

Vol. 15  
5.25.20

# The Eagle Eye

## Sebastian Middle School

Build your Mind, Explore your World, Create your Future

### Principal's Message

Dear Eagle Families,

When we started school together last August, none of us imagined an ending to the school year like this one. However, what we have learned in these last nine weeks of school has been as valuable as the content covered in our first three quarters. In addition to honing our writing skills, experimenting with scientific processes, working difficult math problems, and learning about the history of our nation and world, we have learned to adapt to a virtual classroom, to be flexible in our teaching and learning styles, and to try new strategies when the old ones aren't working anymore. These enhanced skills—adaptability, flexibility, and creativity—are a silver lining of this pandemic that we will all carry forward in the years to come.

I am extraordinarily proud of our students, teachers and staff for the level of excellence they've shown this past year, both in and out of the classroom. I want to recognize and thank two special teachers who are retiring this year after long and distinguished careers as educators at SMS—Ms. Debbie Hagenbuch-Reese and Mr. Carl Barber. Congratulations to both of you as you begin a new chapter of your lives. Kudos are also in order for Mr. Cedric Wolfe, who has been promoted to Facilities Manager at Ketterlinus Elementary School. You will all be missed at SMS next year!

Planning for the 2020-21 school year continues amidst much uncertainty, and I will be in touch to keep you updated throughout the summer. The first day of school is scheduled for Monday, August 10, so mark your calendars and stay tuned!

It remains my great privilege to serve as your principal at Sebastian Middle School. Thank you as always for your support.

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

### LAST CHANCE TO RETURN MATERIALS AND PICK UP YEARBOOKS!

Wednesday, May 27

8:00am—2:00pm

Families are asked to drop off materials including laptops, hotspots, textbooks, media center books, instruments, and any other school property in the front loop. Students who pre-ordered a yearbook will pick it up; yearbooks are also available for purchase for \$35 (cash or check payable to SMS). When you arrive at school, PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR; an SMS staff person will assist you.

Happy Retirement!



#### Ms. Hagenbuch-Reese 8th Grade Social Studies

Ms. Reese joined the faculty of Sebastian Middle School in 1979, and spent the next 41 years sharing her love of history with our students! As a teacher and as the National Jr. Honor Society sponsor at SMS, she will be deeply missed!

#### Mr. Carl Barber Exceptional Student Education

Mr. Barber has been a beloved teacher at SMS for a total of 15 years. His patience, kindness, and sense of humor always endear him to his students and their families. We will miss you Mr. Barber!



## 8th Grade Award Winners

In recognition of their achievements as they leave Sebastian Middle School, top 8th grade students were selected by their teachers for two honorary awards in each department:

**Innovative Award**—A student with an A or B average who goes above and beyond on assignments and projects, and shows a willingness to accept a challenge and to see it through to success.

**Eagle Award**—A student who exemplifies the Character Counts pillars and SOAR, demonstrates leadership and serves as a role model to peers, and participates in school and/or community activities.

This year's awards by department are as follows:

### Art

Innovative Award—**Mia Snyder**

Eagle Award—**Walker Whitehead**

### Critical Thinking

Innovative Award—**Harmoni Kears**

Eagle Award—**Michael Lekos**

### English Language Arts

Innovative Award—**Noah Forbes**

Eagle Award—**Walker Whitehead**

### Computer Science

Innovative Award—**Colin Redpath**

Eagle Award—**Charlie Garrish**

### Math

Innovative Award—**Alex Johnson**

Eagle Award—**Abbie Nickel**

### Music

Innovative Award—**Ana Lindsey**

Eagle Award—**Jackson Dosio**

### Physical Education

Innovative Award—**Jordan Blue**

Eagle Award—**Ashley Mittnacht**

### Reading

Innovative Award—**Mariah Milligan**

Eagle Award—**India Rollins**

### Science

Innovative Award—**Keegan McGee**

Eagle Award—**Brittanie Peterson**

### Soaring Eagle

Innovative Award—**Thomas Corboy**

Eagle Award—**Grace Gardner**

### Spanish

Innovative Award—**Ashtyn Connoley**

Eagle Award—**Colin Beese**

### STEM

Innovative Award—**Ethan Baran**

Eagle Award—**Evan Colsant**

### U.S. History

Innovative Award—**Emma Winckler**

Eagle Award—**Hyde Kenney**

### Principal's Academic Award—

**Hyde Kenney and Abbie Nickel**

*Hyde and Abbie have taken the most rigorous classes available and have excelled within them, and are recognized by their teachers and administration as academic leaders.*

