

Vol. 1
8.17.18

The Eagle Eye

Sebastian Middle School

Build your Mind, Explore your World, Create your Future

Message from the King.....

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Firstly, I want to thank you for all your help in getting prepared for the opening of school. Although we do need a break in the summer, we are here for students and it is so rewarding to have activity back in the building. We spent the summer working on curriculum alignment and hiring. I mentioned several times that hiring is the most important thing Mrs. Hensley and I do. We also brought some of our lead teachers in to be part of the hiring group and at the time of opening, we are fully staffed with the addition of twelve creative teachers. The STEM Certification has been key to our vision and has helped us with our recruiting process.

In September, we will launch Eagle/Inquiry Hour and communication on this will be forthcoming from Mrs. Cooper. Students will have the opportunity to select clubs/activities to participate in that align to our STEM or Project Based Learning Initiatives. We will speak to parents on this in an upcoming Communication Cornerstone meeting. We aim to be informed and involved as parents and at SMS, we strongly believe that the link from school to home is vital.

Our first PTO and SAC meetings are next Tuesday and we will have an opportunity to lay out our School Improvement Goals and to solidify business partners. We will also highlight upcoming opportunities for parents to become involved. I hope you will plan to join us.

Thanks for your support as we begin this school year.

Sincerely,
Wayne King, Principal

Sebastian Middle School
2955 Lewis Speedway
St. Augustine, FL
32084

Phone: 904.547.3840
Fax: 904.547.3845
www.sms.stjohns.k12.fl.us



Wayne King, Principal
Angela Hensley, Asst. Principal

Pam Cooper, Instructional Literacy Coach
Kelvin Pruitt, Dean of Students

Leanne Fortune, Guidance Grade 8 / 7 A-L
Darren Tagliarini, Guidance Grade 6 / 7 M-Z

Important Dates:

August 18

J. Crew Spirit Day, 12:00—4:00pm

August 20

Deadline to turn in Summer Reading Handouts!

August 21

SAC Kick-off Meeting, 5:00pm

PTO Kick-off Meeting, 5:45pm

August 22

Football vs. Murray, 5:00pm @ Pomar Park, 1600 Masters Drive

August 24

School Dance Party, 2:05—4:00pm @ SMS

Schoology Update

All parent access codes will be sent home with students early next week from their 4th period homeroom teacher. Parents may log into Schoology with the parent access code to link to your student and keep track of their activities, assignments and announcements. Please remember to check Home Access Center (HAC) for official grades. A Schoology training for parents will be held in September. Stay tuned!

SMS ❤️ Our Volunteers!

Volunteers contributed over 2000 hours of time last year at SMS! There will be many opportunities to help out this year, but before you volunteer, you **MUST** fill out a St. Johns County School District Volunteer Application, which includes a background check by the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office. You may fill out a volunteer application online by clicking [here](#). **Parents or other relatives who are not currently Approved Volunteers will NOT be allowed past the front office.** This policy is strictly enforced at all SJCSO schools for the safety of our students. Thank you so much for your cooperation!



Last Chance! Summer Reading Handouts Due 8/20!

All students who read over the summer and completed their grade level handout should turn those into Ms. Cooper (Room D-460) or Ms. Barnard (Media Center) by Monday, August 20! If students misplaced their handout, you can download another one from our website by clicking [here](#). All students who turn in a completed handout will be invited to an Ice Cream Sundae Party on Friday, August 24...there will be games and toppings galore! Don't miss out!!



New Faces at SMS: Deputy Jody Hull, Youth Resource Officer

After spending the past two years with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and the previous four with the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Hull has joined the SMS family this year as our YRO. As a native of St. Augustine and a graduate of St. Augustine High School and St. Johns River College, Deputy Hull reports that it is "great to be part of the school system which I attended as a youth." And we are happy to have him!

WEB: Where Everyone Belongs!



