

Vol. 2
9.4.18

The Eagle Eye

Sebastian Middle School

Build your Mind, Explore your World, Create your Future

Message from the King.....

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Firstly, I want to thank those of you who work hard to get your son/daughter prepared for school and here on time everyday. My goal is to ensure that we create the right environment here for students and the partnership with you as parents is key. Please continue to emphasize that students should have a quiet place to study at home and that through Schoology students can now link back to the classroom to help guide their learning. We will issue interim grades next week and that should provide feedback as to how we best use our time outside of the school day.

We will host our Curriculum Chat/Open House events later this month and we look forward to the interaction with you as parents. You will have an opportunity to hear from both your administrative team as well as the teachers during these sessions. Our goal is to ensure that you know the channel for communication and you are aware of the progress monitoring tools we are using, especially in Language Arts and Math. It is an important event and we appreciate you participating.

Finally, we will launch into Inquiry/Eagle Hour next Wednesday. Students will be filtered into groups to work on STEM Projects or to participate in teacher-led activities. We will conduct student surveys this week in order for students to have voice in this process. Football season is well underway and our Volleyball season opens next Tuesday with a home game. I encourage you to take some time to come watch our student-athletes perform. They are working hard in and out of the classroom.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Wayne King, Principal

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Wayne King, Principal
Angela Hensley, Asst. Principal

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

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

Important Dates:

September 6

Schoology 101 for Parents, 1:00—2:00pm

September 12

Interim Report Cards Issued in HAC

September 17—24

SMS Book Fair, 8:00am—2:00pm and during Open House events

September 18

6th Grade Curriculum Chat & Open House, 5:30—7:00pm

September 24

7th/8th Grade Curriculum Chat & Open House, 5:30—7:00pm

September 25

School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting, 2:15—3:00pm

September 27

Chick-fil-A Spirit Night, 5:30—7:30pm



Friendly Reminder from the Front Office!

In an effort to promote personal responsibility amongst our students, parents are only allowed to drop off the following items to their students during the school day: keys, lunches and athletic uniforms needed for an event that day. Homework, textbooks, PE uniforms and band instruments will **not** be delivered to your student during the day so are best kept at home and brought to school by your student the following day. Thank you for your help in encouraging your students to be responsible for themselves.

Mark Your Calendars for Curriculum Chat/ Open House Events at SMS!

Tuesday, 9/18—6th Grade
Monday, 9/24—7th/8th Grades
5:30—7:00pm

Parents will meet in the Auditorium at 5:30pm for a curriculum presentation on our core subject areas of Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies before dismissing to visit individual teachers in their classrooms. Students are welcome to attend but the information provided will primarily be directed toward parents. Information about the 8th Grade Field Trip to Washington DC will be presented from 7:00—7:30pm in the Auditorium on 9/24 to any interested 8th Grade families.

The SMS Media Center will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair during both Open House events so please stop by to do some early holiday shopping! A representative from the St. Johns County Public Library will also be in attendance at both events to sign up students and/or adults for public library cards.

The Scholastic Book Fair is Coming to SMS! September 17—24

Click [here](#) to Volunteer

Or contact Susan.Connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us



Odd?Rod Speaks to SMS 6th Graders

Back by popular demand and sponsored by the PTO, Jacksonville native “Odd?Rod” spoke to our 6th grade students on August 23 about his experiences of growing up in poverty with a drug-addicted mother and without a father. Instead of following his peers, Roderick Borisade became “Odd?Rod,” a poet who found his inspiration in words and now shares his story with students across the country. His poems touch on sensitive but important topics like death, bullying, drugs, and suicide. For more information, please visit his website at <http://www.oddrod.net/>.

Introducing our “Soaring Eagle” Volleyball Teams!

Be sure to catch a home game sometime this season!



Fall Sports & Activities Calendar

- ♦ Sep 5—Football vs. Liberty Pines @ Plantation Grass, 3100 Racetrack Road, St. Johns
- ♦ Sep 11—Volleyball vs. Pacetti Bay @ SMS
- ♦ Sep 11—Cross Country Practice Begins at SMS
- ♦ Sep 12—Interim Report Cards Issued in HAC
- ♦ Sep 12—Football vs. Fruit Cove @ Pomar Park
- ♦ Sep 13—Volleyball vs. Gamble Rogers @ GRMS
- ♦ Sep 17-24—Book Fair at SMS!
- ♦ Sep 18—6th Grade Curriculum Chat/Open House, 5:30—7:00pm
- ♦ Sep 18—Volleyball vs. Patriot Oaks @ POA
- ♦ Sep 19—Football vs. Valley Ridge @ Davis Park, 210 Davis Park Rd, Ponte Vedra
- ♦ Sep 24—7th/8th Grade Curriculum Chat/Open House, 5:30—7:00pm
- ♦ Sep 25—Volleyball vs. Fruit Cove @ SMS
- ♦ Sep 26—Football vs. Pacetti Bay @ Pacetti Bay, 245 Meadowlark Lane

*Note: Football Games begin at 5:00pm;
Volleyball Games begin at 5:30pm Girls; 6:30pm Boys*

