

Sebastian Sentinel



Principal's Message

Dear Families,

As we close out this school year it is time to reflect and look forward. We have welcomed new faculty members, new students and continued to focus on learning and growth opportunities. This year we were able to welcome back some experiences we missed in 2020 - 21. We had music concerts, school plays, clubs, and Gradventure. PTO organized Spring Fling and the Eighth Grade Dance. It has been wonderful to see the joy and excitement these events have brought our students.

This summer, our teachers are excited to one again be able to take advantage of professional development opportunities to deepen their pedagogy. We will continue to expand our knowledge base of creating, designing, and implementing project-based learning. This is an important part of our continuing focus on developing students who are thoughtful, creative, and engaged. We continue to refine our Single School Culture. Our goal is to develop consistent expectations and teach students routines that are at the heart of good learning habits. We will continue to focus on the importance of kindness and respect towards others and ourselves. We will be reviewing these multiple times over the first week at school, and I encourage you to read the document online and discuss it with your children.

We will run our free rising 6th grade STEAM camp this summer and introduce our new students to STEAM principles, the school and each other. This is always an engaging week that sets our students up for success. We love the opportunity to meet our new students on this smaller scale as it allows us to engage with them on a more personal level.

I wish you all a wonderful summer with your families and hope it brings time for relaxation.

Yours in partnership,
Kirstie Gabaldon

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.

MAY 2022

Volume 6

Issue 3

Sebastian Sentinel

May 2022

Published Four Times Per Year

2955 Lewis Speedway

St. Augustine, FL 32084

Issue 3

*Please watch for our next newsletter in October 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/



Associates Retiring This Yea

Kathy Hensel- Social Studies:

As I close my 39 years of teaching, I find it exciting, but bittersweet. In 1983, I began my career as a 5th grade teacher at Julington Creek Elementary and moved 2 years later to 6th grade where I have been the rest of my career. This was long before we even had middle schools in St. Johns County! I was asked to join the staff of Murray Middle School in 1987 and then I became an Eagle here at Sebastian in 1995. Many of the students I taught at Murray have married and now I have taught their children. Quite a few of my students from the past few years, I attended "The High School" with their grandparents! Every year, it has been about connections. I will miss hearing news about my former students and meeting their children! Next year, I expect to spend more time quilting, gardening, walking the beach and traveling! Also, I truly hope to improve my golf game! See you on the links!



Teri Lydigsen- Civics:

I started in the district as a volunteer in 1983 for eleven years and spent so much time in the schools my children attended that I was hired in 1994 as an administrative assistant at Gamble Rogers Middle school. I made the move to the Gaines Alternative Center in 1999 as the Secretary / Bookkeeper and then earned my B.A. Degree in Social Sciences to become a History teacher from Flagler College and started my teaching career here at Sebastian in 2003.

I have taught 6th grade World History, 7th grade Civics and 8th grade U.S. History as well as Intensive Reading and AVID over my 19 years here. One of the things I will miss the most is our annual trip to Washington D.C. with the 8th grade students. I love taking students to experience History firsthand and organized our Sebastian trip for 15 years. I really enjoyed my time here at Sebastian but look forward to traveling and spending time with my 4 grandchildren and my English Mastiff, Wrigley Grace!!



Ms. Paulette Brown – Custodial Staff:

I started with St John's county in October of 2013. For the past 9 years I have loved working with my supervisors, Jeff and Brad Ponce and the students here at Sebastian. The teachers here are very respectful and I enjoy my work. Although I hate to leave, I am excited to Travel and hang out with my Grand-children (3 total) and Great-grandchildren (4 total)...and RELAX!

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The Witch's Princess

Sebastian Middle School's production of *The Witch's Princess* by Don Zolidis premiered the 31st of March, 2022. This was the local schools first full production in a decade. The talented cast of 39, led by theatre instructor Ralin Trosclair, along with Sebastian's art department, created props, designed costumes, makeup, and scenery. The show had a single performance with a turnout of over 200 guests and was positively reviewed by those in attendance. Sebastian's theater program serves over 120 children between classes and the after-school program.





