

Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

November 3– November 7, 2025

October Character Counts Trait – Citizenship

Mission : The professional learning community at John A. Crookshank Elementary School is dedicated to collaboration in developing purposeful instructional delivery models. We work together to create intentional learning opportunities that develop the whole child and provide our students with the foundational skills and growth mindset to be both academically and socially emotionally successful. We celebrate individual accomplishments, value diversity, respect exceptionalities, and partner with our families to meet the unique needs of each student.

Vision: To develop lifelong learners, nurturing collaborative critical thinkers.

Volume 3: Issue 13

Early Car Rider Drop off	7:55 am
School Opens for all students:	8:00 am
School Start Time:	8:25 am
School Dismissal Time:	2:45 pm *
* Wednesday 1:45 pm	

Monday, November 3

Tuesday, November 4

PTO Spirit Night at Texas Roadhouse located on 410 Outlet Mall Blvd. from 5 pm- 9pm. 10% of all proceeds will be donated to CES.

Wednesday, November 5

Early Release	1:45 pm
Girl Scouts Interest Meeting	2:30 pm

(Mimi Velazquez is the Point of Contact)

Thursday, November 6

Friday, November 7

Donuts with Grownups 7:00 am- 7:45 am
4th Grade & Ms. Benoit In House Field Study – Gabie's Bus

Early Checkout/Dismissal Changes:
cestransportation@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Cougar Café Lunch Menu:

<https://schools.mealviewer.com/school/JohnCrookshankElementary>

Reporting Absences

[Request to Excuse a Student Absence Form](#)

Growth Mindset: And now that you don't have to be perfect, you can be good." - John Steinbeck

HOT TOPICS

Yearbook: Sale & Advertisements

It's time for the "Early Bird Special" on a yearbook for the 2025-2026 school year! Head over to www.BuytheYearbook.com to purchase a yearbook full of smiles and fun memories! You can also purchase a student ad using the directions on the attached flyer to highlight your amazing kiddo(s)! This is especially great if you have a 5th grader you want to celebrate! Yearbook pricing will increase in the spring, so grab yours today!

Family Game Night: Food, Fun & Friendly Competition!

Date & Time: Tuesday, November 18, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Location: Cafeteria

Join us for an evening of laughter, games, and delicious food! Families are invited to come together for a night of interactive fun and connection. Whether you're rolling dice, flipping cards, or cheering each other on, there's something for everyone. Dinner and entertainment are on us — just bring your game face and your family spirit! Please register by **November 13**. [See Flyer Below](#)

Late Arrival Reminder

School begins promptly at 8:25 am. Students arriving after this time are considered tardy. To ensure a safe and smooth start to the day, any student arriving after 8:25 am must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to the front office. Parents must sign in their child and obtain an admittance slip before the student proceeds to class. Thank you for helping us support a focused and successful school day for all students!

School Access

As required by Florida state law, everyone MUST have a cleared background check to go past the front office at John A. Crookshank. Your driver's license is required to enter the building at all times. A photo of your ID will not work as you will need to scan your Driver's License. You MUST have school access approval to volunteer at the school, attend any conferences, awards events or chaperone field trips. Raptor information & QR Code below.

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Running Reminders

Sign in Procedure: In line with the district wide sign in policy, if you wish to volunteer in a classroom, participate in any class activities, chaperone/attend a field study, eat lunch with your student, participate in a parent conference, or attend any performance or event during school hours, you will need to be an approved and registered volunteer. You must complete the district's Volunteer Application <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/volunteer/> QR Code to register is below as well.

Transportation Changes & Early Checkout

Dismissal changes & Early Checkouts must be completed by 2:00 PM (M, T, TH, F) and by 1:00 PM (W). All changes should be in writing. Please send changes to CES_transportation@stjohns.k12.fl.us & Cc: your student's teacher.

Walker Drop Off Parents and families, instead of walking up or riding a bike up the bus loop entrance, please use the sidewalks along the playground to arrive at the walker gate. It's a very unsafe mix of walking/biking and buses.

