

Deep Creek Elementary School

Website: <http://yourcharlotteschools.net/DCE>

Important Phone Numbers

Attendance	255-7606
School	255-7535
Fax Machine	255-7541

Core Team

Principal	Adrienne McElroy
Assistant Principal	James Vernon
Lead Teacher	Marie Brown
School Counselor	Noelle Olby
School Resource Officer	Deputy Combs

Office Staff

Confidential Sec./Bookkeeper	Mary Crawford
Registrar & Data Entry	Sandra Howard
Front Desk	Sherry Givens
School Nurse	Jennifer Konold
Champs Café Manager	Tracey Dunnell
Head Custodian	Robert Brockman

Itinerant Staff

Psychologist	Dr. Larry Zeides
Staffing Specialist	Carol Robejsek
Social Worker	Susan Flores

Steve Dionisio, Superintendent of Schools

School Board Members

Chairman	Mr. Ian Vincent
Vice Chairman	Mr. Robert Segur
Member	Mrs. Kim Amontree
Member	Mrs. Wendy Atkinson
Member	Mr. Lee Swift

WELCOME TO DEEP CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Deep Creek's Family Handbook is designed to give parents and students an overview of school procedures and expectations. Please read and familiarize yourself and your child with the information contained in these handbook pages. More detailed information can be found in the Charlotte County Public Schools (CCPS) Code of Student Conduct. You can access this document through the district website at <http://yourcharlotteschools.net/DCE>. This Code of Student Conduct will also be distributed to students in print form. It is important to have an awareness of both the Code of Student Conduct and the Deep Creek Elementary (DCES) Family Handbook.

SCHOOL MISSION

The mission of Deep Creek Elementary School is devoted to inspiring successful leadership in all we do. Deep Creek Cubs are Ready, Responsible, and Respectful leaders. Nothing Less than My Success is our motto at Deep Creek Elementary School. The administration, teachers, and support staff look forward to assisting your child in achieving high academic and behavioral standards. At Deep Creek Elementary School, we are committed to student success. We believe all children can and will learn.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

For school news and upcoming events please visit the DCES website: <http://yourcharlotteschools.net/DCE>. You will find links to teacher websites as well as other important information.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

We recognize that our parent partners are a great asset to our school, and we welcome your visits, comments, and suggestions. Our School Advisory Council (SAC), Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), and Parent Involvement Planning Team (PIPT) work actively to support the Deep Creek School Community. Meetings and/or an event are held monthly and are advertised on our website and in our Student Planner. Your participation in PTO, SAC, school functions, and our volunteer program is essential to Deep Creek's success. A Room Parent will be selected for each classroom to assist with communication and volunteer opportunities. For more information on volunteering, check out VolunteerSpot on our website or email deepcreekpto@gmail.com and become more actively involved in our school community. Research shows students are more successful when their parents are involved!

PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION(PTO) & STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

PTO's function is fund-raising while SAC is involved with school improvement issues. The agenda for each group's business is separate. We attempt to complete all business within one hour. If you are interested in more information about our PTO or SAC, please check the school website or call the school office at 255-7535 for our meeting schedule.

VISITORS

For the safety of our students, all visitors on the school campus must report to the office and present a driver's license or state ID to obtain a visitor's badge. Please use the parking lot and entrance located in the front of the school on Harborview Road. The bus entrance is for school personnel and **buses only**. All visitors will be announced and need prior approval before going to classrooms. A few times a year we offer volunteer training which offers more insight into our daily operations. All participants receive laminated badges.

WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students)

Is an innovative father involvement, educational initiative of the National Center For Fathering. There are two primary goals of the Watch D.O.G.S. program.

- 1) To provide positive male role models for the students, demonstrating by their presence that education is important.
- 2) To provide extra sets of eyes and ears to enhance school security and reduce bullying.

