

SOUTH COUNTY SENTINEL

CONNECTING STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITHIN THE SOUTH COUNTY GEO-ZONE



St. Johns County
School District

**St. Johns County
School District
Accountability & Intervention
Services**

**Sebastian Administrative
Annex**

3015 Lewis Speedway, Unit #3
St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 547-8922

Mission

The St. Johns County School District will inspire good character and a passion for lifelong learning in all students, creating educated and caring contributors to the world.

Vision

All students will choose a learning path that leads to a well-rounded graduate who demonstrates good character and leadership.

**South County
Geo-Zone Schools**

**W.D. Hartley
Elementary School**

Nikki Appelquist, Principal

**Otis A. Mason
Elementary School**

Monique Keaton, Principal

**South Woods
Elementary School**

Angela Rodgers, Principal

**Gamble Rogers
Middle School**

Brian Wilson, Principal

**Pedro Menendez
High School**

Clay Carmichael, Principal



A Message from Mr. King

Dear Parents and Students:

Although the start of the 2021-22 school year has not been without uncertainty, I hope your nightly dinner conversations are featuring more “cherries” than “pits” as we conclude our first quarter. Amidst staffing shortages and student quarantines, our schools are persevering to engage our students with creative and meaningful learning opportunities. Read on for examples of this in each of the schools in your family’s geozone. The goal of this newsletter is to share information and build relationships across our community, as we have much to learn from and contribute to each other, as parents, as teachers, and as citizens.

I want to bring your attention to a new resource in your community at both Webster Elementary School and South Woods Elementary School, the Flagler Health+ In-School Wellness Kiosk. Visits with a doctor at this telehealth kiosk are provided FREE of charge to anyone in our community, regardless of your affiliation with Webster or South Woods. As Community Partnership Schools, this service is being offered at Webster and South Woods as a way to strengthen the health and wellness of our community as a whole. Read on for more information in this newsletter about how to make an appointment for yourself or your family members.

Finally, parent engagement with your child’s learning is key to the academic success of every child. Research shows that the most accurate predictors of student achievement in school are not family income or social status, but the extent to which parents and guardians create a home environment that encourages learning, communicate high yet reasonable expectations for your child’s achievement, and become involved in your child’s education at school. This involvement can take many forms, from volunteering in the classroom to setting aside time each day to read together or just talk about what your child learned that day. Read on for ways to become involved in your child’s education, and be sure to mark your calendars to join us for upcoming parent workshops on conscious discipline which is being used in classrooms across our district with great success, as well as technology training for parents to successfully use HAC and Schoology.

As the year continues, I encourage you as parents and guardians to stay involved and stay positive, embracing changes as teachable moments in adaptability and resilience. If our department can better support you or your child, please reach out to me or to our Title I Parent and Community Liaison, Susan Connor at Susan.Connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us. Thank you for partnering with us to educate your children.

Sincerely,

Wayne King

Associate Superintendent, Accountability & Intervention Services

W.D. Hartley Elementary School



Supporting Our Hawks Mental Health and Wellness

Hartley is pleased to highlight the work of Dalene Kosobucki as our School Counselor! Her job is to help students achieve success by offering services to support academic achievement, social and emotional learning, and career development. Ms. Kosobucki works with every student at Hartley through classroom lessons; small group "Lunch Bunch"; individual counseling; crisis intervention; consultation with parents & teachers; coordination with outside agencies and therapists; and referrals for

community services. Hartley's School Counseling webpage (www-wdh.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolcounseling/) includes helpful links for families and students on topics like mindfulness and a link to a Virtual Calming Room. Parents are encouraged to contact Ms. Kosobucki directly with any questions or concerns at Dalene.Kosobucki@stjohns.k12.fl.us or (904) 547-8387 (voicemail only).

To further support social and emotional learning, we introduced a new positive behavior program this year called "Hartley Hawks are Helpful and Kind!" Each day, Hartley staff recognize students that are helpful during the day and reward them with a certificate. On Fridays, a student winner is drawn per grade level for a prize.

