



OMES at-a-Glance



News for Otis A. Mason Families
October 2024

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

Manatee Highlight: Mighty Manatee Maintenance Team



Pictured left to right: Mr. Larry, Mr. David, Mr. Todd, Ms. Diana, Ms. Autumn

Are you looking for heroes in our hallways? Look no further than our Maintenance Team! They work hard every day to keep our school clean and safe. Did you know that our school is used as a shelter for emergency events such as hurricanes? One of their many duties is to check, maintain, and prepare our school for emergency events and in the event that our school is named as a public shelter. Mr. Todd is our Maintenance Coordinator and fearless leader of the crew. He was our School Employee of the Year three years ago! Mr. David is often the first and last face you see on our campus. He helps direct traffic and he brings a smile to our faces as we enter and leave campus. Mr. David is our 2024-2025 School Employee of the Year (see below)! Our night crew features the wildlife wrangler and comedian, Mr. Larry! Lastly on our nightcrew is the ever-positive and hard working Ms. Diana and Ms. Autumn. These dedicated ladies work long hours after school is out to make it the beautiful, stocked, clean, and welcoming home that it is to us. **THANK YOU to our amazing team!**



Character Highlight: Responsibility



Why is “RESPONSIBILITY” 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 responsible. How can we do that TOGETHER?**

- **Introduction:** How can we teach our child to be responsible for themselves and their actions? Perhaps we can guide them to not only be responsible for what they do, but also to take responsibility for causes they find to be important in our world. How can everyone contribute to improving the world around them?
- **Give clear, specific responsibilities to your child:** Give your child appropriate responsibilities and guide them in managing those responsibilities. These should be age-appropriate tasks and chores. Make sure that your child sees their contribution to family responsibilities and the household. Show your child that everyone has an important role and responsibility in the home including them!
- **Teach your child that caring and trying MATTERS:** We can't always get it right the first time and sometimes it is difficult to fulfill our responsibilities. It is okay to struggle and to ask for help sometimes! We can't fix most problems overnight, but caring and taking the first step is important. If every person in the world picked up one piece of litter, there wouldn't be any!
- **Responsibility at School:** Have your child pack their backpack, make their lunch, or create school routines as their age allows. Teach them the importance of punctuality and cleaning up after themselves. Have them label their belongings and check Lost and Found regularly. Taking ownership of these tasks is crucial!

The Character Counts! program is taught to students during their school day. Please check out the curriculum, themes, and activities online at:

<https://ccstjohns.com/>

Limited Trunk Spaces Still Available!



Individually wrapped candy donations are now being accepted-feed our monster in the Front Office! Sign up your vehicle to participate TODAY!



OMES Honors our Veterans on 11/8

Veterans Day

celebration at Otis A. Mason Elementary School

Friday November 8th
Parade starts at 9:00am
Please check in by 8:45am

- Sign up the veteran in your family!
- Wear Red, White, & Blue
- Bring the family to celebrate with us!
- All attendees must have School Access
- RSVP Required (link on our website)

Details and RSVP on our website:
<https://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>

OMES Spirit Weeks are Coming: Character Counts! Week and Red Ribbon Week

Join us as we celebrate school spirit, good character, and living a drug-free life. Talk to your kids about the dangers of drugs and the importance of a healthy body!

OMES Character Counts Week Oct. 21-25, 2024



Monday Oct. 21-Wear Green For Responsibility

Tuesday, Oct. 22-Wear Yellow For Respect

Wed. Oct. 23-Wear Red or Orange For Caring and Fairness

Thursday Oct. 24-Wear Purple for Citizenship

Friday Oct. 25-Wear Blue For Trustworthiness

At Otis A. Mason YOUR Character Counts!

OMES RED RIBBON WEEK

OCT. 28-NOV. 1, 2024

I pledge to grow up safe, healthy, & drug free.

Monday Oct. 28-"Peace out to drugs" (Wear Tie-dye)

Tuesday Oct. 29-"Team up against drugs" (Wear Sports Attire)

Wednesday Oct. 30-"Proud to be drug free" (Wear Red)

Thursday Oct. 31-"Say BOO to drugs" (Wear Halloween Costumes)

Friday Nov. 1-"Be comfy with yourself" (Wear Pajamas)

*All dress up days should adhere to the student code of conduct.

