

Sebastian Middle School

Build your Mind, Explore your World, Create your Future

Message from the King.....

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The holiday season is upon us and we have many events planned throughout the course of the month. We will host both a Science Fair and an Exhibition Night which will give us an opportunity to show how we are applying some of the concepts your students are learning. We encourage you to come and explore on either of those nights in order to see the progress we are making. It is important to remember that we place a high value on student creativity. Coupled with this is the ability to work collaboratively in groups. These skills will be vital as our students move forward.

Secondly, I want to highlight that we will be hosting a workshop on Social Media in February for both students and parents. It is important that you take the time to review the information when it comes home with your student. We are still learning about the potential impacts that Social Media can have on the middle school mind and we need both your help and participation as parents.

Finally, I want to congratulate our music students who represented Sebastian at Ketterlinus Elementary prior to Thanksgiving. We will play at all of our feeder elementary schools as it is so important to us to start the relationship building as early as possible. Thank you to Mr. Rogers for leading our music education programs.

Season's Greetings and thank you as always for your support.

Sincerely,

Wayne King, Principal

Important Dates:

November 29

Parent Book Study/Discussion Group, 5:30-6:30pm@Growers Alliance Café, 322 Anastasia Bl.

December 3

SMS Spirit Night @ Bojangles, 2095 SR 16, 5:00-9:00pm. Mention SMS at checkout!

December 4

Communication Cornerstone, 8:30-9:30am@SMS
Topic: AICE and IB High School Programs

December 6

8th Grade Science Fair Night, 5:30-7:00pm

December 6

S.M.Art Gallery Night, Zora Bora Gallery, 5-7pm

December 10-14

Single Semester Course Exams (PE, Exploratory Spanish, Learning Strategies, STEAM)

December 11

PTO Meeting, 5:45pm@Villa Victor, 42 San Marco
Band Holiday Concert, 6:00pm@SMS

December 13

STEAM Exhibition Night, 5:30-7:00pm

December 17-21

Midterm Assessments

Congratulations to our 2018-19 Volunteers of the Year!



Adult—Jenny Persson

Senior—Sal Iaropoli

Youth—Makala Corbin

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



Wayne King, Principal
Angela Hensley, Asst. Principal

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

Phone: 904.547.3840
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Leanne Fortune, Guidance Grade 8 / 7 M-Z
Darren Tagliarini, Guidance Grade 6 / 7 A-L



Friendly Reminder from the Front Office!

In our efforts to reduce classroom interruptions, please only drop off emergency items for your student such as:

- Keys
- Lunches
- Clothing to Comply with Dress Code

Thank you so much for your cooperation!



Biology Students Visit Guana

Mrs. Nall's Biology Honors class recently went on a field study to GTMNERR (Guana

Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve). Students learned about the importance of an estuary and gathered data on environmental conditions and water quality. Students used seining techniques to collect crabs, shrimp and fish, and had to identify and keep count of the marine life. Students explored the science education center, learning about habitats, maps, shells, aquariums and even got to look at a bald eagle through a telescope. The data students gathered will be put in to the National Estuary data base for GTMNERR. It was a great day for a science field study—a true outdoor laboratory!



New Faculty Spotlight! Debra Nall, Science

As a native of Florida, born in Ocala, I have always loved the outdoors. For the past fifteen years at Nease High School, I taught Marine Science, Physical Science Honors, Earth Space Science and primarily Biology Honors, Pre-IB Biology and IB Biology. Along with teaching at Nease, I sponsored the Science National Honor Society, photography club, and science tutoring club. I received my degree from the University of Florida (Go Gators!!) and have taught a total of 22 years in Florida and 2 years in Georgia.

Family is important to me, so I love spending time with my husband, my two daughters, son-in-law and granddaughter. I lived in Woodstock, GA for ten years and enjoyed camping and hiking in the Appalachian Mountains, visiting waterfalls, and working on my landscape photography skills. I now live in Crescent Beach and love the beach life.

I like to think of myself as a positive, hardworking team member who can accomplish what I set my mind to. I was raised to work hard and the rewards will be great. Learn from your mistakes and laugh at yourself. As a teacher I want to challenge and inspire students to work hard and see their accomplishments. To "Think and wonder, wonder and think." Dr. Seuss says it all!

I am excited to be at Sebastian where the school community is smaller and the parents are an active part of their child's learning. Being part of the Eagle Staff is humbling as the teachers and administration are amazing!!! Go Eagles!!!

S.M.Art Night at High Tide Gallery

Fun was had by all at the High Tide Art Gallery S.M.Art Night on November 8! Students and family members enjoyed homemade brownies, candy, apple cider, and of course, ART! S.M. Art students displayed their



work which included mugs, relief prints, tee shirts, paintings, ornaments, and melted crayons. Students taught family members how to create a relief print with a brayer, ink, and a barren. All proceeds will purchase more art supplies!



Parent Book Study & Discussion Group

Hosted by Principal Wayne King, parents are invited to the final session of a Book Study and discussion group on:

"The Parents We Mean to Be" by R. Weissbourd
Thursday, November 29, 5:30—6:30pm

Growers Alliance Café, 322 Anastasia Boulevard

Reading the book is helpful but not mandatory. Join us!



