

# Sebastian Sentinel



## Principal's Message

Dear Eagle Families,

As we transition into March, it's that time of the year when we embark on the registration journey for our students. Eighth graders are preparing to spread their wings into various high schools, while our fifth graders from different elementary schools eagerly anticipate joining our community. Additionally, our current sixth and seventh graders are gearing up for another exciting year ahead.

Exploring elective classes is a highlight for many students during this period, and it's heartening to engage in discussions with families as they consider the myriad of options available. Over the past three years, our eighth graders have delved into the realms of Arts and Engineering, equipping themselves to make informed decisions about their future paths. Middle school serves as a crucial time for students to explore different subjects, and we extend our gratitude to parents and guardians for their unwavering support across academic, artistic, and athletic pursuits.

As we step into the final quarter of the year, there's much to anticipate. Our Music Concert, Spring Fling, and special celebrations for our Eighth Graders are just around the corner. We encourage you to stay updated on these events and more by reviewing our weekly emails for important information.

If you haven't already, we invite you to visit our website for a glimpse into our vibrant school community. From student projects to updates on the Media Center and our hydroponic mangrove project, there's always something exciting to explore.

Thank you for being an integral part of our school community, and we look forward to the enriching experiences that lie ahead.

Kirstie Gabaldon  
Principal

If you aren't on our mailing list, please check out Ms. Gabaldon's weekly updates by clicking on the Principal's Message on the Sebastian Website.  
<https://www-sms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/principals-message/>



\*Please watch for our next newsletter in May 2024, and bi-weekly electronic news updates.

## Sebastian Middle School

2955 Lewis Speedway  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

**904-547-3840**

**Kirstie Gabaldon**  
*Principal*

**Jennifer Gamble**  
*Assistant Principal*

**Kevin Hayes**  
*Dean*

**Recia Smith**  
*Instructional Literacy Coach*

**Frankie Portelos**  
*STEM Coach*

**Amy Borie**  
*Testing Coordinator*

### Vision

At Sebastian Middle School, all students will achieve personal success in their learning and become responsible and productive citizens.

### Mission

In order to prepare our students to live in and contribute to a changing world, Sebastian will provide a balanced, varied school curriculum designed to meet the academic, cultural and social needs of individuals from the diverse backgrounds of our community.

## MARCH 2024

Volume 8

Issue 2

### Sebastian Sentinel

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Issue 2

## Sebastian Middle School Website

The SMS website has up to date information that is important to stay informed about all activities at Sebastian.

It can be found at:

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



## New Teacher

Hello! My name is Ambreen Malik. I am thrilled to be part of Sebastian middle school as a Grade 8 science teacher. I have masters in biological science. I have taught middle school science, biology, and chemistry to high school in an international educational institute. I have lived in Florida for 14 years. I am married to my wonderful husband for 15 years, and we have two beautiful kids. My daughter is 9 and my son is 6. I like travelling and exploring new places with my family.

## Health Corner

### Do Not Wait Until the Last Minute!

Rising 7th graders are required by Florida law to obtain a Tdap vaccination before entering 7th grade. An updated DH 680 form to include Tdap vaccination must be obtained and submitted to the school before your student can start on the first day of school in St. Johns County School District on Monday, August 12th, 2024. If you have a religious exemption filed through the DOH, please notify the school and/or provide us a copy of the exemption. The Tdap vaccination can be scheduled at no cost through the St. Johns County Department of Health. You can also schedule for this immunization at your pediatrician's office.



## Art Corner

Judy Kern donated the inventory from her Creative Memories Business. The boxes and boxes of tools and scrapbooking supplies will directly impact the S.M.Art Department, which has over 360 students. We are grateful for Susan Daly, who thought of our program and got Judy in touch with us! Four of Ms. Daly's grandchildren, including Abigail, who is a student this year, have come through the Sebastian Art Program. Thank you for thinking of us! We can't wait to show you what we make!



Some of the supplies were used to make Valentines!



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## PTO

The PTO held a student vs Teacher Dodgeball Tournament on January 30th and it was a huge success! Thanks to all the teachers and students who participated.

Team Nutter Butter won! Congratulations to Parker Rhodes, Jansen Shelhamer, Ken Beggs and Finn Coghlan.

Our PTO is second to NONE! Thank you so much for the amazing Soup-er Bowl party! It was delicious.



