ANCIENT CITY CHRONICLES

CONNECTING STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITHIN THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE GEO-ZONE



St. Johns County School District

St. Johns County School District Accountability & Intervention Services Sebastian Administrative Annex 3015 Lewis Speedway, Unit #3 St. Augustine, FL 32084 (904) 547-8922

Mission

The St. Johns County School District will inspire good character and a passion for lifelong learning in all students, creating educated and caring contributors to the world.

Vision

All students will choose a learning path that leads to a well-rounded graduate who demonstrates good character and leadership.

City of St. Augustine Geo-zone Schools

John A. Crookshank Elementary School Marquez Jackson, Principal

R. B. Hunt Elementary School Amanda Garman, Principal

Ketterlinus Elementary School Kathy Tucker, Principal

Osceola Elementary School Tina Waldrop, Principal

The Webster School Bethany Groves, Principal

R.J. Murray Middle School *Travis Brown, Principal*

Sebastian Middle School Kirstie Gabaldon, Principal

St. Augustine High School DeArmas Graham, Principal



A Message from Mr. King

Dear Parents and Students:

As we begin the 2020-21 academic year under the guidelines of the "new normal" due to COVID-19, we are pleased to publish our second issue of the Ancient City Chronicles. The purpose of this newsletter is to connect you as families, not only with the schools in our community, but also with each other. With many of you distance learning and self-isolating for health and other reasons, we know that facilitating these connections is especially important this year. Parent involvement is more vital than ever to the success of our students and schools, at all ages and levels, from Pre-K through 12th grade. The impact of your involvement as your child progresses through school will have a dramatic positive effect on their social emotional and academic achievements. Whether your child is a distance learner or attending school in-person, all parent involvement activities are currently being held virtually. Please check the dates and times in this newsletter for your school's SAC and PTO meetings, and plan to join these meetings online whenever possible. Open House/Curriculum Night events are also being held virtually, and are a great way to hear directly from your child's teacher(s) about progress and plans for the year ahead.

The school-based articles included in this issue highlight some of the creative project-based learning happening in our schools. Please note that all photos were taken last spring, which is why students are not wearing masks. As you will read, our schools are implementing learning strategies that give students a chance to think critically and tackle real-world problems, skills which can't always be assessed via testing, but are extraordinarily important for success in any career. As a school district, we embrace having a growth mindset, which recognizes the value of making mistakes and learning from them to create a better solution. At no time has our growth mindset been more important than in our current situation, which requires our teachers and students to be flexible and adaptable in their delivery of instruction and their learning.

Best wishes for a productive first quarter of this school year. Together, we can make this unusual year a great one for our students.

Sincerely,

Wayne King Associate Superintendent Accountability & Intervention Services

John A. Crookshank Elementary School

History Comes to Life in a "Living Museum"



Last February, our first grade students at John A. Crookshank Elementary School culminated their study of American Symbols (part of their ELA and Social Studies standards) with a "Living Museum" presentation in the cafeteria. After spending time learning about many different historical figures like George Washington, Martin Luther King, and many others, each student selected a person as the focus of their living museum. In addition to creating posters and trifold boards as part of their presentation, the students dressed up as their chosen historical figure. As parents filed into the cafeteria through the living museum, the students interacted with the audience members "in character" by sharing interesting facts about their historical person's life. This was an incredible opportunity for

the students to learn about history in a fun and engaging way, and for parents to take a journey through time along with their first graders. The living museum is definitely a project that the students, parents, and teachers look forward to each year.

Save the Dates!

- Virtual Open House/Curriculum Night October 6, teacher presentations available online through Schoology after 5:00pm
- Picture Day October 20
- Distance Learners Picture & Retake Day December 3



Parent Involvement Opportunities

School Advisory Council (SAC) – Chaired by 3rd Grade Teacher Alexandria Robinson, the CES SAC meets monthly at 4:00pm on the following Thursdays: 10/22, 11/19, 12/17, 1/28, 2/25, 3/25, 4/29, 5/27. SAC meetings are being held virtually at this time and all parents and guardians are invited to participate. Please email Alexandria.Robinson@ stjohns.k12.fl.us for the link to join the meeting.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) – The PTO meets as needed to raise funds and sponsor events and programs to enhance the educational experience at Crookshank Elementary School. Please contact PTO President Liz Beute at lizgbeute@yahoo.com for more information and to get involved!

