



The Manatee Memo

News for Mason Families

April 6, 2020

207 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086
(904) 547-8440 – main
(904) 547-8445 – fax
www.mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Dr. Nigel D. Pillay, Principal
Nigel.Pillay@stjohns.k12.fl.us
Mrs. Jill Hillier, Assistant Principal
Jill.Hillier@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Dear Mason Families,

Thank you for embracing distance learning and overseeing virtual instruction for your child(ren) while also balancing your family's every day needs. You are doing a phenomenal job of keeping up with all of it, and we are grateful for your partnership in continuing your child(ren)'s education during this unprecedented time. The teachers and staff at Mason are here to support you. If we can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are in this together! There are some instructions on how to access online textbooks as well as iReady at the end of this newsletter. We hope that helps!

All scheduled field studies, group performances and events for the remainder of the year have been cancelled. Distance learning will continue through May 1st. Students and teachers are anticipated to return to campus on May 4, 2020. If anything changes with these dates, our district will be sure to let you know.

We miss our Manatees dearly and being in the school without them all is very strange. Being apart is only temporary. The most important thing is that everyone is healthy and safe.

Thank you for the grace and patience you have shown our teachers. They are a remarkable crew that has worked tirelessly to learn new platforms and convert their classrooms to a digital environment in a short amount of time. We are fortunate to have such an amazing staff that will do anything for our students and families.

If we may be of service to you in any way, please let us know. We are here for you.

All the best,

Dr. Nigel D. Pillay & Mrs. Jill Hillier
Principal Assistant Principal

Technology Distribution

The first two technology request surveys have closed and computers have been provided to those families. If you did not complete a survey and are in need of a computer, please contact the school directly. Please call (904)-547-8440.

Hotspots have not arrived in our district yet. We are hoping they will be here soon. We will contact families in need of a hotspot as soon as they are available. Thank you for your patience!



Grab and Go Meals

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumers Services and USDA have approved meal service during the time of unanticipated school closures. This program focuses on areas of eligibility based on economic need. For meal service locations, please refer to the website, www.summerbreakspot.org.



No School/No Distance Learning

Friday, April 10th and Monday, April 13th

ENJOY THE BREAK!

Announcements

We are here! –

Although our school campus is closed for students, parents and the community, we still have staff in the building and are operating during our normal business hours (7:30AM to 3:30PM daily). Please call us if you have questions or need any kind of assistance.

Schoology –

Please visit these sites for more information on Schoology, the online platform we will use for conferencing and virtual instruction. Please use Google Chrome for Schoology.

[Click here for the SJCS D Schoology for Parents site](https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/edtech/schoology/schoology-for-parents/) or cut and paste this link into your browser:
<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/edtech/schoology/schoology-for-parents/>

[Click here for the SJCS D Schoology for Students site](https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/edtech/schoology/schoology-for-students/) or cut and paste this link into your browser:
<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/edtech/schoology/schoology-for-students/>

You will need your student's ID number and unique password to log him/her into Schoology. If you do not have this information, please contact your child's teacher or call the school at (904) 547-8440.

To access a conference in Schoology on a computer:

1. Log into Schoology (s#####@stjohns.k12.fl.us & animalnumber password)
2. Select your course
3. Click "Conference" on the left side
4. Click the name of the Conference. Your teacher must start the conference for students to be able to join.
5. Join the conference with Microphone or Listen Only (Depending on how your teacher directs you)
6. Allow the microphone access and complete the echo test.

You are now in a conference with your teacher.

To access a conference in Schoology on a tablet:

Even though there is an app for Schoology, the app does not allow students to join a conference. Instead, students using a mobile device such as an iPad, should use the web browser on their device to access Schoology like they do from a computer.

Please visit <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/contact/schoology/> and complete the form if you need assistance with Schoology.

Mason PTO

Please Like and Follow us on Facebook  at **Otis Mason Elementary PTO.**

We are posting updates and fun pictures from our faculty at OMES on our FB page. We'd love to hear from you!

Counselor's Corner

Hello Mason students and families,

I hope you and your family are well and staying healthy during this time of school closure. Like your child's teacher, I miss our students! Seeing hundreds of smiling faces every day is the highlight of my job. As a parent myself, I understand that this is a difficult time for all of us and so many questions are out there, many with questions that there are no answers for. I am encouraging you to take care of yourselves, your families, and do the best that you can as you enter the world of educating at home.

