



OMES at-a-Glance



News for Otis A. Mason Families

March 2025

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

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

Manatee Highlight: Resource Team Rules!



Music Class Welcomes Mr. Herron!

YOU'RE INVITED to Manatee Music Night: Sing, Strum, and Drum! Come and meet Mr. Herron and see the future of our music program! **Save the date for our Resource Night on May 20th.** This is Mr. Herron's third year teaching music. His background is in music performance, and he loves to sing and to play ukelele and drums. He is also very involved in his community, Palm Coast. Join us in welcoming Mr. Herron!

Recommended Music Learning Resources for Home:

Singing: *The Cheryl Porter Vocal Method* (available for online purchase)

Drumming: *Drumeo* (a great online resource with interactive videos for purchase)

Ukulele: Any materials from *Hal Leonard*

Free Resources: YouTube has many engaging play-along videos for all instruments.

Classroom Behavior Expectations:

I have noticed some disruptions in music class, particularly with students calling out. Please help reinforce at home the importance of **reserving silliness for games and activities** while remaining focused during our **3-minute warm-up and 10-minute instrument instruction**. This will allow students to fully engage in learning while still making fun musical memories.

Classroom Donation Wishlist:

Current music classroom needs include hand sanitizer, Lysol wipes, and tissues.

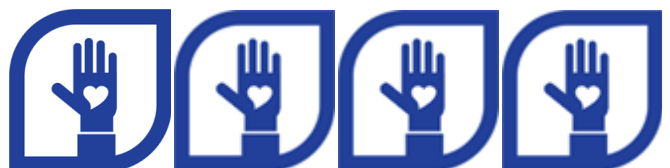
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Character Highlight: This Month is all about the Pillar of **TRUSTWORTHINESS!**

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 situations that your child needs guidance on in daily life. 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?
- **Keep bringing up the importance of internet safety.** What sources can be trusted online? How is your child protected from untrustworthy sources? Seriously discuss the age-appropriateness of any device AND the maturity level of your individual child. Always install child safety software and regularly monitor your child's devices. Discuss who "safe adults" are in various situations: your school, your neighborhood, social media, etc.

Have questions about character education? Contact our School Counseling Team, Ms. Ribeiro or Ms. Latham at 904-547-8455.



Important Dates

March 13: End of Quarter 3

March 14: Teacher Planning Day-No Classes for Students

March 15-23: Spring Break-No School!

March 24: Classes resume for students.

March 24: SAC/ PTO Meetings at 3:15pm in the Media Center

March 26: Character Cup at Toco Creek

March 27: Report Cards live on HAC (please contact us if you need any assistance with HAC at 904-547-8440. HAC is monitored by teachers and admin and is a great tool for home-school communication, PLEASE use it regularly!)

March 28: Battle of the Books Competition; Mason's Got Talent at 6:00pm

April and May: Quarter 3 Progress Monitoring: Testing begins!

April 2: Paraprofessional Appreciation Day; World Autism Awareness Day

April 4: School Library Appreciation Day!

April 7-11: Assistant Principal Appreciation Week

April 1-10: Bag-it-up for Goodwill

How are we doing? Let us know with the Parent Needs Assessment



Our team at Otis A. Mason Elementary School wants to do our very best to serve the needs of our families and community. Please help us improve. We want to be the example we set for our students as we make CHARACTER COUNT every day that we come to work with your child. Please fill out this survey by March 28th so that YOUR feedback and suggestions are heard.

[This link is also available on our website.](#)

Returning Student Verification is Coming to your Email Inbox Soon

Every year around April, the SJCS D will email a returning student verification. This is a link to update and reenroll your child in school. The form saves the data from the last time you completed it so updating is easy. **BE CAREFUL! The RSV does not contain any changes made through the Front Office throughout the school year.** For example, if you have added/subtracted emergency contacts over the school year, these will not be represented. PLEASE review the information carefully. The district does not send the link for all students at the same time so do not panic if you receive one child's and not another's. Each grade is sent separately and first to one parent, and then to another.

What can you do now to prepare?

Please make sure your email is updated in our system!

We want your gently used items! Spring Cleaning can help our school and Goodwill.

How can you help? When you do your spring cleaning, please save and donate them to our Goodwill Bag-it-up Donation Drive! Our school will be participating in a large donation drive **this April!**

When can I bring items in? Our goal is to get as many items as possible dropped off on April 10th during morning drop off. Volunteers from Goodwill will be here to help unload items from your car. We will also accept items the week before and the week after. Please place bags in the blue bin in front of the school.

Why donate my items to Goodwill at Otis A. Mason? We hope this donation drive will be one of many ways to teach your child character here at school. In addition, students who participate will earn a prize from Goodwill. Lastly, our school will receive a monetary reward for participation based on the amount donated:

5-9 carts full will earn our school \$750

10-14 carts will earn us \$1500

15+ carts will earn us \$2500



Manatee Highlight: Resource Team Rules! P.E. Class wants you to keep moving!

