



OMES at-a-Glance



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

News for Otis A. Mason Families
September 2024

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

UNITED in Your Child's Education



Meet our OMES Administration Team!

Mrs. Monique Keaton, Principal

Mrs. Julie Hudson, Assistant Principal

Ms. Marie Antoine, Assistant Principal

Every year at Otis A. Mason Elementary School, there is a theme that we incorporate in the day-to-day operations of the school. This year's theme is **UNITED**. We want to be united with YOU, our community. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, teacher, emergency contact, volunteer, neighbor, or business, YOU have an important role to play with the education of our children. Consider becoming a business partner or volunteering: <https://bit.ly/Masonvolunteers>

Even something as simple as putting the phone down and being present with your child is so valuable. Make conversation in the car or at the dinner table. Play with your child at their level. Make the grocery store an opportunity to practice math or learn about food. Thank you for uniting with us!



UNITED in Character: Fairness



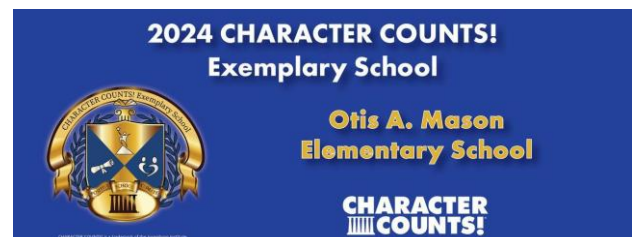
Character education starts with YOU!

We here at Otis A. Mason Elementary believe that every parent, student, teacher, and member of our community should **strive to be Fair. How can we do that TOGETHER?**

- **Introduction:** 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.
- **Play by the rules:** Teach your child the value and importance of rules and procedures. Guide them through examples when playing organized sports, or during game night at home.

Be a good example for your child as they watch you follow rules and procedures at school, at the doctor's office, in the grocery store, or on the road. How do rules and procedures keep us safe? If you disagree with a rule or procedure what is the proper way to go about change?
- **Be open minded and listen to others:** Show your child the benefit of listening and accepting others. The importance of getting to know someone before making judgements is SO important. Let us model fair and accepting attitudes for our children.

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/>



OMES Reminders:

We need your help to protect instructional time. Please support us as we strive to educate your child.

May I call into the classroom to speak to my teacher/child?

Our teachers are hard at work with our children in the classroom. Unfortunately, you cannot speak to your child or the child's teacher during the school day unless you have an appointment. If there is an emergency, please call the Front Office at 904-547-8440. Otherwise, please email your child's teacher.

What do I do if I miss a call from the school?

Please listen to the voicemail *before* you call the school back. We will need to know WHO called you in order to get you connected.

May I email the teacher excuses and dismissal changes?

Please send electronic absence notes and dismissal changes online through our Otis A. Mason website. There is a link to our [Dismissal Change Form](#) as well as the mes@stjohns.k12.fl.us email for absence notes. Please use our dismissal change form to inform all staff of your child's dismissal. This is especially important if there is a guest teacher in your child's classroom that day. Paper copies of excuse notes will be accepted and can be sent in your child's communication folder to the teacher.

May I text/call my child on their cell during the school day?

Per the electronic device policy of the St. Johns County School District: All electronic devices should be off and away throughout the school day. Please do not contact your child on a cell phone throughout the school day. If you have an emergency and need to reach your child, please call the Front Office at 904-547-8440.

May I have lunch in the Café with my child?

We apologize for the inconvenience, but we are still not able to host families in the cafeteria during student lunch times. If you would like to volunteer in the classroom, please contact your child's teacher. If you would like to check out your child from school for any reason, please let your child's teacher know in advance and provide an excuse note upon your child's return.

May I bring dessert into class for my child's birthday?

We are so excited for your child's birthday, and we are excited to celebrate it with them. Bringing class snacks and desserts, while appreciated, is not required. If you would like to bring something in for the class, please arrange it with your child's teacher first. Food items are served during lunch or recess to minimize mess and prioritize educational time in the classroom. We politely request healthy options alongside decadent ones. Also, please be mindful of allergies in the classroom. Due to dietary concerns, please only bring store-bought items. Reach out to your child's teacher to inquire about these prior to purchasing items.

Where do I go if my child lost something?

Students should check lost and found in the cafeteria daily (they walk by it to go to and from lunch every day). If your child's name is on it, we will return it to your child promptly. With that said, please label all of your child's belongings: lunch boxes, water bottles, backpacks, jackets, etc.

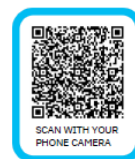
My child forgot something at home, what do I do?

Please know that water and food is available to your child free of charge. We cannot guarantee to get items to your child in a timely fashion (we do our best!) and we *do not* interrupt instructional time for non-necessities. Examples of necessities include but are not limited to clothing and medication.

Raise Craze: Choose KIND today!



