

Vol. 11
3.5.20

The Eagle Eye

Sebastian Middle School

Build your Mind, Explore your World, Create your Future

Principal's Message

Dear Eagle Families,

With our third quarter coming to a close next week, the pace of our learning accelerates upon our return from Spring Break to finish the year strong. If you haven't already, please mark your calendars with the dates that your students will be testing at SMS. All exams will begin promptly at 7:30am, so it is especially important for your child to arrive to school on time on testing days. I appreciate your support as parents in helping your child do his or her best on these exams.

I want to congratulate both our girls and boys basketball teams on strong seasons and to thank our Eagle families for coming out to cheer them on this year. With a season record of 8-4, our Lady Eagles made it to the playoffs! I am especially impressed with the excellent sportsmanship all of our players showed this season before, during and after games. As we know, Character Counts in our schools and our student-athletes exemplify this.

Our National Jr. Honor Society inducted 12 new members last month, bringing our total membership to over 50! Many thanks to Ms. Hagenbuch-Reese for sponsoring NJHS at SMS. Congratulations are also in order to Mr. McCoy's Math Counts Club, which competed in their first competition ever last weekend, earning a "Best New School" Award in the process!

Finally, I am excited to share that 50 SMS high-achieving readers will be heading to Disney's Magic Kingdom tomorrow! Sponsored by INK! and Character Counts grants, this trip rewards the efforts of students who completed the summer reading projects and/or Reading Plus lessons to become "Kingdom Keepers" for a day. Kudos to these students for their hard work!

With much appreciation,

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

March 10

*PTO Meeting, 6:00pm, Growers Alliance Café, 322
Anastasia Blvd., St. Augustine*

March 12

Spring Fling, 12:30-1:50pm

March 13

Teacher Planning Day/Student Holiday

March 16-20

Spring Break

March 24

SAC Meeting, 2:00-3:00pm

March 26

*Spirit Day at Panda Express, 1934 US 1 North, St.
Augustine, 10:30am-9:30pm
STEAM Family Fun Night, 5:30-7:00pm*

March 30

*Communication Cornerstone in the Community,
6:00pm, Boys & Girls Club, 555 W. King Street*

Spring Testing Calendar

Please mark your calendars for the following dates for mandatory state testing, and make every effort to have students in school on testing days. 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, all grades

April 23-28—District Final Exams, all grades

May 1—Civics EOC, 7th grade

May 4-5—FSA English/Language Arts, all grades

May 7-8—FSA Math, all grades

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 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



SEBASTIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO PRESENTS

SPRING FLING

March 12, 2020 | 12:30pm

GAMES 🎲 OBSTACLE COURSE 🎲 GAMING TRUCK 🎲 DUNK TANK 🎲 DJ
POPCORN 🎲 SNOCONES 🎲 PIZZA

Regular Wristbands - \$10
fill out form and bring \$10 to your homeroom teacher

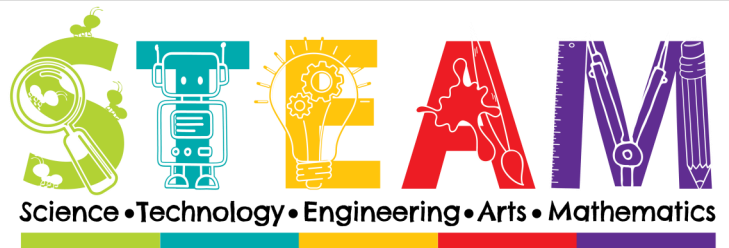
VIP Wristbands - \$20
purchase in the cafeteria on 03/06 & 03/09
only 150 available!





Spring Fling Volunteers Needed

If you only have time to spare for one volunteer opportunity this year at SMS, this is the one! With testing season around the corner, this is a chance for kids to blow off steam and have some fun with their teachers. The PTO invites parents and grandparents to fill a variety of roles, from making cotton candy to painting faces to manning the inflatable obstacle course. **Volunteers are needed from 11:00am—1:50pm on Thursday, 3/12.** Click [here](#) to view available volunteer positions and to sign up today!



Family Fun Night!