### Principal's Leadership Award—

**Jane Rolandelli**

*Jane has exemplified student leadership in a variety of clubs and has consistently made choices that depict strong character.*



***Congratulations to all of our 8th grade Eagles! We will miss you next year but wish you all the best in high school—we can't wait to watch you SOAR!***

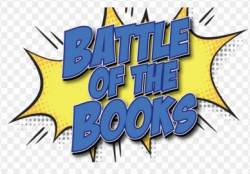


## Summer Reading Incentive

The Sunshine State Young Readers Award is a statewide program to promote reading. It encourages students to read independently and for pleasure. Sebastian's optional Summer Reading incentive encourages students to read at least 3 of the SSYRA books listed to the right. A list of books with their summaries can also be found at this link: [SSYRA List 6-8](#). Complete the tic-tac-toe card on our website and return it to the Media Center during the first 3 weeks of school in August. When you complete the incentive, you will be invited to attend an ice cream social. Happy reading!

## Teachers vs. Students Battle of the Books

Every year, the SMS Media Center hosts a teachers versus students Battle of the Books to prove who is more knowledgeable of the Sunshine State Young Readers Award books. This year, we had to host our battle virtually, with Ms. Cody, Ms. DeCastro, Ms. Ludwick challenging our student team of competitors including Lucas Cruz, Eli Edwards, Gregory Rorex, and Jude Hicks. If you want to see who won, you can watch the video here: <https://vimeo.com/421148899>. Thanks to Mr. Tagliarini for his mad video-editing skills! Congratulations to our winners!!!!



## TDAP Immunizations Needed for Rising 7th Graders by August 7, 2020

The Tdap immunization shot is required for all 7th graders and must be recorded on a Florida 680 form. As soon as your student receives this shot, the form can be dropped off at the SMS Front Office, faxed to 904-547-3845, or emailed to Becky Colvin. If the school does not receive a record of this immunization by August 7, 2020, your student will not be allowed to attend school. If you do not have a family physician, services are available at the St. Johns County Health Department. Please call (904) 209-3250 for hours and location. If you have additional questions, please contact the SJCS D Director for Health Services at (904) 547-7628. Thank you!

## Summer = Time to Get Sports Physicals!

Any SMS student wishing to try out for sports teams at SMS must have a physical on file dated within one year. Many sports start up in August (e.g., volleyball & cross country), so it's a great idea to get your physical completed over the summer. Turn physicals into Athletic Director Chad Razy.

SSYRA



## Sunshine State Young Reader Award-Winning Books 20-21

*The Bridge Home* by Padma Venkatraman

\**Charlie Hernandez and the League of*

*Shadows* by Ryan Calejo

\**City Spies* by James Ponti

*Deep Water* by Watt Key

\**Float* by Laura Martin

\**Game Changer* by Tommy Greenwald

\**Inkling* by Kenneth Oppel

\**Lifeboat 12* by Susan Hood

\**Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish* by Pablo Cartaya

*New Kid* by Jerry Craft

\**Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise* by Dan Gemeinhart

*Scouts* by Shannon Greenland

\**Song for a Whale* by Lynne Kelly

\**Spark* by Sarah Beth Durst

\**We're Not From Here* by Geoff Rodkey

### BE SURE TO READ THEM ALL!

There are fun rewards for reading SSYRA Books!

\*Available as ebooks on Destiny. Watch this video to see how to access ebooks on Destiny: <https://vimeo.com/414024850>.

## SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE IN THE SJCS D MARINE SCIENCE PROGRAM!

Calling all rising 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students that love being outdoors and learning about the environment! We currently have available spots open in our Summer Marine Science Program. Please visit our website to learn more and complete an online pre-application with student essay. Session dates are 6/15-6/25 or 6/29-7/9, Monday through Thursday from 8:15am to 2:15pm. Transportation is provided at various school locations around the county. We hope to see you this summer learning and having fun in the sun with us!

<https://www-grms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/marinescience/>

## SJCS D Returning Student Verifications

Before students return to school in August, parents must review and update your "Returning Student Verification Form" online. Go to <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/student/enrollment/> and click on "Register Online for 2020-2021."