



OMES at-a-Glance



News for Otis A. Mason Families

April 2025

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

Manatee Highlight: Our OMES Faculty and Staff



We are UNITED in our quest to provide your child with a quality education in both academics and character. Our Manatee family has dedicated their lives to our community, enriching the lives of our students and families. From getting our students to school safely; feeding them a nourishing breakfast; tending to their medical needs; teaching them academics, social-emotional learning, character lessons; helping them problem solve and manage their emotions; guiding them in the arts, physical education, music, media, and computer; providing for their unique and special needs; coaching their speech development; hosting extra-curricular clubs; maintaining and cleaning the school inside and out; providing the safest environment possible; monitoring their progress; hosting bookfairs, dances, literacy nights, dinners, talent shows, picture days, field trips, field days, donation drives; etc. We are a team of educators and education enthusiasts that truly believe that character counts in everything we do. We strive to be caring, fair, trustworthy, respectful, and responsible citizens just like our students. We are truly honored to work in this community.

Thank you for your love and support (and most of all trusting us with your child every day!). Want to show your child's team appreciation? Teacher Appreciation Week is HERE and there are a million ways to show your appreciation. Check out our website!

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week: April 14th through April 17th

Sign-up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4CA5A629A5FF2-56072980-teacher#/>

Character Highlight: How can I instill good character in my child?

We will be reviewing **ALL of the pillars of character** in your child's classroom. We here at Otis A. Mason Elementary believe that every member of our community should **strive to have good character**.

- **Citizenship** Is your child old enough to learn how to care for your American flag or a community space? Are they ready to explore age-appropriate news and community events? Could your family participate in a community cleanup?
- **Responsibility** Post a chore list on the fridge and give your child the power to complete those chores as a responsible member of the family. Consider a family game night as a reward!
- **Fairness** Help your child create fair rules for play and for the household. What is a fair way to share family decision making? Who will pick the restaurant this time? Who decides which book the family will read together?
- **Caring** Show gratitude at the dinner table. Take turns sharing what you are grateful for.
- **Trustworthiness** Show your child good examples of honesty. Highlight courageous acts of truth, especially when someone made a mistake. It is truly brave to atone for a mistake.
- **Respect** Discuss what is respectful in various settings: the movie theater, the car, the classroom, the park. What is respectful when dealing with different people: a friend, a teacher, a waiter, a grandparent, a public servant?

Have questions? Contact our Guidance Team (see left) at 904-547-8455. We are always available to support you with character education. Click here for our [guide to character education](#).

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week:

Otis A. Mason Elementary PTO Presents:



OTIS A. MASON ELEMENTARY PTO PRESENTS: **TEACHER AND STAFF** *Appreciation Week*

We're excited to celebrate our annual Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week on April 14-17, 2025! Below is our week-long itinerary along with simple, optional suggestions for how students can help shower their teachers with appreciation and love from around the globe!

MONDAY - FRANCE

Say "Bonjour!" to your teacher/staff with a touch of French flair. -- Bring a breakfast treat, or a coffee gift card to start their day off right.

TUESDAY - USA

All-American Fare Friday! Grab a gift card to your teacher/staff favorite burger spot or fast food place to thank them for being a national treasure.

WEDNESDAY - ITALY

"GRAZIE for all you do!" Show your appreciation by bringing your teacher/staff a new classroom supply—think markers, tissues, sticky notes, or anything to make their day easier.

THURSDAY - SPAIN

¡VIVA ESPAÑA! We're all amigos today! Have your student give high-fives, kind words, or a handwritten note of appreciation to any teacher or staff member they pass in the halls.



PTO Opportunities are always available! Email us at otismasonpto@gmail.com. Current opportunities include test proctoring April & May (all grades). [Please see our testing page to sign up for proctoring.](#) Want to "shout out" to your child for their big day? [Check out the PTO page on our website to rent the spirit rock or to get a name on the birthday marquee!](#) Want to join the conversation? You are invited to **PTO and SAC MEETINGS** April 28th 3:15pm in the Media Center Meet Us Virtually [by clicking here.](#)

Technology Corner: End of Year Events are Here! Does your family have School Access?

Anyone who would like to visit our campus **MUST BE APPROVED** via **KeepnTrack**. Already in the system? Give us a call to renew it!