Watch D.O.G.S. are fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and other father-figures who volunteer for at least one day each year at an official Watch D.O.G.S. school. During the day, Watch D.O.G.S. may read and work on flash cards with students, play at recess, eat lunch with students, watch the school entrances and hallways, assist with traffic flow, and any other assigned activities where they actively engage with not only their own students, but other students as well. Many school principals have reported that the mere presence of a Watch D.O.G. dramatically reduces reports of bullying. On the day of their participation, Watch D.O.G.S. are given a brief review of their involvement and they wear an official Watch D.O.G.S. t-shirt with a disposable 'Dog Tag' identifying them as Watch DOGS. Please inquire in the office about signing up for a Watch D.O.G. day. After 3 visits your child will receive a special t-shirt.

STUDENT ARRIVAL

School personnel are not available for student supervision until 7:45 a.m. **For the protection and**

safety of your child, do not drop your child off before 7:45am. Students eating school breakfast are permitted in the cafeteria beginning at 7:45 a.m. Students need to develop confidence and leadership in finding their way around campus. Car riders are to be dropped off through the car line in the front of the school. Parents are not permitted to park and walk their children to class after the first week of school. Parents must report to the office and present a driver's license or state ID to obtain a visitor's badge before entering campus. The first bell rings at 8:30 a.m. when the school news is broadcast via closed circuit television. Classroom instruction begins promptly at 8:35 a.m. when the second bell rings. To ensure student safety, if you arrive late and your child does not have enough time to get to the classroom by 8:35 a.m., you will need to park your car and sign your child in at the office.

STUDENT DEPARTURE

Please notify the office in the morning **in writing** if your child needs to go home a different way. In case of an emergency requiring a change after your child has arrived at school, you will need to come into the office in person to make the change. Children will not be dismissed from the office after 2:15p.m. Bus riders are escorted to buses by school personnel. Car riders are escorted to parent pick up waiting areas. **Parents, your cooperation in following carline procedure is essential to keep both you and your children safe.** Parent pick up of students is in front of the school. Older children will meet younger siblings on the PPU ramp. Pull up to the sidewalk in a single line. Your official **parent pick up name card** should be visible through the right front windshield. Students will only be released to cars with an official name card displayed. Children will be loaded into cars by staff members, safety patrol leaders and volunteers. Please be reminded that the National Transportation and Safety Bureau recommends children under the age of 13 ride in the backseat and children five and under should be in a child safety seat. Walkers/bikers are dismissed and escorted by staff. Only those students in the walking zone (two mile radius around the school) will be considered for dismissal as a walker or biker. On days with lightning/storms, walkers/bikers will be dismissed through parent pick up. Train your children to use sidewalks and safe walking zones when possible. Kindergarteners and First Graders must be escorted and picked up at the edge of our property by a designated adult. Kindergarten and First Grade students will not be released to walk on their own or to anyone who is not listed on the emergency card. Fifth Grade siblings must be approved. Riding a bicycle to and from school is a privilege, not a right. Students riding bicycles are

expected to obey the rules of the road and keep safety foremost in their minds. Students riding their bicycles in any manner which may endanger themselves or others may not be allowed to ride their bicycles to school. Bicycles must be locked in the designated bike racks. **Florida law requires all children sixteen and under wear bike safety helmets.** The school is not responsible for damage to or theft of any bicycle brought on school grounds. Cars are discouraged from parking and dropping off or picking up students during arrival/dismissal times. Please be courteous to all of our families that are waiting in line.

RAINY DAY DISMISSAL

If lightning or heavy rain is present in the Deep Creek or Harbor Heights neighborhoods a Rainy Day Dismissal will be called. This will **not** affect our bus students, after school care students, or parent pick up students. **It will affect our students who are walkers or bikers.** These students will not be released and will be brought to the front office and will be dismissed via parent pickup. It is often difficult to get this notice out as weather often approaches very quickly. If parents notice inclement weather in the area they should make plans to pick up their students who walk or ride their bikes. Parents of biker/walker students should obtain a parent pickup card at the beginning of the year to prepare for the occurrence of a Rainy Day Dismissal. Parents without the required signs will need to park and bring valid ID to pick up these students. Students will only be released to individuals that have been provided on the Emergency Card.

