

Vol. 3  
9.17.18

# *The Eagle Eye*

## Sebastian Middle School

Build your Mind, Explore your World, Create your Future

### Message from the King.....

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As I write, you should now have received your student's first Interim Report Card for the year. This is an important time to reflect and communicate as a family. The goal is for students to develop their learning style and become more comfortable with the writing process. All students in advanced classes should be reading outside of the curriculum in order to improve their vocabulary and comprehension. Our goal, through STEM, is to go well beyond the Florida State Assessment (FSA).

We began our Eagle/Inquiry Hour vision last Wednesday and will continue to develop it moving forward. Students assigned to an Inquiry Hour get a chance to work on a community project with the idea of applying learning. It is new for some but ultimately will help with creativity and expression. These groups will rotate so I ask that you engage your son or daughter with questions relative to their assignment.

Many of our after school clubs and activities also opened last week and the offerings will continue to grow based on student interest. This time is important as it provides us with the opportunity, in smaller groups, to make deeper connections with our students and help them develop their skills. These sessions are often the most rewarding for students and teachers.

Finally, we will host our Curriculum Chat/Open House events this week and next. The important ideas from these sessions center around communicating with teachers and understanding how we, as parents, can support our student's learning. Both events will begin promptly at 5:30pm in the Auditorium. I look forward to seeing you there.

As always, 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 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*

#### October 4

*Parent Communication Cornerstone, 8:00-9:00am*

### Congrats to our August Character Counts Winners for Trustworthiness!

Teacher: Kristina Harvey  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Brooke Bradshaw  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Hyde Kenney  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Chris Brown

### SMS School Improvement Plan

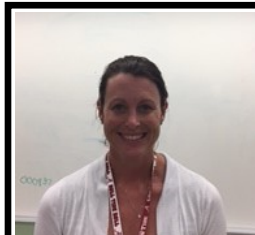
Attention SMS Parents! Whether or not you are a SAC member, you are all invited to attend the School Advisory Council meeting on Tues, 9/25, 2:15—3:00pm at SMS for a special presentation of our School Improvement Plan (SIP) for the coming year. Following this meeting, the SIP will be posted to the SMS website for your review. We welcome your questions and comments!

## Curriculum Chat/Open House Events

**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 and a representative from the St. Johns County Public Library will also be in attendance to sign up students and/or adults for public library cards.



## New Faculty Spotlight! Heather Watson, 6th Grade Science Teacher

I moved to St. Augustine in 2000 to pursue a degree in Elementary/Deaf Education at Flagler College. I now live here with my husband and two children. Teaching has been in my life since I was 16 years old; however my first classroom was the pool, as I am also a swim coach and swim instructor. For the past 15 years, I have been blessed with smiling faces from 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Each year taught me something new and thus I found my love of science. When I am not walking the hallways, high-fiving students or turning my students into mad scientists, I enjoy hanging out with those who are close to me. The water is my love and every moment I get I am in the waves, swimming laps or just splashing around. When the water isn't calling, I am running the black tops and disappearing into a different world. I am so excited to be a part of the Eagle family. Not only is this year my first year at Sebastian but my first year as a middle school teacher. Sebastian brings so much in innovation, allowing each of us to think outside the box and being exactly who we want to be. At Sebastian we SOAR, knowing that our only limit is ourself.



## Lost & Found

Please remind your students to check the Lost & Found table in the Dean's Office for any items they may have misplaced since the start of school!



**SMS Spirit Night!**  
**Thursday, September 27**  
**5:30—7:30pm**



## Fall Sports & Activities Calendar

- ♦ 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. Landrum @ Cornerstone, 1046 Florida AIA, 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
- ♦ 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. Valley Ridge, 7:00pm @ Plantation Grass, 210 Davis Park Rd, Ponte Vedra
- ♦ Oct 4—Communication Cornerstone with SMS Parents, 8:00—9:00am
- ♦ Oct 9—Volleyball vs. Landrum @ Landrum
- ♦ Oct 10—Football vs. Patriot Oaks @ Plantation Grass

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

- ♦ Oct 11—Volleyball vs. Liberty Pines @ SMS
- ♦ Oct 11—Panera Bread Spirit Night, 4:00-8:00pm
- ♦ 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
- ♦ Oct 22-26—Red Ribbon Week
- ♦ Oct 23—PTO Meeting, 5:45pm @ Growers Alliance Café, 322 Anastasia Blvd.
- ♦ Oct 24—First Quarter Report Cards Issued
- ♦ Oct 25—Growth Mindset Parent Workshop, 6:00—7:00pm @ SMS
- ♦ Nov 5—Sonny's BBQ Spirit Night, 5:00-8:00pm
- ♦ 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 5—8th Grade Career Day
- ♦ 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

