

Sebastian Sentinel



Principal's Message

Dear Eagle Families,

As we head into a new year, we continue to focus on our core values as a school. We believe that students deserve an exciting world of inquiry, problem solving and creativity in their learning. This may look slightly different for each student as we encourage them to delve into varied interests and pursue their strengths. In addition to our wonderful STEM program, our visual and performing Arts classes continue to grow and strengthen and we are excited to see our student production of "The Witches Princess" this semester.

Soon, it will be time to select classes for next school year. As you discuss the options with your child remember balance is important. There are a myriad of options available in academics for our students to push themselves in areas of strength. If you have any questions about options, please contact your student's guidance counselor. They have a wealth of information and experience to help guide decisions. Mr. Tagliarini is the counselor for 6th grade and 7th Grade A-L, Ms. Fortune is the counselor for 7th grade M-Z and 8th Grade. They can be reached at Darren.tagliarini@stjohns.k12.fl.us and Leanne.fortune@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Please be sure to read the weekly emails from the school as they will continue to provide important information regarding registering for classes here and at the high schools for our rising 9th graders.

All that remains is for me to wish you, and those you love, a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Kirstie Gabaldon, Principal.

If you aren't on our mailing list, please check out Ms. Gabaldon's weekly updates by clicking on the Principal's Message on the Sebastian Website.



Sebastian Middle School

2955 Lewis Speedway
St. Augustine, FL 32084

904-547-3840

Kirstie Gabaldon

Principal

Jennifer Gamble

Assistant Principal

Kevin Hayes

Dean

Recia Smith

Instructional Literacy Coach

Vision

At Sebastian Middle School, all students will achieve personal success in their learning and become responsible and productive citizens.

Mission

In order to prepare our students to live in and contribute to a changing world, Sebastian will provide a balanced, varied school curriculum designed to meet the academic, cultural and social needs of individuals from the diverse backgrounds of our community.

JANUARY 2022

Volume 6

Issue 1

Sebastian Sentinel

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St. Augustine, FL 32084

Issue 1

*Please watch for our next newsletter in March 2022, and bi-weekly electronic news updates.

Sebastian Middle School Website

The SMS website has up to date information that is important to stay informed about all activities at Sebastian.

It can be found at:
www-sms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/



HAC



Calendar



Payments

Search this website



Media Center

Please see our website for more information on how we will celebrate Literacy week! Or click [here](#).



Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!

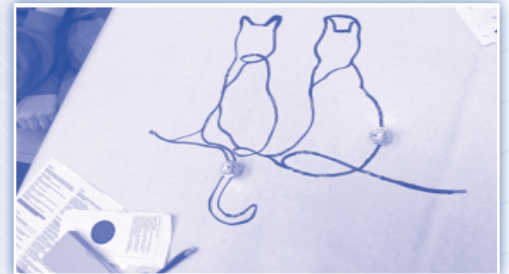
January 24-28, 2022

District: St. Johns

Sebastian Middle School

Ms. Hagy's and Ms. King's 8th grade art classes helped develop the promotional videos for MakerSpace in the Media Center. Students documented how to create several projects. The MakerSpace is open to students during lunch. Students can pick up a pass in the morning and come after they have eaten their lunch. Projects cost between 10- 25 PBIS points.

The Art of Ozobots: Art collaborated again with the Media Center. Ms. Hagy's and Ms. King's first year art students learned about coding and applied what they learned about elements of design with Ozobots. Ozobots are tiny robots that read colors to perform a variety of actions. They are on loan from Instructional Resources and can be borrowed on a monthly basis. Students created collaborative pieces that the Ozobots travelled across.



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Holiday Concert

In December, we celebrated the season with our Holiday Concert. It was a huge success for both the orchestra and band. To see a clip of the performance, visit our website. <https://www-sms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/music/>



Art Corner

Gingerbread Houses

Thanks to everyone for being so generous and donating all the items we needed to put together our Gingerbread Houses. The students really enjoyed this project! We had more supplies than we needed – so we were able to make a donation to the local food pantry with the leftover items. They were thrilled to receive them - as candy canes, frosting and graham crackers aren't usually what people donate!



continued on page 4

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GO EAGLES!