B.Hunt R.B. Hunt Elementary School

Sampling Juicy Reads in a "Book Tasting"



When it comes to reading, just like eating, the perfect way to pique someone's appetite for a good book is to offer a taste! R.B. Hunt held its first "Book Tasting" last January to give our youngest students a chance to sample different authors, genres, and series. This high-impact event engaged students in a fun activity while introducing them to a wide array of books. Groups of young readers,

kindergarten through second grade, were invited to the media center to degust different genres within the non-fiction category. The book tasting gave students the opportunity to sample some juicy reads in a short period of time and create a wish list of titles. No more choruses of "I don't have anything to read!"

The media center was designed to look like a restaurant, with classical music playing in the background, and vases of flowers on tables dressed in tablecloths. In the center of each table, there was a set of books from different non-fiction genres. Students took a seat and "sampled" the book in front of them. Students rated the books on worksheets designed to look like menus. After checking out the front and back covers and inside flaps, students browsed through the book to develop their first impressions. When time (3–5 minutes) was up, students wrote down observations, rated the book, and made note of whether they wanted to add the book to their wish list.

Kudos to Mrs. Nehemias, R.B. Hunt Media Specialist, for making our first ever "Book Tasting" an enormous success!

Parent Involvement Opportunities

School Advisory Council (SAC) – Co-chaired by 2nd Grade Teacher Meghan Saxon and 5th Grade Teacher Beth Cleary, the RBH SAC meets at 3:00pm on the first Tuesday of each month beginning 10/6. SAC meetings are being held virtually at this time and all parents and guardians are invited to participate. Please email Beth.Cleary@ stjohns.k12.fl.us for the link to join the meeting.

Parent Teacher Advisory Organization (PTAO) – The PTAO meets monthly at 8:40am on the following Thursdays: 10/22, 12/3, 1/14, 2/25, 3/25, 4/22, 5/6. Please contact PTAO President Kishna Patel at rbhvolunteers@gmail.com for more information and to get involved!

Save the Dates!

- Virtual Fall Open House/Curriculum Night October 15, 5:30-7:00pm
- Distance Learners Picture & Retake Day November 2



KETTERLINUS ELEMENTARY



"Passport to Learning" Documents Journey of Education

For the second year in 2019-20, KES implemented an initiative called "Passport to Learning" to document and motivate student learning outside of a traditional classroom setting. All students were given a booklet with six "destinations" to visit throughout the year: At Home, Virtual Learning, Character Counts, Independent Reading, Homework, and Attendance. Specific criteria for each

destination were determined with the purpose of developing academic stamina and building success skills. Moving the focus on learning to outside the classroom creates knowledge that is more relevant.

While traveling on this journey of education, students had the opportunity to perform acts of kindness and to see the impact this has on those around them. The display of good character helps to foster a community of caring and to create an environment where it is safe to learn and grow in self-esteem and confidence. Parents got involved in their child's education since some of the "destinations" were at home. Parents and students participated in "field trips" together to explore and teach their child about the world around them, providing not only an academic benefit but also a family bonding opportunity. Most rewarding to staff was observing the change in student motivation.

Initially, students were driven by external rewards such as recognition certificates and attendance at a Grow and Glow party. As they grew in stamina however, there was a shift towards intrinsic motivation. Guided by the "Passport to Learning," students recognized the benefits of engaging in behaviors that encourage healthy learning habits.

Parent Involvement Opportunities

School Advisory Council (SAC) – Co-chaired by 2nd Grade Teacher Bethany Hilbert and 5th Grade Teacher Kora Stoll, the KES SAC meets on the third Tuesday of each month (time TBD). SAC meetings are being held virtually at this time and all parents and guardians are invited to participate. Please email Kora.Stoll@stjohns.k12.fl.us for the link to join the meeting.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) – The PTO supports KES in a variety of important ways. Please contact PTO President Leah Beck at leahbeckrealtor@ yahoo.com for more information and to get involved!