Parent Drop Off and Pick:

Some friendly reminders:

1. Please remain in your vehicle when dropping off and picking up. A CES staff member will assist with your student exiting and entering the vehicle.
2. Remember, the PPU line is a hands-free zone, so help us keep kids safe AND keep the line moving by saving phone calls and texts for later."
3. Please pull up as much as you can to keep the line moving. Try to avoid large gaps in the line so we can make dismissal run smoothly for our students and staff!"

Free Breakfast and Lunch: John A. Crookshank Elementary is a site for free breakfast and lunch. Breakfast starts at 7:45 am for our Extended Day students and stops at 8:25 am. We encourage all of your students to have breakfast each morning and lunch in our café.

Child Safety Matters: K-5 students will participate in two Child Safety Matters Lessons during their media resource time in the upcoming months. This program is state approved and meets Florida's requirements for health education. Child Safety Matters (CSM) is a comprehensive, evidence-based curriculum for elementary school students in grades K-5. The program educates and empowers children and all relevant adults with information and strategies to prevent, recognize, and respond appropriately to bullying, cyberbullying, all types of abuse, and digital abuse dangers. Please reach out to bailey.benoit@stjohns.k12.fl.us with any questions.

New Worlds Reading Registration Link

The New Worlds Reading program provides free books to Florida students in grades K-5. Use this QR Code to see if your student qualifies for this wonderful opportunity.



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Running Reminders

PAWS list QR code

If you can, please consider purchasing any items from our PBIS Store wish list for the students to purchase with their points.



SCAN ME

<https://bit.ly/CESPBIWishlist>

Home Access Center

The Home Access Center (HAC) is a web-based application that is part of our Student Information System called eSchoolPlus. Please visit the website below to access or sign up for an account at <https://homeaccess.stjohns.k12.fl.us>. This system provides parents and students with a daily summary page, schedule and attendance, discipline information, class work, report cards, test scores, and course requests for all students in grades 3-5. If you need assistance with your account, please contact our Computer Operator, Lisa Cogar at 904-547-7846.

Parent Square

Parent Square is a rapid phone, email, and/or text notification system provided by our school district to communicate important or emergency information efficiently. This system will be used for providing accurate information to parents/guardians about daily attendance and safety as well as communication from the principal. For you to receive these messages, **please make sure that your contact information is up to date.**

QR Code below to register.

Varsity Tutoring

Every student can take advantage of this free resource. K-12 Parent. Our district has partnered with Varsity Tutoring for schools to provide students a suite of effective online learning resources that cover grades K-12. Students can get extra homework help or prepare for the next big test whenever they need it. For more information, see attachment in the Parent Square message.

Clinic News: If you have any clinic questions, please call or email Nurse Roxane Smith at 904-547-7832
<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/health/>

Medication Policy

The nurse's office has seen an uptick of medications, Epi-Pens, Inhalers, Over the Counter medications, etc. being sent with students in their backpack. A reminder that **All medications must be brought to the school by a parent or guardian.** Please do not send medications to school with your child. For any questions or concerns, please reach out to Roxane Smith, RN, BSN/School Health Nurse at 904/547-7832.

Car Rider – Parent Pick Up Cards

If your student is a returning car rider, please make sure to get a new 25-26 Car Tag. This applies to all returning Cougars as well. Our staff will be looking for the new tags when calling students in the afternoon and then releasing students to vehicles. If you need a new car rider tag, one can be picked up in the front office. When requesting a new tag, please make sure to have your identification.

