

Sebastian Middle School

Build your Mind, Explore your World, Create your Future

Message from the King.....

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Firstly, I want to clarify issues related to testing and how we are to move forward. The district vision here is that students are not punished in any way due to the technology issues we experienced last week. At this time, we have stopped all District Examinations. Please note that testing on Florida State Assessment, Algebra, Geometry, Civics, Biology and 8th Grade Science is all done on a different platform; therefore, we anticipate those sessions going well.

We begin FSA testing with our 6th graders next week and I ask that you work to best prepare your son/daughter for these sessions. In many cases, confidence is key. Our students are well prepared if they focus and emotionally commit for the duration of the examination. We want them to show what they've learned and in doing so, I know they will perform well. It can be a stressful time.

Secondly, I want to inform all of my new role with our District, effective July 1st. I have accepted a position as Associate Superintendent for Accountability, but I do so with a heavy heart. I've thoroughly enjoyed my time here as Principal and I'm proud of the work our students and teachers do every day. I'm particularly proud of the STEM Certification as it speaks to the connection needed between school, families and the community. In my new role, I will focus on supporting Title 1 Schools, and thus I plan to stay connected to Sebastian whilst supporting the incoming Principal. As a parent here myself, I also know how important it is to continue pushing Sebastian forward. It is a remarkable place and I feel lucky to have been part of the vision here. The support, in particular, from the PTO and you as parents has been incredible. Our District Leaders will be here at SMS this Thursday 4/25 at 2:15pm to solicit input on what we'd like to see in our new leader. Parents and other stakeholders are invited to attend this meeting in our Auditorium.

I look forward to seeing many of you at concerts and awards ceremonies as we finish out the year. Thank you as always for your support.

Sincerely,

Wayne King, Principal

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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:

April 25

Chick-fil-A Spirit Night, 5:30-7:30pm

April 26

8th Grade Dance, 7:00-9:00pm, St. Augustine High (deadline to purchase tix is Wed 4/24!)

May 2—17

FSA/EOC Exams (see schedule below)

May 3

STEAM Advisory Board Meeting, 8:00-9:00am

May 6-10

Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week!

May 7

Guitar Spring Concert, 6:00pm

May 9

String Orchestra Spring Concert, 6:00pm

May 10

8th Grade GradVenture @ Universal, 2:30pm-2:30am

May 14

PTO Meeting, 5:45-6:45pm

FSA/EOC Testing Schedule

May 2-3: 6th Grade FSA Language Arts

May 6-7: 6th Grade FSA Math

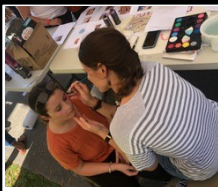
May 9: 8th Grade Science/Biology EOC/Civics EOC

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

FSA Math

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

Volunteer test proctors are STILL 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! Thank you in advance for your gift of time!!



Spring Fling Fun!

Sponsored by PTO, this year's annual Spring



Fling raised over \$1,000 and gave students and teachers a chance to get outside and have some fun together! The PTO thanks all the parents who volunteered their time and energy that day to help set up, clean up and staff booths during the event.



Celebrating Earth Day at SMS

Thanks to passionate environmentalist and SMS parent Tara Dodson, SMS will introduce two new initiatives in the coming weeks—dedicated recycling bins in three key locations on campus (front entrance, cafeteria, and sports fields behind school), and refillable water bottle stations inside the school. The recycling bins and corresponding Recycle Across America labels for trash/recycling were made possible with support from BBVA Bank. Three new water bottle filling stations will be installed in the coming weeks, made possible with funding from the Green Hands Program at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre and the R.B. Hunt PTAO. Green Hands is also donating reusable water bottles for every student, teacher and staff member at SMS!

To celebrate Earth Day and these initiatives, the WSMS News Team made an informational video; click [here](#) to watch it!

The Penny War Returns to SMS! April 22 thru May 1, 2019

Put your spare change toward a great cause! Spearheaded by Ms. Harvey, all proceeds from this year's Penny War fundraiser will go to support purchasing technology programs for SMS.

Pennies are "positive." Here's how it works:

- Containers are located in each classroom.
- Each penny counts as one positive point for YOUR favorite teacher or staff member.
- Each silver coin counts as negative points for OTHER staff. In other words, dropping a quarter in another classroom's bucket takes 25 points from their total.

At the end of the day on May 1, all change/points will be tallied!!! The school-nominated favorite teacher will be crowned Penny War Champ for a day!

Start saving your change—it can make a big difference!

Penny War Rules



Points:

Adding (+)



1 penny = 1 point



Subtracting (-)

1 nickel = 5 points

1 dime = 10 points

1 quarter = 25 points



Chick-fil-A Spirit Night

Thursday, April 25

5:30—7:30pm

1752 US Highway 1 South, St. Augustine

10% of all purchases (incl. drive-thru!) donated to SMS PTO!



