

OMES at-a-Glance

News for Otis A. Mason Families May 13, 2022

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

Manatee Highlight: Employee of the Year, Mr. Todd Bowen!



Pictured Left to Right: Mr. Todd Bowen, Mrs. Anne Marie Raynor, Mrs. Monique Keaton at the SJCSD Employee of the Year Banquet

Thank you, Mr. Bowen! Our Manatee family is so grateful for everything you do for us.

In this month's Manatee Highlight, we would like to honor our 2021-2022 Employee of the Year, Mr. Todd Bowen! Mr. Bowen (or "Mr. Todd" as many students call him) is the Otis. A. Mason Maintenance Coordinator. He makes sure that our campus is clean, safe, and maintained on a daily basis. Students will often see him helping with arrival, lunchtime, and dismissal, as well as in our hallways and classrooms. Mr. Bowen is always assisting our students and teachers throughout the day. He is everywhere all of the time.

Thank you for keeping our school stocked, cleaned, fixed, maintained, upgraded, and sparkling. As a "thank you" to our Maintenance Coordinator, our teachers and students wrote him poems that we posted around campus. Here is one of those poems:

"Mason MVP" A Haiku

Keeping us afloat

Smart kind, helpful, never boasts...

Todd Bowen, The G.O.A.T.!

Character Highlight: The Importance of Patriotism

This month the Otis A. Mason community is focusing on the pillar of citizenship, and we are teaching patriotism on campus. We here at Otis A. Mason Elementary believe that every parent, student, teacher, and member of our community should **strive to be a patriotic citizen.** How can we exemplify a patriotic citizen?

- Obey laws and rules in the household, classroom, and community
- Make your community a better place
- Be an informed citizen. Read!
- Respect authority in the household, the classroom, and community
- Vote, volunteer, and participate in national holidays like Memorial Day (May 30)
- Study our nation's history in school and discuss it around the dinner table
- Respect the national flag
- Work with military, police, fire rescue, and other public servants
- Respect the playing of the national anthem, the "Star-Spangled Banner" and the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance
- Know, appreciate, and exercise your rights and privileges as a citizen of the country
- Read books and learn about our country, our culture, our people, and our history. Share in the excitement and celebration regarding what makes this country a wonderful place to reside in!

Have questions about character education? Contact our School Counselor, Mrs. Holtz at Katherine.holtz@stjohns.k12.fl.us. We are always available to support you with character education.





2022-2023 First Week Information:

Do you have a student returning to school? Please fill out the Returning Student Verification Form that was sent via email. Didn't receive it? Please call 904-547-8440. Do you have a new student to OMES? Please register them here: https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/student/enrollment/#forms

July 28th: Our Kindergarten screener will be on campus

August 9th: "Meet and Greet" Orientation until 11:30am

August 10th: First Day of School for1st through 5th Grades

August 10th **-15**th: Kindergarten Staggered Start (Your child will attend <u>one</u> of these days per their teacher)

August 16th: First Day for ALL Kindergarten students

Attention Graduating Senior Manatees:

Come and walk the halls of Otis A. Mason one more time before you graduate. Let us celebrate YOU!

Come by our school on May 18th at 1:00pm in your cap and gown. After the grad walk, come to our Senior Social where you can share your future plans and open up your time capsule!

Please call 904-547-8440 to RSVP or email Coach Hollister at Donald.hollister@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Important Dates:

May 9-May 13: School Nurse Appreciation Day! Thank you, Nurse Johna!

May 16: 4th Grade Field Trip to Kennedy Space Center

May 18: <u>Grad Walk and Senior Social!</u> Otis A. Mason is welcoming graduating seniors who attended our school to walk the hallways one more time before they graduate.

May 20: Field Day for 4th and 5th Grades; Library book Return Day: All borrowed books are due back by today. The grade level with the best book return rate wins an ICE POP PARTY!

May 23: Field Day for 2nd and 3rd Grades

May 26: Celebrating 30 Years of Otis A. Mason Elementary School END OF YEAR BASH! 5pm-7pm

May 27: 5th Grade Field Trip to SeaWorld; Field Day for Kindergarten and 1st Grades

May 30: Memorial Day-No School

May 31: 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony

June 1st: 5th Grade Celebration (Volunteers needed! Please contact <u>wendi.allen@stjohns.k12.fl.us</u> if you would like to sign up)

June 2: Report Cards issued; Early Dismissal on the LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

June 3: Last day of school for teachers

Join Us In Celebrating 30 YEARS OF OTIS A. MASON ELEMENTARY at the SCHOOL MAY 26th, 5-7PM Free Games, Fun, & Prizes Clastroom Sponsored Booth, Dunk Tank Sponsored by Kia, Tattoos Facil & lefreshments & Hawaiion Snoosis Shave Ice Available for purchase Special Entertainment Performance by the Steel Drum Band and a Special 30 Year Celebration Speech by The Originals Celebration Speech by The Originals Celebration Speech by The Originals Celebration Speech by The Originals

School Safety is a Priority:



Summer Learning Opportunities:

One of the most important habits you can have as a parent to support your child's learning is to continue important school routines over the summer. This includes:

A routine age-appropriate bedtime

9 to 12 hours of sleep per night

Make every meal count-nutritious and balanced!

60 minutes of physical activity every day

20-30 minutes of reading each day

Limit screen time, especially before bedtime

Limit and monitor social media accounts

Check https://www.commonsensemedia.org/ to see if media (movie, music, tv show, etc.) is right for your child.

Finally, here is some help to continue learning over the summer:

- Check out the Link for Students page for FREE access to learning resources on the OMES website: https://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us/links/ (use s###### and school password to access)
- Complete the OMES Summer Passport to Learning located on our website: https://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us/
- Check out the St. Johns County Public Library
 System FREE summer programs! Access all the library has to offer here:
 https://sicpls.org/branches/southeast-branch/
- 4. Access the School Supply List for the 2022-2023 School Year on our website:





Now Hiring Substitute Teachers:

The SJCSD needs talented, caring substitute teachers for the 2022-2023 school year and we are accepting applications now. Please review the contact information below and let us know if you are qualified and interested in serving the needs of our teachers and students. We simply couldn't do it without you!

For full job description, requirements and to apply online,

Visit: https://www.applitrack.com/stjohns/onlineapp/

Questions? Please call 904-547-7636 Substitute Helpdesk or application questions call AppliTrack helpdesk 547-7631

Presenting, the Honorable Dr. Otis A. Mason:

Our community was so proud to read about our very own Dr. Otis A. Mason! Dr. Mason received an honorary Doctorate degree from Florida A & M University (FAMU) on April 29, 2022. Dr. Mason had previously earned a bachelor's degree with Honors in Physical Education and a master's degree in Administration from New York University. Dr. Mason was honored for his service to our school district as a teacher, a principal, an instructional supervisor, and as superintendent.

Thank you, Dr. Otis A. Mason for your years of service to our school and the St. Johns County School District. You set an example for all of us!



Teacher Appreciation Week Gratitude:

You ask...what does character, care, kindness, and community look like?

During our Teacher Appreciation Week, May 2nd -May 6th, our school was full of fresh flowers, big smiles, lots of laughter, snacks, desserts, gift cards, and love; all of which were brought through the doors of our school by the world's most incredible children and giving parents. Each teacher and staff member floated on cloud nine all week. They felt pampered, loved, and appreciated, all because you chose to show you care. We want to thank each of you for being the community that we all dream about living in. Truly, it takes a village. "Thank you" from all of us here at Otis A. Mason Elementary School.