development in reading writing, or mathematics, you will be contacted and a plan for outlining strategies and steps to take to help your child progress will be developed. If you have questions or concerns about your child's development, contact your child's teacher.

What your child is learning in First Grade

Ask your teacher to explain what he or she will be covering. Here are just a few examples.

- ❖ Reads familiar stories, poems, or passages aloud with expression
- ❖ Predicts, extends, and creates patterns
- ❖ Understand the concepts of addition and subtraction
- ❖ Understands broad categories of time (past, present, future, yesterday, today, tomorrow) and understands calendar time
- ❖ Compare and order numerals to 100
- ❖ Identifies beginning, middle, and end of a story
- ❖ Knows the differences among individual letters, words, sentences, and paragraphs
- ❖ Compare and order objects according to length, weight, and capacity

How to help your child do better

- ❖ Listen to your child read words and books from school.
- ❖ Continue working with rhyming words.
- ❖ Play word games like blending sounds to make a word and replacing a letter to make a new word.
- ❖ Talk about and show examples of adding items and taking away items.
- ❖ Play math games of adding 1 to a number, taking away 2 from a number and doubling a number.

LISTEN TO YOUR
CHILD READ



READ TO YOUR CHILD

JUST READ !!!

2nd Grade

In second grade children improve their word recognition and word-study skills and develop fluency (the ability to read quickly and correctly). The students are also working on comprehension and vocabulary development to grow as readers. If your child's teacher detects a problem in development in reading writing, or mathematics, you will be contacted and a plan for outlining strategies and steps to take to help your child progress will be developed. If you have questions or concerns about your child's development, contact your child's teacher.

What your child is learning in Second Grade

Ask your teacher to explain what he or she will be covering. Here are just a few examples.

- ❖ Develops vocabulary by reading independently and reads aloud easily with expression
- ❖ Focuses on a central idea and groups related ideas
- ❖ Knows the accomplishments of major scientists and inventors
- ❖ Counts and groups objects into hundreds, tens, and ones
- ❖ Recognize the antonym (opposite) and the synonym (same) for an indicated word
- ❖ Count by 2's, 5's, 10's
- ❖ Identify the title, author, and table of contents of books
- ❖ Distinguishes between real or imaginary events and characters
- ❖ Classify numbers as odd or even and explain why

How to help your child do better

- ❖ Ask your child to reread a paragraph or page to build fluency
- ❖ Listen to your child read books from school. Help him to figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words
- ❖ Use a ruler, tape measure, and yardstick to measure different objects around the house
- ❖ Encourage your child to write often

3rd Grade

In third grade children continue to improve word-study skills and further develop comprehension and vocabulary knowledge. They also work on refining writing and spelling skills. It is critical that children be reading on grade level by the end of third grade. In the spring of third grade your child will have his first encounter with FCAT. To emphasize the importance of being able to read on grade level by the end of third grade, the State of Florida has mandated that any third grade student who scores a Level 1 in the reading portion of FCAT must be retained unless he meets the criteria for Good Cause Promotion.

What your child is learning in Third Grade

Ask your teacher to explain what he or she will be covering.
Here are just a few examples.

- ❖ Knows that some source of energy is needed for organisms to stay alive and grow
- ❖ Focuses on a central idea or topic in writing
- ❖ Reads reports, articles, and stories fluently and tells the author's reason for writing
- ❖ Describe, compare and classify two dimensional shapes using sides and angles
- ❖ Compare and order fractions

How to help your child do better

- ❖ Help your child become a fluent reader by having him reread a paragraph or page until he can read quickly with no error
- ❖ Help your child use a dictionary or thesaurus
- ❖ Review basic addition, subtraction and multiplication facts
- ❖ Give your child opportunities to estimate and measure items around the house – socks in a drawer, length of a table
- ❖ Practice telling time to the nearest minute and nearest quarter hour

For more information about reading in Kindergarten through third grade check

www.nifl.gov/partnershipforreading
and look for the booklets

Put Reading First: The Research Building Blocks for Teaching
Children to Read: Kindergarten Through Grade 3
A Child Becomes a Reader: Kindergarten to Grade 3

Other web sites:

www.justreadflorida.com
www.fcrr.org/ForParents/forparents.htm

4th Grade

When a child enters fourth grade, his school experience begins to take a different role. This is especially true in the area of reading. During kindergarten through third grade your child was “learning to read” and now that he is in fourth grade, he is beginning years of “reading to learn”. For this reason a child should have a solid foundation before entering fourth grade. Writing is extremely important in fourth grade. Your child will take the FCAT Writing test and special emphasis is placed on FCAT reading. The mathematics will be more difficult and he will be expected to solve more difficult problems and explain how he reached that solution. Additionally science and social studies become more important subjects, as fourth graders are now “reading to learn”.

