



OMES at-a-Glance



News for Otis A. Mason Families
November 2025

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

Mrs. Monique Keaton, Principal
Ms. Lisa Bielefeldt, Assistant Principal
Ms. Julie Hudson, Assistant Principal

Manatee Highlight: Journey to 4th Grade



Want to know what YOUR child is doing in all subjects of fourth grade? Check out the curriculum guide here:

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>

Please encourage your student to READ, READ, READ! There are so many free resources at our public library: <https://sjcpls.org/>. In addition, they have access to books in our school library and classroom libraries. Encourage your child to try reading books on different topics to see what piques their curiosity and interests. Use AR to guide you with picking books at the appropriate reading level. Reading just 20 minutes per night will help with vocabulary, spelling, comprehension, and literacy.

For Math, encourage your student to practice multiplication and division math facts and the usefulness of decimals and fractions. Use pizza or cake to help explain fractions. Having your child help with cooking or baking provides lots of opportunities to practice math and science facts. In fact, you will notice your child will have more exposure to various science and social studies topics.

Include your child, in an age-appropriate way, in the discussion of holidays like Patriot Day, Veteran's Day, and Memorial Day. Share personal experiences to make history something they can connect to directly.

hello 
Fourth Grade!

Character Highlight: A Journey in Good Citizenship



What does it mean to be a good citizen? Please join us in demonstrating the importance of citizenship to our students. We here at Otis A. Mason Elementary believe that every parent, student, teacher, and member of our community should **strive to be a good citizen. How can we accomplish that TOGETHER?**

- **Consider good citizenship in your household:** How can every family member contribute to the household? Make a list of age-appropriate chores and responsibilities for every member of the family. Allow your child to see the importance of every role and contribution.
- **Discuss good citizenship at school:** how can parents and students contribute to our Otis A. Mason community to make the school a better place? You are an important part of our school!
- **Demonstrate what it means to be a good neighbor:** how can we serve those who need us in our neighborhood? What age-appropriate tasks could our Manatees help with? How can we politely acknowledge our neighbors when we see them? Even a smile can be an act of neighborly love!
- **Support students in the decision-making process:** Guide them to make choices that protect the safety and rights of others. Does that choice leave a place better than we found it? Include their voice in appropriate decisions.
- **Lead by example:** protect the environment, get involved, vote, CARE! Take to your child about what matters to your family.

Teachers will be providing lessons that discuss the importance of citizenship at our school, in our home, and in our community. We are so proud of our students and the work they do every day to nurture their character. Thank you for helping to make the world a better place, Manatees! For more Character Counts! curriculum and ideas, check out the website with curriculum, themes, and activities online at:

<https://ccstjohns.com/>

Student Government Elections

Get ready for our school-wide election for their Student Council representatives on November 4th and 5th.



Please take a moment to connect our local, school elections to the importance of the democratic process in our country! Use the following tips to talk to your children with a character-focused approach:

1. **Always 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 any 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 issues and elections. They may have questions about the voting process, the electoral college, or other logistics about how an elected official takes office. Help your child find the facts through reputable sources.
4. **Teach the differences between fact and opinion.**
5. **Explain the voting process:** Why is voting an important responsibility?



Technology Corner: How do I Access?

Remember that most online resources for school can be accessed through our website using CLEVER:

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

Click CLEVER and enter your student's s# and password.

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). Students have access to HAC with their student ID number and password. <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/>

SCHOOL ACCESS FORM (for volunteering): Please make sure that you are good to go in the system before you come to campus. [Click here.](#)

ACCELERATED READER HOME CONNECT:
<https://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/>

How do I change my child's dismissal? Use the Dismissal Change Form on our website ([which is also linked here](#)).

Download the App TODAY:



 ParentSquare

Leonard's Photography: Retakes 11/12

Order your yearbook here: www.buytheyearbook.com. Please contact Leonard's Photography with all of your questions. Retakes are for NEW students and students who were ABSENT for picture day. If you ordered photos and do not like how the originals turned out, let your teacher know AND return the photo package. There is also an opportunity for Spring pictures!

Leonard's

Holiday Celebration at the Amp:

The Polar Express on 12/6 at 5pm



This community event is to celebrate the holiday season together AND to collect non-perishable food items for the St. Johns Ecumenical Council Food Pantry. Entry is FREE with the donation of a non-perishable food item. If you donate 5 or more items, you get a raffle ticket for an autographed guitar signed by an amphitheater artist. The first 300 children to attend get a special glowing lanyard, a popcorn, and a hot chocolate! [Click here for more information.](#)

November is Family Engagement Month: You Belong Here!