CHANGES IN DISMISSAL

To ensure student safety, School Board policy states that requests must be made in person or in writing by a note or fax (941) 255-7541. A regular procedure for coming to and going from school should be established with your child. If changes become necessary, you **must** notify the school **in writing** before 2:00 p.m.

CUB CLUB

The Cub Club is a before school and after school care which is operated by Deep Creek Elementary School staff members. The Club is open to Kindergarten through Fifth Grade students. Students can be dropped off in the mornings as early as 6:30am and the can be picked up after school as late as 6:00pm. Students will be offered a variety of activities including, but not limited to time to complete homework, reading, computers, science, health and fitness, arts, math, crafts, and free play. Prices are as follows:

\$20.00 per week mornings only

\$50.00 per week afternoons only

\$60.00 per week both mornings and afternoons

Yearly Registration Fee \$25.00

Daily snacks are included. For more information, please contact the office (941)255-7535

STUDENT ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

If your child is absent, call the school attendance line, 255-7606, before 9:00 a.m. Absences that are not called in will be considered unexcused. A combination of three unexcused tardies and/or early release days will be considered one unexcused absence. Refer to the CCPS Code of Student Conduct for more information on attendance. Improved attendance will lead to increased student achievement. Our goal is to have the best possible attendance for each student throughout the school year. Tardiness and early releases disrupt your child's education. Please help him/her avoid this problem. Students should be in their seats, ready to begin their instructional day by 8:35a.m. and stay all day until 2:35 p.m. All students who enter school after 8:35 a.m. must be signed in at the office by a parent. Appointments and other obligations should be scheduled after school hours if possible. If emergencies arise, you must sign out your child and present valid ID at the office. Any student who is signed out of school before 2:35 p.m. will be marked as unexcused early release in their attendance record. **Excessive unexcused tardies and/or early releases may result in revoking reassignment privileges for those students who live out of DCES boundaries.**

STUDENT UNIFORM DRESS CODE

DCES is a uniform school. Students are expected to demonstrate leadership by following our uniform dress code policy. A Deep Creek Leader will wear the following:

Deep Creek Elementary School Uniform Policy
School Board Approved 6/14/16

Everyday Wear

Neat fitting navy blue or khaki pants, shorts, skorts, jumpers or capri pants with no visible printing and the length is about to the knee or longer when standing. NO jeans of any color are permitted.

Collared knit button shirt, oxford shirt, or polo style dresses in blue, yellow, pink, black or white with no visible printing (except school logo). Skirts/dresses may be long or short sleeved. If a fleece sweater, or sweatshirt-type jacket/pullover is worn in the classroom

it must be a uniform color with no visible printing (except the school logo). Additional colors may be added periodically at the discretion of the administration.

Cool Weather

No restrictions on jackets or coats brought into the classroom. If a fleece sweater, or sweatshirt-type jacket/pullover is worn in the classroom it must be a uniform color with no visible printing (except the school logo).

Footwear

Closed-toe, rubber-soled shoes (i.e. tennis shoes) and solid color socks.

Non-Uniform Days

Non-uniform days will be announced at the discretion of the administration.

The Uniform Committee determined the potential benefits to school uniforms include the following:

- Improve student's success
- Encourage our students to concentrate on school work/assignments
- Help our students resist peer pressure related to expensive clothing
- Encourage school pride and spirit
- Help instill positive discipline
- Increase campus security

5511.01 - SCHOOL-BASED UNIFORM DRESS

CODE POLICY <http://www.neola.com/charlotte-fl/>

Please refer to the actual document reference above for the provisions afforded to families for: financial hardships, exemptions, transfers, noncompliance, special clothing, accessories, and new students.