Save the Dates!

- Character Counts/Anti-Bullying/Red Ribbon Week

 October 19-23
- Distance Learners Picture & Retake Day November 6



Osceola Elementary School

STEM Lessons from Farm to Table



Students at Osceola, with support from INK!, the University of Florida Agricultural Department, and the Chef's Collaborative at Urban Asado (a local Argentinian grill manufacturer), learned all facets of farm to table gardening last spring while incorporating STEM lessons. Using an edible garden as an outdoor learning laboratory, we instilled in students the desire to eat nutritious

food. Too often, family meals consist of ready-made or boxed, processed food which has little to no nutritional value. STEM Farm to Table is a program that exposes students to all facets of growing healthy foods from seeds, harvesting the foods, then preparing and presenting the foods for consumption.

The goal of the project was to teach students the science behind growing their own food, providing them with a healthy alternative for meals that they can prepare themselves. With the help of our business partners, students gained first-hand knowledge of STEM concepts by growing plants with hydroponic systems, organic

soils, using environmentally safe, organic fertilizers, harvesting the plants, and then learning various ways in which the plants can be prepared and eaten. Business partners met with the students at least twice a month to provide guidance and in-school field trip experiences. The culminating activity for the students, with the help of our business partners, was to prepare a meal for families and donors to be held at the Urban Asado, 150 Riberia Street, showcasing the journey from Farm to Table.



Parent Involvement Opportunities

School Advisory Council (SAC) – Co-chaired by Front Desk Receptionist Sheila Lawshe and Pre-K Teacher Lindsey Robertson, the OES SAC meets at 5:30pm on the third Tuesday of every month (no meeting in March). SAC meetings are being held virtually at this time and all parents and guardians are invited to participate. Please email Sheila. Lawshe@stjohns.k12.fl.us or check the OES website for the link to join the meeting.

Parent Teacher Advisory Organization (PTO) – The PTO meets monthly immediately following the SAC meetings. Please contact PTO President Stacy McDowell at osceolapto@gmail.com for more information and to get involved!







Partnership with Flagler College is a Win-Win



Webster partnered last year with Flagler College around several projects that emphasized hands-on learning for students at both Webster and Flagler. On Mondays after school, Webster students rode a bus to Flagler College where they met up with students in the Education Department to receive one on one mentoring, share in writing a piece of historical fiction, and eat dinner in the dining hall with their college mentor. This tutoring

experience culminated in a special program at Flagler College where the families of our Webster students joined them for dinner. After dinner, students read their finished pieces of historical fiction to all in Flagler's Legacy Room. A similar program took place on Tuesdays with a different group of students focused on increasing their math skills. After school Webster students took busses to Flagler College, ate dinner with their tutor/mentor, and received one on one tutoring on math standards they found the most difficult. Webster students have been overheard saying things like "I wish every day was Monday," "This time goes too fast," and "I love going to college!"

While Flagler Education majors had the opportunity to practice teaching strategies with "real" students, Webster students received invaluable mentoring and tutoring as they were inspired to set going to college as a goal. A win-win for both The Webster School and Flagler College!

Parent Involvement Opportunities

School Advisory Council (SAC) – Co-chaired by Reading Teacher Tina Motley and 1st Grade Teacher April Barger, the Webster SAC meets monthly (schedule TBD). SAC meetings are being held virtually at this time and all parents and guardians are invited to participate. Please email Tina.Motley@stjohns.k12.fl.us for the link to join the meeting.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) – The PTO meets monthly immediately following the SAC meetings. Please contact thewebsterpto@ gmail.com for more information and to get involved!

Save the Dates!