We had a fabulous 6th grade Orientation Assembly on Monday August 13th where the 6th graders were welcomed into the Sebastian family. They were also paired with an awesome 8th grader who will continue to lead them through various activities throughout the year. If your 6th grader needs to get ahold of their 8th grade WEB leader, they can get permission from their teacher to see them during 2nd period. If they have any problems, please contact Mr. Sirak at ryan.sirak@stjohns.k12.fl.us. We look forward to an amazing year and congratulate all our new 6th graders!

Safety Reminders from Deputy Hull

Parents, please do not drop your students off at SMS any earlier than 7:15am. There is no staff person on duty in front of the school prior to 7:15am and it is not safe to have unsupervised students on campus. Thank you so much!

School Advisory Council Invites New Members!

The SMS SAC invites you to attend our Kick-off Meeting on Tuesday, August 21 at 5:00pm in the SMS Multipurpose Room to learn more about SAC and consider becoming a member. The SAC provides essential input to our annual School Improvement Plan and assists the SMS administration with the disbursement of SAC funds. This year's SAC Co-Chairs are Ms. Heather Hagy and Ms. Pam Cooper. Please join us!



Fall Sports & Activities Calendar

- ♦ Aug 18—J. Crew Spirit Day, 12:00-4:00pm
- ♦ Aug 22—Football vs. Murray, 5:00pm @ Pomar Park
- ♦ Aug 24—School Dance Party, 2:05-4:00pm
- ♦ Aug 29—Football vs. Gamble Rogers @ Pomar Park
- ♦ Sep 3—Labor Day: Teacher/Student Holiday
- ♦ Sep 4—Volleyball vs. Pacetti Bay @ SMS
- ♦ Sep 4—Cross Country Practice Begins!
- ♦ Sep 5—Football vs. Liberty Pines @ Plantation Grass, 3100 Racetrack Road, St. Johns
- ♦ Sep 6—Volleyball vs. Gamble Rogers @ GRMS
- ♦ Sep 11—Volleyball vs. Patriot Oaks @ POA
- ♦ Sep 12—Football vs. Fruit Cove @ Pomar Park
- ♦ Sep 18—Volleyball vs. Fruit Cove @ SMS
- ♦ Sep 19—Football vs. Valley Ridge @ Davis Park, 210 Davis Park Rd, Ponte Vedra
- ♦ Sep 20—Volleyball vs. Valley Ridge @ SMS
- ♦ Sep 25—Volleyball vs. Switzerland Point @ SPMS

*Note: Football Games begin at 5:00pm;
Volleyball Games begin at 5:30pm Girls; 6:30pm Boys*

- ♦ Sep 26—Football vs. Pacetti Bay @ Pacetti Bay, 245 Meadowlark Lane
- ♦ Sep 27—Chick-fil-A Spirit Night, 5:30-7:30pm
- ♦ Oct 2—Volleyball vs. Landrum @ Landrum
- ♦ Oct 3—Football vs. Landrum @ Cornerstone, 1046 Florida AIA, Ponte Vedra
- ♦ Oct 4—Volleyball vs. Liberty Pines @ SMS
- ♦ Oct 9—Volleyball vs. Murray @ Murray
- ♦ Oct 10—Football vs. Patriot Oaks @ Plantation Grass
- ♦ Oct 12—First Quarter Ends
- ♦ Oct 15—Teacher Planning Day/Student Holiday
- ♦ Oct 17—Football vs. Swiss Point @ Pomar Park
- ♦ Oct 19—Zombie Run, 5:00pm @ SMS
- ♦ Nov 12—Veterans Day: Teacher/Student Holiday
- ♦ Nov 21-23—Thanksgiving Break
- ♦ Nov 30—Pep Rally
- ♦ Dec 17-21—Mid-Term Exams
- ♦ Dec 21—Second Quarter Ends
- ♦ Dec 24-Jan 3—Winter Break
- ♦ Jan 4—Teacher Planning Day/Student Holiday
- ♦ Jan 7—Classes Resume for All Students



August 24th – Right after school until 4pm

Join your classmates at The FAN-tastic Sports Themed Dance Party!

