

Sebastian Sentinel



Principal's Message

Dear Eagle Families,

This has been an unusual beginning to our school year! None the less, I could not be prouder of our students, teachers, and families as they have tackled the unique challenges of being at school during this time. I want to thank everyone for their patience, understanding and commitment as we continue to move forward.

We are definitely full STEAM ahead! Our commitment to STEAM learning at our school remains unwavering. We are currently in the process of re-certifying as a STEM school through Cognia, a non-profit organization that works with educational institutions around the world. We have written narratives and provided evidence of the many exciting things happening in our school. For example, did you know our 8th grade STEM classes participated in a virtual Chat with Mr. Tyler Hines, a JEA Solar Ambassador, to discuss growing plants in space? Or that those same students are now trying to predict the growth of their own plants in our very own Greenhouse? Or that the 6th graders have been contemplating solutions to world-wide water scarcity in their English classes before launching into reading "A Long Walk to Water?" These are just two examples of the Project Based Learning that occurs throughout our school each and every day as we work with students to discover and learn.

All students in the school participated in Red Ribbon Week the last week of October. We hypothesized if the forces of flight correlate to a successful, healthy, drug free life. Our amazing media center and guidance department worked together to develop a stimulating lesson for our students. Wings were created to show how Eagles SOAR out of ribbons created by the student body.

I am grateful for the never-ending creativity of our faculty and their passion to create engaging and authentic learning experiences for our students. I am also thankful for the diligent and unending support of our families and business partners. It is my honor and privilege to serve as your Principal.

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

Angela Hensley

Assistant Principal

Kevin Hayes

Dean

Matt Hodges

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.

NOVEMBER 2020

Volume 4

Issue 4

Sebastian Sentinel

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St. Augustine, FL 32084

Issue 4

*Please watch for our next newsletter in January 2021, and bi-weekly electronic news updates.

School Calendar

November 25th - 27th

Thanksgiving Holiday -
Student & Teacher Holiday

December 1st

PTO Zoom Meeting 6pm
(see SMS website for details)

December 21st - January 1st

Winter Break -
Student & Teacher Holiday

January 4th

Classes resume for Students

January 18th

Martin Luther King Day -
Student & Teacher Holiday

January 25th

Second Quarter Ends /
First Semester Ends

January 29th

Teacher Planning Day -
Student Holiday



Media Center Happenings!



In October the Media Center had a Spooky S.T.E.A.M. Themed "Make and Take" Students used 10 PBIS points for the opportunity to make Glow in the Dark Slime, Shrinky Dink Sugar Skulls and more. It was a Spooky-tastic time for all!

On Friday, November 20th the Media Center is having a fundraiser at Panera bread. Print or electronically show the flyer which can be found on the Sebastian website and Panera will donate a portion of the proceeds to the Media Center. Help support our Media Center!



Mrs. DeAcutis 's 6th grade Critical Thinking class is collaborating with the Media Center to develop a service learning project that would help the homeless by donating items to Home Again St. Johns, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the homeless become self-sufficient. The idea sprang from the novel, The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise, where the main character looks for a box of memories based on loved ones. Students will be putting together these Boxes of Love filled with needed items to be delivered by December 17th. We are asking for the following items: face masks, socks, new or gently used blankets, new or gently used towels, new or gently used t-shirts, hygiene products, small hand sanitizers, sewing kits, bug spray, razors, coffee mug, reusable water bottles, snacks, and instant coffee and tea bags. Donations can be brought to the Media Center by December 4th.



In an effort to raise money for the Media Center, we will be hosting an online Book Fair through Junior Library Guild on November 16-29, 2020! Visit the Sebastian website for More information and a link to preview the book fair!

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: <https://www-sms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>.



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2020-2021 Policy & Procedure Reminders

It's time to refresh our memories by reviewing the policies and procedures in place at SMS to create the most conducive learning environment possible.

