

Sebastian Middle School

Build your Mind, Explore your World, Create your Future

Principal's Message

Dear Eagle Families,

We are now well into the second quarter and our students are hitting their learning stride. Please remember to check Home Access Center (HAC) for grades and Schoology for assignments on a regular basis. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your student's teachers directly by email (addresses available in HAC). Many teachers offer tutoring on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school, and some offer "Learning Lunch" where students can come to their classroom for additional help after they've eaten lunch in the cafeteria. If you think your student would benefit from tutoring after school or during Learning Lunch, please contact your teachers.

Project-based learning continues on a weekly basis during Inquiry Hour on Wednesdays. Students are finalizing their projects these next two weeks, and some will be presenting at our STEAM Exhibition on Wednesday, November 20, from 8:00-11:00am. We invite ALL parents, grandparents and other interested family members to join us for Exhibition to view the array of incredible projects our students have developed around themes of water, technological innovations, and stopping the spread of disease. **All adults must have School Access to visit SMS beyond the Front Office during school hours; please click [here](#) to fill out a online School Access application, or contact Susan.Connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us to check your status.**

Last week's Red Ribbon Week was a wonderful way to have some fun with our students while rallying together against drugs and bullying. Participating students all received PBIS points, and the home-rooms that earned the most PBIS points all week have won a doughnut party. Congrats go out to Mr. Gray (6th grade), Ms. Henry (7th grade) and Ms. Hagy (8th grade)!

Sincerely,

Kirstie Gabaldon, Principal

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Kirstie Gabaldon, Principal
Angela Hensley, Asst. Principal

Matt Hodges, Instructional Literacy Coach
Kevin Hayes, Dean of Students

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

Important Dates

November 7

Growth Mindset Parent Workshop, 6:00-7:30pm,
SMS Multipurpose Room

November 11

Veteran's Day: Student/Teacher Holiday

November 14

National Jr. Honor Society Induction, 5:30pm,
SMS Auditorium

November 15

STEAM Advisory Board Meeting, 8:00am, MPR
Second Quarter Interims Issued in HAC

November 20

STEAM Exhibition, 8:00-11:00am. Check in
through SMS Front Office.

November 21

PTO Dodgeball Tournament, 6:00-8:00pm, SMS
Gymnasium



Wondering what to do with your student's leftover Halloween candy? Donate it to SMS for Reading Plus Incentives! Drop off anytime in Front Office.

Growth Mindset Parent Workshop

Sponsored by the SJCS Department of Accountability and Intervention Services, all parents, guardians, and other caregivers are invited to join Mindset Works trainer Janna Peskett to learn how to help your student embrace challenges and develop resilience in the face of setbacks!

Thursday, November 7

6:00—7:30pm, SMS Multipurpose Room

Dinner and childcare provided!

RSVP to Susan.Connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us



PTO News & Notes

Dodgeball Tournament—11/21, 6-8pm

Calling all dodgeball players!! Registration is now open and **forms** are due by this Friday, 11/8. Sign up as a team of 5, or on your own and PTO will place you with a team. Only 20 teams (4 adult and 16 student teams) will compete to be the Dodgeball Champion of SMS! Participation on a team costs only \$10 per player (\$50 per team) and event spectators will pay a \$1/entrance fee. Bring the whole family for an evening of dodgeball action and fun at SMS!

Shop Amazon Smile this Holiday



AmazonSmile offers the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com, but when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice! To support SMS, visit <https://smile.amazon.com/> and sign up to support “Sebastian Middle School Pto Inc.” Remember to always begin each shopping “trip” at smile.Amazon.com to support SMS this holiday season!

Spiritwear for Sale this Friday 11/8 during all Lunches!

Responding to student demand, the PTO will be selling SMS Spiritwear inside the cafeteria during all three lunches this Friday, November 8. Please send cash or a check made payable to “SMS PTO” with your student to school on Friday if s/he wishes to make a purchase. A wide variety of t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, socks and other items are available for purchase. Please click [here](#) to download a Spiritwear order form and to check prices. Thanks for showing your school spirit and supporting the PTO at the same time!



New Eagle Spotlight:

Mary Pitman, Guidance Clerk

I moved to Clay County, FL in May 2019 from Barnegat, New Jersey, where I was a school secretary for 20 years, working in an Elementary school, then as the Superintendent’s secretary and finally a secretary in the transportation/security department. I am married with 4 adult children and 3 grandchildren. My husband and I love football, boating and relaxing together with family and friends. I was really nervous about moving to a new state and starting a new job. But the staff here at Sebastian have been amazing making me feel so welcome and right at home!

Red Ribbon Week Fun!



Students and staff in our self-contained ESE classes all wear red to celebrate!

Mr. Gray, Ms. Cullar and Ms. Ludwick as dry erase markers on Twin Day!

8th Grade Yearbook Ads On Sale Now!!

Looking for a special way to honor your student as they complete middle school? Purchase an ad in this year’s SMS yearbook! Ads are available in four sizes and prices:

1/8 page—\$25

1/2 page—\$60

1/4 page—\$40

Full page—\$100

Ads will be due by noon on January 15. Click [here](#) to download the order form with additional details.



