

Sebastian Middle School

Build your Mind, Explore your World, Create your Future

Message from the King.....

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are quickly approaching the end of the third quarter and traditionally this has been the most important time for students to gain confidence and show growth. I can only encourage you to work with your son/daughter on ensuring they are prepared for daily instruction. This can be as simple as reviewing assignments in Schoology or asking about projects students are working on in Inquiry Hour. Our goal is to strengthen the connection from school to home and this is an important time in the scope of what we are trying to achieve.

We will host our second Super Saturday on February 23 and it is a good opportunity for students to get some one on one time with our Reading teachers. This option coupled with our Tuesday/Thursday after-school tutoring sessions provide options for students to become more confident with their academics. Please connect with your guidance counselor if your student is interested in attending.

Finally, we will host our Social Media Workshops for students, teachers and parents at the end of the month. Many of our issues stem from students reacting to social media posts and we are working hard to limit the daily disruptions with mobile phones. The workshop will help us make more informed decisions and we'd appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Wayne King, Principal

Book Study/Discussion Group continues 2/13

It's not too late to join Mr. King for an enlightening discussion of "What School Could Be" by Ted Dintersmith! Reading the book is helpful but not mandatory to participate.

Wednesdays 2/13 & 2/27 • 5:00—6:00pm
Growers Alliance Café, 322 Anastasia Boulevard

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



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Wayne King, Principal
Angela Hensley, Asst. Principal

Pam Cooper, Instructional Literacy Coach
Kevin Hayes, Dean of Students

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

Important Dates:

February 13

Parent Book Study/Discussion Group, 5:00-6:00pm, Growers Alliance, 322 Anastasia Blvd.

February 14

Home Basketball vs. Liberty Pines, 5:30pm Girls and 6:30pm Boys @ SMS

February 14

Box Tops Collection Deadline! Drop off in Front Office or in parent drop-off/pick-up car line

February 15

Teacher In-service Day/Student Holiday

February 18

President's Day—Student/Teacher Holiday

February 22

7th Grade Field Trip to Tallahassee

February 25—March 1

Spring Book Fair in the SMS Media Center

Spring Testing: Save the Dates!

April 2: FSA Writing

April 15-18: District Final Exams

May 2-3: 6th Grade FSA Language Arts

May 6-7: 6th Grade FSA Math

May 9: 8th Grade Science/Biology EOC/Civics EOC

May 13-14: Algebra/Geometry EOC/7th & 8th

FSA Math

May 16-17: 7th & 8th FSA Language Arts

Volunteer test proctors are needed as an extra set of eyes during all of the state-mandated testing days. Click [here](#) to view a schedule and sign up. No experience is necessary! Please email Susan.Connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us with any questions. Thank you in advance for your gift of time!!

Spring Book Fair: February 25—March 1

The Scholastic Book Fair returns to SMS the week of 2/25—3/1! Students will be able to visit the Book Fair and make purchases during their ELA classes that week. Parents, grandparents and other family members are also welcome to stop by SMS anytime during school hours, during the home basketball game on 2/26 (5-8pm) or before/after the parent workshop on 2/28. A percentage of every purchase is returned to SMS in the form of books. **Volunteers are also needed to assist students and parents with shopping and check-out.** No experience necessary; please click [here](#) to sign up for one or more shifts! Thank you!!



YOU'RE INVITED TO:

SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY FOR PARENTS




FEBRUARY 28, 2019 | 6:00-7:30PM
SEBASTIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Free for all parents, grandparents and guardians ages 18+.



New Faculty Spotlight!

Leizel Henry, 7th/8th Grade Math Teacher

I am a proud veteran of the United States Army and moved to St. Augustine in 2007 with my husband and our two children following my husband's retirement from the U. S. Army. We love the small, quiet and beautiful community of St. Augustine. While serving in the U.S. Army, I obtained my Bachelors of Science degree from the University of Maryland, University College and attended St. Johns River State College for the Educators Preparatory Program (EPI). My teaching career began at Beacon of Hope Christian School, where I taught three years (4th grade and 9-12th grade math). I then transitioned to the Duval County School District and spent four years there, teaching math in 6-8th grades and 9-12th grades, and 8th grade math in the Duval Charter Scholar Academy. I am very excited to be a member of the Eagles family and I'm having a great school year.



Congratulations Ms. Allen!

The newest member of our Eagle family is Caleb Louis Allen, born February 1, weighing 7 lbs, 6 oz, and measuring 21.5 inches long. Ms. Allen thanks her students and families for their support and looks forward to seeing you all in a few months!!



Box Tops Due February 14!

Show your school some love this Valentine's Day by donating your Box Tops to SMS! Drop off in the Front Office anytime or roll down your window during drop-off or pick-up on 2/14 for curbside collection! Special thanks to the following businesses for collecting Box Tops on behalf of SMS:

Anastasia Lanes, Funkytown Fitness
J.Crew Factory Outlet, and St. Augustine Family YMCA.