SCHOOL ACCESS FORM on KeepNTrack: Background check to enter campus: [Stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply](https://stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply)

It is imperative that parents use online resources to support at home. Home Access Center is THE portal to use for grades, discipline issues, transportation, attendance, and scheduling. Lastly, be sure to keep your email address up to date and to opt in for school texts, emails, and messages via School Messenger. Need help accessing one of our services online? Please see below for assistance.

HOME ACCESS CENTER (HAC):

HAC access is through the parent-provided email address and password. Please call the Front Office if you are having access issues (904-547-8440).

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/>

SCHOOL MESSENGER: Opt-in to school messages here:

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolmessenger/>

Parents are also encouraged to download the app Fortify Florida. This app makes reporting ANY threat to our schools quick and easy.

Reminder: CLEVER provides online, free access 24/7 to education support resources for your child including FREE 24/ tutoring with Varsity Tutors.

Attention Manatee Senior Class of 2025: Grad Walk is May 14th



Are you a senior in high school graduating in 2025? Did you attend Otis A. Mason Elementary School as a 5th grader in 2017-2018? You are invited to an incredible event to celebrate YOU! Come to Otis A. Mason on May 14th and meet in the Media Center in your cap and gown. See our website for more information! [RSVP HERE TODAY](#)

Otis A. Mason Wins the 2024-2025 Battle of the Books for the 5th Year!



We are so proud of our hardworking Battle of the Books team led by our very own Ms. Wendi Allen! Our school was presented with the victor's banner (pictured above) at the April School Board Meeting. Thank you for exploring the SSYRA books for this school year with us. To check out this year's SSYRA books or to review next year's list, please see our website's Media Center page!

GO MANATEES!

Three OMES Volunteers Honored at the SJCS District Volunteer Banquet



Pictured from left to right: Miss Evelyn McManus, Mrs. Jaime Swanson, Principal Monique Keaton, and Mrs. Heather Singletary. Congratulations to our outstanding volunteers who collectively completed HUNDREDS of volunteer hours supporting our Mason community. Miss McManus could be found scanning books or making bulletin boards. Mrs. Swanson is a staple of our Media Center! Mrs. Singletary has spent countless hours assisting our students and teachers in various classrooms. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR SCHOOL!**

New Manatees, Enroll now for the 2025-2026 School Year!



Families, do you have a Kindergarten through 5th grader that you need to enroll at Otis A. Mason Elementary for the 2025-2026 school year? Are you currently attending our school through a hardship waiver? **DON'T WAIT!** Complete your registration and upload your forms **NOW**. Please call 904-547-8436 with questions or to schedule a tour.

Please register online **NOW**: <http://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us/registration/>

To renew a hardship waiver for the 2024-2025 school year: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolservices/transfers/>

Returning Student Verification (RSV)

This month the St. John's County School District will email guardians regarding returning students. **Please make sure the email we have on file for you is correct** in our eSchool system. Please take your time and **thoroughly read through your RSV**. The system does save your input from the last time you filled it out (but it will not include changes that you made throughout the school year). Make sure the information included, emergency contacts listed, and medical information input is the most up to date. Due to the volume of students, the RSV is emailed in stages by grade. Please do not worry if you see an RSV for one student, but not another, it is coming-please, be patient. Once we have attempted to reach the primary guardian listed in eSchool, the RSV will automatically be emailed to the secondary guardian on file. The emails will be repeated until one guardian has successfully submitted the RSV. If you have questions regarding the returning student verification, please contact our Registrar and Computer Operator, Mrs. Darby Roberts at 904-547-8436.

Join OMES in the Community. We believe in being stewards of citizenship.

SWIM BIKE RUN!

