Magnolia School May 2021

#### Parent Newsletter

THANK YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR



MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL PAGE 2



FAREWELL/WELCOME PAGES 3-4

Help us say good-bye to our beloved colleagues and welcome our new Magnolia Family members



GRADUATES/EXITING STUDENTS PAGES 5-6

Enjoy the pictures of our wonderful students celebrating the close of a chapter in life





Learning Fun PAGES 7-8

Students at Tom West's Blueberry Farm learning about the vocational opportunities in blueberry farming and the science behind the blueberry.

Hello Parents, Guardians, and Team Magnolia!

Welcome to the "End of a Fantastic School Year!" We have made it to the finish line and I couldn't be more proud of how this school year went for us as a school, and as a team. Parents/Guardians, we could not have finished strong without you, thank you. No matter what life's circumstances threw at us, we handled it together with poise and grace. I truly didn't expect anything less from all of you. We supported each other through some rough times, which made all the difference in how we navigated this school year seamlessly.

Also, I must commend everyone on Friday's Graduation/Exit Ceremony which was an amazing way to wrap up this school year. Parent participation was outstanding! It was such a beautiful and fun filled celebration for our students and their families. Just when I thought that we couldn't outdo the Exit Ceremony in December 2020, the Graduation Planning Team rose to the occasion and set a new bar for excellence!!

Special thanks to Elizabeth Herold-Addeo, Ed. S. and Dr. Arlene Thomson for coordinating this awesome event; with the help of James "Trey" Stockard and Randy Whitley as our wonderful DJs, Raul Berrios, Roy Mallard, and Eli Matthew as our parking attendants, Delta Roosevelt and Whitney Allen as special assistants, Ms. Lucretia "Cricket" Rodriguez for the beautiful decorations, Deputy Jones for the spectacular light and sound show, and our extra hype crowd for making the celebration that much more exciting and memorable for our graduates. You guys are all Rock Stars!!

Latonia Green

Principal, Magnolia School



## Happy Retirement



The end of the school year often brings with it bitter sweet opportunities to say farewell to those who have reached the end of the road in this chapter of life, through retirement. Let me just say, that I am sooo jealous of them, and happy for them at the same time. Ms. Rodenberry, Ms. Conry, and Ms. Ais will be entering the wonderful world of retirement, where alarm clocks, schedules, and to do lists are a thing of the past!! Congratulations Ladies on a job well done. We have truly appreciated your service to students with disabilities and wish you well on the next phase of life's journey.

-L. Green







# Welcome New Staff



Jeanneth Mora is our new permanent substitute and has been working for OCPS since 2017. She was a Paraprofessional and tutor for students with Special Needs... particularly students with a social emotional diagnosis. Ms. Mora received her Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and Master's Degree in Project Management; yet, she loves working with students who need extra time to learn, make an extra effort to reach their goals, and need unconditional love. She reports that she lives in a "Special Needs World". Why? Her son has been diagnosed with ASD and ADHD, so she says she belongs at Magnolia and that it is a blessing to be here. Additionally, she is a single mom with a beautiful daughter and enjoys reading, workouts, and travel.

Brenton House, Jr. is our new behavior technician. He is also a licensed tennis professional who has been teaching tennis for 6 years, but has been playing professionally for 10.





### Graduating and...



















### Exiting Students































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Middle and High School students enjoyed the cool breeze as they talked about photosynthesis, pollinators, and parts and function of plants at Tom West Blueberry Farm. After their onsite lesson, students and staff picked blueberries and devoured blueberry cream popsicles.

Yum!









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Bridges students
enjoyed a guided
tour of the
blueberry farm
that exposed them
to the kind of jobs
available in this
type of farm
setting.
After the tour, the
students loved
picking and
sampling the juicy
berries. Yay!