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National Junior Honor Society

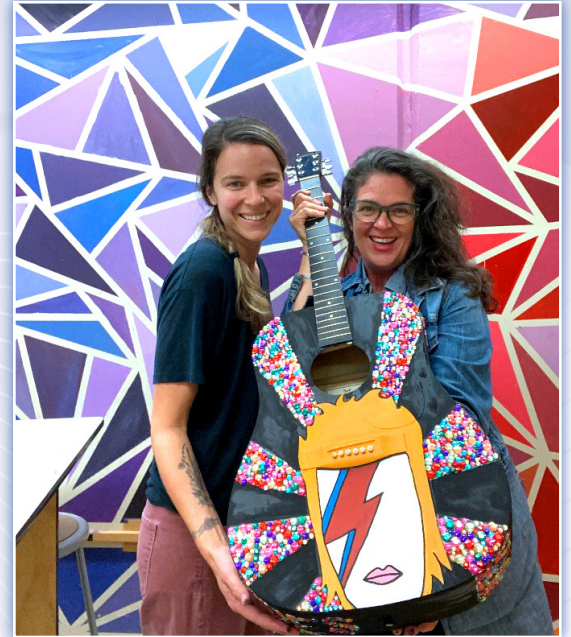
We are so proud of our National Junior Honor Society students who did a great job running a collection for Toys for Tots. These outstanding students showed great character and compassion. Thank you to the NJHS sponsor Ms. Horton. Also thanks to all the parents, students and teachers who contributed to our 3 huge bins of toys!



Art Corner... continued

Best Buddies Program

8th Grader, Lani Rae Decker, along with Ms. King and Ms. Hagy, painted guitars for the District's Best Buddies Program Fundraiser. Our guitar sold for \$100. The Best Buddies Program Mission Statement: Best Buddies International is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).



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Doodlebots
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Computer Science

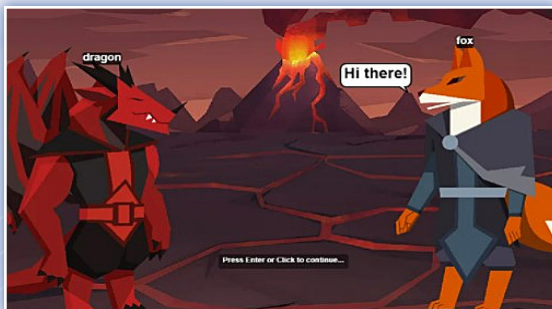
Here's what's happening in SMS Computer Science Classes:

During the second quarter, students in CS Discoveries & ICT 3 have been working on their coding skills using Ozaria.com. They have learned to write a story using the computer language called Python. To set the stage for their story, students first developed a game in chapter 1.

Students practiced problem solving, sequences, loops, syntax, & debugging. At the end of chapter 1, students created an interactive game to demonstrate mastery of algorithms, debugging, objects, methods, and loops.

In chapter 2, students have been working on algorithms, debugging logic errors, variables, & conditionals. Students then use variables and conditionals to build an interactive story with characters and dialogue. Key concepts covered in both chapters:

- Sequences & Algorithms
- Syntax
- Debugging
- Variables
- Boolean Logic
- Conditionals



The following are links to some of the student stories from chapter 2. Please have fun reading their stories.

The Autograph

www.ozaria.com/play/game-dev-level/1upcapstone/61bb823c62afca0024e319e3

Going to Walmart.

www.ozaria.com/play/game-dev-level/1upcapstone/619babd71f76a4002497d22b

I miss our monkey ship.

www.ozaria.com/play/game-dev-level/1upcapstone/61bb81c5bb1ba60026697dee

My parents were kidnapped.

www.ozaria.com/play/game-dev-level/1upcapstone/61b9f3256c867300242079a1

Starting in January, students will be preparing to complete another Capstone Project called "The Phoenix Lands." The goal will be to create an obstacle course that changes based on the player's performance. New concepts to be covered include Data Types, Iteration and Nesting.

As students continue their studies in high school, they will be able to share with their guidance counselors what computer language they have utilized here at Sebastian, and then be able to continue with more advanced computer programming classes. The career opportunities after high school are unlimited in the computer science fields in our St. Augustine community.

SMS Basketball

Congratulations to the boys' and girls' basketball players who made the team. Everyone that tried out worked hard and gave great effort. We also want to welcome our new coaches! Coach Hof is leading the boys' team this season and Coach Robinson in leading the girls' team. We are looking forward to a great season. Please go to the Sebastian website to find our schedule and come out and root for our Sebastian Eagles!

(All tickets must be bought in advance of arriving at the gym.)

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New Teachers



6th Grade Science - Mr. Alex Kassay

I grew up in St. James, NY. During those years, I was very involved in music as a trumpet player and singer. After attending three years of college as a music major, I made a change and pursued a degree in education. After college, I moved to Maryland where I taught elementary and middle school for 15 years. Taking a break from teaching, we moved to West Virginia and I worked as an electrician in some steel mills. After twelve years, I decided it was time to get back to what I truly enjoyed doing. So, the Kassays hit the reset button, moved to St. Augustine and I took a teaching position in a 5th grade classroom in Duval County. This position eventually let me to Sebastian Middle School where I am currently teaching 6th grade science.