Parent Involvement Opportunities

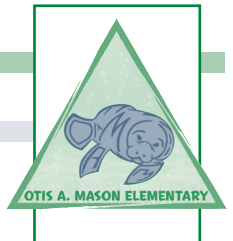
School Advisory Council (SAC)

Chaired by 3rd grade teacher Amber Kerly, the HES SAC meets virtually the first Tuesday of each month at 3:05 p.m. on Microsoft Teams. Meeting Dates: 12/1/20, 2/2/21, 3/2/21, 4/6/21, 5/4/21, and 6/1/21. Please email Amber Kerly at amber.kerly@stjohns.k12.fl.us for a link to join the meetings.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Hartley PTO members are committed to active involvement in the lives of their children at school. The PTO supports instructional initiatives and provides funding for enjoyable learning experiences. Please email PTO President Megan Register at PTOHartley@gmail.com for more information.

Otis A. Mason Elementary School



Bringing Back Kindness in a BIG Way!

Everyone in our school wants to wish a "Happy 93rd Birthday" to Mr. Otis A. Mason! We are so proud to celebrate our 30-year anniversary by setting a goal of 30 Days of Kindness within our school district community. In fact, our 2021-22 school year is being defined with positivity, kindness, and community. We know last school year was especially difficult and so we have tried to rekindle and reconnect with our sense of community safely. The Manatees

have been working hard sharing acts of kindness and raising money in our Raise Craze Fundraiser with a drive-thru donation event and Acts of Kindness bingo cards. Their dedication to being kind to one another is truly inspiring. Our teachers created an incredible Virtual Curriculum Night on Schoology for our parents and students, showing us again how dedicated they are to our families. Lastly, we were excited to celebrate our fathers and father figures by giving out free donut coupons on Dads Take Your Child to School Day. Reaching out to celebrate our families is a huge part of who we are. Keep up the good and necessary work of spreading kindness in our world, Manatees! Mr. Otis A. Mason is so very proud!

Pictured: Mr. Otis A. Mason at his 93rd birthday party



Parent Involvement Opportunities

School Advisory Council (SAC)

Chaired by 2nd grade teacher Mary Ziegenfuss, the OMES SAC meets on the second Tuesday of each month 3:30 p.m. in the Media Center. Please join SAC at OMES to advocate for our students! We would love to have your voice represented in our school.



Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Please join the OMES PTO! Email PTO President Casey Nickler at otismasonpto@gmail.com, check us out on the OMES website, or like us and join us on Facebook at OtisMasonPTO! PTO meetings are on the following Mondays at 3:30pm in the Media Center: November 15 and December 6.

South Woods Elementary School



Commit to Staying Drug Free during Red Ribbon Week

During October 25-29, SWES encouraged all our students to make the commitment to be drug-free. Students were invited to participate in every themed day:

- Mon, Oct 25 Rally Against Drugs: Wear Red to Support Red Ribbon Week
- Tue, Oct 26 Sock it to Drugs: Wear Crazy Socks!
- Wed, Oct 27 Mustache you to be Drug Free: Mustaches for All!
- Thu, Oct 28 Lei off Drugs: Wear a Hawaiian Shirt
- Fri, Oct 29 Show Good Character: Wear a Storybook Character Costume

Our 4th and 5th grade students also took part in an Anti-Drug Program offered by the National Guard, Night Vision. Captain Jerris and Staff Sargent Cook provided an interactive and informative experience to encourage our students to stay drug free.

Parent Involvement Opportunities

School Advisory Council (SAC)

Chaired by Pre-K teacher Emma Dorschel, the South Woods SAC meets virtually on the third Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. on Microsoft Teams. Please email Emma.Dorschel@stjohns.k12.fl.us for a link to join the meetings.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

The South Woods PTO facilitates and builds the relationship between the school and the community by raising funds and sponsoring fun and engaging activities and programs for students and families, and supporting teacher appreciation. PTO meetings are held in person at SWES on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:00pm. Please email CPS Director Chris Stone at christopher.stone@chsfl.org for more information and to get involved.



