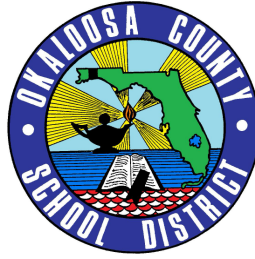


SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

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NEWS RELEASE

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Okaloosa County Schools Honor Patriot Day and 250 Years of America

On September 11, schools across the Okaloosa County School District paused to remember, honor, and reflect on the events of September 11, 2001—and to recognize the courage and sacrifice of those who serve our nation and communities. From classroom lessons and student artwork to JROTC ceremonies, pep rallies, football games, and moments of remembrance, students and staff throughout the district found meaningful ways to honor Patriot Day. At Niceville High School (NHS), Friday night's football game brought the school and community together for a special tribute. Before the game, students, families, and fans were reminded of the lives lost on September 11, 2001, the families forever changed that day, and the first responders who ran toward danger to protect others. The presentation also recognized the men and women of the U.S. military who have served—and continue to serve—in defense of our nation and its freedoms.

The evening also connected the remembrance of September 11 with another significant milestone: the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. NHS Principal Amy Meyer, members of her administration, and students received an American flag commemorating America 250. The flag was flown over the United States Capitol at the request of Congressman Jimmy Patronis and is accompanied by a certificate commemorating its flight. The presentation was part of a greater district-wide effort. At the direction of Superintendent Marcus Chambers, each Okaloosa County public school has received an American flag commemorating 250 years of our nation's history and the enduring ideals that unite us. The flags serve as more than a symbol of the anniversary. They remind students of the freedoms they enjoy, the sacrifices that made those freedoms possible, and the responsibility each generation carries to preserve and honor them.

While our students were not yet born when the events of September 11 occurred, their participation in these tributes demonstrates that a generation does not limit remembrance. Through the stories they learn, the ceremonies they participate in, and the people they see serving their communities, our students are learning what it means to honor those who came before them—and to recognize the responsibility that comes with being part of something larger than themselves. Across Okaloosa County, our schools continue to foster that understanding. On Patriot Day, our students remembered those who made the ultimate sacrifice. They honored those who serve. They also showed that the values of courage, service, resilience, and community remain alive in the next generation.



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