

St. Johns County
School District
2025-2026

PARENT RESOURCE
GUIDE



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St. Johns County School District Core Values



We believe that . . .

Trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship are essential to the wellbeing of individuals and society.

All individuals have intrinsic value.

Every individual can contribute something of worth to society.

Individuals are responsible and accountable for their choices and decisions.

In order to grow and thrive, individuals need caring relationships and a nurturing environment.

Supportive family relationships are the foundation of the community.

High expectations lead to higher performance, which, in turn, empowers the individual and strengthens society.

Continuous learning is a lifelong process that is essential to a productive and enriched life.

A safe and orderly environment is conducive to learning.

The St. Johns County School System is recognized throughout Florida for its innovative programming, student accomplishments and professional staff. The district's success is due to its commitment to excellence in academics plus its commitment to character development.

The Six Pillars of Character (Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship) are found in the district's Core Values. Individual worth and high expectations for all students are also part of this value system.

St. Johns County schools and community partners have come together with a common approach in an effort to say that children matter, values matter, character matters and academic excellence matters in our community and in our country. These principles are embodied in the district's visionary Mission Statement:

The St. Johns County School District will inspire good character and a passion for lifelong learning in all students, creating educated and caring contributors to the world.

Letter from the Superintendent

Dear St. Johns County School District Families,

With great excitement and deep gratitude, I welcome you to the 2025–2026 school year! It is a true honor to serve as your Superintendent and to continue leading this extraordinary district, a place that I am proud to call home.

I've had the privilege of serving this district in many leadership roles and through it all, I've seen the incredible strength, innovation, and heart that define St. Johns County Schools. These experiences have only deepened my appreciation for the people and the purpose that makes this district such a special place. I'm honored and excited to step into this role. I look forward to working alongside our board, teachers, families, and students to continue the district's tradition of excellence.

This year, we begin school with more than 52,000 students, a reflection of the incredible growth and reputation our community holds. In response, we've made significant strides to ensure our campuses are ready to meet the needs of every learner. From remodeled facilities and refreshed learning spaces to the exciting opening of Hallowes Cove Academy, our teams have worked tirelessly to prepare environments where students can thrive.

Over the summer, school leaders, faculty, and support staff have been hard at work, planning lessons, decorating classrooms, organizing schedules, and preparing to welcome your children into vibrant, caring schools. These dedicated professionals are eager to fill our halls with laughter, curiosity, and the energy of students ready to grow, achieve, and connect.

As we open a new school year, we do so in partnership with you, our families. Your continued involvement and support are vital to student success, and we are grateful for the trust you place in us each day.

Thank you for being a part of what makes St. Johns County so exceptional. I look forward to a joyful, safe, and inspiring school year filled with meaningful moments, proud accomplishments, and shared purpose.

Sincerely,

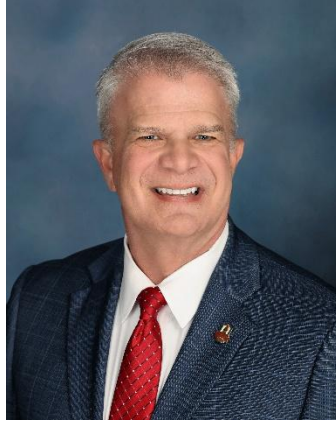


Dr. Brennan Asplen
Superintendent of Schools
St. Johns County School District

Facts about St. Johns County School District

St. Johns County Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Brennan Asplen



SCHOOL GRADES

For **2024-2025**, St. Johns County had 37 “A” schools and 7 “B” schools.

St. Johns County ranks 2nd in the state, out of 67 districts, in total accountability points.

The St. Johns County School District is one of only 2 districts in the state to have received a district grade of ‘A’ every year since the state first began assigning grades to districts in 2004.

18 Elementary Schools (K-5)

10 Academies (K-8)

7 Middle Schools (6-8)

9 High Schools (9-12)

1 Technical College

2 Alternative Schools (K-12)

1 Virtual School

3 Charter Schools

The St. Johns County School District is fully accredited as a quality school system by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), a division of AdvancED Accreditation. AdvancED Accreditation is the highest level of accreditation that a school system can receive.

Class Size (Student-Teacher ratio)

1:14.85 (PK-3)

1:18.14 (4-8)

1:18.04 (9-12)

STUDENTS

St. Johns County School District had 52,544 students as of May, 2025.

Race:

White 77.42%

Black or African-American 6.55%

Asian 6.95%

Multiracial 8.29%

Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 0.20%

Native American or Alaskan 0.58%

Ethnicity:

Hispanic 14.04%

Non-Hispanic 83.24%

Unanswered 2.73%

Student body—114 different countries, 79 languages.

The student body includes 3,428 gifted students and 9,711 students with disabilities who have learning or intellectual disabilities, emotional/behavioral or autism spectrum disorders, speech/language, sensory, orthopedic or other health impairments and developmental delays. An additional 4,318 students receive accommodations through 504 plans.

For up-to-date information on school grades, see <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org/>.

DISTRICT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Florida Standards Assessment State Rankings
2025 Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST), End-of-Course (EOC), and Statewide Science Assessment St. Johns County School District State Rankings:

- **First in the state in Reading:** 3rd, 4th, 5th (tied), 8th, 9th, and 10th grades; Tied for 2 in the state in Reading: 7th grade; Third in the state in Reading: 6th grade
- **First in the state in Math:** 4th, and 8th grades; Second in state in Math: 3rd grade; Third in the state in Math: 5th grade; Fourth in the state in Math: 6th grade; Seventeenth in the state in Math: 7th grade
- **Tied for first in the state in Science:** 8th grade; Second in the state in Science: 5th grade
- **First in the state in EOC exams:** Civics and US History; Second in the state in EOC exams: Algebra 1, Geometry and Biology

2024 ACT – 22.1, above both the state average of 19.0 and the national average of 19.4

2024 SAT – 1143, above both the state average of 948 and the national average of 1024

2024 AP Exams – in St. Johns County, 79.5% earned college credit (compared to 66.7% nationally)

2024 AP Exams – the average AP test score in St. Johns County was 3.45 (which exceeded the national average of 3.12)

2023-24 SJCSJ Graduation rate – 95.0% based on the federal graduation rate, compared to the state average of 89.7%.

2025 National Merit Semifinalists – 35 current seniors were named semifinalists based on top Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) scores

School Board

School Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the School Board Administration Center. Workshops are held on the first and fourth Tuesday of the month. (Please check the district website for up-to-date meeting and workshop information.)

To contact a school board member, you may call the School Board Executive Secretary @ 904-547-7510 or e-mail a member directly.

	<p>Beverly Slough beverly.slough@stjohns.k12.fl.us Board Chair</p> <p>District 1 Term: 2022-2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bartram Trail High School • Creekside High School • Cunningham Creek Elementary School • Durbin Creek Elementary • Freedom Crossing Academy • Fruit Cove Middle School • Hallowes Cove Academy • Hickory Creek Elementary School • Julington Creek Elementary School • Patriot Oaks Academy • Switzerland Point Middle School
	<p>Anthony E. Coleman Sr. anthony.coleman@stjohns.k12.fl.us Board Vice Chair</p> <p>District 2 Term: 2024-2028</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mill Creek Academy • Pacetti Bay Middle School • Picolata Crossing Elementary School • R. J. Murray Middle School • South Woods Elementary School • Timberlin Creek Elementary School • Tocoi Creek High School • Trout Creek Academy • Wards Creek Elementary School • Webster Elementary School • Hastings Juvenile Center
	<p>Jennifer Collins jennifer.collins@stjohns.k12.fl.us</p> <p>District 3 Term: 2022-2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John A. Crookshank Elementary School • Gamble Rogers Middle School • Osceola Elementary School • Otis A. Mason Elementary School • Pedro Menendez High School • W. D. Hartley Elementary School
	<p>Kelly Barrera kelly.barrera@stjohns.k12.fl.us</p> <p>District 4 Term: 2022- 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alice B. Landrum Middle School • Allen D. Nease High School • Ocean Palms Elementary School • Palm Valley Academy • Pine Island Academy • Ponte Vedra High School • PV/PV-Rawlings Elementary School • Valley Ridge Academy
	<p>Dr. Linda Thomson Linda.thomson@stjohns.k12.fl.us</p> <p>District 5 Term: 2024-2028</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beachside High School • First Coast Technical College • Gaines Alternative School at Evelyn Hamblen Ctr. • Ketterlinus Elementary School • Lakeside Academy • Liberty Pines Academy • Palencia Elementary School • R. B. Hunt Elementary School • Sebastian Middle School • St. Augustine High School • St. Johns Technical High School • St. Johns Virtual School • Transitions School at Evelyn Hamblen Center • Juvenile Justice Center (DJJ)

District Department Phone Numbers

Reception Desk	904-547-7500
Board Members' Office	904-547-7510
Superintendent's Office	904-547-7502
Chief of Staff	904-547-7520
Accountability and Intervention Services	904-547-6053
Business and Fiscal Services	904-547-7650
Career and Technical Education	904-547-6000
Community Relations	904-547-7517
Curriculum and Instruction	904-547-6038
Early Childhood	904-547-8954
English for Speakers of Other Languages	904-547-6016
Exceptional Student Education	904-547-6042
Federal Programs	904-547-7529
Food Services	904-547-7626
Guidance and Choice	904-547-7754
Head Start	904-547-8957
Human Resources	904-547-7600
Information Technology	904-547-3920
Instructional Services-Elementary	904-547-6038
Instructional Services-Secondary	904-547-6021
Instructional Resources and Media Services	904-547-8900
Leadership Development	904-547-3981
Maintenance	904-547-3707
Operations	904-547-8150
Planning and Accountability	904-547-6053
Pre-K Clinic	904-547-8958
Purchasing	904-547-7704
Risk Management	904-547-7641
RSVP/Volunteer Services	904-547-3952
Student Support Services	904-547-7583
Transportation	904-547-7810

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We're excited to share that St. Johns County School District is launching a new and improved way to stay connected — ParentSquare!

ParentSquare is a unified communication platform that streamlines how we share important information with you. With this all-in-one tool, you'll receive updates from the district, your child's school, and teachers — all in one convenient place.

With ParentSquare, you can:

Receive district, school and class updates

Receive attendance notifications

View calendar events

Share pictures and files

Sign up for volunteer opportunities

Schedule parent-teacher conferences

And much more!

We look forward to building stronger connections with you through ParentSquare!

Best regards,

St. Johns County School District Administration

Bartram Trail High (9-12)
Chris Phelps, Principal
Chris.Phelps@stjohns.k12.fl.us
7399 Longleaf Pine Parkway
St. Johns, FL 32259
Phone: (904) 547-8340
Fax: (904) 547-8359
www-bths.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Beachside High (9-12)
Greg Bergamasco, Principal
Greg.Bergamasco@stjohns.k12.fl.us
200 Great Barracuda Way
Saint Johns, FL 32259
Phone: (904) 547-4400
Fax: (904) 547-4405
www-bhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Creekside High (9-12)
Steve McCormick, Principal
Steve.McCormick@stjohns.k12.fl.us
100 Knights Lane
St. Johns, FL 32259
Phone: (904) 547-7300
Fax: (904) 547-7305
www-chs.stjohns.k12.fl.us

John A. Crookshank Elementary (PK-5)
Patrick Roach, Principal
Patrick.Roach@stjohns.k12.fl.us
1455 North Whitney Street
St. Augustine, FL 32084
Phone: (904) 547-7840 / 824-4363
Fax: (904) 547-7845
www-ces.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Cunningham Creek Elementary (PK-5)
Jessica McCool, Principal
Jessica.McCool@stjohns.k12.fl.us
1205 Roberts Road
St. Johns, FL 32259
Phone: (904) 547-7860 / 287-3578
Fax: (904) 547-7854
www-ccs.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Durbin Creek Elementary (PK-5)
Ashley McCormick, Principal
Ashley.McCormick@stjohns.k12.fl.us
4100 Race Track Road
St. Johns, FL 32259
Phone: (904) 547-3880 / 287-9352
Fax: (904) 547-3885
www-doe.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Freedom Crossing Academy (K-8)
Melissa Lime, Principal
Melissa.Lime@stjohns.k12.fl.us
1365 Shetland Drive
St. Johns, FL 32259
Phone: (904) 547-4230
Fax: (904) 547-4235
www-fca.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Fruit Cove Middle School (6-8)
Angela Hensley, Principal
Angela.Hensley@stjohns.k12.fl.us
3180 Race Track Road
St. Johns, FL 32259
Phone: (904) 547-7880 / 287-2211
Fax: (904) 547-7885
www-fcs.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Gaines Alternative School and The Evelyn Hamblen Center
Tish McMahon, Principal
Patricia.McMahon@stjohns.k12.fl.us
1 Christopher Street
St. Augustine, FL 32084
Phone: (904) 547-8560
Fax: (904) 547-7175
www-gats.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Hallowes Cove Academy (K-8)
Jessley Hathaway, Principal
Jessley.Hathaway@stjohns.k12.fl.us
2505 Rivertown Main Street
St. Johns, FL 32259
Phone: (904) 547-4550
Fax: (904) 547-4555
www-hca.stjohns.k12.fl.us/

W.D. Hartley Elementary (K-5)
Nicole Appelquist, Principal
Nicole.Appelquist@stjohns.k12.fl.us
260 Cacique Drive
St. Augustine, FL 32086
Phone: (904) 547-8400 / 797-7156
Fax: (904) 547-8385
www-wdh.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Hickory Creek Elementary (PK-5)
Yvette Cubero-Gonzalez, Principal
Yvette.Cubero-Gonzalez@stjohns.k12.fl.us
235 Hickory Creek Trail
St. Johns, FL 32259
Phone: (904) 547-7450 / 287-1419
Fax: (904) 547-7455
www-hce.stjohns.k12.fl.us