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Upcoming Events

11/10	Veterans' Day Musical Tribute from the Carolin' Cougars at 9:00 am in the bus loop * Approved Parents and Families Welcome, Veterans Welcome as well. PTO/SAC Meeting	5:30 pm
11/11	Veterans' Day – No School	
11/12	School Based Professional Learning: BAS – Using the Data for Instruction	
11/13	Basketball v Mason @ Gamble	5:30 pm
11/15	Basketball Tournament @ SAHS– Time TBD	
11/18	Family Game Night Tie Tuesday	5:30 pm – See Flyer Below
11/20	5th Grade NASA Trip	
11/24-11/28	Thanksgiving Break	
12/1	School Resumes 2nd Grade STAR Reading PM2	
12/2	2nd Grade STAR Math PM2 & 3rd Grade FAST Reading PM2	
12/4	3rd Grade FAST Math PM2 & 1st Grade STAR Reading PM2 Club Pictures & Retakes	
12/5	1st Grade STAR Math PM2	
12/8	4th Grade FAST Reading PM2 Holiday Shop	
12/9	4th Grade FAST Math PM2 Holiday Shop Holiday Family Night: Cougar Chorus Tie Tuesday	5:30 pm
12/10	Holiday Shop	
12/11	5th Grade FAST Reading PM2 Holiday Shop Holiday Dance	3:00 pm – 4:30 pm
12/12	5th Grade FAST Math PM2	

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Family Game Night



Parent & Family Engagement Event

Date & Time: Tuesday, November 18, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Location: Cafeteria

Join us for an evening of laughter, games, and delicious food! Families are invited to come together for a night of interactive fun and connection. Whether you're rolling dice, flipping cards, or cheering each other on, there's something for everyone. Dinner and entertainment are on us – just bring your game face and your family spirit! Please register by **November 13**.

<https://forms.office.com/r/dLPyhqjBdQ>

* Please Note that All Adults Must be APPROVED Volunteers

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JOIN CROOKSHANK ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL'S

Art Club

WITH MS. LAVAGLIO

Open to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders
Meetings are...

THURSDAYS | 3:00–4:00PM

In the art room 57
Dates are...

SESSIONS	START	END	FEE
1	09/18	10/23	\$105
2	11/06	12/18	\$80
3	01/29	03/05	\$80
4	04/02	05/07	\$80

Please see Ms. LaVaglio for more information
or if you would like a sign-up form

Phone: (904)547-7840 Ext 22833 Email: E022924@stjohns.k12.fl.us

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Art Club Sign-Up Form

Crookshank Elementary School

Ms. LaVaglio

Please fill out this form with your parent or guardian. Hand in this form + payment to Ms. LaVaglio before our first meeting on September 18th.

Student Information

Student Name:

Teacher:

Grade:

School Email:

Parent Information

Parent Name:

Parent Email:

How will your child be picked up?

PLEASE make sure you are on time and waiting to pick your child up at the front of the school by 4:00pm.

Payment

School Fee: \$25

Art Club Fee: \$80

Total: \$105

To enroll in an after-school program, you must pay the general admission fee plus the club-specific fee for a 6 week period. You may pay with cash or by check. A receipt will be provided once the payment has been received.

I, _____, promise to arrive at 3:00pm every Thursday in the art
(Student Please Sign Here)

classroom ready to start art club. I will follow the same art room expectations as always. I will be on my best behavior and treat all art supplies with care. Any messes that I made will be completely cleaned up before art club ends at 4:00pm.

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PTO Updates

Hello, Cougar Families!

Join us for the events that we are excited to bring to Crookshank! Our main goal is to keep building the wonderful sense of community that we are so lucky to have at our school. Whether it be the excitement of planning and volunteering, to attending activities with your family, know that your participation is so appreciated and valuable. Stay tuned for all of these opportunities. Thank you for your support, and please let us know if you need anything!

PTO Involvement & Membership: Sign up to be a volunteer/member with the PTO- membership is FREE!!! By signing up you'll be first to know of what's coming up and how to either volunteer or donate. Flyer went home in the Wednesday folder on 8/27/25.

