

# Cougar Growl Family Newsletter

## March 9 – March 13, 2026

### March Character Counts Trait – Trustworthiness

**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 28**

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, March 9**

Sebastian Middle School Orientation (5th Grade)  
PTO/SAC 5:30 pm

### **Tuesday, March 10**

### **Wednesday, March 11**

Goodwill Bag it Up! Donation- Dedicated Day  
Early Release 1:45 pm

### **Thursday, March 12**

Field Day  
3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Ends

### **Friday, March 13**

Teacher Planning Day

**16-20 Spring Break – No School**

### **Early Checkout/Dismissal Changes:**

[cestransportation@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto: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: “What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson**

## **HOT TOPICS**

### **PTO & SAC Meeting**

Join us for our CES PTO Bimonthly Meeting on **Monday, March 9th at 5:30 PM!** Meet us in the **Media Center** or hop on via **Zoom** — whatever works best for you. Come hear what’s happening, share your ideas, and get involved! Here’s the link for the Zoom option:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85633970894?pwd=ca6bCWJbBdwOYU5zDP1HRN1CGGb8Xg.1>

### **Bag it Up!**

The primary goal is to build future donors by fostering a culture of giving early in life. Schools receive incentives based on participation rates and the volume of donations collected. The Big Blue Bins are out, donate if you can this week. Our dedicated Donation Day will be March 11. Look for the BIG BLUE BINS!

### **STEM Night**

**Seat are filling up quickly!** Our Crookshank Family Night will be on Wednesday, March 25. An informational flyer is below.

There is a QR code on the flyer that goes to a signup genius so we can get a headcount. Here is the signup genius link too:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054CADA62CABF94-62423455-crookshank>

### **We’d Like to Hear From You**

To help us improve our delivery systems and provide your student with the best possible experience, we would love to hear from you. QR and link below.



[2025-26 Crookshank Parent SAC Survey – Fill out form](#)

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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](mailto: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,
4. Make sure to have your pick up tag clearly visible.

**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](mailto: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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### **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.

### **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](http://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!

### **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.

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#### Upcoming Events

#### March

- |    |  |                              |
|----|--|------------------------------|
| 24 | Class & Group Pictures   |                              |
| 25 | STEM Night - Flyer Below<br>CC Cup   | 5:30 pm<br>4:00 pm – 6:00 pm |
| 26 | Report Cards   |                              |
| 27 | Treaty Park PAWS Reward – 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>                      |                              |
| 30 | Treaty Park PAWS Reward – 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>                      |                              |
| 31 | Treaty Park PAWS Reward – K & 1<br>5 <sup>th</sup> Grade FAST Writing Assessment |                              |

#### April

- |      |   |         |
|------|---|---------|
| 1    | April Fool's Day                              |         |
| 2    | 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade FAST Writing Assessment |         |
| 3    | No School                                     |         |
| 6-7  | PK-2 Cougars with Character<br>Big Smiles     |         |
| 9-10 | 3-5 Cougars with Character<br>Big Smiles      |         |
| 10   | 4th/5th Writing Window Closes<br>PTO Fun Run  |         |
| 13   | SAC Meeting                                   | 5:30 pm |

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*Challenge Island:*  
**The World's #1**  
**STEAM**  
Education Program!



## Welcome to Challenge Island!

The mission of Challenge Island is to meet the social, emotional and intellectual needs of both today's playful creative child and tomorrow's globally successful adult through innovative cross-curricular, project-based, standard-aligned STEAM education.



**Register Here:**



**Crookshank  
Family Night**

Wednesday March 25th  
5:00-7:00PM

Email:  
firstcoast@challenge-island.com  
Phone:  
904-447-9547  
Website:  
<https://challengeisland.com/firstcoast/>

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## 2026 BAG IT UP DONATION DRIVE

### JOHN A. CROOKSHANK: MARCH 11th

#### Support Our School's Donation Drive with North Florida Goodwill!

We're partnering with Goodwill Industries of North Florida to make a positive impact in our community. The more donations we collect, the more we contribute to Goodwill's mission of removing barriers to employment through training, education, and career opportunities, while also earning funds for our school!

#### How You Can Help:

Donate items: Encourage your child to gather donations from family, friends, & neighbors.

#### Incentives & Rewards:

Fill 4-9 Duros: \$500  
Fill 10-14 Duros: \$1,500  
Fill 15+ Duros: \$2,500

#### The More You Donate, The More We Earn!

Every donation not only supports Goodwill's mission to remove barriers to employment through training, education, and career opportunities, but it also helps our school earn funds for important programs and resources.

#### Help Us Spread the Word:

Share the drive with family and friends through social media, email, and text. Together, we can make a big impact. Thank you for your generous support!



[goodwillnorthfl.org](http://goodwillnorthfl.org)

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JOIN CROOKSHANK ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL'S

# Art Club

WITH MS. LAVAGLIO

Open to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>.

