Sebastian Sentinel Sentinel Principal's Message Dear Parents and Guardians:

One can tell that Spring has arrived and with the clocks changing, it usually takes some time before the students get back into the routine. With Spring Break earlier this year, it will allow more time to adjust. The family time is important during the break as it gives everyone an opportunity to recharge before the final push here at school.

Upon our return from break, we will launch into testing season. This year, we will begin with District Final Exams in April and conclude in May with State Assessments. We have produced the testing schedule (which can be found on page 3 of this newsletter) and as always are seeking proctors in order to create the desired climate in each class.

Our goal for the remainder of the year will center around Single School Culture. It is so important that we continue to work on the conditions for learning as they often change. We heard this throughout our recent Social Media presentations as we continue to both embrace whilst be cautious with the use of technology. Our goal is to ensure that firstly, students are better prepared for their classes every day, and secondly, that they can apply their learning through projects or writing. Take the time over break to sample your student's writing. It can give you an indication of the level of progress being made. We have included a draft of Single School Culture in this publication and we encourage your input as parents and community members.

Finally, I want to congratulate our basketball teams on their recent seasons, as well as our History Fair winners. These students represent our school and their families with such confidence and poise and we are proud of them. Our coaches and social studies teachers also deserve recognition for helping to build that culture of success. As always thank you for your support.



Sincerely, Wayne King Principal

Sebastian Middle School

2955 Lewis Speedway St. Augustine, FL 32084 **904-547-3840**

Wayne King

Principal

Angela Hensley Assistant Principal

Kevin Hayes *Dean*

Pam Cooper Instructional Literacy Coach

Vision

At Sebastian Middle School, all students will achieve personal success in their learning and become responsible and productive citizens.

Mission

In order to prepare our students to live in and contribute to a changing world, Sebastian will provide a balanced, varied school curriculum designed to meet the academic, cultural and social needs of individuals from the diverse backgrounds of our community.

MARCH 2019

Volume 3

Issue 2

Sebastian Sentinel

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Issue 2

*Please watch for our next newsletter in August 2019, and bi-weekly electronic news updates.

And the Winner Is...

Kudos to the following individuals who have been recognized for their exemplary work at SMS during the 2018-19 academic year:

- Teacher of the Year Jessica Brown
- Rookie Teacher of the Year Emily Lavallee
- Employee of the Year Cindy Willey
- Adult Volunteer of the Year Jenny Persson
- Senior Volunteer of the Year Sal Iaropoli
- Youth Volunteer of the Year Makala Corbin (6th grade)
- Overall Character Counts Representative –
 Cassie Clark (8th grade)

Character Counts at SMS!

Under the leadership of Ms. Allen, Ms. Mathis and our Student Council, the Character Counts program at SMS has recognized the following students and teachers so far this year for best representing the following six pillars of character at SMS:

Trustworthiness: Brooke

Brooke Bradshaw (6th), Hyde Kenney (7th), Chris

Brown (8th), Kristina Harvey

(Teacher)

Fairness: Huien Kalanik (6th), Megan

Lay (7th), Emma Stamm (8th),

Kristi Pardo (Teacher)

Responsibility: Khaili Morgan-Kee (6th), Mia

Snyder (7th), Kaiti Rossi (8th),

Teri Lydigsen (Teacher)

Citizenship: Skylar Kleinschek (6th), Lola

Turner (7th), Lily Kiker (8th),

Jordyn Waters (Teacher)

Respect: Jahlia Harvey (6th), Tegan

Bracewell (7th), Max Gibbs (8th), Darren Tagliarini

(Teacher)

Caring: Emily Tobuck (6th), Moira

Kimker (7th), Devyn

Amonette (8th)

Congratulations students and teachers, and thank you all for being role models for your peers!