Dress Code:

It is important for students to be appropriately and comfortably dressed to support the school program. Jeans with excessive holes above the knees, shorts more than 4 inches above the knee, crop top shirts, earbuds and hoodie hoods up are not permitted in school. Our dress code is outlined in the 2020-2021 Code of conduct and also here: <https://www-sms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/attendance/>.

Health and Safety

Please remember to make sure your student has a mask to wear daily at school. It is important we keep each other safe. Please reinforce with your child masks should be worn to cover the mouth and nose in all hallways and wherever social distancing is not possible

Parent Drop Off

Please ensure students are wearing masks when they get out of the car in the morning. Students must remain in the car until 7:10 so we can provide supervision and ensure their safety.

Fast Food/Drinks:

Please note that SMS does not allow fast food, other special lunches or outside coffees/drinks to be delivered to students and eaten in the cafeteria. **All outside drinks must be finished before entering school in the mornings.**

Drop-Off Policy:

To promote personal responsibility and minimize classroom disruptions, parents should only drop off keys, lunches, or athletic equipment needed by the student for a practice or game that day. All other items, including homework, textbooks, PE uniforms, and instruments, water bottles should be kept at home and brought in by the student on the following day.

Early Check-outs:

Parents or guardians wishing to sign students out before the end of the school day must come into the Front Office no later than 1:20 (11:20pm on Wednesdays) with photo identification. To preserve instructional time and minimize classroom disruptions, students will not be allowed to check out early between 1:20-1:50pm (11:20-12:00pm on Wednesdays).

Transportation Changes:

SMS is not allowed to issue "bus passes" for students to ride home with a friend on a different bus. Parents must request an emergency waiver online with the SJCS Department of Transportation in order for a student to ride a bus other than their designated route.

Tardy/Attendance Policies:

Students cannot learn if they are not at school or checking in online! Please make every effort to help your student get to school on-time every day. Doors to SMS open at 7:10am and 1st period begins promptly at 7:35am. Three tardies to the same class (including 1st period) will result in a referral to the Dean's Office. Absences should be reported in writing within 48 hours of the student's return to school. Notes should be dropped off in Guidance, or emailed to Patricia.Conrad@stjohns.k12.fl.us. Please visit this section of the SMS website for more information on our attendance policy: <https://www-sms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/attendance/>.



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Welcome to our New Teachers!



Joseph Gregos / Science

Before settling in Saint Augustine, I grew up some in South Florida, some outside of Atlanta, and attended college in Valdosta Georgia at Valdosta State University.

My wife is a teacher at Osceola Elementary and we have a 3 year old named Lily and one more on the way in November.

When I am not at work, I enjoy surfing, scuba diving, wood working, and spending time with the family.

I like to teach because it gives me an opportunity to make a direct impact on the lives of others.



Jaclyn Humienny / LA & Math

I am from Wellington, FL - just west of West Palm Beach and graduated from our very own St. Augustine - Flagler College. My family includes my Fiancé Adam and our cats Marie and Maverick. When I'm not teaching, I like to read, go horseback riding, sew, bake and do crafts. I like to teach because to me it's important for students to know that what they're learning can be fun and interesting; my classroom is a safe environment to learn and grow in all aspects of life; I like my class to be their second home.



Anthony Wagner / Civics

Hello I am Anthony Wagner. I am originally from West Virginia, but moved to Florida around 10 years ago. I recently moved from Lake County to Palm Coast over the summer.

I am a graduate of WVU Tech where I earned a Bachelor's in Psychology and Sociology and a minor in History.

I am married to my wife Amber and we have 4 beautiful daughters: Haley (18), Harper (5), Holland (3), and Hudson (1)

I enjoy anything sports related; watching sports, playing sports, and coaching sports. In addition, I enjoy spending time with my family going to the park, and other outdoor activities.

I like to teach because I like to make connections with other and I like having the opportunity to make an impact in a young person's life. I enjoy learning about students and their different interests as these are the things that shape who they are, and I hope that our interactions will help to shape each of them in a positive way.



