



OMES at-a-Glance



News for Otis A. Mason Families
May 2026

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(904) 547-8445 – fax

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

Manatee Highlight: Mrs. Keaton, School Principal



This month we highlight our school leader, Principal Monique Keaton. Mrs. Keaton has led our school to glory as an A-rated school in St. Johns County and to the title of Character Counts Exemplary School. She strives to have Character Count in everything we do here at Otis A. Mason Elementary School. Mrs. Keaton has served as principal to our school since 2020. In 2019, she was named a Woman of Distinction in St. Johns County. Mrs. Keaton is a principal on-the-go! One can see her zooming through the halls with her computer cart visiting classrooms, working with our Professional Learning Communities, meeting with families, and leading professional development. **May 1st was School Principal Appreciation Day.** Be sure to thank Mrs. Keaton for leading our school to success!



Character Highlight: Patriotism and the meaning of Memorial Day

Talk to your child about the importance of **Citizenship, Patriotism, and Memorial Day.** The pillar of focus is **Citizenship.**

Is your child old enough to learn more about the symbols of our country, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Star-Spangled Banner? Do you discuss important national holidays and documents with them? Why are our founding documents like the Constitution, Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, and Emancipation Proclamation so important to us?

Are students ready to explore age-appropriate news and community events? Could your family participate in community-enriching activities?



Memorial Day began as a tradition in our country following the Civil War. It was originally called Decoration Day. It became an official holiday in 1971. **Memorial Day is different from Veterans Day** in that it specifically honors those who gave their lives in the service of our country.

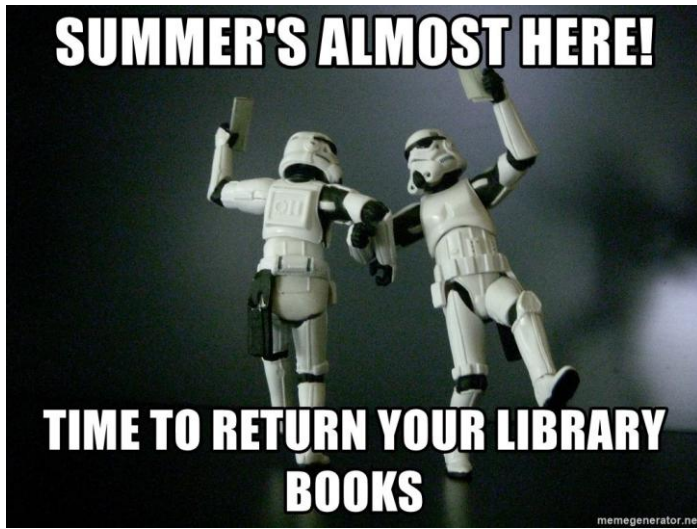
Many Americans recognize Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries and memorials, participating in parades, watching documentaries, and spending time with veterans. **Have questions? Contact our Guidance Office at 904-547-8455.**

History.com(<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/memorial-day-history>) for more on this holiday.



Media Center Updates:

The last day to check out a book from our Media Center was May 1st. **All checked out books must be returned to our Media Center by May 8th.** Lastly, we will have our last AR Party on May 28th to celebrate our students who met their reading goals! Don't forget that the St. Johns County Public Library System has an abundant selection of books for your family to enjoy for FREE! In addition, the SJCPLS has book clubs and story times for every age. Sign-up with your local library today for summer programs. Library cards are FREE and library services are available all summer while school is out. www.sjcpls.org Keep on reading, Mason!



Congratulations, 5th Grade!



New Sunshine State Books! Check Out the New Titles

SSYRA Jr. 2026-2027

Early Reader Chapter Books



SSYRA 2026-2027
Grades 3-5



New 2026-2027 School Year Information

New to our school? Please use the following link for registering a Pre-K student, registering a new K-12th grade student, or to re-enroll, transfer, or change your address with the SJCSJ for the 2026-2027 school year:

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/student/enrollment/>

WE ARE THE MANATEES!

JOIN US FOR MASON BUILT: LITTLE BUILDERS TOUR

MAY 13TH | 5-6PM

A special evening designed just for our future kindergartners and their families!

Come explore our classrooms, meet our amazing teachers, and discover what makes our school such a wonderful place to learn and grow.

We can't wait to welcome our newest little builders!

EXPLORE our classrooms

MEET our amazing teachers

DISCOVER what makes our school such a wonderful place to learn and grow

OTIS A. MASON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

LEARN • GROW • BELONG

Returning to our school next year? Check the email address we have on file for you. Your Returning Student Verification Form has been emailed to you. Please complete it so we have your most up-to-date information in our system and to reserve YOUR spot here at OMES.

For all enrollment questions, please check out the Enrollment Page of our website; <https://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us/registration/>

TACO TUESDAY

Tuesday, May 5

Back for Cinco de Mayo!

Menu:

Tacos (Choice of Chicken or Beef) with Tostitos and Queso

or

Grilled cheese

sides:

Sweet Potatoes Fries

Oven Roasted Corn

Assorted Fruits / Veggies

EXPERIENCE MASON

Teacher Appreciation Week on May 4th - May 8th

Celebrating Our Amazing Manatees!

Monday: May 4th - Start the Journey

Let's kick off the week with kindness! Bring a handmade card, drawing, or sweet note.

• Gift idea: A heartfelt note + a picture from your child

Tuesday: May 5th - Taste of Mason

Help fuel our teacher's snack, drink, or treat.

