

Vol. 10  
2.12.20

# *The Eagle Eye*

## Sebastian Middle School

Build your Mind, Explore your World, Create your Future

### Principal's Message

Dear Eagle Families,

Third quarter is a busy and exciting time at Sebastian. Interim progress reports were posted in HAC last week. If you haven't already, please review grades with your students and reach out to their teachers and/or guidance counselor with any concerns. We are all here to help your children learn and succeed!

In other news, our first plants arrived last week for installation in our new Greenhouse, which now has electricity and running water. In conjunction, we welcomed Tyler Hines, NASA Kennedy Space Center Educator, last Thursday to speak to 7th and 8th grade STEAM classes, and 8th grade honors Biology students, about the role of botany in space. Mr. Hines returned on Friday to speak to all 6th graders during their World History classes about the role of technology in exploration throughout history. Congratulations to our Jr. Thespian Club, which took 8 students to the State Competition in Orlando last weekend to compete in 6 events, and earned a rank of Excellent in 4 of those events. Thanks to the skilled leadership of Ms. Ralin Trosclair and high demand from students, I am pleased to announce that SMS will offer Drama as an elective class next year.

Planning for next year begins now, with students registering for classes starting next week. **Information and class recommendations are being sent home with all 6th and 7th grade students today**, so please review this information with your students. Parents are encouraged to join your students for the course registration meetings next week (see the article to the right for dates and times). Please reach out to your guidance counselor with any questions. Thank you as always for your involvement as parents.

With much appreciation,

Kirstie Gabaldon, Principal

Sebastian Middle School  
2955 Lewis Speedway  
St. Augustine, FL  
32084



Phone: 904.547.3840  
Fax: 904.547.3845  
[www.sms.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www.sms.stjohns.k12.fl.us)

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

#### February 14

*STEAM Advisory Board Meeting, 8:00am*

#### February 17

*President's Day—Student/Teacher Holiday*

#### February 18

*SAC Meeting, 2:00pm, Multipurpose Room  
Home Basketball vs. Landrum Middle School,  
5:30pm Girls, 6:30pm Boys*

#### February 20-21

*Registration for Rising 7th & 8th Graders*

#### February 20

*Home Basketball vs. Murray Middle School,  
5:30pm Girls, 6:30pm Boys*

### Registration for Classes in 2020-21!

Registration for next year's classes begins next week! Students will meet with guidance counselors during social studies classes on the following dates:

**Rising 8th (current 7th) Graders—Thursday 2/20**

**Rising 7th (current 6th) Graders—Friday 2/21**

Parents are invited to attend these registration meetings with your students! Please plan to arrive at the beginning of your child's social studies class. You can check the bell schedule [here](#) for times by class period.

Registration information and course recommendation packets are being sent home with all students TODAY. Please review this information with your students in advance of next week's meetings. Remind your students that electives are a chance to learn a new skill. Who knows? Your student could become a great artist/musician/engineer/coder/actor/etc. so encourage them to try something new!



## Spring Testing Calendar

It's that time again! Mandatory state testing begins in April and continues through May. Please make note of the following dates your student will be testing, so that you can schedule dentist/doctor/other appointments for your student around these dates. Studies show that students perform better on regularly scheduled testing days than on make-up days. Thank you for your support!

**April 2—FSA Writing Exams, 6th/7th/8th grades**

**April 23-28—District Final Exams, 6th/7th/8th grades**

**May 1—Civics EOC, 7th grade**

**May 4-5—FSA English/Language Arts, 6th/7th/8th**

**May 7-8—FSA Math, 6th/7th/8th**

**May 12—FSA Science, 8th grade**

**May 14-15—Algebra 1/Geometry EOC**

**May 18—Biology EOC**

**May 21—Physical Science Exam**

**May 22—Spanish 1 Exam**

## Important Dates for 8th Grade Families!

Registration for High School Classes:

**March 5**—8th graders who will be attending Nease or Pedro Menendez High School next year

**March 9-11**—8th graders who will be attending St. Augustine High School next year

Note: High schools will set appointment times with students. Parents are welcome to attend.