FUNDRAISING THROUGH
KINDNESS
RAISE CRAZE™



REGISTER HERE: my.raisecraze.com/A9N3XU1

GOAL: \$15,000 DATES: September 3 - September 30

WELCOME OTIS A. MASON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!

- 1 Register & create your donation page!
- 2 Select 3-5 Acts of Kindness to complete for others. Yay KINDNESS!
- 3 Invite your friends & family to donate & start spreading kindness!

If you are under the age of 13, a parent must help you set up your account! :-)

Emails will never be shared or used for marketing purposes. You can also share via social or text!

WHAT IS RAISE CRAZE?

Raise Craze is an online platform enabling participants to set up secure, custom websites where they request donations via email, text, and social.

During the fundraiser, participants pay it forward by completing Acts of Kindness for others...a great way to learn the value of gratitude. Spend time serving, not selling!

OUR GOAL IS \$15,000 FOR...

- Learning Resources: Provide better resources, like A/R or additional technology, to create an engaging learning environment for our students.
- Growth: Support our resource teams, teachers and admin to foster teamwork and creativity beyond the classroom.
- Enhance Spaces: Continue to improve facilities, ensuring a safe and comfortable school experience for both our students and teachers.

Questions? Contact Brenda Kelley otismasonpto@gmail.com

RAISE
CRAZE™

LET'S PLAY
KINDNESS BINGO! ♥

Log 3 AOK	Send 5 Emails	Raise \$50
Receive 2 Donations (\$20 min each)	Register & Log 1 AOK!	Log 10 AOK
Send 10 Emails	Log 5 AOK	Raise \$100

EARN FUN PRIZES!

ANY SQUARE
Scent-Sibles Scented Eraser

FULL CARD
Scented Eraser Wheel



SCHOOL-WIDE PRIZES!

CLASSROOM AWARDS

50 AOK per Class
Team Kindness!
Wear your PJ's Day

\$1,000 Raised per Class
Powered by Kindness!
Dress Like a Superhero Day

CHALLENGE ALERT!!
Register and send 3 emails by Friday, Sep. 6 to get a Sunday Pops Kneadable Eraser!



CLOSING CELEBRATION AWARDS

Top AOK Student (Quality) & Top Dollar Student per Grade
Medallion or Trophy

Top AOK Classroom (Quantity) & Top Dollar Classroom Overall
Pizza Party + \$100 Teacher Gift Card!

Class w/ Donations from the most States
Ice Pop Party

THE GRAND FINALE!

If we hit our school-wide goal of \$15,000, and 1000 AOK, Mrs. Keaton will do something CRAZE-Y at our Closing Celebration like maybe let us DUCT TAPE her to the cafeteria wall!!!

Register Today! <https://my.raisecraze.com/A9N3XU1>

**Leonard's: Picture Day is October 1st Use
Code C659357**

Leonard's
**Picture Day
IS ALMOST HERE!**



ORDER NOW ONLINE

CLICK HERE ➔

📶 www.leonards.com

f [/LeonardsPhotography](https://www.facebook.com/LeonardsPhotography)

☎ (800) 215-4852

📷 [/leonards_photo](https://www.instagram.com/leonards_photo)

Leonard's
YEARBOOK

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BuyTheYearbook.com

ChildFind helps find special children:



**WE ALL GROW AT
DIFFERENT RATES**

Do you have any 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, toileting?

ChildFind provides FREE information and guidance regarding community programs for children with special needs. In addition, ChildFind can assist with screening in the areas of communication, motor development, vision, hearing, and preschool readiness.

**Join Our Dynamic &
Growing Team of
Professional Drivers**



**UP TO
\$5,000
SIGN ON BONUS**

- Up to \$25.98 hourly pay depending on experience
- Paid training time while acquiring your CDL endorsements
- Health, Dental, Vision Benefits and more for full time employees
- Florida Retirement System
- Life Insurance
- Full time employees work 30 to 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday
- Drive modern air-conditioned fleet buses



CALL

904.547.8814

www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/jobs



Extended Day Spots Still Available:

Otis A. Mason Extended Day is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. All registration forms can be found on the [Otis A. Mason website](#). For more information, please call Melinda Stevens at 904-547-8449 or email her at Melinda.stevens@stjohns.k12.fl.us



Otis A. Mason: Citizenship Matters:

How will your family celebrate these important days?

- **Heroes' day on September 11:** Our school participated in the Nation Moment of Silence at 8:46am to recognize and honor those whose lives were lost on September 11, 2001. We hope you will support our efforts to teach your child about that day by speaking with them in an age-appropriate way. There are many free resources available. [Common Sense Media](#) will help you choose a documentary or book that is right for your family.
- **Constitution Day on September 17:** We celebrate Constitution Day here at school on September 17th. This day commemorates the signing of our Constitution on September 17, 1787. Check out the [National Archives free resources on Constitution Day](#). Why is the Constitution important to our country? Why is the Constitution important to your family?
- **Celebrate Freedom Week is September 23rd-27th:** This year Celebrate Freedom Week will focus on the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence. Check out the SJCSO website for more resources:
<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ss/cdcfw/>

How can I get involved in my Title I school?

