



# OMES at-a-Glance



## News for Otis A. Mason Families

August 2023

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

Mrs. Monique Keaton, Principal  
Ms. Marie Antoine, Assistant Principal  
Ms. Julie Hudson, Assistant Principal

### Hey Manatee Families, Let's Connect!

**OMES-at-a-Glance Newsletter:** This 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.

**Email:** Please use our website to email the school general mailbox ([mes@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:mes@stjohns.k12.fl.us)) or feel free to email your child's teacher regarding important information at [firstname.lastname@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:firstname.lastname@stjohns.k12.fl.us). Please allow two business days for a response. Remember that our teachers' full attention is expected to be on our students and not email. Your patience and support is greatly appreciated. Don't like email?  
**Mail, Telephone, and Fax:** Please see our above contact information to contact us the old-fashioned way!

**Website:** <https://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>  
Our website is a great FIRST stop for all things Otis A. Mason. Check it out today!

**HOME ACCESS CENTER (HAC):** HAC access is through the parent-provided email address and password or your child's S number and password. Please call the Front Office if you are having access issues (547-8440).  
<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/>

**Schoology:** <https://stjohnsschools.schoology.com/home>  
Fifth-grade teachers use Schoology to post assignments, resources, and calendars. Check it out!

**PTO:** Join our incredible Parent-Teacher Organization TODAY! Follow them on Facebook or email them at [otismasonpto@gmail.com](mailto:otismasonpto@gmail.com)  
**SAC:** The Student Advisory Committee is a wonderful way to support and improve our school. Have your voice heard and learn about our curriculum initiatives. Email [otismasonsac@gmail.com](mailto:otismasonsac@gmail.com) or come by one of our monthly meetings. Our website has more information.

**SCHOOL ACCESS FORM** needs to be completed by all new visitors to our schools: Background check to enter campus: [stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply](https://stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply) There is a link

**SCHOOL MESSENGER:** You can control the Opt-in to school text messages, emails, and phone calls here: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolmessenger/>

### Character Highlight: What is Character Counts?

#### The Six Pillars of Character™



Every month our school highlights and teaches a different pillar of character. Why is character so important? Good character 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, Respectful, Responsible, Fair, and Caring Citizen.**

- **Trustworthiness:** How can we teach our children to “do the right thing” even when no one is watching? Value honesty even when you or your child make a mistake.
- **Respect:** How can we teach our children to deal with difference, anger, and disagreements respectfully? Model anger management, compromise, and tolerance for your children. Highlight the importance of diversity in our world. Different solutions, different opinions, and different people make the world a better place! People can disagree and still be cordial to one another.
- **Responsibility:** Foster responsibility in your child by holding them accountable for their actions. **Children should have age-appropriate, daily responsibilities in the household.**
- **Fairness:** Though we may teach children that “Life’s not fair” it is important to instill fairness in our actions. Help children to follow the rules and apply them fairly and justly. **Encourage sharing, taking turns, being open-minded, listening to one another, and supporting each other in times of conflict.**
- **Caring:** Teach, demonstrate, and expect kindness, compassion, gratitude, forgiveness, and charity. **Helping others is humbling and fulfilling.**
- **Citizenship:** How can you demonstrate to your child what it means to be an informed, active, obedient citizen? **How does one obey and respect the law?**

## OMES Procedures



### Daily Parent Pick-up and Drop-off:

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

- Use the PINK placard provided to pick up your Pre-K and ESE classroom student and siblings. This pick-up location is at the first entrance next to the Cafeteria.
- Use the green placard provided to pick up students in all other grades using the second entrance to our school.
- 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 directions from our ushers
- Cell phone usage is **PROHIBITED** in the loops
- Please be kind and patient as our school community works hard to serve you 😊

### Tardies and Early Dismissals:

**Tardy?** Have an appointment or an emergency? We understand that things happen sometimes, and we are happy to assist. Be sure to turn in a NOTE to excuse the tardy. Students must be walked into the Front Office.

**Early Dismissal?** The last possible time to pick up a child early from school is 2:15pm (1:15pm on Wednesdays). Parents that arrive after this time will have to wait for regular dismissal to pick up their child. Please bring your ID as well. Only an adult with an ID that is on your child's pick-up list will be authorized to check the student out. There are no exceptions to this. Please bring a note to excuse the dismissal when your child returns to school.