• Gift idea: Coffee, soda, chocolate, or a favorite snack

Wednesday: May 6th - Relax & Recharge

Time to pamper our teachers!

• Gift idea: Lotion, candles, tea, bath bombs, cozy socks

Thursday: May 7th - Classroom Adventure

Support their classroom journey!

• Gift idea: Markers, pencils, books, or a gift card (Amazon/Target)

Friday: May 8th - Manatee Magic

Let's make a splash to end the week!

• Gift idea: Flowers, candy gift, or contribute to a class gift

Let's come together to show our teachers just how much they mean to us!

Important Dates:



May 1: School Principal Appreciation Day

May 1: Café Workers Appreciation Day

May 1: 3rd Grade Testing

May 1: Last day to check out library books

May 5: Taco Tuesday

May 4-8th: Teacher Appreciation Week Sign-up here: [Otis Mason PTO: Teacher Appreciation Week 2026](#)

May 5: Kindergarten and 4th Grade Testing

May 6: 1st Grade Testing

May 6: School Nurse Appreciation Day

May 7: 3rd Grade Testing

May 8: 5th Grade Testing

May 8: Extended Day Appreciation Day

May 12: 4th Grade Testing

May 13: NEW Kindergarten Student School Tour 5-6:30pm

May 13: 2nd Grade Testing

May 15: 1st Grade Testing

May 19: 5th Grade Testing

There is still time to support our students with testing: Sign up to proctor TODAY:

[Proctor Training 2025-2026-OMES](#)

[Sign-up for a test proctor slot](#) (volunteers cannot proctor in a family member's classroom).

THANK YOU!

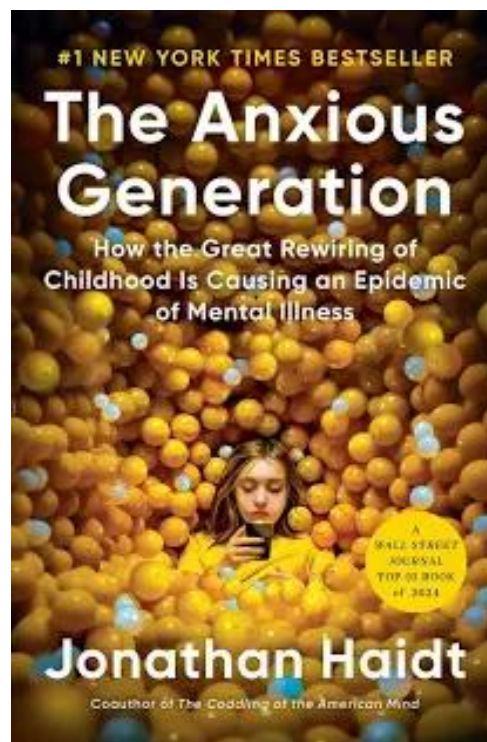
OMES Book Club: The Anxious Generation

How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness

Our team is always reading and learning and growing (just like our students). We would like to share what we have learned with all of you. Our read this month comes highly recommended. *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt is a must-read for every parent of a child at any age.

The research and the experts conclude very clearly:

1. Parents should prevent cell phone and social media access until high school.
2. Once a child reaches high school, cell phone and social media usage should be *limited* and *monitored*.
3. Families should actively work to build independent play into the lives of their children.
4. Independent play should be in person, at the same time, and either one-on-one or in small groups within your local community.
5. Unfettered smartphone and social media use is directly correlated to the epidemic of mental illness that we are seeing in children, teenagers, and young adults.



Monitor Your Child's Progress and Access FREE Resources too!

Congratulations to all of our test-takers! We are so proud of your hard work this year. PLEASE, log in and recognize and celebrate your child's progress. Results include Progress Monitoring 1, 2, and 3. While tests will eventually be uploaded to the "Test Scores" tab on HAC, families can get more immediate results on the State Assessments Test Portal.

To access the portal, log into HAC. Click on the **REGISTRATION** tab and scroll to **Additional Information** under Demographic and "Copy" the **Statewide Assessments Family Portal Access Code** that is unique for your child. Then click on the **HOME** tab followed by the **SCHOOL LINKS** tab. Click on the [Statewide Assessments Family Portal link](#). Enter your child's code and information. Once logged in, you can review "all years" and "current year" results in ELA and Math. Celebrate your child's growth through the year and support them as they traverse the Summer Passport to Learning. GO MANATEES!

How to Access the Family Portal



The Family Portal provides a central location for your student's assessment results.

The Family Portal can be used to:

- access your student's results for FAST Progress Monitoring testing, EOCs, Statewide Science, Retakes, the Florida Civic Literacy Exam, and the Florida Alternate Assessment.
- access prior statewide assessment results.
- print score reports.

How can I access the Family Portal?

- At the Florida Statewide Assessments Portal: <https://flast.org>
- Or at the direct link: <https://fl-familyportal.com/blumast.com/>

What information do I need to log in to the Family Portal?

- Your student's unique 6-digit access code (found in HAC under the Registration tab).
- Your student's date of birth.
- Your student's first name as it appears on their official school record.

What information can I find on the Family Portal?

- Your student's results from Fall 2020 through present.
- Your student's Individual Student Reports with interpretative guides.
- Glossary
- FAQs
- Performance Levels

Where do I get the Access Code?

The code can be found in the Home Access Center (HAC) under the Registration tab. The code will be located on the right side of the page under Additional Information.