



# OMES at-a-Glance



## News for Otis A. Mason Families

January 2026

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### Journey to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Manatee Highlight



Our 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Team strives to prepare our scholars for the exciting world ahead: Middle School! **Cultivating personal responsibility** is at the heart of 5<sup>th</sup> grade!

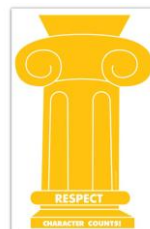
- Habits are everything: what calendar/planning system does your child use? Include your child in scheduling and planning. Do they know when they have soccer practice? Have them add the recital to the calendar! How much time will it take for them to be ready?
- Homework and reading should become more challenging! Help your child choose books and media that challenge their reading level, grow their vocabulary, and raise moral questions that you can discuss as a family.
- Social-emotional learning is crucial at this age. While it is tempting to get involved with arguments or disagreements between friends. Allow your child the independence to learn how to navigate their social circles themselves.
- Establish clear responsibilities and boundaries for your 5<sup>th</sup> grader. Your child should have regular chores around the house. Be sure to limit use of electronic devices the AAP is clear that media should not replace sleep, exercise, personal interactions, and that they have no place in a child's bedroom, or at the dinner table.

### Character Highlight: January is all about the Pillar of RESPECT!

Every month our school highlights and teaches a different pillar of character. The focus for the month of January is RESPECT. Why is respect so important? Respect is the very foundation of a civil society, and it is what we would like to define us as a community. We here at Otis A. Mason Elementary believe that every parent student, teacher, and member of our community should **strive to be a respectful member of the community.**

- **How can we make teaching manners fun?** Model and teach your child good manners with a Fancy Tea Party Night or by hosting a dinner with friends and family. Use real-life examples as teachable moments.
- **Respect your child by letting them problem solve their issues first.** When appropriate, allow your child to solve their own problems first. Students really appreciate the opportunity!
- **Some things never change: Follow the Golden Rule!** Empathy is so important! Coach your child to imagine how their words and actions affect others.
- **Show respect with your language:** Children will follow your lead so let them hear positive, respectful language especially in times of conflict.
- **Highlight and respect differences in our world.** Show your child the glorious tapestry all different cultures create when we come together as one world! All people share a common humanity and yet we are spectacularly different. Let's celebrate it!
- **How does respect look...?** ...in the car? ...in the home? ...in the hallway? ...in school? ... with family? ... with people we don't know? ...in a restaurant? Always have a discussion with your child about how to show respect, even when it may be challenging.

**Have questions about Character Counts? Contact us! We are always available to support you with character education. At Otis A. Mason, YOUR Character Counts!**



**Your Voice Matters:**  
**Join Us at SAC this week,**  
**January 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:15pm:**  
**Join the team!**

## JOIN OAMES SAC!

Are you ready to make a positive impact at Otis A. Mason Elementary School? Then, you need to join our School Advisory Council! You can help shape the future of our Manatees by sharing your ideas and expertise. Save the date now and come to our **JANUARY 2026 meeting!**



## Celebrate Literacy with READING!



### ★ READER'S OATH ★

I PROMISE TO READ  
EACH DAY AND EACH NIGHT.  
I KNOW IT'S THE KEY  
TO GROWING UP RIGHT.

I'LL READ TO MYSELF,  
I'LL READ TO A CROWD.  
IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE  
IF SILENT OR LOUD.

I'LL READ AT MY DESK,  
AT HOME AND AT SCHOOL,  
ON MY BEAN BAG OR BED,  
BY THE FIRE OR POOL.

EACH BOOK THAT I READ  
PUTS SMARTS IN MY HEAD,  
'CAUSE BRAINS GROW MORE THOUGHTS  
THE MORE THEY ARE FED.

SO I TAKE THIS OATH  
TO MAKE READING MY WAY  
OF FEEDING MY BRAIN  
WHAT IT NEEDS EVERY DAY.

Literacy is a gift! Join us in taking the Reader's Oath and in making reading a part of your family's everyday routine. Studies show that reading for 20 minutes every day with your child improves their skills in just about every educational facet!

Need access to more books? Check out our incredible and FREE St. Johns County Public Library System ([sjcpls.org](http://sjcpls.org)). A library card will give you access to FREE online services too.