A UCF-Certified Community Partnership School


South Woods Elementary, a Community Partnership School, has become the first school in Northeast Florida to become a UCF-Certified Community Partnership School. The Community Partnership Schools™ model at South Woods is a long-term commitment among Children’s Home Society of Florida, Flagler Health+, St. Johns County School District and St. Johns River State College, bringing together high-quality academics, health care, counseling, mentoring and more — right on-site at the school where students and families are comfortable. Earning the title of UCF-Certified Community Partnership School is an honor that represents years of work focused on implementing the model and changing the trajectory of students’ lives.



Gamble Rogers Middle School



AVID: Advancement Via Individual Determination

 AVID is going strong this year at Gamble Rogers! We have more students enrolled in our program than ever. For one class period each day, students learn organizational and study skills, work to increase critical thinking, ask probing questions, get academic help from peers and college tutors, and participate

Decades of College Dreams
in enrichment and motivational activities that make college seem attainable. Students also work on research skills, reading and writing strategies, AVID learning activities, math skills, and team building exercises. Our AVID teachers include Kelsey Baldwin, who has been a teacher at GRMS since 2016 and is certified in Business Education, Journalism, and English 6-12; and Nicole Bohanan, who has been a teacher at GRMS since 2012 and is certified in Elementary Education K-6, Mathematics 5-9, Social Studies 5-9, and holds Reading and ESOL Endorsements. The mission of the AVID program is close the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college and career readiness and success in a global society.

Parent Involvement Opportunities

School Advisory Council (SAC)

Chaired by 7th grade civics teacher Tracy Melgard, SAC meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 3:00pm in the Media Center and virtually on Microsoft Teams. Please check the school website or email Tracy. Melgard@stjohns.k12.fl.us for a link to join our SAC meetings.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

The GRMS PTO raises funds for student scholarships (8th grade DC Trip, Marine Science Camp, etc.), classrooms, elective projects, staff professional development, fun and educational family events, and much more! Your 2021-22 PTO Board includes:

- President Dana Norris (d.cardenas.norris@gmail.com)
- VP Angelic Ravizza (amoreno5001@yahoo.com)
- Secretary Open Position
- Treasurer Theresa Guernon (shelbymarie71@yahoo.com)
- Volunteer Coordinator ... Samantha LaBeach (crownroxy@yahoo.com)

Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month at 5:00pm in the Media Center and on MS Teams. Please join us!

Pedro Menendez High School

Begin Your Career in a PMHS Program of Choice

Pedro Menendez High School offers four specialized Career Academies ("Programs of Choice") as well as the International Baccalaureate (IB) program to give students an opportunity to gain skills and explore potential career paths after graduation.

- **Flagler Hospital Academy of Medical and Health Careers** –Students take courses such as Allied Health Assisting, Emergency Medical Responder, and EKG Technician and complete clinical experiences at Flagler Hospital to prepare for a future career in the healthcare industry.
- **FMAEF Academy of Architecture and Building Sciences** - In partnership with the Florida Masonry Apprenticeship and Education Foundation and the St. Johns Builder's Council, this Academy focuses on providing skills and experience necessary to attain entry-level jobs in Architectural Drafting or Building Construction Technology.
- **Vystar Academy of Business and Finance** - This Academy provides students with a rigorous business program that includes relevant concepts and skills that are transferable to postsecondary education and/or the workplace.
- **IB: International Baccalaureate** - Now in its 11th year at PMHS, the IB program offers an academically challenging and balanced program of education with final examinations that prepare students for success at university and life beyond. For more information, please visit <https://www-pmhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ib/>.



The PMHS student experience is not all academics!

Pictured above are Senior Juan Holbrook (Homecoming King 2021) and Rosie Carmichael (Junior Class President) playing Dr. Carmichael in 2021 Class Homecoming Skits.

Parent Involvement Opportunities

Chaired by Art Teacher Danielle Waldrop, the PMHS SAC meets virtually on the third Thursday of each month at 8:00am. Please email Mary.Waldrop@stjohns.k12.fl.us for a link to join the meetings.