Francine Kirby-Allie / LA

I was born and raised on Long Island, New York. So, yes, I am a Yankee and Ranger fan!

I attended Flagler College with my twin sister, who is also a teacher. I majored in English and Secondary Education and interned at Sebastian Middle. It's a small world.

I am married and I have 3 children. My two girls attend SMS and I have a son in 1st grade.

My hobbies include spending time with my family, playing basketball with my kids, politics, and baking!

I love teaching because I know that even if I get through to one child, I know I have made a difference.

Middle Schoolers are special, for sure. I am continually learning from my students and I love working with such a great team!



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Welcome to our New Teachers!



Robert O'Neil / Math

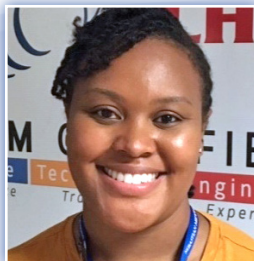
Hello, I'm Rob and I'm originally from Syracuse, NY. I moved to St. John's County in 2018 from Charlotte, NC.

I went to College at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

My family consists of my wife, Stephanie and my daughter, Addison (sophomore in HS) and son, Robbie (freshman in HS).

When I'm not teaching, I like to play Ice Hockey, Run (I've completed 16 Gate River Runs) and am a proud 12 Season ticket holder for the Jacksonville Jaguars!

I like to teach to help students feel good about themselves and what they can accomplish.



Shantika Slocum / ESE Access Points

I am from a little town in Bradford County named Lawtey.

I attended the University of South Florida where I received my Bachelor of Social Work Degree. I then went to Troy University and received my Master's Degree in Public Administration.

I live with my husband, Terrence, and two sons Terrence Jr. (10) and Jordan (2). When we aren't stuck at home with the Pandemic, I love to travel!

I teach because I love witnessing a student progress in all area – academic, social, etc. It feels good to know that I can make a difference for the ones that I teach.

The impact I have on their lives can stay with them throughout their years of schooling and beyond.



Yolanda Bowie / Math

I am originally from Brooklyn, NY and moved here to Florida permanently in 1992.

I received my bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Farleigh Dickenson University and my Master's in Management from Webster University.

I have three boys ages: 25, 22 and 16.

When I am not teaching (which is my PASSION), I do mission work with Iris Global and travel.

During my lifetime, I have traveled to 43 countries and territories (lived in 3 of them) and I've been to 6 of the 7 Continents. Antarctica - I don't foresee in my near future! I teach because I love to help students better themselves and I LOVE it!

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Our New Resource Officer Cory Petty

Hello Eagles and Eagle parents, I am Deputy Petty, your new Youth Resource Deputy at Sebastian Middle School.

I am new to the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, previously serving as a Resource Deputy at Buddy Taylor Middle School, in Flagler County. I was with the Flagler County Sheriff's Office for 3 1/2 years and I have a total of 16 years in law-enforcement.

I am 38 years old and have 2 children. I am from Virginia Beach, Virginia, but have lived in Florida for the last 4 years.

I played baseball and football through my college years. I enjoy all sports and currently coach a travel baseball team out of Daytona.

If you have any questions or concerns, please come see me. My office is always open. I am looking forward to a safe, fun-filled school year. GO Eagles!!!



PTO News & Notes

Check Writing Campaign

Thanks to the generous support of our parents and community, we raised \$1,600.00 with our fall fundraiser. The money raised will be used to support our students and staff with academic programs, special projects and much needed supplies.

Stock The Lounge

The PTO has been stocking the lounge with snacks and treats for our wonderful teachers and staff! Please consider donating pre-packaged and pre-wrapped snacks for our amazing team!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e044aaba62b0-stock>

Join us!