What your child is learning in Fourth Grade

Ask your teacher to explain what he or she will be covering. Here are just a few examples.

- ❖ Understands directional words in a prompt then writes a narrative or expository paper with anecdotes
- ❖ Uses resources and references - dictionary and thesaurus to build word meaning
- ❖ Determines equivalent forms of whole numbers to fractions ($25/5$, 5), fractions to fractions ($2/4$, $1/2$), and fractions to decimals ($11/100$, $.11$)
- ❖ Knows that planets differ in size, characteristics, and composition and that they orbit the sun in our solar system
- ❖ Understands the plot development in a story
- ❖ Recognizes comparison and contrast

How to help your child do better

- ❖ Read a variety of text with your child, both stories and informational text
- ❖ Set aside a certain spot and time for your child to do his homework
- ❖ Provide opportunities to write
- ❖ Read your child’s science and social studies text and talk about the graphs, diagrams, and charts

5th Grade

In fifth grade your child's skills in reading, writing, and mathematics should continue to develop. He will be expected to read longer and more difficult passages. The amount of fiction that he reads should decrease and there will be an increase in the informational text. Mathematics and Science are extremely important in fifth grade. When your child takes FCAT mathematics he will be asked to problem solve and to describe in writing the process he took to solve the problem. This will be the first year your child will be tested on FCAT Science. Since fifth grade is an exiting grade at most elementary schools, teachers will be working with your child to help him become more independent.

What your child is learning in Fifth Grade

Ask your teacher to explain what he or she will be covering. Here are just a few examples.

- ❖ Reads text and determines the main idea, identifies details and facts, and arranges events in sequence
- ❖ Writes for a purpose, applies basic grammar rules and varying sentence patterns
- ❖ Understands and uses concrete and symbolic representation of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and percents in real-world situations
- ❖ Understands the cultural, social, and political features of Native Americans and their contributions to American history

How to help your child do better

- ❖ After your child completes mathematics homework, ask him to explain how he solved some of the problems
- ❖ Use calendars or clocks to have your child figure out how long it will be until some important event occurs
- ❖ Read a variety of text with your child, both stories and informational text
- ❖ Read your child's science and social studies text and talk about the graphs, diagrams, and charts

Elementary Promotion/Retention

In the spring of each year all students take an assessment test. In grades 1&2 students, take the SAT-10. In grades 3-5, students take the FCAT. The Florida Statutes do not allow for social promotion and require school districts to set standards that students must meet to be promoted to the next grade. Promotion or retention decisions are made at the end of the school year, based on a number of factors including grades, SAT-10 and FCAT test scores, and general performance in the classroom. In 3rd grade, however, there is mandatory retention if a student scores L-1 on FCAT reading. If your child has not made enough progress to succeed to the next grade, he will be kept in his current grade for another year.

Middle School – 6th, 7th, & 8th grades

At this age, students experience more changes physically, emotionally, socially, and cognitively than at any other time in their life. The middle school curriculum provides a vehicle for personal growth and development through rich and varied exploratory offerings and experiences.

During each of the middle school years of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, students will be taking math, language arts, reading, science, and social studies. In addition, all students who have a substantial deficiency in reading are required to take an intensive reading course. Students also take physical education and elective courses that may include chorus, band, and technology.

What your child is learning in 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade

Ask your teacher to explain what he or she will be covering.
Here are just a few examples.

- ❖ Studies the history of Florida, the nation and the world
- ❖ Understands the structure of the U.S. Government and the principles of American democracy
- ❖ Uses maps and write reports about the geography of the world
- ❖ Uses integers, fractions, decimals, percentages and other types of numeric expressions in math
- ❖ Uses measurements to solve math problems that are related to real world situations
- ❖ Understands basic algebraic and geometric concepts
- ❖ Understands the basics of physical and biological science
- ❖ Solves scientific problems using scientific processes
- ❖ Reads and analyzes different types of books and stories, including novels, nonfiction, plays and poetry
- ❖ Writes reports and other documents using correct grammar and punctuation

How to help your child do better

Involve your child in activities involving measurement, reading and following directions: cooking, building, assembling items, and programming equipment

Provide a place and time to read and study

Poor performance is sometimes caused by poor attendance. Make sure your child is attending school.