Spring Sports & Activities Calendar

- ◆ Apr 23—Baseball vs. Patriot Oaks @ Waler Field, 3:45pm
- ◆ Apr 23—Tennis vs. Murray, 4:00pm @ Marsh Creek
- ◆ Apr 24—Track Meet, 4:00-7:00pm @ Pedro Menendez High
- ◆ Apr 25—Baseball vs. Liberty Pines @ Davis Park, 3:45pm
- ◆ Apr 25—Tennis vs. CPS, 4:00pm @ Marsh Creek
- ◆ Apr 25—Chick-fil-A Spirit Night, 5:30-7:30pm
- ◆ April 26—8th Grade Dance, 7:00-9:00pm, St. Augustine High
- ◆ May 1—Track Meet, 4:00-7:00pm @ St. Augustine High
- ◆ May 3—STEAM Advisory Board Meeting, 8:00am
- ◆ May 7—Guitar Spring Concert, 6:00pm
- ◆ May 9—String Orchestra Spring Concert, 6:00pm
- ◆ May 10—8th Grade GradVenture Trip to Universal Orlando, 2:30pm—2:30am
- ◆ May 20—Band & Chorus Club Spring Concert, 6:00pm
- ◆ May 22—8th Grade Awards/Promotion Ceremony, 6:00pm
- ◆ May 23—7th Grade Awards Ceremony, 8:30am
- ◆ May 24—6th Grade Awards Ceremony, 8:30am
- ◆ May 24—Last Day of School for Students!
- ◆ Jun 3-7—Music Camp at SMS
- ◆ Jun 10-13—STEAM Camp for Rising 6th Graders

News from the SMS Media Center



Want to win this bike??? Thanks to the generosity of AIA Cycle Works and owner Jeff Bukowski, we will be giving away a brand new

cruiser to one lucky reader at the end of

school this year! Students who have read at least 2 SSYRA books will receive entry tickets up to 14 total into a drawing held during an SSYRA end of year party the last week of school. Deadline to enter is May 15 so keep reading!



Sebastian's Battle of the Books team did a spectacular job of working together to prepare for the St. Johns County 13th annual Battle of the Books last week and tied for 4th place. Congratulations to Pacetti Bay Middle School for placing first. Our SMS competing team consisted of Gia Flaherty (captain), Nick Mariotti, Olivia Mariotti, Megan Lay, and Greg Rorex. Supporting members were Makaila Archuleta, Dylan Cook, and Donald Stables.

The Media Center will officially close for check-outs as of May 10th. **All library books must be returned by this date.** We have enjoyed all of our readers this year and hope they patronize the public library for their summer reading enjoyment. Go to <https://www.sjcpls.org/> for more information about the public library's summer reading programs. Additionally, 2019-20 Sunshine State Young Reader's Award titles were released April 18th; click [here](#) to view the list! Summer reading incentives coming soon!



Beaver Toyota Student of the Week: Lily Kiker!

Congrats to SMS 8th Grader Lily Kiker for being selected by Beaver Toyota as this week's St. Johns County Student of the Week! Lily is pictured here with WEB Coordinator Ryan Sirak.



SMS Cheerleading Tryouts

Rising 6th, 7th and 8th grade students with school spirit are invited to try out for the SMS Cheer Squad! Tryouts will be held as follows:

Clinics: April 24-25, 2:00—4:30pm @ SMS

Tryouts: April 26, 2:00—4:30pm @ SMS

Cheerleading at SMS is coached and organized by the St. Johns Middle School Athletic Association. For more information and to register for tryouts, please visit www.sjmsaa.com. Go Eagles!

SMS Inducts New NJHS Members!

On April 12, SMS inducted 16 new members into NJHS! Congratulations to: Jillian Ardis, Collin Beese, Ana Capeci, Dylan Cook, Noelle Covey, Lucy Cronk, Angelica de Vita, Graci Flaherty, Josie Johnson, Huien Kalanik, Cooper Kiker, Ana Lindsey, Keenan Ovrebo-Welker, Evelyn Santiago, Emma Winkler, and Zoe Watson.



Spring Cleaning? Donate your exercise equipment to the SMS P.E. Department!

Coach Chad Razey seeks to create a weight room that teaches students the fundamentals of movement using body-weight and light weight exercises. Emphasizing the importance of strong core muscles, proper movement techniques, and the benefits of using a gym to maintain a healthy lifestyle, the goal is to give students the knowledge to create a basic workout plan and execute this plan outside of school.

To support this goal, Coach Razey is looking for cardio weight room equipment that is in working condition and does not need to be plugged in to work: Rowing Machines, Fan Bikes, Battery Operated Elliptical, etc. We are also looking to add some 10-20 pound weights (in any form...medicine ball, kettle bell, dumbbell). If you have any equipment to donate, please contact Coach Razey at Chad.Razey@stjohns.k12.fl.us. Thanks!



SMS Music Camp: 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. Classes will be offered in the SMS Music Room as follows:

String Orchestra: 8:30 AM -10:30 AM

Guitar: 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Band: 1:00 PM– 3:00 PM

The cost for a week of music camp is \$40 which includes a music class each day for one subject. If a student would like to take two or three classes, the cost will be \$60. Scholarships are available. For more information, please contact Mr. Rogers at Charles.Rogers@stjohns.k12.fl.us. Click [here](#) to download a camp registration form from the SMS website.