**Manatees, Come and Run with Us!**

**12TH ANNUAL CHARACTER COUNTS!** In St. Johns County  
**6K3K**  
**RUN • WALK**  
 Saturday, February 1, 2025  
 9 A.M.  
 Palencia Elementary School



Register by December 31, 2024, to receive a race t-shirt and other give-aways from sponsoring businesses and community organizations!



PRESENTING  
SPONSOR

REGISTER AT  
[RACESMITH.COM](http://RACESMITH.COM)



- Pre-race stretch at 7:30 a.m.
- DJ & post-race festivities
- Race medal & t-shirt
- Artisan market

**Register Today!**

**JANUARY 17 • START TIME 8 a.m.**

400 Health Park Blvd. St. Augustine, FL

**Proceeds will benefit the:**

**UF Health St. Johns Mobile Outreach Clinic**



**UFHealth**  
 ST. JOHNS FOUNDATION



# READ, WHITE and BLUE

*Celebrating 250 Chapters of America*

CELEBRATE LITERACY WEEK 2026

Celebrate Literacy Week is designed to raise awareness about the importance of reading and to inspire Florida's students and families to make reading part of their daily routines. Join us for a week of fun and learning as we celebrate Literacy Week!

January 26th

**STARS OF LITERACY DAY**  
DRESS AS A BOOK CHARACTER  
CREATE A BOOK COVER FOR YOUR FAVORITE BOOK

**MONDAY**

January 27th

**TIME TRAVEL TUESDAY**  
DRESS FROM ANY DECADE  
CALDECOTT MEDAL WINNERS READ ALOUD

**TUESDAY**

January 28th

**FLASHLIGHT FREEDOM READ & CAMPING DAY**  
WEAR CAMPING CLOTHES  
FLASHLIGHT/LANTERN READING CENTER  
CLASSROOM CAMPFIRE STORY CIRCLE

**WEDNESDAY**

January 29th

**FOUNDING READERS DAY**  
DRESS LIKE AN EXPLORER OR SHOW SCHOOL SPIRIT  
READ WITH A BUDDY EXPERIENCE  
COOPERATIVE WRITING: TRAVEL ACROSS AMERICA STORY

**THURSDAY**

January 30th

**STARS, STRIPES, & STORIES CELEBRATION**  
DRESS IN RED, WHITE, AND BLUE  
SCHOLASTIC STORY VOICE AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

**FRIDAY**

Students and teachers will hear daily mystery readers on the announcements, visit the "guess that reader" display during the week, view the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade student book review videos, and receive a book from our school wide book giveaway event.

Encourage your child to participate and share the joy of reading.

**LET'S MAKE LITERACY WEEK UNFORGETTABLE!**



## Otis A. Mason Celebrates Perfect Attendance Every Quarter

Every quarter at Otis A. Mason Elementary School, we recognize, celebrate, and award all students who have perfect attendance. Every quarter is a new opportunity for your student to earn perfect attendance.

**"Research shows that attendance is an important factor in student achievement"**

-National Center for Education Statistics

Please join us in making sure your child attends school as much as possible. If a child becomes ill or has an appointment, remember to send in a note to excuse the absence. Every minute of the school day is important to us. A student is always welcome to attend school after an appointment, even if they will only be with us for a couple hours! Some grade levels have significant math, science, reading, and writing instruction in the first and/or last 45 minutes of the day.



## Thank you, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Why don't we have school on January 15<sup>th</sup>? For resources on this important man and holiday, click below:

[History Channel](#)

[Nat Geo Kids](#)

[Britannica](#)

[The King Center](#)

["I have a Dream" Speech](#)



## Panera Spirit Day: January 30<sup>th</sup>

**RAISE SOME DOUGH**  
*Help support us!*

25% of sales will benefit  
**Otis A. Mason Elementary PTO**

**January 20, 2026**  
**4:00 pm to 8:00 pm**  
**600 Tingle Ct**  
**St Augustine, FL**

In Cafe   Drive-Thru  
Pick-Up   Delivery

Enter promo code FUND4U at online checkout.

**Panera**  
FUNDRAISING

## Important Dates:

**January 5:** Classes Resume

**January 8:** SAC Meeting @ 3:15pm in the Media Center

**January 13:** Buddy-a-thon PTO Fundraiser

**January 9-22:** Testing for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades

**January 15:** Report Cards live on HAC

**January 15:** PTO Meeting at 3:15pm in the Media Center

**January 19:** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day-NO SCHOOL

**January 20:** Panera Bread Spirit Night

**January 26-30:** Celebrate Literacy Week!

