

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



Welcome to February Chargers!

Here we are, full swing, in the third quarter! As we flip the calendar to February, we change our “Good Charger” focus to reflecting on learning opportunities to build trustworthiness. This is the time of year where we settle in and do the real work before we hit spring break and the inevitable “testing season;” so we are hyper focused on making sure each student and staff member uses every moment with purpose. We will spend time this month looking back and what has worked... and what hasn’t worked... during our educational journey this year. We will capitalize on what has been a success and be brave enough to make changes to our own daily behaviors. Together, we will continue to grow and we continue to be committed to every student, every day.

Near the end of the month of February you will begin to see communication from our school district regarding 2024 ballot initiatives in the November Elections, as well and repeated communication about state and district wide budget changes. Please know that, at Patriot Oaks Academy, we will continue to educate and inform our families and community appropriately and if there are ever any questions, we encourage you to attend our School Advisory Council Meetings, which take place every month. We look forward to another incredible month here at Patriot Oaks Academy and we know that your child(ren) will continue to learn and grow with us!

Work Hard. Learn Something. Be Kind.

Drew Chiodo, Principal



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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

February 6

Interims

February 19

Presidents Day

No School

SAC

Our School Advisory Council [SAC] is seeking parent and community members for the 2023-2024 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 would like more information please contact [Katherine McCullough@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Katherine.McCullough@stjohns.k12.fl.us) or

[Denise Hodges@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Denise.Hodges@stjohns.k12.fl.us)



YOU NO LONGER CAN SIGN IN WITHOUT YOUR ID

School Access and Vendor Sign-In

Sign-In Process:

1. Choose English/Español
2. Choose School Access or Vendor
3. Choose Sign In
4. Cover the “Small” 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

All-State Honor Band



On January 11-13th, 8th grade French horn player Keli Zhao traveled to Tampa, FL to represent Patriot Oaks Academy in the annual Florida Music Educators Association All-State Honor Band. Keli was among 120 middle school student musicians to participate in the prestigious wind ensemble. FMEA encompasses the entire state of Florida.

The students enjoyed 3 days of intensive rehearsals culminating in a performance on Saturday morning. This annual event is attended by thousands of music educators from all over Florida, ranging from the kindergarten to University level teachers.

As a result of the auditions on Thursday morning, Keli earned 5th chair in her section. Congratulations Keli for a great job representing Patriot Oaks at the state level.



CALLING ALL STUDENT ACTORS!

Come join Mrs. Russell's

AFTER-SCHOOL

Meets every Thursday in room 222 from 3:00 – 4:30.

Beginning February 8

Permission slips are required and will be available in room 222, front desk or on-stage during lunches.



During the month of February, the library will be celebrating “love” – LOVE YOUR PETS! We have some special events planned, including showing off our pets. Please send in a picture of your pet (or you and your pet, even better) and we will display them all month long. We will have special book displays about pets. We will also have a “Guess How Many” contest for all grades. Stop by the library for those details. Middle schoolers can also pick up an origami pet craft whenever they check out a book.

We just finished celebrating literacy with our annual LEGO and Literature Contest. There were so many amazing creations – all related to books. There were over 100 participants. Here are our winners (** denotes Overall Grand Prize Winners):

Kindergarten	1 st Grade – 2D Category	3 rd Grade	4 th Grade
1. Gregory Koshkin	1. Evelyn Marshall**	1. Maisie Mingle	1. Caroline Bates & Eleanor Osborne
2. Ryker Mingle	2. Shritik Sanjana	2. Thad Land & Weston Reeder	2. Samuel Kozel
3. Esedric Duero	3. Savannah Hakim	3. Tanay Keesari	3. Aaryahi Kapila & Saanvi Agarwal
(tie) Carson Giannotta	(tie) Owen Hampton	(tie) Brooke Scott	
	2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade – Sunshine State Category	4 th Grade – Sunshine State Category
1 st Grade	1. Shivaansh Kaipila**	1. Rakshana & Darshana	1. Riayn Sangani
1. Christopher Syner	2. Ayana Shrestha	Karthikeyan**	2. Alyssa Kaplan & Alex Evans
2. Ivy Samuelson	3. Kaylee Longo	2. Luke Stuart	3. Isabella Vargas & Nora Inabinett
3. Derin Demirer	(tie) Corbin Hamilton		
	(tie) Matthew Mato Horbay	3 rd Grade – 2D Category	4 th Grade – 2D Category
1 st Grade – Sunshine State Category	2 nd Grade – 2D Category	1. Jessi Bell	1. Paisley Ham**
1. Anton Huning**	1. Melina Tavares	2. Ty Quarterman	2. Ryan & Dylan Wagner
	2. Owen Hall	3. Adam Liu	(tie) Annalyn Parrish
	3. Avalon Hakim		3. Eli North & Bryce Stackhouse