Spirit Night at Bojangles, 2095 SR 16

Monday, December 3, 5:00-9:00pm

Be sure to mention SMS at checkout!



Fall Sports & Activities Calendar

- ◆ Nov 28—Cross Country @ Bartram Trail High, 4:00pm
- ◆ Nov 29—Parent Book Study, 5:30pm @ Growers Alliance
- ◆ Nov 30—Soccer vs. Patriot Oaks @ SMS, 4:15pm
- ◆ Dec 3—Spirit Night at Bojangles, 5:00-9:00pm
- ◆ Dec 4—Communication Cornerstone, 8:30-9:30am
- ◆ Dec 4—Soccer vs. Fruit Cove @ Plantation Park, 4:15pm
- ◆ Dec 5—8th Grade Career Day
- ◆ Dec 6—S.M.Art Night at Zora Bora Gallery, 5:00-7:00pm
- ◆ Dec 6—8th Grade Science Fair Night, 5:30-7:00pm
- ◆ Dec 10-14—Final Exams (Single Semester Courses)

- ◆ Dec 11—Soccer vs. Fruit Cove @ SMS, 4:15pm
- ◆ Dec 11—PTO Meeting, 5:45pm, Villa Victor, 42 San Marco
- ◆ Dec 11—Band Holiday Concert, 6:00pm
- ◆ Dec 13—STEAM Exhibition Night, 5:30—7:00pm
- ◆ Dec 14—Light Up the Night Holiday Dance, 5:30-7:30pm@SMS
- ◆ Dec 14—Holiday Faire at the Colonial Quarter, Performance by SMS Guitar and String Orchestra students, 6:30pm, 33 St. George Street
- ◆ Dec 17-21—Mid-Term Exams (Year-long Courses)
- ◆ Dec 18—Guitar Holiday Concert, 6:00pm
- ◆ Dec 20—String Orchestra Holiday Concert, 6:00pm
- ◆ Dec 24-Jan 3—Winter Break

SMS Socks & Spirit Wear On Sale Now!

Shopping for fun and inexpensive holiday gifts for your students? Shop from the PTO for SMS Spirit Wear including hoodie sweatshirts, zippered long-sleeve jackets, t-shirts, beanies, caps, and new this fall, SMS socks! Socks are only \$15/pair and are available in Medium (fits ladies 3-8, men 4-9) and Large (fits ladies 9-12, men 10-13). Click [here](#) to download a Spirit Wear order form and pick up your items before the holiday break!



The Sebastian Giving Tree

During the holiday season, Sebastian has a tradition of anonymously giving gifts to students whose families are in need. This year, we will provide shoes from Rack Room Shoes, and hoodies, backpacks, and other items that staff, parents, and members of the community donate. We invite families with a hardship to apply by filling out the form below and **returning this application by Friday, November 30** to the Front Office. We will select qualified families on a first-come, first-served basis. A letter will be sent to the address on file if your son or daughter has been chosen. The gifts will be available for pick up by parents on Tuesday, December 18.

Student's Name: _____

Shoe Size (Please specify Adult or Child) _____

Hoodie Size (Please specify Adult or Youth) _____

Favorite Color _____

Favorite Sport or Hobby _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Phone Number _____

Parent Email _____

Parent Signature _____



Congratulations to

Mr. Ryan Sirak and Ms. Heather Hagy

They were selected to receive the Community First Cares Foundation Champions for Children Grant!!!



Mr. Sirak's grant will purchase drones for students to use and learn about this growing field of technology. Ms. Hagy's grant will allow art students to design and build a motorized Doodle Bot, learning about propulsion and trajectory in the process. Additional recent grants from INK will purchase 2 new 3-D printers for our STEAM lab classrooms, resources for our WEB program, and support for our competitive Robotics teams at SMS. We are grateful to INK! and its community partners for this support!

News from your AWESOME PE Department!

Just a reminder, please dress appropriately for PE class. For the colder weather, students are allowed to wear loose-fitting sweatpants and sweatshirts/jackets over their PE shirts. For sweatpants, neutral/school colors are encouraged (gray, black, red, white, navy). PTO has SMS sweatshirts for sale for \$25—check them out! And as always, please wear appropriate shoes. Boots and sandals are not allowed.

We are quickly approaching the end of the 1st semester. PE classes will take a DDA, District Developed Assessment, that counts as part of their final grade, starting December 10. All PE classes will be reviewing the health, safety and responsible behavior components in class the next two weeks. Students have written notes to study; copies of those notes are also posted on Schoology.

October Pillar of Character: Responsibility!

Congratulations to the following students and teacher who were selected as our Character Counts representatives for Responsibility at SMS:

6th Grade: Khaili Morgan-Kee

7th Grade: Mia Snyder

8th Grade: Kaiti Rossi

Teacher: Ms. Teri Lydigsen, Civics

SMS Yearbooks on Sale Now!

Order online at www.leonards.com/yearbooks

Access Code: C449655

Price Now: \$25; After 2/1/19: \$30

Election Day is November 28!

Our Seventh Grade Civics classes will hold Presidential Elections on Wednesday, November 28. With a nominee from each of our 12 civics classes, all nominees will give a brief speech in the auditorium in front of the whole class, and then all students will vote. The winner will have the opportunity to sit down with Mr. King and present his or her arguments for school reform. Good luck candidates!