

# **John A. Crookshank Elementary School**

1455 N. Whitney Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

[www-ces.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www-ces.stjohns.k12.fl.us)

## **2017-2018 STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK**

Mr. Marquez Jackson - Principal

Mrs. Yvette Cubero-Gonzalez-Asst. Principal

Mrs. Angela Rodgers - Asst. Principal



### **Access to our School**

All adults must be registered volunteers to enter the school building during school hours. You must complete the district's Volunteer Application if you wish to volunteer in a classroom, participate in any class activities, chaperone/attend a field study, eat in the cafeteria, participate in a conference, or attend any performance or event during school hours.

Please follow the link on the John A. Crookshank website or St. Johns County School District websites to apply.

<http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/depts/cr/volunteer/access>

Once registered as a volunteer, all visitors will sign in at the front desk and present a valid state identification in order to receive a Volunteer Badge to be worn in the building.

### **Address and Telephone Number Changes**

Please notify our office immediately if there is a change in your address, telephone number, or emergency contact information. This is information is very important in case your child becomes ill or injured. If your address has changed, please bring in three proofs of residency reflecting the updated information.

### **Arrival Procedures**

Students who arrive at school before 7:45 am must be enrolled in the CES before-Care program. School supervision of students begins at 7:45 a.m. when parents may drop off students in the car circle. Please ensure that your children only exit the vehicle on the right (sidewalk) side of the vehicle.

### **Attendance**

The importance of regular attendance cannot be over emphasized. All students should be in school every day that they are physically able. It is extremely difficult to successfully keep up with class work if attendance is irregular.

**Excused absences include:** Personal illness, family emergency, death in the family, religious holidays of the student's established religious faith, required court or law agency appearances, public functions, state competitions, scheduled doctor or dentist appointments.

**Unexcused absences include:** shopping trips, pleasure trips, suspension from school, appointments without prior approval except in case of emergency, truancy. Refer to The Student Code of Conduct for more details.

**When Absent:** Parents must notify the school office of a child's absence. Any student who has been absent from school shall bring a note from a parent or guardian within forty-eight (48) hours of returning to school stating the cause of the absence. Notes and emails should include the following information: full name, teacher, and specific reason for the absence. Failure to bring in a note will result in an automatic unexcused absence. If your child is absent for two or more days, contact your child's teacher to arrange for the school work your child has missed. For other absences, please notify the principal in writing prior to the absence.

**Tardiness:** School begins at 8:30 am. Any student reporting to school after that time is tardy. Any tardy student must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to the front office to receive an admittance slip before going to the classroom.

Tardiness is disruptive to the learning environment and has a negative impact on student achievement.

**Early dismissal:** Children will be released only to their parents or individuals approved by their parent in prior written communication. Remember a photo ID is required. Students may not be checked out later than 2:00 pm each day and 1:00 pm on Wednesdays, this is our time dedicated to dismissal preparation.

### **AVID**

John A. Crookshank is an AVID (Advancement Via Independent Determination) school. AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. AVID Elementary takes a systemic approach through the use of WICOR and an explicit focus on high expectations, rigor, and developing a college readiness culture.

### **Before and After School Care**

The John A. Crookshank Extended Day is a community service for students in grades K-5 who attend the school. Extended day information is available through a link on the John A. Crookshank Website.

### **Birthdays**

If you wish to bring in a birthday treat on your child's special day, it must be pre-approved by the teacher for potential allergens. The safety and health of all students is a priority. The birthday treat must be a store bought item and will be served at lunch. Helium balloons are not permitted on buses or inside the building.

### **Bus Regulations**

Students are given the privilege of using the services of the St. Johns County School District for transportation to and from school as well as to and from field trips. Standards of discipline must be maintained at all times in order to satisfy safety requirements. Whenever a driver must direct his/her full attention away from the road, danger exists. No student will be allowed to endanger the other students on the bus. Cell phones and other digital devices are not to be used and must remain in the off position to and from school. Parents are not to board the bus at any time. A complete list of bus regulations is available in the *Student Code of Conduct* and a John A. Crookshank Bus Guideline form must be signed and returned to school. Provisional transportation waivers will be reviewed and approved on an individual basis.