Winter Sports & Activities Calendar

- ◆ Feb 13—Parent Book Club/Discussion Group, 5:00-6:00pm, Growers Alliance Café, 322 Anastasia Blvd.
- ◆ Feb 14—Basketball vs. Liberty Pines @ SMS
- ◆ Feb 15—Teacher In-service Day—NO SCHOOL
- ◆ Feb 18—Presidents Day—NO SCHOOL
- ◆ Feb 21—Basketball vs. Murray @ MMS
- ◆ Feb 22—7th Grade Civics Trip to Tallahassee
- ◆ Feb 23—Super Saturday @ SMS, 8:30-11:30am
- ◆ Feb 25-Mar 1—Spring Book Fair
- ◆ Feb 26—Basketball vs. Pacetti Bay @ SMS
- ◆ Feb 27—Parent Book Club/Discussion Group, 5:00-6:00pm, Growers Alliance Café, 322 Anastasia Blvd.

- ◆ Feb 28—Social Media Safety Workshop for Parents, 6:00-7:30pm
- ◆ Mar 5—Communication Cornerstone Parent Meeting, 8:30—9:30am
- ◆ Mar 12—SAC Meeting, 2:15pm
- ◆ Mar 12—PTO Meeting, 5:45pm @ Café 11, 501 AIA Beach Boulevard, St. Augustine Beach
- ◆ Mar 14—Pi Day & SMS Spring Fling, 12:30—2:00pm
- ◆ Mar 14—Third Quarter ends
- ◆ Mar 15—NO SCHOOL; Teacher Planning Day/Student Holiday
- ◆ Mar 18-22—Spring Break

Basketball Game times as follows: Girls play at 5:30pm; Boys at 6:30pm . Concessions available at all Home games.



SMS Welcomes Guest Musician

The SMS Music Department is excited to welcome Guest Musician Ed Manfredi on Tuesday, February 19. Mr. Manfredi is an accomplished accordion player and will spend a full day at SMS playing for and with our music students. Check him out [here](#) on YouTube!

CHARACTER COUNTS! January Pillar: Respect!



Congratulations to our student and teacher winners who best exemplify the January pillar of character!

6th Grade: Jahlia Harvey

7th Grade: Tegan Bracewell

8th Grade: Max Gibbs

Teacher: Mr. Darren Tagliarini, Guidance Counselor

Good Luck in the District Science Fair!

The following 8th grade students will represent SMS in the District-wide Science Fair at FCTC this week 2/13-14:

Sanibel Cotton

Kaitlyn Rossi

Rosie Shannon

Zoe Watson & Grace Brennan

We are proud of all of you and wish you the best of luck!!



Student Council Elects President

Congratulations to Tristen Taylor, who was elected by his peers as President of Student Council at SMS. Student Council meets on the last Tuesday of each month from 2-3pm and is open to all students at any time. See Ms. Mathis for more info.



NJHS Accepting Applications Now!

The SMS Chapter of National Junior Honor Society is currently accepting applications from 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who wish to become members. **The deadline to apply is February 28th.** All applicants must have at least a 3.5 GPA and teacher recommendations to apply. Applications may be obtained from your social studies teachers or Ms. Hagenbuch-Reese in room C-515.



SMS Track Season Begins 2/26!

Practices afterschool until 3:30pm on Tuesdays only until Spring Break, and Tuesdays and Fridays after Spring Break. No tryouts necessary, just a willingness to learn and run. SMS will participate in 2-3 district-wide meets in April. Parent volunteers are needed to assist with coaching! Please contact Coach Rachel Mathis if interested at Rachel.Mathis@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

8th Grade Baby Photos Needed!

Parents are invited to submit your 8th grader's baby photo to be included in the yearbook for free! Photos must be high resolution and must be uploaded to the Pictavo site. Please label/name the file with your student's first and last name, and add to the 8th grade baby photo folder. **Submissions will be accepted up until midnight on 2/15/19.**

- Go to www.pictavo.com
- Click on "parents"
- Click "new Pictavo community" on bottom right
- Search for "Sebastian"
- Make a free account where you can verify the link.

Summer Marine Science Program

Applications for the summer Marine Science Program will be passed out by science teachers at all schools during the week of February 11th and due back by March 5th. Applications can also be downloaded at any time from the website prior to April 12th at <https://www-grms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/marinescience/>. The link also will have a complete day by day curriculum for each grade level, parent information, and a video from last year's program.

This summer program is available to all students currently in grades five through seven and has been sponsored by the school district since 1982. Three eight day sessions are held at Gamble Rogers Middle School with bus transportation provided: **May 29—June 7; June 10—June 20; and June 24—July 3.** Small classes of 12-14 students are separated by grade level. All instructors in the program are St. Johns County School District teachers.

This program is a carefully designed experience for responsible students who are interested in learning about our local marine environments. Learning is "hands on" in the field with students kayaking, canoeing, boating, hiking, snorkeling, sailing, windsurfing, surfing, stand up paddleboarding, etc. Questions? Kristina Bransford at marinescienceprogram@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

8th Grade Save the Dates!

February 19—Registration Deadline for High School Career Academy Applications, 5:00pm

April 26—8th Grade Dance, 7:00-9:00pm, St. Augustine High School. Held jointly with 8th grade students from Murray Middle School.

May 10—GradVenture Trip to Universal Theme Parks in Orlando, FL, 2:00pm—2:00am.

May 22—Graduation Ceremony, 6:00pm, SMS Gym