PTO Corner

The SMS PTO has had a busy year raising money for everything from guest speakers to student reward incentives to teacher appreciation! With just nine weeks left in the school year, the fun is not over yet and the PTO invites parent volunteers to help with these upcoming events:

Spring Fling: April 12, 12:30 - 2:00pm

A brief respite during testing season, students will have the opportunity to purchase all-you-can-play wristbands or tickets to enjoy a variety of carnival style games and activities. If you are interested in helping to plan Spring Fling and/or volunteering the day of the event, please email PTOSebastian@gmail.com. Look for more information to come home with students around April 1.

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week: May 6 - 10

For their dedication, creativity, patience, sense of humor, enthusiasm and love, one week is truly never enough to thank our teachers and staff for all they do for our children! Yet we will try. We invite parents to help by donating the following:

- Breakfast goodies for a spread to kick off the week on Monday, May 6. Please bring your donations of breakfast items to the Front Office by 7:30am.
- Gift certificates or items that will be used as prizes in a drawing that week. Although we cannot afford
 to buy a special gift for every member of the SMS staff, we can give each a CHANCE to win a fabulous
 prize! Please bring donations to the Front Office by end of day on Tuesday, May 7.
- Desserts for a luncheon on Wednesday, May 8. Please bring your favorite dessert to the Front Office by 11:00am.

2019-20 PTO Officer Elections: May 14, 5:45pm

With some parents "graduating" and others moving on to full-time work or school commitments, the PTO has the following Board positions open for the coming year: Treasurer, Secretary, Business Partner Coordinator and Eagle Store/Student Incentive Coordinator. Please plan to attend the final PTO meeting of the year on Tuesday, May 14 at 5:45pm in the SMS Multipurpose Room to learn how you can get involved and make a difference at your child's middle school. Parents of rising 6th graders are welcome to attend too!

Reminders from the Front Office!

Thank you for helping to preserve instructional time and minimize disruptions by following these school policies:

- Excuse notes for tardies and absences should be turned into Guidance within 48 hours.
- Please do <u>not</u> drop items off for your student during the day except for emergency items such as keys, lunches and dress code clothing.
- Students staying for after-school clubs and activities <u>must</u> be picked up by 3:30 pm if they are not riding the Activities Bus.
- Outside food (fast food, celebratory cupcakes, etc.) is not permitted at SMS.
- No early check-outs after 1:30pm (12:30pm on Wednesdays).
- SJCSD Transportation Department does not allow bus passes to be issued at the School level. Parents/ guardians may apply for a Provisional Transportation Waiver by going to https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/transportation/ptwaiver/

Tdap Vaccinations for Rising 7th Graders

The Tdap immunization is required for all 7th graders and must be recorded on a Florida 680 form. As soon as your 6th grader has had this shot, please submit a copy of his/her health forms to Nurse Colvin. Forms may be emailed to Rebecca.Colvin@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

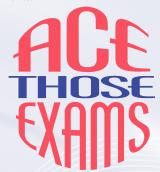




Spring Testing Calendar

Please note the following dates that your student will be taking District Final Exams and state-mandated FSA and/or EOC Exams. On testing days, exams will be administered promptly at 8:00am. Parents should ensure that your students arrive to school on time, well-rested, and having eaten a nutritious breakfast. Remember, proteins like nuts and eggs are brain food! Also please do not schedule doctor, dentist or other appointments on testing days, as students will not be allowed to arrive late or leave early from their testing session. Thank you for helping your student do their best on these assessments.

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April 2	FSA Writing	All grades
April 15	Periods 1/2 Final Exams	All grades
April 16	Periods 3/4 Final Exams	All grades
April 17	Period 5 Final Exam	All grades
April 18	Periods 6/7 Final Exams	All grades
May 2-3	FSA Language Arts	6th grade
May 6-7	FSA Math	6th grade
May 9	Science/Physical Science/Biology EOC	8th grade
May 9	Civics EOC	7th grade
May 13-14	FSA Math & Algebra/Geometry EOC	7th/8th grades
May 16-17	FSA Language Arts	7th/8th grades



Volunteer Test Proctors Needed!