Show your support for your favorite sports team!

Wear your jerseys, hats, and sports-themed gear!

Dance away your End of Summer blues with your favorite people!

\$5.00 per Student (food and drink for sale)

Permission slips need to be left with PE Teachers by Aug 22nd

PTO News & Notes

Our PTO has a great year planned for 2018-19! The PTO's mission is to encourage parent involvement and raise much-needed funds to support activities like guest speakers, student incentive reward events, and teacher appreciation that may otherwise go unfunded. Since parents (and grandparents!) are the **P** in our **PTO**, we need you to make this year a great success! Here's how you can help:

- Check your child's backpack for a **packet of PTO information** that should have come home on Friday, August 17. If you didn't receive the packet, please check the [PTO link](#) on the SMS website to view these materials.
- Mark your calendar and plan to attend our **Kick-off PTO Meeting on Tuesday, August 21 at 5:45pm** in the Multipurpose Room at SMS.
- **Join PTO** by returning our Membership Form or simply emailing your name and your student's name and grade level to PTOSebastian@gmail.com.
- Purchase **SMS Spiritwear** for your student or yourself!
- Become an **SMS Business Partner** or recruit businesses that you frequent to become Business Partners. Deadline for signage at Open House is September 1!
- Participate in our **Alternative Fundraiser**—see below!

Thank you in advance for your support of the SMS PTO!!

J. Crew Spirit Event for SMS!

Saturday, August 18th from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

J. Crew at the St. Augustine Premium Outlets, 2700 SR 16

Receive 20% off any purchase of \$100 or more

Please mention SMS at check out!



Sports at SMS

As your student considers participating in a sport at SMS this year, the following general timeline may be helpful. Please note that **all students must have a current physical on file at SMS before trying out for a sport**. Try-out dates and times will be posted in this newsletter and on the SMS website, so keep an eye out!

Volleyball: August—October

Football: August—October (tryouts in spring)

Cheerleading: August—October (tryouts in spring)

Cross Country: September—November

Dance Team: October—February

Basketball: December—February

Tennis: February—April

Soccer: late October—mid-January

Baseball/Softball: February—April

Track: March—April

Note: All sports in ITALICS are organized and coached by the St. Johns Middle School Athletic Association. Registration and try-out information is available on their website at

www.sjmsaa.com.

XC (Cross Country) Starts September 4!

All SMS students interested in running and having fun are invited to join the Cross Country team! No tryouts or experience necessary. Practices will be held Tuesdays and Fridays until 3:30pm. Meets are held on Wednesdays at 4:00pm starting in October; the middle school race distance is 2 miles. Mr. Kevin Hayes and Ms. Rachael Mathis coach this team. Join us!

SEBASTIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO ALTERNATIVE FUNDRAISER

Instead of sending students home with a catalog of items to sell door-to-door, which requires collecting money and delivering goods for which SMS only keeps 40% of the price, the PTO is trying something new this year! In place of catalog sales, we invite you to make an outright donation to SMS, 100% of which will be used to support our students and teachers. We hope the following suggested amounts might help you decide how much to give. Thank you in advance for your support!

_____ \$10 I do not want to bake, so here is the money I would have spent on cupcakes.

_____ \$25 I do not want to hit up friends, family or co-workers, so here is the money I would have spent on wrapping paper.

_____ \$50 I do not want to walk, swim or run in any activity that has the word "THON" in it. Here is the money I would have spent on my child's "FREE" t-shirt.

_____ \$100 I really wouldn't have helped anyway, so here is a \$100 donation to forgive me for not showing up at PTO meetings or events.

_____ \$ I am making this donation to express my appreciation for having nothing to buy, sell, or do except fill out this form.

Name _____ Student(s) _____ Grade(s) _____

Email Address _____

Please return this form **by September 1** to your student's homeroom teacher in an envelope marked SMS PTO. Note: If we don't succeed in meeting our goal of raising \$2,000, we may still have a fall catalog fundraiser. Just saying. Thanks again!!