Looking at getting involved but don't know how? The PTO still has 1 open position- **Business Partner Chair**. Contact the PTO (crookshankpto@gmail.com) with any questions about what's involved or if you are interested.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities: (1) Assist with the PBIS Store any Friday morning from 7:45 am- 8:45 am (2) Snack Cart for teachers and staff on **November 20th** and (3) Holiday Shop Monday, **December 8th** thru Thursday, **December 11th**.

Please sign up on the link below: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AA5A62AAAF5C61-57932937-volunteer>

Fundraisers: Need to get your car washed? Want to get a \$30 car wash but only want to spend \$10? The PTO is selling \$10 car wash vouchers (a \$30 value) for **Tidal Wave Car Wash**. Go onto the PTO's website to order today! We will be selling them all school year! <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/crookshank-pt0>

We received our final totals from our **Cherrydale Fundraiser**, and we raised \$5,300 towards enhancing technology in the classroom. We didn't reach our goal of \$10,000 but we raised a great amount! For those of you who had your orders sent to school, they should be delivered the week of **November 17th**, and a message will go out about a pickup day and time once everything is confirmed.

Boo Fest was a HUGE success, and everyone seemed to have a great time! We want to thank everyone that came out and supported the PTO for this event and especially to our Business Partners that also participated!!! Shout out to our SAHS student volunteers for all of their help!

Events: Donuts with Grownups is scheduled for **Friday, November 7th** from 7:00 am - 7:45 am in the cafeteria. This is a FREE event. There is a limit of 2 grownups per child. Donations of donuts or muffins are also welcome. A flyer has been sent home. **RSVP was due by October 31st** as we are only able to have so many individuals in the cafeteria. See the Sign-Up Genius for donations. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AA5A62AAAF5C61-59637088-muffins>

Holiday Shop: The Holiday Shop is coming Soon! Flyers will be sent home in November!

Spirit Night: Our next Spirit Night will be on **Tuesday, November 4th** at Texas Roadhouse located at 410 Outlet Mall Blvd. from 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Flyers will be sent home in the coming weeks.

Spirit Wear/Online Store: Have you visited our online store? It has EVERYTHING from shirts, swag, birthday sign info, and Business Partners registration. It is so easy click the link below <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/crookshank-pt0-->



Crookshank PTO
904.547.7840
sites.google.com/view/crookshankpto

PAWS UP!

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DONUTS WITH GROWNUPS RSVP - TURN INTO FRONT OFFICE

STUDENT(S) NAME _____

TEACHER(S) / GRADE(S) _____

GROWN UPS NAME(S): _____

HOW MANY GROWNUPS? (MAX 2 PER CHILD) _____

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**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

These are CES PTO's official
social media platforms,
email contacts, and our
website! Check them out!

General Email: crookshankpto@gmail.com

Business Partner: CrookshankPTOpartners@gmail.com

Webpage: sites.google.com/view/crookshankpto

Facebook: www.facebook.com/crookshankcougarspto

Instagram: [@crookshankpto](https://www.instagram.com/crookshankpto)

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Crookshank PTO

🎉 JOIN OUR PTO – IT'S FREE! 🎉

Parents • Teachers • Staff • Community

📣 We Want **YOU** to Join the **PTO**!

Be part of a team that:

- ✓ Supports our students and staff
- ✓ Plans fun school events
- ✓ Enhances learning experiences
- ✓ Builds school spirit and community

💰 **Membership Cost: \$0 – It's FREE!**

That's right – there's **no cost to join!** Your voice and your energy are all we need.

Why Join?

- 💬 Have a say in school decisions
- 👪 Meet other involved parents & staff
- 📍 Help make a difference in our school community
- ✍️ Sign Up Today!

Fill out a membership form below and return to school:

--- CES PTO Membership: Please write legibly and return to the Front Office: ---

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Student Name/Grade/Teacher: _____

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Purchase a \$10 Car Wash Coupon to support the Crookshank PTO

**Each coupon is valid for one Graph-X4
wash, which is a \$30 value. You will
also have access to vacuums, cleaning
cloths and interior cleaning spray.**

Coupons are valid for 12 months.