**Dismissal Changes?** Please help us keep a consistent and routine dismissal for your child. Make sure your child (and your child's teacher) knows how he/she will be dismissed routinely. If there is a change, please submit a [Dismissal Change Form](#) to our website by 2:10pm that day (1:10pm on Wednesdays). Please **DO NOT** send a handwritten note or an email to the teacher. We need the Front Office, the Dismissal Team, substitutes, and teachers to know and our form is the easiest way. Finally, please keep dismissal changes to a minimum. We understand that things change, and emergencies happen, but the safety of our students is a priority. Excessive dismissal changes create confusion for everyone. Thank you for your support!

### Electronic Device Policy:

Just a reminder that Otis A. Mason follows the St. Johns County School District policies on electronic devices (phones, computers, smart watches etc). All devices must be powered off and put away throughout the school day. Thank you for your support.

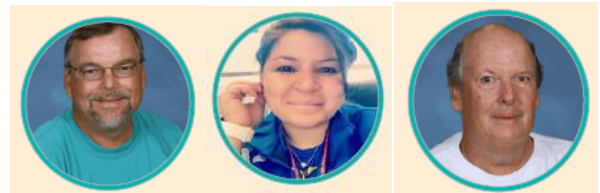
## Team Resource

Please be on the lookout for our Resource newsletter. Our Resource team has so many exciting opportunities planned for your child! Here is a link to that newsletter:

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:48d3fb60-758e-30a8-bc97-2a46c963b68f>

Each teacher also has a school supply wishlist to help make these extra-special projects possible. You can find those wishlists in the above newsletter and on our website! Meet our incredible team of educators:

### Physical Education: Coaches Hollister, Baez, and Norm



### Computer Lab: Ms. Wanamaker and Ms. Grossholtz



### Media Center: Ms. Allen and Mrs. Leonard



### Art: Ms. Counts-Cacchione and Music: Mr. Cox



## Important Dates:

September: Raise Craze Fundraiser and the Character Counts pillar of FAIRNESS.



September 1: Raise Craze Pep Rally

September 4: NO SCHOOL Labor Day

September 12: Interims

September 12: Zaxby's Spirit Night 5-8pm

September 14: Boy Scouts of America Parent Info Night

September 19: National IT Appreciation Day (Thank you, Mr. Peterson!)

September 21: SAC Meeting 3:30pm in the Media Center

September 25: PTO Meeting 3:30pm in the Media Center

## What do I do if my student is sick?

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 or testing for any illness, 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. If your child does not feel well or is exhibiting symptoms of illness PLEASE keep your child home until they are fever-free for 24 hours without medicine. We love sharing, but we don't share illness! Thank you for your consideration and support.

Enter School ID #715026 at [BuyTheYearbook.com](http://BuyTheYearbook.com)



## Education Acronyms: A Glossary

Do you ever get communications from our school and a teacher and wonder, 'what does THAT stand for'? Well, I am here to help! See below for a guide on our various educational abbreviations.

**RTI: Response to Intervention** Additional support for academics and/or behavior in the classroom. Students with an RTI plan will receive additional support.

**MTSS: Multi-Tiered System of Support** Most RTI plans consist of an MTSS approach. In other words, extra support inside the classroom, outside the classroom, and potentially at other times of day.

**PTO: Parent-Teacher Organization** A group of volunteers who bridge the home to school connection. Join this group of extraordinary education supporters!

**SAC: Student Advisory Committee** Another group of parent and teacher volunteers to assist us with school improvement

**ESE: Exceptional Student Education** Exceptional Student programs include but are not limited to: language, vision, hearing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, gifted, hospital homebound, Sensory, and many others

**IEP: Individualized Education Program** An IEP is a legal document designed to meet your child's unique educational needs. If you think your child may need additional support, please speak to your pediatrician about an evaluation. An IEP is written based on evaluated need.

**504:** This plan is named for section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. A 504 plan gives students extra support in the classroom when needed. Please speak to your guidance counselor if you feel that your student may need additional support in the classroom for anxiety or other social-emotional needs not in an IEP.

**PPU: Parent Pick Up** is just an often-abbreviated way of saying a child will be a car rider in the afternoons

**ILC: Instructional Literacy Coach** Our instructional coaches this year are Ms. Ford, Ms. Hunting, and Ms. Jaffa. These coaches assist and support our teachers with specialized knowledge in their given fields.