We just finished celebrating literacy with our annual LEGO and Literature Contest. There were so many amazing creations – all related to books. There were over 100 participants. Here are our winners (** denotes Overall Grand Prize Winners):

5th Grade

1. Henry Weinberg**
2. Maddie Mingle
3. Ainsley Land & Harper Currington
- (tie) Abigail Orth/Madison Brown

Middle School

1. Patrick Land **
2. Vrishank Yarra
3. Sahasra Inturi & Mahi Dedhia

5th Grade – Sunshine State Category

1. Landon Gibson & Emaline Karney
2. Hadley Combs
3. Kenzie Davis



Elementary PE will be hosting the Kids Heart Challenge again this this from January 29th - February 9th. More information to come. Please be on the lookout, our goal is 100% registration and for our student's families to learn **Hands Only CPR.**

Coach Church and Coach Johns

Kids Heart Challenge is here! We need your help to accomplish our goal of having 100% of our families know Hands-Only CPR, and you can help us by registering your child and spreading the word.

Our goal is to have all students register online and complete Finn's Mission. They'll even earn a free wristband for registering! Plus, the classrooms with the most students registered will win!

Here's how you can help:

Register: [YM SE KHC 2023-2024 WO-32243: Patriot Oaks Academy - Kids Heart Challenge - American Heart Association](#)

- **Complete Finn's Mission:** Watch a 2-minute video to know Hands-Only CPR, spot the warning signs of a stroke and more!
- **Share with friends and family** through social media, text and/or email.



Principals Challenge

Hello, Patriot Oaks Academy students and families! I am excited to share with you that I've accepted the American Heart Association's Principal's Challenge.

If 50% of our families register at [YM SE KHC 2023-2024 WO-32243: Patriot Oaks Academy - Kids Heart Challenge - American Heart Association](#) our school will earn an additional \$500 in US Games gift certificates to further support physical activity and the health of our students, families, and staff.

Any student that completes Finn's Mission this year will be entered into a drawing to win 2 tickets to the 2025 Super Bowl in New Orleans! Our school can potentially win a \$10,000 school gym makeover when our students and facility members complete 18 Finn's Mission!

I am so excited for us all to help create a community of lifesavers and want every one of our staff, students, and families to join me by completing Finn's Mission at [YM SE KHC 2023-2024 WO-32243: Patriot Oaks Academy - Kids Heart Challenge - American Heart Association](#)



Yearbook needs your help!

If you have any pictures of your students...

Please send to: poayearbookpics@gmail.com

OR Upload to:

www.hjeshare.com

SCHOOL CODE: patriotoaks

Please send in Pictures by February 15th, 2024.



Deadline to order a Yearbook is March 15th!

<https://www.yearbookordercenter.com/>

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SAC MEETING DATES

Meetings begin at 3:30pm in the Media Center:

- **October 24**
- **November 28**
- **December 19**
- **January 30**
- **February 27**
- **March 26**
- **April 30**
- **May 21**



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

TARDY POLICY

Tardy Policy for all 5th grade through 8th 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 and every tardy after until the end of the quarter.

Each quarter you will start again with a fresh start and get an additional 2 free tardies.

After 10 tardies for the school year, phone privileges will be lost for the rest of the quarter (if the 10th tardy is close to the end of the quarter it will go into the next quarter).