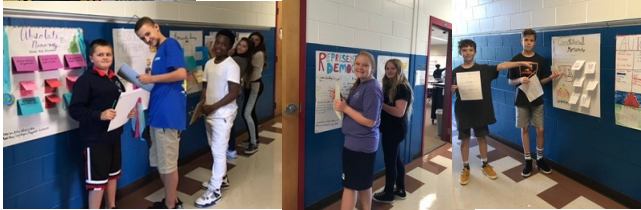
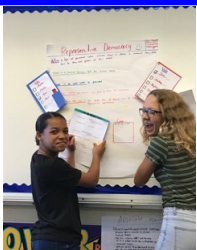
## After-School Clubs & Activities at SMS!

| Club/Activity                           | Teacher      | Days/Times                        | Start Date |
|---|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Chorus Club                             | Rogers       | Tues, 2:00 - 3:30pm               | 11-Sep     |
| Cross Country                           | Hayes/Mathis | Tues/Fri, 2:00 - 3:30pm           | 11-Sep     |
| First Lego League Robotics              | Harvey       | Tues/Thurs, 2:00-3:30pm           | 11-Sep     |
| VEX IQ Robotics                         | Brown        | Tues/Thurs, 2:00-3:30pm           | 11-Sep     |
| String Orchestra                        | Rogers       | Thurs, 2:00-3:30pm                | 13-Sep     |
| Student Council                         | Allen/Mathis | Last Tues of month, 2:00 - 3:00pm | 25-Sep     |
| Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) | Fortune      | Last Tues of Month, 2:00 - 3:30pm | 25-Sep     |
| Art Club                                | Hagy/King    | Thurs, 2:00 - 3:30pm              | 6-Oct      |
| Drama Club                              | Hodges       | TBD                               | Jan        |
| Builders Club                           | Pardo        | Variable                          | Oct        |
| National Jr. Honor Society              | Reese        | Thurs, 2:00-3:30pm                | TBD        |

In many cases, students may join after-school clubs and activities at any point during the year, but students should contact the teacher sponsor for more information. Additional activities may be offered throughout the year depending on student interest. An Activities Bus provides transportation home on Tues/Thurs, picking up at SMS at 3:30pm and transporting students to SAHS to transfer to their regular bus. Encourage your students to get involved!

## Fun with Civics!

Ms. Allen and Ms. Lydigsen's 7th grade civics classes recently combined for a fun lesson on Forms of Government.



## Shout-Outs from the Media Center!



Thank you to Ms. Link (pictured here), Ms. Ludwick, and Ms. Mathis for collaborating with the Media Center to differentiate classroom instruction. Way to go!

## 2018-19 Communication Cornerstone Series

Communication Cornerstone is a monthly meeting of SMS parents hosted by Principal Wayne King and featuring guest speakers from both inside and outside our school on topics of importance to you and your student's education. Importantly, it is an opportunity for parents to ask questions and provide input and feedback to our SMS administration. Beginning in October, meetings will be held on the **first Thursday of each month**, at a variety of times (morning, mid-day, and evening) in order to accommodate the varied needs of our parents. Please mark your calendars to attend the first session on **Thursday, October 4, 8:00—9:00am** in the Multipurpose Room at SMS. Coffee and refreshments will be served—please plan to join us!

## "Parenting for a Healthier Tomorrow"

The St. Johns County School District is hosting two free Community Events to bring parents and community agencies like EPIC, Flagler Hospital, the SJC Dept. of Health and others together to discuss issues of health and wellness including depression, anxiety, grief, suicide prevention and more:

**September 20, 6:00—8:00pm**

Liberty Pines Academy  
10901 Russell Sampson Road, St. Johns, FL

**September 27, 6:00—8:00pm**

Gamble Rogers Middle School  
6250 US 1, St. Augustine, FL

## Presenters Needed for SMS Career Days

At SMS, we want our students to focus on their future by looking at how you found your future! What academic path did you take? What is fulfilling about your career? What challenges did you face in pursuing your career? What is the earning potential students could expect? If you are interested in sharing your career with our students, we invite you to become a Career Day presenter. Our 8th Grade Career Day will be held **Wednesday, December 5 from 7:30am—12:30pm** and a 6th/7th Grade event will be held in the spring (date TBD). If you are interested in participating in one or both events, please email Susan Connor at [susan.connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:susan.connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us) for more information. Thank you in advance for helping to spark interest in our students' futures!