District News & Events

Parents As Partners Workshop Series

Parents and guardians are invited to join us for these FREE events sponsored by the SJCS Department of Accountability & Intervention Services. Attendance is limited so mark your calendars and RSVP today to guarantee your spot! Workshops in 2021 will be held virtually via Zoom; we are hoping to hold workshops planned for 2022 in person.

Technology 101: Digital Literacy for Parents

Date: Monday, November 15, 2021

Time: 7:00-7:45pm

Location: Virtually via Zoom

RSVP: Susan.Connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us by 11/12/21

With paper report cards a thing of the past, parents must learn how to navigate the technology tools and programs being used by the district for progress monitoring and reporting, as well as digital learning resources available to students for use in the classroom and at home. This session will provide an overview of Home Access Center (HAC), Schoology (used in grades 6-12), online textbooks and other digital learning tools available to students. Whether you are new to these tools or an old pro, you will pick up tips to help your child track his or her academic progress.

Conscious Discipline: A More Positive & Peaceful Approach to Parenting!

Date: Thursday, January 27, 2022

Time: 5:30-7:00pm

Location: FCTC Building C, 2980 Collins Avenue, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Dinner and Childcare (ages 3-10) provided!

RSVP: Susan.Connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us by 1/21/22

Early Childhood Services Family Engagement Opportunities

After going virtual last year, the ECS Department is pleased to announce opportunities to bring our Head Start and PreK families back together for learning and camaraderie! Please mark your calendars for the following:

Monday FunDay

Dates: Beginning Monday, November 8 and continuing every Monday that school is in session

Time: 5:30-6:30pm

Location: FCTC Building E, 2980 Collins Avenue, St. Augustine

RSVP: Susan.Connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us by the Friday before you plan to attend

All Head Start families are invited to join us for dinner and a fun learning activity for children and adults on topics such as books and reading, cooking, science, and yoga.

PreK Parent Café

Dates: Thursday, November 4 and Thursday, December 2

Time: 12:00-1:00pm

Location: Virtual via Zoom

All PreK parents (including Head Start) are invited to join us to learn from our ECS teachers about Conscious Discipline and other programs being used inside the classroom that can also be used successfully at home. Our goal is to return to hosting an in-person Parent Café monthly at each school starting in 2022.

District News & Events

ESOL/ELL Volunteer Mentors Needed

Did you know the St. Johns County School District currently enrolls over 500 students who speak over 60 different languages as their primary language? Every school in our district includes English Language Learner (ELL) students, many of whom have just moved to St. Johns County from their native countries. If you speak a language other than English OR if you just want to help support an immigrant student as they assimilate to this country, we invite you to join us as a volunteer mentor! Mentors typically meet with students during their lunch period once a week, and a commitment of at least one semester is preferred. Mentor training and activities will also be provided. Students at all grade levels benefit from having a mentor, so we will work with you to pair you with the right student. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact ESOL/ELL School Counselor Ellen Dail at Ellen.Dail@stjohns.k12.fl.us or (904) 547-8927. Gracias! Спасибо!

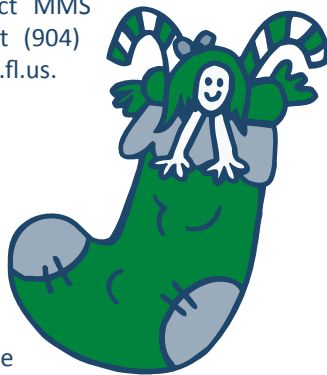
Help for the Holidays!

2nd Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at Murray Middle School

MMS is pleased to invite all families in the district to sign up to receive a FREE family style meal on Thanksgiving Day! Meals will be available for pick-up curbside starting at 10:00am on Thursday, November 25. Families must RSVP by November 5 at <https://tinyurl.com/rjmmsthanksgiving2021>. MMS also welcomes donations to sponsor a family this Thanksgiving! \$50 feeds a family of 4 but donations of any amount are welcomed. Make checks payable to "RJ Murray Middle School" and mail to 150 N. Holmes Blvd, St. Augustine, FL 32084. For more information, please contact MMS Guidance Counselor Carly Gordon at (904) 547-8476 or carly.gordon@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

Catholic Charities Hope for the Holidays Program

Families in need of Christmas assistance are invited to apply through the Catholic Charities Hope for the Holidays program. Applications are accepted Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-12pm and 1-3pm at the Catholic Charities office, 525 S.R. 16, Suite 112, St. Augustine, FL 32084. Please bring a Photo ID, proof of St. Johns County residency, original social security cards for parent(s) and children, original birth certificates for children, and a list of gift ideas for all family members. For more information, please call (904) 829-6300.