- Picture Day October 27
- Distance Learners Picture & Retake Day - December 1



Showcasing Science + Arts

Learning across disciplines is evident at RJMMS, especially in our second semester when students and teachers have the opportunity to showcase their skills to the public. Highlights last spring included:

- **LEGO Robotics Club:** After preparing all year, students put their creativity to the test in a FIRST LEGO League competition.
- National History Day: RJMMS students earned top honors at the district-wide competition in the Research Paper category and in the fields of Documentary, Exhibit, and Performance.
- International Science and Engineering Fair: Students pick a topic to investigate and conduct authentic scientific research to support or disprove their hypothesis to compete in this annual event.
- **Experiential Learning in the Classroom:** Karen Stanfield (pictured here) hosted a cohort of teachers from SJCSD to demonstrate ratios with a real-world example of bicycles.
- **Theatre:** A cast of 60 students performed the classic musical "Oliver!" on February 27, 28, and 29 to packed audiences. Our Junior Thespian Troupe 88467 received 2 Excellent ratings and 9 Superior ratings plus one Outstanding Technical Event award at the Florida State Festival.
- Dance: Students in our Dance I, II, and III classes were scheduled to entertain with ballet, jazz, tap, and modern choreography during our Spring Dance Concert in April. In May, our students were scheduled to present the show "One Team, No Limits" in the Lewis Auditorium of Flagler College.
- **Band:** Students were scheduled to perform three different events last spring: Beginning Band Concert, Jazz Band Concert, and Band Spring Concert.
- **Chorus:** Our chorus students had an amazing time performing at Walt Disney World last January.



School Advisory Council (SAC) – Chaired by 6th Grade World History Teacher Justin Matthews, the MMS SAC meets on the second Monday of each month at 3:00pm. SAC meetings are being held virtually at this time and all parents and guardians are invited to participate. Please email Justin.Matthews@stjohns. k12.fl.us for the link to join the meeting.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) – The PTO meets monthly immediately following the SAC meetings. Please contact PTO President Mayra Medina at mayramedina1209@gmail.com for more information and to get involved!

Save the Dates!

- Picture Retake Day October 20
 - Distance Learners Picture contact Lisa Urban at lurban@ leonards.com for an appointment at their studio.

Sebastian Middle School

Summer STEAM Camp for Rising 6th Graders was Out of this World!

Last June, a total of 70 rising 6th graders at SMS took advantage of the opportunity to spend two days at their new school to get a glimpse of the kinds of hands-on, interdisciplinary learning they would be engaging in during the upcoming school year. With outer space as a theme, students problem solved how to safely engineer an alien landing, created interstellar tie dye art, experimented with TinkerCad, built and launched rockets, and put their drawing skills to use to design robots! Pictured here (l-r) are students Dorian Hulbert, Sam Pulsfus, and Liam Gabaldon with their works of art.





Parent Involvement Opportunities

School Advisory Council (SAC) – Chaired by 7th Grade ELA Teacher Joshua Gray, the SMS SAC meets on the first Thursday of each month at 2:30pm. SAC meetings are being held virtually at this time and all parents and guardians are invited to participate. Please email Joshua.Gray@stjohns.k12.fl.us for the link to join the meeting.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) – The PTO meets on the first Tuesday of every other month at 6:00pm via Zoom. Meeting dates include 10/6, 12/1, 2/2, and 4/6. Please contact PTO President Jen Stevenson at ptosebastian@gmail.com for more information and to get involved!

Save the Dates!

• Distance Learners Picture & Retake Day – October 15



Explore a Career in Public Safety at SAHS!

St. Augustine High School is proud to offer the Academy of Law and Homeland Security. This program allows students to learn and study the court system, jail system, juvenile justice system, patrol officer responsibilities,

and crime scene investigation. In the highest level of the program, students have the opportunity to complete the requirements for the Florida Class D Security Guard License and the Police Service Aide. If students choose, they may enroll in a 911 Telecommunicator course that will allow them to complete the requirements to test for the state dispatch license. These opportunities pave the way for some students to acquire jobs in this field immediately after high school graduation.

The Academy of Law and Homeland Security classroom on our campus is state of the art. In addition

to the typical classroom desks, it includes a practice evidence locker, 911 Dispatch simulation stations, and an interactive training room. This training room is used to teach students how to interact with and react to real life situations. The instructors control the program in real time, offering students a learning experience that is ever changing and adapting.

While this is our newest academy at SAHS, we are committed to supporting its growth into one of our largest and most popular academy choices. We encourage students who are interested in the field of public safety to apply for this one-of-a-kind learning experience.

