



Welcome Back!

We hope you had a relaxing summer! Teachers and staff are looking forward to a successful and productive year as we strive to fulfill our mission statement:

Creating a secure community that will instill in all students a desire for academic excellence, while fostering the development of caring, productive citizens.

One way to create a secure environment is by asking all visitors (parents, grandparents and family members) interested in visiting the school to have an approved School Access Form on file. This form can be found at <https://stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply/>. Once you complete the School Access Form it may take several weeks to be approved so it is important to plan ahead, especially at the start of the school year. Please remember that we must have this form on file in order to have you visit the campus. Forms are good for three years.

Teachers dedicate themselves to meeting each student at their point of academic need through the use of our district created curriculum maps to teach the Florida Standards in core academic subjects. In order to develop caring and productive citizens, students are provided direct instruction in social skills as well as Character Counts!, an educational framework for teaching universal values including Citizenship, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, Trustworthiness, and Respect.

Of course, we need your help for every South Woods student to be successful. The greatest factors to student success are directly related to parent/family involvement and student attendance. Involved parenting includes attending school events, volunteering, communicating regularly with your child's teacher, attending parent/teacher conferences, checking your child's work for completion and reading to or with your child every day. Regular attendance, including being on time to school every day, increases your child's success and prepares him or her with an essential skill desired by future employers. I have attached a very informative flyer on what you can do to foster regular attendance for your student.

We are looking forward to partnering with you to make this an outstanding year at South Woods!

Upcoming Events

August 10th

Students return to school

August 14th

PTO Board meeting 6pm – All are welcome

August 17th

Representatives from Girl Scouts visit students

September 4th

No school – Labor Day

September 5th

SAC meeting – 4:30pm

September 7th

Pastries for Parents (Grades 3-5)
7:00am-8:00am in the cafeteria
Sponsored by our PTO

September 11th

Representatives from Boy Scouts visit students

September 11th

PTO Board meeting 6pm – All are welcome

September 12th

Boy Scouts sign up – 6:00-7:30pm

September 12th

interim reports go home

September 14th

Health screenings for K, 1st, 3rd grades
Additional Dates:
August 21st-opt out form home
September 1st- opt out forms due back to school

Important Transportation Change

Transportation Services Waiver

Schools are no longer authorized to issue Bus Passes or instruct bus operators regarding bus ridership or stops. Instead, the Transportation Department is now responsible for issuing provisional Transportation Services Waivers for a specific period of time due to extenuating circumstances.

Parents may apply for this waiver via the St. Johns County School District webpage under the "Transportation Department" or click this link <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/transportation/ptwaiver/>
Waivers will not be available from individual schools.

Attached is a document outlining the St Johns County School District Provisional Transportation Waiver Program (PTWP). This information is also listed in the Student Code of Conduct. The 2017-2018 Code of Conduct is live on the district web page under the Families tab. Transportation waivers is listed on page 17.

Community Eligibility Provision

We are pleased to inform you that **Crookshank Elementary, Osceola Elementary, Webster Elementary** and **South Woods Elementary** will be implementing a new program called the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

Schools that participate in CEP are able to provide healthy breakfasts and lunches each day at no charge for **ALL** students enrolled in that CEP school regardless of income. There are no forms to complete for students enrolled at the CEP schools in order to receive meals at no charge.

Households are still responsible for any negative balances accrued during previous school years. For any children attending a non-participating school, but residing in the same household as children attending a CEP school, Parents or Guardians will still be required to submit a Free and Reduced School Meals Application or Direct Certification documentation.

Students of the CEP school that participate in other fee-based school sponsored programs (Extended Day, Football Camp, etc.) will be required to fill out a separate application to determine their eligibility, and submit it to the school. Determination of eligibility will be made by a school representative.

PTO News

Welcome back to a new school year! We have many exciting events planned and are looking forward to an outstanding year as we serve the students, staff and families at South Woods.

Contact PTO at: southwoodspto@gmail.com and like our Facebook page "South Woods Elementary PTO" to stay up to date with Events and Info for our school! Our "Events Calendar" is attached.

PTO Board Members

President- Allie Coleman
Vice President- Patti Greene
Treasurer- Michelle Losco
Co- Treasurer- Kelly Brown
Secretary- Bree Myers
Volunteer Coordinators- Jenny Butler and Jennie Koch

PTO meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of every month at 6:00pm. Our next meeting will be this Monday, August 14th at 6:00pm. Please plan on joining us!

Exciting News!

PTO is offering **FREE** membership this year. When you sign up you will receive a PTO Membership card with a coupon for a **FREE** cookie from Subway at every visit, good for the whole school year. The membership form is attached.

More Exciting News

Every student will be receiving 1 **FREE** spirit shirt thanks to donations. If an additional shirt or parent shirt is wanted, they are available for purchase through the PTO. Youth XS-Adult XL \$7, 2XL and 3XL \$9.

Many Thanks!

South Woods PTO would like to send out a big thank you to the business sponsors that have partnered up with us for the current school year!

Prim Parker Farms
Subway

We appreciate everything from all of sponsors! It's because of you that we are able to help our school do great things!

Important Reminders

Extended Day

There is still room in our Extended Day Program. Pick up an application in the Front Office. We have availability in the morning from 6:30am to 8:00am for \$10.00 a week and in the afternoon from 2:45pm to 6:00pm for \$52.50 a week. There are part-time options and a \$25 registration fee.

Student Planners

Please sign your student's planner each night.

Visiting South Woods

In order to be in our school while students are present you must have a completed School Access form on file.

You may use this link to fill out the School Access form: <https://stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply>

Attendance

Please make every effort to have your student to school on time every day. This is one way to support your child's success at school.

Transportation Changes (Extended day and Parent Pick-up)

Transportation changes must be received in the front office by 2:15pm (1:15pm on Wednesday). This will ensure a safe and timely dismissal for all students. Thank you for your cooperation!