

August
11, 2017

The Eagle Eye

Sebastian Middle School

Build your Mind, Explore your World, Create your Future



Message from the King.....

Firstly, I wanted to say how excited we are that students are returning. The summer provided us an opportunity to recharge and analyze data, but ultimately our craft is to engage with students, hence, the excitement to be reopening.

We have 15 new faculty members to welcome to our school as we expand our STEAM initiative this year. The creativity and training of our staff supports our goal to provide ways to deepen our approach. The idea that cross curricular activities will help students learn how to think is driving our collaboration.

This also leads us to deepen the integration of writing into our lessons and to help students reflect on their writing samples. Our character education program will focus on rewarding positive behaviors and reteaching behaviors when needed. We will implement our Positive Behavior Support System using LiveSchool which students will be exposed to within the first few weeks of school. Through our community partnerships, we are to provide opportunities for our students to reveal character and enjoy rewards. More info on this soon.

Finally, we have modified our Wednesday schedule to include a modified block (A/B) and a Power Hour or Eagle Hour. There is more information in this publication about our vision for Eagle Hour. Ultimately, we are looking at students to have more ownership and choice. The modified block is designed to give students and teachers an opportunity to engage with Project Based Learning (PBL).

Looking forward to a new year-

Wayne King, Principal
Sebastian Middle School

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Wayne King, Principal
Angela Hensley, Asst. Principal

Jay Barbour, Instructional Literacy Coach
Kelvin Pruitt, Dean of Students

Leanne Fortune, Guidance Grade 8th / 7th A-L
Angela Fusco, Guidance Grade 6th / 7th M-Z

Important Dates:

- **August 17 & 21, 2017**
Volleyball try-outs
2:00pm 
- **August 29th, 2017**
SAC/PTO Kick Off
5:30pm Multipurpose Room
- **August 30th, 2017**
Curriculum Chat with Parents
8:30am— 9:30am / MPR
Topic: Schoology
- **September 11th, 2017**
Begin Charleston Wrap Fundraiser
6th Grade Open House
6:00pm—7:30pm
- **September 18th, 2017**
7th & 8th Grade Open House
6:00am—7:30pm
8:30—9:30am MPR



SMS Parent Liaison

We are pleased to announce that Susan Connor has joined the SMS staff in the new part-time position of Parent Liaison. In this role, Ms. Connor will work to strengthen communications with parents and guardians at SMS; provide support to new SMS families as they adjust to middle school; establish relationships with families at our feeder elementary schools to assist in decision-making and transitioning to middle school; and build partnerships between SMS and other organizations in our community.

Ms. Connor can be reached at (904) 547-3841 or susan.connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us and welcomes your questions and requests!

Guidance Corner

Welcome back parents, guardians and students!

We hope you have had a relaxing summer and are ready to get back into the swing of things! Here are a few changes in the guidance department:

- Guidance secretary: Mrs. Linda Marimpietri
- Leanne Fortune: 8th grade counselor and 7th grade counselor for students with last names A-L (Leanne.Fortune@stjohns.k12.fl.us)
- Angela Fusco: 6th grade counselor and 7th grade counselor for students with last names M-Z (Angela.Fusco@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

WEB Leaders will be available in the guidance department to assist with basic student needs and to welcome our new students. They will also be trained in Peer Mediation to assist with student concerns and in mentoring our 6th grade students.



Way to WOW us!

Please join us as we congratulate Sebastian's own Marion Boyd for participating in the Special Olympics State Games in Orlando, FL this summer. Marion won **1st** place in *both* the 50 meter Throw and the Soft Throw!

Way to go Marion!!!

PTO Membership Campaign

We invite all SMS parents and guardians to join the PTO by providing us with your email address so that you can stay informed and involved! Fill out a membership form (available online or in the front office) or simply email us your name, along with your student's name and home-room teacher, to

PTOSebastian@gmail.com. Our membership campaign ends on 8/31 and the homeroom with the highest % of PTO members wins an ice cream party, so please join today!

PTO/SAC Kick-off Meetings

Save the Date - Tuesday, August 29!

5:30 p.m. SAC (School Advisory Council)

6:00 p.m. PTO (Parent Teacher Organization)

Join us to learn more about both organizations and how you can get involved at SMS this year!