Thursday, March 26

5:30—7:00pm

Sebastian Middle School

All Members of our Eagle Family (students, parents, siblings, grandparents, etc.) are invited to attend this FREE event. Concessions (Chick-fil-A!) and SMS Spiritwear will be for sale.

Interactive Exhibits presented by Whitney Labs, Northrop Grumman, Shamrock Soccer Club, and many more!

Draw a Doodle Bot! Visit the Instrument Petting Zoo! Make Stomp Rockets! Navigate the Stars!

Don't Miss This Chance for Hands-On Learning!



Spring Sports & Activities Calendar

- ♦ Mar 10—Softball vs. Pacetti Bay @ Treaty Park
- ♦ Mar 10—PTO Meeting, 6:00pm, Growers Alliance
- ♦ 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 23—Softball vs. Mill Creek @ Aberdeen
- ♦ Mar 24—SAC Meeting, 2:00pm
- ♦ Mar 24—Softball vs. Palm Valley @ Treaty Park
- ♦ Mar 25—Career Day, 7:45am—12:30pm
- ♦ Mar 26—Spirit Day at Panda Express, 10:30am-9:30pm

- ♦ Mar 26—STEAM Family Fun Night, 5:30-7:00pm
 - ♦ Mar 30—Softball vs. Mill Creek @ Aberdeen
 - ♦ Mar 30—Communication Cornerstone in the Community, 6:00pm, Boys & Girls Club of St. Augustine, 555 W. King Street
 - ♦ Mar 31—3rd Quarter Report Cards in HAC
 - ♦ Mar 31—Softball vs. Pacetti Bay @ Aberdeen
 - ♦ Apr 2—Jr. Thespians Night of One Acts, 6:00-8:00pm
 - ♦ Apr 6—Softball vs. Palm Valley @ Davis Park
 - ♦ Apr 7—Inquiry Hour Exhibition, 5:30-7:30pm
 - ♦ Apr 9—Softball vs. Mill Creek @ Treaty Park
 - ♦ Apr 10/13—Student/Teacher Holiday
 - ♦ Apr 14—Softball vs. Valley Ridge @ Davis Park
 - ♦ Apr 16—Softball vs. Pacetti Bay @ Treaty Park
- Note: All Softball Games begin at 4:00pm*



MathCounts Team Earns Award!

SMS Math Teacher Tracy McCoy sponsored a MathCounts Team for the first time ever this year. After

practicing diligently all year, the team participated in its first competition on Saturday, 2/29, winning the "Best New School" Award! Pictured here (l-r) with Mr. McCoy are team members Hyde Kenney, Zander Herzog, Owen Chiu, Juliannah Massey, Alex Altman, and Huien Kalanik.

Notes from the Music Room!

Dr. Stephen Robinson, director of the Guitar Program at Stetson University, will conduct a full-day workshop with our music students on March 27. Parents are invited to join us during your student's music class. Many thanks to the PTO for making this workshop possible!

Summer Music Camps will be held June 1-5 to allow students to further develop their musical skills and have fun! Click [here](#) to download a camp application or email Charles.Rogers@stjohns.k12.fl.us with questions.



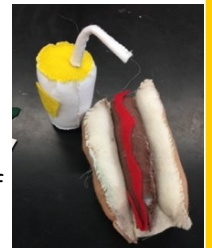
Congrats to our Winners!

Five SMS students were selected to compete in the District Science Fair with their amazing projects: Graci Flaherty, Alexander Harris, Moira Kimker, Taylor Steinberg, and Elliana Vogan. Alexander Harris earned a second place in the Jr. Physics category. Way to go Eagles!



Sew Much Fun in the Art Room!

All Art classes recently completed a week-long unit on the lost art of Sewing! 1st year students were taught to make a doughnut, and older students developed their own patterns and sewed the food and objects of their choice, including pizza, eggplant, carrots, a few fish, macaroons, chocolate chip cookies, pancakes, bacon, watermelon, Mountain Dew and more! If they finished early, many made stuffed hearts for someone special on Valentine's Day. It was a blast! This is our new favorite sewing project, and the kids agree! For more examples of student 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 abeamerm-ba@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.

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.

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

SJCSD Summer Marine Science Program

Applications for the summer Marine Science Program are now available and 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.