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The Eagle Eye

Sebastian Middle School

Build your Mind, Explore your World, Create your Future

Message from the King.....

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We began the FSA examinations with Writing this week and I know our students are well-prepared. At times, we see issues related to confidence and stress and we try to bring it back to the idea that we are just showing what we learned this year. Certainly, our students have matured throughout the year and many have become very sophisticated with their writing. I'll remind you of the correlation between reading and writing—those who continue to read outside of the curriculum will be better prepared moving forward.

Our Inquiry Hour Exhibition last Friday was a tremendous success. It was so rewarding to see the depth of the projects and the quality of the presentations. We had over seventy parents and our entire executive cabinet from our District there. We place a strong focus on the creative element and I'm so proud of the students who participated. This vision will continue to grow and with the help of our business partners, we hope to take some of these projects to deeper levels.

Finally, through our Communication Cornerstone and SAC this month, we will finalize our characteristics of a Sebastian graduate. We will have students present on a panel this Thursday as student voice is so important to us. The work extends to Single School Culture and to conditions for learning. Ultimately, as we work with our elementary schools, our vision is to ensure that the transition to middle school is more structured in order to give our students more confidence. If you can join us for Communication Cornerstone tomorrow, you'll not be disappointed.

Finally, please continue to check HAC or communicate with guidance if you have questions or concerns for the final quarter. Our goal is to finish strong and I know our teachers are collaborating well in designed lessons and creating opportunities for students right up to testing time in May. As always thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

Wayne King, Principal

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Wayne King, Principal
Angela Hensley, Asst. Principal

Pam Cooper, Instructional Literacy Coach
Kevin Hayes, Dean of Students

Leanne Fortune, Guidance Grade 8 / 7 M-Z
Darren Tagliarini, Guidance Grade 6 / 7 A-L

Important Dates:

April 4

*Communication Cornerstone, 8:30—9:30am,
Topic: Single School Culture—Voicing a Vision*

April 11

Rising 6th Grade Night, 5:30-7:00pm

April 12

*NJHS Induction Ceremony, 8:30am
Spring Fling, 12:30—2:00pm*

April 15—18

District Final Exams

April 16

SAC Meeting, 2:15pm @ SMS

April 19

Student/Teacher Holiday

April 26

*8th Grade Dance, 7:00-9:00pm, St. Augustine
High*

Spring Testing: Save the Dates!

April 15: Periods 1/2 Final Exams

April 16: Periods 3/4 Final Exams

April 17: Period 5 Final Exams

April 18: Periods 6/7 Final Exams

May 2-3: 6th Grade FSA Language Arts

May 6-7: 6th Grade FSA Math

May 9: 8th Grade Science/Biology EOC/Civics EOC

May 13-14: Algebra/Geometry EOC/7th & 8th
FSA Math

May 16-17: 7th & 8th FSA Language Arts

Volunteer test proctors are needed as an extra set of eyes during all of the state-mandated testing days. Click [here](#) to view a schedule and sign up. No experience is necessary! Thank you in advance for your gift of time!!



Spring Fling is Friday, April 12!

An SMS tradition, the annual Spring Fling is an in-school carnival featuring games, activities, food and drinks sponsored by each SMS department and the PTO. As we head into high gear for testing, this is a chance to blow off some steam before settling down! This event is also the last PTO fundraiser of the year.

Students may purchase "All-you-can-play" wristbands for \$10 by filling out the order form on the flyer (click [here](#)) and returning it to their homeroom teacher by Wednesday, 4/10. VIP Wristbands, which give students early entry to Spring Fling at 11:40am, will be available for purchase for \$20 each; VIP Wristbands must be purchased IN PERSON during lunches 4/8-4/10. Only 200 VIP wristbands are available, first-come, first-served! All wristbands will be handed out to students on the morning of Spring Fling.

Students may also purchase tickets (4/\$1) at the door to use at game/activity booths or redeem for food purchases. Booths charge between 2-6 tickets and will include a dunk tank, pie in the face, colored hair spray, an obstacle course, corn hole, sno cones, cotton candy and much more!

