



OMES at-a-Glance



News for Otis A. Mason Families September 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. Lisa Bielefeldt, Assistant Principal

The Mason Experience: School Counseling



School Counselor: Mrs. Ribeiro (M, Th, F)-left
School Counselor: Mrs. Latham (Tu, W)-right

Our School Counseling team is here to support your family.

Every month our newsletter will showcase resources and discussion questions for the month's pillar of character. We would love for you to be a part of every step of the educational journey of your child. Here are some things we can assist with:

- Families who use English as a Second Language
- Students who have or need 504 supports
- Connections to various community resources
- Connections to Emergency Financial Assistance
- Development of social-emotional learning
- Connecting with organizations such as HUGS, BRAVE, United Way, Big Brothers Big Sisters, St. Augustine Youth Services, etc.

If you or someone you know is experiencing problems with homelessness, food insecurity, access to basic needs, or is otherwise struggling; please call Mrs. Waler, Guidance Clerk at 904-547-8455. We can assist! Here are some dinner table conversation questions:

Family Conversation Starters: Friendship

What are 3 things you think your friends would say about you?

What is the key to staying friends over time?

Why is trust so important in a friendship?

What happens when trust is broken in a friendship? Is it possible to mend it? Why or why not?

How can you invite someone new to become a friend?

Experience 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/> In addition, you are welcome to use these resources, gathered by our School Counseling team, at home: [September Fairness Resources.](#)



Important OMES Reminders:

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. You may email your child's teacher or use Parent Square.

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 through Parent Square and dismissal changes online using our [Dismissal Change Form](#).

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?

Lunching with students in the café is not currently available. We are offering lunch in the café by invitation only for students who receive Character Counts awards. 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, 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 with ingredients and nutrition facts included. Reach out to your child's teacher to inquire about this prior to purchasing items.

Where do I go if my child lost something?

Students should check lost and found in the café 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 eyeglasses, clean clothing, and medication. Forgotten items provide a great lesson in responsibility!

Raise Craze: Choose KIND today!



FUNDRAISING THROUGH
KINDNESS
RAISE CRAZE™



Show Gratitude for Donations by Giving Back to Others!

GOAL: \$15,000

DATES: August 29 - September 12

WELCOME OTIS A. MASON ELEMENTARY PARENTS!

- 1 Register & create your student's donation page! Additional siblings can be added
- 2 Help your child select 3-5 Acts of Kindness (AOK) to complete for others. Yay KINDNESS!
- 3 Invite friends & family to donate and start spreading kindness!

WHAT IS RAISE CRAZE?

Raise Craze is an online platform enabling parents to set up secure, custom websites where they request donations via email, text, and social. *Emails will never be shared or used for marketing*
During the fundraiser, students 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...

- We are raising money to enrich the Mason student experience by supporting our teachers, funding classroom needs, and creating memorable events and activities that build a strong school community.

REGISTER: raisecraze.com/join **CODE:** 8 4 1 - 5 0 1

Questions? Contact Kim Edwards | otismasonpto@gmail.com



IT'S TIME TO PLAY KINDNESS BINGO!



LOG 3 AOK	SEND 5 EMAILS	RAISE \$50
RECEIVE 2 DONATIONS	REGISTER & LOG 1 AOK	LOG 10 AOK
SEND 10 EMAILS	LOG 5 AOK	RAISE \$100

PRIZE LIST

FOR EVERY SQUARE YOU EARN
Fruit Scented Eraser



FULL CARD
Backpack Keychain

★ DON'T FORGET!
To receive your prize, log your Acts of Kindness (AOK) on your Dashboard!

CHALLENGE ALERT!!
Register and send 3 emails by Tuesday, Sep. 2 to get a Manatee Water Bottle Sticker!

STUDENT AWARDS

- Kindness On The Spot Get "Pinned on the Spot" if you're...caught being kind
- Top Dollar & Top AOK Student per Grade Trophy

CLASSROOM AWARDS

- 50 AOK per Class Kindness is Sweet! Sweet Treat
- \$1,000 Raised per Class Rise, Shine, & Be Kind! PJ Day
- Class with Donations from the Most Number of States Take Comfort in Kindness! PJ Day
- Top AOK & Top Dollar Class Kindness is Cool! Popsicle Party + \$100 Gift Card for Teacher

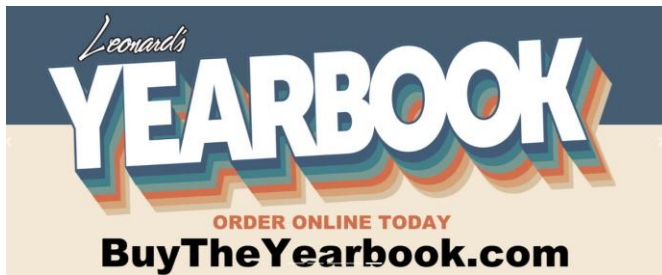
GRAND FINALE

- If We Reach Our Goal of \$15,000... We will do a DANCE OFF with Mrs. Keaton!!!