**To purchase online scan the QR Code.
Coupons will be sent home with your
student within 2 weeks of purchase.**



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PTO Business Partners

Dear Crookshank Families,

Do you own or work at a local business? Know someone who does? Every year we partner with local businesses to raise funds for the school, and in return we help advertise our business partners to more than 600 families! If you are interested or have a suggestion for a business that might be interested, please email crookshankPTOpartners@gmail.com. Business partners can also sign up online at <http://crookshank-pto.cheddarup.com>

Become a CES Business Partner!

Principal's Partner

\$1,000

- Sponsor name & logo promoted via school newsletters and PTO website
- Social media posts to promote business partner
- Business banner displayed on CES fence for the school year (banner provided by business)
- Opportunity to distribute promotional materials or have a table/display at school events
- Business name featured on electronic marquee/school sign
- Full page ad included in the school newsletter once a month (ad provided by business)

Cougar Partner

\$500

- Sponsor name & logo promoted via school newsletters and PTO website
- Social media posts to promote business partner
- Business banner displayed on CES fence for the school year (banner provided by business)
- Opportunity to distribute promotional material or have a table/display at school events

Cub Partner

\$250

- Sponsor name & logo promoted via school newsletters and PTO website
- PLUS social media posts to promote business partner

Paw Partner

\$100

- Sponsor name & logo promoted via school newsletters and PTO website

***Business partners who commit to a specific level of donations for the 2025–2026 school year will receive the corresponding partnership level and benefits. For example, you can pay \$500 and commit to \$500 in donated goods to receive the \$1000 Principal Partner level.



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Principal Partners



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Cougar Partners



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Cougar Partners

THE
Sports Corner
CUSTOM APPAREL



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Paw Partners



Dr. Rebecca A. Faunce DMD

(904) 829-8899 faunceorthodontics.com
201 Health Park Blvd. Ste 216 - St. Augustine

At the office of Dr. Rebecca Faunce
we encourage you to Smile, *With Confidence!*

CALL today for a
Complimentary Consultation!

SPARK™ CLEAR ALIGNER SYSTEM DAMON SMILE
More than straight teeth™

invisalign® DAMON CLEAR

TMJBotoxA



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Parent Square Communication Platform



Download the App



Android



iOS

www.parentsquare.com

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Raptor Visitor and Volunteer System



Procedure for School Access

As required by Florida state law, everyone **MUST** have a cleared background check to go past the front office at John A. Crookshank. Your driver's license is required to enter the building at all times. A photo of your ID will not work as you will need to scan your Driver's License. You **MUST** have school access approval to volunteer at the school, attend any conferences, awards events or chaperone field trips.

Now is the time to go ahead and apply for school access if you have not already done so! Please make sure all spouses, grandparents, siblings over the age of 18, etc. who may visit the school are also approved to enter the building.

Enter all required information (including first, middle and last name). You will receive an email when your application is received and when it is approved. The Raptor system will send you an email when your school access is expiring and will prompt you to update your application.

The front doors will remain locked during school hours. Front Office personnel will request visitors state the nature of the visit before the doors will be unlocked. If there are multiple visitors, all visitors will need to respond before being able to enter. We appreciate your patience and understanding as the safety of our students is paramount. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the front office at 904-547-7840 or 904-547-3945

Use Your Smartphone

Scan the QR code below to complete the School Access Volunteer Application on your smartphone.



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Important Notice

Florida Statute 943.082 states that if, following an investigation, it is determined that a person knowingly submitted a false tip through FortifyFL, the Internet protocol (IP) address of the device on which the tip was submitted will be provided to law enforcement agencies for further investigation, and the reporting party may be subject to criminal penalties under s. 837.05. In all other circumstances, unless the reporting party has chosen to disclose his or her identity, the report will remain anonymous.

Suspicious Activity Reporting App

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.

Submit A
Tip Online



Download On The
App Store



Get It On
Google Play