Volunteer test proctors are needed as an extra set of eyes during all of the state-mandated testing days. Please visit https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f4aacae2ea6ff2-spring to view a schedule and sign up to volunteer. No experience is necessary! Please email Susan.Connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us with any questions. Thank you in advance for your valuable gift of time to ensure that testing season goes smoothly at SMS!

Test Taking Tips for Parents

- **Tip #1:** Make attendance a priority, especially on days that you know standardized testing will be administered. Though it's important for your student to be in school every day, making sure he's there when the test is taken helps to ensure he won't lose more learning time because he has to make up a test during school. Make a note of test days on the calendar. That way both you and your student know what's coming and will be prepared.
- **Tip #2:** Monitor your student's progress and check for understanding. Subjects like science, social studies and math often have cumulative exams at the end of learning units. If your student is struggling with something now, it won't be easy for her to have time to try again to learn it just before the test.
- **Tip #3:** Set a reasonable bedtime and stick to it. A minimum of eight hours of sleep is preferable. Many parents underestimate the importance of a rested mind and body. Tired children have difficulty focusing and are easily flustered by challenges.
- **Tip #4:** Make sure your child has enough time to wake up fully before she has to go to school. Just as rest is important, so is having enough time to get her brain engaged and in gear. If her test is first thing in the morning, she can't afford to spend the first hour of school groggy and unfocused.
- **Tip #5:** Provide a high-protein, healthy, low-sugar breakfast for your student. Kids learn better on full stomachs, but if their stomachs are full of sugary, heavy foods that will make them sleepy or slightly queasy, it's not much better than an empty stomach.
- **Tip #6:** Talk to your student about how the test went, what he did well and what he would have done differently. Think of it as a mini-debriefing or brainstorming session. You can talk about test-taking strategies after the fact as easily as beforehand and these discussions will improve performance on future tests.



Science & History Fair Winners

Thanks to their excellent research and presentation skills, the following students represented SMS in the recent District-wide Science and History Fair competitions.

Science Fair

- Sanibel Cotton
- Kaiti Rossi
- Isabelle Shannon
- Zoe Watson and Grace Brennan

History Fair

- Timothy Arnold and Henry Benoit: "The Curse of the Cubs"
- Sanibel Cotton and Isabelle Shannon:
 "Henry Flagler's Tragedy and Triumph"
- Liam Godfrey:
 - "Triumph and Tragedy of Louis Zamperini"
- Hyde Kenney:
 - "The Massacre of Fort Matanzas"
- Charlie Koppman and Max Gibbs:
 "The Triumphs and Tragedies of the Men and Women of the French Resistance"
- Kaitlyn Reedy:
 - "Flagler's Folly: Triumph and Tragedy"
- Kaiti Rossi:
 - "The Triumph and Tragedy of Earl Rogers"
- Lasse Valvo Schnotalla:
 - "LZ-129 Hindenburg Triumph and Tragedy"
- Taylor Steinburg:
 "Battle of Gettysburg"



Media Center News

Special Guest: SSYRA Author Deron Hicks

On January 31st, to help celebrate Literacy Week, Deron Hicks, author of *The Van Gogh Deception*, visited SMS to speak to students about his books and writing process. Students who had read his book were invited to a special lunch and booksigning with the author. Many thanks to the PTO providing pizzas and salad for the lunch!



Pictured left to right: Heather Dempsey, Deron Hicks, Rowena Barnard

SSYRA and Battle of the Books

The SMS Media Center continues its quest to support literacy by promoting the Sunshine State Young Reader's Award books with an incentive program, including a new bike that will be raffled at the end of the year. On March 25th, students who have read 2 or more SSYRA books will be given a special invitation to vote for their favorite SSYRA book. The office of the Supervisor of Elections will bring voting booths for students to cast their votes.

Additionally, congratulations are in order to Gia Flaherty, Nicholas Mariotti, Olivia Mariotti, Megan Lay, and Gregory Rorex for qualifying to be competing members for Battle of the Books. They will represent Sebastian at the Battle which will take place on April 16th at First Coast Technical College. Go Eagles!