Partner Spotlights

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Flagler Health+
CARE CONNECT

Flagler Health+ has partnered with our school district to provide a medical telehealth kiosk at The Webster School and South Woods Elementary School to serve all members of our community FREE of charge. This kiosk is part of an initiative through Care Connect+, a community alliance that connects people in need with available services in a coordinated way. In addition to medical and dental care, services include access to local food banks, homeless prevention services, and assistance with prescriptions, rent, utilities, transportation and much more. To sign up for services through Care Connect+, please visit www.careconnectplus.com or call (904) 819-3070. To make a FREE appointment at the telehealth kiosk at Webster or South Woods, you may also contact Wellness Coordinator Brigid Barrett directly at Brigid.Barrett@flaglerhealth.org or (904) 417-5144. Flagler Health+ looks forward to meeting your family's medical needs!



Founded in 2008, Hugs Across the County is an all-volunteer 501-c-3 nonprofit whose mission is to raise awareness about student poverty right here in our own community. Hugs raises funds and provides food, clothing, and books directly to students, as well as volunteers and mentors through a middle school Girls Empowerment Program. Hugs welcomes new volunteers and donations

of all kinds; sign up for their newsletter at www.stjohnshugs.org to learn more about specific needs and volunteer opportunities.

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St. Augustine, FL 32084

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CONNECTING STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITHIN THE SOUTH COUNTY GEO-ZONE

6 Partner Spotlights

Family Digital Literacy Program



INK! was one of only 6 grantees in the state of Florida to receive funding to assist families with understanding and using the technology tools provided by the school district to help our students succeed in the classroom. INK! staff will work with individual families on getting access to and using Schoology, Home Access Center, online textbooks and other digital learning tools. A

limited number of computers and internet hot spots will be distributed to aid families who do not currently have one or both of those items for their students to use in the home. For more information, please call INK! Digital Literacy Specialist Nena Barrett at (904) 530-0830 or email lla.Barrett@stjohns.k12.fl.us.



Thanks for your Support!

Many thanks to the following businesses who have donated coupons and/or goods and services to support parent and family engagement efforts like "Dads Take Your Child to School Day" on September 22, 2021 or to support student learning with rewards and incentives.

DUNKIN' DONUTS

- 171 San Marco Avenue
- 2435 SR 207
- 890 Santa Maria Blvd

THE DONUT EXPERIMENT

- 117 King Street

FICTION DONUTS

- 1835 US Highway 1 South

CHICK-FIL-A

- 1752 US Highway 1 South
- 2244 S.R. 16 West



SJCSD Master Calendar 2021-22

Nov 11	Veterans Day: Student/Teacher Holiday
Nov 24-26	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 21.....	2nd Quarter Ends
Dec 22-Jan 4	Winter Break
Jan 5	Teacher Planning Day/Student Holiday
Jan 6	Classes Resume for Students
Jan 17	MLK Day: Student/Teacher Holiday
Jan 19	2nd Quarter Report Cards Issued
Feb 7	Teacher Inservice Day/Student Holiday
Feb 21.....	Presidents Day: Student/Teacher Holiday
Mar 10.....	3rd Quarter Ends
Mar 11.....	Teacher Planning Day/Student Holiday
Mar 14-18.....	Spring Break
Mar 29.....	3rd Quarter Report Cards Issued
Apr 15, 18.....	Student/Teacher Holiday
May 30.....	Memorial Day: Student/Teacher Holiday
Jun 2	Last Day for Students
Jun 3	Last Day for Teachers