REGISTER: raisecraze.com/join **CODE:** 8 4 1 - 5 0 1

Leonard's: Yearbooks for sale! Picture Day is September 30th



Child Safety Matters: Begins in October

Hello Mason Families, What a great start to the new school year! As part of the K-5 required instruction in **Rule 6A-1.094124, F.A.C.** we will begin Child Safety Matters lessons starting in October and hope to complete all lessons by spring break in March. Each grade level will receive two lessons. Please visit the links below for more information regarding the developmentally and age-appropriate curriculum Child Safety Matters, as well as information around the required instruction. Students will be provided with handouts to take home and share with you. We encourage you to talk with your child about what they've learned and continue the discussion. Please contact guidance with any questions or concerns. Thank you so much.

Required Instruction For Grades K-5:
<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/mental-health/instruction/elementary/>

Child Safety Matters Website:
<https://mbfpreventioneducation.org/why-use-our-programs/mbf-child-safety-matters/>

Save the Date: OMES Calendar

Sept 11: Interims; Patriot's Day; SAC Meeting at 3:15pm in the Media Center

Sept 16: Spirit Night @ Chipotle 4-8pm

Sept 17: Consitution Day

Sept 18: PTO Meeting @ 3:15pm in the Media Center

Sept 19: Teacher Planning Day-No classes!

Sept 22-26: Celebrate Freedom Week

Sept 30: Manatee Basketball Game @ RJMMS at 5:30pm

Check out these Opportunities:

Are you a community member interested in reviewing potential instructional materials? We need YOUR input with **English Language Arts** and **Physical Education** materials. Call 904-547-8900 or review materials online at EdCredible.com.



K-12 Adoption 2025

Instructional Materials Review

K-12 English Language Arts

Would your family be interested in Adult English-Language classes? Sign up below!



<https://forms.office.com/r/7Q4GRbKz2g>

Now hiring heroes to drive the bus!

Come Drive the Bus with Us!

Sat, Oct 25
8am to 11am



BUDDY BUS

Joined By Our
Community
Partners



BLOOD MOBILE

PUBLIC SAFETY CAMPUS TEST TRACK

3640 GAINES ROAD

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32084

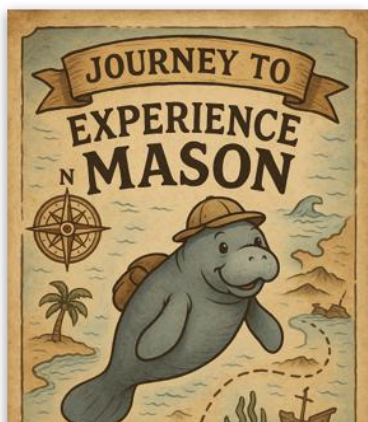
MUST HAVE A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE



October 9th is The Mason Voyage: Destination...Student Success!

Come on down to OMES 5:30-7:30pm and take a voyage with us! What is your child's academic journey like? How can you help them to be successful? **Dinner will be provided for FREE!**

Your Passport includes: Media Center, the Book Fair, Art Room, Music Room, Extended Day, Basketball Court, Learning Lab, Homeroom Classroom



Otis A. Mason: Citizenship Matters:

How will your family celebrate these important days?

- **Heroes' day on September 11:** Our school participates 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! 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? Why is the Constitution important to your family?
- **Celebrate Freedom Week is September 22nd-26th:** This year Celebrate Freedom Week will focus on the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence. Check out the SJCS website for more resources:
<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ss/cdcfw/>

Get Involved TODAY!

OMES is a Title I school and **community involvement means everything to us**. We firmly believe that a complete commitment by both the home and the school are essential for the success of every child. Here is how you can get involved:

- [What is a Title I School?](#)
- What is the [Parents Right to Know?](#)
- What is the [School-Parent Compact?](#)
- [How can I join SAC](#) (a community-input organization)?
- [How can I join PTO](#) (a community partnership group)?

What is our commitment to you? Not only are we committed to providing a quality education to every child, we are also committed to serving EVERY CHILD and EVERY LEARNING NEED.

- [Breakfast and Lunch](#) provided FREE
- [Transportation](#) provided FREE
- 24/7 Access to [Curriculum and Resources](#)
- [Counseling and Behavior](#) Support
- [Character Counts!](#) Education
- Partnership with the [St. Johns County Sheriff's Office](#)

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. **Lastly, save the date for our Annual Meeting on October 9th after school!**

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. **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.