



OMES at-a-Glance



News for Otis A. Mason Families

August 20, 2021

207 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086
(904) 547-8440 – main (904) 547-8445 – fax

Mrs. Monique Keaton, Principal
Mrs. Anne Marie Raynor, Assistant Principal

From the Principal's Desk: Welcome Back!

Dear Mason Families-Welcome Back!

As many of you know, this past year, I served my first year as both principal and as principal of Otis A. Mason Elementary School. I am both excited and looking forward to our 2021 – 2022 school year. Being a part of this our sweet Otis A. Mason community is the biggest feather in my hat. The children and families that make up our school community are the most kindhearted, giving, selfless and generous people I know. Your ongoing decisions and choices to model good character between each other and before our children are what makes us an exceptional elementary school community. Mason families, we all hang on to that dream of living in a peaceful, loving, and nurturing community; that place where our children are safe, happy, and wholesome. We are still wanting that place where our children are learning, growing, and being prepared for life. Friends, I want to thank each of you for your contributions towards continuously creating that place at Otis A. Mason Elementary School. What you do matters, monumentally.

My hope is that you have had a great summer, enjoyed cherished time with your family and friends and that your child was able to catch up on their summer reading and complete their Passports to Summer Learning.

As we begin the school year, the safety and wellness of your child is of utmost importance to us. We will ensure that all measures are taken to make Otis A. Mason Elementary School a place where you feel confident that your child is getting the very best educational opportunity in the safest environment. Masks are not mandatory for students, but they are mandatory for all staff and visitors at this time. Our OMES maintenance department works thoroughly to clean and sanitize our building, daily. Teachers and staff are cognizant about personal space, and we know each of you are very careful to not send your student to school if they are exhibiting any COVID symptoms.

One of our goals this past school year was to stress the importance of our school community truly understanding that at Otis A. Mason Elementary school, we ARE a TEAM. We are a family! We are a unified community! Throughout this past year, each of you lived up to that challenge. The countless and ongoing SMILES, waves, donations, contributions, acts of kindness, understanding, and sweet grace you modeled are but an elementary school community dream.

The value you put on education contributed to Otis A. Mason Elementary being an “A” school this year. We are very proud of our school grade and families. Your choice to value education in addition to our teachers’ hard work and our students’ applications of their learnings are all how we earned our “A” school status. Otis A. Mason families let’s make this year, another year to remember. You may have noticed our BIG smiling faces at OMES. Not only do we wear them on our faces, but also on our tie-die t-shirts and in our hearts. Many of our classrooms are decked out in smiling faces too. We have chosen to SMILE at OMES this year. It is this year’s motto. SMILE is also an acronym for SHINE, MOTIVATE, INSPIRE, LEAD and EXCEL.

I join you in bountifully living life as a proud member of our Otis A. Mason Community; a place where your character really does count. I am looking forward to all of the surprises this year has to offer. Remember, our destination is excellence!

Happily,

😊 Mrs. Monique Keaton, Principal

School Hours:

- **Arrival** – 8:00am
- **Classes Begin** –8:25am
Students arriving after 8:25am must sign into the front office with an adult
- **Dismissal** –
2:45pm – Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
1:45pm – Wed (Early Release)

A Note From the Clinic:

Nurse Johna wants parents to feel that their children are safe at school. If your child is exposed to COVID, you will receive a text and email from the clinic and from the district. It will include answers to many of the questions that parents have about quarantine. This information and free testing sites are also on the clinic portion of the school website under COVID HELP. Nurse Johna wants to hear from you if you or your child is unwell or if you or a family member is waiting for COVID results. Remember, the school cannot accept home test results, they are required to get a lab test for confirmation. We can get through this time if we handle it TOGETHER, so reach out if you have any concerns (547-8444).

Parent Pick-up and Drop-off:

Please follow our procedures to help us move our students as safely and swiftly as possible.

- Use the yellow placard provided (Green for VPK) and leave in place until exited from campus
- Parents **MUST** remain in vehicle
- Students **MUST** exit/enter through the passenger side
- **ONLY** adults and safety patrol on duty will call students to vehicles and open vehicle doors
- Follow the flow of traffic and direction from our ushers
- Cell phone usage is **PROHIBITED** in the loop
- Please be kind and please be patient 😊

School Access Form:

Want to visit our campus? Want to keep our school safe?

- Always enter/exit school through the Front Office
- Always have your photo ID
- Complete a School Access Form online
<http://stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply>

In order to visit our school campus, you **MUST** be an approved visitor and have ID. Please go online and fill out our School Access Form as soon as possible in order to volunteer or attend conferences and activities. Completing this form once will allow you school access for three years. We appreciate your involvement in your child's education and your willingness to keep our campus secure.

Here at OMES, Character Counts!

Here at OMES, we are passionate about the character of our students, staff, and families. We believe in our community-based program to build character in our learners. Please help us in this endeavor by embracing the six pillars of character within your home:

- **Trustworthiness:** Be honest, reliable, and loyal.
- **Respect:** Follow the Golden Rule.
- **Responsibility:** Be accountable for your actions.
- **Fairness:** Take turns and share. Treat others fairly and listen to them with an open mind.
- **Caring:** Be kind, compassionate, grateful, forgiving, charitable.
- **Citizenship:** Obey all rules and laws. Respect authority. Be a good neighbor. Volunteer.

Home Access Center (HAC):

HAC is the online portal used to communicate to parents regarding attendance, grades, emergency contacts, transportation, and more.

To access HAC online:

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/>

To register for HAC online:

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/registration/>

To use the App Version (**eSchoolPlus Family App**):
Available from: Apple Store, Google Play, Kindle

Schoology:

All teachers have Schoology webpages for reminders, assignments, calendars, etc. Please see this link for all things Schoology:

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/edtech/schoology/schoology-for-parents/>



School Messenger:

The School Messenger System allows schools and District staff to quickly and efficiently communicate both general and emergency messages to parents/guardians and staff using email, text and voice mail. Parents and staff who wish to receive text messages from this system must:

- (1) Opt-in from their mobile device
- (2) have their mobile number on file with their child's school (for parents/guardians) or on file with Employee Online (for staff/employees).

Please visit <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolmessenger/> for more information.

Calling all Volunteers-We need YOU!

Please ask your child's teacher for an Essential Volunteer Form. We need your help inside and outside of the classroom. Consider the following:

- Be a "Room Parent" or a "Grade Parent"
- Be a classroom volunteer
- Join the PTO
- Become a Business Partner
- Help with small projects at home

We are so grateful for any help. There is no contribution too small. Thank you for helping our Manatee community!

The Six Pillars of CharacterSM