**April 24**—8th Grade SMS/MMS Semi-Formal Dance, 7:00-9:00pm, St. Augustine High School Gym

**May 1**—GradVenture, Universal Studios, Orlando, 2:30pm-2:30am. Cost: \$165. Space is limited. See Ms. Lydigsen for registration forms.

**May 22**—8th Grade Awards Ceremony, 6:00pm, SMS



## New Eagle Spotlight: Megan Johns, STEM Elective

I grew up in Florida and have lived in the Jacksonville area for the past 15 years. I have a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Florida. Before becoming a teacher, I worked as an engineer at a medical device company that designs and manufactures titanium medical implants. I have 2 incredible kids who are 8 and 10 years old. As a family we enjoy all sorts of adventuring together....hiking, mountain biking, camping, and traveling! I also love roller blading and have been a photographer for 10+ years. I'm proud to be a part of the close-knit community of students and teachers at Sebastian and I'm thrilled to be part of such a warm and caring school!

## Love Your Job? Share It at Career Day!

We invite anyone with a STEAM-related career (in science, technology, engineering, math and the arts) to share their experiences with our students at our annual STEAM Career Day on **Wednesday, March 25, 7:45am-12:30pm**. If you are interested in participating, please contact [Susan.Connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Susan.Connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us). Thank you in advance for helping spark an interest in our students as they begin to consider what they want to be when they grow up!

SSYRA



## SSYRA Breakfast of Champions

On Wednesday, February 19, all students who have read at least 7 of the 15 2019-2020 SSYRA books will be invited to a special breakfast in the SMS Media Center hosted by Ms. Gabaldon. Chick-fil-A minis will be served to help celebrate! Students must take SSYRA quizzes in the Media Center by end of day 2/14 to receive an invitation.



## Winter Sports & Activities Calendar

- ◆ Feb 13—Basketball vs. Liberty Pines Academy @ LPA
- ◆ Feb 14—STEAM Advisory Board Meeting, 8:00am
- ◆ Feb 17—Presidents Day/Student & Teacher Holiday
- ◆ Feb 18—SAC Meeting, 2:00pm
- ◆ Feb 19—SSYRA Breakfast of Champions, 7:30am, Media Center
- ◆ Feb 20—Basketball vs. Murray @ SMS
- ◆ Feb 25—Basketball vs. Valley Ridge @ VRA
- ◆ Feb 27—Basketball vs. Mill Creek Academy @ SMS
- ◆ Mar 3—Basketball vs. Palm Valley @ PVA
- ◆ Mar 10—PTO Meeting, 6:00pm, Growers Alliance Cafe
- ◆ Mar 12—Spring Fling, 12:30-1:50pm
- ◆ Mar 12—SJMSAA Golf Tryouts, 4:00pm, Palencia Golf Club

- ◆ Mar 13—Teacher Planning Day/Student Holiday
- ◆ Mar 16-20—Spring Break
- ◆ Mar 23-27—SJMSAA Football Tryouts
- ◆ Mar 24—SAC Meeting, 2:00pm
- ◆ Mar 25—Career Day, 7:45am—12:30pm
- ◆ Mar 26—STEAM Night, 5:30-7:00pm
- ◆ Mar 31—3rd Quarter Report Cards in HAC
- ◆ Apr 2—FSA Writing Exams for 6th/7th/8th graders
- ◆ Apr 2—Jr. Thespians Night of One Acts, 6:00-8:00pm
- ◆ Apr 7—Inquiry Hour Exhibition, 5:30-7:30pm
- ◆ Apr 10/13—Student/Teacher Holiday
- ◆ Apr 21—Interim Progress Reports in HAC
- ◆ Apr 24—8th Grade SMS/MMS Dance, 7:00-9:00pm, SAHS Gym

*Note: All Girls Basketball games begin at 5:30pm, Boys at 6:30pm.*

## Eagle Thespians Medal at States!

Troupe 88245 from Sebastian Middle School has left its mark! This past weekend was the State Jr. Thespian Festival in Orlando, FL. Eight students competed in six events, and four events received a medal for achieving a rank of Excellent: Taryn Bishop, Lily Cole, Ashli Dodge, Jack Parkey, and Finley Stokke-Harm.