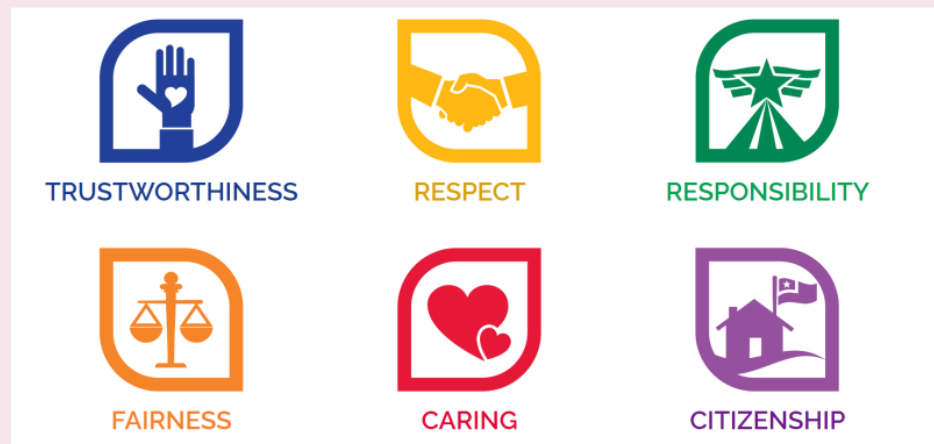
After 15 tardies for the school year, phone privileges will be lost the rest of the semester (if the 15th tardy is close to the end of the semester it will go into the next semester).

After 16 tardies consequences will be determined on a case by case basis.

Character Rocks at POA

Help us fill the Rock Garden!

This school year we were granted fund to build a Character counts garden by The Players organization. We have been working hard to put our garden together to make it a place that students can walk through and enjoy. Part of our garden includes a rock garden. Our hope is to fill our rock garden with rocks painted and decorated by our students.



Character Rocks at POA

What:

Small Rock (2-5inches) painted with the Character pillar colors, with character quotes, or the pillar.

When:

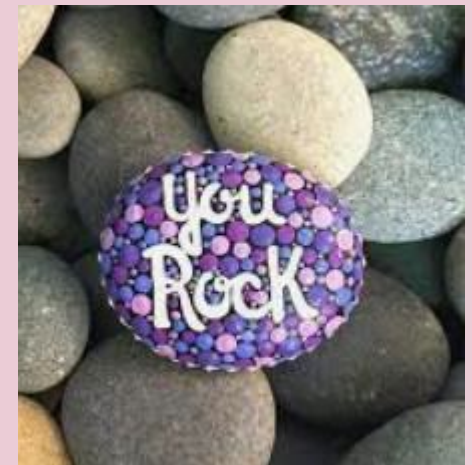
Anytime before the end of the school year

Were:

Drop off in the cafeteria in the mornings

*Best if rocks painted with permanent, outdoor paint. We will seal the rocks.

The maximum size rock that we can accommodate is 5inches.





**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.**

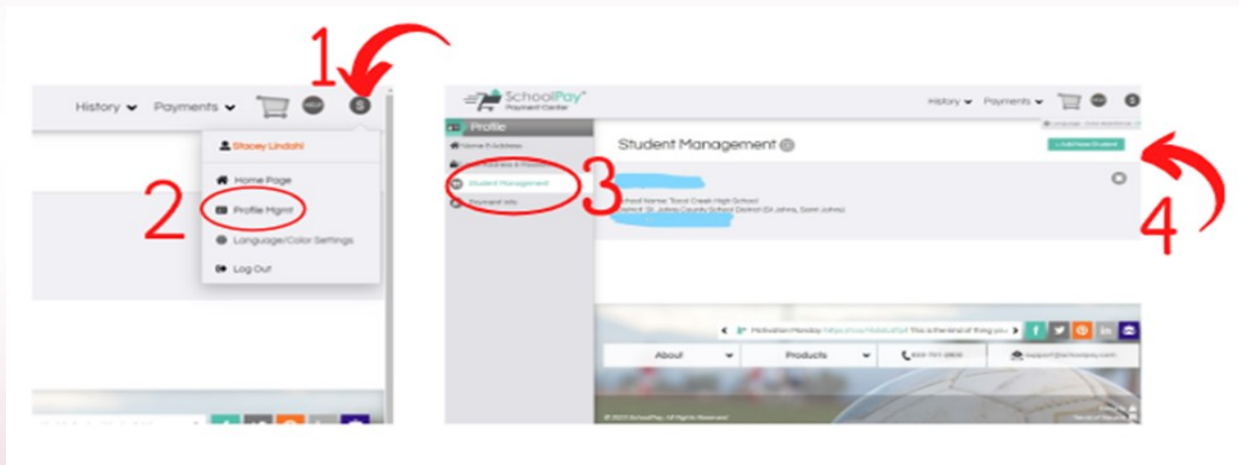
WE WILL NO LONGER EXCEPT EMAILS FOR ABSENCE

