



# OMES at-a-Glance



News for Otis A. Mason Families

March 2026

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(904) 547-8440 – main  
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Mrs. Monique Keaton, Principal  
Mrs. Julie Hudson, Assistant Principal  
Mrs. Lisa Bielefeldt, Assistant Principal

## Manatee Highlight: Resource Team Rules! Resource Team



“When the kids start chanting 6..7.. and you realize you’re part of the meme now.”

**Physical Education:** Coaches Hollister, Sarah, and Norm want you to stay safe and healthy. Be sure to wear the proper footwear to P.E. class and to always have your water bottle. The team also encourages you to sign-up for the Kids Heart Challenge. We hope [every family can learn life-saving CPR skills!](#)

**Music:** Mr. Herron would like to thank the team of people that donated, moved, and tuned our new piano! We are also seeking Manatees to help write our new school song. [Applications are on our website](#) and contributors will get to perform the new song at our next pep rally! Coming soon: Chorus this April.

**Art:** Mrs. C would like to invite you to RESOURCE NIGHT here at school. **Save the date: April 2<sup>nd</sup>** Bring the whole family for this educational adventure!

**Media:** Mrs. Syner and Mrs. Leonard invite you to read with your child every night. Reach out if you need some good book suggestions! The Media Center is always in need of Clorox Wipes (if you can donate, please send to the Front Office). We hope to see you at **our next Book Fair March 30<sup>th</sup> through April 7<sup>th</sup>.**

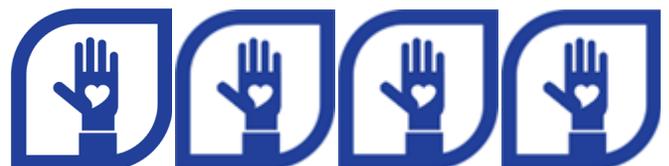
**Learning Lab/Computer:** Ms. G and Ms. K want you to know that students have FREE access to many online learning resources through CLEVER. In addition, the lab is in need of ziploc bags of all sizes.

## Character Highlight: This Month is all about the Pillar of TRUSTWORTHINESS!

Why is it so important to be trustworthy in our community? Trustworthiness 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 TRUSTWORTHY member of the community.**

- **Be honest.** There are so many situations that your child needs guidance on in daily life. Help walk your child through the right, honest choice and explain why the honest approach is the best one.
- **Be reliable.** It is so important to do what you say you will do. Whether making a promise or issuing a consequence, exemplify to your child what it means to be dependable.
- **Do the right thing even when no one is watching.** Be a brave superhero and applaud your child for making good choices (especially when they did it on their own!).
- **Teach your child the importance of a good reputation.** Being a trustworthy person with a good reputation opens innumerable doors of opportunity. Act as if every action is publicized on the front page of the newspaper or broadcast on YouTube.
- **Dive into examples and scenarios:** Does omitting the truth count as a lie? Does it count as stealing if the item is lost? What about inexpensive? What is the right thing to do if your child finds a wallet? Cash on the ground?
- **Keep bringing up the importance of internet safety.** What sources can be trusted online? How is your child protected from untrustworthy sources? Seriously discuss the age-appropriateness of any device AND the maturity level of your individual child. Always install child safety software and regularly monitor your child’s devices. Discuss who “safe adults” are in various situations: your school, your neighborhood, social media, etc.

Have questions about character education? Contact our School Counseling Team, Ms. Ribeiro or Ms. Latham at 904-547-8455.





**March 1:** VPK Enrollment is OPEN!

**March 2-6:** Social Worker and Maintenance Worker Appreciation Day

**March 12:** End of Quarter 3; End of Kids Heart Challenge

**March 13:** Teacher Planning Day-No Classes for Students

**March 14-22:** Spring Break-No School!

**March 23:** Classes resume for students.

**March 24:** Goodwill Bag it up

**March 26:** Report Cards live on HAC

**March 25:** Character Cup & **March 27:** Battle of the Books

### Your Voice Matters: Surveys OPEN NOW!

Your opinion is important to us and to Federal Programs. The first three listed surveys are a required part of our federal funding as a public school under Title I, Title II, and Title IV. The SAC survey is for school-wide input to be provided to the school's and district's administrations. Please complete and share with everyone and anyone in our community.