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Media Center

The Media Center officially received full funding for 3D printers from Makerbot. Funding came from grants received from Character Counts, SAC, and PTO. The Makerbot Sketch Classroom kit came with two 3D printers, filament, as well as teacher and student certifications. The Makerbots will make a nice addition to our newly renovated Media Center for next year.

On May 4th, the Media Center held their annual Reading Celebration. Students who were invited either read the Sunshine State Young Readers Award books or competed in an iReady contest. During this



celebration, the students watched the Teachers vs. Students Battle of the Books. The teacher's team consisted of Ms. Cody, Ms. DeAcutis, Ms. Harvey, Ms. Humienny, and Ms. Wedge. They did a great job but lost to the students with a score of 29-23. Next year's SSYRA is out now so students can start reading and earning prizes from the Media Center for next year. Click here for that link.



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STEAM

This has been a busy semester for Sebastian STEAM students. Student worked hard to prepare for their district final exams. Now that those are complete, we are full STEAM ahead with projects. After a special guest speaker visit by Tyler Conklin (Civil Engineering Designer with the Matthews Design Group), 6th graders began a digital bridge design competition. Congratulations to Ms. Johns' 3rd period class who won the competition. Sixth graders are now working on projects such as marble roller coasters, architectural designs, and circuit board coding. Seventh graders are hard at work building, modifying, and competing with their VEX robots. Eighth graders are working to design and build rockets. They will be using a CAD software program to design a rocket and do launch simulations in order to alter and fine tune their design. Once the design is finalized, the students will build a rocket model based on their CAD design.



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Art Dept

SMARTists had a choice to make paper mache or pinatas last month. Lots of fun and exciting projects emerged! I especially enjoyed the heads that were formed on beachballs. Next, we are moving on to Tie Dye for our final project! If you would like to donate T shirts to this project here is the sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084ba9a82aabfe3-tiedye1> This is our favorite project of the year, and we cannot do it without your help! We tie dye shirts, make giant bubble wands and have a great time!



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Back-to-School Supply Kits Available

We are happy to again offer school supply kits for next school year! The items in this kit cover most of what your student will need, and our school receives a portion of the sales as well. This year, you can have your kit shipped directly to your house! <https://1stday.sale/25675>



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8th Grade Dance

The 8th grade dance will take place on Friday, May 27th from 6:30-8:30 at St. Augustine High School. Eighth graders from Murray Middle will be invited as well. See the Sebastian Middle school website for more information: <https://www-sms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>



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PTO Corner

We are coming up on the end of the school year with extremely grateful hearts.

THANK YOU to the many, many families who have donated this year. Here are some of the highlights of what we've been able to fund:

- Every single teacher grant has been fulfilled- both for classroom needs and student incentives
- Supply requests for our arts programs
- The new Infini-D learning system for math and science classes
- The return of Spring Fling with more activities for the kiddos to enjoy
- Gifts and treats for our faculty and staff holiday celebration, as well as Teacher Appreciation Week

THANK YOU to all of our parent volunteers. From running concessions, to running around town picking up needed items, to showing up for book fairs, teacher appreciation events, and Spring Fling...we've had a lot of fun together this year!

THANK YOU to our amazing faculty and staff for all of your help with Spring Fling!!!! It would not have happened without your support.

Finally, THANK YOU to the following businesses who generously donated during Teacher Appreciation Week:

- Vibe Nutrition
- Wawa
- Blue Wave Nutrition
- Publix
- Tidal Wave Nutrition
- Purple Olive Restaurant

Eagle Families, we have loved serving our school this year and meeting so many of you. Thank you for all of the support you have given in so many ways. Have a wonderful summer!

Your PTO Board

Jen Farrow, Kim Lischio, Katie Bechtold, Jen Lusk, Anne Boddy, Kate Batzel, Shawna Erwin, and Beverly Banks