



OMES at-a-Glance



News for Otis A. Mason Families September 2026

207 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086
(904) 547-8440 – main
(904) 547-8445 – fax

Mrs. Monique Keaton, Principal
Mrs. Julie Hudson, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Elizabeth Dailey, Assistant Principal

Building School Safety with SRO Deputy Gomez



August SJCSO Student of the Month Edith Teasley with
OMES SRO Deputy Gomez

Our School Resource Officer, Deputy Gomez, is here to support our us with safety drills and protocols. Each month he will award a student leader as the SJCSO Student of the Month. Do you have a safety need or concern? Please call and speak to our school resource officer at 904-547-8440. Be sure to wave and say 'hello' to Deputy Gomez as you arrive in the morning! We ask that YOU prioritize safety as much as we do.

- Please obey traffic signs and rules
- Refrain from cell phone use while driving/on campus
- Always act in a civil manner while on campus
- If you see something, say something! Please download the **Fortify FL app** and report suspicious activity.
- Always have your photo ID when checking out a student or signing in as a visitor to our campus
- EVERY adult that enters our campus needs a background check. [Apply here or on our website.](#)

Family Conversation Starters: Safety

- How do you know if someone is a "safe adult"?
- Practice scenarios: what would you do if....?
- Who would you call if you needed help?
- What personal information should and should not be shared online?

Building Character: Fairness



Character education starts with YOU!

At Otis A. Mason Elementary School, we believe that every parent, student, teacher, and member of our community should **strive to be FAIR. How can we do that TOGETHER?**

- **Introduction:** 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.
- **Play by the rules:** Teach your child the value and importance of rules and procedures. Guide them through examples when playing organized sports, or during game night at home.

Be a good example for your child as they watch you follow rules and procedures at school, at the doctor's office, in the grocery store, or on the road. How do rules and procedures keep us safe? If you disagree with a rule or procedure, what is the proper way to go about change?

- **Be open-minded and listen to others:** Show your child the benefit of listening and accepting others. The importance of getting to know someone before making judgements is SO important. Let us model fair and welcoming attitudes for our children.

The Character Counts! program is taught to students during their school day. Please check out the curriculum, themes, and activities online at: <https://ccstjohns.com/> In addition, you are welcome to use these resources, gathered by our School Counseling team on our OMES website.



Frequently Asked Questions:

May I call into the classroom to speak to my teacher/child?
Our teachers are hard at work with our children in the classroom. Unfortunately, you cannot speak to your child or the child's teacher during the school day unless you have an appointment. If there is an emergency, please call the Front Office at 904-547-8440. You may email your child's teacher or use Parent Square.

What do I do if I miss a call from the school?

Please listen to the voicemail *before* you call the school back. We will need to know WHO called you to get you connected.

May I email the teacher excuses and dismissal changes?

No. Please send electronic absence notes through Parent Square and dismissal changes online using our [Dismissal Change Form](#). Please use our dismissal change form to inform all staff of your child's dismissal. This is especially important if there is a guest teacher in your child's classroom that day. Paper copies of excuse notes will be accepted and can be sent in your child's communication folder to the teacher.

May I text/call my child on their cell during the school day?

Per the electronic device policy of the St. Johns County School District: *All electronic devices should be off and away throughout the school day.* Please do not contact your child on a cell phone throughout the school day. If you have an emergency and need to reach your child, please call the Front Office at 904-547-8440.

May I have lunch in the Café with my child?

Lunching with students in the café is not currently available. We are offering lunch in the café by invitation only for students who receive Character Counts awards. If you would like to volunteer in the classroom, please contact your child's teacher. If you would like to check out your child from school, please let your child's teacher know in advance and provide an excuse note upon your child's return.

May I bring dessert into class for my child's birthday?

Bringing snacks and desserts, while appreciated, is not required. If you would like to bring something for the class, please arrange it with your child's teacher first. Food items are served during lunch or recess to minimize mess and prioritize educational time in the classroom. Due to dietary concerns, please only bring store-bought items with ingredients and nutrition facts included. Reach out to your child's teacher to inquire about this prior to purchasing items. District policy now requires three weeks of advanced notice and permission slips to be sent to families for all class snacks.

Where do I go if my child lost something?

