



Orange County Public Schools

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October 7th, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:


We are excited to let you know that your child's classroom will be participating in the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) screening. The DESSA is a strength-based rating scale measuring social and emotional skills that research has shown help students do well in school, at home, and in the community.

The goal of this program is for teachers and families to identify strengths and enhance a child's social and emotional skills that are essential for learning and academic success. Social skills include things like making and maintaining healthy relationships, working collaboratively with others, and resolving disagreements in positive ways. Emotional skills include children being able to recognize their own emotions and emotions of others and showing healthy self-control.

Your child's teacher will complete a short DESSA screening between October 18th and November 16th. Your child does not complete anything. Their teacher will answer a few short questions about student strengths they have observed in the classroom. Information from the screening will be used to help design classroom instruction and identify any intervention support needed to help all children strengthen existing skills and build new social and emotional competencies.

The personal information we gain from the DESSA will be protected in secure and responsible ways and used to provide a richer and more dynamic learning experience for your child.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact your child's school by 10/11/2021.



Principal Signature