



OMES at-a-Glance



News for Otis A. Mason Families

August 2026- Welcome Edition

207 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086
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Mrs. Monique Keaton, Principal
Ms. Elizabeth Dailey, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Julie Hudson, Assistant Principal

Welcome Manatee Families, Let's Connect!

Want to visit our campus? [A background check is required by law to enter campus. Safety is our priority! Apply today to have access all of your child's special events.](#)

Email: Please use our website to email the school general mailbox (mes@stjohns.k12.fl.us) or feel free to email your child's teacher regarding important issues at firstname.lastname@stjohns.k12.fl.us. Please allow two business days for a response. Remember that **our teachers' full attention is expected to be on our students and not email.** Your patience and support is greatly appreciated. Don't like email? **Mail, Telephone, and Fax:** Please see our above contact information to contact us the old-fashioned way!

Website: <https://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>
Our website is a great FIRST stop for all things Otis A. Mason.

HOME ACCESS CENTER (HAC): HAC access is through the parent-provided email address and password or your child's student ID number (s#####) and password. Please call the Front Office if you are having access issues (547-8440).

PTO and SAC: Join our incredible Parent-Teacher Organization and our Student Advisory Committee TODAY! Follow PTO on Facebook at [OtisMasonPTO](#) or email them at otismasonpto@gmail.com **SAC** is a wonderful way to support and improve our school. Have your voice heard and learn about our curriculum initiatives. Email otismasonsac@gmail.com or come by one of our monthly meetings.

Parent Square is our new communication system. There are many options to make communication with our school easy and convenient for your family.

Other Apps: Check out the Bus Planner App, Chipmunk. If you don't like apps, Bus Planner has an easy-to-use web version!

Download our security app, **Fortify FL**, & use it to report **suspicious activity**. If you see something, say something! Safety is paramount, always!



Character Highlight:

The Six Pillars of Character™



Every month our school highlights and teaches a different pillar of character. Why is character so important? Good character 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, Respectful, Responsible, Fair, and Caring Citizen.**

- **Trustworthiness:** How can we teach our children to “do the right thing” even when no one is watching? Value honesty even when you or your child makes a mistake.
- **Respect:** How can we teach our children to deal with difference, anger, and disagreements respectfully? Model anger management, compromise, and tolerance for your children. Highlight the importance of diversity in our world. Different solutions, different opinions, and different people make the world a better place! People can disagree and still be cordial to one another.
- **Responsibility:** Foster responsibility in your child by holding them accountable for their actions. **Children should have age-appropriate, daily responsibilities in the household.**
- **Fairness:** Though we may teach children that “Life’s not fair” it is important to instill fairness in our actions. Help children to follow the rules and apply them fairly and justly. **Encourage sharing, taking turns, being open-minded, listening to one another, and supporting each other in times of conflict.**
- **Caring:** Teach, demonstrate, and expect kindness, compassion, gratitude, forgiveness, and charity. **Helping others is humbling and fulfilling.**
- **Citizenship:** How can you demonstrate to your child what it means to be an informed, active, obedient citizen? **How does one obey and respect the law?**

At Otis A. Mason, YOUR CHARACTER COUNTS!

Important Dates:

August: Celebrate ALL Pillars of Character & Safety Presentations for all students

August 24: Cheerleading & Basketball Paperwork DUE

August 25 & 26: Cheerleading Clinic and Tryouts

August 26: Girls Basketball Tryouts

August 27: Boys Basketball Tryouts

August 26: Early Release @ 1:45pm & every Wednesday

September: Celebrate the Pillar of Fairness

September 2: Early Release @ 1:45pm & every Wednesday

September 7: Labor Day-No School

September 10: SAC Meeting @3:15pm in the Media Center

*These dates and many more are on our OMES website calendar. We also suggest accessing the SJCS Master Calendar: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/calendar/>

OTIS A. MASON CHEERLEADING Tryouts

BE LOUD. BE PROUD. BE A MANATEE!

COMPETITIVE CHEER TEAM
COMMITMENT, TEAMWORK, HEART, AND GREAT CHARACTER MAKE US CHAMPIONS!

CLINIC TO LEARN THE TRYOUT ROUTINE
TUESDAY AUGUST 25TH
UNTIL 4:30 PM
PICKUP IN THE BUS LOOP

TRYOUT DAY
THURSDAY AUGUST 27TH
UNTIL 4:30 PM
PICKUP IN THE BUS LOOP

STUDENTS SHOULD PLAN TO ATTEND BOTH DAYS.

