

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **January 16**
Martin Luther
King Holiday
- **February 20**
President's
Day Holiday
- **February 21**
Professional
Day for
Teachers
- **March 26-27**
Mini-Break
- **April 6**
Professional
Day for
Teachers
- **April 16-20**
Spring Break

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District Accreditation

What is District Accreditation?

Opelika City Schools is hosting a Quality Assurance Review team January 22-25, 2012. This team is a part of the AdvancED district accreditation process. AdvancED is an organization that "accredits" districts and schools across the country. Accreditation is a voluntary method of quality assurance developed more than 100 years ago by American universities and secondary schools, and designed primarily to distinguish schools adhering to a set of educational standards. Being "accredited" is important because it shows that our school system meets quality standards and embraces a systems approach to continuous improvement.

The five team members come from both within Alabama and outside of the state. These members will be in our Central Office on Monday, January 23 interviewing various employees and stakeholders, in our schools on Tuesday, January 24 visiting classrooms and interviewing various groups, and then back in our Central Office on Wednesday, January 25 to finish gathering information. The team will then present an exit report during a board meeting on that same day.

We are excited about the opportunity to "show off" all of the great things going on in the Opelika City School System!



Many of you have already heard from our new automated communication system, School Messenger. We are excited about the opportunities that this system brings in terms of providing our parents with important information. One way that School Messenger is used is to communicate to parents when their student is absent from school. Another use is for individual principals to inform their parents about upcoming events and important announcements. Of course, being able to provide parents with information about school closings during inclement weather is an extremely important function of School Messenger. However, getting information to you, the parent, is only effective if the correct information is on file. If you have not yet received any calls from School Messenger, please contact your child's school office to ensure that the correct information is on file. This is a new system, so feedback from you is very important. If there are ways you would like to see this system used, let your school know. We do not want to overuse the system so that you receive too many calls, but we also want to get you the information that you want and need. So, please let your principal know of any suggestions that you may have!

Title I Information

Parents, please be sure to visit the Parental Involvement section of the Opelika City Schools website. It offers numerous resources and topics ranging from math homework to fun family activities to advice on discipline. You can also access your school's Title I Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) to learn about the goals and strategies it plans to accomplish this school year, and remember—your input is valued and appreciated, so join your school's CIP committee today!

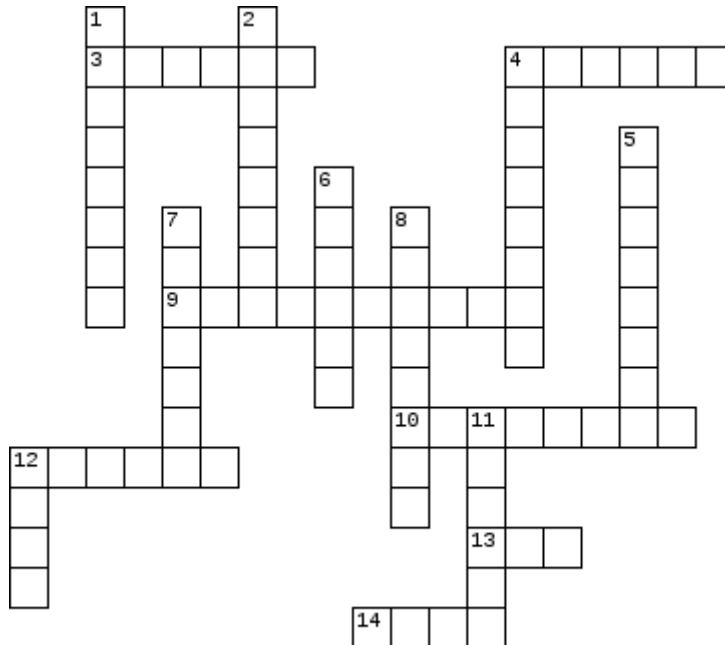
<http://www.opelikaschools.org/index.php/parent-involvement>

MONEY MATTERS\$

In our last issue you helped your child understand the value of money by tapping into discount sales at your local grocery store. Your child also practiced subtraction and addition using decimals when they found the difference between the original and discount prices, and when they added up all the savings.

While knowing how to calculate money transactions and using decimals is important for your child, so is being able to talk about finance. Teaching your children the language associated with money provides them with stronger background knowledge in that subject—use this Word Search puzzle to get started with financial vocabulary. *Look for the answers in the next issue of Classroom Connections.*

MONEY MATTERS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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WORDBANK

INTEREST
CREDIT
FEE
PURCHASE
DEBT
BANK
INVEST
DISCOUNT
INCOME
PROFIT
PERCENTAGE
BUDGET
EXPENSE
CONSUMER
EMPLOYEE
EMPLOYER

Across Clues

3. The amount of money earned for working
4. Buying a product or service now and paying later with an added fee
9. A part of 100
10. A worker
12. A plan for spending and saving money
13. The cost of a product or service
14. Money that you owe

Down Clues

1. Selling products for a lower price
2. Someone or an organization that hires people to work
4. A person who buys things for personal use
5. Buying a product or service
6. Using your money to make more money
7. Things you pay for with money; needs and wants
8. The cost of borrowing money
11. Money a business earns
12. A business that lends, saves, and invests your money

If you want to create your own Word Searches, click on www.classhelper.org. You can even generate your own crossword puzzles which is an easy way to help your children with word meanings and spelling. Better yet, have your children create these puzzles—it allows them use their critical thinking skills.

Opelika City Schools 300 Simmons Street Opelika, AL 36801

334.745.9700 phone 334.745-9706 fax

www.opelikaschools.org