Counselor's Corner: Talking to Children about the Election



From the desk of our School Counselors, Mrs. Ribeiro and Mrs. Latham:

As the upcoming presidential election nears, your children may be curious about the candidates. Use the following tips to support your children this election season with a character-focused approach:

- 1. Model civility and an open mind:** Your children are watching and listening to how you view the election. It is important to model approaching conversations with an open mind, respect, and civility.
- 2. Create expectations for respect:** If you are engaging in conversations around the election, set expectations for how everyone will treat one another. Regardless of opinions, your children should still speak respectfully to their peers. Remind them that it's okay to disagree with one another.
- 3. Encourage questions:** Lean into your child's questions about the election. They may have questions about the voting process, the electoral college, or other logistics about how an elected official takes office. You may also get questions about different candidates. Help your child find the facts through reputable sources.
- 4. Focus on the facts versus opinions:** Teach the differences between fact and opinion.
- 5. Explain the voting process:** Walk your child through what voting looks like. This will help them understand how the voting process works and why voting is an important responsibility.

Questions? Reach out to our Counselors at 904-547-8440 for guidance. We would be happy to connect you to important and helpful resources.

From our PTO: Save the Dates



UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

1: Spirit Night at Zaxby's, 5-8pm
7-18: Boo Grams for sale, they will deliver on the 30th
23: Trunk or Treat, 5-7pm
28: PTO/SAC Meeting, In the media center, 3:15-4:30pm

NOVEMBER

4: Spirit Night at Chipotle, 4-8pm
18: PTO/SAC Meeting, In the media center, 3:15-4:30pm
21: Spirit Night at Tropical Smoothie Cafe, 4-8pm

DECEMBER

2-6: Mason Holiday Shop, during school
10: Spirit Night at McDonalds 4-7pm

Check out our website for all things PTO: spirit gear, birthday rock and marquee rentals, and business sponsorships.

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

**DO GOOD
WITH CHIPOTLE**



**CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR
OTIS A. MASON PTO**

25% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH | 4-8PM
1753 US HIGHWAY 1 S, SAINT AUGUSTINE, FL, 32084

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **MC8DQPW**
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT

See You at the Game, Manatees!



MASON GIRLS & BOYS BASKETBALL GAME SCHEDULE

ALL GAMES: GIRLS-5:30PM, BOYS 6:30PM

10/3/2024 VS HARTLEY MURRAY MIDDLE

10/7/2024 VS OSCEOLA SEBASTIAN MIDDLE

10/17/2024 VS HARTLEY MURRAY MIDDLE

10/22/2024 VS CROOKSHANK MURRAY MIDDLE

10/29/2024 VS OSCEOLA SEBASTIAN MIDDLE

11/6/2024 VS HARTLEY MURRAY MIDDLE

END OF SEASON TOURNAMENT
11/16/2024 SAHS GYM

COME SUPPORT OUR MASON BASKETBALL TEAM AND OUR AMAZING MASON CHEERLEADERS!

OTIS A. MASON ELEMENTARY

Thank you to our Coaches!



THANK YOU!

NATIONAL ATHLETIC STAFF APPRECIATION DAY

Please join us in celebrating our Coaches! **Coach Hollister and Coach Burnley** lead the way in Physical Education. Support them by talking to your children about Good Character in P.E., reminding children to wear P.E.-appropriate shoes and clothing, and remembering that water bottle. Shout out to our volunteer coach, **Coach Norm** and our Basketball and Cheer coaches: **Coach Allen, Coach, Ross, and Coach Sikes** respectively. MANATEES LEAD THE WAY!

How can I support my child's education?

A child's needs are many, we can help! Balanced meals; lots of water; quality, full nights of sleep, et cetera. Please reach out to us if you need assistance with this. Resources are available including free breakfast and lunch, weekend food bags, reusable water bottles, daily snacks, etc. Call 547-8440 and ask to speak to a guidance counselor. Our district has amazing support services for families in need! We are here to help you.

Take the professional advice of your child's teacher: Read twenty minutes per night with your child, support your child as they complete homework, use free and available resources through Clever and the St. Johns County Public Library System, attend conferences, spark your child's curiosity! Ask your child's teacher what you can do at home to support learning.

Want to contribute to your child's educational journey? Ask your child's teacher for a link to their Amazon Wishlist or Donor's Choose Project. Teachers always appreciate donations. Can't donate money? Teachers appreciate your time as well. Ask to volunteer in the classroom or to chaperone a field trip. Can't volunteer during the day? Teachers always appreciate help with copying and cutting and preparing classroom lessons and supplies, just ask!



