



# OMES at-a-Glance



## News for Otis A. Mason Families

December 2025

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### Manatee Highlight: Journey to Pre-K Classrooms

We here at Otis A. Mason Elementary School believe in the importance of serving EVERY child and EVERY need. Our Pre-Kindergarten program is about reaching our youngest Manatees with the appropriate supports. Our exceptional team strives to create a structured routine for our students.

Room on the  
Broom



There is always “room on the broom” in our Pre-K classrooms! Ms. Montgomery, Mrs. Burchfield, and Ms. Jarrett lead an incredible team of professionals to support student learning. Pictured above is our Pre-K team as they dressed for Halloween in the theme of the beloved book, *Room on the Broom* by Julia Donaldson. Pre-K aged students thrive when they know what is expected and a clear routine is established. Communicate with your child directly and regularly about expectations and consequences. Most importantly, hold to those expectations and consequences. Our Pre-K team loves your child almost as much as you do!



### Winter Break December 20th-January 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### Don't forget the Winter Passport!

**Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> is an Early Release Day!**

Don't forget to keep learning and growing while you enjoy your winter break. Complete your Winter Passport to Learning and earn a ticket to THE PARTY! [Click here for your child's Winter Passport](#) (also sent home in your child's folder). Your child should submit the completed passport to his/his teacher after break. Once submitted, your child will earn a reward!

### Spirit Day at Papa Johns on 12/16:

**PAPA JOHNS®**

**LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED**

**Otis A Mason Elementary School**



**20%** of your order total will be donated to  
Otis A Mason Elementary School

Use Code **"OTISMASON20"** on  
**12/16/25 @PAPAJOHNS.COM** to  
ensure your team receives credit



Available for CARRYOUT or DELIVERY 10am-11pm  
This is valid at all locations in Clay, Duval, & St John's Counties



## OMES Calendar: Save the Date!

December: Bowling Competition in PE Classes

December 6<sup>th</sup>: Holiday Event at The Amp

December 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>: Holiday Shop

December 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>: PM2 Testing for K-2

December 16<sup>th</sup>: Spirit Day at Papa Johns

December 19<sup>th</sup>: Early Release Schedule

December 20<sup>th</sup> - Jan 4<sup>th</sup>: Winter Break

January 5<sup>th</sup>: Classes resume for students

January 8<sup>th</sup>: January SAC Meeting @ 3:15pm

January 15<sup>th</sup>: January PTO Meeting @3:15pm

## Progress Monitoring 2 Testing Begins

PM2 Testing, Grades K-2				
	PreK	Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade
PM2 ELA	Star Literacy TBD	Star Literacy December 8, M	Star Literacy December 8, M	December 11, Th
PM2 Math	NA	December 12, F	December 11, Th	December 12, F (Tatman on December 8)

Dear Families,

Our K–2 students will begin important FAST testing soon. These tests help us understand your child’s progress and guide instruction for the second semester. To ensure your child is ready:

- ✓ **Attendance Matters** – Please make sure your child is at school **every day and on time**.
- ✓ **Rest & Nutrition** – A good night’s sleep and a healthy breakfast are essential for success.
- ✓ **Headphones** – Students need a working set of headphones at school for testing.

**Grades 3–5** will begin testing in **January**, and we’ll share more details before the winter break.

Thank you for partnering with us to support your child’s learning! Your involvement makes a big difference.

Have questions about testing?

- What does my child need to know?
- What if my child has special needs?
- How do I access my child’s scores?
- How do I interpret the results?
- What resources are available to help me support my child?

For answers check out the testing page of our website:

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

## Want to be an Elf in our Holiday Shop? Sign-Up to Volunteer!

Classes will visit the Holiday Shop during their resource time **the week of 12/8-12/12**.

Teachers will let you know when your child’s shopping Day is! We will not pull students to shop during academic time-thank you for understanding! Interested in helping our little Manatees shop for presents? Please sign-up with our PTO [using the volunteer link](#).

Thank you for making this a special holiday experience for our students.



## Attention: New SJCSD Policy

**Having someone other than a parent or guardian check your child out from school?**

The SJCSD now requires that explicit parent permission is given for that “other” person to pick up **on that particular time and day**. This is **IN ADDITION** to that person being on your child’s approved pick-up list. In an effort to make this easier on parents, we hope to use an already existing practice:

**If your child is being picked up early by someone other than a parent or guardian, [please complete a Dismissal Change Form](#)** (located at the top of our website) to inform us of the person’s name and day of early dismissal. This policy is being enforced to aid with safety concerns by multiple members of our community.

**As always, please review your child’s emergency contact list each year during Returning Student Verification to ensure that only safe adults have access to your child.** Call us anytime to update your child’s contact list at 904-547-8440. Safety is paramount. If you ever have safety concerns, please speak directly to our YRO, Deputy Davis.

## Journey through the Holidays with the Six Pillars of Character

The holidays are a great opportunity to put the Six Pillars of Character to practice in spreading holiday cheer to those around us. Each Pillar can offer a new way to spread holiday cheer and joy to friends, family, coworkers, neighbors and even strangers.

**Trustworthiness** It can take a lot for us to put our trust in someone and for someone to trust us, and the holiday season is a great time to work on building trust. The most simple and straightforward way to build trust is to keep your word. If you say you'll do something, do it. If you make a promise, keep it. During the holidays, we often count on one another to get the gifts, make the food, send the cards out or put up the decorations. By keeping track of and completing your holiday responsibilities you become dependable and build trust. Trust can even be built by inviting new people to your holiday gatherings, cooking a dish for a family in need or shoveling snow for a neighbor.

**Respect** Sometimes respect can get lost in the shuffle of the hectic holidays. When we are in crowded stores it can be easy to get frustrated with store employees or other shoppers. We need to remember that we are all doing our best, but sometimes stress can get the best of us. In these times, we should remember to always treat others how we would want to be treated. Being kind and forgiving to overworked retail employees, letting a busy family go ahead of us in line or using reusable shopping bags shows that we have respect for those around us and the environment. The holidays are all about being grateful, so show those around you that you respect them by following the golden rule.

**Responsibility** If you're the one hosting a holiday gathering, you have a lot of responsibility on your shoulders. Always keep your word and do what you said you were going to do, but don't be afraid to ask for help. If you need friends or family to bring a dish, help you clean up or watch your kids or pets, reach out to them. This can help you meet your responsibilities but also help show you how responsible others in your life are.

**Fairness** It's always the thought that counts. The holidays are not about comparing gifts that you have given or received. The holidays should be focused on celebrating the relationships of those closest to us. It can be easy to get caught up in the material things and the gift-giving but making sure that we treat those around us with fairness should be at the forefront of our minds.

**Caring** There are countless ways that we can show that we care this holiday season. We usually show that we care by giving gifts to our loved ones, but we can show that we care in other ways as well. By donating our unused clothing, donating blood, cooking for a family in need or simply sending holiday cards, we can show that we are thinking about all members of our community. For those that don't have close families or don't have the means to buy gifts, the holidays can be a difficult time. So, let's show them that we care and want them to have a merry holiday season.

**Good Citizenship** The holidays are a great time to show that we are dedicated citizens. One of the best and easiest ways we can do this is by supporting local businesses and local restaurants. We can show our support of our communities if we do our holiday shopping at local stores that are run by our neighbors. Going to events put on around the neighborhood is also important. Whether it's a craft fair, a holiday light show or an ice-skating event, we can connect with members of our community while supporting those who make our communities so special.

