



OMES at-a-Glance



News for Otis A. Mason Families

March 2023

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

Manatee Highlight: Ms. Erin Hancock

Ms. Erin Hancock (pictured below) is our School Psychologist. Her favorite superhero is Scarlet Witch, and her favorite cartoon is Adventure Time. She loves reading and the color green. Her favorite book is *Good Omens* by Neil Gaiman. If you ask her which Harry Potter house she belongs to, she will respond that she is a proud Slytherin! So, what does a School Psychologist do? See below!

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS
support students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to teach.

THEY ARE EXPERTS IN

- Learning
- Behavior
- Mental Health
- School Systems

THEY PROVIDE

- Academic and behavioral interventions
- Mental health supports
- Evaluation, assessment, and data analysis
- Consultation with teachers and families
- Culturally responsive services
- Crisis prevention and response

THEY SUPPORT

- Struggling and diverse learners
- Academic achievement
- Positive behavior and mental health
- Safe and supportive learning environments
- School-family-community partnerships
- School-wide data-based decision making

THEY SERVE IN

- Public and private schools
- Early childhood centers
- Universities
- Juvenile justice facilities
- Clinics and hospitals
- Independent practice

RECOMMENDED RATIO
1 school psychologist per 500 students

Lowering barriers to learning is critical to children's success in school.
Contact your school psychologist to find out how they can help.

Character Highlight: This Month is all about the Pillar of TRUSTWORTHINESS!

Every month our school highlights and teaches a different pillar of character. The focus for the month of March is TRUSTWORTHINESS. Why is it so important to be trustworthy in our community? Trustworthiness is the very foundation of a civil society, and it is what we would like to define us as a community. We here at Otis A. Mason Elementary believe that every parent, student, teacher, and member of our community should **strive to be a TRUSTWORTHY member of the community.**

- **Be honest.** There are so many ambiguous situations that your child needs guidance on in daily life. Guide them with honesty and help walk your child through the right, honest choice and explain why the honest approach is the best one.
- **Be reliable.** It is so important to do what you say you will do. Whether making a promise or issuing a consequence, exemplify to your child what it means to be dependable.
- **Do the right thing even when no one is watching.** Be a brave superhero and applaud your child for making good choices (especially when they did it on their own!).
- **Teach your child the importance of a good reputation.** Being a trustworthy person with a good reputation opens innumerable doors of opportunity. Act as if every action is publicized on the front page of the newspaper or broadcast on YouTube.
- **Dive into examples and scenarios:** Does omitting the truth count as a lie? Does it count as stealing if the item is lost? What about inexpensive? What is the right thing to do if your child finds a wallet? Cash on the ground?

Have questions about character education? Contact our School Counselor, Mrs. Holtz at Katherine.holtz@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

Our School Psychologist Ms. Erin Hancock:



Important Dates

March 9: End Quarter 3; Adventure Landing Spirit Night 5-8pm

March 10-19: SPRING BREAK, No School

March 20: Classes Resume

March 21: SAC Meeting at 3:30pm in the Media Center

March 27: PTO Meeting at 3:30pm in the Media Center

April 13: Good Will "Bag it Up" program from 7:30am-8:30pm

Spring cleaning? **Bag up your donations and bring them to the parent drop-off here at school!** That's right, from **7:30am to 8:30am** you can donate to Good Will! Plan it out and drop off your kids and your donations at the same time (just don't get them mixed up!).

Participating in this program earns the school \$2,000 AND the class with the most donations wins a pizza party!



Congratulations, Mana-Bots! Our Lego League Robotics Team Made Mason Proud!



We are so excited to sing the praises of our Lego League Robotics Team, the Mana-Bots. Coaches Thomas and Thomas led our students in an incredible season of learning, building, growing, and competing. **Our team won the Super-Powered Motivate Award** (one of seven top honors at the competition). We are so proud of our students for representing our school with such great character. Just read what some of the judges said about our Manatee competitors:

"Your team is so ridiculously and superiorly well-mannered and polite!"

"You guys 100% represented your coaches and your team!"

"Core value wise, you guys blew it out of the water!"

Front Office Reminders:

Drop off: Please drop off your child in a timely manner and respect traffic patterns and our friendly helpers. If you are late, please walk your child into the Front Office to be signed in accurately and safely. If you would like the tardy to be excused, **please** bring a note as well.

Missed Calls from our School: If you have received a phone call from our school, please wait and listen to the voicemail prior to returning the call so we can best assist you by connecting you to the right person quickly.

Items dropped off in our Front Office: We appreciate how supportive and involved our parents are when dropping off items throughout the school day. Due to the volume of items, we are having difficulty with delivering items without interrupting instructional time. Please help us support our teachers and the learning environment by keeping dropped off items to a minimum. We cannot guarantee that items dropped off during the school day can be delivered on time.

Volunteering on Campus: We always need and appreciate extra help on our campus. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to our PTO at otismasonPTO@gmail.com or speak directly to your child's teacher to make arrangements. All adults on campus must pass a background check at www.stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply before entering campus.