[SJCSD Title I Stakeholder Survey | 2025-2026](#)

[SJCSD Title II Stakeholder Survey 2025-2026](#)

[SJCSD Title IV Stakeholder Survey | 2025-2026](#)

[2026 OMEs SAC Parent Survey](#)

## Returning Student Verification is Coming to your Email this April

The returning student verification (RSV) is a link to update and reenroll your child. The form saves the data from the last time you completed it so updating is easy. **BE CAREFUL! The RSV does not contain any changes made through the Front Office throughout the school year.** For example, if you have added/subtracted emergency contacts over the year, these will not be represented. **PLEASE review the information carefully.** The district does not send the link for all students at the same time so do not panic if you receive one child's and not another's. Each grade is sent separately and first to one parent, and then to another. **What can you do now to prepare? Please make sure your email is updated in our system!**



## Spring Cleaning can help our school and Goodwill on March 24th.

**How can you help?** When you do your spring cleaning, please save and donate them to our Goodwill Bag-it-up Donation Drive! Our school will be participating in a large donation drive on **Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> in the Parent-Pick-up Loop.**

**When can I bring items in?** *Our goal is to get as many items as possible dropped off on March 24<sup>th</sup> during morning drop off.* Volunteers from Goodwill will be here to help unload items from your car. We will also accept items throughout the week. Please place bags in the blue bins in front of the school.

**Why donate my items to Goodwill at Otis A. Mason?** We hope this donation drive will be one of many ways to teach your child character here at school. In addition, students who participate will earn a prize from Goodwill. Lastly, our school will receive a monetary reward for participation based on the amount donated:

- 5-9 carts full will earn our school \$750
- 10-14 carts will earn us \$1500
- 15+ carts will earn us \$2500



## Spring Break: Passport to Learning is your Ticket to Learning and Fun

We hope you enjoy your time off and your family this Spring Break! **There will be no classes for students starting Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.** Classes resume Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. To prevent students from “sliding” in their academic development, we have developed the Spring Passport to Learning. Please have your child complete it over Spring Break so they can maintain their academic progress. Students who submit completed passports when we return from break will earn a prize! Passports will be sent home prior to Spring Break [but will also be linked on our website.](#)



## Child Find: Finds that Special Child

Do you have concerns about your child's...?  
 Speaking; Understanding; Moving or playing;  
 Seeing or hearing; Getting along with other children;  
 Learning and paying attention  
 Self-feeding, dressing or toileting

If so, please reach out to FDLRS/NEFEC CHILD FIND with questions or concerns about a child birth to 5 years of age: 386-329-3811 or online at <https://www.fdlrsnefec.org/child-find>

## A Word from our Otis A. Mason PTO:

There are so many ways for you to get involved here at our school!

**MEETINGS:** Our next SAC meetings will be April 9<sup>th</sup> and our next PTO meeting will be April 16<sup>th</sup>. Both will be held at 3:15pm in the Media Center.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** We always have a plethora of opportunities to volunteer in the classroom, the Media Center, the Café, for all sorts of events. [Here is our ongoing volunteer link.](#)

**UPCOMING VOLUNTEER NEEDS:** Test proctoring for progress monitoring 3 is coming soon and we need volunteers to assist our classroom teachers. All rooms will need a teacher AND an additional proctor. Volunteers are NOT allowed to volunteer in the same room as a relative. Please be ready for this forthcoming sign-up (dates are listed below).

**SPREAD THE WORD:** We are enrolling for VPK and soon for all other grades. We would LOVE your friends and family to be future Manatees too. We are now providing school tours to potential families!

**DONATIONS:** Reach out to your child's teacher regarding end-of-year needs. This is the time where classrooms may run low on tissues, pencils, paper, etc.



## Progress Monitoring 3 Dates for ALL Grades (Proctors Needed!):

<i>Otis A. Mason Elementary</i>			
<b>PM<sub>3</sub> Testing Dates</b>			
	<b>Kindergarten</b>	<b>First Grade</b>	<b>Second Grade</b>
<b>PM<sub>3</sub> ELA</b>	April 23, Th	April 29, W	April 30, Th
<b>PM<sub>3</sub> Math</b>	May 5, T	May 6, W	May 13, W
	<b>Third Grade</b>	<b>Fourth Grade</b>	<b>Fifth Grade</b>
<b>BEST Writing</b>	NA	March 31, T (1:1 March 30)	March 31, T (1:1 April 1, Small Groups April 2)
<b>PM<sub>3</sub> ELA</b>	May 1, F	May 5, T	May 8, F
<b>PM<sub>3</sub> Math</b>	May 7, Th	May 12, T	May 15, F
<b>Science</b>	NA	NA	May 19, T

## OMES Book Club: Disrupting Thinking:

### Why How We Read Matters, Part 2

Our team regularly reads the latest in engagement strategies. We would like to share what we have learned! We hope this summary of research will help assist you as you guide your child in literacy strategies. Authors Kyleene Beers and Robert Probst are classroom teachers and researchers in the field of reading engagement, strategies, instruction, and analysis.