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

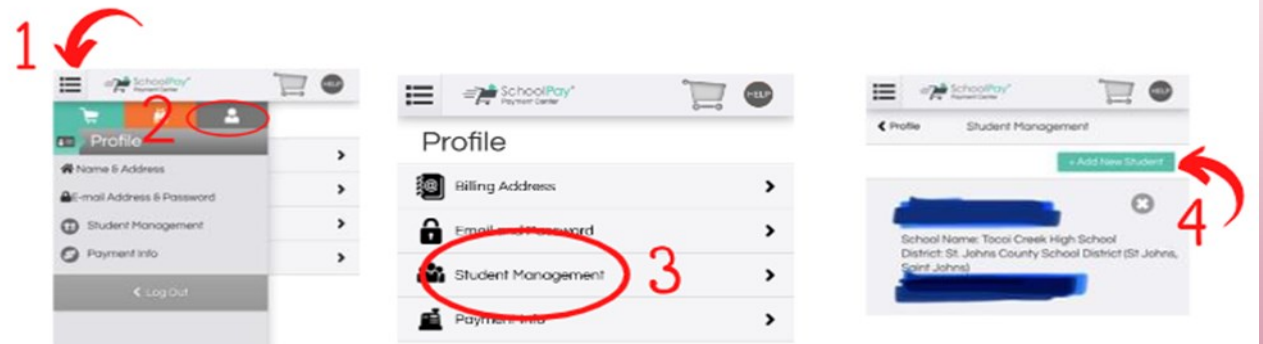
TROUBLESHOOTING



- 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

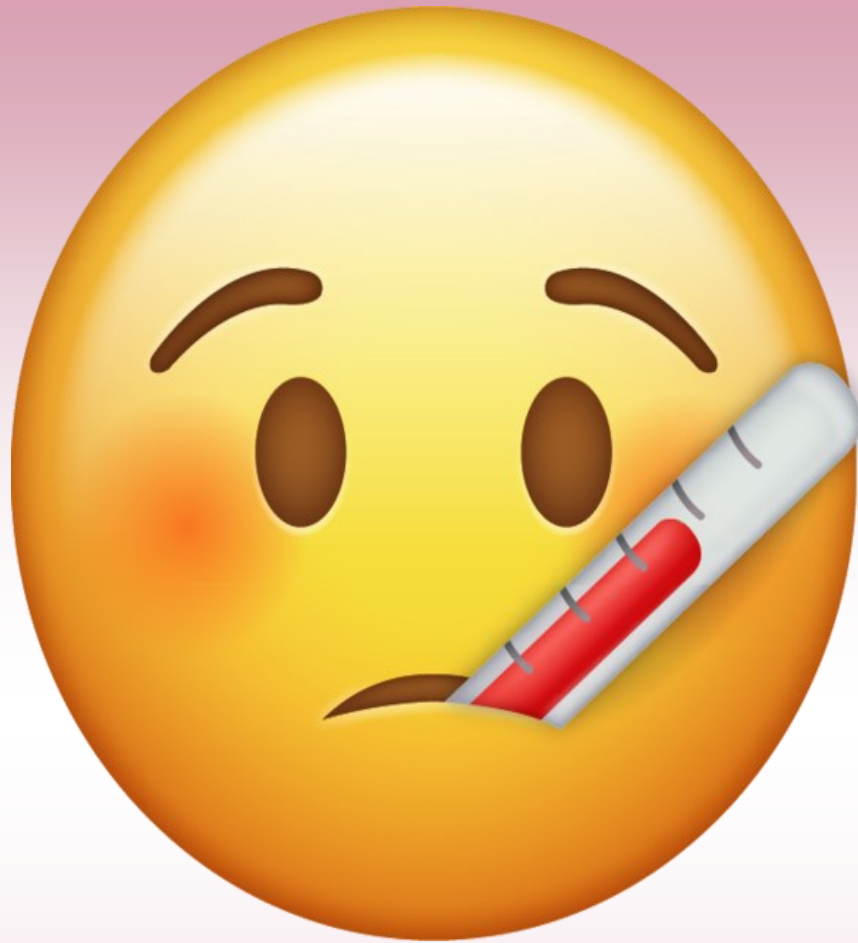


Early Check out:

M,Tu,Th,Fri : **2:15**

Wed: **1:15**

If you have a dismissal change **PLEASE** email your student's teacher and Michelle Fell
@stjohns.k12.fl.us By 2:15 (M, Tu, Th, Fri) and By 1:15 (Wed)



Remember:

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



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.



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.

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.**