While we transition to online/distance learning for the next couple of weeks, I want you to remember that I am here to support you and your family the best I can. During this time, I will be providing families with some resources. The resources will vary in topics and are age appropriate. These are available to parents through Schoology.

For check-ins and online counseling chats, I will be available through Schoology conferences during the following times: 12-3:00pm.

You can email me with the date and times that work for you. These will be 15-minute chats.

The following are ways you can contact me:

Email: Kathryn.Hamill@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Google Voice Phone: 904-438-8497

School Phone: 904-547-8437 (I can access messages on my computer)

Schoology: Please call or email me for the access code to join the Schoology group.

While in your student's Schoology account, click on "Groups", "My Groups" then "Join Group" and enter my access code. I will be posting some lessons and can conference with you. Just like you, I am learning and we will take this one day at a time!

It is important to continue building your child's emotional health and help keep your child focused on some good and positive things in life.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if your child needs help or support during this time. As a School Counselor, I care about your child's well-being and know that I am here to help in any way I can.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hamill

School Counselor, Otis Mason Elementary School

Staff Support –

In addition to your child's teacher these staff members are ready and willing to help you with anything that you need.

Ms. Kathy Hamill, School Counselor	Kathryn.Hamill@stjohns.k12.fl.us	904-438-8497
Ms. Jill Hillier, Assistant Principal	Jill.Hillier@stjohns.k12.fl.us	904-547-8443
Ms. Jenna Miller, Behavior Interventionist	Jenna.Miller@stjohns.k12.fl.us	
Dr. Nigel Pillay, Principal	Nigel.Pillay@stjohns.k12.fl.us	904-547-8440
Ms. Annie Raynor, Math Coach/Interventionist	AnneMarie.Raynor@stjohns.k12.fl.us	904-450-5047
Ms. Angela Rumrell, Academic Interventionist	Angela.Rumrell@stjohns.k12.fl.us	
Ms. Tiffany Turner, Instructional Literacy Coach	Tiffany.Turner@stjohns.k12.fl.us	

Conscious Discipline –

As you may know, this year our school has started the exciting journey of implementing a daily social emotional learning program called Conscious Discipline. School wide, students and staff have been working to create a safe environment where everyone is encouraged to build relationships and develop problem solving skills. Teachers have created their own unique ways of greeting students at the door, assigning student jobs in the classroom, and creating a quiet space for students to take a breath and calm down when needed. Most importantly, each class has established a daily meeting time to review expectations for the day, update any schedule changes and build their classroom community. Although we have moved to digital learning, your child(ren)'s teacher(s) are continuing to use conscious discipline throughout the week.

The Conscious Discipline website is always a great resource for parents, family and children but they have created an addition to the site for the changing times during the Covid-19 outbreak. I encourage you to talk to your child(ren) about classroom activities or breathing exercises they have learned. Click [here](#) or go to consciousdiscipline.com for more information and resources for parents and kids.

As always, you can reach out to me with questions or concerns and I will be happy to help!

Jenna Miller

OMES Behavior Interventionist
Jenna.Miller@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Home Access Center (HAC) –

Home Access Center (HAC) allows students and parents/guardians to view their child's educational information such as grades, test scores, bus route information, etc. via a secure, password protected website. Please visit <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/> to learn more about HAC.

Report cards for the third nine weeks are currently available on HAC.

SchoolMessenger -

This system allows schools and District staff to quickly and efficiently communicate both general and emergency messages to parents/guardians and staff using email, text and voice mail. Parents and staff who wish to receive text messages from this system must (1) Opt-in from their mobile device and (2) have their mobile number on file with their child's school (for parents/guardians) or on file with Employee Online (for staff/employees). Please visit <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolmessenger/> for more information.

IEP (Individualized Education Plan) & EP (Education Plan) Meetings –

Annual review IEP and EP meetings will continue as scheduled, however, we will do so via **phone or virtual conference. No face-to-face meetings will be held from now until May 1st.** Please reach out to your student's ESE teacher/service provider as well as Mrs. Hillier if you need to reschedule.