Parent Involvement Opportunities

School Advisory Council (SAC) – Chaired by Math Teacher Bradley Sohn, the SAHS SAC meets on the second Monday of each month at 5:00pm. SAC meetings are being held virtually at this time and all parents and guardians are invited to participate. Please email Bradley.Sohn@stjohns.k12.fl.us for the link to join the meeting.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) – The PTO meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:00pm via Zoom. All parents are invited to join the SAHS PTO by sending an email with your name and your student's name and grade to TheHivePTO@ gmail.com. There is no fee to join the PTO at SAHS.

Save the Dates!

• Distance Learners Picture & Retake Day – October 27



6 District News and Events

Conscious Discipline®

Conscious Discipline: A More Positive & Peaceful Approach to Parenting!

Parenting is one of the most important jobs we all have, yet we receive very little training for it. Along with PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support), Conscious Discipline is being implemented in our schools with great success, and many facets of the program can be used effectively at home as well. Parents of students of all ages are invited to learn from an experienced Conscious Discipline trainer about:

- Current brain research to help you understand your child's behaviors and avoid power struggles
- Social emotional life skills to help your child reach his/her highest potential
- Practical tools to help you smooth transitions, enhance cooperation, and enjoy parenting
- Date: Wednesday, October 28
- **Time:** 7:00-7:45pm
- Location: Training will be held virtually using Zoom
- Cost: FREE!
- **RSVP:** By Monday, October 26 to Susan. Connor@stjohns.k12.fl.us. You will receive the link to log into the meeting upon receipt of your RSVP.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn what's working in our children's classrooms and enhance your own parenting skills!

Special thanks to Jeffrey Willard and Equitable Advisors for their sponsorship of this event.



Schoology Help for Parents

Schoology is an online management tool that coordinates curriculum, assessments, grading and other classroom tasks and provides a communication



platform for educators and students. Adopted for use in St. Johns County schools in 2016-17, Schoology was designed to be used by teachers, students and parents in grades 6-12. With the introduction of Distance Learning due to COVID-19 last spring, all elementary schools also now use Schoology to facilitate virtual instruction.

Whether your student is a Distance Learner or physically inside the classroom, all parents are encouraged to use Schoology to monitor your child's assignments. Schoology provides a window for parents to view how teachers design and implement their lesson plans, assignments and grades. Teachers use it to post updates to their class and communicate with students. Most importantly, when you ask your student what assignments s/he needs to complete for homework, and the reply is "Nothing!", you can now double-check that answer on Schoology.

District staff hosted a series of virtual parent training sessions for Schoology at the start of this school year. If you weren't able to attend those trainings, you can view the video of a training session in its entirety, along with a host of other resources, here: https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/edtech/schoology/schoology-for-parents/

A few tips of particular importance:

- On your computer, access Schoology using Chrome or Firefox as your web browser.
- When using a mobile device, use the web browser Chrome or Safari, not the Schoology app.
- Parents should create your own account in Schoology, using your own name and password, and linking it to your student's account with an access code provided by your child's homeroom teacher.
- All SJCSD students have their own Schoology account and must submit their work through the student account (not the parent account).
- Grades should be viewed in Home Access Center (HAC), not Schoology. Schoology is primarily used to monitor classwork and homework.
- Teachers use Schoology primarily to communicate with students in their classes. Unless your child's teacher has specified otherwise, most teachers prefer that parents communicate with them by email. Teacher email addresses can be found in HAC.
- If you do not have a HAC account, or are having trouble logging in, please contact your school's Registrar or Computer Operator for assistance.



In this day and age of standardized assessments, parents often feel as if their students are being over-tested and that teachers are being forced to "teach to the test." Although all students in our district must take the FSA in the spring of each year as required by the State of

> Florida, teachers have wide latitude in preparing students throughout the year. One of the progress-monitoring tools adopted for use in our district is i-Ready, a computer-based assessment tool available for use in both Reading and Math for students in grades K-8.

The i-Ready Diagnostic is an adaptive assessment that adjusts its questions to suit your student's needs. Each item seen by a student is individualized based on their answer to the previous question. Based on the data collected, the I-Ready Personalized Instruction module creates lessons for students based on their individual skill level and needs, so your student can learn at a pace that is just right for them. The lessons are fun and interactive to keep your students engaged as they learn. In this way, i-Ready allows your child's teacher(s) to meet your student exactly at their level and provides data to increase your student's learning gains on the FSA.

