



# OMES at-a-Glance



News for Otis A. Mason Families  
August 2022

207 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086  
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Mrs. Monique Keaton, Principal  
Mrs. Anne Marie Raynor, Assistant Principal  
Mrs. Marie Antoine, Assistant Principal

## Otis A. Mason COMMUNICATES:

**What is OMES-at-a-Glance?** It is our Otis A. Mason monthly newsletter. We do our best to condense a month's worth of information that you need to know into a two-to-four-page newsletter. Our goal is to keep you abreast of school happenings in addition to the weekly communications you receive from your student's teacher. Do not forget to check our Otis A. Mason website, our OMES PTO Facebook Page, and our occasional School Messenger texts and emails. Communicating with our families is very important to us. If you have questions, or need clarification, reach out to us via phone at 904-547-8440. We are here for you! We are looking forward to a grand year here at Otis A. Mason Elementary School. It all starts with us ensuring we know what is going on in our student's lives and at our student's school. We are in this TOGETHER!

### Here are some important dates to get YOU involved!

**September 1:** Character Counts! FAIRNESS month begins

**September 9:** Our Raise Craze Fundraiser begins

**September 13:** Interims; SAC Meeting in the Media Center

## Important 2022-2023 School Year Procedural Changes:

**If your child is sick,** please refer to the St. Johns County School District Illness Guidelines found here: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/health/illness/> for general health concerns related to your child. There is no longer a dedicated district COVID hotline. For all future COVID-related testing, questions, or concerns, please consult your child's pediatrician for guidance and recommendations. Should the pediatrician recommend your child stay home from school, please notify your child's teacher(s) of their upcoming absence. Upon return to school, a parent or doctor's note must be provided to excuse the absence. St. Johns County School District will no longer provide exposure notifications for the upcoming school year. **Does your student need free or reduced lunch?** You can complete the online Free and Reduced lunch application by using this link <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/food/free/>. We encourage you to fill out the online application in English or Spanish You may also print the form and bring it to school. Please do not delay in applying if assistance is needed. Full-price breakfast costs \$1.25 and reduced breakfast costs \$0.30. Full-price lunch costs \$2.80 and reduced lunch costs \$0.40.

## A Word from Ms. Allen in the Media Center:

Please save your trash! Not only are we reading a lot of books during our media time, but we are also going to be learning the scientific method while doing some thought-provoking experiments. Please save and send in any of the following items:

-  Cereal boxes
-  Toilet paper/Paper towel tubes
-  Cylinder containers (Coffee cans, soup cans, etc.)

Thank you for all your help!!

Ms. Allen  
Media Specialist



## 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 Nurse Johna in our Clinic:

Fall is on the way, but it is still VERY HOT out there. Please don't forget to send your student with a water bottle EVERY DAY.

The clinic welcomes **donations of water** for those who forget (happens to the best of us). Also, send your student with a set of **"BACK UP" clothes**. They will be kept in class, just in case of accidents.

## A Word from Mrs. Cacchione in Art :

We are so excited to welcome Mrs. Cacchione to our Manatee family. She is our new Art Teacher. If you are interested in volunteering to help in Art classes or simply have donations for our Art classes, please see the list of needs below or contact Mrs. Cacchione directly via email at:

[Kevanie.CountsCacchione@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Kevanie.CountsCacchione@stjohns.k12.fl.us)



# Art Classroom ANNOUNCEMENT



### PLEASE SEND AN OLD T-SHIRT OR APRON

Throughout the year, your children will be creating a wonderful variety of art projects and classroom crafts related to certain themes and topics. Sometimes the projects may get a little messy. I ask that our families provided an old t-shirt or apron that you do not mind your child gets dirty.



### DONATIONS NEEDED

I am currently seeking out donations for a few art supplies in our art classroom. At present, we are in need of:

- Egg Cartons
- Cereal Boxes
- Newspapers
- Old Magazines
- Paper Bags



### QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

If you have any questions or concerns email me at: [kevanie.countscacchione@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:kevanie.countscacchione@stjohns.k12.fl.us) Mrs. Cacchione or Mrs. C

*Thank you*



## Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS):

The FDLRS provides assistance in the location, identification, evaluation, and initiation of appropriate education who have or are at risk of developing special or unique needs. Do you have concerns about your child's:

- Speaking or understanding
- Seeing or hearing
- Moving or playing
- Self-feeding, dressing or toileting
- Getting along with other children
- Learning and paying attention

If you have questions or concerns about a child from Birth to 5 years of age, contact FDLRS/NEFEC Child Find:

**386-329-3811**

<https://www.fdlrsnefec.org/child-find>

The SSYRA Books have Arrived! How many have you read so far?

# SSYRA Books

## 2022-2023

### Grades 3-5



How many will you read???

INTRODUCING

## SSYRA Junior

2022-2023

# WHAT WILL BE YOUR NEW FAVORITE?

Someone Builds the Dream by Lisa Wheeler

Chester Van Chime Who Forgot How to Rhyme by Avery Morrison

The Electric Slide and Kai by Kelly Baptist

Chez Bob by Bob Shea

Mel Fell by Corey R. Tabor

The Sneaking, Hiding, Vibrating Creature by Nathan W. Pyle

What if, Pig? by Elzbie Hunter

Ten Beautiful Things by Molly Beth Griffin

Invasion of the Unicorns by David Biedrzycki

The Middle Kid by Steven Weinberg

The Littlest Yak by Lu Fraser

Missed Meal by Mayhem by Jarrett Lerner

Ivy Lost and Found by Cynthia Lord

Mad About Meatloaf by Maureen Fergus

Cranky Chicken by Katherine Battersby

## Parent Pick-up and Drop-off:

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

- Use the ORANGE placard provided to pick up your Pre-K and ESE classroom student and older siblings. This pick-up location is at the first entrance next to the Cafeteria.
- Use the BLUE placard provided to pick up students in all other grades.
- Parents **MUST** remain in vehicle and 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 directions 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?

- 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 a photo 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!

## 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 Character<sup>SM</sup>