Students should check lost and found in the café daily (they walk by it to go to and from lunch every day). If your child's name is on it, we will return it to your child promptly. With that said, please label all of your child's belongings: lunch boxes, water bottles, backpacks, jackets, etc.

My child forgot something at home, what do I do?

Please know that water and food is available to your child free of charge throughout the school day. We cannot guarantee to get items dropped off to your child in a timely fashion (we do our best!) and we *do not* interrupt instructional time for non-necessities. Examples of necessities include eyeglasses, clean clothing, and medication. Forgotten items provide a great lesson in responsibility!

Building a Kind Community:



FUNDRAISING THROUGH
KINDNESS
RAISE CRAZE™



Show Gratitude for Donations by Giving Back to Others!

GOAL: \$20,000

DATES: August 28 - September 18

WELCOME OTIS A. MASON ELEMENTARY PARENTS!

- 1 Register & create your student's donation page! Additional siblings can be added
- 2 Help your child select 3-5 Acts of Kindness (AOK) to complete for others. Yay KINDNESS!
- 3 Invite friends & family to donate and start spreading kindness!

WHAT IS RAISE CRAZE?

Raise Craze is an online platform enabling parents to set up secure, custom websites where they request donations via email, text, and social. Emails will never be shared or used for marketing. During the fundraiser, students pay it forward by completing Acts of Kindness for others... a great way to learn the value of gratitude. Spend time serving, not selling!

OUR GOAL IS \$20,000 FOR...

- Every strong structure needs a rock-solid foundation. This fundraiser equips our teachers and students with new computers and software licensing while providing wellness resources and extra classroom supplies to ensure school wide success!
- Growth: Support our resource teams, teachers and admin to foster teamwork and creativity beyond the classroom.
- Enhance Spaces: Continue to improve facilities, ensuring a safe and comfortable school experience for both our students and teachers.

REGISTER: raisecraze.com/join **CODE:** 566 - 435

Questions? Contact Kim Edwards | otismasonpto@gmail.com



IT'S TIME TO PLAY KINDNESS BINGO!



LOG 3 AOK	SEND 5 EMAILS	RAISE \$50
RECEIVE 2 DONATIONS	REGISTER & LOG 1 AOK	LOG 10 AOK
SEND 10 EMAILS	LOG 5 AOK	RAISE \$100

PRIZE LIST CENTER SQUARE

Surprise Sticker

3-IN-A-ROW (Up to 2 rows, any direction)
Micro Duck Mystery Bag

FULL CARD
Squish Dumpling

★ DON'T FORGET!
To receive your prize, be sure to log your Acts of Kindness (AOK) on your Dashboard!



STUDENT AWARDS

- Kindness On The Spot
Teachers and staff will be handing out Kindness Coins when they notice a student's kindness on display. Woohoo!

CLASSROOM AWARDS

- 50 AOK per Class
Wear PJ's + Comfy Clothes
- \$1,000 Raised per Class
Board Game Day!
- Top AOK Class
Movie Day + \$25 Gift Card for Teacher!
- Top Dollar Class Overall
Movie Day + \$25 Gift Card for Teacher!

► Be on the lookout for our Traveling Trophy!!

GRAND FINALE

- If We Reach Our Goal of \$20,000...
We'll Celebrate with a Surprise from Mrs. Keaton!

REGISTER: raisecraze.com/join **CODE:** 566 - 435

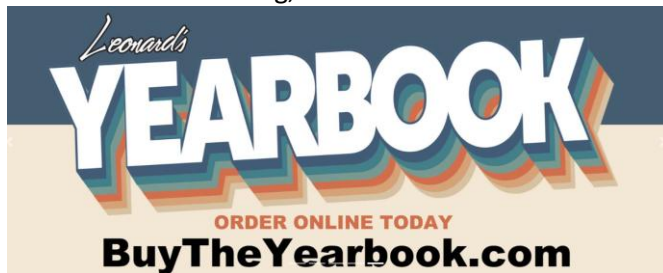
Register now and join the kindness revolution!

Leonard's: Picture Day is September 29th Volunteers Needed!

Leonard's photography is our provider for yearbooks, class photos, and individual pictures. Please contact them directly for ordering and questions. We suggest pre-ordering your yearbook now. The earlier you purchase a yearbook, the lower the price! Yearbook prices will go up as the year goes on. Secure your copy at the lowest price today!