### 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 John A. 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.

**PTO Involvement:** We're looking for enthusiastic parents to join the **PTO Board for the 2026–2027 school year!** Help plan fun events, support our teachers, and make a real difference—*all while meeting great people and having fun doing it.* No experience needed, just a positive attitude and a love for our school! Please reach out if you have any questions or interested in a position, [crookshankpto@gmail.com](mailto:crookshankpto@gmail.com)

**Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:** (1) Thursday, March 12, 8:30 am till 12:00 pm *ish* assist with handing out popsicles and water bottles during Field Day. Please click the Sign Up Genius link to sign up! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AA5A62AAAF5C61-57932937-volunteer> (2) Thursday, March 26, 8:00 am till 12:00 pm assist with snack cart for our wonderful teachers and staff. Sign up on the Sign Up Genius and meet in the PTO Room. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AA5A62AAAF5C61-57932937-volunteer> (3) Can't make it to school to volunteer? We totally understand — and you can still make a big impact! We've created an Amazon Wishlist with items needed for our upcoming events. Your donations help us create fun, memorable experiences for our students — no badge required! Shop our Wishlist and send your support straight to the school. Every item makes a difference! Click the link for the Amazon Wishlist and keep checking back as we'll continue to add to it and the best part is that it'll be shipped directly to school!: <https://a.co/03G266XM>.

**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! **Please give us approximately 2 weeks from the time of purchase to send the vouchers home.** <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/crookshank-pt0>

Our last big event/fundraiser will be our annual **Fun Run** and this will take place on Friday, April 10. There will be a modified schedule. More information will be sent home this Wednesday so please be on the lookout! This fundraiser helps fund a lot of the school programs that the students use on a daily basis such as PBIS, IXL, and AR (Accelerated Reading)! Items are needed for this fundraiser as well, please click the link if you are able to donate an item. <https://a.co/03G266XM>.

**Spirit Night: April 13, 2026, V-Pizza** more information to come!

**Spirit Wear/Online Store:** Have you visited our online store? It has EVERYTHING from shirts, swag, birthday sign info, and Business Partners registration. Please give us approximately 2 weeks to send the items home from the time of purchase. It is so easy click the link below <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/crookshank-pt0>

Thank you,



**Crookshank PTO**  
904.547.7840  
[sites.google.com/view/crookshankpto](https://sites.google.com/view/crookshankpto)

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PAWS UP!

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## BUBBLE PALOOZA 2026 FUN RUN

LET'S REACH \$9,000 TOGETHER!



Every penny supports the programs our kids love, such as:

- **Lexia** | builds strong literacy skills, reading confidence
- **IXL** | adapts to students' math levels, interactive practice
- **PAW Points (PBIS)** | rewards program to promote positive behaviors with special events and prizes
- **AR Reading** | promotes independent reading and comprehension

### CLASSROOM CHALLENGE

Help your classroom raise \$500 total by working together! Each student gets to enjoy the snack cart!

### TOP STUDENT PER GRADE

The top fun-raiser from each grade will get the chance to be a guest-host on the morning announcements!



### Register

[app.99pledges.com/fund/cougarbubbles](http://app.99pledges.com/fund/cougarbubbles)

Contact : [crookshankpto@gmail.com](mailto:crookshankpto@gmail.com)

### Amazon Wishlist

<https://rb.gy/wj57u9>



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The Crookshank Elementary School PTO IS


## LOOKING

## FOR LEADERS

EAGER TO CREATE A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR SCHOOL?

The following positions need to be filled. Voting will be May 11th.

INTERESTED? FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
CROOKSHANK PTO AT: [CROOKSTANKPTO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CROOKSTANKPTO@GMAIL.COM)



**President**  
The big-picture thinker!  
Leads meetings, works with school staff, and helps guide all the PTO fun.



**Vice President**  
The ultimate helper!  
Supports the President and jumps in wherever help is needed.



**Secretary**  
The organization hero!  
Takes notes, helps with communication, and keeps us on track.



**Treasurer**  
The number ninja!  
Keeps track of funds so we can support events, activities, and teacher wishes.



**Event Chair & Fundraising Chair**  
The FUN MAKERS! Help plan book fairs, family nights, fundraisers, teacher appreciation, and school celebrations.

**Committee Members Include:**  
Hospitality, Spirit Night, Spirit Wear, Holiday Shop & Events!



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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](mailto:crookshankpto@gmail.com)

Business Partner: [CrookshankPTOpartners@gmail.com](mailto:CrookshankPTOpartners@gmail.com)

Webpage: [sites.google.com/view/crookshankpto](https://sites.google.com/view/crookshankpto)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/crookshankcougarspto](https://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](mailto: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™ DAMON SMILE  
CLEAR ALIGNER SYSTEM More than straight teeth™

\* invisalign® DAMON CLEAR

*iTMJBotoxA*



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## Parent Square Communication Platform



Download the App



Android



iOS

[www.parentsquare.com](http://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.