UNIFORM CLOSET

Parent volunteers, business partners, and staff will establish a uniform closet to assist students and families. This is still a work in progress, but if you have uniforms that do not fit that you would like to donate or exchange, please stop by the front office for these exchanges. At the conclusion of the school year a uniform drive will take place during parent drop off in the front of the school. If you are interested in helping, please contact deepcreekpto@gmail.com.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT

Deep Creek Elementary School utilizes a Positive Behavior Support (PBIS) system, which is facilitated through the University of South Florida. The purpose

of PBIS is to build a school environment in which positive behavior is emphasized more than problem behavior. It is a proactive approach that includes teaching, reinforcement, and research based strategies that foster a positive learning community. All students and staff in the Deep Creek school community are expected to live by The Seven Habits developed by Stephen R. Covey which can be found on the front of this document. "Cub Cash" is distributed by staff to students who display positive leadership behavior and follow our school expectations. Students then use their Cub Cash to purchase rewards in the form of activities and privileges.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Components of our school plan include clearly stated expectations, logical consequences for inappropriate choices and recognition for students who demonstrate the following behaviors at school: **Ready, Responsible, and Respectful as well as the 7 Habits**

Students are expected to follow these expectations at all school programs and activities whether they take place during the school day, in the evenings, or on weekends.

The CCPS Code of Conduct outlines unacceptable behaviors with consequences. The Assistant Principal handles discipline issues which are referred to the office. Deep Creek will follow the discipline matrix in appropriate situations. The consequences which may result from a student choosing not to follow school rules may vary according to the frequency and severity of the offense. These consequences may include (but are not necessarily limited to): parent contact, counseling, behavior plan development, loss of privileges, time-out and out-of-school suspension. Teachers will notify parents immediately when student behavior becomes a problem. Cooperation between parents and teachers is imperative to successfully solving student behavior concerns.

BULLYING

Bullying is not tolerated. Bullying occurs when a person or group of people purposefully and repeatedly hurt, embarrass, or frighten another person and when there is an imbalance of power. Any child who is being bullied or is aware of bullying should report it to the classroom teacher, guidance counselor, school resource officer, or assistant principal. Anonymous bully reporting is also available through the school website. Students who witness bullying should do the following: refuse to join in, never fight the bully, get others to help, speak out against the bullying, distract the bully,

and make a report. The assistant principal conducts investigations related to bullying. Students who participate in bullying will face consequences as outlined in the CCPS Code of Student Conduct.

VOICE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS

All students and visitors on campus should be aware of our Voice Level Expectations:

- 4 **Outside/Recess Voice**
- 3 **Loud, Proud, Sharing Voice**
- 2 **Conversation Voice**
- 1 **Working Whisper**
- 0 **Transition/Test-Taking**

The expectation for traveling around campus is a Voice Level 0. The expectation for Dismissal Hallways is a Voice Level 1 so students can hear their name being called. The expectation for the Cafeteria line is Voice Level 1. The Media Center is a Voice Level 1 at all times. For questions about the Voice Level Expectation in any given area on campus, please ask the nearest adult.

AUTHORITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Florida school laws grant principals, assistant principals, teachers, bus drivers, and other school staff members authority for the control and discipline of students. Students are expected and required to follow the directives of all CCPS staff members, school volunteers and chaperones when on school board owned property or at other places where they are under the supervision of school board personnel.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

The classroom teacher selects a student leader each month for the “Leader of the Month” award. These award winners are presented a special award during an awards ceremony. Students exhibiting outstanding leadership behavior are recognized by school staff through leadership awards. DCES recognizes students for excellence in academics and behavior including outstanding grades, attendance, and character. Appropriate audience behavior is expected during all assemblies where our student leaders are often speakers!

WELLNESS POLICY

A *Leader In Me* school, Deep Creek Elementary strives hard to “Begin With the End in Mind”, and we believe in being “Proactive” when addressing health and wellness! We desire our students to be happy and healthy in their life choices because so many of the decisions they make now will affect their habits and lifestyle in the future. We welcome families to help us encourage positive, healthy alternatives to traditional

sweets and snacks and ask for your consideration when celebrating a birthday or special event:

- **Consider smaller portions (mini) rather than full size**
- **Fruit as a natural sweet treat (parfaits, kabobs, cups, etc.)**
- **Tokens such as stickers, pencils, coupons, etc. in place of food**
- **Present vegetables in a fun/creative manner (faces, characters, etc.)**
- **Offer fun physical activities, games, or music**
- **Make him/her feel special by providing a unique opportunity to lead**
- **Provide a creative outlet with a craft or art activity**

Please contact your child’s teacher in advance to make arrangements for celebrations and allow for planning that does not interrupt instructional time. We are happy to share in these important milestones and enjoy watching children make healthy, responsible choices!