Our first picture day, Fall Individual pictures, will be Tuesday, September 29th. Please refrain from scheduling appointments on that day if you would like your child photographed. Make-up picture day will be November 10th.

Please order online and help your child prepare with a special outfit! **Volunteers needed:** Want to help make Picture Day special? We could use your help with lining up students, fixing collars, checking hair, and encouraging those big, beautiful smiles!



Guidance Update: Child Safety Matters Instruction Begins in October

Please be aware that K-5 required instruction (**Rule 6A-1.094124, F.A.C.**) will begin in October. Please visit the links below for more information regarding the developmentally and age-appropriate curriculum, Child Safety Matters. Students will be provided with handouts to take home and share with you. We encourage you to talk with your child about what they've learned and continue the discussion. Please contact guidance with any questions or concerns. Thank you so much.

[Required Instruction for Grades K-5: Click here!](#)

[Child Safety Matters Website](#)

The MBF 5 Safety Rules® Motions




MONIQUE BURR
FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN
PREVENTION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Building Citizenship at OMES

How will your family celebrate these important days?

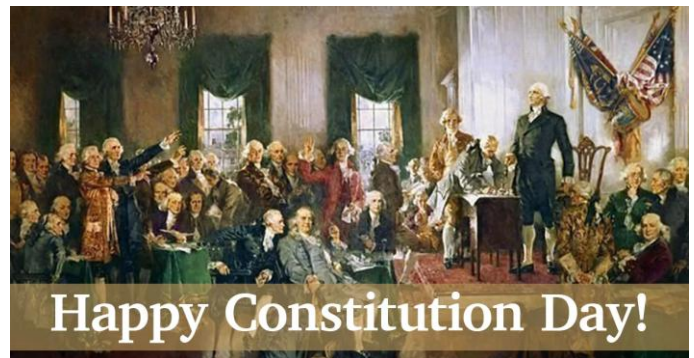


Heroes' day on September 11: Our school participates in the National Moment of Silence at 8:46am to recognize and honor those whose lives were lost on September 11, 2001. We hope you will support our efforts to teach your child about that day by speaking with them in an age-appropriate way.

Here are some resources to help your family navigate this difficult topic:

- [Common Sense Media](#): A guide for finding age-appropriate media resources
- [Nat Geo Kids](#): Photographs and overview
- [9/11 Memorial & Museum Activities at home](#): Meaningful arts and crafts that bring meaning to this important day
- Kids Discover: [Remembering 9/11 Overview](#)

Constitution Day on September 17: We celebrate Constitution Day here at school! This day commemorates the signing of our Constitution on September 17, 1787. Check out the [National Archives free resources on Constitution Day](#). Why is the Constitution important? Why is the Constitution important to your family?



Celebrate Freedom Week is September 21st-25th: This year Celebrate Freedom Week will focus on the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence. Check out the SJCS D website for more resources:

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ss/cdcfw/>

OMES Calendar

September: The pillar of FAIRNESS

September: Raise Craze-Fundraising through Kindness

Sept 7: Labor Day-No School

Sept 9: Interims

Sept 10: SAC Meeting at 3:15pm in the Media Center

Sept 11: Patriot's Day

Sept 15: IT Appreciation Day: Thank you, Mr. Troy!

Sept 17: Consitution Day; PTO Meeting @ 3:30pm in the Media Center

Sept 21-25: Celebrate Freedom Week

Sept 22: Spirit Night @ Chipotle 4-8pm

Sept 25: Teacher Planning Day-No classes!

Sept 29: Fall Individual Pictures with Leonard's

*These dates and so many more on our website!



Attendance Matters: Every student. Every Day. All Day.

Did you know that regular school attendance is one of the strongest and most direct predictors of academic achievement, test scores, and graduation rates? We know that appointments, emergencies, and sicknesses arise throughout the school year. These things are understandable and we are happy to support your family through those difficult times. We kindly ask that you do your best to schedule vacations, visits, appointments, and trips during regularly-scheduled school breaks. If missing school is unavoidable, please reach out to your child's teacher *in advance* regarding missed work and utilize Clever to access school resources at home.