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

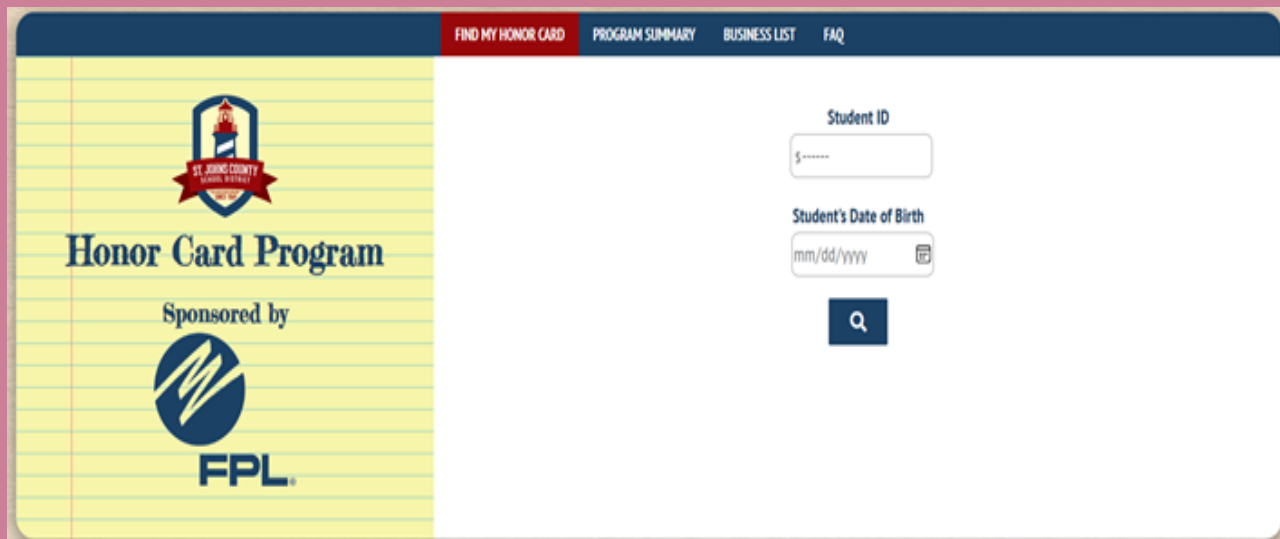


Cheryl Freeman

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 left sidebar has a yellow background with horizontal lines and features the St. Johns County School District logo, the text "Honor Card Program", and the FPL logo with the text "Sponsored by". The main content area has a dark blue header with navigation links: "FIND MY HONOR CARD" (highlighted in red), "PROGRAM SUMMARY", "BUSINESS LIST", and "FAQ". Below the header, there are 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 field.

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.

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