Physical Education Donors Choose Project:
<https://www.donorschoose.org/project/portable-soccer-goals/8858405/>

Music Education Donors Choose Project:
<https://www.donorschoose.org/project/strumming-towards-success-classical-gui/8858989/>

Join our Facebook Group, Otis Mason Elementary PTO, and connect to all of our school's Amazon Wishlists.



Otis A. Mason Elementary PTO/SAC MEETINGS

October 28, 2024
November 18, 2024
January 27, 2025
February 24, 2025
March 24, 2025
April 28, 2025



All meetings will be combined PTO/SAC meetings at 3:15pm - 4:30pm and are held in the OMES media center, unless otherwise specified.

Jailbreak 5K: Join our Team

We want to be number one in the district. First place for the largest team gets a cash prize donation. Grab your Halloween costume and head to the Old Jail downtown on October 19th. Runners will "escape the Old Jail" and evade capture. Money raised for this race will go toward Saint Johns County Schools. Prizes awarded to the fastest runners in each group, school with the most participation, as well as best costumes!



JAIL BREAK 5K

Presented by Old Town Trolley Tours of St. Augustine
& Investing in Kids (INK!)

<https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/SaintAugustine/EscapeFromStAugustine> Click to sign up!



CONGRATULATIONS!

2024-2025 Teacher of the Year: Mrs. Dee Jaffa

2024-2025 Rookie Teacher of the Year: Mrs. Taylor Johnson

2024-2025 School Employee of the Year: Mr. David Asseo



Pictured left to right: Mrs. Shannon Millican from Horace Mann; Mrs. Keaton, Principal; Mrs. Johnson, 4th Grade; Mrs. Jaffa, 4th Grade; Mr. David, Maintenance; Mrs. Hudson, Assistant Principal; Mr. Bowen, Maintenance Coordinator; Ms. Antoine, Assistant Principal.

Please join us in congratulating to 2024-2025 Employees of the Year. They will be celebrated at the district-wide banquet in the Spring. We thank them all for their incredible service to our school. We are so very lucky to have them grace our hallways and lead our children in education and good character. You are all heroes to us! Thank you for all that you do every day here at our school.

Scholarship Available to Students

NEW WORLDS SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS

The New Worlds Scholarship Accounts Program expanded eligibility to include public school students enrolled in PreK through grade 5 who

- have a **substantial deficiency** in either reading or mathematics.
- exhibit characteristics of **dyslexia** or **dyscalculia**; or
- **scored below a Level 3** on the statewide, standardized English Language Arts (ELA) or Mathematics assessment in the prior school year.

How do I apply for a New Worlds Scholarship Account?

To apply for funding, a parent must submit an application to an eligible scholarship funding organization directly.

For the 2024-25 school year, [Step Up For Students](#) will be the Scholarship Funding Organization administering this scholarship program.

The eligible expenditures for reimbursement are:

- Instructional materials.
- Curriculum.
- Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services. The services shall be provided by a person who holds a valid teaching certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, F.S.; a person who holds a baccalaureate or graduate degree in the subject area; a person who holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s. 1012.57; or a person who has demonstrated a mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to s. 1012.56(5);
- Fees for specialized summer education programs designed to improve reading, literacy, or mathematics skills; and
- Fees for after-school education programs designed to improve reading, literacy, or mathematics skills.



Otis Mason Elementary Title 1 Night

Join us for family literacy night & BINGO!

Monday, October 28th

6:15 pm - Check-in & Welcome

6:30 pm - Dinner & Program

**Otis Mason Elementary
Cafeteria**

207 Mason Manatee Way

Fun for the whole family!

Activities, prizes, books, and
BINGO!

Dinner provided!

Register below to reserve your
seat. Space is limited!

<https://bit.ly/OMES-Literacy>



Questions? Call (904) 547-7120 for more information.



Scholastic Book Fair 10/18-10/25!



Family Night Weds 10/23: 4-730pm (During Trunk or Treat)

Friday 10/18 10:20am-2:30pm

Mon 10/21 through Thurs 10/24 8am-2:30pm

Fri 10/25 8am-11am

*Every class will have the opportunity to shop the book fair during their scheduled Resource time. Families are welcome to shop during the above-listed times (please bring your ID and sign in as an approved volunteer in the Front Office). Please help us support our classroom communities: we do not pull students from class to shop.

Keep on reading, Mason!