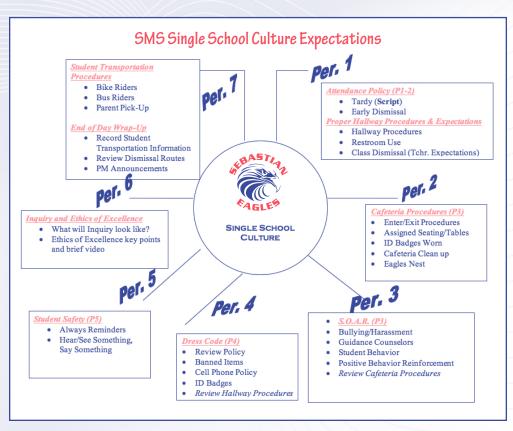


8th Grade Celebrations: Save the Dates!

- 8th Grade Dance Friday, April 26, 7:00-9:00pm at St. Augustine High School (Information will be sent home following Spring Break)
- Gradventure at Universal Orlando Friday, May 10, 2:30pm 2:30am
- Awards/Promotion Ceremony Wednesday, May 22, 6:00pm

Single School Culture at SMS

Single School Culture is not a program but an environment based on shared norms, values and goals. In setting and communicating agreed upon expectations, processes and procedures, we seek to help our students become self-regulated, socially responsible and intrinsically motivated. By setting clear rules and standards for appropriate behavior, academic preparation, participation in class, and involvement in school, the goal is to create a "We are the SMS Eagles!" identity for both adults and students on campus to support student success. The following diagram is an example of how Single School Culture might be instituted at SMS; parent questions, comments and suggestions are invited and may be sent to Principal Wayne King at Wayne.King@stjohns.k12.fl.us.







Eagle/Inquiry Hour at SMS

In addition to being STEM-certified and offering a wide array of arts electives, Sebastian Middle School seeks to be a "School of Inquiry" where all students are provided with an opportunity to engage in hands-on, real-world, project-based learning to make what they are learning in the classroom accessible and relevant. To accomplish this goal, we added an "Inquiry" focus this year to our Wednesday "Eagle Hour" offerings. Students select a subject area (math, ELA, science, social studies) and work in groups by grade level to develop projects which address an essential question relevant to our global society.

In the fall semester, the essential questions and examples of student projects included:

6th Grade – How can we make water clean and accessible for all?

Projects included making filters using carbon and testing water found in puddles from the parking lot (Science) and constructing aqueduct systems out of clay (Social Studies).

7th Grade – How do technological innovations affect society?

Projects included making battery-powered clocks (Math) and developing presentations (Powerpoints and TED Talks) about the effects of technology on education (ELA).

8th Grade – How can we stop the spread of disease?

Projects included developing board games ("The Game of Death") where players landing on spaces such as "Wash Your Hands" move forward by preventing the spread of germs (ELA) and building scale models of handicapped accessible ramps using geometry skills and popsicle sticks (Math).

This semester, students are addressing the following essential questions:

6th Grade – What do you need in order to survive?

7th Grade – How can we innovate health technology for kids?

8th Grade – How can we sustain life while living in challenging environments?

A key part of Inquiry Hour is the opportunity for students to present their projects to an external audience to show what they've learned. In the fall, we held an Exhibition Night in December to provide this opportunity. This semester, we will host an **Exhibition Day on Friday, March 29 from 9:00-10:00am.** Parents and members of the community are invited to attend to listen, learn, ask questions and be amazed by our students! Please mark your calendars now to join us.

Eagle/Inquiry Hour is an unparalleled opportunity for middle school students to connect with teachers and other students to further their own learning, all without the ramifications of a grade. Students engage in their own learning because it's both interesting and meaningful, not because they will be tested on it. Led by SMS Instructional Literacy Coach (ILC) Pam Cooper, the EIH program is one of the ways Sebastian Middle School is helping to prepare students not just for high school but also for eventual careers and life as successful adults, where creativity and problem-solving skills are vital.