The PTO welcomes and encourages all parents to become involved. Please join us for our next PTO Meeting (via Zoom) on Tuesday, December 1st at 6:00pm. Zoom details will be posted one week prior to the meeting.

Lightsey's Christmas Tree Fundraiser

The Lightsey Family has generously offered to hold a spirit fundraiser for SMS. Help our school earn money by buying your Christmas trees at Lightsey's Christmas Trees. Just show you SMS ID and 5% of your purchase will go back to the PTO.

Purchase a Pumpkin or Christmas tree from Lightsey's, show your SMS Staff or Student ID and Lightsey's will donate 5% of your sale back to Sebastian Middle School PTO!

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Eagle Athletics

Girls and Boys - Volleyball 20 -21

The girls' and boys' volleyball teams this year were both coached by Coach Chad Razy. This season the girls worked very hard on improving skills and their game of volleyball as a whole. The boys have also done a great job working together as a team and strengthening their skills. It was a great season and great effort was shown by all. When this publication comes out, we should be heading into the Playoffs. We are excited to show what we can do!

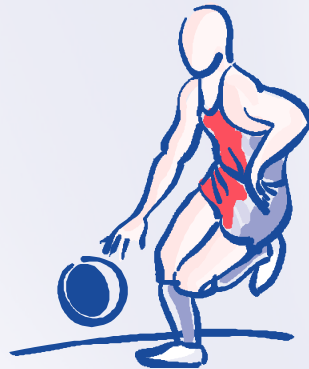


Basketball

Check the Sebastian Website for information regarding tryouts and plan to come out to a game this season to cheer on our teams. Go Eagles!

Girls play at 5:30pm and Boys immediately after (approximately 6:30pm).

February 2nd	Swiss Point / Home
February 4th	Liberty Pines / Home
February 9th	Freedom Crossing Academy / Away
February 11th	Patriot Oaks / Away
February 16th	Fruit Cove / Home
February 18th	Murray / Away
February 25th	Landrum / Away
March 2nd	Pacetti Bay/ Home
March 4th	Playoff Round / TBD
March 9th	Playoff Round / TBD
March 11th	Championship Game / TBD



8th Grade Academy Dates

This year's High School Showcase will be virtual, and more details are forthcoming. See below for tentative dates.

January 5th - Blitz

January 8th - Application Process Opens

January 8th - February 5th - Academy Presentations (aka "Academy Nights") for individual high schools will be advertised

January 12th - Virtual High School Showcase

February 5th - Application Process Closes

Please contact the 8th grade Guidance Counselor Ms. Fortune at Leanne.Fortune@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

St. Johns Middle School Athletic Association Sports: Baseball/ Softball, Tennis and Golf

Registration is now open for these spring sports, which are organized by the St. Johns Middle School Athletic Association. Interested students should visit the SJMSAA website for more information and to register prior to tryouts at <https://www.sjmsaa.com/>. Tryouts will be held for each sport during January or February. Please contact SMS Athletic Director Abigail Whittaker with any questions at Abigail.Whittaker@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

We need spots filled...



...Can YOU help?

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Sebastian Middle School

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And the 2020-21 Winner Is...

Congratulations to the following exemplary individuals who were recognized in October for their outstanding work at Sebastian Middle School this year:



Teacher of the Year
Mr. Robert Raimann - STEAM



Rookie Teacher of the Year
Ms. Megan Johns - STEAM



School Related Employee of the Year
Ms. Paulette Brown - Custodian

The Sebastian Giving Tree

8

Due to social distancing and parents not coming to campus - this year the Sebastian Giving Tree for the holiday season is going virtual. If you would like to participate in the Sebastian Middle school tradition of anonymously giving gifts to students whose families are in need, we would appreciate your help!

We will be providing shoes from Rack Room Shoes, hoodies, backpacks, and other items that staff, parents, and members of the community can donate. If you would like for us to send you a participant's WISH please email: Patricia.conrad@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

All gifts will need to be dropped off by December 14th. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

