



# Word from the Woods



Mrs. Rodgers, Principal

<https://www-swe.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>

## Eagle Families,

We are just one week away from the first day of school, and we are excited to welcome our Eagles back for another incredible year!

This year's theme, **"Soaring to New Heights,"** reflects our commitment to helping every student reach their full potential while building on past successes and achieving new heights academically, socially, and emotionally.

We are grateful for your partnership and know that, together, we will make this school year one filled with growth, achievement, and memorable experiences.

Thank you for being an important part of our South Woods Elementary family. We are ready to **SOAR!**

Warmly,  
*Angie Rodgers*

## August



\*We welcome car riders & bus students inside at 8:15am

- 8-5 Teacher Assignment Call Made & Email Sent
- 8-7 **SWE Meet the Teacher Event**
  - Last Name **A-J** 12:00-12:45
  - Last Name **K-R** 12:45-1:30
  - Last Name **S-Z** 1:30-2:15
- 8-10 **First Day of 25-26 School Year!** 8:40-3:00
  - PreK & Grades 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Kindergarten Staggered Start- **Group 1 Only**
- 8-11 **Second Day of 25-26 School Year!** 8:40-3:00
  - Kindergarten Staggered Start- **Group 2 Only**
- 8-12 Early Dismissal 2:00
- 8-14 **ALL Kindergarten Students Start**  
**Boo Hoo & Yahoo Breakfast** for KG Parents 8:15-9:00
- 8-18 School Advisory Council (SAC) 3:45  
Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) 4:30
- 8-25 Family Learning Launch- Homework, HAC, Assessments
- 8-28 PTO Fundraiser Kick Off- **Buddy-a-Thon**
- 8-31 PBIS Attendance Rewards- *Ice Pops*

## Community Eligibility Provision

SWE cafeteria serves breakfast & lunch to students at no cost.

Breakfast & Lunch Menus can be found at:

<https://schools.mealviewer.com/school/SouthWoodsElementary>

## Verification of Residence

Don't delay your student's teacher assignment! Complete your Verification of Residence (VOR) if you have not already, it has to be done EACH school year. If your living situation has changed, call Mrs. Sherman at 904-547-8618 to see if you still need one. A copy of the form can be found here: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/student/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2023/01/Verification-of-Residence-revised-1-1-2023.pdf> or email Mrs. Sherman for one at [jen.sherman@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:jen.sherman@stjohns.k12.fl.us) or come into South Woods to get one. Failure to have this form on file for the upcoming school may result in not being able to attend on our first day of school.



## RETURN SUMMER READING LOGS BY AUGUST 21ST FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A LAPTOP!

We Pledge to **SOAR**  
with good character:

We will be:  
**S**afe  
**O**rganized  
**A**ccountable  
**R**espectful



## CHARACTER COUNTS!



ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## South Woods Elementary Medication Policy



Medications may be administered during school hours. Before any medication can be given, a Medication Administration Form must be completed and signed by both the parent/guardian and the prescribing physician. This requirement applies to all medications, including over-the-counter medications and cough drops.

The Medication Administration Form is available on the South Woods website or in the school clinic.

An adult must bring all medications to the school. Prescription medications must be provided in their original, labeled prescription container. Over-the-counter medications must be in their original, unopened packaging.

Please note that medications are not stocked in the clinic; all medications must be supplied by the parent/guardian.

## School Supply Lists

Grade level supply lists were sent home at the end of the school year and are listed on our school website. Supplies may be dropped off during our "Meet the Teacher" event on Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.

## NEW Happenings

### Bus Schedules

Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, all student pick-up and drop-off times and locations will be provided exclusively through BusPlanner and will no longer be available on Home Access Center (HAC).

Families must log in to the [BusPlanner website](#) or download the [Chipmunk app](#) to ensure you are able to access the 2026-2027 bus schedule when released the last week of July.

### School Clubs

SWE offers a variety of activities to participate in before & after school. They include robotics, art, dance, soccer, running, jumping rope, chess, basketball, gardening, cheerleading, and more. This year, our clubs will be run through our extended day program. To participate, you must pay the deposit fee & register your child in our Eagle Care program.