R.B. Hunt Elementary (K-5)
Amanda Garman, Principal
Amanda.Garman@stjohns.k12.fl.us
125 Magnolia Drive
St. Augustine, FL 32080
Phone: (904) 547-7960
Fax: (904) 547-7955
www-rbh.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Julington Creek Elementary (K-5)
Dr. Joy Reichenberg, Principal
Joy.Reichenberg@stjohns.k12.fl.us
2316 Race Track Road
St. Johns, FL 32259
Phone: (904) 547-7980
Fax: (904) 547-7985
www-jce.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Lakeside Academy (K-8)
Dr. Jesse Gates, Principal
Jesse.Gates@stjohns.k12.fl.us
1455 Twin Creeks Drive
St. Augustine, FL 32095
Phone: (904) 547-4500
Fax: (904) 547-4505
www-la.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Alice B. Landrum Middle (6-8)
Troy Kasting, Principal
Troy.Kasting@stjohns.k12.fl.us
230 Landrum Lane
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Phone: (904) 547-8410 / 285-9080
Fax: (904) 547-8415
www-lms.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Liberty Pines Academy (K-8)
Donny Hoessler, Principal
Donny.Hoessler@stjohns.k12.fl.us
10901 Russell Sampson Rd.
St. Johns, FL 32259
Phone: (904) 547-7900
Fax: (904) 547-7905
www-lpa.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Otis A. Mason Elementary (PK-5)
Monique Keaton, Principal
Monique.Keaton@stjohns.k12.fl.us
207 Mason Manatee Way
St. Augustine, FL 32086
Phone: (904) 547-8440 / 829-2938
Fax: (904) 547-8445
www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Pedro Menendez High (9-12)
Ted Banton, Principal
Ted.Banton@stjohns.k12.fl.us
600 State Road 206 West
St. Augustine, FL 32086
Phone: (904) 547-8660 / 794-7702
Fax: (904) 547-8675
www-pmhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Mill Creek Academy (K-8)
Dr. Ken Goodwin, Principal
Kenneth.Goodwin@stjohns.k12.fl.us
3750 International Golf Parkway
St. Augustine, FL 32092
Phone: (904) 547-3720 / 547-3720
Fax: (904) 547-3730
www-mca.stjohns.k12.fl.us

R.J. Murray Middle (6-8)
Dr. Esther Seward, Principal
Esther.Seward@stjohns.k12.fl.us
150 North Holmes Blvd.
St. Augustine, FL 32084
Phone: (904) 547-8470
Fax: (904) 547-8475
www-nms.stjohns.k12.fl.us

40 Orange Street
St. Augustine, FL 32084

St. Johns County School District 2025-2026 School Directory
Dr. Brennan Asplen, Superintendent of Schools

(904) 547-7500
www.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Allen D. Nease High (9-12)
Gina Fonseca, Principal
Gina.Fonseca@stjohns.k12.fl.us
10550 Ray Road
Ponte Vedra, FL 32081
Phone: (904) 547-8300 / 824-7275
Fax: (904) 547-8305
www-nhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Ketterlinus Elementary (K-5)
Kathy Tucker, Principal
Kathy.Tucker@stjohns.k12.fl.us
67 Orange Street
St. Augustine, FL 32084
Phone: (904) 547-8540 / 824-4431
Fax: (904) 547-8554
www-kes.stjohns.k12.fl.us

St. Johns Virtual School
Dr. Lindsey Page, Coordinator
Lindsey.Page@stjohns.k12.fl.us
2980 Collins Ave., Bldg. 1
St. Augustine, FL 32084
Phone: (904) 547-8081
Fax: (904) 547-8085
www-sjvs.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Ocean Palms Elementary (PK-5)
Tiffany Cantwell, Principal
Tiffany.Cantwell@stjohns.k12.fl.us
355 Landrum Lane
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Phone: (904) 547-3760 / 285-9160
Fax: (904) 547-3775
www-ope.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Picolata Crossing Elementary (PK-5)
Brian Morgan, Principal
Brian.Morgan@stjohns.k12.fl.us
2675 Paocetti Road
St. Augustine, FL 32082
Phone: (904) 547-4160
Fax: (904) 547-4165
www-pce.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Sebastian Middle (6-8)
Kirstie Gabaldon, Principal
Kirstie.Gabaldon@stjohns.k12.fl.us
2955 Lewis Speedway
St. Augustine, FL 32084
Phone: (904) 547-3840/824-5548
Fax: (904) 547-3845
www-sms.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Osceola Elementary (PK-5)
Jessica Mead, Principal
Jessica.Mead@stjohns.k12.fl.us
1605 Osceola Elementary Road
St. Augustine, FL 32084
Phone: (904) 547-3780 / 824-7101
Fax: (904) 547-3795
www-oes.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Pine Island Academy (K-8)
Amanda Riedl, Principal
Amanda.Riedl@stjohns.k12.fl.us
805 Pine Island Road
St. Augustine, FL 32095
Phone: (904) 547-4300
Fax: (904) 547-4305
www-pia.stjohns.k12.fl.us

South Woods Elementary (PK-5)
Angela Rodgers, Principal
Angela.Rodgers@stjohns.k12.fl.us
4750 State Road 206 West
Elkton, FL 32033
Phone: (904) 547-8610
Fax: (904) 547-8615
www-swe.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Pacetti Bay Middle (6-8)
Jeanette Murphy, Principal
Jeanette.Murphy@stjohns.k12.fl.us
245 Meadowlark Lane
St. Augustine, FL 32092
Phone: (904) 547-8760
Fax: (904) 547-8775
www-pbm.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Ponte Vedra High (9-12)
Dr. Fred Oberkehr, Principal
Fredrik.Oberkehr@stjohns.k12.fl.us
460 Davis Park Road
Ponte Vedra, FL 32081
Phone: (904) 547-7350
Fax: (904) 547-7355
www-pvhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Switzerland Point Middle (6-8)
Linda Camall, Principal
Linda.Camall@stjohns.k12.fl.us
777 Greenbriar Road
St. Johns, FL 32259
Phone: (904) 547-8650 / 287-2626
Fax: (904) 547-8635
www-raikier.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Palencia Elementary (K-5)
Catherine Goodrich, Principal
Catherine.Goodrich@stjohns.k12.fl.us
355 Palencia Village Drive
St. Augustine, FL 32095
Phone: (904) 547-4010
Fax: (904) 547-4015
www-pes.stjohns.k12.fl.us

PVPV/Rawlings Elementary (K-5)
Jill Hillier, Principal
Jill.Hillier@stjohns.k12.fl.us
610 Hwy. A1A North
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Phone: (904) 547-8570 / 547-3820
Fax: (904) 547-3825 or 547-8575
www-pvmkr.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Timberlin Creek Elementary (K-5)
Linda Edel, Principal
Linda.Edel@stjohns.k12.fl.us
555 Pine Tree Lane
St. Augustine, FL 32092
Phone: (904) 547-7400 / 287-6352
Fax: (904) 547-7405
www-tce.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Palm Valley Academy (K-8)
Zach Strom, Principal
Zachary.Strom@stjohns.k12.fl.us
700 Bobcat Lane
Ponte Vedra, FL 32081
Phone: (904) 547-4200
Fax: (904) 547-4205
www-pva.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Gamble Rogers Middle (6-8)
Brian Wilson, Principal
Brian.Wilson@stjohns.k12.fl.us
6250 U.S. 1 South
St. Augustine, FL 32086
Phone: (904) 547-8700
Fax: (904) 547-8715
www-grms.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Tocoi Creek High (9-12)
Kelly Jacobson, Principal
Kelly.Jacobson@stjohns.k12.fl.us
11200 St. Johns Parkway
St. Augustine, FL 32092
Phone: (904) 547-4260
Fax: (904) 547-4265
www-tchs.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Patriot Oaks Academy (K-8)
Drew Chiodo, Principal
Drew.Chiodo@stjohns.k12.fl.us
475 Longleaf Pine Parkway
St. Johns, FL 32259
Phone: (904) 547-4050
Fax: (904) 547-4055
www-poa.stjohns.k12.fl.us

St. Augustine High (9-12)
Travis Brown, Principal
Travis.Brown@stjohn.k12.fl.us
3205 Varella Avenue
St. Augustine, FL 32084
Phone: (904) 547-8530 / 829-34710
Fax: (904) 547-8535
www-sahs.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Trout Creek Academy (K-8)
Katie O'Connell, Principal
Katie.OConnell@stjohn.k12.fl.us
855 Timberwolf Trail
St. Augustine, FL 32092
Phone: (904) 547-4450
Fax: (904) 547-4455
www-tca.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Valley Ridge Academy (K-8)
Angela Fuller, Principal
Angela.Fuller@stjohns.k12.fl.us
105 Greenleaf Drive
Ponte Vedra, FL 32081
Phone: (904) 547-4090
Fax: (904) 547-4109
www.vra.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Wards Creek Elementary (PK-5)
Kevin Klein, Principal
Kevin.Klein@stjohns.k12.fl.us
6555 State Road 16
St. Augustine, FL 32092
Phone: (904) 547-8730
Fax: (904) 547-8735
www.wce.stjohns.k12.fl.us

James A. Webster Elementary (PK-5)
Bethany Groves, Principal
[Bethany.Groves@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto: Bethany.Groves@stjohns.k12.fl.us)
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St. Johns Technical High (6-12)
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Technical Center
First Coast Technical College
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State School
Florida School for the Deaf & the Blind
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Charter Schools
St. Augustine Public Montessori
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St. Johns Community Campus (ARC)
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Therapeutic Learning Center (ARC)
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Treaty Oaks Preparatory Academy (K-8)
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Valley Ridge Academy (K-8)
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Character Counts! Program

CHARACTER COUNTS! is an educational framework for teaching universal values and a national coalition of organizations that support each other. The result is a culture change in your school, business or organization. CHARACTER COUNTS! improves the lives of the adults who teach it, the communities that embrace it and the students who make better choices as a result. St. Johns County Schools adopted the CHARACTER COUNTS! Initiative in 1998 to help students learn about the Six Pillars of Character – trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship – and develop strong character traits.

Each month one of the pillars is featured:

- August – All pillars
- September – Fairness
- October – Responsibility
- November – Citizenship
- December – All Pillars
- January – Respect
- February – Caring
- March – Trustworthiness
- April – All Pillars
- May – Citizenship (Emphasis on Patriotism)



Trustworthiness Be honest ■ Don't deceive, cheat or steal ■ Be reliable – do what you say you will do ■ Have the courage to do the right thing ■ Build a good reputation ■ Be loyal – stand by your family, friends and country

Respect Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule ■ Be tolerant and accepting of differences ■ Use good manners, not bad language ■ Be considerate of the feelings of others ■ Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone ■ Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements

Responsibility Do what you are supposed to do ■ Plan ahead · Persevere: keep on trying! ■ Always do your best ■ Use self-control ■ Be self-disciplined ■ Think before you act — consider the consequences ■ Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes ■ Set a good example for others

Fairness Play by the rules ■ Take turns and share ■ Be open-minded; listen to others. Don't take advantage of others ■ Don't blame others carelessly ■ Treat all people fairly

Caring Be kind ■ Be compassionate and show you care ■ Express gratitude ■ Forgive others ■ Help people in need ■ Be charitable and altruistic

Citizenship Do your share to make your school and community better ■ Cooperate ■ Get involved in community affairs ■ Stay informed; vote ■ Be a good neighbor ■ Obey laws and rules ■ Respect authority ■ Protect the environment ■ Volunteer

Fortify FL

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows students or parents to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. By accessing FortifyFL at <https://getfortifyfl.com/> individuals can provide a description of the threat, share pics and videos and optionally submit their contact information.

FortifyFL was created and funded by the 2018 Florida Legislature as part of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. The Office of Attorney General, Department of Education and Florida Department of Law Enforcement coordinated its development and rollout.



Prevention Education

St. Johns County School District is committed to providing developmentally appropriate education and prevention programs to all students. Strategies used in our district for delivery of prevention education at the elementary, middle, and high school levels include classroom instruction, prevention programs, character development, guest speakers, community agency collaboration, staff training and parent awareness.

Reproductive Health Plan

As part of the required instruction for grades 6 to 12 s.1003.42 (3) students also learn about disease prevention and abstinence-based reproductive health, which includes the transmission and prevention of sexually transmitted infection (STI). In middle school the instruction is provided in two class periods in 7th grade science. The 7th grade instructional materials are approved annually by the Florida Department of Education. In high school, disease prevention and abstinence-based reproductive health is taught in the required class Health Opportunities through Physical Education (HOPE), which is a comprehensive health and personal fitness class. The current HOPE textbook was adopted from a list of state-approved texts. **Parents have the option to formally request in writing to review the instructional materials s. 1006.29 (2) for reproductive health and disease prevention or to exempt their child from these lessons.** <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/families/reproductive-health-plan/>

District Prevention Plan

Elementary school students receive grade appropriate health and drug prevention education, which is integrated into the curriculum throughout the year.

In middle and high school, students learn the effects and consequences of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use through lessons integrated into the curriculum, activities during Red Ribbon Week, and collaboration with community agencies.

Bullying prevention education is integrated into the curriculum at all grade levels and taught throughout the year by teachers, school staff, district staff and approved community agencies. Instruction includes identifying, preventing, and responding to bullying and harassment. Instruction on recognizing behaviors that lead to bullying and harassment and taking appropriate action based on those observations is also included.

Cyberbullying and Internet Safety education are addressed through curriculum integration at all grade levels.