CHEER TEAM WILL CHEER AT ALL BASKETBALL GAMES!

BOTH FORMS ARE MANDATORY TO ATTEND TRYOUTS. PERMISSION SLIP AND WAIVER ARE DUE BACK SIGNED BY AUGUST 24TH! NO EXCEPTIONS.

A PHYSICAL WILL BE REQUIRED IF YOU MAKE THE TEAM.

A MANDATORY PARENT MEETING WILL BE HELD IF YOUR STUDENT MAKES THE TEAM.

WHAT TO BRING
WEAR SNEAKERS & ATHLETIC SHORTS
BRING A WATER BOTTLE
BRING A SNACK IF YOU WANT ONE!

BE PROUD. BE A MANATEE. BE A CHAMPION!

OTIS A. MASON BASKETBALL TRYOUTS!

GIRLS & BOYS

COMPETITIVE TEAMS
COMMITMENT, TEAMWORK, HEART, AND GREAT CHARACTER MAKE CHAMPIONS!

GIRLS BASKETBALL TRYOUTS
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26TH
UNTIL 3:00 PM
PICK UP AT THE BASKETBALL COURT

BOYS BASKETBALL TRYOUTS
THURSDAY AUGUST 27TH
UNTIL 4:00 PM
PICK UP AT THE BASKETBALL COURT

WAIVER AND PERMISSION SLIP FORMS ARE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN TRYOUTS. BOTH ARE DUE BACK SIGNED BY AUGUST 24TH. NO EXCEPTIONS.
NO FORMS = NO TRYOUT.

IF YOU MAKE THE TEAM:

- A physical (FHSAA form) will be required to participate.
- There will be a mandatory parent meeting for students who make the team.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING:

- ATHLETIC SHORTS
- ATHLETIC SHOES
- WATER BOTTLE
- SNACK IF YOU WANT ONE!

BE LOUD. BE PROUD. BE A MANATEE!

OMES Parking Lots

Hello Mason families,

We kindly ask that you utilize all available parking spaces prior to parking on our grass. We understand that during some events, additional parking will be needed in the field or in grassy areas. We will direct you in such cases. On a typical school day, we ask that families and staff utilize both available parking lots. This is for both safety reasons and to keep our campus beautiful. We appreciate your support.



Your Voice Matters: Join us at SAC



Thank you, Community Partners!

Otis A. Mason Elementary
Thanks to all of our Supporters!
Block Party, 2026-2027



Education Acronyms: A Glossary

Do you ever get communications from our school and a teacher and wonder, what does THAT stand for? Well, I am here to help! See below for a guide on our various educational abbreviations.

RTI: Response to Intervention Additional support for academics and/or behavior in the classroom. Students with an RTI plan will receive additional support.

MTSS: Multi-Tiered System of Support Most RTI plans consist of an MTSS approach. In other words, extra support inside the classroom, outside the classroom, and potentially at other times of day.

PTO: Parent-Teacher Organization A group of volunteers who bridge the home to school connection. Join this group of extraordinary education supporters!

SAC: Student Advisory Committee Another group of parent and teacher volunteers to assist us with school improvement.

ESE: Exceptional Student Education Exceptional Student programs include but are not limited to: language, vision, hearing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, gifted, hospital homebound, Sensory, and many others. We support **every child, every need.**

IEP: Individualized Education Program An IEP is a legal document designed to meet your child's unique educational needs. If you think your child may need additional support, please speak to your pediatrician about an evaluation. An IEP is written based on evaluated need.

504: This plan is named for section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. A 504 plan gives students extra support in the classroom when needed. Please speak to your guidance counselor if you feel that your student may need additional support in the classroom for anxiety or other social-emotional needs not in an IEP. Our Guidance team can assist with 504 plans for students.

PPU: Parent Pick Up is just an often-abbreviated way of saying a child will be a car rider in the afternoons.

ILC: Instructional Literacy Coach Our instructional coach this year is Mrs. Hunting. She assists and supports our teachers with specialized knowledge in their given fields.

AP: Assistant Principal Our assistant principals this year are Mrs. Hudson and Mrs. Dailey. They assist Mrs. Keaton, our principal, with the running of our school.