Deep Creek Elementary School abides by the Charlotte County Public Schools Wellness Policy that can be located at <http://www.neola.com/charlotte-fl/search/policies/po8510.htm> In addition to healthy nutrition, we encourage regular physical activity, plenty of sleep, good personal hygiene, and of course “Sharpening the Saw” activities.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Students must get on and off the bus at their designated stops. PK, KG, and first grade students must be met at the bus by a responsible adult designated in advance in writing by the parent/guardian. **This notification will be required on a Transportation Escort Form. Kindergarten and First Grade students will not be released off the bus to anyone who is not listed on this Escort Form, including Fifth Grade siblings. In addition, proof of identification may be required.** Any such student not met in the afternoon will be returned to school where upon the parent will be contacted to pick up the child. **Kindergarten and First Grade students must be met within an arm’s distance form the school bus door. These students will not be released unless their escort and is in the direct radius of the door.** The driver has the same authority on the bus as the teacher in the classroom. Any behavior that is unacceptable in the classroom is unacceptable on the school bus. Students who misbehave on the bus may be referred to the assistant principal for disciplinary action. School bus rules have

been developed to promote the safety of all students who have been granted the privilege of riding a CCPS school bus. Failure to comply with these rules could result in the loss of riding privileges. Please refer to the CCPS Code of Student Conduct for further details regarding school bus safety rules. Often, students do not realize that the school bus is an extension of their school environment. DCES students have the opportunity to receive rewards for model bus behavior.

HOMEWORK

Well developed reading skills are the foundation for student success. Research shows the more a child reads and is read to the better reader that child becomes. As part of daily homework, students at all grade levels will be required to read (or be read to at PK, KG and early first grade levels) and log books which they have read. Look for further information from your child's teacher as to the number of minutes which your child will be required to read for homework each night. In addition to reading, written homework may be assigned to reinforce skills in math or other academic areas.

Homework Guidelines

Student's Responsibility:

- Record homework assignments on a daily basis in DCES student planner and carry assignments home in a designated folder
- Have a clear understanding of the assignment before leaving school
- Have all materials necessary to complete assignments at home
- Turn in assignments on or before due dates

Parents' Responsibility:

- Provide a place for completion of homework
- Supervise homework, but not do it for the student
- Allow time for student to complete homework
- Initial the student planner daily
- Communicate with teacher any difficulties or concerns about homework assignments signifying that all assignments have been completed and checked for 80% accuracy
- Provide basic materials necessary to complete assignments

For more information regarding homework, please contact your child's teacher.

TEXTBOOKS/MEDIA CENTER

Textbooks and library books are loaned to students for their use during the school year. Books are to be kept clean. They are expected to be returned in the same

condition in which they were checked out. Parents will be required to pay for lost or damaged books.

REPORTING PROGRESS TO PARENTS

Deep Creek Elementary School students receive four report cards during the school year. Students who are performing below grade level expectations also receive midterm reports. Student grades on individual assignments and classroom tests and other information are accessible through the FOCUS Parent Portal. You can access your child's account by clicking on the FOCUS button on the DCES website at <http://yourcharlotteschools.net/DCE>. If you need a copy of your confidential log-in and/or password please contact our registrar at 255-7535.