### **Cafeteria Prices/Payment**

Elementary, middle and high school lunch menus are available on [Nutrislice.com](http://Nutrislice.com). This system greatly enhances our school lunch menus by providing photos and nutritional information of the menu items, as well as a Spanish language version of the menus. General Information about Food and Nutrition Services can be found at:

<http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/food/guide/>

**Prices:** The St. Johns County School Board approved the following prices for meals for the 2017-2018 school year. John A. Crookshank is a Community

Eligibility Cafeteria. There is no cost for breakfast and/or lunch for students during the 2017-2018 school year.

**Food Allergies:** If your child has food allergies, please provide the school nurse with a physician's note indicating the allergies and appropriate medical attention required.

### **Cafeteria Rules**

**P**ersonal Best

**A**ct Responsibly

**W**ork Together

**S**how Respect

### **Cell Phones**

Students may possess cell phones and other wireless communication devices at school, on buses, and at school functions. However, they must be turned off, stored in student's backpack. The device shall not be used during the school day without administrative approval or on school buses to and from school. Failure to comply may result in the device being confiscated. Repeated failure to comply will be considered defiance of school rules.

**Parents, for the safety of our children, staff and visitors, please refrain from the use of cell phones during parent drop off and pick up.**

John A. Crookshank Elementary is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

### **Class Size Amendment**

The St. Johns County School District is required by the state of Florida to fully implement the Class Size Amendment (CSA). The CSA requires that core classes not exceed the following numbers of students in specific grade levels:

Pre-K – Grade 3                      18 students

Grade 4 – Grade 5                      22 students

Our school district utilizes teacher associates as one method to meet the Class Size Amendment.

### **Dismissal Procedures**

**Times:** Students are dismissed at 2:50 pm all days except Wednesday. On Wednesdays, students are dismissed at 1:50 pm.

**Parent Pick Up:** Those parents picking up children in the car line must remain in their cars at all times. A hanging sign or name plate listing children's names and grade levels needs to be displayed in the front window. **For the safety of our students and staff, please refrain from using your cell phone in the parent pick up line.** Children will only enter the vehicle on the right (sidewalk) side of the vehicle.

### **Dress Code**

The dress and grooming of our students should contribute to the health and safety of the individual, promote a positive educational environment and not disrupt the educational activities and processes of the school. John A. Crookshank Elementary follows the school district's dress code guidelines explained in *the Student Code of Conduct*. Of most importance to our elementary students are:

- Students must wear shoes that are safe and appropriate for the learning environment. All shoes and sandals must have a back or strap on the heel.
- Caps, hats, and sunglasses shall not be worn within the building, although they are acceptable outdoors for sun protection.
- Tops and shirts must cover the entire shoulder and not be revealing or distracting. Midriff or "cut out" tops may not be worn. Skirts or shorts should be no shorter than 4 inches above the knee. Revealing clothing, yoga pants, and pajamas are not acceptable.
- Pants must be worn at the waist. No underwear may be exposed.
- For special events and occasions, the principal may choose to modify dress code policies. (For example, Pajama Day or Hat Day celebrations.)

### **Emergency Drills**

Emergency drills will be conducted throughout the school year. We conduct monthly fire drills as

required by the Florida Fire Prevention Code. We will also practice drills for the following scenarios: severe weather (tornado), evacuation, and lockdown. Our school district also requires bus evacuation drills for our bus riders. Safety is of the utmost importance.

### **Home Access Center**

The Home Access Center (HAC), is a web-based application that is part of our Student Information System called eSchoolPlus. Please visit the website below to access or sign up for an account.