The state-mandated prevention education for teen dating violence abuse is taught to secondary students through curriculum integration, presentations, and approved speakers. The characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships and identifying and responding to danger signals of dating violence are included in this curriculum.

For more information on prevention resources and the district policy prohibiting bullying and harassment including how to report bullying, please refer to the Safe and Drug Free Schools' website at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/sdfs/>.

Enrolling Your Child in School

How old does my child have to be to attend school?

Under Florida state law, a child must be 5 years old on or before September 1 to enter kindergarten. To enter first grade, a child must be 6 years old on or before September 1 and must have successfully completed kindergarten.

How do I know which school my child will attend?

Our district website <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/zoning/> provides a link to an Attendance Zone Locator. Our Student Services staff can also assist you. Parents with questions about zoning are encouraged to call our office at 904-547-7598.

How do I enroll my child in school?

You may register your child online at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/student/enrollment/>. For additional i contact your zoned school.

What paperwork will I need to enroll my child?

- **Three proofs of residence** – A current mortgage statement, lease or rent agreement, a current utility bill and one other current bill or statement showing your address. For more information, visit <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/student/residency>.
- **Health Records** – Children entering a Florida public school for the first time must have an up-to-date Florida Certificate of Immunization (HRS FORM 680) and a copy of a physical examination done within one year of enrollment. For information about immunizations required at each grade level, parents are encouraged to call the St. Johns County Health Department. Current immunization requirements for SJCS D students can be found at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/health/immunizations/>.
- **Birth Certificate** – A certified copy of a birth certificate is required by Florida Statute 1003.21.
- **Proof of Guardianship** (if applicable)
- **School Records** – Standardized test scores, recent report cards, and school withdrawal forms are documents that will help the school place your child appropriately. If you do not have access to these verifications, please provide the school with the name and address of your child's previous school so that the necessary information can be obtained.

Parents Bill of Rights

The state, its political subdivisions, any other governmental entity, or other institution may not infringe upon the fundamental rights of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of a minor child. If those entities infringe upon a parent's fundamental right, they must demonstrate that the action is reasonable and necessary to achieve a compelling state interest, and the action must be narrowly tailored and not otherwise served by less restrictive means.

A school district will promote parental involvement in the public school system by providing access to the child's studies and instructional materials while recognizing a parent's right to withdraw the child from objectionable portions of the school's curriculum. A resource page for parents has been created by the Florida Department of Education to help them navigate the avenues available for them to voice concerns regarding potentially unlawful school materials. <https://www.fldoe.org/ParentalRights/>

Requesting a Change in Placement

The Parent's Role with Placement Decisions

Many factors are considered when making a placement decision for a student. The placement decision is based on the preponderance of evidence showing how well a student is meeting the levels of performance for student progression to the next grade level. Parents or guardians may discuss placement decisions with school officials, provide input for consideration, and ask for an explanation of the placement. They may also review the evidence the school used in making the placement; however, the final placement decision is made by the principal. There is no statutory provision which allows voluntary retention.

How do I request a teacher change?

Florida Statute [1003.3101](#) gives a parent the right to request his or her child be transferred to another classroom teacher based on (1) the teacher's out-of-field certification status or (2) personal preference. This statute does not give the parent the right to choose a specific classroom teacher. Teachers with out-of-field certification are named on our district website 30 days before the beginning of the semester. Parents may complete a Teacher Change Request form, which is also available on the district website and at schools. When the form is returned to the school, the parent will be contacted to schedule a conference (required). After the conference, the principal will either approve or deny the request with the rationale for the denial in writing. Consistent with school board rules and in accordance with state statute ([1012.28 \(5\) F.S.](#)), the Superintendent has designated the principal of the school as the final authority in the placement of students in programs or classes.

How do I obtain a school transfer?

Information regarding types of transfers can found at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/choice/>.

The hardship out-of-zone transfer request process is available on the School Services website, <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolservices/transfers/>.

Testing

Throughout the school year, your child will take several standardized tests, including the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST), as part of the new coordinated screening and progress monitoring system aligned to the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) standards. These assessments include Renaissance Star Early Literacy for VPK, Renaissance Star Early Literacy/Reading and Star Mathematics for grades K-2, Cambium Reading for grades 3-10, Cambium Writing for grades 4-10, and Cambium Mathematics for grades 3-8. These assessments are administered three times per year and measure student success with the B.E.S.T. standards. At the fifth and eighth grade levels, students also take the Statewide Science Assessment. This test measures how well students are meeting the state academic standards in science. Students enrolled in Algebra 1, Biology, Civics, Geometry, or U.S. History will take the corresponding state End-of-Course (EOC) assessment and it will constitute 30% of the final grade in the course. Students with disabilities following a modified curriculum will take the Florida Standards Alternate Assessment (FSAA) at the same grade level as their peers who participate in the general statewide assessment program. For additional information about statewide assessments please visit <https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/>.

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) standardized assessments provide information about your child's level of success with the B.E.S.T. standards, track student progress over time, and indicate grade-level performance with the use of achievement levels. Schools use test scores to develop plans for individual student improvement, and test scores are helpful in identifying academic areas of challenge that may require additional support or varied teaching methods. Test results also help identify a student's strengths and may suggest a need for extended learning experiences. Parents always have access to their child's test results through the Home Access Center (HAC).

Schools may opt for additional testing programs, and each school-specific assessment calendar can be found on their individual school website. The district assessment calendar is also available here: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/testing/>. For more information, please refer to the Appendix of this guide.

Reading – Our #1 Priority

St Johns County Schools believe that reading is the most important skill taught in elementary school. Children master six related components as they learn to read. The components of reading include:

1. **Oral Language** provides the foundation for literacy development involving listening and speaking skills.
2. **Phonemic Awareness** is the ability to hear and manipulate the sounds of spoken language. This includes noticing rhyme and the separate, small sounds in words (phonemes).
3. **Phonics** is understanding the relationships between written letters and the sounds they represent. This knowledge allows the reader to “decode” words by translating the letters into speech sounds and blending those sounds to form words.
4. **Fluency** is the ability to read with accuracy, at an appropriate rate and with proper expression. Fluent readers are able to better understand what they read because they are able to decode and recognize frequently used words. This allows them to read at a conversational pace.
5. **Vocabulary** refers to words a reader can understand and use. The more words a child knows, the better he or she understands what is read. Knowing how words relate to each other is a building block that leads to comprehension.
6. **Comprehension** is the ability to understand what one has read. This includes understanding the plot of a story or the information in an article. It also includes the ability to recognize the central idea of an article or being able to compare and contrast characters in a story.



For more information about how parents can promote literacy skills, go to [Florida Academics](#).

What are the B.E.S.T. Standards?

From the beginning of the American experience, citizens have discussed the importance of education and what learning should be taught in school. Educational standards are the learning goals describing what students should know and be able to do at each grade level.

Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and math are approved by the Florida State Board of Education and are implemented across all grades.

The Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for Math include the K-8 grade level standards, the content standards in high school courses, and the K-12 Mathematical Thinking and Reasoning Standards.

The Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) include the K-12 English Language Arts benchmarks specific to each grade level as well as the K-12 ELA Expectations, which are overarching skills that run through every component of language arts.

These rigorous and relevant standards will prepare Florida's students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college, career and life. Each B.E.S.T. Standard provides clear expectations for the knowledge and skills students need to master as they progress through each grade and subject. Parents are encouraged to find more information about the B.E.S.T. Standards at <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards>.

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards are in place for the Arts, Health Education, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages.

Parents may view all of the standards at <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/>.

Kindergarten

In kindergarten, children learn to:

- identify and print upper and lowercase letters of the alphabet
- recognize and produce the sound of each letter
- decode and encode simple words by blending sounds
- draw, dictate, and write simple stories
- listen to and retell familiar stories
- count to tell number of objects
- understand addition as putting together and adding to, and understand subtraction as taking apart and taking from
- identify and describe shapes and classify objects
- know the body parts associated with and function of five senses
- sort objects by observable properties such as size, shape, color, temperature (hot or cold)
- observe that things make sound vibrate
- observe plants and animals, describe how they are alike and different in the way they look and the things they do
- describe and compare using measurable attributes
- identify, describe, analyze, compare, create and compose shapes
- understand that different things move at different speeds (motion)
- use your five senses to observe things: big, small, far, near, push, pull
- describe attributes of day and night
- describe relative location of people, places, things using positional words and map skills
- describe different kinds of jobs that people do, and the tools or equipment used
- know people and events honored in holidays

Parents may view all of the kindergarten standards at <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/> (click on “Standards, then enter the subject and grade level).

How do I help my child?

- Check recommended pacing and content standards using the SJCSO year-at-a-glance documents that are available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>
- View the [Parent Guide](#) for Kindergarten English Language Arts and the [Parent Guide](#) for Kindergarten Mathematics
- View reading information at [Just Read, Florida](#)
- Communicate with the teacher – e-mail is usually best
- Look regularly at your child’s schoolwork
- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Attend the school’s Open House, PTA/PTO meetings, and special events
- Become a member of the School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Visit and volunteer at the school

What national, state or district tests will my child take in kindergarten?

Kindergarten students participate in the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) within the first 30 days of school and again in the middle and end of the year. The FAST assessment tool is STAR Early Literacy, which assists teachers in understanding the abilities of children entering school and targets instruction that helps children become successful learners. STAR data assists teachers in planning curriculum and improving school readiness programs and services for preschool-age children.

Schools have the option of using additional diagnostic assessments, as appropriate. A district assessment calendar is available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/testing/> and a school assessment calendar is available online for each school.

First Grade

In first grade, children learn to:

- read independently for multiple purposes
- decode one and two syllable words by blending sounds
- encode (spell) one syllable words
- write stories, journals and lists
- read and discuss different types of literature and informational text
- represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction facts
- understand place value and properties of operations to add and subtract
- reason with shapes and their attributes
- represent and interpret data
- explore the Law of Gravity
- demonstrate and describe various way objects can move
- identify the major parts of plants, including stem, roots, leaves and flowers
- identify the difference between living and nonliving things
- use simple maps and globes
- recognize symbols and individuals that represent American constitutional democracy
- describe the characteristics of responsible citizenship in the school community
- show respect and kindness to people and animals
- distinguish people as buyers, sellers, and producers of goods and services

Parents may view all the first-grade standards at <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/> (click on “Standards”, then enter the subject and grade level).

How do I help my child?

- Check recommended pacing and content standards using the SJCS D year-at-a-glance documents that are available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>
- View the [Parent Guide](#) for Grade 1 English Language Arts and the [Parent Guide](#) for Grade 1 Mathematics
- View reading information at [Just Read, Florida](#)
- Communicate with the teacher – e-mail is usually best
- Look regularly at your child’s schoolwork
- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Attend the school’s Open House, PTA/PTO meetings, and special events
- Become a member of the School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Visit and volunteer at the school

What national, state or district tests will my child take in first grade?

First grade students participate in the Florida Assessment for Student Thinking (FAST) assessment three times during the year for progress monitoring and guiding instruction.

Schools have the option to use additional diagnostic assessments, as appropriate. A district assessment calendar is available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/testing/> and a school assessment calendar is available for each school.

Second Grade

In second grade, children learn to:

- read independently for multiple purposes
- decode and encode one and two syllable words by blending sounds
- write for different purposes (tell a story, give facts, share an opinion)
- read and discuss different types of literature, including poetry and informational text
- use simple maps, globes and models to identify places
- label on a map or globe the continents, oceans, Equator, Prime Meridian, North and South Pole
- use a map to locate the countries in North America
- recognize that people supply goods and services based on consumer demands
- classify soil types
- distinguish human body parts and their basic functions
- observe and describe major stages in the life cycles of plants and animals
- identify solids, liquids and gases
- understand how magnets work (attract and repel)
- describe ways to conserve energy
- work with equal groups of objects to gain foundations for multiplication
- use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract
- relate addition and subtraction to length
- reason with shapes and their attributes

Parents may view all the second-grade standards at <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/> (click on “Standards”, then enter the subject and grade level).

How do I help my child?

- Check recommended pacing and content standards using the SJCS D year-at-a-glance documents that are available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>
- View the [Parent Guide](#) for Grade 2 English Language Arts and the [Parent Guide](#) for Grade 2 Mathematics
- View reading information at [Just Read, Florida](#)
- Communicate with the teacher – e-mail is usually best
- Look regularly at your child’s schoolwork
- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Attend the school’s Open House, PTA/PTO meetings, and special events
- Become a member of the School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Visit and volunteer at the school

What national, state or district tests will my child take in second grade?

Second grade students participate in the Florida Assessment for Student Thinking (FAST) assessment three times during the year for progress monitoring and guiding instruction.

Schools have the option of using additional diagnostic assessments, as appropriate. A district assessment calendar is at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/testing/> and a school assessment calendar is available for each school.

Third Grade

In third grade children learn to:

- read independently for multiple purposes
- pre-write, draft, edit and publish different kinds of writing
- understand story structure: setting, plot and sequence of events
- begin learning to write in cursive
- use text features to understand informational text
- use simple maps, globes, charts and models to identify places
- label the states in each of the five regions and the countries and commonwealths in North America
- describe how government gains its power from the people
- explain how government was established through a written Constitution
- identify the geography, culture, environment and economics of the United States, Canada, Mexico and Caribbean
- recognize buyers and sellers interact to exchange goods and services through the use of trade or money
- tell how weather impacts habitats
- understand ways animals and plants interact and are interdependent
- describe structures in plants and their roles in food production, support, water and nutrient transport, and reproduction.
- demonstrate that light travels in a straight line until it strikes an object or travels from one medium to another
- demonstrate that light can be reflected, refracted, and absorbed
- know various forms of energy and trace their flow
- understand properties of multiplication and the relationship between multiplication and division and fluency
- use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic
- develop an understanding of fractions as numbers
- understand area as a concept of geometric measurement and how it relates to multiplication and addition
- reason with shapes and their attributes

Parents may view all third-grade standards at <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/> (click on “Standards”, then enter the subject and grade level).

How do I help my child?

- Check recommended pacing and content standards using the SJCSO year-at-a-glance documents that are available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>
- View the [Parent Guide](#) for Grade 3 English Language Arts and the [Parent Guide](#) for Grade 3 Mathematics
- View reading information at [Just Read, Florida](#)
- Communicate with the teacher – e-mail is usually best
- Look regularly at your child’s schoolwork
- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Attend the school’s Open House, PTA/PTO meetings, and special events
- Become a member of the School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Visit and volunteer at the school

What national, state or district tests will my child take in third grade?

Third grade students participate in the Florida Assessment for Student Thinking (FAST) assessment three times during the year for progress monitoring and guiding instruction. Third grade students participate in the FAST in reading and mathematics.

Schools have the option of using additional diagnostic assessments as well. A district assessment calendar is at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/testing/> and a school assessment calendar is available for each school.

Fourth Grade

In fourth grade children learn to:

- read independently for multiple purposes
- understand the importance of plot, theme, setting, and characters in literature
- understand the overall text structure of nonfiction text
- plan, draft, revise, edit and publish stories and other forms of writing including text-based writing
- relate that the rotation of earth and apparent movements of the sun, moon, and stars are connected
- identify the physical properties of common earth-forming minerals.
- recognize humans need resources found on Earth and that these are either renewable or nonrenewable
- describe the difference between physical weathering and erosion.
- compare and contrast the major stages in the life cycles of Florida plants and animals
- trace the flow of energy from the sun as it is transferred along the food chain
- observe and describe some basic forms of energy
- analyze and describe Florida History from Pre-Columbian to Contemporary Florida
- use simple maps, globes, charts and graphs
- gain familiarity with factors and multiples
- generalize place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers
- extend understanding of fractions and ordering
- understand the geometric concepts of angles and be able to measure angles
- draw and identify angles, classify shapes by properties of their lines and angles

Parents may view all fourth-grade standards at <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/> (click on “Standards”, then enter the subject and grade level).

How do I help my child?

- Check recommended pacing and content standards using the SJCS D year-at-a-glance documents that are available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>
- View the [Parent Guide](#) for Grade 4 English Language Arts and the [Parent Guide](#) for Grade 4 Mathematics
- View reading information at [Just Read, Florida](#)
- Communicate with the teacher – e-mail is usually best
- Look regularly at your child’s schoolwork
- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Attend the school’s Open House, PTA/PTO meetings, and special events
- Become a member of the School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Visit and volunteer at the school

What national, state or district tests will my child take in fourth grade?

Fourth grade students participate in the Florida Assessment for Student Thinking (FAST) assessment three times during the year for progress monitoring and guiding instruction. Fourth grade students participate in the FAST in reading, writing and mathematics.

Schools may also opt for additional diagnostics. A district assessment calendar is available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/testing/> and a school assessment calendar is available for each school.

Fifth Grade

In fifth grade students will learn to:

- read independently for multiple purposes
- understand the importance of plot, theme, setting and characters in literature
- understand the overall text structure of nonfiction text
- plan, draft, revise, edit and publish stories and other forms of writing including text-based writing
- understand the scientific process and use it to solve problems
- explain the difference between an experiment and other types of scientific investigation
- recognize and explain that science is grounded in empirical observations that are testable; explanation must always be linked with evidence
- investigate the flow of energy through closed circuits
- distinguish between the Sun, inner and outer planets, asteroids and comets
- describe climate zones, types of precipitation, and the water cycle
- explain force and motion concepts and relationships
- compare and contrast different forms of energy
- compare and contrast properties of matter
- identify human body organs and their function
- understand civil rights and suffrage
- demonstrate an understanding of political, economic, and social aspects of daily colonial life in the thirteen colonies
- identify significant events, individuals, and groups that played a role in the American Revolution
- explain economic, military, and political factors which led to the end of the Revolutionary War
- study government, the economy, immigration, and education
- write and interpret numerical expressions
- perform operations with multi-digit whole numbers and with decimals to hundredths
- apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to multiplication and division of fractions
- understand concepts of volume and relate volume to multiplication and to addition.
- graph points on the coordinate plane to solve real-world mathematical problems

Parents may view all fifth-grade standards at <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/> (click on “Standards”, then enter the subject and grade level).

How do I help my child?

- Check recommended pacing and content standards using the SJCS D year-at-a-glance documents that are available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>
- View the [Parent Guide](#) for Grade 5 English Language Arts and the [Parent Guide](#) for Grade 5 Mathematics
- View reading information at [Just Read, Florida](#)
- Communicate with the teacher – e-mail is usually best
- Look regularly at your child’s schoolwork
- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Attend the school’s Open House, PTA/PTO meetings, and special events
- Become a member of the School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Visit and volunteer at the school

What national, state or district tests will my child take in fifth grade?

Fifth grade students participate in the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) assessment three times during the year for progress monitoring and guiding instruction. Fifth grade students participate in the FAST in reading, writing and mathematics. In addition, fifth grade students are assessed using the Statewide Science Assessment (SSA).

Schools may also opt for additional diagnostics. A district assessment calendar is available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/testing/> and a school assessment calendar is available for each school.

Advanced Academic Opportunities in Elementary School

Each school offers Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) options: whole-grade and mid-year promotion, subject matter acceleration, and virtual instruction in higher grade-level subjects.

Course Acceleration

Students in all grades may be eligible for course acceleration after demonstrating mastery of the current grade level standards. When a student's educational experience is accelerated, no guarantee is made that the entire foundation curriculum has been mastered. This is particularly critical in math and science since topics are presented only once, rather than being repeated year after year. Parents should carefully consider the full academic and social ramifications of acceleration. The parent may confer with the teacher, counselor and principal to determine whether single subject acceleration is appropriate for the individual student based on the student's academic history, teacher recommendation and ability to work independently. The Request for Acceleration should be completed before November 1. Consistent with school board rules and in accordance with state statute [1012.28 \(5\) F.S.](#), the Superintendent has designated the principal of the school as the final authority in the placement of students in programs or classes.

Middle school courses are accessible to elementary students through St. Johns Virtual School and may be completed at home or at school. Final approval by the Director of Instructional Services and the Director of Guidance and Choice is required.

For additional information on acceleration options, please contact your school counselor or see the Elementary School Student Progression Plan on the District website at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/spp/>.

Whole Grade Acceleration

Whole grade acceleration or the double promotion of grade, or part of a grade, may occur when a student achieves at an exceptionally high level. Acceleration may be considered when the student has outstanding abilities and skills, social and emotional maturity, above grade level performance in reading and math, and is capable of meeting other district criteria. When a child is eligible for whole-grade acceleration, parents should carefully consider the following:

- Accelerated coursework grades become a part of your student's permanent record.
- The student is responsible for mastering all standards in his or her current grade and is required to take accelerated grade level FAST Assessments in English Language Arts and Math (3rd – 5th grades), Statewide Science Assessment (5th grade) and Civics (8th grade).
- Parental involvement in the entire process of accelerated coursework is necessary for student success.
- Candidates for whole grade acceleration should have excellent study skills, be self-motivated, and be able to work independently.
- Whole grade acceleration in elementary school will result in a student being younger than his or her classmates. This may become a problem for social and emotional development, as well as athletic competition in later years.

Parents who may be interested in completing the application for the acceleration process should consult with their child's teacher, school counselor and the school principal. Consistent with school board rules and in accordance with state statute [1012.28 \(5\) F.S.](#), the Superintendent has designated the principal of the school as the final authority in the placement of students in programs or classes.

Grade acceleration does not supersede the initial placement age criteria as specified in Florida Statute 1003.21:

- To enter kindergarten, the student must be five years old on or before September 1 of the current school year
- To enter first grade, the student must be six years old on or before September 1 of the current school year

Middle School Years (Grades 6-8)

At the middle school level, students are able to:

- read independently for pleasure
- read, analyze and compare various types of literature, including novels, plays, poetry, stories and non-fiction
- write formal, multi-paragraph essays to explain and/or persuade, or compare sources, and appropriately use proper conventions, focus, organization, and support
- complete research projects on a variety of assigned topics
- prepare and present effective oral presentations
- use integers, fractions, decimals and percentages in math
- use measurements to solve math problems in real world situations
- use empirical observations and measurements to study the natural world
- investigate key concepts in physical, life, and earth/space science
- study the history and the role of the American citizen in democracy
- use a computer to write reports, create graphs and make charts

Parents may view all the middle school standards at <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/>. (Click on “Standards”, then enter the subject and grade level).

The middle school course catalog is available online at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/courses/middle/>.

Middle school course sequences are available in the appendix. For middle school course requirements, please contact your school counselor or see the Middle School Student Progression Plan at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/spp/>.

How do I help my child?

- Ensure that your student completes homework assignments
- Check recommended pacing and content standards using the year-at-a-glance document that is available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>
- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Communicate with the teacher – email may be best for general communications
- Be familiar with your child’s instructional materials
- Attend the school’s Open House, PTA/PTO meetings, and special events
- Become a member of the School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Visit and volunteer at the school
- Ask your child’s teachers for a syllabus or course outline
- Access the Home Access Center at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac> to check your child’s grades, state test scores, assignments and attendance
- Promote the importance of reading outside of the school setting
- Visit <http://floridastudents.org/#> for Florida Standards-based videos for English language arts, math, science and civics
- Visit <http://floridastudents.org/#> for parent guides and resources for English language arts and math
- Encourage your child to participate in academic fairs, events and clubs such as the Science Fair, History Fair and Robotics Club. Clubs vary by school based primarily upon student demand.

What state tests will my child take in middle school?

All middle school students participate in Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) in English Language Arts and Mathematics. The ELA FAST includes a writing component which is administered in April and a reading test administered three times a year. The FAST Math assessment is also administered three times a year. The FAST measures how well a student is meeting the Florida B.E.S.T Standards (Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking).

Eighth grade students will take the Statewide Science Assessment. This test measures how well students are meeting the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) in the area of science.

Eighth grade students enrolled in civics participate in the state end-of-course (EOC) assessment which constitutes 30 percent to the final grade in the course.

Students enrolled in high school courses which include a state EOC assessment must participate in the EOC which contributes 30 percent to the final grade in the course (Algebra I, Algebra 1B, Geometry, Biology and U.S. History).

For information on EOC assessments, parents may go to <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/end-of-course-eoc-assessments/>.

The district assessment calendar is available at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/testing/> and a school assessment calendar is available for each school.

Students taking High School courses in Middle School follow the District Assessment guide for High School.

Advanced Academic Opportunities in Middle Schools

Each school offers Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) options: whole-grade and mid-year promotion, subject matter acceleration, virtual instruction in higher grade-level subjects, and the Credit Acceleration Program. Acceleration options do not supersede the core requirements for promotion to high school (3 English Language Arts, 3 Math, 3 Science, 3 Social Studies). Students at all middle schools may be enrolled in high school credit-earning courses, such as Algebra I Honors, Geometry Honors, Physical Science Honors, Biology Honors, Spanish I, or Introduction to Information Technology. Parents are encouraged to contact individual middle schools for specific courses offered. High school credit-earning courses adhere to the high school grading policy. Algebra I Honors and Geometry Honors include required state end-of-course exams. They are included in the student's cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) and may be used to satisfy high school graduation requirements and Florida Bright Futures award requirements. Dual enrollment courses are available for middle school students who are ready for college course work.

Program specifics are available through each school's guidance department. See your school counselor for more information.

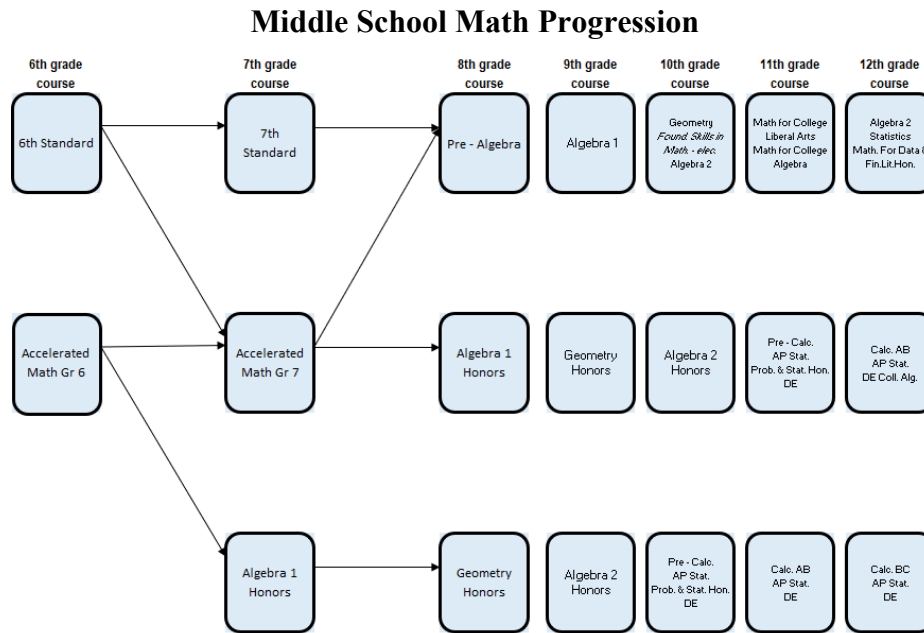
Advanced Course Placement Criteria

The following criteria represent consensus of all middle school and district administrators:

- Grades - A grade of "C" or better in the previous honors or advanced course OR a grade of "A" in the previous standard course OR
- FSA- Level 4 or 5 in appropriate area and not less than a Level 3 in any area
 - ❖ On Mathematics and reading FSA for placement in honors or advanced mathematics classes.
 - ❖ On Reading FSA for placement in honors or advanced English, social studies, science or foreign language

- ❖ Students with level 1 or 2 on their ELA-FSA will be placed in courses that provide targeted or intensive reading interventions and the students may not qualify for an honors level course.
- In the case of extenuating circumstances, a petition may be made on a case-by-case basis to the principal (or designee) for review of criteria to ensure proper course placement.

Specific math placement criteria were developed and are shown in the math course progression chart that follows.



Multiple data points to include assessment scores and course grades are used in determining placement.

February 2, 2022

Teacher recommendations may be considered, but the superintendent has designated the principal as the final authority in placement decisions.

Choice Program for Middle School Students

The St. Johns County Center for the Arts at R.J. Murray Middle School is a program of choice for rising 6th graders. It offers artistically gifted students a program of study designed to develop their unique talents in the performing and visual arts within an environment that is emotionally supportive and intellectually challenging. Students must apply and auditions are required.

Application, audition and transportation procedures apply to students requesting consideration for this program. <https://www-mms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>.



High School (Grades 9-12)

At the high school level, students should be able to perform the following:

- read independently for pleasure
- read, analyze and compare complex types of literature, including novels, plays, poetry, stories, and non-fiction
- write papers (reports, essays and research projects) that explain and/or persuade and appropriately use proper conventions, focus, organization, and support
- conduct research projects using a variety of sources
- prepare and present effective oral presentation.
- use algebra and geometry to solve mathematical problems
- use scientific processes to solve problems
- understand biological processes of all living things
- analyze the history of the United States and the world
- define their own political beliefs based on knowledge of American democracy
- understand different economic systems in the world and how they relate to each other
- understand how financial institutions work and how to manage money

Students entering ninth grade must complete at least one course through online learning or earn an industry certification in Information Technology. AP, IB, AICE and 18 credit diploma candidates are exempt from this requirement.

Parents may view all the standards at <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/>. (Click on “Standards”, then the subject and grade level).

The high school course catalog designated by the state is available online at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/cs/catalogs/>.

Information about voluntary public service and eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program can be found at <https://floridabrightfutures.gov/>.

The high school sequence for language arts, mathematics, social studies and science courses are available in the appendix.

How do I help my child?

- Ensure your student completes homework assignments
- Be familiar with your student’s instructional materials
- Check recommended pacing and content standards using the year-at-a-glance documents that are available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>
- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Attend the school’s Open House, PTA/PTO meetings, and special events
- Become a member of the School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Visit and volunteer at the school
- Ask your student’s teachers for a syllabus or course outline
- E-mail teachers for general communications
- Use the Home Access Center at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/> to check your child’s grades, assignments and attendance
- Promote the importance of reading outside the school setting
- Visit <http://www.floridastudents.org/> for Florida Standards-based videos for English language arts, math and science
- Visit <http://www.floridastandards.org/#> for parent guides and resources for English language arts and math

What state or national tests will my child be taking in high school?

All freshmen and sophomores participate in the English Language Arts Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST). The FAST in English Language Arts includes a writing component which is given in April and a reading test given three times a year. This test measures how well students are meeting the English Language Arts Florida B.E.S.T. Standards (Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking).

Students enrolled in a course with a state end-of-course (EOC) assessment participate in the state EOC that contributes 30 percent to the final grade in the course – Algebra 1, Algebra 1B, Geometry, Biology and U.S. History. For additional information concerning assessments, visit <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/end-of-course-eoc-assessments/>.

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) is a state supported exam administered free to all sophomores. Freshmen and juniors have the opportunity to take the PSAT exam; a fee may be incurred. The PSAT functions as an Advanced Placement test success predictor, SAT test success predictor, and is used as a qualifying test for National Merit Scholarships for juniors. The PSAT assesses students in critical reading, mathematics and writing skills. The results are used to advise students about advanced coursework for the purpose of earning college credits.

What district final exams will my child take in high school?

Students participate in a district final exam for select courses. This assessment counts as 10% of the culminating semester grade.

Grade Calculation Guide					
Courses	Semester 1	Semester 2	State EOC	Final Exam	State or Third-Party Assessment
FSA, AP, IB, AICE	Q1 = 50% Q2 = 50%	Q3 = 50% Q4 = 50%	n/a	n/a	No impact to course grade
EOC -yearlong courses	Q1 = 17.5 Q2 = 17.5	Q3 = 17.5 Q4 = 17.5	30% of final grade	n/a	n/a
High School courses District final exam	Q1 = 50% Q2 = 50%	Q3 = 45% Q4 = 45%	n/a	10% of culminating semester grade	n/a
High School courses – No final exam	Q1 = 50% Q2 = 50%	Q3 = 50% Q4 = 50%	n/a	No final exam	n/a

Schools may also opt for additional diagnostic testing programs. The district assessment calendar is available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/testing/> and a school assessment calendar is available for each school.

For additional information on high school grade averaging, grade weighting and grade calculation, see the Student Progression Plan at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/spp/>.

Advanced Academic Opportunities in High Schools

Each St. Johns County high school offers Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) options: whole-grade and mid-year promotion, subject matter acceleration, virtual instruction in higher grade-level subjects, early graduation, early admission to college and the Credit by Acceleration Program. These options include both challenging academic programs recognized worldwide and advanced courses for which college credit is awarded upon successful completion of coursework and examinations. A rigorous high school schedule that includes advanced coursework is a major predictor for success in college. Numerous studies show that students who have taken rigorous courses (honors, AP, IB, AICE, Dual Enrollment) while in high school are prepared for the challenges of a college education and are much more likely to earn their degree within five years.

Parents are encouraged to be involved in the course selection process. The courses you and your child select are the first steps in preparing for the next level. As students develop their Customized Learning Paths (CLPs) with their parents and guidance counselors, they are encouraged to consider the following opportunities for advancement.

AICE, AP and IB courses are designed to earn college credit as well as meet high school graduation requirements. As such, materials and discussions for these courses may reflect topics not typically included in SJCSD courses. Due to the dual credit nature of these courses, content and materials may not be modified.

All High Schools

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

The College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) Program is a nationwide program consisting of more than 30 college level courses and exams offered at participating high schools. Subjects range from art to statistics. Students who earn a qualifying grade of 3 or above on an AP exam may earn college credit, placement in higher level courses or both, depending on the college or university. There is no guarantee that a college will accept credits earned through this program.

College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)

College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams test mastery of college-level material acquired in a variety of ways – through general academic instructions, significant independent study or extracurricular work. Students can earn credit for what they already know by getting qualifying scores on any of the 33 examinations available. Students are responsible for the CLEP expenses and any administrative fees.

Early College Program

The Early College Program is a partnership with St. Johns River State College. Students who meet eligibility criteria may enroll in college courses to simultaneously earn high school and college credit. The pathway provides an opportunity for the student to earn an associate degree simultaneously with their high school diploma. Florida Statute establishes that “the Dual Enrollment program is the enrollment of an eligible secondary student in a postsecondary course creditable toward high school completion and a career certificate or an associate or baccalaureate degree.”

Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment allows eligible middle and high school students to enroll in postsecondary courses. They earn credit toward high school graduation and at the same time earn credit toward a college degree or technical certificate. Our primary provider of dual enrollment courses is St. Johns River State College. Students are permitted to enroll in dual enrollment courses on a part-time basis during school hours, after school, or during the summer term and on a full-time basis in their junior and senior years. For a list of dual enrollment courses that

are equivalent to high school courses and satisfy graduation requirements, see <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/20725/urlt/19-2.pdf>.

Dual enrollment science courses taken with a corresponding laboratory course will be awarded 1.0 high school science credit. Dual enrollment sciences courses taken without a laboratory component will be awarded 0.5 high school credits. Lecture and lab courses with different course numbers may be used if the lab course is appropriate to the lecture course as identified by the post-secondary institution.

Early Admission

Early admission is similar to dual enrollment, except that qualified students enroll in college/university courses full-time during their last year in high school. They earn credits simultaneously toward a college degree and a high school diploma.

Honors Courses

Honors courses lay the academic foundation for advanced courses for earning college credit while in high school. Honors courses include all those with an honors designation in the St. Johns County School District High School Course Catalog, Preliminary International Baccalaureate (Pre-IB) and Preliminary Advanced International Certificate of Education (Pre-AICE) courses, and St. Johns Virtual School Courses with an honor designation.

Honors Course Placement Criteria

1. **Grades** - A grade of “C” or better in the previous honors course OR an “A” in the previous standard course
OR
2. **FSA** – Students must score a Level 4 or 5 in appropriate area and not less than a Level 3 in any area:
 - Mathematics FSA for placement in honors mathematics classes
 - Reading FSA for placement in honors English, social studies, science or foreign language**OR**
3. **PSAT** – A score of 480 or higher on the appropriate assessment:
 - Math score for mathematics honors class placement
 - Reading and/or language for English, social studies, science and foreign languages honors class placement**OR**
4. **PLAN**- A score of 170 (English), 210 (mathematics) or higher on the appropriate assessment:
 - Math score for mathematics honors class placement
 - Reading and/or language for English, social studies, science and foreign languages honors class placement
5. **Norm Referenced Test** – Students must score a stanine of 7, 8, or 9 on an appropriate assessment:
 - Math score for mathematics honors class placement
 - Reading and/or language for English, social studies, science, and foreign language honors class placement

Please Note: Students with level 1 or 2 on their ELA-FSA will be placed in courses that provide targeted or intensive reading interventions and the students may not qualify for an honors level course.

In the case of extenuating circumstances, a petition may be made on a case-by-case basis to the principal (or designee) for review of criteria to ensure proper course placement.

Advanced International Programs

Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) at Beachside High School and St. Augustine High School

The AICE Program is a rigorous international curriculum and examination program modeled on the British pre-college curriculum. To be considered for an AICE Diploma, a candidate must earn the equivalent of seven credits by passing a combination of examinations at either the full (one credit) Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS) or double (two credits) International Advanced Level (A), with at least one course coming from each of the three curriculum areas and the “Core” course. Florida’s colleges and universities provide college credit for successfully passing the exams. [See Programs of Choice.](#)

International Baccalaureate (IB) at Allen D. Nease and Pedro Menendez High Schools

The IB Diploma Program is a rigorous pre-university course of study leading to internationally standardized tests. The program’s comprehensive two-year curriculum allows its graduates to fulfill the requirements of many nations’ education systems. Students completing IB courses and exams from six subject groups are eligible for college credit. The award of credit is based on the scores achieved on the IB exams. Students can earn up to 30 postsecondary semester credits by participating in this program at the high school level. Community service is required. [See Programs of Choice.](#)

Virtual Education

St. Johns Virtual School

St. Johns Virtual School (SJVS) offers multiple, high quality, online curriculums for grades K-12. Courses are taught by St. Johns County teachers and students may opt to take one or more courses during the school day or apply to the diploma granting Full Time program. SJVS can be a resource for students with limited access to AP or other course offerings in their zoned schools. For more information, call 904-547-8081 or visit <https://stjohnsvirtual.com/>



Programs of Interest

Multi-year Programs of Interest such as Career Academies, Center for the Arts, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), and Advanced Academic Programs such as International Baccalaureate (IB) or Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), are accessed through an application process. An out-of-zone waiver is granted for students to attend programs outside their normal attendance zone. Please note that when a student attends an out-of-zone school, parents/guardians are responsible for transportation of their student.

Program of Interest	High School
St. Johns County Center for the Arts	St. Augustine High School

Junior Reserve Officer Training	High School
Air Force JROTC	Bartram Trail High School
Army JROTC	St. Augustine High School
Navy JROTC	Allen D. Nease High School

Advanced Academic Programs of Interest	High School
Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE)	Beachside High School
Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE)	St. Augustine High School
International Baccalaureate (IB)	Allen D. Nease High School
International Baccalaureate (IB)	Pedro Menendez High School

Career Academies	High School
Academy of Hospitality and Tourism	Allen D. Nease High School
Communications Academy	Allen D. Nease High School
Stellar Academy of Engineering	Allen D. Nease High School
Design Academy	Bartram Trail High School
Information Technology Academy	Bartram Trail High School
VyStar Academy of Business & Finance	Bartram Trail High School
Academy of Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management	Beachside High School
Academy of Information Technology	Beachside High School
Academy of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences	Beachside High School
Academy of Emerging Technology	Creekside High School
Academy of Engineering and Environmental Sciences	Creekside High School
St. Johns County Academy of Future Teachers	Creekside High School
Communications Academy	Creekside High School
Academy of Architectural Design and Technology Academy	Pedro Menendez High School
UF Health+ Academy of Future Health Care Professionals	Pedro Menendez High School
VyStar Academy of Business	Pedro Menendez High School
Academy of Biotechnology and Medical Research	Ponte Vedra High School
Academy of Information Technology	Ponte Vedra High School
Academy of International Business and Marketing	Ponte Vedra High School
Academy of Future Educators	Ponte Vedra High School
Academy of Aviation and Aerospace	St. Augustine High School
Academy of Law and Homeland Security	St. Augustine High School

St. Johns County Academy of Future Teachers	St. Augustine High School
Academy of Innovation and the Built Environment	Tocoi Creek High School
Academy of Leadership in Emerging Technologies	Tocoi Creek High School
UF Health+Academy of Future Healthcare Professionals	Tocoi Creek High School
St. Johns County Academy of Future Educators	Tocoi Creek High School
Academy of Aquaculture	St. Johns Technical High School
Academy of Culinary Arts	St. Johns Technical High School

Career Academies



In St. Johns County, the nine high schools offer 26 career academies aligned with the region's high-skill, high-wage industries. Career academies are small, personalized learning communities within a high school. Students must apply to be part of an academy and be accepted with parental knowledge and support. Every career academy includes these essential elements: a small learning community; a rigorous, college-prep curriculum with a targeted career theme; relevance reinforced in each program through well established relationships with business partners; and the opportunity to earn college credit and/or industry certifications. Many of our career academies focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education. STEM-driven curriculum addresses the need for greater diversity in the 21st century workforce by transforming the typical teacher-driven classroom into a problem-solving, exploratory classroom, requiring students to participate in authentic lessons that make connections between school, community, work and global enterprise. Research shows students entering career academies do better in school, have higher college enrollment rates and earn more money than non-career academy students. If your child chooses to enroll in a career academy, he/she may earn college credit through partners such as Embry- Riddle Aeronautical University, University of North Florida or St. Johns River State College - all at *no cost* to the student.

Florida Virtual School students, St. Johns Virtual School students and Homeschool Education students who wish to learn more about participating in Career Academies and available Industry Certification examinations should contact the Career and Technical Education Department at 904-547-4870.

Students who demonstrate proficiency on approved Gold Standard Career Pathway Industry Certifications for which there is a current articulation agreement, may be eligible to receive articulated credits from post-secondary institutions (s. 1003.02 F.S.).

Eligible certifications for which there are active agreements may be found at: <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/career-technical-edu-agreements/industry-certification.shtml>.

For more information, application process and dates to apply for an Academy, please visit <https://cte.stjohns.k12.fl.us/academies/>.

First Coast Technical College (FCTC)

Students are offered two different formats of hands-on learning through Dual Enrollment and Secondary elective courses at FCTC by meeting the following requirements:

- **Career Dual Enrollment**
 - enrolled in 9-12th grade; some programs are 11-12th grade only
 - maintain 2.0 unweighted GPA
 - visit <https://fctc.edu/students/highschool/dual-enrollment/de/> for information
 - check your email for important updates

- **Secondary elective courses**
 - enrolled in 9-12th grade
 - visit <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/student/enrollment/> with required signatures for your home school counselor to submit by the deadline

Key guidelines for successful student outcomes:

- Students are motivated
- Students have the ability to adapt successfully to a college environment
- Students are accountable for their attendance
- Students are engaged/proactive learners

For more information on programs offered, requirements and applications, visit [FCTC.edu](https://fctc.edu), or your school counselor.

Promotion Requirements

The promotion requirements for students in St. Johns Public Schools can be found in detailed form in the St. Johns County School District *Student Progression Plan* at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/spp/>.

Elementary School (grades K-2)

Promotion in grades K-2 is based primarily on progress in reading. Students must make satisfactory progress in Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) to be promoted. Each student's reading progress toward grade level reading achievement is determined by appropriate assessments, both teacher-made and commercial, and teacher judgment.

Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) will be administered to kindergarten through second grade. This assessment will determine which students need additional instruction in reading. Each such student shall be referred to the school's Multi-Tier Support System (MTSS) Team or its equivalent for review of the student's progress and portfolio. The MTSS Team or its equivalent shall review the student's records and determine whether the preponderance of evidence indicates that the student should be promoted.

Promotion of Students (grades 3-5)

To be promoted in grades 3-5, a student must demonstrate mastery of grade level benchmarks in language arts, mathematics, and science.

Student performance at a Level 1 or Level 2 on the FAST in reading, and/or Level 1 or 2 in mathematics is considered below grade level. Students performing below grade level shall be referred to the school's Multi-Tier Support System (MTSS) Team or its equivalent for a comprehensive review of the student's academic achievement. The MTSS Team or its equivalent shall review the student's records and determine whether the preponderance of evidence indicates that the student should be promoted.

The principal (or designee) may recommend promotion for a student in grades 3-5 not passing the grade level course in language arts, mathematics, or science, if the student demonstrates mastery of language arts/reading, mathematics, and/or science by achieving a score of Level 3 or above on the FAST in reading and/or mathematics and the preponderance of evidence indicates that the student is ready for the work of the next grade level.

In instances where curriculum has been suspended in certain core academic subjects to allow for intensive remediation in reading and/or mathematics, the principal (or designee) makes the determination for promotion based on demonstrated student mastery of appropriate benchmarks.

State law mandates that a grade 3 student who scores a Level 1 on the FAST in reading be retained, unless he/she qualifies for one of six Good Cause Exemptions. For more comprehensive information on promotion and retention, especially for grade 3 students, please refer to the elementary section of the St. Johns County *Student Progression Plan* at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/spp/>.

Florida Law, [Section 1008.22 \(3\)](#) Promotion requirements for third grade students:

- The requirement in [Section 1008.25\(5\)\(b\)](#): To be promoted to grade 4, a student must score a Level 2 or higher on the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment required under 1008.22 F.S.
- An additional option approved by the State Board of Education in Rule 6A-1.094221 (a): Scores at or above the 45th percentile on the Reading SAT-10.
- Completes the portfolio assessments at or above 70% mastery.

There are no other options approved in state law or rule for students.

If a 3rd grade student refuses to participate or a parent refuses to allow his/her student to participate in the state required assessment program, the Reading SAT 10, or to complete the portfolio assessments, it will be necessary for the student to be retained in 3rd grade.

Middle School (grades 6-8)

Promotion from a school composed of middle grades 6, 7, and 8 requires that the student must successfully complete academic courses as follows:

1. Three middle school or higher courses in language arts, which emphasize literature, composition, and technical text
2. Three middle school or higher courses in mathematics
3. Three middle school or higher courses in social studies
 - a) One semester which must include the study of state and federal government and civics education.
 - b) Additionally, a career and education-planning course must be completed in either grades 6, 7 or 8th grade. The course must be internet-based, customizable to each student and include research bases assessment to assist the students in determining educational and career options. [1003.4156 F.S.](#)
4. Three middle school or higher courses in science
5. The equivalent of one class period per day of physical education for one semester of each year

A student in grades 6, 7 or 8 is considered to be below grade level if he/she scores Level 1 or Level 2 on the Florida Standards Assessment in reading and/or mathematics.

High School (grades 9-12)

Promotion of high school students is dependent on the awarding of credit. To be classified as a sophomore, a student must have a minimum of five credits; to be classified as a junior, a student must have a minimum of eleven credits; to be classified as a senior, a student must have a minimum of seventeen credits. Students may graduate early by completing the 24 credits required for a standard diploma in less than 8 semesters or by completing the 18 credit Acceleration Diploma option. Specific graduation requirements are available at <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/k-12-public-schools/sss/graduation-requirements/>.

Required Credits at the End of Academic-Year:

Total credits to graduate	18 or 24*
Credits to become a senior	17
Credits to become a junior	11
Credits to become a sophomore	5

*Depending on diploma option selected.

Library Media

St. Johns County School District has a school library media program in each school. Each school has a link on their website that allows parents to review the titles in their library collection. Parents may utilize the [Parental Choice Library Book Restriction Form](#) to restrict titles their child may check out from the school library.

Each school has a School Media Advisory Committee made up of parents, community members and staff. This committee works closely with the school to support media programming and book selections. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact your school Media Specialist or Principal.

Grading and Reporting

Report cards provide the student and the student's parent or guardian with an objective evaluation of scholastic achievement with indicators of progress. Report cards depict and evaluate the student's:

- academic performance in each class or course in grades K through 5 based on examinations as well as other appropriate academic performance items
- conduct and behavior and
- attendance, including absences and tardies

All schools use the district's approved report card as the primary means of reporting student progress. Report cards are issued at the end of each grading period on dates adopted annually for the official school year calendar. Grades are issued to all students in attendance. Students transferring into the district after the midpoint of a reporting period may be assigned grades based on records/grades from the sending school.

Students Working on Grade Level in Grades K-5

Report card grades reflect the student's progress toward meeting standards. Satisfactory grades in the general program indicate an acceptable level of progress of most grade level standards for that point in the year.

Interim Progress Reports

Interim progress reports are issued to all students in grades 1-12 at the midpoint of each regularly established grading period on dates adopted annually for the official school calendar. Interim reports may be done via parent or guardian conferences as well as through reporting forms or Home Access Center (HAC).

GRADING SCALE FOR GRADES 3 - 12		
Grades	Descriptor	GPA Unweighted Value (High School Only)
A = 90 -100	Outstanding Progress	4.0
B = 80 - 89	Above Average Progress	3.0
C = 70 - 79	Average Progress	2.0
D = 60 - 69	Lowest Acceptable Progress	1.0
F = 0 - 59	Failure	0
I = 0	Incomplete	0

Middle and High Retake and Remediation Policies

For information regarding middle school and high school retake and remediation policy, see the Student Progression Plan at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/spp/>.

Summer Programs

Summer Reading Program

- REQUIRED for 3rd graders scoring at Level 1 on the FAST in reading
- Best-practice reading instruction by highly effective teachers
- Transportation provided

Extended School Year

- For students with disabilities who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) indicating that extended school year services are necessary to allow the student to benefit from his/her school year instructional program or to prevent significant regression
- Instruction by highly qualified instructors in a variety of service delivery models to meet the needs of individual students
- Transportation provided

Virtual and Dual Enrollment Options

- St. Johns Virtual School and Florida Virtual School offers summer courses for acceleration or credit recovery
- APEX online course recovery is offered for grades 6 -12 students
- Dual Enrollment courses for eligible students are available through St. Johns River State College

Available Services

Extended Day

Extended Day is offered at most elementary schools and K-8 schools by either the school or community agencies. Before and after school care is available for students K-5. Please check with each individual K-8 for program times and grades served. These programs are a community service; pricing will differ from school to school. Contact your child's school for details on their Extended Day Program.

Full-Service Schools

Full-Service Schools is a collaborative program with local community partners. It is designed to promote positive mental, emotional, physical and social health services for students and families in Full-Service School sites. The current sites are Crookshank Elementary, Osceola Elementary, Webster Elementary and South Woods Elementary Schools. Services include but are not limited to counseling, health screenings, dental services, vision evaluations with follow up, nutrition programs, and social services referrals. For information, please contact Student Services at 904-547-7587.



Head Start

The SJCSO Head Start Program provides high quality comprehensive services to eligible three and four-year olds. Head Start students receive educational, dental, mental health, disabilities, health, nutrition, and family support services. Head Start is a full school day program and is located at Crookshank Elementary, Osceola Elementary, South Woods Elementary, Webster Elementary and FCTC. Please contact Early Childhood Services at 904- 547-8965 for additional information.

Homeless

Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, adequate nighttime residence are considered homeless. If due to a loss of housing, a child must live in a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground on the street, in abandoned buildings, or doubled-up with relatives or friends, then he/she is eligible to receive services provided under the McKinney-Vento Act.

For further information, contact the SJCSO Homeless Liaison at (904) 547-7589 or visit <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/homeless/>.

Placement of Dependent Children of Active-Duty Military Personnel

Florida is a member of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission which addresses key educational transition issues encountered by children of active military families. The purpose of the Compact is to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families including, but not limited to, eligibility, enrollment, placement and graduation. Further information is available from the Student Services Department at (904) 547-7598.



Title I, Part A

Title I (Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged) is a program serving students in elementary and secondary schools. Title I, Part A funding provides supplemental academic services to students enrolled in high-poverty schools within St. Johns County. For more information, please call 904-547-8928. You may also access the website at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/federal/>.

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)

The SJCS D VPK Program is available at all 19 of our elementary schools and FCTC. The VPK program is a high quality blended early childhood program that is designed to prepare our four-year olds for kindergarten. VPK is a state funded program for all children four years of age on or before September 1 of the school year entering the program. Children are eligible to attend VPK during the school year or during the summer prior to entering kindergarten. VPK provides 540 hours of instruction for three hours per day from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and full-day programming until the end of the academic day, Monday through Friday throughout the school year. The Summer VPK Program is 300 hours of instruction.

District VPK Programs are funded with resources from Head Start, ESE, Title I and VPK. Programs at Crookshank Elementary, Osceola Elementary, South Woods Elementary and Webster Elementary are free all-day programs. Another model of VPK offers full-day at our other VPK school sites. For more information, please contact VPK Manager Donna Fenech at Early Childhood Services at 904-547-8959 or call your child's home zoned school.

More Services Available to Parents:

Please contact your child's school counselor or the school front office for information on the following:

- Mentoring services
- Student counseling services
- Academic advice for your child
- After school programs
- The school's annual report
- An explanation of the student's progress report and assessments results
- Promotion requirements
- Home Access Center – a web-based application that allows parents to view their child's educational information via a secure password-protected website. More details can be found at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/>. (Refer to the Home Access Center section of this document for an overview of the program.)

Food and Nutrition Services Parent Info Guide

MEAL PRICES for 2025-2026	
Elementary School Breakfast	\$1.75
Middle & High School Breakfast	\$1.75
Reduced Price Breakfast	\$0.30
Elementary School Lunch	\$3.25
Middle & High School Lunch	\$3.50
Reduced Price Lunch	\$0.40
Adult Breakfast	\$2.75
Adult Lunch	\$5.00



Menus:

Menus can be found on the St. Johns County District website, <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/food/> under the Food & Nutrition Services Department tab.

How do students access their Prepaid School Meal Account at school?

All students will receive a personal identification number (PIN) for their prepaid school meal account from their homeroom teacher or the Food Service Manager at the beginning of the school year. This can range from a three to five-digit number. Your student should memorize this number and not share with any other students as this number is directly tied to their personal school meal account. Your student will use this PIN number until they leave their current school but the remaining balance, positive or negative, will follow the student to any school in which they are enrolled throughout the school district. A new PIN will be assigned to a student if they enroll at a new school. Student identification scanners are used at many schools and must be used to access their school meal account. Please check with your student or your Food Service Manager.

Prepaid School Meal Account Balance Policy

No student will be denied a school meal because of a negative prepaid school meal account balance. As a result, debt will continue to accumulate on any student's account with a negative balance but still choosing to receive program school meals. Middle and High school students will be informed when their prepaid school meal account balance is less than \$10.00.

At \$0 balance, no à la carte purchases are permitted without cash in hand.

Once the student's prepaid school meal account balance is at or below \$0, this information will be communicated to the parent(s) or guardian via Parent Square/text, email, and/or phone call at least two times per month.

An application for free or reduced school meals will be offered to the parent/guardian.

Once a negative balance of \$25.00 is exceeded, the food service manager will seek assistance from the school administration to communicate with the parent and document the activity.

The FNS Department will work with District level student services if the parent/guardian does not respond to school administration inquiries regarding unpaid school meal account debt.

Guardians can set up an account with PayPAMS to review a student's account balance and activity.

**The Student Prepaid School Meal Account Balance Policy detailed above can be printed for reference by all applicable households.

**No student will be overtly identified as a recipient of any level of school meal benefits.

À LA CARTE ITEMS:

Many of the schools provide specialty, À la Carte items. These items range in price and are not included in the paid, free or reduced priced "school breakfast or lunch". All customers may purchase à la carte items with cash or by using their school meal account.

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Free and Reduced Priced Meal Application REMINDER:

Parents are encouraged to complete one Free and Reduced Price School Meal Application per family including all children in household, rather than one per child. The application can be obtained online at www.stjohns.K12.fl.us/food/free and completed online by following the link to the Free and Reduced Price School Meal Application. Schools have limited availability of printed applications. This single application for the family may be returned to any of the district schools where parents have a child/children enrolled; we prefer that parents return the application to the school where their youngest child is enrolled. The schools will be sending all completed applications to the District School Food Services Office for centralized approval. Until the application is processed and approved by the District Food Service Office, any meal charges will be the responsibility of the adult/guardian. The approval process can take up to ten (10) days.

Your student'(s) meal status (free or reduced) at the end of a school year will continue through the first 30 days of the next school year, or until a new application or eligibility status is on file. Unless a new School Meal Application has been processed and approved by the 30th day of school, your student'(s) meal status will revert to PAID. You may complete a school meal application at any time during the school year.

PLEASE NOTE:

Students attending a **CEP (Community Eligibility Provision)** school will not be required to fill out an Application for Free and Reduces school meals. All students eat at no cost at those particular schools. If there is a sibling in the household that attends a non-CEP school, then an application will need to be completed for that student.

CEP schools are as follows:

Crookshank Elementary School
James A. Webster Elementary School
Ketterlinus Elementary
Gamble Rogers Middle School
Mason Elementary School
Sebastian Middle School
Murray Middle School
Osceola Elementary School
South Woods Elementary School
St. Johns Technical High School
First Coast Technical College (FCTC VPK Program)
The Evelyn Hamblen Center
W. D. Hartley Elementary School

PREPAYMENT FOR FOOD ITEMS:

Prepayments to your student's school meal account with a debit or credit card can be made by logging on to www.paypams.com. Payment can also be received by the food service manager in form of check or cash. If a check is used, please indicate the students' name and student personal identification number (PIN) on the check in the memo section. Prepayment is encouraged as it assists in the movement of students through the line.

FOOD ALLERGIES:

If your child has food allergies, please provide the school nurse with a physician's note indicating the allergies and the appropriate substitutions that are recommended by the physician or medical authority.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE FOOD SERVICE MANAGER:

The food service manager is on site prior to the school starting to begin breakfast meal preparation and departs from the school upon completion of lunch. Inquires should be made prior to meal service time or immediately after meal service. Please check with your school to determine the best time to contact the food service manager in the event that you have questions.

PARENTAL RESTRICTIONS:

Restrictions can be placed on your student's prepaid school meal account. Once restrictions are placed, they cannot be removed unless the parent provides the food service manager with a letter asking for the restrictions to be removed.

REFUNDS:

Refunds less than \$20.00 can be issued through the Food Service Manager of your school's cafeteria and require a written request. Refunds for amounts higher than this should be requested through the Food and Nutrition department at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/food/cafeteria-refunds/>.

ACCOUNT BALANCES:

Student school meal account balances can be obtained at www.paypams.com at no charge. Your student's school meal account balance, either positive or negative, from the previous school year will roll into the new school year unless a refund has been requested.

Transportation

Guide to a Safe and Efficient School Bus Stop

General Information for Parents/Guardians

- Trust your instincts
- Alert authorities to strange vehicles or persons in vicinity of the school bus stops and/or walkways to/from school bus stops
- Demonstrate respect for public, community, and private properties near bus stops
- Prevent children from crossing roadways between motor vehicles and golf carts
- Don't park motor vehicles or golf carts within fifty (50) feet of intersections from any direction
- Don't park motor vehicles or golf carts within fifty (50) feet of school bus stops from any direction
- Don't allow children to enter/exit motor vehicles or golf carts from the roadside of the motor vehicles or golf carts (enter/exit from curbside only)
- Don't double park or closely stagger motor vehicles or golf carts along roadways or in the vicinity of the school bus stops
- Don't park motor vehicles or golf carts opposing the lawful flow of traffic
- Don't assemble or park in any manner which impedes the safe passage of school buses to and from school bus stops
- Assemble children at designated staging area at least twelve (12) feet from where the school bus stops, prior to the school bus arrival
- Do not wait for the school bus to arrive to have children exit motor vehicles or golf carts, children should assemble 5 minutes prior to stop time
- Please assist with being present at bus stops. Kindergarteners will not be released unless a parent is in sight of the bus door to receive them.
- Please assist receiving children at bus stops during inclement weather
- Arrive at the bus stop at least five (5) minutes before scheduled arrival time
- Manage proper student behavior at the bus stop
- Do not allow children to approach the bus until the bus has come to a complete stop and the school bus operator signals the children to approach the school bus
- Children crossing the roadway to board buses must obey bus operator hand signals in order to safely cross the roadway
- Allow the school bus to leave the school bus stop before driving through the school bus stop location
- Respect the amber and red student lights on the school bus
- Manage residential subcontractors such as landscapers to ensure they don't park in a manner which impedes the safe passage of the school buses
- Adjust commuting times as appropriate to avoid the school buses at the bus stops and/or getting stuck behind the school bus on the roadways
- For safety and security reasons, do not attempt to board the school bus (only eligible students and school board employees are permitted to board the bus at the bus stop)
- Report safety or security concerns to the respective schools, law enforcement, and/or the Transportation Department
- Cyclists must obey traffic control devices displayed by buses (the same as motorists)

The transportation code of conduct is available in the SJCS D Student Code of Conduct at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolservices/conduct/>.

Business and Community Partnerships

Investing in Kids (INK!) the St. Johns County Education Foundation, is recognized by the state of Florida and St. Johns County School Board as the direct support organization for the SJCS. INK! has cultivated success for students and teachers through funding, initiatives, and inspiration since 1994. INK! sponsors various programs including the Teacher of the Year Celebration, Educators Thriving, Take Stock in Children, Five Learning Years, Cash for Classrooms, Tools 4 Schools, PIVOT, and manages several scholarships for graduating seniors.

There's no better way to make an impact than becoming an active advocate for public education!
Volunteer, Partner, Give!

Learn how you can help us impact students and teachers, at www.ink-stjohns.org/ or call 904-547-7120.



Volunteers In Education assists students in many ways to provide a strong school experience. Just some of the things volunteers do include tutoring, mentoring, assisting with field trips, taking part in parent- teacher organizations, supporting extracurricular activities, and many others. We welcome community members to partner with the school district in these efforts. All volunteers, as well as individuals entering a school for other reasons (attending events, teacher conferences, etc.) must have school access. This includes successful completion of a background check performed by the school district. To fill out a school access form, go to <https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/OTY0OTplbi1VUw==>. For more questions, call the RSVP/Volunteer Services Office at 904-547- 3945, or read more at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/volunteer/>.

The **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** of St. Johns County provides meaningful opportunities for people 55 years of age and older to assist students in their educational pursuits. RSVP volunteers provide tutoring and mentoring services to kindergarten through 12th grade students, and also literacy enhancement to preschool students. They are also available to assist not-for-profit and social service agencies with special projects. For more information on this and other district-based volunteer programs, visit www.rsvpstjohns.com, www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/volunteer, or call 904-547-3945.



Qualifications of Teachers

The St. Johns County School Board works to fill St. Johns County classrooms with the most professionally qualified and caring teachers available.

The district strives to have each teacher fully certified in all the classes/courses he/she teaches. At times, however, it is necessary to have a teacher teach a class/course “out of field.” If this occurs, you will be notified that your child’s teacher is currently out of field but working to become certified.



As a parent, you have the right to information regarding the professional qualifications of any teacher who is instructing your child. You may access such information by logging on the Florida Department of Education web site at <http://www.fldoe.org/teaching/certification/index.shtml> selecting “Public Certification Search.” You can look at the certificate of any Florida teacher on this site. If you do not have access to a computer, please contact your child’s school to obtain information.

How You Can Participate

Join a Group

- Each school has a School Advisory Council (SAC); parents are invited to become a member of this important group.
- Sign up as a member of your school's Parent Teacher Association or Organization (PTA/PTO). Please contact your school for details.

Volunteer or Mentor

To contact the School District volunteer services, call 904-547-3945. Parents may also contact the school for volunteer information.

Take a Class at FCTC

At First Coast Technical College (FCTC) you can prepare for a new career in just one year! Visit FCTC.edu or call (904) 547-3460 for more information.

Career Involvement (for businesses)

St. Johns County School District is committed to providing career development activities to all students from kindergarten to adult. The goal is to provide a variety of career awareness and exploration activities while promoting rigorous coursework and quality workplace experiences. To achieve this goal, the involvement of business partners, community leaders, parents, students, and educators is essential. For more information, please call 904- 547-4870.

Community Enrichment

Enrichment opportunities that encourage and stimulate lifelong learning take place at various times throughout the year at First Coast Technical College. Whether for personal development, job training, hobbies or fun, qualified instructors will share their passion to bring new skills to our community. Classes will take place late afternoons or evenings at the centrally located campus. For information or to sign up for email updates, visit [Community Enrichment](#) or call (904) 547-3460.

You Can Help

As a business and/or community leader, you can provide the opportunity for students to explore career options by providing career development activities. You can choose the intensity of involvement based on the length of time and depth of the activity.

Moderate Intensity Activities:

- **Tour of Business** exposes students to career opportunities at the workplace.
- **Career Presenter** share career goals and history with students while at school.
- **Job Shadowing** allows students to explore careers by "shadowing" employees at work.
- **Service Learning** provides students the opportunity to work at a community agency.
- **Educator in the Workplace** provides teachers with the opportunity to experience the skills and attitudes needed at the workplace for classroom application.
- **Mentoring** provides students with one-on-one contact with a professional in a chosen career (can also be a high intensity activity).

High Intensity Activities:

- **Internships**, On-the-Job (OJT) Training or Cooperative Education provide paid or unpaid class-related work experiences.
- **Apprenticeships** allow students to work with an experienced journeyman while acquiring job-related training in a high school setting.
- **Supported Employment** provides work-related opportunities for disabled persons.
- **Advisory Board Members** serve as resources in program development and provide continuous quality improvement.

Special Services Available

ESE

The mission of the St. Johns County Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Department is to identify exceptional students and to meet their educational needs by providing support and resources to enhance educational opportunities so they may become productive citizens. ESE programs and services address the unique needs of students who are gifted in kindergarten through 12th grade and those with mild, moderate and severe disabilities from age three until they graduate with a regular diploma, or until their 22nd birthday.

ESE programs and services are designed to assist students in reaching their educational goals through the use of instructional and behavioral approaches which are evidence-based and exemplify best practices. Technology is also used in many creative ways to meet student needs. ESE services are available at all district schools for students who have mild to moderate disabilities and those who are gifted. Students with more significant disabilities and prekindergarten students with disabilities are served in cluster programs at selected sites. Program support is provided to students, parents and school personnel by program specialists based at the district office. Students with disabilities who are not eligible for services through the ESE program, may be eligible for an accommodations plan under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For more information, contact the St. Johns County School District ESE department at 904-547-7672 or visit online: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/e.se>.

ESOL

The St. Johns County School District English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program functions within regular schools and classrooms to provide eligible students with the opportunity to learn English while receiving equal access to content instruction in the Florida Standards. Students eligible for the ESOL Program are placed in appropriate grade level classes and courses, while itinerant ESOL teachers help Gen. Ed. Teachers use World Class Instructional Design and Assessment English Language Development (WIDA ELD) Framework and learning strategies to ensure comprehensible instruction. Additional digital resources are sometimes utilized. For more information, please contact the St. Johns County School District ESOL department at 904-8924 or visit online: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/esol>.

Gifted Program

A student is eligible for special instructional programs for the gifted if the student meets the following criteria:

1. The student demonstrates:
 - a. The need for a special program,
 - b. A majority of characteristics of gifted students according to a standard scale or checklist,
 - c. Superior intellectual development as measured by an intelligence quotient of two (2) standard deviations or more above the mean on an individually administered standardized test of intelligence.

OR

2. The student is a member of an underrepresented group and meets the criteria specified in an approved school district plan for increasing the participation of underrepresented groups in programs for gifted students. Underrepresented groups are students with limited English proficiency or students from low socio-economic status families.

For more information, contact the St. Johns County School District Gifted Program Office at 904-547-7672 or visit online: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/e.se/gifted>.

Teen Parent Program

The Teen Parent Program is designed for pregnant and parenting students. Students receive comprehensive and additional services to facilitate the completion of coursework necessary to earn a high school diploma. These services may include childcare, health services, social services, and transportation as needed. For more information, contact the St. Johns County School District Student Services Department at 904-547-7587 or visit online: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/tp/>.

What Parents Can Do to Help Their Students

Monitor and ensure school attendance: Regular attendance is a critical factor in school success because students are more likely to succeed in academics when they attend school consistently. All students who have reached the age of 6 years or who will have reached the age of 6 years by February 1 until the age of 16 years, are required to attend school regularly. Each parent of a child within the compulsory attendance age is responsible for their child's attendance as required by law. School district policy regarding excused and unexcused absences and truancy can be found on the Student Services Department website at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/student>.

Know what your child is learning: The **Year-at-a-Glance** is a document that informs parents and students of the recommended pacing and content standards for selected courses. It includes the topics to be taught each quarter and a list of instructional resources. The Year-at-a-Glance is only a recommended pacing guide; school leaders and teachers make the final decision regarding the pacing of any program of study. The classroom teacher is always the best source of information regarding content and pacing. The Year-at-a-Glance is supplied as a model of one recommended path to the completion of a course. You can view the Year-at-a-Glance for elementary and secondary core subjects at: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>.

Know where your child can get help – Use the FloridaStudents.org website:

This site is specially designed for students and parents. It has over 2000 tutorials, videos, and other resources to support your child's learning in language arts, math, science and civics. To get help on a specific concept, just click on the subject, the grade level, and standard you need at <https://floridastudents.org/#>.



Read to your child: Reading is the heart of education. Read to your child daily from a book that he/she cannot quite yet read on his/her own. For information on what to read to preschool, elementary, middle or high school students please read *The Read-Aloud Handbook* by Jim Trelease. A copy is available in each school library, and many schools also have a video presentation for parents.

Take your child to the library: St. Johns County has a main library located downtown, and five branches: Anastasia Island, Bartram Trail, Hastings, Ponte Vedra Beach, and the Southeast Branch. A bookmobile regularly visits communities located more than ten miles from a branch library. For a schedule and more information on the St. Johns County Public Library system, go to <http://www.sjcpls.org/>.

Encourage writing: Writing makes thinking easy to see. Write with your child and let him/her see you writing – shopping lists, thank you notes, to-do lists. Work with your child on his/her written assignments to add detail and to express ideas in order.

Make math part of your language: Your home is a great place to begin to explore and "talk" mathematics with your child. Incorporating math activities and language into familiar daily routines will show your child how math works in everyday life. Play board games, solve puzzles, and ponder brain teasers with your child. Your child will enjoy these kinds of activities while enhancing his or her mathematical thinking. Point out the mathematics involved, and have your child discuss the strategies he or she used. For more tips on helping your child succeed in mathematics, visit the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics <https://www.nctm.org/>.

Make science real: Science is all around us. Involve your child in gardening, caring for family pets, trips to the beach, looking at the stars in the night sky, conducting experiments, and other activities that can contribute to a love of science.

Take your child on a “field study”: There are 24 miles of beaches, and lots of history in our city. Take your child to downtown St. Augustine and surrounding historical sites to help them imagine life long ago. Social studies opportunities surround us in St. Johns County. Our community is also full of artists – painters, sculptors, glass blowers, potters, and musicians. Local schools offer excellent fine arts programs, exhibits and performances for families to explore the arts together.



Get moving: Physical activity is important for good health. Walk, bike ride, surf or play ball with your child. Make it a point to do something active with him/her daily.

Request a mentor: Mentoring is a one-to-one relationship between a caring adult and a student who could benefit from extra help and support. Mentoring has a proven record as a powerful factor in helping students improve their grades and self-esteem and in raising goals and expectations. Mentors serve as coaches, supporters, role models, and advocates and work closely with teachers and school staff. Parents interested in the possibility of having a mentor for their child should contact the school’s guidance counselor for more information.

Communication

Reading and writing: Talk to your child as often as possible. Talk about his/her day, hopes, goals, and interests. Use interesting words as you talk. Play word games with your child.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: One of the best ways to find out how your child is doing in school is through parent-teacher conferences. Your child's teacher may request to schedule a conference; however, if you would like to speak to your child's teacher, you may call, write or e-mail the teacher to set one up. Please be flexible when scheduling a time. Remember this is the opportunity for you to work with the teacher as a team. After the conference, follow up. Keep in touch. Talk to your child about the conference. Stress the positive things the teacher discussed and talk about suggestions for improvement.

Websites: There is a wealth of information on each school's website. Get into the habit of checking it regularly for school and district updates.

Check Home Access Center: Access at <https://homeaccess.stjohns.k12.fl.us> to check grade, FAST scores, assignments and attendance. [See Home Access Center for more information.](#)

Pay attention to what comes home in your child's backpack.

Home Access Center

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

St. Johns County School District has a web-based service, called Home Access Center (HAC), to allow both students and parents to view student educational information.

When using HAC, you will be able to see:

- A calendar of significant events (assignments due, field trips, absences, etc.)
- Student's schedule of classes (not available during summer months)
- Detailed attendance and discipline information
- Homework assignments, tests and grades
- Current progress in each class (not available during summer months or for dual enrollment courses)
- Credits earned toward graduation
- Standardized Test Scores
- Emergency contact information

Parents and guardians will be required to show a photo ID at the child's school to be granted a username and password to HAC. Once granted a HAC account, you may use the same account to view all your children's information.

Students will be assigned their own HAC accounts. Account information will be distributed to students at the school's discretion.



Yearbook Name Change Request: A parent/legal guardian must submit a name change request, in writing, to the school principal and yearbook advisor. Due to the publication timelines, the request must be made no later than the end of the first 9 weeks.

Additional Resources

St. Johns County School District provides year-round education by taking a course through St. Johns Virtual School. Edmentum is available for grades 6-12. If you have questions, please contact your child's school counselor.

Resources available throughout the year:

Florida Students.org - <https://www.floridastudents.org/>

FloridaStudents.org is provided and maintained by the Florida Department of Education and offers resources from all over the web to support your learning in language arts, mathematics, science, civics, and U.S. History with more than 800 original student tutorials.

Just Read Florida - <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/families/>

Just Read Florida is a comprehensive resource provided by the Florida Department of Education where parents can find tips, ideas, and resources to assist them in building their child's literacy skills from grades K-12.

What Happens If My Child Falls Behind?

Our Multi-Tiered Support System (MTSS) is a process that provides intervention and educational support to all students at increasing levels of intensity based on their individual academic and behavioral needs. The goal is to recognize problems and intervene early so that students can be successful. All St. Johns County schools have MTSS teams that use a problem-solving method to quickly identify students who need assistance and provide necessary instruction immediately.

The MTSS process has three tiers that provide increasing levels of support:

- **Tier I includes high quality instruction.** The school provides all students with access to high quality curriculum, instruction, and behavior supports in the general education classroom.
- **Tier II includes additional targeted, supplemental instruction/interventions.** The school provides interventions to small groups of students who need more support than they are receiving through Tier I.
- **Tier III includes intensive interventions.** The school develops and implements interventions to meet the individual needs of students.

If your child is involved in the MTSS process, his or her progress is monitored, and results are used to make decisions about additional instruction and intervention. You will be informed and involved in planning and providing interventions for your child. You will also receive frequent progress monitoring about how your child responds to the interventions provided. For more information, please contact the St. Johns County School District Student Success and Accountability Department at 904-547-8911, contact your school counselor or visit online: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/intervention>.

Parent Glossary

Acronym	Definition	Acronym	Definition
ACT	<i>American College Test</i>	HAC	<i>Home Access Center</i>
AICE	<i>Advanced International Certificate of Education</i>	IB	<i>International Baccalaureate</i>
AP	<i>Advanced Placement</i>	IR	<i>Intensive Reading</i>
AR	<i>Accelerated Reader</i>	LEP	<i>Limited English Proficient</i>
AUP	<i>Acceptable Use Policy</i>	MTSS	<i>Multi-Tiered System Support</i>
AVID	<i>Advanced Via Individual Determination</i>	OLA	<i>On-line Assessments</i>
BEST	<i>Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking</i>	POC	<i>Programs of Choice</i>
CAST	<i>Curriculum Area Support Team</i>	PSAT	<i>Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test</i>
CBT	<i>Computer Based Testing</i>	PTO	<i>Parent Teacher Organization</i>
CC!	<i>CHARACTER COUNTS!</i>	PTSO	<i>Parent Teacher Student Organization</i>
CCRP	<i>Comprehensive Core Reading Program</i>	SAC	<i>School Advisory Council</i>
CLP	<i>Customized Learning Path</i>	SAT	<i>Scholastic Aptitude Test</i>
DBQ	<i>Document-Based Questioning</i>	SJVS	<i>St. Johns Virtual School</i>
DOE	<i>Department of Education</i>	SPP	<i>Student Progression Plan</i>
ELA	<i>English Language Arts</i>	VPK	<i>Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten</i>
EOC	<i>End-of-Course Exam</i>	YAG	<i>Year-at-a-Glance</i>
ESE	<i>Exceptional Student Education</i>	YRD	<i>Youth Resource Deputy</i>
ESOL	<i>English for Speakers of Other Languages</i>		
ESS	<i>Educational Support Services</i>		
FAST	<i>Florida Assessment of Student Thinking</i>		
FSAA	<i>Florida Standards Alternate Assessment</i>		

Florida Parent Checklist

The purpose of the Florida Parent Checklist¹ is to support parent's involvement in their child's educational progress by identifying actions and linking to resources² that:

- Strengthen the child's academic progress, especially in reading;
- Strengthen the child's citizenship, especially social skills and respect for others;
- Strengthen the child's realization of high expectations and setting lifelong learning goals; and
- Emphasize communication between the school and the home.

ACADEMIC

- Support reading with age-appropriate home activities.
- Ensure that your child has a consistent time and place to do homework.
- Ensure that your child has access to materials needed to complete assignments.
- Discuss schoolwork regularly with your child.
- Attend workshops on helping your child at home.
- Visit the local library and encourage your child to check out books of interest.
- Read to/with your child daily.
- Set an example by reading in your home and discussing what you've read with your child.
- Ask your child to explain his/her math homework.
- Emphasize the importance of education and doing one's best in school

RESOURCES:

Just Read, Families	https://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/families/
FloridaShines.org	https://www.floridashines.org/
FloridaStudents.org	https://www.floridastudents.org/
AskALibrarian.org	http://www.askalibrarian.org/
Special Education	https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Special-Education-Toolkit

CITIZENSHIP

- Teach and reinforce positive behaviors such as respect for self and others, hard work and responsibility.
- Ensure that your child has a regular routine.
- Encourage your child to accept responsibility for his/her actions.
- Ensure that your child is in attendance and on time at school each day.
- Monitor and promote your child's participation in extracurricular and after-school activities.
- Monitor your child's television viewing.
- Reinforce the school's behavioral expectations.

RESOURCES:

Positive Behavior Support Home Matrix
http://flpbs.fmhi.usf.edu/revision07/family/PBS%20Home%20Matrix.pdf

Bullying Prevention

<https://www.fldoe.org/safe-schools/bullying-prevention.stml>

Engaging Youth in Service

<https://youth.gov/youth-topics/civic-engagement-and-volunteering>

SETTING GOALS

- Express belief in your child’s ability to be successful.
- Encourage your child to set short- and long-term- educational goals.
- Celebrate academic accomplishments.

RESOURCES:

Financing Future Education Goals

<https://www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college>

SCHOOL TO HOME COMMUNICATION

- Communicate regularly with your child’s teacher(s) in person, by phone, through email or writing.
- Prepare for and attend parent-teacher conferences and/or other individualized student meetings, such as Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or Academic Improvement Plan meetings.
- Attend open houses, science fairs, plays and musical performances, field trips, sporting events, curriculum nights and other school activities.
- Volunteer in the school setting when possible.

RESOURCES:

The Parent-Teacher Conference

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/19308>

¹ Reference Florida Statute 1002.23(3). The Florida Parent Checklist must be issued each school year to all parents of students in grades K-12. ² Resource links related to academics, citizenship, goal setting, and communication should be considered as a guide to assist in the discovery of information to strengthen parental involvement.

Bibliography, Links and Cited Sources

St. Johns County School District <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>

This website provides information on individual schools and departments, enrolling your child in school, zoning and transfers, bus routes, prevention education, special services, School Board meeting times and dates, Home Access Center, district calendar, middle and high school course catalogs, Student Progression Plan and much, much more!

Florida Department of Education www.fldoe.org

First Coast Technical College (FCTC) - Community Enrichment <http://fctc.edu/community/education/>

The National Parent Teacher Association <http://www.pta.org/>

US Department of Education www.ed.gov

Immunization requirements and meningococcal disease information for SJCSD students
<http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/health/immunization>

Literacy skills <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/>

St. Johns County Virtual Instruction Program <https://stjohnsvirtual.com/>

St. Johns County Education Foundation (DBA Investing in Kids (INK)) www.ink-stjohns.org/

St. Johns County Public Library System <http://www.sjcpls.org/>

Parent and student resources, videos, etc. by grade and standard <http://floridastudents.org/#>

Year-at-a-Glance: Check recommended pacing and content standards using the year-at-a-glance document that is available at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/>