CCPS Grading Scale for Grades K-2

Grades K-2 Standards-Based Report Cards

- 4 Exceeds Standard
- 3 Meets Standard
- 2 Progressing Towards Standard
- 1 Beginning Demonstration of Standard
- NE Not Evaluated

Grades K-2 Specials

- O Outstanding
- S Satisfactory
- I Improvement Needed
- U Unsatisfactory

CCPS Grading Scale for Grades 3-5

Letter grades for reading, language arts, mathematics, science/health and social studies are as follows:

- A 90-100
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60-69
- F Below 60
- I Incomplete

PARENT—SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Communication must be two-way. Expect frequent information from Deep Creek concerning your child via student planners, email, phone calls and conferences. We do our best to answer e-mail and return phone calls within 24-48 hours. Student Planners will come home every day. Please review nightly to verify daily homework and behavior requirements. Initial and return to school daily. This is a communication tool for home and school. If at any time you need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

CONFERENCES

Two student-led conference events are scheduled in the Fall and Spring. This is a time for children to share their goals and academic growth based on hard data which

they have recorded. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers at any time to schedule additional conferences to find out more about their child's academic progress. Teachers may be reached by phone during Specials' times or their contract planning time from 7:35-8:05a.m. on school days. If you would like to schedule a conference, please contact your child's teacher via email or telephone at 255-7535.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Deep Creek Elementary has a full-time School Counselor. She provides counseling to individual students, small and large groups, and is available for consultation with parents. The School Counselor facilitates all 504 meetings. The principal and assistant principal are also available to assist students and parents in any area that can affect school performance. Please do not hesitate to email or call our School Counselor at 255-7535 ext. 212 if you have questions or concerns.

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

Every identified exceptional education student with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will be afforded a free, appropriate public education in compliance with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and PL 94-142 of 1975. For further information please contact the ESE Liaison at 255-7535.

CUSTODY

Your child's safety and welfare is our primary concern. **Please notify the office immediately if your child has custody restrictions. Official court documentation must be provided.** All court rulings are upheld in these matters.

NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF ANY CHANGES

Please notify the office as soon as possible regarding changes in information such as home address, e-mail address, phone number (home, work, or cell), emergency contacts, doctor, etc. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that we always have current information on your child in case of illness, accident or emergency. Each child attending Deep Creek Elementary School must have a current Emergency Card signed by a parent or guardian on file in the office. It is imperative that we maintain up-to-date information with each question answered completely. This includes vital information such as allergies and needed in case of illness, accidental injury, or an emergency at school. **When any information on the card changes during the school year, please contact our school office immediately with the new**

information at 255-7535.

STUDENT WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

Notify the office as soon as possible prior to the withdrawal date. Return all textbooks, library books, and school materials. Pay money due for lost or damaged instructional materials as well as any outstanding balance at Champs Café.

LOST AND FOUND

Please put your child's name on all items he/she brings to school, including clothing. Any lost articles are turned into the lost and found rack in the cafeteria. Periodically during the year, unclaimed items are donated to organizations who support needy families in the Deep Creek community. Please help your child keep track of his/her own personal items.

HEALTH CENTER

The Deep Creek Elementary School Health Program is coordinated by a nurse employed by CCPS. The aim of the school nurse and those who work with her, is to make our school a happier, healthier place. Parents desiring the school nurse to administer medication(s) to a child must provide the appropriate information and complete required medication forms. Please do not send medication to be taken by your child in the classroom. Only prescription medications will be administered by the school nurse. Students may not transport any medication to or from school on a CCPS bus. **The parent/guardian must transport the medication to or from the school.** The safety of all children is our top priority. With that in mind, no medication of any kind is to be anywhere in the school except in the nurse's office, where it is locked up. You can help by following these guidelines:

1. All medication must have a parent permission/physician's form filled out. Handwritten notes from home will not be accepted.
2. Any prescribed medication given longer than 3 days must have a physician's order form.
3. All medication must be hand-delivered, by an adult, to the nurse.
4. Medicines of any kind need to be in the original container showing the child's name, medication, dosage, time to be given, and the doctor who ordered the medicine. Parents should ask the pharmacy for an extra labeled container when purchasing medications.
5. No over-the-counter (non-prescription) or herbal medications will be given without a prescription from the physician, including sunblock. Apply sunblock before school when needed.

6. Notify the school health nurse of any change in your child's health, or of any existing disease or conditions.

Our Health Center provides for minor first aid only and is not a medical facility. Please do not send your child to school ill or injured, to be checked by the nurse. If your child is ill and should go home, we will call you. It is essential that we have a current phone number where you can be reached during the school day.