Fall Sports & Activities Calendar

- ◆ Nov 5—Boys Soccer vs. Patriot Oaks @ TBD
- ◆ Nov 7—Girls Soccer vs. Mill Creek Academy @ Pomar
- ◆ Nov 7—Growth Mindset Parent Training, 6:00-7:30pm @ SMS
- ◆ Nov 8—Boys Soccer vs. Landrum @ Pomar Park
- ◆ Nov 11—Veteran’s Day: Student/Teacher Holiday
- ◆ Nov 12—Boys Soccer vs. Pacetti Bay @ Pomar Park
- ◆ Nov 14—NJHS Induction Ceremony, 5:30pm @ SMS
- ◆ Nov 15—STEAM Advisory Board Meeting, 8:00am @ SMS
- ◆ Nov 15—Cross Country Meet, 5:00pm @ Treaty Park
- ◆ Nov 15—Boys Soccer vs. Valley Ridge @ Davis Park
- ◆ Nov 15—Second Quarter Interims posted in HAC
- ◆ Nov 18—Girls Soccer vs. Fruit Cove @ Plantation Park
- ◆ Nov 19—Boys Soccer vs. Fruit Cove @ Pomar Park
- ◆ Nov 20—Exhibition Event, 8:00-11:00am @ SMS
- ◆ Nov 21—Girls Soccer vs. Landrum @ Davis Park
- ◆ Nov 21—PTO Dodgeball Tournament, 5:30pm @ SMS

- ◆ Nov 22—Boys Soccer vs. Gamble Rogers @ Pomar Park
- ◆ Nov 25—Girls Soccer vs. Swiss Point @ Aberdeen Park
- ◆ Nov 26—Boys Soccer vs. Pacetti Bay @ TBA
- ◆ Nov 27-29—Thanksgiving Break: Student/Teacher Holiday
- ◆ Dec 2—Basketball Tryouts Begin
- ◆ Dec 5—Communication Cornerstone Parent Meeting, 8:30am, Topic: High School Career Academies
- ◆ Dec 5—Girls Soccer vs. Fruit Cove @ Plantation Park
- ◆ Dec 9—Girls Soccer vs. Palm Valley Academy @ Davis Park
- ◆ Dec 10—Holiday Guitar Concert, 6:00pm, SMS Auditorium
- ◆ Dec 11—Barnes & Noble Spirit Day, time TBD
- ◆ Dec 12—Holiday String Orchestra Concert, 6:00pm, Auditorium
- ◆ Dec 16-20—PTO Holiday Shop @ SMS
- ◆ Dec 17—SAC Meeting, 2:00pm
- ◆ Dec 17—Holiday Band Concert, 6:00pm, Auditorium

Note: All Boys and Girls Soccer Games begin at 4:00pm. The SMS home field is Pomar Park, 1600 Masters Drive.

Dance Class Rocks at SMS!



Last Friday, students in Ms. Burkhardt's 7th period Dance Class performed dances they had choreographed themselves to Michael Jackson's song "Thriller." Needless to say, they were thrilled to perform!

Attention 8th Grade Parents!

High School Academy Registration Begins 1/9

Parents of 8th grade students should mark their calendars now for the following dates:

Dec 5—Communication Cornerstone, 8:30-9:30am, SMS Multipurpose Room. Topic: Career Academies and IB/AICE Programs at SAHS and Pedro Menendez High School

Jan 9—High School Academy Showcase at World Golf Village Convention Center, 3:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Jan 9—Online Application opens in HAC at 8:00 a.m. for newly applying 8th and 9th grade students.

Jan 16-30—Academy Nights (6:00-7:30pm unless noted)

1/16: Allen D. Nease High 1/21: Ponte Vedra High

1/23: St. Johns Technical, 5:30-6:30pm

1/23: St. Augustine High 1/27: Bartram Trail High

1/28: Creekside High 1/30: Pedro Menendez

Jan 31—Auditions for the Center for the Arts at SAHS

Feb 3—Registration Deadline! Online Registration will be closed at 5:00 p.m.

Questions? Please contact 8th Grade Guidance Counselor Leanne Fortune at Leanne.Fortune@stjohns.k12.fl.us



College Scholarship & Mentoring Program

Students in 7th and 8th grade at SMS who meet the following requirements are invited to apply to be part of the Take Stock In Children Program:

- Student must have a U.S. social security number
- Family must meet financial eligibility requirements
- Student must have 1st quarter grades of C or higher, or a 3.25 overall GPA
- Student must have earned 3 or higher on prior year's FSA/EOC exams

If accepted into the program, students must sign a pledge to remain drug and crime free, maintain a 2.5 or better GPA and meet with a mentor once a week. Applications are available from Ms. Leanne Fortune in the SMS Guidance Department and are **due by Fri, 12/6**.

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 15** 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 17. Please contact Ms. Fortune at Leanne.Fortune@stjohns.k12.fl.us with questions.

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 _____



Jags give \$1,500 to SMS P.E. Department!

On January 28, sixth grade PE classes will hear from a guest speaker from Wolfson's Children Hospital/TPC about nutrition, how to read food labels, and heart health. This is part of this year's NFL PLAY60 Program, and the Jaguar Foundation is donating \$1,500 to SMS for participating. This funding will be used to purchase new equipment for our students to use in class. Go Jags!



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA After-School Program Now Enrolling for 11/12—12/19

After an initial successful 6-week session, the YMCA invites all SMS students to join the fun! The second session begins 11/12 and runs Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays until 4:30pm through 12/19 at a cost of \$60.00 for the session. Students have 30 minutes of study hall and then participate in a variety of intramural sports, including basketball, flag football, soccer, dodgeball, kickball, and ultimate frisbee. This program is open to all students of all athletic ability levels and is primarily designed to be FUN! Registration forms: [YMCA Revision Form](#) and [Intramural Registration Form](#). Contact Phil Tensley at PTensley@fcymca.org.