Students can also access i-Ready from home and use it as a supplemental tool to hone their skills in a particular area. Please contact your student's teacher(s) for more information.

ESE: Exceptional Student Education

ESE programs and services address the unique needs of students who are gifted in grades K-12, and those with mild, moderate and severe disabilities from age three until they graduate or reach age 21. If you have an ESE student or you are interested in learning more about ESE services, please mark your calendars to attend the ESE parent meetings planned for the 2020-21 academic year.

GIFTED PARENT MEETINGS

Dates: October 15; December 1; February 25; April 27 Time: 6:30-8:00pm Location: TBD; please check the district website for more information https://www.stjohns. k12.fl.us/ese/gifted/meetings/

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND TOPICS

All meetings in 20-21 will be held using a WebEx virtual platform. Please email Avery.Greene@ stjohns.k12.fl.us for the link to join the meeting or check the district website at https://www. stjohns.k12.fl.us/ese/advisory/

Date: November 10, 6:00 – 7:30pm

Topic: Stress Management for Caregivers of Students with Disabilities **Presenter:** Sandra M. Rebeor, Psy.D., M.S.H.S.

Date: January 5, 6:00 – 7:30pm Topic: Guardianship: How to Best Protect Your Child When He or She Turns 18 Presenter: Stephen Furnari, Florida Attorney, Founder of GuardianProject.US

Date: February 2, 6:00 – 7:30pm

Topic: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD): Diagnostic Criteria, Symptoms, & Strategies

Presenter: Lisa D. Bailey, Ph.D.



Partner Spotlights

The SJCSD Department of Early Childhood Services wishes to recognize and thank the following partners for their strong support last year in hosting events and providing mentors to work with our students and families:





Proudly supporting students and families in St. Augustine and surrounding areas since 1980!

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CONNECTING STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITHIN THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE GEO-ZONE



COMPEL at Flagler College

Under the direction of Lourdes Khosrozadeh, Director of ESOL programs for SJCSD, COMPEL stands for Collaborative Online Mentoring Program for English Learners. Through this vibrant program, Flagler College students who are training to become teachers are paired with students from elementary, middle and high schools who are seeking to acquire English Language skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Vocabulary development is an area of concentration, and this collaboration provides an opportunity for English learners to benefit from individualized instruction. Flagler students meet from 30-60 minutes per week with their ELL mentees online using Zoom. Approximately 20 SJCSD students are currently participating in this program, in languages such as Portuguese, Spanish, German,

Hungarian, Vietnamese, and Chinese.

Pictured here is a student at St. Augustine High School meeting on Zoom with his Flagler College mentor.



SJCSD Master Calendar 2020-21



Oct 30First Quarter Ends
Nov 3Teacher Planning Day/Student Holiday
Nov 11Veteran's Day: Student/Teacher Holiday
Nov 181st Quarter Report Cards Issued
Nov 25-27Thanksgiving Break: Student/Teacher Holiday
Dec 82nd Quarter Interims Issued
Dec 21-Jan 1Winter Break: Student/Teacher Holiday
Jan 4Classes Resume for Students
Jan 18Martin Luther King Day: Student/Teacher Holiday
Jan 252nd Quarter Ends
Jan 29Teacher Planning Day/Student Holiday
Feb 122nd Quarter Report Cards Issued
Feb 15President's Day: Student/Teacher Holiday
Mar 33rd Quarter Interims Issued
Mar 17-19Spring Break: Student/Teacher Holiday
Apr 2Student/Teacher Holiday
Apr 5-16ELA Reading (Gr 3) and Writing (Gr 4-10)
Apr 83rd Quarter Ends
Apr 9Teacher Planning Day/Student Holiday
Apr 19-30 Middle School District Exams
Apr 283rd Quarter Report Cards Issued
May 3-28FSA Testing/EOCs
May 124th Quarter Interims Issued
May 31Memorial Day: Student/Teacher Holiday
Jun 10Last Day for Students