Keep in touch with the teacher. Check homework and assignments

Middle School Promotion/Retention

Promotion or retention decisions are made at the end of the school year, based on a number of factors including grades, FCAT test scores, general performance in the classroom, and attendance. Florida Statutes do not allow for social promotion and require school districts to set standards that students must meet to be promoted to the next grade. If your child has not made enough progress to succeed to the next grade, he will be kept in his current grade for another year.

Additional promotion requirements include successful completion of one course in career and education planning to be completed in the 7th or 8th grade and passing grades in the core subjects of language arts, mathematics, social studies and science. All core requirements must be met before promotion to the 9th grade.

High School - 9th, 10th, 11th, & 12th grades

High School includes grades 9-12 and is designed to prepare students to meet the challenges of adulthood by developing their academic, leadership, and citizenship skills. At the high school level, students start making choices about the design of their academic programs. They are able to customize their course of study with a career in mind.

What your child is learning in 9th - 12th Grade

Ask your teacher to explain what he or she will be covering.
Here are just a few examples.

- ❖ Understands and analyzes the history of the United States and the world
- ❖ Knows the geography of the world and how people interact with the physical environment
- ❖ Understands different economic systems in the world and how they relate to each other
- ❖ Uses algebra and geometry to solve mathematical problems
- ❖ Understands and is able to use data analysis
- ❖ Understands the properties of matter, energy, force and motion
- ❖ Uses scientific processes to solve problems
- ❖ Understands how science, technology and society relate to each other
- ❖ Reads and analyzes complex types of literature
- ❖ Conducts research from a variety of sources

How to help your child do better

- ❖ Require adequate time for sleeping, studying, and reading.
- ❖ Poor performance is sometimes caused by poor attendance. Make sure your child is attending school.
- ❖ Take time every day to ask what happened in school, what new concepts were discussed, and what assignments are due tomorrow and later.
- ❖ Request a conference if grades drop or your child isn't catching on to important concepts

Graduation Requirements

In order to graduate a student must meet the following conditions:

- 1) Earn a 2.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale;
- 2) Earn a passing score of 300 on the 10th grade FCAT Reading, FCAT Math, and;
- 3) Earn credits in the courses required by one of the graduation options listed below which has been selected by the student.

Standard High School Diploma (4 year plan) – 24 credits

College Preparatory Diploma (3 year plan) – 18 credits

Career Preparatory Diploma (3 year plan) – 18 credits

Standard High School Diploma Credits Required

1. English – 4 credits
English courses must include major concentrations in composition, reading for information and literature.
2. Mathematics – 3 credits
Successful completion of Algebra I or a series of courses equivalent to Algebra I (or a higher level mathematics course for those who have already completed an Algebra I course that is not reflected in the high school transcript or have clearly mastered Algebra I content).
Courses or series of courses deemed “equivalents” for meeting the Algebra I graduation requirement are:
Algebra I
Algebra I Honors
Algebra Ia and Algebra Ib
Integrated Mathematics I and Integrated Mathematics II
Higher level courses meeting this requirement when Algebra I content is mastered but not reflected in the transcript: any Level III math course, Algebra II, or Integrated Mathematics III
3. Science – 3 credits
Two of the science credits must include a laboratory component.
Agriscience Foundations may count as a science credit.
4. American History – 1 credit
5. World History – 1 credit
This course shall include a comparative study of the history, doctrines, and objectives of all major political systems.

