



## **The School District of Osceola County, FL**

Terry Andrews, Superintendent

### **Press Release (English and Spanish)**

**February 20, 2012** - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dana Schafer, Director of Community Relations - Osceola School District -- 407-870-4007 or 407-908-8811 (cell)

### **Chestnut Elementary School for Science and Engineering Informational Meetings for the 2012/2013 School Year**

The 2012/2013 school year will be Chestnut Elementary's third year as a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Choice school, the only one at the elementary level in the county. Chestnut offers students the traditional curriculum with a unique emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and math. Students are immersed in rigorous problem-based and project-based learning, including investigations, virtual labs, simulations, and community expeditions. Students are highly engaged in hands-on learning activities with exciting opportunities for enrichment electives, which refine their special talents and interests.

Osceola County parents/guardians with children in Grades K-5 who have students attending one of the following elementary schools have the opportunity to choose Chestnut for their children to attend instead of their home-zoned school for the 2012/2013 school year: Bellalago Academy, Deerwood Elementary, Koa Elementary, Pleasant Hill Elementary, Poinciana Academy of Fine Arts, Reedy Creek Elementary, and Sunrise Elementary. Parents and students interested in Chestnut Elementary School for Science and Engineering are encouraged to attend one of the following informational meetings planned to share the program and its potential for your children. Parents and students will have an opportunity to tour the school, including the STEM Labs, and will be involved in various activities and challenges that students are involved in daily:

--**Wednesday, March 14, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the media center:** Visitors will be able to tour STEM labs, visit the Planetarium, complete engineering challenges, and visit the soil and hydroponic gardens.

--**Tuesday, March 27, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the media center:** Visitors will be able to tour STEM labs; conduct hands-on science experiments in the areas of chemistry, electricity, forensics, matter, and archaeology; and become photographers and news anchors in the TV Production area.

--**Thursday, April 5, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the media center:** Visitors will be able to tour STEM labs, hear the band and chorus perform, see the dance performance, be involved in hands-on technology with GPS hand-held devices, and participate in art activities.

Each Showcase will conclude at 7:00 p.m. There will also be an opportunity to speak to current Choice parents at the Parent Panel.

For more information, please contact Julie McClintock at Chestnut Elementary School for Science and Engineering at 407-870-4862.