**AP: Assistant Principal** Our assistant principals this year are Ms. Antoine and Mrs. Hudson. They assist Mrs. Keaton, our principal, with the running of our school



# ARTROOM

## Needs Volunteers

Wednesday Aug 30th & Sept 6th

You will be assisting me (Mrs. C) on POW Wednesday (early release) with a sewing workshop for 4th & 5th grade.

The class is a simple burlap and shape sewing project. Most students will need help with tying knots and any basic questions.

Please contact me at [kevanie.countscacchione@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:kevanie.countscacchione@stjohns.k12.fl.us) or your homeroom teacher if you would like to help.

## Consider joining our PTO:

Look at all that they accomplished in the 2022-2023 school year! If you would like to join, please email them at [otismasonpto@gmail.com](mailto:otismasonpto@gmail.com)

## OTIS A. MASON PTO YEAR END REPORT 2022-2023

Thanks to our amazing school community and our volunteers! PTO was able to accomplish so much for our students, teachers and staff this year. Here are a few highlights.



### SCHOOL INVESTMENTS

Purchased 39 Computers for 23/24 School Year  
Purchased AR Licenses for K-5th grade  
Purchased IXL Licenses for 1st-5th grade  
Purchased Reflex/Flax Licenses for K-5th grade  
Provided funds back to the school for teacher enrichment



### TEACHER/STAFF SUPPORT

Welcome Back Lunch  
Welcome Back Snack Bags  
Teacher T-shirts  
Holiday Luncheon and Gift Cards  
Souper Bowl  
Donation for Coffee for Kindness  
Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week Meals and Gift Cards



### SCHOOL EVENTS

Trunk or Treat  
Hoedown Dance  
Bingo Nights  
Family Service Night



### BEHIND THE SCENES

Sponsored 5 Christmas Angels  
Paid for 5th Grade Shirts  
Senior Social Snacks  
AR Goal Incentive Parties  
Snacks for Grade Level Dances  
Winter Extravaganza



### FINAL FUNDRAISER RESULTS

Raise Craze: \$29,870.75  
Bingo Nights: \$3,765.22  
Spirit Wear: \$939.74  
Holiday Shop: \$8,820.00

Spirit Nights:  
Tijuana Flats  
Chick-Fil-A  
Zaxby's  
Adventure Landing  
Anastasia Mini Golf  
Captain Cones

Instructional Math Incentives  
Manatee Mall Prize Cart  
Grade Level Incentives like Kona Ice  
Raise Craze Prizes  
PE Shoe Incentives  
Volunteer Party Breakfast  
Cheerleader T-shirts

Memberships: \$940.00  
Boo Grams: \$1,229.25  
Sponsors: \$1,400.00  
Box Tops: \$76.00  
Spirit Nights: \$2,312.44  
Spirit Rock: \$735.00



### PTO 2022-2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT- BRENDA KELLEY  
TREASURER- ANNE COOK  
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: ALICE FLORES  
SPONSORSHIP: JOYCE LUKER  
SAC LIASON: KIM EDWARDS

For any questions or more information, please email [otismasonpto@gmail.com](mailto:otismasonpto@gmail.com)

## Otis A. Mason Elementary School Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023 TITLE I Parent Information Meeting Night

4:30 PM - 5:15 PM

*Candy treats & snacks will be served*

Meeting held in the OMES Café'



JOIN US FOR  
THE TITLE I  
Parent  
Information  
Night

WHAT IS  
TITLE I AND  
HOW IT HELPS  
OUR SCHOOL?

IMPORTANT  
INFORMATION  
TO KEEP YOU  
IN THE "KNOW"



## CARD & FDLRS-MDC Satellite Clinics

10:00-6:00 PM

8/1/2023

9/5/2023

10/2/2023

11/7/2023

12/5/2023

St. Johns  
County

The UF-Jacksonville Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) and the UF-Jacksonville Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System Multi-Disciplinary Center (FDLRS-MDC) offer clinics to outlying counties in order to more effectively serve their constituents.

Sign up for a consultative appointment with clinicians who specialize in child psychology, behavior therapy, academic interventions, Autism Screeners, Transition, and more. Appointments are at no cost to the family.

Location: Southeast Library, 6670 US-1, Saint Augustine, FL 32086.

For more information or to schedule an appointment please contact [Jennifer.O'brien@jax.ufl.edu](mailto:Jennifer.O'brien@jax.ufl.edu).

