

Dear Avaxat Community,

Welcome to another exciting year at Avaxat Elementary School. This year our enrollment is 740 students, including approximately 240 new students, and approximately 500 returning students. Regardless of whether you are new to Avaxat, or a returning student, we look forward to supporting your educational growth throughout the year.

This year our focus will be “Student Engagement in Relevant Learning.” This enhanced focus brings challenges we are ready to face. Knowing that “engagement” looks different in every classroom, teachers are adjusting and implementing new teaching strategies to foster engagement. Thinking Maps, Learning Centers, and use of technology will be seen more regularly in every classroom. Rigor and relevance will be at an all-time high and students will be challenged to grow their minds on a daily basis.

Along with our rejuvenated focus, we have implemented some changes or improvements which are outlined below. Some changes began on the first day of school and some occurred during the summer time. These improvements occurred for two reasons: 1. It is best for students and 2. Parents made recommendations in surveys taken last year.

Beautification Improvements:

- Entire school was repainted.
- New flooring installed in Multi-Purpose Room (MPR).
- Installation of concrete on Kindergarten playground to prevent gravel build up and reduce injury.
- Teachers created “flower barrels” which are placed outside of classrooms.
- Installed flag holders outside of each classroom. Teachers will display decorative flags.

Program Improvements:

- Daily start and end times have been moved up 30 minutes.
- Implementing “Later-Gator” Afterschool Programs. There will be 4 sessions throughout the year. Multiple courses will be offered during a session and will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 to 3:30.
- Eliminated daily flag line up. All students report directly to their rooms 5 minutes before school starts.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and announcements will be made over the intercom daily.
- Implementing Positive Behavior System Intervention (PBIS) “Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful”
- We have 8 teachers new to Avaxat this year!
- Implementing Common Core
- Re-starting the Watch D.O.G.S. program – Dads of Great Students.
- Implementing *Mindset*. All staff members have read the book *Mindset*, and we are implementing a growth mindset. The students are learning the power of “yet” and how their mind can grow every day. The book is highly recommended for parents to read too. We have a few extra copies and are willing to loan them out to parents.
- Implementing a Learning Center model to provide interventions to more students. Interventions will be provided by Title 1 Teachers, Special Education Teachers, and General Education teachers.
- Installed a 3rd Computer Lab to maintain pace with 21st Century Learning.

As you can see from the lists above, Avaxat has been very busy preparing for what will be an exciting year for all students. We are proud of Avaxat’s constant transformation, from its humble beginning in 1987, through our continuing journey into the 21st Century.

LEARN MORE, RESPECT ALL!