Accessing Online Textbooks

Step 1: Navigate to our school's website (www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us)

Step 2: Click on "Online Textbooks"

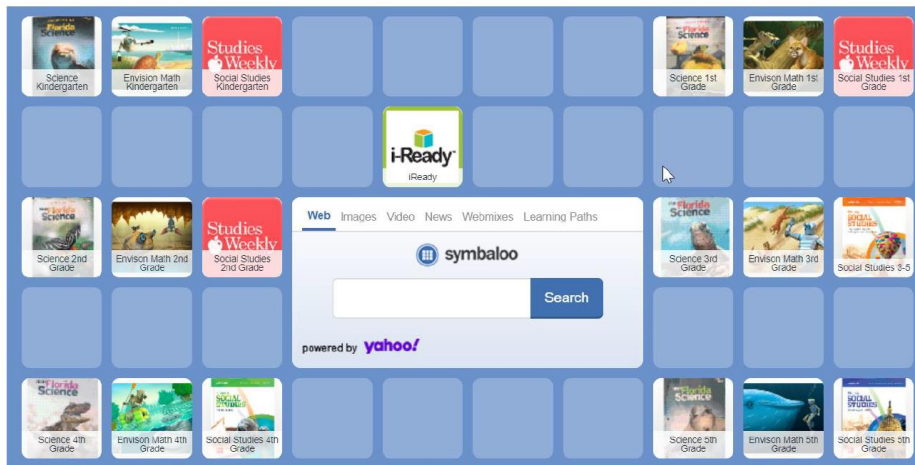


Step 3: Click Elementary K-5
District Online Textbooks



Step 4: Click on the online text you need to access.

District Online Textbooks (K-5)



Step 5: Enter your child's login information.

Username: s#####

Password: (animal and number)

*Please contact your child's teacher or call the school at (904) 547-8440 if you need assistance with your student's username and password.

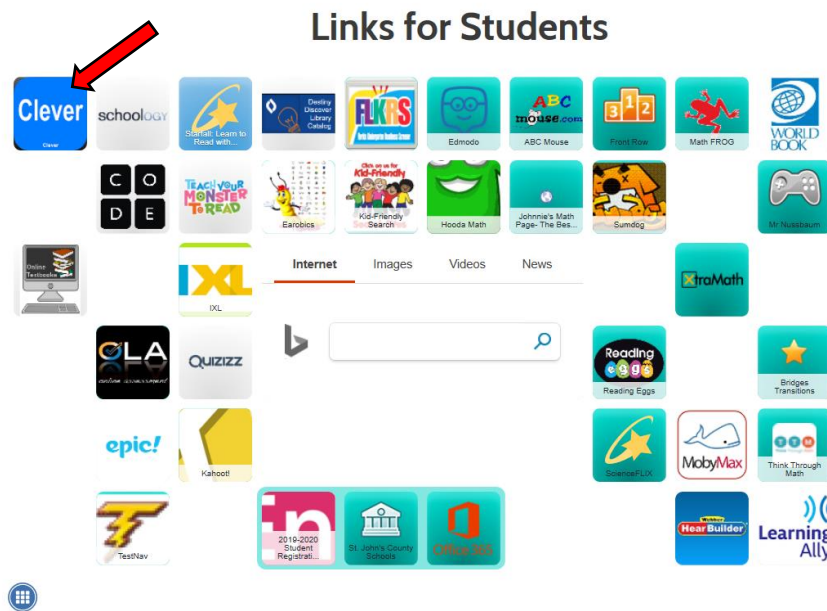
Directions for Logging into iReady

Step 1: Navigate to our school's website (www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us)

Step 2: Click on "Links for Students"



Step 3: Click on "Clever"



Step 4: Click on "Log in with Active Directory" or click to scan your child's Clever badge (if you have it). Enter the student's login information.

*Same information to log into Schoology

Username: s#####

Password: (animal and number)

St. Johns County School District

[Not your district?](#)

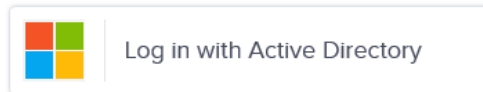
Hints for logging in with Active Directory

Username hint:

Active Directory (Network Login) user ID

Password hint:

Active Directory (Network Login) password



Having trouble? [Get help logging in!](#)



Step 5: Click on



i-Ready

and choose your subject.

Don't forget to LOG OUT.

*Please contact your child's teacher or call the school at (904) 547-8440 if you need assistance with your student's username and password.