6. Economics – 0.5 credit
This course shall include a comparative study of the history, doctrines, and objectives of all major economic systems
- American Government – 0.5 credit
This course shall include the study of the U.S. Constitution and the Florida Government including the study of the State Constitution, the three branches of government, and municipal and county government.
7. 1 credit from:
 - Practical Arts Career Ed. or Exploratory Career Ed. OR
 - Performing Fine Arts OR
 - A combination of 0.5 credits from each of the above.
8. Computer Science or Technology Courses – 0.5 (for incoming ninth graders in 2005-2006) No longer applicable for the 2006-2007 freshmen.
9. Physical Education - 1.0 credit to include assessment, improvement, and maintenance of personal fitness. Personal Fitness (1501300) is required to satisfy a half credit of this requirement. Any other physical education course will meet the other half credit. However, the other physical education course should continue to build upon the Personal Fitness course through assessment, improvement, and maintenance of personal fitness. The following exceptions apply:
 - a. 1.0 credit in Adaptive Physical Education IEP or 504 Plan (1500300) satisfies this requirement for those exceptional education students seeking a standard diploma who cannot be assigned to Personal Fitness (1501300) pursuant to Act physical education in The Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA 1997 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.)
 - b. Participation in an interscholastic sport at the junior varsity, or varsity level, for two full seasons, satisfies the one-credit requirement in physical education if the student passes a competency test on personal fitness with a score of “C” or better.
 - c. Completion of one semester with a grade of “C” or better in a marching band class or in a physical activity class that requires participation in marching band activities as an extracurricular activity (such as eurythmics, dance corps, or flag corps), with regular practice with and performance in marching band activities satisfies a one-half credit requirement in physical education. This one-half credit may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement for adaptive physical education under an individual educational plan (IEP) or 504 plan.
 - d. Completion of one semester with a grade of “C” or better in a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) class that has a substantial component of drills as part of the course description satisfies a one half-credit requirement in physical education. This one-half credit may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive physical education under an individual education plan (IEP) or 504 plan.

A student is not required to take the one credit in physical education during the ninth grade year.

10. Electives – Any course listed in this directory that is appropriate for 9th grade or above may fulfill an elective credit for graduation except Study Hall and other courses identified as noncredit (NC), Adult Basic Education, and GED Preparation. Students who do not meet the FCAT requirement, must take the intensive reading class. Credit from the intensive reading class will count as an elective.

Students may receive a half elective credit in social studies and a half credit elective for student completion of non-paid voluntary community or school service work (activities can't be used by the organization for profit and must be pre-approved by the principal or designee). Students must complete a minimum of 75 hours of service in either category. Activities are to be conducted outside of the regular school day. Guidelines for compliance will be developed by the principal.

No student may be granted credit toward high school graduation for enrollment in the following programs or courses.

1. More than a total of nine elective credits in remedial programs. (majors)
2. More than one credit in exploratory vocational courses.
3. More than three credits in practical arts family and consumer science classes

CREDIT CHANGES FOR SY 2007-2008 FRESHMEN

Beginning with students entering their first year of high school in the 2007-2008 school year, graduation requires the successful completion of a minimum of 24 credits, an International Baccalaureate curriculum, or an Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum. Students must be advised of eligibility requirements for state scholarship programs and postsecondary admissions. Graduation requirements will include the above credit requirements and the following additions/changes: F.S. 1003.428

* 4 credits in Math (One of which must be Algebra I, a series of courses equivalent to Algebra I, or a higher-level mathematics course.

* 1 credit in fine arts. Courses listed in the Course Code Directory under Art, Dance, Drama/Theatre, and Music meet the Fine Arts requirement. No practical arts credit is accepted for this requirement.

1 credit physical education to include integration of health.

Parents and students may access the FLDOE Major Areas of Interest Website to receive complete listing of the major areas for their school. The web address is:

<http://www.fldoe.org/HSMajors/ListSchoolMajors.aspx>

Answers to Frequently Ask Questions can be found at the following web address. http://www.fldoe.org/APlusPlus/FAQ_HS.asp#Q5

ACCELERATED THREE YEAR GRADUATION OPTIONS (General Requirements)

Students who enter ninth grade in the 2004-2005 school year and thereafter may select, an accelerated three year graduation option. Options are available for a college preparatory program or a career preparatory program. Prior to selecting one of the three year accelerated graduation options the following requirements must be met:

1. Designated school personnel shall meet with the student and the student's parent to give an explanation of the relative requirements, advantages, and disadvantages of the designated graduation option.
2. The student shall submit to the high school principal and guidance counselor a signed parental consent to enter the three year accelerated program.
3. The student shall have achieved at least an FCAT reading achievement level of 3, an FCAT mathematics achievement level of 3 and an FCAT writing score of 3 on the most recent assessments taken by the student.