- ♦ Sep 27—Chick-fil-A Spirit Night, 5:30-7:30pm
- ♦ Sep 27—Volleyball vs. Valley Ridge @ SMS
- ♦ Oct 2—Volleyball vs. Switzerland Point @ SPMS
- ♦ Oct 3—Football vs. Landrum @ Cornerstone, 1046 Florida AIA, Ponte Vedra
- ♦ Oct 9—Volleyball vs. Landrum @ Landrumy
- ♦ Oct 10—Football vs. Patriot Oaks @ Plantation Grass
- ♦ Oct 11—Volleyball vs. Liberty Pines @ SMS
- ♦ Oct 12—First Quarter Ends
- ♦ Oct 15—Teacher Planning Day/Student Holiday
- ♦ Oct 16—Volleyball vs. Murray @ MMS
- ♦ Oct 17—Football vs. Swiss Point @ Pomar Park
- ♦ Oct 19—Zombie Run, 5:00pm @ SMS
- ♦ Nov 12—Veterans Day: Teacher/Student Holiday
- ♦ Nov 16—2nd Quarter Interims Issued in HAC
- ♦ Nov 21-23—Thanksgiving Break
- ♦ Nov 30—Pep Rally
- ♦ Dec 17-21—Mid-Term Exams
- ♦ Dec 21—Second Quarter Ends
- ♦ Dec 24-Jan 3—Winter Break
- ♦ Jan 4—Teacher Planning Day/Student Holiday
- ♦ Jan 7—Classes Resume for All Students



Music Clubs at SMS!

Calling all musical students! SMS is offering two after-school clubs for the musically-inclined:

Chorus Club, Tuesdays 2:00-3:30pm

String Orchestra Club, Thursdays 2:00-3:30pm

Clubs begin September 11 and run throughout the fall semester. There is no charge to join this club, and transportation is provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays by an Activities Bus which takes students to SAHS to catch their regular bus home. Interested students should see Mr. Rogers in the Music Room for a permission slip.



The Summer Reader Ice Cream Party was a blast! Keep Reading!



Is Your Student Interested in Being a Leader at SMS?

If so, s/he should join Student Council! Membership is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students with a passion for helping others and influencing their community. Student Council will meet after school until 3:30pm on the last Tuesday of each month beginning September 25. There is an Activities Bus on Tuesdays providing transportation home. Students should see Ms. Allen in Room E430 for more information and to sign up.



The SMS Eagle Store Needs You!

Sponsored by the PTO, the Eagle Store at SMS gives students a chance to "spend" their hard-earned LiveSchool points on a variety of fun items. Parent volunteers and donations are needed to make the Eagle Store a success! Volunteers are needed on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, beginning 9/19. Please click [here](#) to sign up via Sign Up Genius.

If you cannot volunteer but would like to support the Eagle Store, we welcome your donations of the following items: backpacks, earbuds, locks, mechanical pencils, individually-wrapped candies, small packages of chips, SSYRA or other age-appropriate books, and anything else you think your student would be interested in purchasing with their LiveSchool points! Donations may be dropped off in the Front Office anytime.

Please contact Kisha Patel at ktpatel1012@gmail.com or Jenny Persson at jenpers@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you in advance for your help!



Exceptional Student Education (ESE) at SMS

Our SMS family includes three self-contained classrooms which serve students with a variety of intellectual and physical special needs. We currently have 21 students enrolled in 3 self-contained classrooms taught by Ms. Catherine Brewster, Mr. Carl Barber and Ms. Rebecca Bradshaw, along with Paraprofessional staff Ms. Lois Corpuz, Ms. Jessica Dawsey, Mr. Lance Layman, and Ms. Cindy Weedman. Each classroom provides a varying exceptionality (VE) resource setting where students receive special education alongside peers diagnosed with other disabling conditions. Our emphasis is on developing functional and academic skills in a creative, hands-on environment with small student to staff ratios. Throughout the year, students enrolled in our Gifted Education elective classes and our 8th grade WEB leaders will partner with students in our self-contained classrooms on special projects, which provides a wonderful learning opportunity for all involved.

We invite parents to help support an adaptive and sensory learning environment in these classrooms by making donations of the following items:

Playdoh and Playdoh sets; Bubbles; Plastic or wooden musical instruments to play by hand (ex: drums, maracas, tambourines, shakers, xylophones); Squishy stress balls; Alphabet magnets and cookie sheets

Donations may be dropped off in the front office at SMS anytime! Thank you so much for your support of our Exceptionally Special Students at SMS!



XC (Cross Country) Starts September 11!

All SMS students interested in running and having fun are invited to join the Cross Country team! No tryouts or experience necessary. Practices will be held Tuesdays and Fridays until 3:30pm. Meets will be held on Wednesdays at 4:00pm starting in October; the middle school race distance is 2 miles. Permission slips and additional information are available from Coach Kevin Hayes (kevin.c.hayes@stjohns.k12.fl.us) and Rachel Mathis (Rachel.mathis@stjohns.k12.fl.us). **Students must have a signed permission slip and a current physical on file in order to participate.** The activities bus is available on Tuesdays to transport students to SAHS at 3:30 to catch their regular bus home.