INSURANCE

Student accident insurance may be obtained at the beginning of the school year. Information packets will be sent home for parents to purchase insurance if they so desire. **Premium payments should be mailed directly to the insurance company rather than to school.** We strongly recommend that parents carefully consider purchasing this insurance as the School District **does not pay for student medical costs incurred due to an accident at school.**

CHAMPS CAFÉ – BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Studies have shown that a child who eats breakfast is more attentive in class, performs better on tests, and is a better-behaved student throughout the day. Breakfast is offered to all our students beginning at 7:45 a.m. every morning. Students refuel for learning at lunch time at Champ's Café where the certified food and nutrition services staff offer many healthy choices every day. The monthly menu can be found on the district website under "Champ's Café". Champ's Café offers free breakfast and free lunch to all students at our school due to a grant that was obtained during the 2016 school year. Eligible schools include the district's 10 elementary schools, Charlotte Harbor Center, Baker Head Start Center, Port Charlotte Middle, The Academy and Murdock Middle. These schools will each be offering all free meals to their students with no meal benefits applications needed from families. This opportunity to feed breakfast and lunch to our students for free arises from a USDA program in which schools qualify as a 'community' based on the number of economically needy students enrolled. Students eligible for free meals sometimes ask why they cannot just select a milk or a piece of fruit instead of having to take several foods to equal a "meal". In order for the district to receive the federal funds that support the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs at Champ's Café, specific meal components must be served that make a complete USDA, United States Department of Agriculture meal. No federal reimbursement to the program is provided when a student selects just one or two items that do not meet the "meal" standards, so students are charged a la carte prices for these items. For an eligible student to receive a free meal, the student must select a 3 foods, one of which must be one half cup of fruit or vegetable. Students are not required to eat a school breakfast or lunch at any school, but

are invited to obtain select three foods to supplement their packed lunch, as long as one of the items is a fruit or vegetable. For more information about Champ's Café and the CEP program, please visit yourcharlotteschools.net Student Breakfast served 45 minutes before school begins and includes entree of bread/grain and/or protein, juice or fruit and milk

Visiting adult breakfast: \$1.50

Elementary Student Lunch: several choices available each day includes entree of protein, fruit, two vegetables, bread/grain, milk

Visiting adult lunch \$3.40

Extras not included with school lunch can still be purchased for a fee. Track your child's meal account balance for free at PayPams.com and in FOCUS. Pay online with a credit or debit card (\$1.95 transaction fee) at PayPams.com Make checks payable to Champ's Cafe

VISITORS FOR LUNCH:

Parents are always welcome to eat lunch with their child in our cafeteria. Parents will eat with their child at the designated guest seating locations in the cafeteria or at the picnic tables. Remember - you must check-in at the office with your driver's license or state ID to obtain a visitor's badge. Only visitors on the emergency card may eat with students. In order to keep classroom disruptions to a minimum, parents will need to wait either in the main office, lobby, or cafeteria until their child's class has entered the cafeteria for lunch. We want meal times to be pleasant for all of us. Students and their visitors are expected to follow the three R's and 7 Habits expectations while enjoying breakfast and/or lunch.

THE FAMILY READING EXPERIENCE

The Family Reading Experience is a Book Check-Out that is open to all Deep Creek Elementary students and their families. The Family Reading Experience offers a wide variety of "leveled" books that are interesting and fun to read. Assistance is available to help you find the book that is "just right" for your reader, as well as guidance in helping your child read. The Family Reading Experience is open **every Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** For every three books your child checks out from the Family Center, he/she will receive a free "keeper book" to add to their home library.

Discrimination Statement:

The Charlotte County School Board does not discriminate in educational programs/activities, or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, or handicap. S.B.C.C.R. 4.30(1)

This handbook is a quick reference for some of the district policies, procedures and expectations specific to Deep Creek Elementary. You should access the full School Board Policy manual on the district website:

<http://yourcharlotteschools.net/district/policies.cfm>