THREE YEAR COLLEGE PREPARATORY GRADUATION OPTION

For this option at least six of the eighteen credits required for completion of this program must be received in classes that are dual enrollment, advanced placement, Baccalaureate, Advanced International Certificate of Education, specifically listed or identified by the Department of Education as a rigorous course or weighted by the district school board for class ranking purposes. The eighteen credits required for completion of this program shall be the primary requirements and shall be distributed as follows:

1. Four credits in English, with major concentration in composition and literature.
2. Three credits in mathematics at the Algebra I level or higher from the list courses that qualify for state university admission.
3. Three credits in natural science, two of which must have a laboratory component.
4. Three credits in social studies, which must include one credit in American history, one credit in world history, one-half credit in American government, and one-half credit in economics.
5. Two credits in the same second language unless student is a native speaker of or can otherwise demonstrate competency in a language other than English. If the student demonstrates competency in another language, the student may replace the language requirement with two credits in other academic courses.
6. Three elective credits.

In the college preparatory program students must achieve a cumulative weighted grade point average of at least a 3.0 (3.5 beginning SY 2006-2007 for incoming 9th graders) on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the required courses. Students must also receive a weighted or unweighted grade that earns at least a 3.0 or its equivalent to earn course

credit toward the eighteen credits required for the college preparatory accelerated three year high school graduation program.

Students who enter grade 9 in the 2006-2007 school year and thereafter must have at least 6 of 18 credits required for completion of this program in classes that are International Baccalaureate Program, the Advanced Placement Program, dual enrollment, or Advanced International Certificate of Education. Honors courses will not meet this requirement

THREE YEAR CAREER PREPARATORY GRADUATION OPTION

A student entering this program must successfully complete a minimum of eighteen academic credits in grades nine through twelve. The eighteen credits shall be the primary requirements and shall be distributed as follows:

1. Four credits in English, with major concentration in composition and literature.
2. Three credits in mathematics, one of which must be Algebra I.
3. Three credits in natural science, two of which must have a laboratory component.
4. Three credits in social sciences, which must include one credit in American history, one credit in world history, one-half credit in American government, and one-half credit in economics.
5. Three credits in a single vocational or career education program, three credits in career and technical certificate dual enrollment courses, or five credits in vocational or career education courses.
6. Two credits in electives unless five credits are earned in the student's designated vocational program.

A student in a career preparatory program must achieve a cumulative weighted grade point average of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required for the career preparatory accelerated graduation option. The student must also receive a weighted or unweighted grade that earns at least 2.0 points, or its equivalent, to earn course credit toward the eighteen credits required for the career preparatory accelerated three year high school graduation option.

FACTS.org At-A-Glance

FACTS.org is Florida's official statewide student advising website. FACTS is an acronym for Florida Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students. Its purpose is to assist high school students, college students, teachers, counselors, and parents in planning for and tracking a student's educational progress in Florida.

FACTS.org Users can:

- Assess their interests and skills
- Choose a career
- Plan high school coursework
- Investigate 200+ colleges and 600+ degrees in Florida
- View their high school course history
- And much, much more

Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Florida Department of Education

To apply for a Bright Futures Scholarship, submit a completed Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) during your last year in high school (after December 1 and prior to graduation). You may access www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org to apply online (select grants, scholarships and applications, then apply). The application gives the Florida Department of Education (DOE permission to evaluate your high school transcripts for eligibility for a Bright Future Scholarship and other state scholarships and grants as well. For specific requirements contact a guidance counselor at Bradford High School or visit the website www.MyFloridaEducation.com/brfuture.

Advanced Opportunities

Honors

These classes are for students who are able to participate in more challenging classes in Grades 9-12.

Dual-Enrollment

Eligible 9th – 12th graders may take classes at Santa Fe Community college and receive high school and college credit. Seniors and Juniors may take classes during the day. Junior may leave campus after their last period on their schedule. For more information about eligibility requirements contact Bradford High School.

Advanced Placement

Calculus, Chemistry and Literature may be offered at Bradford High School. They are only available for secondary students and are administered by the College Board. Florida Virtual School also offers many opportunities for AP courses.

Florida Virtual High School

The Florida Virtual School is to provide students with on-line and distance learning education. It is monitored by the Department of Education. It is an option for students who need a broader and faster access to meet their educational goals. Students requesting to take a course offered by the Florida Virtual School must have approval from a guidance counselor and the student's parent.

Gifted

Placement in the gifted program is guided by the State of Florida and dependent on your child's IQ scores on an accepted test. Gifted classes are available at all grade levels. The gifted teacher plans enrichment activities and consults with the regular education teachers to ensure that students are being challenged.