When not teaching, I like to spend my time being a husband and a father of three sons, ages 17, 15, and 14. I also love playing with my dog, Gidget, and spending time outside when the weather isn't too hot. While still being involved in music, today's sounds mostly come from my bluegrass banjo (that I am just learning to play).

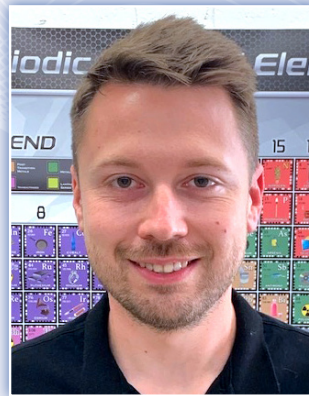


Math Support - Ms. Amanda Barnes

My husband, two daughter, two cats, our dog and I made Florida our home in 2020. Before settling down in Florida, we lived in seven states as my husband's job moved us all over the country. I love to travel and I have been to 36 states so far, my goal is to make it to all fifty states.

The state I have spent the most time in is Illinois. I grew up in a small farm town in Illinois. Every year we celebrate Illinois' largest crop, corn, during Corn Festival. It is my favorite time to visit my home town because the entire area shuts down for this event. It is always a good time with great food!

I stayed in Illinois and went to college in Chicago where I studied Psychology then went on to complete my Masters in Clinical Mental Health Psychology. I love the way our minds work. That is one of the reasons I love teaching. I am passionate about viewing each student as a unique individual and therefore really getting to know them. I love helping students flourish by giving them tools to feel their best and helping them discover their learning style. I look forward to continuing to learn and grow alongside our students.



7th Grade Science - Mr. Connor Kuppe

I am originally from Venice, FL – a small town south of Sarasota. I attended college at the University of South Florida where I achieved my Bachelor of Science in Biology. My family consists of my partner Anne Marie and our six-year-old Alaskan Malamute, Kuma.

My hobbies include hiking, kayaking, reading, and rock climbing. I enjoy teaching as it allows me to share my love of science, and the natural world, with others.



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8th Grade Students!!!

Applying to a Program of Choice

Eligible students may apply to a program of choice during the application window which opens **January 6, 2022** and closes **February 10, 2022 at 5pm**. For more information, view a schedule of other important Program of Choice dates.

Programs of Choice include High School Career Academies, JROTC, AICE/IB programs, Early College Program, the St. Johns County Center for the Arts at St. Augustine High School, and the St. Johns County Center for the Arts at Murray Middle School.

Please note: Students applying to AICE/IB programs must also submit teacher recommendations and qualify based on their academic performance.

Also note: Students applying to the St. Johns County Center for the Arts at St. Augustine High School or at Murray Middle School must also audition at the respective schools on February 7, 2022.

- [St. Johns County Center for the Arts at R. J. Murray Middle School Audition Information](#)
- [St. Johns County Center for the Arts at St. Augustine High School Audition Information](#)

Watch each high school's video at: <https://cte.stjohns.k12.fl.us/academies/>

School Nurse – IMPORTANT

Due to the recent "Parents' Bill of Rights", F. S. 1014.06 – Parental Consent for Health Care Services, parents must give written consent in order for their child to access health care while at school. This consent will allow the school nurse to provide care and treatment to your child for injuries and illnesses, and when necessary, emergency health services performed until Emergency Medical Services arrive on campus. Should you decline consent for these services, you will be notified any time your student has such a need, and you will be responsible for arrangement of care outside of the school setting. This consent will remain in effect until your child transfers to another school district, graduates, or you indicate in writing that you wish to rescind this consent for school health services.

Please visit [this survey](#) to give permission for your child to receive school health services. **This information must be completed by January 18, 2022.**

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PTO Corner

Sebastian Middle School's PTO has been working hard to provide our students and faculty with what they need to be successful this year- and to have fun! You don't need to be a stay at home parent to become involved - reach out to PTOSebastian@gmail.com if you'd like to be a part of what we do behind the scenes at Sebastian!

We could not do any of it without our amazing business partners, who have stepped up during these challenging times to take care of us. When you are looking for a business in these fields, go to one of our partners and let them know that we sent you:

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2. Treat yourself on Mondays at Carnival Sweets- tell them you're with Sebastian, and they will make a donation to support us!
3. Visit https://sebastian-middle-school-ptο-store_cheddarup.com to shop for Spirit Wear, become a Business Partner, or check out our current fundraiser.
4. We send out regular email updates with all the good stuff, but you can also follow us on Instagram @SMSPTO or on FB @ SebastianPTO

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