\*Physicals are required for Basketball & Cheerleading.



# MEET THE TEACHER

## AUGUST 7, 2026

**LAST NAME A-J: 12:00PM-12:45PM**

**LAST NAME K-R: 12:45PM-1:30PM**

**LAST NAME S-Z: 1:30PM-2:15PM**

COME MEET YOUR TEACHER., VISIT YOUR  
CLASSROOM, DROP OFF SCHOOL SUPPLIES, AND  
LEARN ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE THIS  
SCHOOL YEAR.

**Extended Day Program:**  
**Eagle Care**

**Family Engagement  
Events**

**Enrichment Programs:**  
**20 Clubs or Teams**

**Community Partners:**  
**Children's Home Society**  
**UF Health**

**Parent Involvement:**  
**PTO & SAC**

**St. Johns River  
Community College**





The PTO (Parent-Teacher Organization) is a group of parents, guardians, and school staff who collaborate to enhance the educational experience of every student. We organize events, raise funds, support teachers, and help build a stronger school community. No matter your schedule or skills, there's a place for YOU in the PTO! Get involved, gain insight into school plans, contribute to projects, and share your voice to make a difference at South Woods!

**MEMBERSHIP DUES (PAY BY CASH, CHECK OR QR CODE):**

- ☐ \$10.00 Family Membership  
☐ Tax-deductible donation: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Total Due: \_\_\_\_\_



**PAY ONLINE**

**REGISTRATION**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Family Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Family Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in volunteering? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Interested in attending meetings? ☐ Yes ☐ No

We are looking for PTO Officers! Are you interested? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments or Questions: \_\_\_\_\_

Return form to child's teacher, the SWE front desk, or [Lori.Kosier@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Lori.Kosier@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

## NEW VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL ACCESS

We have a new volunteer application for school access: <https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/OTY00Tplbi1VUw==>. A "button" for this site, as well as a QR Code for use on a smartphone, is now located on the St. Johns County School District Volunteer Services Website under Volunteer Services. This volunteer application button, the QR Code, and a short message to applicants, will be placed on the front page of each school's website soon.

Important Note – File information from KeepnTrack (the former visitor/volunteer management system) has been exported into Raptor (the new system), so if a person had access, they do not need to complete another application.

The SJCS D Master Calendar for 2026-27 school year is now available online at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>. This is a great way to plan for holidays and vacations.

### SWE Digital Marquee

Along with communicating current information, our digital marquee will be used to celebrate students and staff. Information is coming soon from our PTO on ways to participate.

## SWE Parent & Student Handbook 2026-2027

Please find a copy attached to this Parent Square message and soon to be on our website

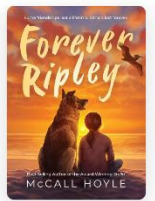
## SSYRA 2026-2027 Grade 3-5



The Bug Bandits  
Jenni L. Walsh



Curveball  
Pablo Cartaya



Forever Ripley  
McCall Hoyle



The Last Resort  
Erin Entrada Kelly



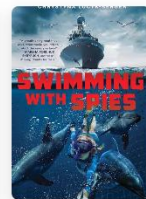
The Lion of Lark-Hayes Manor  
Aubrey Hartman



Misfit Mansion  
Kay Davault



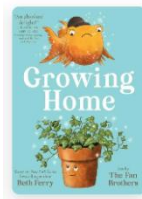
The Sherlock Society  
James Ponti



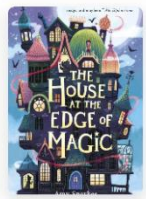
Swimming with Spies  
Chrystyna Lucyk-Berger



Wrath of the Rain God  
Karla Arenas Valenti



Growing Home  
Beth Ferry



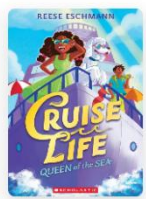
The House at the Edge of Magic  
Amy Sparkes