Reports of Student Progress

Report Card

Report cards are distributed at the end of each grading period. Report cards contain academic grades as well as attendance data and conduct marks. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

Progress Reports

Reports are sent home every 4 ½ weeks. They are designed to tell parents how their child is doing in each subject and their current grade at that time.

Contact your child's teacher for more information on classroom testing.

School Services

Family Literacy

Classes for adults are available during the day and night at the Bradford/Union VoTec.

After School Programs

The elementary schools, middle school, and high school offer various after school programs during the year. Many of them are related to FCAT and remediation. Contact your student's school for eligibility requirements and times.

Student Counseling Services

At the elementary schools and middle school, students are counseled individually on an as needed basis through a parent, student, or teacher request. Group counseling activities on various topics occur in the classroom.

Academic Advisement

At Bradford High School, students receive academic advisement, scholarship assistance, information about colleges and testing.

GED Prep Classes

Prep classes are offered at the Bradford-Union Technical Career Center in the day and evening.

Health Resources

Healthy Kids and KidCare

Affordable insurance that protects them when they're sick—and even when they're not, with regular check-ups.

Who is eligible?

Children who are:

- Under 19 years old
 - Uninsured
 - U.S. citizens or qualified non-citizens
 - Not the dependent of a state employee
- eligible for health insurance

How and when do I apply?

Applying is easy with a one-page form!

Apply online at www.healthykids.org or by calling tollfree **1-888-540-5437**.

Child Development Program

Kid Talk PA

Speech-Language Center for Children

2162 NE 154 St.

Starke, FL 32091

DCF Florida Department of Children and Family Services

1250 East Andrews Circle

Starke, FL 32091

Bradford County Health Department

1801 N. Temple Ave.

Starke, FL 32091

(904)964-7732

Acorn Clinic

23320 North State Road 235

Brooker, FL 32622-5266

(352)485-1133 (Medical)

(352)485-2772 (Dental)

Episcopal Children's Services

100 Bell Tel Way, Suite 100

Jacksonville, FL 32216

(904)964-1543

Q & A on Parent Involvement

How can I be on the advisory council?

Teachers elect teacher members at a faculty meeting, parents elect their members at the PTA meeting, and business leaders are solicited through an advertisement in the newspaper.

How can I become a volunteer?

Volunteers are always welcome in the classrooms for tutoring, making bulletin boards, listening to students read, chaperoning a field trip, reading to students, making instructional materials, discussing career choices, copying and other duties. You may pick up an application in the school office.

What parenting classes and workshops may be available?

*Classes and workshops vary from school to school. Contact your school for more information.

Behavior Management

How to Help your Child Improve Study Skills

Planning and Implementation of IEP's

Diploma Options and Student Progression for Students with Disabilities

Accommodations and Modifications for Students with Disabilities

How to Help Your Child be a Better Reader

How to Help your Child Perform Better in Mathematics

How can I become a member of the PTA?

Every parent is welcome to attend meetings. Announcements are made in the school newsletter and parents can pay their dues to an officer at any time during the year.

What classes do you have that might help me get my GED?

Classes are available in the evenings through the Bradford/Union VoTec.

What are parent – teacher conferences?

Teachers may request a conference with you or you may request a conference with them. You may request a conference by writing the teacher a note or calling the main office for an appointment during the teacher's planning time.

Educational Choices

Private Schools

Private schools are financed and managed by a private body or charitable trust, accepting mostly fee-paying pupils.

McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

McKay Scholarships is a program that allows parents to choose the best educational setting – public or private - for their child. Contact the ESE department at the District Office for more information.

Home Education

Home education is available for parents who prefer to teach their children at home. Parents are responsible for obtaining a curriculum and monitoring student progress. Packets may be obtained at the Family Service Center.

Charter School

Charter schools are public schools of choice that are granted a specific amount of independence (determined by state law and the local charter) to make decisions concerning the structure, curriculum, and educational emphasis of the school. In return for this autonomy, charter schools are held accountable for the academic achievement of the students in the charter school, and the school faces suspension or closure if accepted performance standards are not met.

FERPA Notification of Rights

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 is a Federal Law designed to protect the privacy of student education records and gives parents and students over 18 years of age certain rights with respects to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review educational records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access.
2. The right to challenge the accuracy of educational records.
3. The right to protect the privacy of personally identifiable information.
4. The right to be informed of these rights through annual notice.
5. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the above FERPA requirements. The office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605