

Sebastian Middle School



Build your Mind, Explore your World, Create your Future

Message from the King.....

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We are in the final stages of our application for STEM Certification. This process has been rigorous and we've certainly learned much about our practice and our impact on students. The University of Florida is the authorizing agency and the goal is to create a Culture of Inquiry here at SMS. We want our students to go beyond FSA and to apply knowledge and we are working hard to ensure that we create that environment. There is a follow up survey that can be accessed by clicking [here](#); I encourage you to take the survey as we need parent input.

As we near the end of the year our students are certainly feeling test fatigue. The system does ask so much from our students from a testing perspective and it's important to know that standardized testing is just one way to assess our students. Here at Sebastian we continue to look alternate ways for our students to show what they've learned this year.

Finally, we are also in the process of collecting textbooks. Please search and remind your student to return the books when asked. It will help us prepare for the Summer and the upcoming year.

As always, thank you for your support.

Wayne King, Principal

Summer Fun at SMS!

Summer Music Camp—June 4-8, times vary by instrument.
Cost: \$35/one instrument; \$55/multiple instruments. Scholarships available. Click [here](#) for a camp registration form!

STEAM Summer Camp—June 11-14, 8:00—12:00, for Rising 6th graders. Cost: FREE! Click [here](#) to register online!

Important Dates:

May 7—11

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week

May 10

Spirit Night at The Village Inn, 5:00—9:00pm

Chorus Spring Concert, 6:00pm

May 11

8th Grade Gradventure, 2:30pm—2:30am

May 15

Band and String Orchestra Concert, 6:00pm

May 17

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, 12:30pm

Guitar Spring Concert, 6:00pm

May 19

*Spring Football vs. Murray Middle School,
1:30pm, St. Augustine High School*

May 22

8th Grade Graduation, 6:00pm

May 23

7th Grade Awards Ceremony, 9:00am

May 24

6th Grade Awards Ceremony, 9:00am

Last Day of School—Enjoy your Summer!

Final Exam Calendar

Wed, 5/16: Period 1 Fri, 5/18: Periods 4/5

Thu, 5/17: Periods 2/3 Mon, 5/21: Periods 6/7

Last Chance to Order Yearbooks!

www.leonards.com/yearbooks

SMS code: C420764 • \$30.00

Deadline to Order: Friday, May 11

Pre-ordered yearbooks will be delivered to students during the last week of school. Additional yearbooks will NOT be available for purchase. Be sure to order yours today!

Sebastian Middle School
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St. Augustine, FL
32084



Phone: 904.547.3840
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www.sms.stjohns.k12.fl.us

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

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week: May 7—11

The PTO invites all families to help us appreciate our amazing SMS teachers and staff this week! Many thanks to our Business Partner **Purple Olive Restaurant** for catering a delicious luncheon for our teachers and staff on Wednesday, and to all the families who contributed gift certificates/prizes for a drawing, along with a table full of amazing desserts. All were much appreciated! We will conclude the week with a Coffee Cart that will provide room service breakfast on Friday 5/11. We welcome your contributions of breakfast goodies; please bring donations to the front office by 8:00am on Friday. Thank you!

Finally, one of the best gifts that any of our teachers and staff can receive is a heartfelt, hand-written note or card of thanks from you and/or your student. If there is someone at SMS who is making a difference in your child's life, please take the time to tell them this week!

SMS Hatches Chicks and Ducklings!



Students from Ms. Romano's Gifted Elective class joined with students in Mr. Barber's ESE class to incubate and hatch baby chicks and ducklings! Using math and science skills, students tracked the growth and development of the eggs throughout the incubation period through a process known as

"candling." After 21 days of incubation, the students successfully hatched a total of 19 baby chicks and 7 ducklings. Additional ducklings are expected to hatch this week. All chicks and ducks will be transferred to a local pond in the near future.



Join us for SMS Spirit Night!
Thursday, May 10, 5:00—9:00pm
900 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd.



Sports & Activities Calendar 2018

- ◆ May 10—Chorus Spring Concert, 6:00pm
- ◆ May 10—Spirit Night at The Village Inn, 5:00-9:00pm
- ◆ May 11—8th Grade GradVenture Trip to Universal Orlando, 2:30pm—2:30am
- ◆ May 15—Girls Basketball Open Gym, 2:15—3:15pm
- ◆ May 15—String Orchestra and Band Spring Concert, 6:00 pm
- ◆ May 17—Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, 12:30—



New Faculty Spotlight:

Rowena Barnard, Language Arts

I graduated from the University of North Florida with a degree in Secondary English Education. My teaching experience has spanned from Palm Beach County to Duval County to St. Johns County. This is my 18th year as an educator. My main concentration is in English/Language Arts in both high school and middle school settings, from 6th grade to the Early College program. Additionally, I have taught Critical Thinking, AVID, and SAT/ACT Preparation. Over the years, my variety of teaching opportunities have helped me grow as a teacher and understand the importance of quality education in the early years of a student.