School Calendar 2017

- ♦ Aug 23—Football vs Landrum @ Cornerstone
- ♦ Aug 30—Football vs GRMS @ GRMS
- ♦ Sept 4—**Labor Day-Student/Tch Holiday** 
- ♦ Sept 5—5:30pm Volleyball vs PBMS @ PBMS
- ♦ Sept 7—5:00pm Football vs Swiss Pt @ 2209
- ♦ Sept 7—5:30pm Volleyball vs GRMS @ Home
- ♦ Sept 11—6:00pm 6th Grade Open House
- ♦ Sept 12—5:30pm Volleyball vs POA @ Home
- ♦ Sept 13—Football vs Fruit Cove @ Plantation Grass
- ♦ Sept 18—6:00pm 7th & 8th Grade Open House
- ♦ Sept 19—5:30pm Volleyball vs FCMS @ FCMS
- ♦ Sept 20—Football vs Valley Ridge @ SMS
- ♦ Sept 21—5:30pm Volleyball vs VRA @ VRA
- ♦ Sept 26—5:30pm Volleyball vs SPMS @ Home
- ♦ Oct 3—5:30pm Volleyball vs LMS @ Home
- ♦ Oct 4—5:00pm Football vs Paceti Bay @ PBMS
- ♦ Oct 5—5:30pm Volleyball vs LPA @ LPA
- ♦ Oct 10—5:30pm Volleyball vs LPA @ SMS
- ♦ Oct 11—5:00pm Football vs Patriot Oaks @ Plantation Grass
- ♦ Oct 13—1st Qtr Ends
- ♦ Oct 14—Volleyball Tournament
- ♦ **Oct 16—Teacher Planning Day-Student Holiday**
- ♦ Oct 18—Football vs Liberty Pines @ Plantation Grass
- ♦ Oct 25—Football vs Murray @ Murray
- ♦ Nov 1—Football Playoffs (TBD)
- ♦ **Nov 10—Veterans Day-Student/Teacher Holiday** 
- ♦ **Nov 22-24—Thanksgiving Break-Student/Teacher Holiday** 
- ♦ Dec 21—2nd Quarter Ends
- ♦ **Dec 22—Jan 7 Winter Break Student Holiday** 



Wednesday Early Release Bell Schedule and Eagle Hour



Sebastian Middle School implements an A/B block schedule on early release Wednesdays in order to promote deeper learning through increased academic time-on-task. This schedule allows students to attend all seven of their courses over two consecutive Wednesdays by organizing each day into three sixty minute class periods and one forty minute fourth period/homeroom. Students experience increased instructional time with fewer transitions during the day, allowing teachers to conduct extended activities such as Socratic Seminars and Project Based Learning. Classes address material in more depth, and teachers feel students are better able to comprehend and retain concepts learned in the longer periods. Additionally, research indicates a positive impact on student and teacher morale, increased use of personalized learning, and an improved atmosphere on campus with the use of a block schedule (O’Neil, 1995; Eineder & Bishop, 1997). This schedule enables us to implement an “Eagle Hour” segment during which students explore clubs and receive support. The block schedule begins August 23, 2017 with an “A” Day, continues with a “B” Day on August 30, 2017, and then alternates A/B every week for the rest of the school year.

“A” DAY		“B” DAY	
Building Open	7:30 – 7:35 AM	Building Open	7:30 – 7:35 AM
Homeroom	7:35 – 7:47 AM	Homeroom	7:35 – 7:47 AM
1st Period	7:50 AM – 8:50 AM	5th Period	7:50 AM – 8:50 AM
2nd Period	8:53 AM – 9:53 AM	6th Period	8:53 AM – 9:53 AM
3rd Period	9:56 AM – 10:56 AM	7th Period	9:56 AM – 10:56 AM
4th Period	11:00 AM – 12:10 PM	4th Period	11:00 AM – 12:10 PM
<i>1st Lunch</i>	<i>11:02 AM – 11:32 AM</i>	<i>1st Lunch</i>	<i>11:02 AM – 11:32 AM</i>
<i>2nd Lunch</i>	<i>11:37 AM – 12:07 PM</i>	<i>2nd Lunch</i>	<i>11:37 AM – 12:07 PM</i>
Eagle Hour	12:13 PM – 1:00 PM	Eagle Hour	12:13 PM – 1:00 PM
Dismissal	1:00 PM – 1:05 PM	Dismissal	1:00 PM – 1:05 PM

Note: On three Wednesdays during the school year, we will adjust the early release schedule to accommodate a school wide writing activity, grade level assemblies, and field day activities. These Wednesdays are labeled as a “W” Day instead of A/B.