J vs. K  
Kwame Alexander & Jerry Craft



Punycorn  
Andi Watson

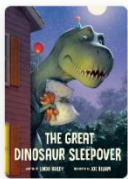


Queen of the Sea  
Reese Eschmann



Reasons to Look at the Night Sky  
Danielle Daniel

## SSYRA 2026-2027 K-2



The Great Dinosaur Sleepover  
Linda Bailey



Bored Panda  
Mike Bender



There's Something Odd About the Babysitter  
Elayne Crain



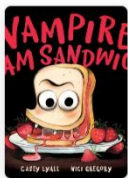
Oh Deer  
Phaea Crede



The Bakery Dragon  
Devin Elle Kurtz



Zombie and Brain Are Friends  
Stephanie V. W. Lucianovic



Vampire Jam Sandwich  
Casey Lyall



No More Gnomes  
Beth Mills



Don't Trust Fish  
Neil Sharpson



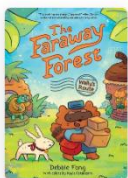
Anonymoose  
Shawna J.C. Tenney



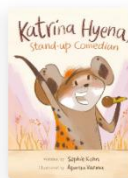
Box Tales: Grow Strawberries Grow!  
James Burks



Fairy Scout Friends: No Rain, No Rainbows  
Hannah Fay



The Faraway Forest



Katrina Hyena, Stand



Max, a Little Axolotl

## **PARENT DROP OFF AND PICK-UP**

Vehicles must enter the Parent Pick-Up/Drop Off gates (east parking lot) from Cowpen Branch Road. You can enter Cowpen Branch Road from CR 207 to safely get at the end of the line.

Our parent drop-off and pick-up gate opens at 6:00 AM, but there is NO student supervision before 8:15 AM (unless they are enrolled in our Eagle Care program). Car riders should NEVER be dropped off on the bus loop side (west parking lot) during arrival and/or dismissal.

### **Morning Parent Drop Off (8:15 AM-8:40 AM)**

From 8:15 AM until 8:40 AM, please drive up to the curb and unload your child from the passenger side of the car, nearest to the curb. To keep our car line moving, please make sure your child is ready to exit the vehicle when you pull up. They should be dressed and have their belongings in hand. If last-minute things need to be done before the student leaves the vehicle OR if you need to visit the office, park and walk your child across the crosswalk (the white lines). Students will enter the side door. ***Parents must use the main entrance and check in with the office when entering the building.***

### **If Late (after 8:40 AM)**

Park in the parent pick-up lot and escort your child into the office.

### **Afternoon Parent Pick-Up (3:00 PM-3:20 PM)**

At the beginning of the school year, parents/guardians will be given two parent pick-up cards. Please make sure to place the card on the right passenger side of the dashboard and keep it there until your child has entered the vehicle. As you drive into the parent pick-up lot, an adult will call for your child. For safety reasons, we will load students from the curb directly to your vehicle. ***Do not park and walk over to get your child. If you get out of your car, you will need to go to the office for check-out or get back in the parent pick-up line.*** If you do not have your card, you will be asked to park and go to the front office to verify your identity and permission to pick up the student.

All cars must line up in the lane closest to the sidewalk. All adults should remain in their vehicles while in line. If your child does not come out quickly, an adult will ask you to move your vehicle up to the front of the line. This will keep the line progressing. If someone else is picking up your children, you must either give them your parent pick-up card to display or write a note for them to be picked up in the front office. Our goal is to ensure the safety of the children and prevent them from being picked up by an unauthorized person.

***Do not use your cell phone or digital device while dropping off or picking up your child. Be careful when exiting the school campus.*** Your cooperation is greatly appreciated in helping create a safe environment.

## **EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM- EAGLE CARE**

Eagle Care is an extended day program designed to provide a nurturing, safe, and positive environment for students that need to arrive before or stay after school's set times. Age-appropriate activities such as arts & crafts, homework & reading, and outside recess are included. Students enrolled in our Eagle Care program may participate in the SWE before & after school clubs. Our programming hours are from 6:30-8:15 AM (morning care) and until 6:00 PM (afternoon care).