## PTO Corner

It's never too late in the year to get involved with PTO! Here are just a few ways:



### Box Tops are Due 2/14

Show your love for SMS by turning your box tops into cash! Send in any clipped box tops by Friday 2/14 (drop off in the Front Office anytime). And be sure to add the Box Tops App to your phone! It's free, and makes clipping unnecessary, as you simply scan your grocery receipts to donate Box Tops to SMS.

### Eagle Store Volunteers Needed on Fridays

Volunteers are needed during all three lunches (9:45am-12:15pm) to staff the Eagle Store, which allows students to shop for school supplies and other trinkets using their PBIS points. Click [here](#) to view available dates and sign up. No time to volunteer? Donate to the Eagle Store by purchasing items on our [Amazon wishlist](#)!

### Spring Fling on 3/12

The Spring Fling is a carnival style event featuring booths and games of all sorts. It will take place during school, from 12:30-1:50pm on Thursday, 3/12. Volunteers are needed to serve on the planning committee and to work booths the day of the event. If you can help in either capacity, please email [PTOSebastian@gmail.com](mailto:PTOSebastian@gmail.com) for more information.



## Putting the A in STEAM!

Heather Hagy and Kelly King recently taught lessons on Stop Motion Animation, AND then taught other SMS teachers so they can use it to drive content in their own classes. With over 400 students enrolled in art classes at SMS, these students now have another creative outlet to express their work. For example, students in science classes who are learning about weather, erosion and deposition are using Stop Motion Animation to create a timeline explaining how a Florida landform has changed over time. For examples of student art work, please visit this [link](#). And be sure to follow our SMS S.M.Art program on Instagram @smartartists904. Enjoy!



## SJMSAA Sports News

Registration is now open for Golf and Football which are organized by the St. Johns Middle School Athletic Association. Visit the SJMSAA website for more information and to register prior to tryouts at <https://www.sjmsaa.com/>. Tryout fees will be credited toward registration fees. Financial assistance is available from SJMSAA for students who qualify for free or reduced lunch.

**Golf Tryouts will be held Thursday, March 12, 4:00pm** at the practice greens of The Palencia Club, 600 Palencia Club Drive. Golf Coach Adam Beamer may be reached at [abeamermba@gmail.com](mailto:abeamermba@gmail.com).

**Football Tryouts for rising 6th, 7th, and 8th graders will be held March 23-27, times TBD.** Football Coach Matt Casey may be reached at [FloorEverSolutions@gmail.com](mailto:FloorEverSolutions@gmail.com).

**A coach is needed for our SJMSAA Eagles Cheer Squad!** Tryouts will be held at the coach's discretion in April/May. The Cheer Squad participates in all home football games and optional cheer competitions. Interested applicants for Cheer Coach should contact Cheer Commissioner Tanya White at [sjmsaacheer@gmail.com](mailto:sjmsaacheer@gmail.com).

If you have any questions about SJMSAA sports, please contact SMS Athletic Director Chad Razey at [Chad.Razey@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Chad.Razey@stjohns.k12.fl.us). Go Eagles!

## SJCSD Summer Marine Science Program

Applications for the summer Marine Science Program are now available and will be due back to science teachers by 2/28. Applications may be downloaded from <https://www-grms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/marinescience/>. The website also includes a complete day by day curriculum for each grade level, parent information, and a video from last year's program.

This summer program is available to all students currently in grades 5-7 and has been sponsored by the school district since 1982. Three 8-day sessions are held at Gamble Rogers Middle School with bus transportation provided. The dates for the three sessions (Mon-Thurs) will be:

**June 1—11 \* June 15—25 \* June 29—July 9**

Small classes of 12-14 students are separated by grade level. All instructors in the program are SJCSD teachers. The Marine Science Program is a carefully designed experience for responsible students who are interested in learning about our local marine environments. Learning is "hands on" in the field with students kayaking, canoeing, boating, hiking, snorkeling, sailing, windsurfing, surfing, SUP, etc. For more information about the program, please email Kristina Bransford at [marinescienceprogram@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:marinescienceprogram@stjohns.k12.fl.us).