

# Principal's Message



Dear Eagle Families,

With the lovely cooler weather coming in, it certainly feels as if September is here. With the cooler weather our mornings are also getting darker. Please be sure to keep students in your cars with you till 7:10 so we can keep them safe!

There have been changes to the quarantine protocol, as you may have read in the Superintendent's email. It is copied again at the bottom of this email for your convenience.

## **Clubs!**

Clubs started this week! All clubs run from 2:00 - 3:00pm on Tuesdays. Please look at the video at <https://www-sms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/> to learn all about the different clubs. There is still room in all clubs except for Dungeons and Dragons!

## **NEW CLUB ALERT! Orchestra club after school with Ms. Munafo in the music room. No experience necessary!**

Parents must pick up their students at 3:00pm, or we have a partnership with Boys and Girls club who will transport and supervise your student up till 6:00pm at their facility. Fill out the Boys and Girls club form at <https://www.bgcnf.org/join>

## **Volleyball tickets for the 9/28 game**

Tickets for the 9/28 game can be purchased here:

<https://www.schoolpay.com/pay/for/Girls--Boys-Volleyball-Game--Sept-28/Sc14DgV>

- Masks are highly recommended
- Seating will be socially distanced
- All tickets must be pre-bought online – no tickets at the door

## **Book fair!**

- The Scholastic Book Fair will start on September 27 and end on October 1. You can also participate online! <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/sebastianmiddle>.

### Quarantine and schoolwork:

- If your student is quarantined but still healthy the expectation is that they log on to Schoology and continue to work. Every teacher has up to date agendas on their class pages and all assignments and resources needed are in the GREEN folder for the week. Grey folders are previous weeks, but they can still be accessed if you need to catch up! As always, please connect with your teacher if you have any questions about your assignments.

### PTO Corner

- Our first Spirit Day will be at Farmhand Kchn on September 28th from 10-8. They have been incredibly generous to us as a business partner, and are conveniently located on US1, so swing by for breakfast, lunch, or dinner! <https://www.farmhandkchn.com/>
- We want to thank Gordon Dental for sponsoring our first Eagle Store of the year! The kids work hard and appreciate these opportunities so much. If you'd like to sponsor a monthly Eagle Store, as a family or a business, please reach out to [PTOSebastian@gmail.com](mailto:PTOSebastian@gmail.com). Thank you!
- Come have fun with us next week and volunteer at the book fair! Here's the link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084EA9AD29A0FD0-smsbook>

### From the Superintendent

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The DOH has adjusted the student quarantine guidelines as of yesterday. There has been information sent out via the news stations, but I wanted to communicate it clearly to you so that you understand your choices if you are notified that your child is a close contact of a positive COVID individual.

On 9/22/2021, the Department of Health has updated their emergency rule (64DER21-15) to include student quarantines.

1. *Student quarantines: (3)(a) Parents or legal guardians of students who are known to have been in direct contact with an individual who received a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 **may choose one of the following options:***
  - a. *Allow the student to attend school, school-sponsored activities, or be on school property, without restrictions or disparate treatment, so long as the student remains asymptomatic; or*
  - b. *Quarantine the student for a period of time not to exceed seven days from the date of last direct contact with an individual that is positive for COVID-19.*

**Based on this new ruling, you have a choice whether to quarantine your child or not, if they have no symptoms.** Below is the new email communication that you will receive notifying you of your choices if your child is a close contact:

*We have been advised that your child, [student name], has potentially been exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual on [exposure date]. In accordance with the FL DOH Emergency Rule, you may choose to keep your child home to quarantine for a period of time not to exceed seven days.*

Your child does not need to seek COVID-19 testing or produce a negative test result to return to school tomorrow if he/she is without any symptoms.

If you choose to keep your child home to quarantine, please call the District COVID Support Team at 904-547-8230 to report your child on quarantine.

If you have health-related quarantine questions, we have set up a quarantine call line at 904-819-1101.

**To be clear**, if your child has NO symptoms and is on quarantine, they may return to school if you choose. This begins today. If you choose to quarantine, you need to contact the District COVID support team and report that you are opting to quarantine your child. This also begins today.

Due to this change in policy, it is more important than ever to monitor your child for symptoms and keep them home if they are not well. We want students to be in school learning and we also want children healthy and safe. We are in this together and will continue to work together to navigate this new normal.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. If you have any questions, please call 904-547-8230 for further clarification.

Sincerely,

SJCSD Administration

*K. T. Gabaldon*

Principal, Sebastian Middle School