YOU are an Integral Part of Building Your Child's Educational Success

OMES is a Title I school and **community involvement means everything to us**. We firmly believe that a complete commitment by both the home and the school are essential for the success of every child. Here is how you can get involved:

- [What is a Title I School?](#)
- What is the [Parents Right to Know?](#)
- What is the [School-Parent Compact?](#)
- [How can I join SAC](#) (a community-input organization)?
- [How can I join PTO](#) (a community partnership group)?

What is our commitment to you? Not only are we committed to providing a quality education to every child, we are also committed to serving EVERY CHILD and EVERY LEARNING NEED. We believe every child deserves to be accepted and challenged to be their very best.

- [Breakfast and Lunch](#) provided FREE
- [Transportation](#) provided FREE
- 24/7 Access to [Curriculum and Resources](#)
- [Counseling and Behavior](#) Support
- [Character Counts!](#) Education
- Partnership with the [St. Johns County Sheriff's Office](#)

Please come to school events with your child and communicate with your child's teacher regularly. Even creating a simple routine helps children tremendously with their education.

What is an Intake Conference?

An "intake conference" is a **parent-teacher conference** that takes place during the month of October. Your child's teacher will be reaching out to you to schedule your conference. This conference is an INCREDIBLE opportunity to work with your child's teacher. **Discuss your child's strengths, goals, struggles, concerns, and needs.** Please share openly and honestly with your child's teacher **what you are seeing at home** and allow the teacher the same opportunity to **share what they are seeing in the classroom**. Teachers will have collected data for you to discuss regarding your child's academic needs. Remember, we must work together to build the brighter possible future for your child. *Research shows that family involvement in school-based learning activities is correlated with improved student outcomes in multiple facets.* The home-school partnership leads to better understanding and improve the student's learning situation (improved results in motivation, self-regulation, positive attitude and student learning and achievement). *

*Education Hub, Dr. Vicki Hargraves

Intake conferences will take place throughout September and October. We can't wait to speak with you regarding your amazing and unique child.

Extracurricular Activities

At Otis A. Mason Elementary School, we want students to be involved. We encourage you to check out the various clubs and activities that we have to offer throughout the year. Clubs and activities going on now:

- **Boys Basketball:** Come and cheer on the Manatee Boys at 6:30pm. (see game schedule below)
- **Girls Basketball:** Our Manatee Girls would love to see you at their games, starting at 5:30pm.
- **Cheerleading:** Cheerleaders will bring on the school spirit at all basketball games this season (see game schedule below)

Date	Game Details	Game Schedule	Location
9/22	Webster vs. Otis Mason		Gamble Rodgers Middle School
9/29	Osceola vs. Otis Mason		RJ Murray Middle School
10/8	Otis Mason vs. Southwoods		Gamble Rodgers Middle School
10/13	Crookshank vs. Otis Mason		Gamble Rodgers Middle School
10/20	Otis Mason vs. Webster		RJ Murray Middle School
10/27	Otis Mason vs. Hartley		Gamble Rodgers Middle School
11/15	Tournament/Competition*		TBA

Now enrolling:

- **Backyard Rule** practices on Tuesdays after school. They help grow baseball skills with wiffle ball safety. Enroll online at BackyardRule.com.
- The **Gift of Dance** practices on Tuesdays after school. It is perfect for dances who want to learn basic dance moves in ballet and jazz. Enroll online at GiftofDance.net.
- **Soccer Shots** meet on Mondays after school and builds soccer skills in a fun and welcoming environment. Please register online at SoccerShots.com.
- **Chorus** is now accepting enrollment! Chorus will meet on Tuesdays after school in the Music Room with Mr. Cox. Forms are in the Front Office and on our website. Completed forms are due by Wednesday 9/9.
- **Girl Scouts** will begin at the end of September. Check out the Girl Scouts website to see if Girl Scouts is right for you: GSGateway.org. **Scouting America** (previously known as Boy Scouts) will be on campus this October to recruit.

Many more clubs are coming soon. List can be found on our website.

What are you reading, Mason?

Reading means EVERYTHING to us at Otis A. Mason Elementary School! We want YOU to join us in a discovery and love of reading. Check out this year's Sunshine State books (pictured below). We encourage every family to stop by the public library to pick up your FREE library card. See what the SJCPHS has to offer (sjcpls.org): free classes, free book check-outs, free movie rentals, free audiobooks, and free streaming. Talk to your child's teacher, or one of our media specialists, for book recommendations that fit your child's ZPD (found on AR) and interests.