Finally, **SMS needs parent volunteers to help make this event a great success.** Click [here](#) to view volunteer slots available and sign up to join the fun today!

8th Annual All-County Middle School Art Show

Friday, April 5, 5:00-9:00pm

St. Augustine Art Association, 22 Marine Street

View works on display by SMS artists through 4/29!



New Faculty Spotlight!

Sarah Burkhardt, 6th Grade Math

Hello! My name is Sarah Burkhardt and I am a new teacher at Sebastian Middle School this year. I grew up in St. Augustine, so working in St. Johns County just seems so right. I mean who doesn't love this city? I attended St. Augustine High School, where I was a member of their AICE and Center of the Arts programs. I then went on to the University of Florida in Gainesville to receive my Bachelor in Mathematics and learn through their STEM education program. After graduating, I decided to move back to my lovely hometown of St. Augustine. I began working as an AV-ID tutor at Pedro Menendez High School as well as teaching dance. This past year I began working at Sebastian Middle School and I couldn't be happier with all the wonderful students and staff! It's great to be an Eagle! ☺



Pi Day Fun on March 14!

Thanks to the Village Inn of St. Augustine and the SMS PTO, over 100 students enjoyed a slice of pie purchased with LiveSchool points during lunch on 3/14. Students also had the opportunity to use their LiveSchool points to vote for their favorite teachers to take a pie in the face! Our "lucky" winners included Ms. Brown, Ms. Cullar, Dean Hayes, Ms. King, Ms. Ludwick, and Mr. Sirak.



*Pictured left:
Dean Hayes gamely
invited a student to pie
him!*



*Pictured right:
Ms. Ludwick raises her
arms in triumph after
surviving her "pieing"!*



Spring Sports & Activities Calendar

- ◆ Apr 4—Communication Cornerstone, 8:30am
- ◆ Apr 4—Baseball vs. Landrum @ Waler Field
- ◆ Apr 4—Tennis vs. Pacetti Bay, 4:00pm @ Marsh Creek
- ◆ Apr 4—Softball vs. Pacetti Bay @ Treaty Park
- ◆ Apr 9—Baseball vs. Fruit Cove @ Waler Field
- ◆ Apr 9—Softball vs. Fruit Cove @ Treaty Park
- ◆ Apr 11—Rising 6th Grade Night, 5:30-7:00pm @ SMS
- ◆ Apr 11—Baseball vs. Pacetti Bay @ Waler Field
- ◆ Apr 11—Tennis vs. Pacetti Bay, 4:00pm @ Marsh Creek
- ◆ Apr 12—National Jr. Honor Society Induction, 8:30am
- ◆ Apr 12—Spring Fling, 12:30-2:00pm
- ◆ Apr 16—Baseball vs. Swiss Point @ Kehoe Field
- ◆ Apr 16—Softball vs. Valley Ridge @ Treaty Park
- ◆ Apr 18—Baseball vs. Gamble Rogers @ Waler Field
- ◆ Apr 18—Tennis vs. CPS, 4:00pm @ Marsh Creek
- ◆ Apr 20—Track Meet, 8:00am-1:00pm @ Nease High School
- ◆ Apr 23—Baseball vs. Patriot Oaks @ Waler Field
- ◆ Apr 23—Tennis vs. Murray, 4:00pm @ Marsh Creek
- ◆ Apr 24—Track Meet, 4:00-7:00pm @ Pedro Menendez High
- ◆ Apr 25—Baseball vs. Liberty Pines @ Davis Park
- ◆ Apr 25—Tennis vs. CPS, 4:00pm @ Marsh Creek
- ◆ April 26—8th Grade Dance, 7:00-9:00pm, St. Augustine High
- ◆ May 1—Track Meet, 4:00-7:00pm @ St. Augustine High
- ◆ May 7—Guitar Spring Concert, 6:00pm
- ◆ May 9—String Orchestra Spring Concert, 6:00pm
- ◆ May 10—8th Grade GradVenture Trip to Universal Orlando, 2:30pm—2:30am
- ◆ May 20—Band & Chorus Club Spring Concert, 6:00pm
- ◆ May 22—8th Grade Awards/Promotion Ceremony, 6:00pm
- ◆ May 23—7th Grade Awards Ceremony, 8:30am
- ◆ May 24—6th Grade Awards Ceremony, 8:30am
- ◆ May 24—Last Day of School for Students!
- ◆ Jun 3-7—Music Camp at SMS
- ◆ Jun 10-13—STEAM Camp for Rising 6th Graders

All Baseball games begin at 3:45pm; Softball games begin at 4:00pm.