Disrupting Thinking Part 2: SWBS or "Somebody wanted but so"

One of our favorite engagement strategies is the "single sentence summary statement" that requires students to critically think about the book they have read: what is most important? Our favorite strategy is the SWBS or "Somebody Wanted But So"

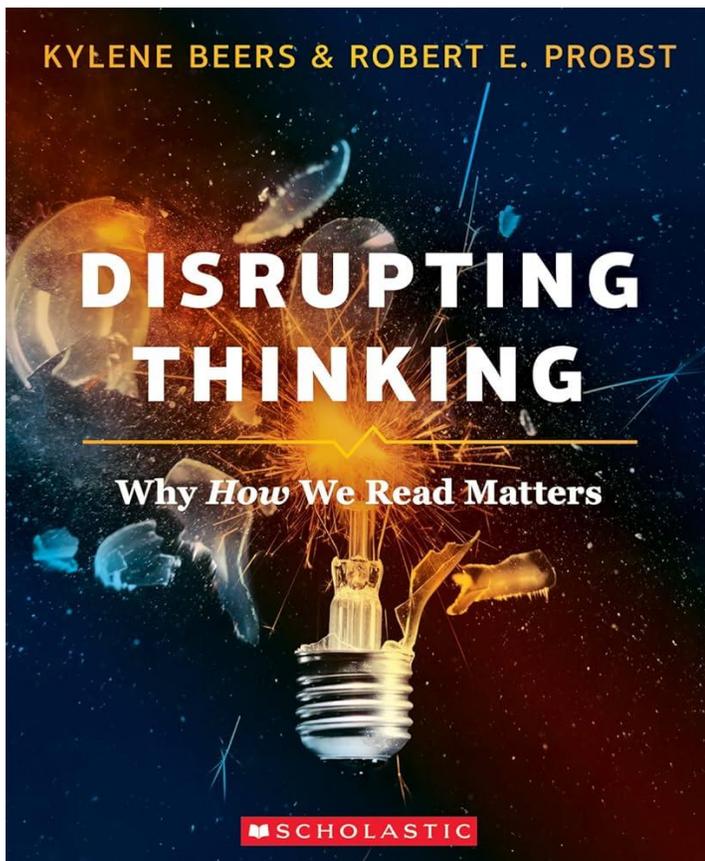
**SOMEBODY** is the main character

**WANTED** is what happened

**BUT** is the problem or conflict

**SO** is the conclusion or resolution

For further engagement, we were inspired by "30-second Shakespeare" where students plan and act out the entire book in 30 seconds. It is a fun, engaging strategy that helps students sort through what is important in a book. Join your child in acting out your favorite books and seeing the learning in action.



RJ MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL  
150 N. HOLMES BLVD.  
ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32084



- Discuss important information
- Get your questions answered
- Meet other parents

Join us for our Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Grader  
**PARENT MEETING**  
THURSDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>  
LOCATION: MURRAY AUDITORIUM  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM



Tour the school, meet teachers, etc.  
Light refreshments served

For more information, please contact us at  
**+904-547-8470**  
<https://www-mms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>

Thanks for supporting your child's success



## Trustworthiness

When others trust us, they believe that we will keep our promises and do what we say we will do.

### Role Model Trustworthiness

Keep your promises.

Fulfill the commitments you make as a family.

Admit when you are wrong.

Tell the truth.

Be someone your child can share their feelings with without fear or judgment.

Follow through on consequences.

### ? Quick Questions

How do you describe someone who is trustworthy?

Do you feel like you can trust me? Why or why not?

What are a few ways we can build trust as a family?

How can lying break trust?

### Family Conversations

#### For students in grades K-6

Share this scenario with your family. Noah tells his mom that he will finish his homework before playing outside, but he goes outside anyway before it is done.

Then ask: Why should we choose to stick with a promise when there's something more fun to do?

Can you think of a time when I did not keep my word? How did that make you feel?

#### For students in grades 7-12

Share this scenario with your family. You tell me something important, like a secret about how you're feeling. I tell other people without asking you if it is okay for me to share.

Then ask: What could I have done differently in this situation to protect your trust in me?

How can we rebuild trust when it is broken?

### Guidance Activity of the Month: The Trust Jar.

Anytime a family member demonstrates trust or sees another family member do so, write it down and put it in a Trust Jar (have your child decorate it!). At the end of the week, read aloud the different ways that your family showed trustworthiness.