

OSS Overview and Historical Highlights

Orlando Science Schools (OSS) is a tuition-free public charter school in Orange County with an emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education. Currently, OSS offers students in grades K – 12 a well-rounded curriculum aligned with Florida Sunshine State Standards and taught in an intimate learning environment (16:1 student-teacher ratio). Located in metro Orlando near the intersection of Princeton St. and John Young Parkway, OSS is the educational “home base” for more than 1,000 students throughout Central Florida, representing diverse cultural and economic backgrounds.

2008:

- Opens the public charter school under the Orange County Public School system
- Serves 106 sixth and seventh grade students and employs 11 staff members

2009:

- Offers grades six through eight with 22 staff members and a student body topping 250
- Becomes an “A” school, according to the State of Florida’s FCAT data
- Launches new initiatives, including Music After School program, Red Ribbon Week, Beautification Day, drama group and a school newspaper

2010:

- Admits first high school class
- Ninth grade students are offered AP courses
- Incoming sixth grade class is the largest to date with more than 425 students
- Expands to 30 employees
- Students compete in the National Science Olympiad for the first time

2011:

- Achieves accreditation by AdvancedED’s Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS-CASI)
- Grows to 487 students
- Attains the 10th highest middle and high school FCAT scores in the state, according to the Florida Department of Education

2012:

- Opens OSS Elementary with 232 children initially enrolled
- Total student population tops 700, with full classes in grades six through eleven
- The school year ends with more than 1,500 students on the waiting list to enroll

2013:

- OSS Science Olympiad Team won first place at their state competition with over 100 teams participating moving onto the national competition.
- National MathCounts Club Program Gold Level School (2012-2013 and 2013-2014)
- MathLeague Regional Winner for 4 consecutive years
- National Mu Alpha Theta Chapter since 2013
- 1st place in Florida MathLeague Elementary Contest
- Distinguished Honor School in AMC 8 Contest
- Representing Orange County at MathCounts State Competition (2012-2013 and 2013-2014)

- 2nd place in MathCounts Chapter Competition
- 8th place in MathCounts State Competition
- Several placements in Mu Alpha Theta competitions
- Top Earning School and Top Earning Student Nationwide in MathCounts Solve-A-Thon Program

2014:

- Orlando Science Elementary relocates to its own permanent campus to accommodate its ever expanding needs.
- Orlando Science Elementary expands its afterschool programs to include Florida Lego League, Odyssey of the Mind, Engineering Club, Competition Math, Duke TIP and Science Olympiad.
- Orlando Science Schools' *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) team 4013 Clockwork Mania won the Imagery Award, in the Archimedes Division, at the *FIRST* World Championship on April 26, 2014. Only the top 5% FRC teams in the world receive awards at the *FIRST* World Championship.
- OSS Drama Students are inducted into National Thespian Society
- Marks the graduation of its first senior class with a 99% of students graduating with honors and 100% accepted into college.