My family includes my very patient husband, son, daughter, and beautiful, 3 year-old granddaughter. We currently live in Jacksonville, where we have lived for many, many years. When I'm not busily working with all things literary, I enjoy spending time with my family, running, volleyball, cooking, traveling, and strong coffee. Spending the day at the beach would be my ideal holiday.

I have enjoyed getting to know each student and his or her family. Being an Eagle has solidified my goal to maintain open communication with families, critical and creative use of resources and technology in the classroom, and preparation for the rigors of high school.

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon!

From proctoring exams to mentoring students, from helping with the Spring Fling to serving on SAC or PTO, volunteers have contributed over 1400 hours of time this year to SMS! If you are among those amazing volunteers, we want to celebrate you! Please plan to join us for an appreciation luncheon on:

Thursday, May 17 • 12:30—1:30pm
SMS Multi-purpose Room

RSVP to Susan Connor at susan.connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us by Tuesday, May 15. We hope you can join us!

- 1:30pm, SMS Multipurpose Room
- ◆ May 17—Boys Basketball Shooting Workshop, 2:30—4:15pm
- ◆ May 17—Guitar Spring Concert, 6:00pm
- ◆ May 19—Spring Football vs. Murray Middle School, 1:30pm, St. Augustine High School
- ◆ May 22—8th Grade Graduation Ceremony, 6:00pm
- ◆ May 23—7th Grade Awards Ceremony, 9:00am
- ◆ May 24—6th Grade Awards Ceremony, 9:00am
- ◆ May 24—Last Day of School! Enjoy your summer!

What is STEAM?

Science and **Technology** interpreted through **Engineering** and the **Arts**, all based in **Mathematical** elements.

STEAM at Sebastian is a transformative approach to learning that guides students through an exciting world of curiosity, problem solving, and creativity. After training and pilot activities last year, we launched our STEAM program in 2017-2018 with the core subjects of science and math connected to language arts and social studies through interdisciplinary activities and units infused with the arts and technology. All students at SMS are exposed to STEAM-related activities and curriculum through interconnected units that our teachers develop collaboratively. Students engage in inquiry activities and make real-world connections as they produce both digital and project-based artifacts. Students take on leadership roles in the STEAM environment and develop a deeper understanding of the conceptual connections within their subjects.

STEAM@SMS
is not a CLASS,
it's a CULTURE

Parent input is critical in achieving our goal of becoming a STEM-certified school in the state of Florida. Please fill out the online survey found here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1NdlhEsAlu8Z5yB0F7jYIdIPXtEGncV5uQWTp-kl3-ok/viewform?edit_requested=true by **May 14**. Thank you for your assistance!

Summer Reading and Math Volunteer Opportunities

If you are willing to spend a little time this summer helping others, there is an opportunity waiting for you! RSVP of St. Johns County is looking for community members to assist once a week in the summer reading or algebra programs in the St. Johns County School District. Hours are flexible, and even if you are traveling this summer you can help out while you are in town.

Orientation for reading volunteers will be Thursday, June 7 from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Orientation for algebra volunteers will be Friday, June 15 from 9 – 10 a.m. Both meetings will take place at the Fullerwood Auditorium, 10 Hildreth Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32084. To make a training reservation or for more information, contact RSVP at (904) 547-3945 or Cheryl.Freeman@stjohns.k12.fl.us.



SMS Thanks Growers Alliance Café

for treating our teachers and staff to Kenyan coffee and breakfast on Monday to kick off Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week! Thank you Purity and Martin for your generosity!!

National Jr. Honor Society Elects Officers

On Thursday, April 19th, NJHS held elections for officers for the upcoming 2018-19 school year. Nominees were asked to prepare and deliver a speech to the society outlining why they wanted the position and their vision for next year's projects. After a vote by secret ballot, congratulations to the following student leaders:

President: Addison Smith
1st Vice-President: Mia Snyder
2nd Vice-President: Kati Rossi
Secretaries : Gia Flaherty and Grace Brennan
Sargent at Arms: Antoine Guyton



SMS Builders Club Partners with Swamp Haven Rescue

In addition to the canned food and clothing drives previously organized this year, the SMS Builders Club is currently partnering with Swamp Haven Rescue, which provides short-term care for dogs in underserved areas of NE Florida and SE Georgia. To participate, **please send in donations of dog beds, gently used blankets, dog toys, leashes and collars to Ms. Pardo by May 18.**

Eagles Baseball is a Hit!

The SMS Baseball team finished their season last week with a record of 3-7-1. The team will be saying goodbye



to quite a few 8th graders who are moving on to high school, so will be looking for new players to join the team next year. Like softball, baseball

at SMS is organized and coached by St. Johns Middle School Athletic Association. Please visit their website at www.sjmsaa.com for more information.

First Coast Technical College Information

FCTC offers dual-enrollment programs for students in 8th-12th grades and continuing education programs after high school. Information sessions are held monthly in Building A of the Main Campus, 2980 Collins Ave:

Second Tuesdays at 6:00pm (5/8, 6/12, 7/10, 8/14)

Second Thursdays at 9:30am (5/10, 6/14, 7/12, 8/16)

For additional information, contact Jennifer Wills, at 547-3354 or fctcstudentrecruiter@stjohns.k12.fl.us.