JUST TRI IT!
ST. JOHNS COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION KIDS' TRIATHLON 2025

**APRIL 27, 2025
AT 8 AM
SOLOMON CALHOUN CENTER**

Ages: (5-8, 9-11, & 12-14)

@St.JohnsCountyParksAndRecreation @SJCParksAndRec

We hope to see **YOU** at these events too! Use the link below and **RSVP TODAY.**

You're invited to the **SAHS EGG HUNT**

A SAHS class of 2028 fundraiser
• 5 dollars, for kids elementary aged

**April 16th, 4:30pm
at the football field**

SAINT AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL
3205 VARELLA AVE, ST. AUGUSTINE,
FL 32084

Supported by Otis A. Mason
Elementary School

Schoolpay
QR code link

<https://www.schoolpay.com/payfor/Easter-Egg-Hunt--Freshman-Class-Fundrais/Scgsdhy>

Schoolpay link encouraged!
Cash payment available

OMES Competes at the Character Cup



Pictured left to right our fearless coaches: Coach Allen, Coach B, Coach Norm, and Coach Hollister. The Otis A. Mason Character Cup Team did an incredible job representing our school at the district level at Toco Creek High School. Great character was exhibited by all!

GOLD in 100m Dash: Treasure Hankerson

SILVER in Tug of War: Team OMES

2nd Place Jump Rope: Kenneth Cooley

1st Place Field Ski: Alye Reilly and Riley Hall

1st Place Sack Race: Kenneth Cooley and Keyon Hamilton

2nd Place Girls Shuttle Relay: Treasure Hankerson, Alye Reilly, Kenlee Swanson, Lily Futch

3rd Place Boys Shuttle Relay: LJ Rockmore, Andrew Steen, Keyon Hamilton, Wesley Dong

Talk to your Child about Inclusion



We at Otis A. Mason Elementary School believe that EVERY child has an important place at the table. Every child belongs. What does *inclusion* mean to your family? How can your child practice including others? Why is inclusion an essential part of our community? We strive to support every child and every need. Thank you for celebrating Unity Day with us. We are truly **BETTER TOGETHER.**

Supporting the Gifted Child

Have a gifted child at OMES? We are here to support you.

Consider attending the GPAC (Gifted Parent Advisory Council) meetings. The next meeting will be April 15th-see below for more information. Gifted screenings generally take place in 2nd Grade for students.



GIFTED PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

JOIN THE CONVERSATION, LEARN, AND CONNECT!

April 2025 GPAC

Parents and caregivers of SJCS D gifted students:
Join gifted educators and community stakeholders for this virtual learning opportunity!

Keynote Speaker:
Amy Lane, Educational/Training Specialist III
Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics UF Health, Jacksonville

Learning Topic:
The Gifted Brain and Asynchronous Development

April 15, 2025
6:30-7:30 PM

Link to join: [JOIN THE MEETING NOW](#)

For more information about GPAC, please reach out to:
Sherri-Lee Heath, Gifted Program Specialist, K-12
Sherri-Lee.Heath@stjohns.k12.fl.us or (904) 547-6058

OMES Gifted Transition Meeting



Pictured above: OMES administration and SJCS D Gifted representatives meet with parents of gifted 5th grade students to discuss the transition to Middle School. This yearly event helps ease the transition of our elementary school students into the middle school environment.

Don't Miss It! Important Dates:

April & May: Testing-Progress Monitoring 3 (Proctors needed!)

	<u>Kindergarten</u>	<u>First Grade</u>	<u>Second Grade</u>	<u>Third Grade</u>	<u>Fourth Grade</u>	<u>Fifth Grade</u>
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

April 14: Slime Day! Students who raised \$100-150+ get to slime or cold splash faculty and staff!

April 14-17: Teacher Appreciation Week

April 17: Field Day (K-2 9-11am and 3-5th from 12:30-2:30pm)

April 18: NO SCHOOL- Teacher and Student Holiday

April 22: Earth Day-How will you celebrate as a family?

April 23: Interims LIVE on Home Access Center (HAC)

April 24: Last day to donate to Movers for Moms Collection for family shelters (Non-perishable food, toiletry items, baby items, cleaning items, etc.)

April 28: PTO and SAC Meetings at 3:15pm in the Media Center

April 30: Last day to order Yearbooks



May 2: All library books must be returned to the Media Center

May 14: OMES Class of 2025 Grad Walk & Senior Social

May 16-23: Spring Book Fair in the Media Center

May 22: VPK Promotion Ceremony (all attendees must be approved for School Access to attend!)

May 26: NO SCHOOL-Memorial Day

May 30: Early Release at 1:45pm-Last day of school; Report Cards LIVE in HAC