(Continued from pg. 1)

Coach B and Coach Hollister encourage you to keep moving with your children! Set a goal of **60 minutes every day** for heart health. Check out this YouTube videos to keep kids moving even when you are stuck indoors:

<https://www.youtube.com/@CosmicKidsYoga>

https://www.youtube.com/@pe_bowman

Please ensure that students wear proper footwear on P.E. days.

-Selected 5th grade students will be competing in the annual **Character Cup at Toco Creek High School on Wednesday, March 26th** from 4-6:30. Congratulations to our Character Cup Team!

-Upcoming Field Day will be **Thursday, April 17th**. **We will need donations of fruit snacks, popsicles, gallon jugs of water and cups.** Want to support Physical Education at Otis A. Mason? [Check out our wishlist!](#)

Fun Meets Learning in the Computer Lab!

Ms. K and Ms. G are our amazing Learning Lab teachers! They work hard to guide your child through the incredible online resources that your child has access to here at school. These resources are available to your child free at home as well. Use the CLEVER link on our website to access resources like Lexia, Dreambox, Varsity Tutors, and so much more!

Behavior expectations: Please talk to your child about listening, being respectful of others, and cleaning up after themselves. What is proper etiquette in computer class? Thank you for your support!

Classroom Donation Wishlist:

The Computer Lab is always in need of rechargeable AAA batteries (for our wireless mice) and another battery recharger for AAA batteries. Thank you for thinking about supporting our computer lab!

Reading is Riveting: Battle of the Books and AR Parties come to the Media Center

Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Leonard want you to read, read, read with your children every night! It is the very best way to support your child's growth as a student. There are many ways to share the love of reading with your child. Not only could you read TO your child, but you can have your child read to you. There are book videos on YouTube and Audiobooks online that your family could share on the couch or while in the car. Even just sharing a family reading time could make a world of difference: put the screens away and have the household read quietly together and then share what you read around the dinner table. Upcoming events in Media include **the Battle of the Books Competition** on March 28th and **the AR Party** that celebrates our students who have reached their reading goals! If you would like to donate or volunteer for the AR Party, [please use this link !](#)

A Word from our Otis A. Mason PTO:

See below upcoming Volunteer Opportunities & Needs

This general sign-up includes helping with picture days, Character Counts! Events, and more. Picture Day volunteers earn a free photo package! [VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP](#)



Want to help when extra hands are most needed? [Test Proctor Sign-up for April and May](#). We know that proctoring is not a glamorous volunteer event, but it is so needed and appreciated. You can provide a calming and encouraging environment for our students while they show off all that they have learned here at school.

	Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
Writing					April 3	April 1
PM3 ELA	April 25	April 24	April 22	May 1	May 6	May 8
PM3 Math	May 2	April 29	May 5	May 9	May 12	May 13
Science						May 15

Want to help encourage our faculty and staff as well? The link below helps support our teachers! Help with the gift of a cup of coffee! Let's help keep our teachers fueled until summer to support our students. Click here: [Stock the Teacher's Lounge Sign-up](#)

Want to join the discussion? Want to contribute to planning? Let's hear your voice! 📌 SAC/PTO Meetings, **March 24th @3:15pm in the media center or Virtually:** <https://bit.ly/MasonPTOMeetings>

There are SO many ways that you can be a part of your child's academic and social experience here at school!

The You're So Sweet Family Dance was SO MUCH FUN! Thank you to all of our donors and volunteers for such a fun event. These community events are what make our school such a special place.

Spring Break: Passport to Learning is your Ticket to Learning and Fun

We hope you enjoy your time off and your family this Spring Break! There will be no classes for students starting Friday, March 14th through Sunday, March 23rd. Classes resume Monday, March 24th. In order to prevent students from "sliding" in their academic development, we have developed the Spring Passport to Learning. Please have your child complete it over Spring Break so they can maintain their academic progress. Students who submit completed passports when we return from break will earn a ticket to the Passport Party.



Here is the link to the Summer Passports which are also on our website:

[Kindergarten Spring Passport](#)

[1st Grade Spring Passport](#)

[2nd Grade Spring Passport](#)

[3rd Grade Spring Passport](#)

[4th and 5th Grade Spring Passport](#)

Child Find: Finds that Special Child

Do you have concerns about your child's...?

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

Please reach out to FDLRS/NEFEC CHILD FIND
If you have questions or concerns about a child birth to 5 years of age:

386-329-3811 or online at
<https://www.fdlrsnefec.org/child-find>



Get Your Tickets TODAY for Mason's Got Talent: A Talent Extravaganza that you won't want to miss!