Attention 7th Graders! WEB Leader Applications Due 4/18

WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) Coordinator Ryan Sirak invites all interested 7th graders to apply to be a WEB leader for the 2019-20 school year. Our 8th grade WEB leaders serve as mentors to 6th grade students and role models for the student body at large, promoting a school environment that embodies compassion, empathy and respect. WEB leaders are invited to take a peer counseling class as an elective during their 8th grade year, and they are required to attend a number of events, both in and out of school. For more information and to download the application, please click [here](#). We hope parents will encourage your students to apply for this wonderful leadership opportunity at Sebastian Middle School!



8th Grade Dance is April 26!

Held jointly with Murray Middle School, this year's 8th Grade Semi-Formal Dance will be held on Friday, April 26 from 7:00-9:00pm in the St. Augustine High School gymnasium. Tickets are \$10 each and must be pre-purchased by Wednesday, 4/24. Although tuxes/suits and formal gowns are not required, there is a dress code which must be followed. Please click [here](#) for more information and to download a permission slip/ticket order form.



Communication Cornerstone 4/4

All SMS parents, guardians, and other family members are invited to attend this meeting hosted by Principal Wayne King. This month's topic:

"Single School Culture: Voicing a Vision"

Thursday, April 4, 8:30—9:30am

This month's session will feature an interactive panel discussion with students and parents brainstorming on what skills and characteristics students should possess by the end of 8th grade, which will help define School Culture at SMS in the coming year. Your input and participation is valued and appreciated, so we hope to see you there! As always, coffee and refreshments will be served!

Eagle/Inquiry Hour Exhibition Day

On Friday, March 29 from 9:00-10:00am, a total of 107 students presented their projects to over 70 parents and other adult community members. Our guests were amazed at the creativity and enthusiasm shown by students who had spent the past 8 weeks working on a project to address the following essential questions:
6th Grade: What do you need in order to survive?
7th Grade: How can we innovate health technology for kids?
8th Grade: How can we sustain life while living in challenging spaces?



8th grade boys share their engineering project with School Board Member Patrick Canan.



8th grade girls share their tiny house design with parents and district administrators.

Spring Picture Day—April 9

Leonard's Studios returns to SMS next week to photograph any interested students. Students wishing to have their photo taken should bring in an order form and payment on April 9, or prepay online using the access code: C460226. Students should listen carefully during morning announcements as to when to report to the auditorium.



SMS Cheerleading Tryouts

Rising 6th, 7th and 8th grade students with school spirit are invited to try out for the SMS Cheer Squad! Tryouts will be held as follows:

Clinics: April 24-25, 2:00—4:30pm @ SMS

Tryouts: April 26, 2:00—4:30pm @ SMS

Cheerleading at SMS is coached and organized by the St. Johns Middle School Athletic Association. For more information and to register for tryouts, please visit www.sjmsaa.com. Go Eagles!

Spring Cleaning? Donate your exercise equipment to the SMS P.E. Department!

Coach Chad Razey seeks to create a weight room that teaches students the fundamentals of movement using body-weight and light weight exercises. Emphasizing the importance of strong core muscles, proper movement techniques, and the benefits of using a gym to maintain a healthy lifestyle, the goal is to give students the knowledge to create a basic workout plan and execute this plan outside of school.

To support this goal, Coach Razey is looking for cardio weight room equipment that is in working condition and does not need to be plugged in to work: Rowing Machines, Fan Bikes, Battery Operated Elliptical, etc. We are also looking to add some 10-20 pound weights (in any form...medicine ball, kettle bell, dumbbell). If you have any equipment to donate, please contact Coach Razey at Chad.Razey@stjohns.k12.fl.us. Thanks!