<https://homeaccess.stjohns.k12.fl.us>

This system provides parents and students with a daily summary page, schedule and attendance, discipline information, class work, test scores and course requests for all students in grades 3-5. If you are new to the St. Johns County School District and need assistance setting up an account, please contact our Data Operator, Lisa Cogar.

### **Items Brought To School**

**Animals:** No animals should be brought on to the school campus unless they are approved service animals.

**Toys:** Toys should not be brought to school.

Bringing a toy gun or any other weapon to school could result in disciplinary action. **No fidget spinners allowed on campus.**

### **Lost and Found**

Please put your child's name in all clothing, backpacks, and lunchboxes. In the event that your child does misplace an item they can check the 'Lost and Found' for lunch boxes and clothing. Articles such as glasses and jewelry will be placed in the front office. Unclaimed articles are periodically donated to organizations that support those in need.

### **Medication**

If a child needs to take a prescribed medication during the school day, a parent or guardian must bring the original bottle of medication to the clinic and complete a Medication Authorization form. A doctor's note is also required for dispensing over the counter drugs such as Tylenol or cough syrup. If

you have any questions, ask our Nurse, Roxane Smith.

### **Physical Education/Activities**

To ensure the safety of our children during physical activity, it is highly recommended that every child wear socks and sneakers to school. Children will participate in physical activity. Students will have 20 minutes of Recess, and 30 minutes of PE each day. It is important that they are not wearing crocs, sandals, boots, ballerina flats or flip flops which can present a safety risk during these more rigorous activities. **Water bottles, hats, and sunscreen are always recommended for outside activities.**

### **Character Counts!**

At John A. Crookshank Elementary, the St. Johns County Pillars of Character are considered to be vitally important to our students' development. Incorporating these practices within our school environment and curriculum helps students become caring contributors to society and equips them for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **The Character Counts Pillars are:**

★ Citizenship ★ Responsibility  
★ Fairness ★ Caring  
★ Trustworthiness ★ Respect

### **PBIS-Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support**

PBIS is a comprehensive, approach to implementing positive and consistent student discipline systems in schools. Unlike other approaches to student discipline, PBIS encourages a positive climate schoolwide, in all locations and for all students. Social skill lessons will be taught in Morning Meetings and embedded throughout the day.

### **PTO**

The PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) provides the school with funds, resources, programs and services that will enrich the educational experience of all CES students. Your membership is encouraged, it is only \$10 per family and you will receive a special card containing discounts at many of our local businesses.

### **School Advisory Council (SAC)**

The School Advisory Council is a state-mandated organization that allows for school-based management and accountability. An improvement plan is developed each year, largely composed of defined areas of growth based on school data. The School Advisory Council is made up of faculty, parents, and other members of the school community. SAC meetings will be posted on our website. All are welcome to attend.

### **School Communication**

There are a variety of ways to communicate with your child's teacher. Teachers can be reached by phone, emails, and notes in planners. Every Wednesday, the "School Communication Folder" will be sent home with PTO information, vendor brochures, and/or school newsletter. Many teachers will send their weekly papers home in that same folder. Please sign and return those folders for continued communication all year.

### **School Messenger**

School Messenger is a rapid phone, email, and/or text notification system provided by our school district to communicate important or emergency information efficiently. This system will be used for providing accurate information to parents/guardians about safety and daily attendance, as well as communication from the principal.

### **Transportation Changes**

If you need to make a transportation change for your child, please send a **written note** to your child's teacher that morning. In the event that a note could not be sent, you may call or email the Front Office (547-4160) BEFORE 2:00 p.m. ( 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday.) Please remember that only adults you have approved through prior written communication may pick up your child. We apologize for any inconvenience, but the safety of our children is our number one priority.

### **Videos, Photographs, Recordings**

Students, parents and visitors are not allowed to videotape, photograph or make audio recordings while on school premises except for Open House

and public events (including plays, musicals, fairs, fundraisers, and awards.