News from the STEAM Lab: Rockets, Drones, and More!

On March 1, students in our 8th grade STEAM elective classes concluded a unit on aerospace by launching their fluid-powered rockets on the practice field behind our school. Volunteers from Northrop Grumman were on hand, as they are every Friday, to assist students with a successful launch.



SMS STEAM students give a thumbs up after a successful rocket launch.

With a grant from INK! (Investing in Kids!), SMS recently purchased a class set of drones to use in our STEAM elective classes and eventually across disciplines to reinforce learning in a hands-on way. At a STEM Night at R.B. Hunt Elementary School on February 21, students on our Robotics Teams had the opportunity to share their driving and flight skills. In the 4th quarter, our 8th grade students will extend their aerospace knowledge by learning how to operate the drones.



SMS students demonstrate a drone flight at R.B. Hunt's STEM Night.







Calling all youths ages 8 and up! Join us to sing Folk Songs, Standard Songs, Classics, Show Tunes & Jazz.

Rehearsals are Tuesdays from 4:00pm to 5:30pm Auditions & Rehearsals are open in September and January Cost is \$50 per semester.

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Social Media Safety and Digital Citizenship at SMS

Sponsored by the PTO, SMS hosted workshops on the critically important topic of Social Media Safety for all students, teachers and parents on February 27-28. Presenter Erin Bailey of The Social Family shared a wide variety of information and advice on how to help children become role model digital citizens in their world of social media. Two specific pieces of advice she had for parents were: 1) Establish a social media contract with children who want to use a new app; and 2) Create a social media safety plan for how to handle receiving an inappropriate message or threat. See below if you'd like to adopt these guidelines for your children!





Social Studies Hits the Road

The SMS Social Studies department took students out of the classroom and into our state and national capitals in January and February to learn first-hand about our systems of government. From January 13-18, our 8th grade students (who have spent the year studying American history) visited Washington, DC, Philadelphia, PA and Monticello, the home of President Thomas Jefferson, in Charlottesville, VA. Their whirlwind tour included many museums, monuments, government buildings, and yes, snow!

After spending the year studying civics, our 7th grade students had a chance to see our state government in action on February 22 during a daylong trip to Tallahassee. Students visited the Florida History Museum, the Florida Supreme Court, the Old and New State Capitol buildings and the FSU campus, where a highlight was having lunch in the cafeteria with so many food options!





Ms. Lydigsen (center) and 8th grade students in front of the Washington monument.

7th Grade students and chaperones visiting FSU's Doak Campbell Stadium.





Ms. Lydigsen with 7th grade students at the Florida History Museum in Tallahassee.

8th grade students and chaperones in front of the U.S. Supreme Court



Support **Sebastian Middle School** by advertising in the **Sebastian Sentinel!**

This is a wonderful way for your business to get community recognition and exposure, and at the *SAME TIME* help support your local schools!

Sebastian Middle School
Susan Connor • susan.connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us

School Calendar

Mar 18-22 - Spring Break

Mar 29 – Exhibition Day/Presentation of Inquiry Hour Projects, 9:00 – 10:00am. Parents are invited!

Apr 2 - FSA Writing Exams (all grades)

Apr 4 - Communication Cornerstone, 8:30-9:30am @ SMS. Topic: Single School Culture at SMS

Apr 11 – Rising 6th Grade Night for Students and Parents, 5:30 – 7:00pm

Apr 12 - Spring Fling, 12:30 - 2:00pm

Apr 15-18 - District Final Exams

Apr 16 - SAC Meeting, 2:15pm @ SMS

Apr 19 - Student/Teacher Holiday

May 2-17 - State-mandated FSA/EOC exams

May 6-10 - Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week

May 10 – 8th Grade GradVenture Trip to Universal Theme Parks, Orlando

May 14 - PTO Meeting, 5:45pm @ SMS

May 22 – 8th Grade Awards/Promotion Ceremony, 6:00pm @ SMS

May 23 - 7th Grade Awards Ceremony, 8:30am @ SMS

May 24 - 6th Grade Awards Ceremony, 8:30am @ SMS; Last Day of School for Students!