★ JOIN US FOR OTIS A. MASON'S ★

3RD ANNUAL

DINNER
And Talent Show

TICKETS \$13 FOR DINNER AND SHOW
\$5 FOR JUST SHOW

FRIDAY MARCH 28TH, 2025 **DINNER TICKET INCLUDES SPAGHETTI PLATE, CAESAR SALAD, GARLIC BREAD, DRINK, AND DESSERT** **6:00PM UNTIL 8:00PM**

SUBMIT MONEY AND SLIP FOR DINNER OR SHOW BY MARCH 24TH

NAME: _____ STUDENT'S TEACHER: _____

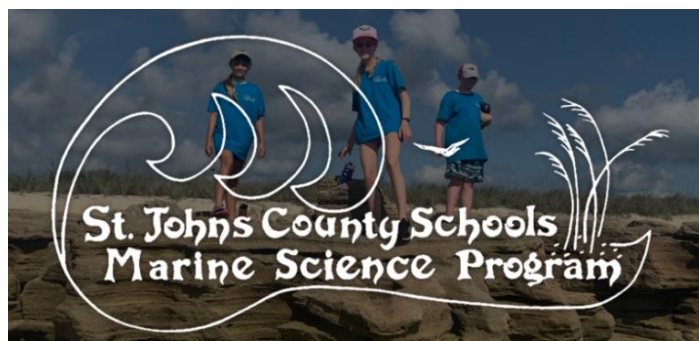
DINNER TICKETS _____ # SHOW TICKETS _____

RETURN SLIP TO TEACHER OR OFFICE BY 3/24. CASH ONLY PLEASE. FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT MELINDA STEVENS. TICKETS WILL BE GIVEN OUT THE WEEK OF THE SHOW

Return the above form with your payment to your child's teacher to secure your ticket. Be sure to clarify if each ticket is for the dinner and show (\$13) or just to watch the show (\$5). A special "thank you" to our Extended Day staff and Coordinator (Mrs. Stevens) for organizing the show AND to all of our acts for their practice, audition, and performance! It takes bravery to perform on a stage-way to go!

Summer Camp Opportunity for Rising 6th Graders

Do you have a 5th Grader interest in Marine Science? [Gamble Rogers has the Summer camp program for YOU!](#) Sign up now as space is limited.



A fundraising event supporting the Academy of
Culinary Arts at St. Johns Technical High School

Taste of the Tech

Experience the "Taste of the Tech" as our high school culinary student's pair with professional local chefs. Prepare your taste buds for a delectable adventure as we showcase the talent of our young culinarians.



Event Highlights:

- Local Chef Mentors
- Student Team Competition
- Sweet & Savory Tasting Menu
- Mocktail Beverage Tastings
- Silent Auction
- Vote "People's Choice"

Wednesday, April 2, 2025
6:00pm - 7:30pm

St. Johns Technical High School
2970 Collins Ave., St. Augustine, FL
Culinary Classroom - Building H
(904) 547-8130



Seating is limited.
To purchase tickets (\$32.50)
use the QR code or visit:
[https://gofan.co/event/3269553?](https://gofan.co/event/3269553?schoolid=FL100803)
[schoolid=FL100803](https://gofan.co/event/3269553?schoolid=FL100803)



Florida Prepaid Open Enrollment

Florida Prepaid Open Enrollment Begins with Plan Prices Starting at Just \$29/Month Focused on encouraging families to save as early and affordably as possible, our partner Florida Prepaid College Savings Plans has reduced Prepaid Plan monthly prices for newborns and infants to the lowest in more than a decade. Prepaid Plans allow families to lock in the cost of college with fixed monthly payments. A risk-free 1-year University Plan now starts at just \$29/month for the Prepaid Plan Open Enrollment period from February 1 - April 30, 2025. The reduced prices result in savings of up to \$850 per plan for a 1-Year University Plan – up to \$3,400 in savings for four years.

Prepaid Plans are made to fit growing families:

- Use in-state or nationwide at public, private, trade and technical schools
- Complements scholarships and financial aid
- Transfer to another student or cancel anytime
- Earnings grow tax-free

Every child deserves higher education. Florida Prepaid's goal is to make it possible for every Florida family to save simply and affordably. Learn more at

<https://bit.ly/41o9M4M>

SJCSD Superintendent Search

Have you heard? The St. Johns County School District is searching for a new Superintendent of Schools. The application window is open until March 28th. To apply or to view current applicants, check out the SJCSD Superintendent Search Website: [Superintendent Search – St. Johns County School District](https://www.sjcsc.edu/superintendent-search)

There are lots of ways to provide your input regarding the search! Check out the above website for documents and a timeline related to the search. In addition, there are board workshops and community input opportunities for every member of our community to participate.



APRIL 2, 2025

ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION
PARENT ADVISORY

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL
PRESENTATION

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKERS:
SHERIFF HARDWICK, CENTER FOR AUTISM
& RELATED DISORDERS (CARD), AND
KENDELL HARDWICK

TOPIC:

**Building a Safer & More
Inclusive Future:
SafeTrak Program, CARD Safety
Kits for Families, & Diamond of
Dreams Initiative**

Join on your computer or mobile app via link below

Join the meeting now

Or call in (audio only) 904-420-0831
Phone Conference ID: 274 543 352#

ST. JOHNS COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT



JOIN US FOR AN
INFORMATIVE SESSION
DESIGNED FOR
PARENTS OF STUDENTS
WITH DISABILITIES.
LEARN ABOUT KEY
PROGRAMS AND
RESOURCES AIMED AT
ENHANCING SAFETY
AND INCLUSION FOR
YOUR CHILD

4/2/2025

This meeting will
be held via
Microsoft Teams
platform

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM