

We are a community that fosters character development, independence and a lifelong love of learning.

# The Charger Chronicle

“COMMITTED TO EVERY STUDENT EVERYDAY!”

Parent Edition



## Principal's Post

GOOD CHARGERS focus for the month of March:

**Reflect on  
learning  
opportunities  
to build  
Trustworthiness.**

What does this mean? Learn from your mistakes and make a different and better choice next time. If you do this, people will trust you.

Dear Charger families,

March is upon us– so hard for me to believe! The warmer weather is delightful and we hope you enjoy time with family and friends this spring break!

We shared a beautiful message yesterday with our Chargers about the power of two small words– I’m sorry. I’d like to share it with you.

“Writer, Leslie B. Flynn, wrote the following:

“I’m sorry.” “So am I.” Thus the little quarrel has ended.

Thus by loving little words, two fond hearts were mended.

Just two little words, I’m sorry– can mend so much. Why? We are telling the other person that we know what we did was wrong and we feel bad about it. So, next time you quarrel with a friend, brother, sister or parent, think about a better choice you might have made. And then think about the power of these two little words: I’m sorry. It’s a wise choice to make.”

This is such a simple thing but so powerful in what it can do. Wouldn’t our world be a better place if we were all a little quicker to say we are sorry? It’s a great message for kids and adults alike.

Being a Charger is amazing and we love our school, our families and our children! Thank you for your constant support and kindness. You make a pleasure to serve each day and we appreciate it.

Enjoy your spring break!! *Mrs. Olson*



### PREPAYMENT FOR FOOD ITEMS

Prepayments to your child's meal account with your VISA, MasterCard, or Discover credit card can be made. Log onto **PayPAMS**. Payment can also be received by the Food Service Manager in form of check or cash.

School Lunch Menu

Visit the Patriot Oaks website under About our School, Cafeteria

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

March 10th	No School	
March 13th to 17th	No School	Spring Break
March 28th	Report Cards	

### SAC

Our School Advisory Council [SAC] is seeking parent and community members for the 2022-2023 school year. Participating in SAC provides an opportunity for parents and community members to get active and involved with Patriot Oaks' school vision and mission through school improvement planning.

If you are interested in participating as a member, please email Eric Smith [eric.smith@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:eric.smith@stjohns.k12.fl.us).

Meetings will be held the last Tuesday of each month at 3:15pm beginning September 27. 2022-2023 school year meetings will be held in person once again in the Media Center with a virtual option via Microsoft Teams. A link will be emailed prior to the meeting.

# NEW TARDY POLICY

- **Effective March 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 Patriot Oaks will implement a new tardy policy for all 5<sup>th</sup> grade through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.**
- **If you have a note from an appointment it does not count as an unexcused tardy.**
- **If you are just running late or do not have a note you will be given 2 free tardies each quarter. After the 2nd tardy you will have lunch detention that day.**
- **Each quarter you will start again with a fresh start and a additional 2 free tardies.**



KINDERGARTEN  
REGISTRATION OPEN



## Winners!

Hello awesome teachers!

I am so excited to about our Kids Heart Challenge event. Below are the winners for the Kids Heart Challenge Classroom Competition!! Congratulations and **THANK YOU** for all you do to help save lives!



**Amy Shirley**

Youth Market Director – Alachua, Citrus, Flagler, Hernando, Levy, Marion, Pasco, Putnam, St. Johns, Seminole, and Volusia Counties

**American Heart Association**

M 205-792-7343



WAY TO GO TECH TREK NOMINEES!

EACH YEAR, THE POA MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS NOMINATE A SMALL GROUP OF STUDENTS FOR A SPECIAL STEM CAMP HELD IN THE SUMMER. STEM STANDS FOR “S” SCIENCE, “T” TECHNOLOGY, “E” ENGINEERING AND “M” MATH. THIS PROGRAM, CALLED TECH TREK, IS ONLY FOR GIRLS WHO ARE IN THE 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE. WE WANT TO RECOGNIZE THE FIVE STUDENT NOMINEES FOR THIS YEAR’S SUMMER TECH TREK CAMP:

ALI COURTNEY

ADDIE EBLE

ERICA MORTON

KIRRA SCULLY





Upcoming Event for Elementary P.E., Field Day is scheduled for Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup>. More information to come.

# POA School Counseling

Greetings,

This past month we had many fun learning about kindness, friendships and feelings. The school counselors focused on having a positive attitude and being a good charger through classroom lessons, resources and student chats. In the month of March we will continue our lessons and will focus on empathy, perseverance, and also our mandated instruction. In middle school we will continue with the character chats. Thank you to everyone that continues to support our school counseling program.

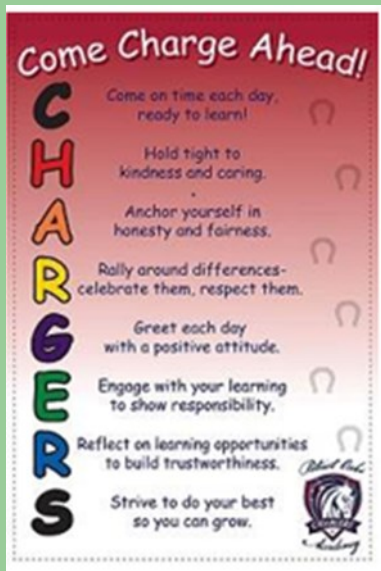
Have an amazing March! Your Friendly School Counselors,

Mrs. Sierra, Ms. Saey, and Mrs. Giannotta

This month we are focusing on R "Reflect on learning opportunities to build trustworthiness". Below are some websites with helpful information on practicing this

[Tips on teaching trustworthiness](#)

[Good Character-Character Counts](#)









## Zones of Regulation

We continue to use our Zones of Regulation vocabulary. With the zones students can talk about how they are feeling and use a tool/coping skill to help bring them back to their desired emotion. To learn more about the zones you can visit the site below.

<https://www.socialthinking.com/zones-of-regulation/free-stuff>

The ZONES of Regulation			
			
Blue Zone Sad Bored Tired Sick	Green Zone Happy Focused Calm Proud	Yellow Zone Worried Frustrated Silly Excited	Red Zone overjoyed/Elated Panicked Angry Terrified

## POA School Counseling

For our required instruction our School Counseling department uses Safer, Smarter Kids This district approved program provides students with fun characters to talk about personal safety matters and prevention. The program provides grade-level specific lessons covering topics such as: safety awareness, developing self-esteem, peer pressure, assessing safe vs unsafe situations and much more.

You can learn more about the program on the link below.

[Welcome to SSK! - Safer, Smarter Kids! \(safersmarterkids.org\)](https://safersmarterkids.org)



## March's Middle School

More information and Character Chat videos can be found at  
<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/mental-health/instruction/grades7-12/>

## March

- Pillar of Trustworthiness
- Managing strong emotions
- Have the courage to do the right thing
- Build a good reputation



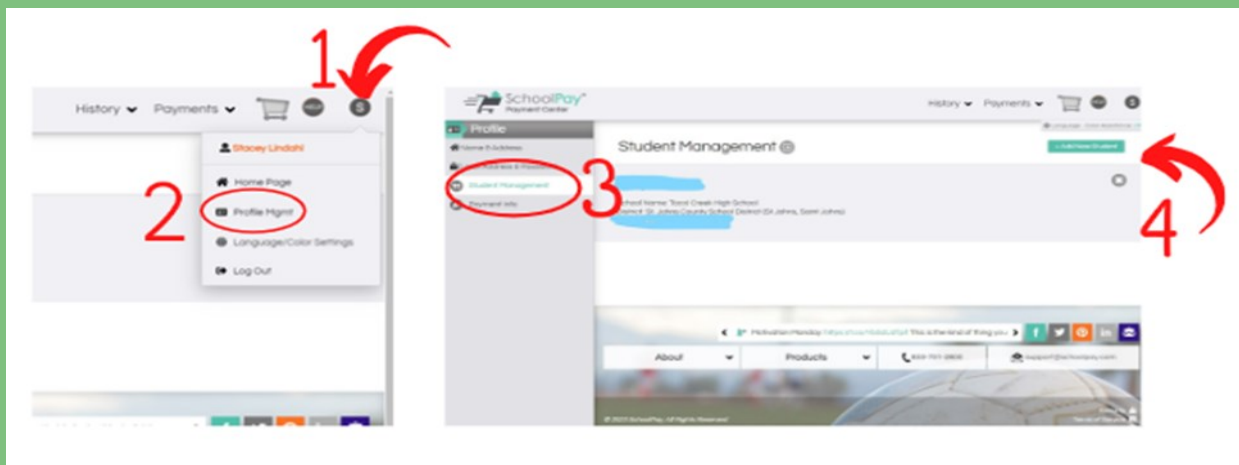
For additional family and community resources please visit  
our school district's

[Mental Health and Wellness portal](#)

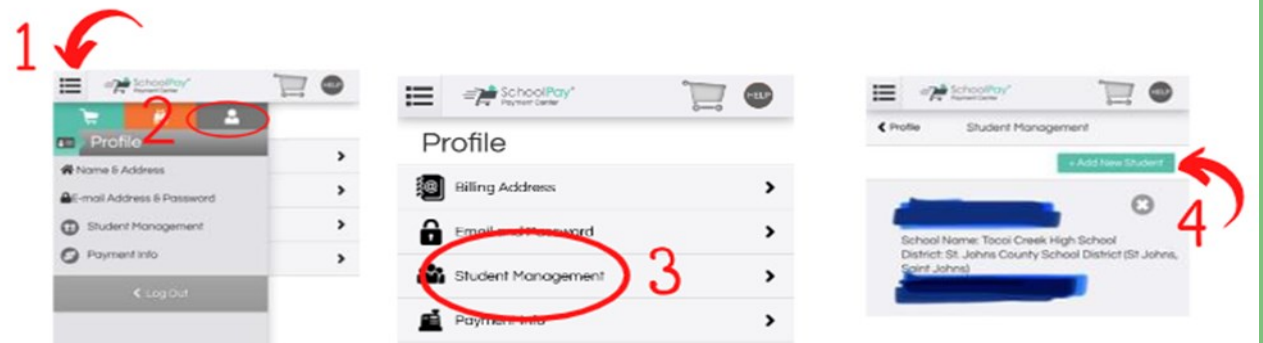
# TROUBLESHOOTING



- If you get an error message, please do not try to pay again. Check your purchase history before attempting a second payment.
- Item is not appearing on your account -- Add ALL of your students to your school pay account.
- If you have a 5th and 3rd grader but only your 5th grader is added to school pay you won't see items for your 3rd grader.
- To add a student to your school pay account:
  - ✦ From computer - click/hover over "initial" in top right corner (1), select Profile Mgmt (2), then over to the left click Student Management (3), and then on the top right you will see "Add student" (4)



From Phone - click 3 lines in top left corner (1), select person icon (2), then choose Student Management (3), and then on the top right you will see "Add student" (4)



# Dismissal information **REMINDER**

Dismissal times:

M,Tu,Th,Fri : 2:45

Wed: 1:45

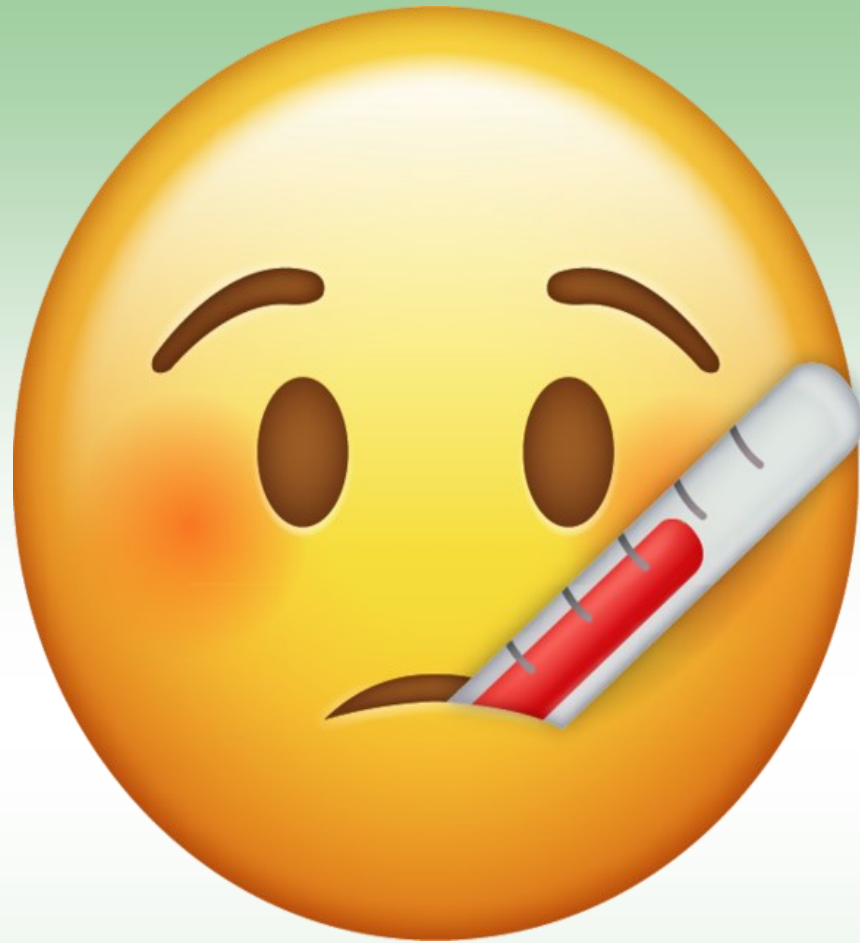


Early Check out:

M,Tu,Th,Fri : **2:00**

Wed: **1:00**

If you have a dismissal change **PLEASE** email your student's teacher and [Michelle Fell](mailto:Michelle.Fell@stjohns.k12.fl.us)  
[@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Michelle.Fell@stjohns.k12.fl.us) By 2:00 (M, Tu, Th, Fri) and By 1:00 (Wed)



**Remember:**

**Before returning to school Students must be fever free with out aid of medication for 24 hrs.**



## **Reminder:**

**Middle School student need to go see the nurse before texting parents that they are sick.**

**The Nurse will allow the student to call home.**



Hi everyone,

We need pictures for the yearbook, please spread the word!

There are two ways send pictures in for the yearbook:

<https://hjeshare.com/eShare/> School code: patriotoaks

or you can email:

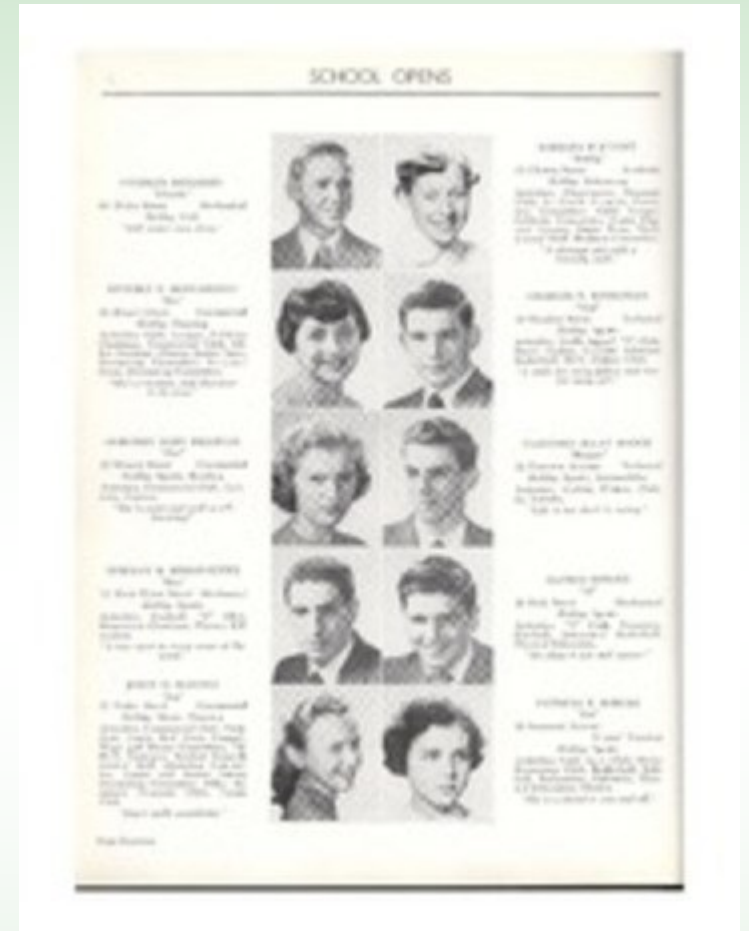
[poayearbookpics@gmail.com](mailto:poayearbookpics@gmail.com)

Thank you so much,

*Shelli Holland*

Patriot Oaks Academy

ICT/CSD Teacher



Hello –

I'm excited to announce that the SJCS D Honor Card Program has gone digital! Access to business discounts in the St. Johns County area will be available to a student or parent utilizing their phone and the student ID number. This **considerably** reduces our paper and ink usage, and is an easy way to show participation in the program.

Below are steps for usage of the digital honor cards. Please copy these steps and send out in your parent newsletters and other communication mechanisms as you see fit. We will also be sending an email with this information directly to the families whose student/s are in the program via SchoolMessenger.

There will be a few cards sent to each school in the next week for families that do not have smart phone access.

Secretaries - please read through this information, and respond to this email letting me know that 1) you have read and understand the “basics” of the new program; and 2) you will be sharing this information in your school’s family/guardian communication.

Thank you in advance for your help getting the information out to families, and working with us through any hurdles. Happy Honor Card Program!! Cheryl

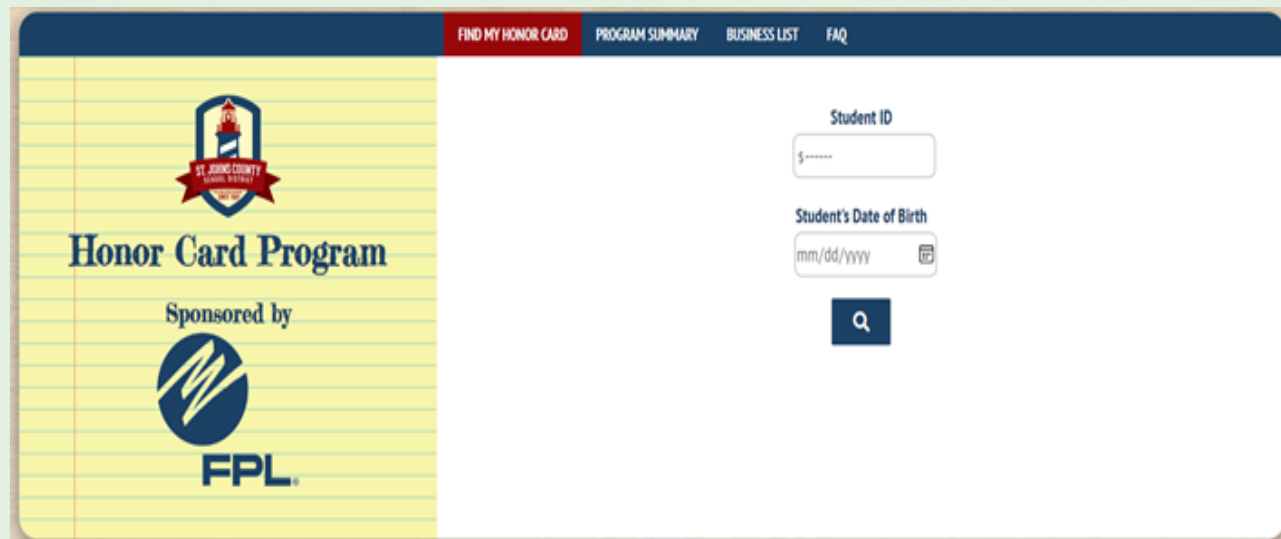


Cheryl Freeman

Coordinator, SJCS D Volunteer Services

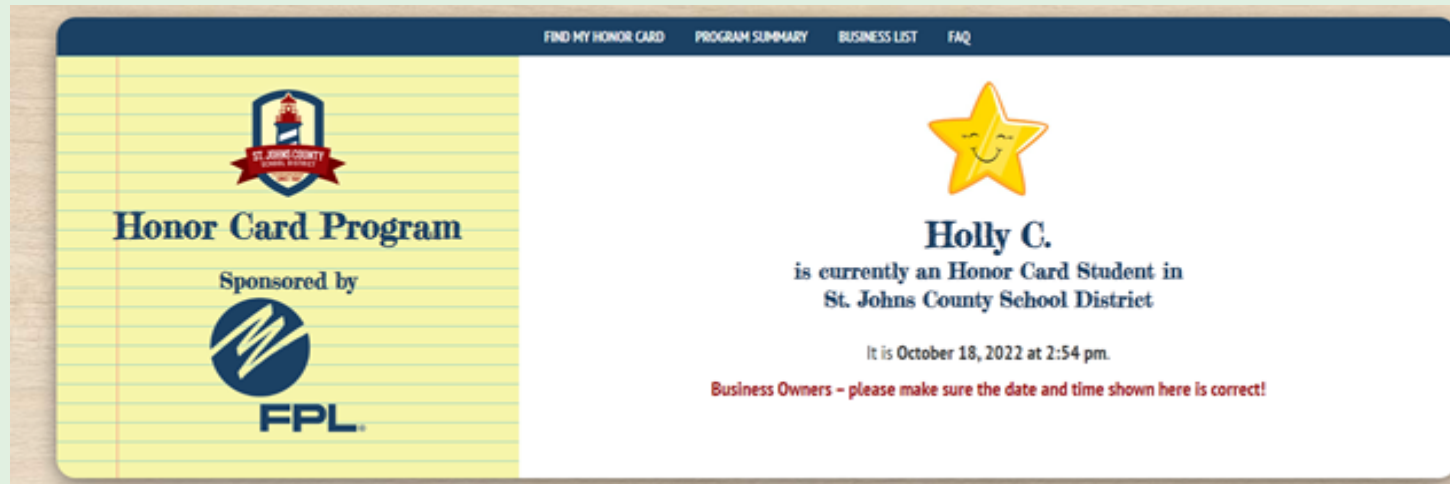
The St. Johns County School District Honor Card program has gone digital! If your child is on the A/B honor roll, you have the opportunity to receive discounts at some very fun and exciting places in St. Johns County. Instead of paper honor cards, you will now show business participants your phone and receive these discounts. Below are the steps to using the new system.

On your smart phone go to <https://myhonorcard.com>. The following screen will appear. Place your child's student ID number and date of birth in the boxes.



The screenshot shows the myhonorcard.com website. The top navigation bar is dark blue with white text links: "FIND MY HONOR CARD" (highlighted in red), "PROGRAM SUMMARY", "BUSINESS LIST", and "FAQ". The left sidebar has a yellow background with horizontal blue lines, featuring the St. Johns County School District logo (a lighthouse inside a shield with "ST. JOHNS COUNTY" and "SCHOOL DISTRICT" text) and the text "Honor Card Program" and "Sponsored by FPL" with the FPL logo. The main content area is white and contains two input fields: "Student ID" with a text box containing "\$-----" and "Student's Date of Birth" with a text box containing "mm/dd/yyyy" and a calendar icon. A dark blue search button with a white magnifying glass icon is positioned below the date of birth field.

When your child's name appears, you will show your phone to the participating business representative, to receive your discount.



A list of participating businesses and their offerings are also on a different tab on the website.  
If you have any questions, please call 904-547-3945 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday – Friday.



**Dear All Charger Families,**  
**Please go to the Patriot Oaks web site for the absence form that you need to fill out when your child is out for an entire day.**

**WE WILL NO LONGER EXCEPT EMAILS FOR ABSENCE**

**Please send in absence form within 48 hours after student returns.**

# Absentee Form

**When your student has been absent and has returned please fill out the ABSENTEE FORM and sent it to the FRONT OFFICE.**

**IT MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 48 HRS. OF WHEN THE STUDENT RETURNS TO SCHOOL TO BE EXCUSED.**

**AFTER 15 DAYS A DOCTOR'S NOTE MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR THE STUDENT TO BE EXCUSED .**

**The absentee form can be found on our website, under K-8 Forms or by going to the link below.**

**<http://www-poa.stjohns.k12.fl.us/k-8-forms/>**

# School Messenger

**The St Johns County School District started using a mass communication system in December 2016 called School Messenger. This system allows schools and District staff to quickly and efficiently communicate both general and emergency messages to parents/guardians and staff using email, text and voice mail. The system is capable of sending thousands of messages in minutes.**

**Parents and staff who wish to receive text messages from this system must (1) Opt-in from their mobile device and (2) have their mobile number on file with their child's school (for parents/guardians) or on file with Employee Online (for staff/employees).**

**<http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolmessenger/>**



# Attendance Policy for St. Johns County Schools

Any student who has been absent from school shall provide a note from a parent or guardian within forty-eight (48) hours of returning to school stating the cause of the absence. Failure to provide a note will result in an automatic unexcused absence. However, the fact that the student provides a note does not require the school administration to excuse the absence.

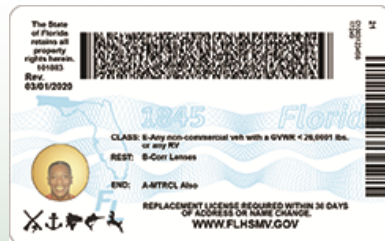
After fifteen (15) days of absence, whether excused or unexcused, a student must present verification from a licensed doctor for all subsequent absences due to illness.



## School Access and Vendor Sign-In/Sign-Out Process

### Sign-In Process:

1. Choose English/Español
2. Choose School Access or Vendor
3. Choose Sign In
4. Cover the “extra” barcode with your thumb and place Driver’s License or State ID under the scanner



5. Choose Continue
6. Choose Activity
7. Proceed to the front desk and present ID to the front office staff
8. Receive and place badge in a visible place



## School Access and Vendor Sign-In/Sign-Out Process

### Sign-Out Process:

1. Place badge barcode under scanner
2. Tap "Enter" on the keyboard to complete sign-out
3. Put badge in the blue bucket

# PATRIOT OAKS ACADEMY 2023 YEARBOOK



**[www.YearbookOrderCenter.com](http://www.YearbookOrderCenter.com)**

**SCHOOL CODE: 14848**

## **Back to School Special**

\$30 - Hardback Yearbook

\$18 - Softback Yearbook

PreSale only. No extra books ordered!



**PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO BRING A WATER BOTTLE**

**Students are able to fill a bottle at the water dispenser.**

**Please be sure to send water bottles with students.  
It's important to keep our students hydrated.**

**Thank you**



# IMPORTANT

**The policy for ANY student who feels ill (Elementary and Middle School):**

**Any student who feels sick during the school day should get a Clinic Pass from the teacher and go to the nurse's office. Nurse Jamie needs to track all illness, check for fevers, etc. in order to help stop the spread of viruses in the school and follow district health guidelines. We ask that students NOT just text parents to come check them out. If your student texts you saying he/she does not feel well, please instruct them to go to the Clinic and call you from there. Nurse Jamie / Erica will always allow students to call home if requested. We also ask if you would like to check on your sick child please call Nurse Jamie at 547-4065 instead of texting your student directly. Thank you for helping us keep all students and staff healthy.**



## MEDICATION POLICY

Florida Statute 1006.062 authorizes school personnel to assist students in the administration of prescription medications. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to administer medications at home prior to or after school hours. The schools **do not** keep stock medicine in the clinic.

If your child needs medication during school hours, please note the following:

☐ All medications (prescription and over-the-counter) must have a medication form signed by both the parent/guardian and the physician ordering the medication.

☐ All medications must be received in the original container with current Rx label including student's name, dosage, frequency of administration, physician's name, and expiration date of medication. Over-the-counter medications must be in the original, un-opened container. **No medication will be given if presented at school in a plastic bag.**

☐ Medications must be brought to school by parent/guardian. Please do not send any medications with your child in their backpack. Medications **may not** be brought to school by the student.

☐ Medication brought to school by a student will be kept in the clinic until a parent/guardian comes to the school with the required paper work. Without the required authorization, the student will not be given the medication during school hours.

☐ Medications should not be transported between home and school on a daily basis. Separate containers should be kept at home and at school.

☐ Expired medications will be disposed of upon expiration date in accordance with local requirements.

The St. Johns County School clinics provide a vital service for our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**ILLNESS GUIDELINES**  
**Health Services**

**Deciding when to keep your child home from school can be difficult. When a child is sick and needs to stay at home, parents should contact the school and describe the illness and symptoms. If a medical provider makes a specific diagnosis (such as strep throat, conjunctivitis, chicken pox, etc.), let school staff know.**

**There are several reasons to keep (exclude) sick children from school: The child does not feel well enough to participate comfortably in usual activities, such as with extreme signs of tiredness or fatigue, unexplained irritability or persistent crying.**

**The child requires more care than the school staff is able to provide without affecting the health and safety of the other children.**

**The illness is on the list of symptoms or illness for which exclusion is recommended.**

**The child is not vaccinated due to medical or religious reasons and there is an outbreak in the school.**

**The following list gives guidelines and recommendations for exclusion from school due to illness. Children with minor illness need not be excluded unless one or more of the following exists.**

ILLNESS OR SYMPTOMS	EXCLUSION IS NECESSARY	ILLNESS OR SYMPTOMS	EXCLUSION IS NECESSARY
<b>Chicken Pox</b> <b>Yes</b> – Until blisters have dried and crusted (usually 6 days).		<b>Fifth Disease</b> <b>No</b> – child is no longer contagious once rash illness appears.	
<b>Conjunctivitis (pink eye)</b> (pink or red eyes with thick mucous or pus draining from the eye) <b>Yes</b> – May return 24 hours after treatment begins. If your health provider decides not to treat your child, a note is needed.		<b>Head Lice</b> <b>Yes</b> – May return after treatment and removal of all live lice and nits from hair.	
<b>Coughing</b> (severe, uncontrolled coughing or wheezing, rapid or difficulty in breathing) <b>Yes</b> – Medical attention may be necessary. <b>NOTE:</b> Children with asthma may be cared for in school with a written health care plan and authorization for medication/treatment.		<b>Hepatitis A</b> <b>Yes</b> - Until 1 week after onset of illness or jaundice and when able to participate in school activities.	
<b>Coxsackie Virus</b> (Hand, foot and mouth disease) <b>No</b> – May attend if able to participate in school activities, unless the child has mouth sores and is drooling.		<b>Herpes</b> <b>Yes</b> – if area is oozing and cannot be covered, e.g., mouth sores. Otherwise, may return to school.	
<b>Diarrhea</b> (frequent, loose or watery stools not caused by diet or medication) <b>Yes</b> – if child looks or acts ill; diarrhea with vomiting; diarrhea that is not contained in the toilet.		<b>Impetigo/Staph/MRSA</b> <b>Yes</b> – May return 24 hours after treatment starts. Wound must be covered with dressing taped on all 4 sides.	
<b>Fever with behavior changes or illness</b> <u>Fever</u> is an elevation of body temperature above normal. <b>Yes</b> – when fever is elevated above 100° and is accompanied by behavior changes or other symptoms of illness, such as fatigue, rash, sore throat, upper respiratory symptoms, vomiting, diarrhea, etc. Must remain at home for at least 24 hours or until all symptoms subside medication free.		<b>Body Rash <u>with</u> fever</b> <b>Yes</b> – Seek medical advice. Any rash that spreads quickly, has open, weeping wounds and/or is not healing should be evaluated. May return to school when medical provider determines that illness is not communicable.	
		<b>Mild Cold Symptoms</b> (stuffy nose with clear drainage, sneezing, mild cough) <b>No</b> – May attend if well enough to participate in school activities.	

## ILLNESS OR SYMPTOMS

### Upper Respiratory Complications

- large amount of thick nasal discharge
- extreme sleepiness
- ear pain
- fever (above 100° orally)

**Yes** – Seek medical advice. May return when symptoms are improved.

### Ringworm

**Yes** – May return after treatment begins. Area should be covered while in school for the first 48 hours of treatment.

### Roseola

**No** – Unless child cannot participate in usual activities and has fever.

### Scabies

**Yes** – May return after treatment is started with note from medical provider.

### Strep Throat

**Yes** – May return after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment and no fever for 24 hours.

## Exclusion is Necessary

### Vaccine Preventable Diseases

(mumps, measles, whooping cough)

**Yes** – Until judged not infectious by a medical provider. Report all cases to Health Services Coordinator.

### Vomiting

(2 or more episodes in the past 24 hrs.)

**Yes** – until vomiting resolves or health care provider determines that cause is not communicable.

**Note:** Observe for other signs of illness and for dehydration.