OMES is a Title I school. Please read the Parents Right to Know Notification that was sent home August 30th:

[Parents Right to Know Notification](#)

We believe that both the school and our community have an important role to play in the education of your child. Please read our School Parent Compact for what you can expect from us and to guide you in how you can support your child. For Example, all students at Title I schools get [free breakfast and lunch](#). Click here for our [School-Parent Compact](#).

Have questions regarding Title I or wish to review our paperwork and notifications? Check out the Title I page of our website: <https://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us/sac/>

Please come to school events with your child and communicate with your child's teacher regularly. Even creating a simple routine helps children tremendously with their education. For example, maintain a routine bedtime that includes reading together. In addition, please click here for [the SJCSO Equity Notice](#).

Save the Date for our Annual Meeting on October 15th at 5:30pm!

What is an Intake Conference?

An "intake conference" is a **parent-teacher conference** that takes place during the beginning of the year. Your child's teacher will be reaching out to you to schedule your conference. This conference is an INCREDIBLE opportunity to work with your child's teacher on your child's behalf.

Discuss your child's strengths, goals, struggles, concerns, and needs. Please share openly and honestly with your child's teacher **what you are seeing at home** and allow the teacher the same opportunity to **share what they are seeing in school**. Teachers will have collected data for you to discuss regarding your child's academic needs. Remember, we are UNITED in our efforts to educate your child.

Research shows that family involvement in school-based learning activities is correlated with improved student outcomes in multiple facets. The home-school partnership efforts lead to better understanding and improve the student's learning situation (improved results in motivation, self-regulation, positive attitude and student learning and achievement). *

**Education Hub*, Dr. Vicki Hargraves

Intake conferences will take place throughout September and October. We can't wait to speak with you regarding your amazing and unique child.



St Johns County School District

Guest Teacher (substitute)

posting in AppliTrack Application System on our district website.

SJCSD is ready to hire Guest Teachers who are ready to make a difference for students in Pre-K - 12th grade.

Daily hourly rate \$15.00

Florida certified teacher or retired S.J.C.S.D teacher earns \$18 hourly rate.

The Guest Teacher role provides:

- Opportunity to put your degree to work.
- Flexibility – you pick the days and schools.
- An opportunity to work with diverse student populations.
- An opportunity to contribute to the learning and development of the students in our school district.

Come join our team.

Applicants who hold a minimum of an Associate degree or equivalent of 60 credits or higher and who are 20 years of age or older are eligible to apply. Preferences given to applicants that have graduated or are graduating from an Education program. All applicants will be reviewed for strong teaching potential, above average references, experience in critical need areas, and/or an education degree.

For full job description, requirements and to apply online,

Visit: <https://www.appliTrack.com/stjohns/onlineapp/>

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



Two Ballot Initiatives Affecting the SJCS D this November

Attention, members of the community, there will be two items on the ballot concerning the St. Johns County School District. Please read about both before you head to the polls this November.

[Click here for access](#) to the SJCS D School Board Presentation on both initiatives

Click here for information on the [Half-Cent Sales Tax Referendum](#) passed on November 3, 2015 that will be reviewed this 2024 election.

[Please use this link](#) to access the Office of the Supervisor of Elections for voter information and education, registration, voting locations, and more!

Would you like to view a sample ballot before election day? [Request one here!](#)

Save the date, October 28th, for a Town Hall Meeting here at our school regarding these ballot initiatives.

More information will be forthcoming including a time and the name of our guest speaker. We hope to see you there!

Save the Date: OMES Calendar

All Month: Raise Craze Fundraiser



All month: Character Counts! Pillar of FAIRNESS

Sept 15-Oct 15: National Hispanic Heritage Month

Sept 16: Panera Spirit Night: 4-8pm

Sept 16-17: Cheer and Mascot Tryouts for 4th and 5th Grade students (permission slip needed)

Sept 17: Girl Scouts of America on Campus during Lunch

Sept 17: Constitution Day

Sept 19: SAC Meeting in the Media Center at 3:30pm

Sept 20: Teacher Inservice Day-No Classes

Sept 23-25: Celebrate Freedom Week

Sept 23: PTO Meeting in the Media Center at 3:30pm

Sept 25-29: Celebrate Freedom Week

Sept 25: Boy Scouts of America on campus

Sept 26: Boy Scouts Parent Info Meeting at 6:30pm

Oct 1: Fall Picture Day with Leonard's

Sept 15- Oct 15: Hispanic Heritage Month



Items Requested for Media Activity

Recycle your old **Pringles cans (with lids, please)** and empty **tennis ball containers** by sending them in with your child. Feel free to drop these off in our Front Office as well. Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Leonard are planning more fun Media activities for our kids!