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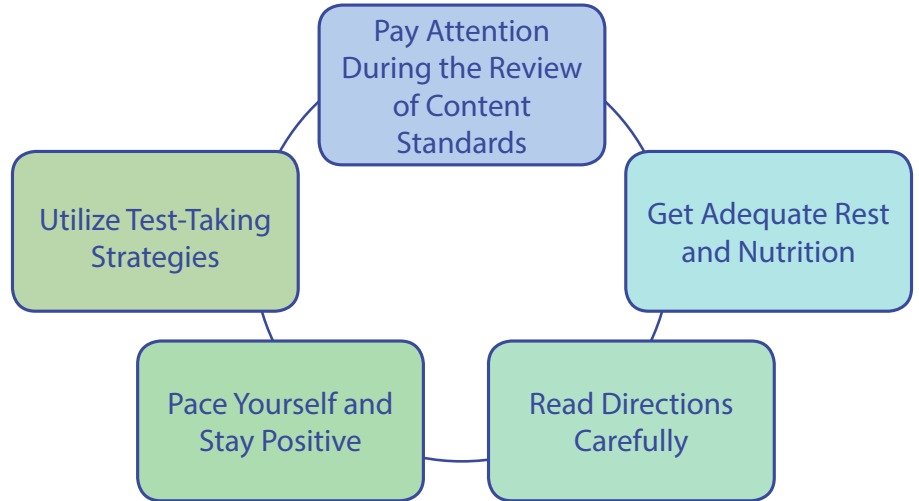
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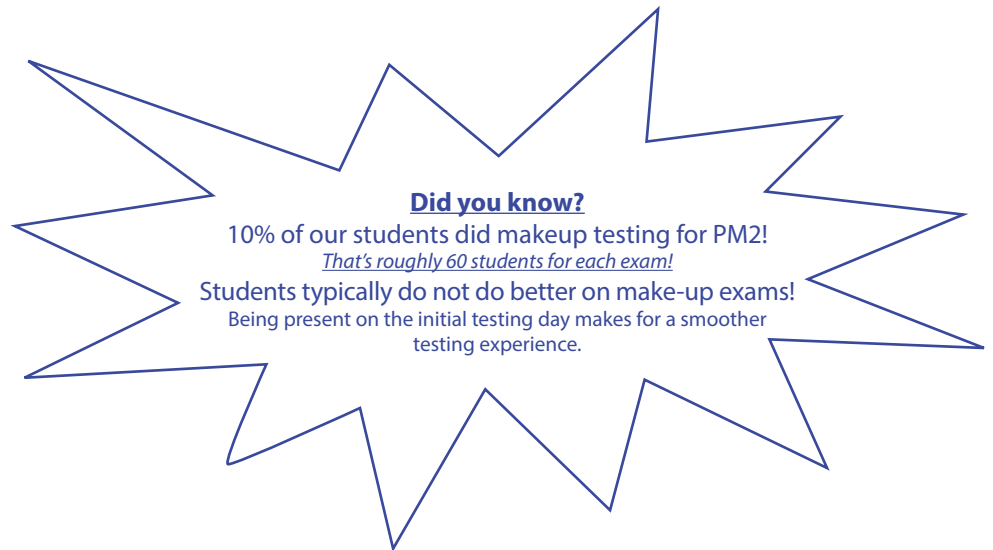
## Testing Information

The final windows of State Testing will be here soon! As state standardized testing season approaches in Florida, students, parents, and educators alike gear up for the rigorous assessments that await. The final standardized tests of the school year serve as crucial benchmarks for student achievement and school performance, making preparation essential for success.



### Tips for Testing with Confidence and Maximizing Your Chances of Success

To see dates of Spring Testing, click [HERE](#). Remember, preparation is the key to success, so start early, stay focused, and give it your best effort. Good luck!



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## Super Bowl Egg Drop Challenge



The Access Unit has predicted the Super Bowl champs with an egg drop challenge. This is the third annual EGGcellent egg drop off. Each class designed a landing craft for each team in the Super Bowl. During EGGperiment the EGGpert engineer's (students) main purpose was to protect the egg. Some EGGamples of the materials used to protect the egg were bubble wrap, paper towels, shoe boxes, and toilet paper rolls. Once the eggs were in their protective containers Coach Razey helped toss them off the roof of Sebastian Middle School. What happened now? Gravity. Gravity is a force that pulls the mass (Landing craft) towards the ground. The eggs predicted that the Kansas City Chiefs would defeat the San Francisco 49ers, 2 to 1. Once again, our Egg Drop Challenge successfully predicted the Super Bowls final outcome.

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# BATTLE of THE BOOKS

## Media Center

### *Battle of the Books!*

On March 8th, the Sebastian Middle School Battle of the Books team battled it out with the 12 other middle schools in St. Johns County. Battle of the Books is based on the Sunshine State Young Readers award books. The team consisted of Morgan Hashagen (team captain), Mabel Misterly, August McCoy, Charlie Farrow, and Chloe Wilkinson. The alternates were Riley Glidewell and Natalia Zamora. The supporting members were Ella Grady, Lyric Gibson, and Cole Lamontagne. After three rigorous rounds of questions, the team was not able to bring in the "win" but did beat 5 other schools. Pacetti Bay Middle School came out as the winner of the 2023-2024 Battle of the Books. Congratulations, Sebastian team, for all of your hard work and dedication to reading!

In January, the Media Center hosted several activities to celebrate Literacy Week which was on January 22-26. The activities included the "Judge Your Teacher's Bookshelf" Kahoot, a daily mystery reader contest, and the popular Door Wars. The winner of Door Wars was Mr. McCoy's homeroom with the theme of "Believe in Your Shrek." His homeroom was able to spend a period in the Eagle's Nest and enjoy a breakfast of donuts from Island Donuts.



**Perry D. Unwalla, Supporting Students, Staff and the Community of Sebastian Middle School.**

*Go Sebastian  
Eagles!*



**PERRY D. UNWALLA  
904-461-5400**



 State Farm



## Collaborative Effort

The Sebastian Middle School biodiversity club merged with the robotics club to build new trellises. The outdoor garden area has been an ongoing collaborative effort to not only beautify our school, but to engage students in agriculture and aquaponics.

The biodiversity club will be expanding to other areas of the school. For example, the breezeway will become a pollinator garden this spring. The front main loop will see a lot of new fauna around the eagle statue welcoming students, parents, and visitors.



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# Sebastian Sentinel



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## Field Trip

The 7th and 8th grade students had the chance to experience college life by visiting Bethune Cookman University on January 27, 2024. They toured the college campus and attended women's and men's basketball games. Students had a great time and are looking forward to future trips.



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## Field-Trip!



Mid-January we held a New Semester Expectation Assembly with all grades. Dean Hayes and Mr. Tagliarini reviewed Single School Culture and PBIS rewards! PBIS is a multi-device platform that makes it easy to continuously recognize students for meeting behavior expectations from anywhere in the school, not just the classroom.