June 3-7 – SMS Summer Music Camp

June 10-13 – STEAM Camp for Rising 6th Graders, 8:30 – 11:30am

Summer Music Camp at SMS: June 3 - 7

The Summer Music Camp will give music students who have had previous music instruction the opportunity to develop their music skills for the coming school year. Activities will include concert rehearsal techniques, performance fundamentals, improving technical skills, improvisation and developing musicianship. The following classes will be available during the camp:

String Orchestra: 8:30 – 10:30am Guitar: 10:30am - 12:30pm Band: 1:00 – 3:00pm

The cost for a week of music camp is \$40. This includes a music class each day for one subject, which will meet at the above times. If a student would like to take two or three classes, the cost per week will be \$60. Scholarships are available. For more information, please contact Mr. Rogers at Charles.Rogers@stjohns.k12.fl.us.





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Soaring Eagle Athletics

SMS Basketball is a Slam Dunk

The Boys and Girls Basketball teams both had excellent seasons this year! Under Coach Chad Razey, the Boys finished the season 4-5, narrowly missing a chance to be in the playoffs with several losses by just 2 points. Coached by SMS parent Matt Robinson and teacher Tina Cullar, the Girls finished their regular season 7-2, earning them a 3rd seed in the playoffs. After a win against Landrum Middle School in the first round, SMS lost a close battle with a tough team from Valley Ridge in the championship game. Congrats to all the 8th graders as they move on to play high school basketball next year!

Spring Sports are in Full Swing

Organized and coached by the St. Johns Middle School Athletic Association, our SMS Tennis, Softball and Baseball seasons are all well underway! Please check out the match/game schedules listed here and plan to come out and cheer our Eagles on to victory. There is no cost to attend tennis matches, softball or baseball games.



Baseball (All games begin at 3:45pm)

3/26 – Gamble Rogers @ Waler Field

3/28 - Patriot Oaks @ Mills Field

4/2 – Liberty Pines @ Davis Park

4/4 – Landrum @ Waler Field

4/9 - Fruit Cove @ Waler Field

4/11 - Pacetti Bay @ Waler Field

4/16 – Swiss Point @ Kehoe Field

4/18 - Gamble Rogers @ Waler Field

4/23 - Patriot Oaks @ Waler Field

4/25 - Liberty Pines @ Davis Park

Field Locations

- Waler Field, 1300 Duval Street, St. Augustine (adjacent to Solomon Calhoun Center)
- Mills Field, 1805 Racetrack Road, St. Johns
- Kehoe Field, 777 Greenbriar Road, Fruit Cove
- Davis Park, 210 Davis Park Road, Ponte Vedra



3/28 – Gamble Rogers @ Treaty Park, 5:00pm

4/4 – Pacetti Bay @ Marsh Creek

4/11 - Pacetti Bay @ Marsh Creek

4/18 - Cathedral Parish School @ Marsh Creek

4/23 - Murray @ Marsh Creek

4/25 – Cathedral Parish School @ Marsh Creek

Match locations:

- Treaty Park, 1595 Wildwood Drive, St. Augustine
- Marsh Creek Country Club, 169 Marshside Drive, St. Augustine

Softball (All games begin at 4:00pm)

3/26 - Swiss Point @ Aberdeen

3/28 – Fruit Cove @ Treaty Park

4/2 – Landrum @ Treaty Park

1/4 Persetti Pers © Treate Paule

4/4 – Pacetti Bay @ Treaty Park 4/9 – Fruit Cove @ Treaty Park

4/16 – Valley Ridge @ Treaty Park

Field locations:

Aberdeen, 1401 Shetland Drive, St. Johns Treaty Park, 1595 Wildwood Drive, St. Augustine