We here at Otis A. Mason Elementary School believe that every member of the community has a role to play in education. We invite YOU to join us for events and to fully engage in the educational experience with your child. Please see our calendar of events and attend school events regularly with your child.

Research shows a strong, positive link between family engagement and student achievement. Students with involved families are more likely to have better grades, higher test scores, better attendance, improved social-emotional skills, and better graduation rates.

According to Harvard University, “parent participation is the **leading predictor** that supports students’ academic success... more than race, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, or cultural background.”

Call us. Email us. Conference with us. Volunteer with us.
You are welcome here.

Important Dates for your Calendar:

Nov 3rd-7th: School Psychologist Appreciation Week-Thank you, Mrs. Gellers!

Nov 4th-20th: Square Art Fundraiser

Nov 4th-5th: Student Government Elections for all grades

Nov 7th: 2nd Grade In-house Field Study: Hands-on History

Nov 11th: Veterans Day-NO SCHOOL

Nov 12th: Picture Retake Day

Nov 13th: SAC Meeting at 3:15am; Basketball Games at 5:30pm; Interims on HAC

Nov 14th: OMES Spelling Bee

Nov 15th: Basketball Tournament at SAHS

Nov 18: Texas Roadhouse Spirit Night

Nov 19th: Educational Support Professionals Appreciation Day: Thank you for supporting our students’ learning.

Nov 20th: PTO Meeting at 3:15pm

Nov 21st: Substitute Teacher Appreciation Day

Nov 24th-Nov 28th: Thanksgiving Break; No School

Dec 20th-Jan 4th: Winter Break; No School



Square 1: Make your child's Art into Keepsakes and Gifts

Coming home soon: the Square Art Fundraiser catalog! Get your child's art custom made into gifts and keepsakes to cherish.

Perfect for holiday gifts or to upgrade simple items to unforgettable memories.

[Find your child's art using this link.](#) Order by 11/26/2025.

SQUARE 1 ART
IT STARTS WITH THE ART!

Literacy Coach, Mrs. Hunting, Leads our Journey through UNRAAVEL

Recently, our faculty participated in a professional development session regarding a reading engagement strategy called UNRAAVEL. [We highly recommend this approach to reading engagement for our students.](#) UNRAAVEL has been shown to **improve comprehension, guide reading, aid in test-taking, and support all learners.** We highly encourage reading in a way that students can DIRECTLY ENGAGE with the material (with a pen, pencil, or highlighter, etc).

What is the **UNRAAVEL** method?

1. **Underline the Title:** Begin making connections! What do you think this will be about?
2. **Now Predict the Passage:** Connect the title with your background knowledge. What do you already know?
3. **Run through and number paragraphs and text features.** Numbering paragraphs will help students quickly see how the article (and information) is organized. Students can then easily refer back to the appropriate paragraph more quickly when answering questions or discussing the article.
4. **Are you reading the questions?** Pre-read test or discussion questions to help you differentiate important information in the text. This will save you time (especially if you have already numbered the paragraphs!)
5. **Are the important key words circled?** This helps the student highlight important information and to engage in the reading. It will also help students build their vocabulary.
6. **Venture through the passage:** Read through in a relaxed fashion the first time. We encourage students to re-read for better comprehension. Most importantly, students should write important notes in the margins that include questions they have or connections to prior knowledge.
7. **Eliminate incorrect answers:** Now it's time to officially answer those reading comprehension questions! First, cross out clearly wrong answers.
8. **Let the questions be answered!** After following these steps, finding the correct answer should be much easier. Be sure to refer back to the passage to support your answer with the textual evidence.

Work with your child to practice this valuable reading skill today. Most importantly, your child should actively engage with the text and make direct, personal connections with the material. Creating those connections





Pledge

As a parent, guardian or caring adult, I hereby give my pledge to support a high-quality education for all of Florida's students to the best of my ability.

I have high expectations for my child and want all of Florida's students to succeed in school and in life.

I pledge to stay involved, serve as a positive role model and maintain open communication with my child's educators and school personnel to ensure education remains a top priority in my household.

I understand that it is my responsibility to stay informed and involved in all aspects of my child's education.

Education is the key to success, and I will do everything I can to nurture my child's ability to learn.



NOVEMBER
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT MONTH