Birthdays: If you would like to drop something off for your child on their special day, please make arrangements with the teacher in advance. Treats may be distributed during recess or lunch and our community would greatly appreciate a healthy option. Due to limited capacity, we are not offering family dining with students.

Dismissal Changes: We understand life is busy for our families and plans can change in an instant. Please help us get your child home correctly every day:

1. Maintain routine and keep dismissal changes to a minimum.
2. Talk to your child every day about how they are going home (especially if there is a change!)
3. Communicate changes with the teacher **and** via our Dismissal Change Form:
<https://surveys.stjohns.k12.fl.us/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=mesdismissal#>
4. Please submit changes by **2:15pm** every day (and **1:15pm** on Wednesdays) so we have adequate time to inform teachers, students, the Front Office, and the Dismissal Team. Dismissal changes cannot be made over the phone.
5. If you are concerned about a change in transportation or creating a routine, please call us, we are here to assist! Team Mason: 904-547-8440.

Otis A. Mason is First Place for the Kids Heart Challenge, AGAIN!

Congratulations, Otis A. Mason Elementary School for being the top fundraising elementary school for the American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge the second year in a row!

Top Grade/class for Fundraising:

- 1st Place: 3rd Grade (Stewart's Class)
- 2nd Place: 2nd Grade (Nguyen's Class)
- 3rd Place: 4th Grade (Downey's Class)

Top Grade/class for Registration:

- 1st Place: 1st Grade (DiGregorio's Class)
- 2nd Place: 3rd Grade (Harper's Class)
- 3rd Place: 2nd Grade (Mercurio's Class)

Fundraiser Total: \$29, 440 raised
Total Students Registered: 279

Top Students:

King Fundraiser: Aiden Johnson
Queen Fundraisers: Sophia Stillwell and Colby Viney
Prince Fundraiser: Leland Lombard
Princess Fundraiser: Kinsley Povia



Test Proctors Needed! F.A.S.T. is Coming

Volunteers are needed for one of the most important tasks of the year: progress monitoring! Test proctors will need to complete a brief training (review a Power Point of procedures) prior to proctoring. Proctors may not volunteer in the same room as a relation (child, nephew, niece etc.).



We will need 5-7 volunteers from **8:45am to 10:15am** for each of the following days:

April 18, 20, 21, 25, 27, 28
May 2, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19

A sign-up genius will be shared soon. Thanks for considering.

A Word from our Otis A. Mason PTO:

We just wanted to give a huge shout out to our **AMAZING** families that continue to support our efforts in making sure our students, teachers, and staff have the tools they need to be successful. We couldn't do it without the contributions both financially and with your very valuable time.

Thank you for coming out to our 1st ever Zaxby's Spirit Night and for supporting Souper Bowl! Pictures are on our Facebook Page!

<https://www.facebook.com/OtisMasonPTO?mibextid=LQQJ4d>

Teacher Appreciation week is in May, and we want to give our staff a week to remember so if you have a service or business, and would like to make a donation, we will gladly accept them. We will have our annual luncheon and will need volunteers! Sign up genius will be distributed next month. If you are interested in helping, E-mail: otismasonpto@gmail.com and we will get in contact with you ASAP.

We also have a lot of open slots on Wednesdays to help with the Manatee Mall so check out the link and see where you can help:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a4ca5a629a5ff2-manatee1#/>



Spring Passport to Learning

We hope that your family has a wonderful, restful, fun Spring Break from **March 10th through March 19th**!

We invite you to join your child's continued learning over Spring Break by having your child complete the Spring Passport to Learning. Every student who completes their passport will get an invitation to a celebration and will be more likely to maintain higher levels of academic success.

Please select the link below for your child's Spring Passport to Learning. Paper copies are in your child's folder. Links to these passports and to various, free learning resources can be found on our Otis A. Mason website:

<https://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>

[Spring Passport to Learning Kindergarten 22-23](#)

[Spring Passport to Learning 1st Grade 22-23](#)

[Spring Passport to Learning 2nd Grade 22-23](#)

[Spring Passport to Learning 3rd Grade 22-23](#)

[Spring Passport to Learning 4th Grade 22-23](#)

[Spring Passport to Learning 5th Grade 22-23](#)



Teacher of the Year, Ms. Wendi Allen, and Rookie Teacher of the Year, Ms. Erin Harper, Recognized by the St. Johns County School District



We are so grateful for you both. Thank you for taking such good care of our school, our students, and our community.

Manatees CARE! Check out what Mason students did for the pillar of Caring:



"Beep! Beep! For KINDNESS" Manatee Mob and Safety Patrol celebrated kindness in our parent drop off.



Our Donate-A-Dollar fundraiser for Camp Boggy Creek was a tremendous success! Here are some pictures of our Manatees giving the check to Camp Boggy Creek.

Congratulations to our Outstanding Volunteers for the 2022-2023 School Year

We here at Otis A. Mason Elementary School are fortunate to have the BEST volunteers in the world. We are so grateful for every person, every hour, and every gift! We would like to give special thanks to our Outstanding School Volunteers for this school year.

Outstanding Junior Volunteer: Peyton Carter

Outstanding Adult Volunteer: Anne Cook

Outstanding Senior Volunteer: Coach Norm Perkins

