September 8th, 2024

 Good Morning Chargers!

 We would be remiss if we didn’t begin this week’s communication without honoring the lives lost and families impacted by the terror attacks in New York City on September 11, 2001. On Wednesday we ask all families and Chargers to wear red, white, and blue in honor of Patriots Day. We will take time at 8:46 am on Wednesday to pause as a whole school and encourage you to as you feel called to do so. We will never forget.

Please take time to review this week’s information and we will make it a great week for all Chargers! See you soon!

 Come Charge Ahead with Us

C – “Come on time, each day, ready to learn!” (August)

H- “Hold tight to kindness and caring.” Pause and ask your Charger what they are grateful for. Not a single negative emotion can exist in the presence of gratitude: you’ll find that when you invite gratitude, you’ll also invite kindness and caring.

 Save the Date: Open House is Back!

It’s been a few year but we are officially brining Open House Back! This is time for our students and families to come in and spend time with your student’s teacher(s) to learn about what curriculum has been covered and what the remainder of the year will look like. Details will be shared as we get closer, but please save the dates for the following grade levels. We look forward to seeing you soon!

• Elementary School

o 1st, 2nd & 3rd Grades: September 24, 2024

o 4th & 5th Grades: October 1, 2024

o We will have Open House from 6:00- 7:00 at the dates below. We’ll begin with a quick introduction from our admin team fin the auditorium from 6:00-6:15 and then the rest of the evening will be with your teacher(s). This is not a conference night, but you’ll have the opportunity to sign up for time with your teacher then!

• Middle School:

o October 10, 2024, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

o You’ll have an opportunity to rotate through your students schedule to get all the happenings for the year. Details will be shared as we get closer to October!

POA Robotics Team is up and Running!

Calling students in 4th grade through 8th grade. It’s time to dive into a world of innovation, coding, Legos and fun. First Lego League is an international Lego robotics competition. Information and application can be found at https://www-poa.stjohns.k12.fl.us/fllrobotics. If you have any questions please reach out to Coach Schouest (Elementary) leigh.schouest@stjohns.k12.fl.us or Coach Smith (Middle School) erick.smith@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

 NAMI Walks Jacksonville

Come out to NAMIWalks Jacksonville, on October 19th and walk with our Charge Ahead for Mental Health Team to support mental health awareness. Wear your POA shirts and walk together in solidarity for mental health! Look for the POA team to gather at 8:15 am on October 19th at the Winston Family YMCA, 221 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32202)

Here's the direct link to Team Captain page and the POA page. Donating to either will go toward the Charge Ahead for Mental Health Team.

https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfmfuseaction=donorDrive.participant&participantID=564137

https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfmfuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=69168

You can also stop by Mrs. Campbell’s room if you need more info or would like to volunteer with our National Junior Honor Society group that day!

 PTO Spotlight (patriotoakspto@gmail.com):

BUSINESS PARTNERS IN EDUCATION:

Be sure to check out our 2024-2025 Business Partners in Education! These companies, many are family owned right here in our neighborhood, have partnered with our school to enhance the lives of all our POA students. Read through this e-newsletter to take advantage of special offers and opportunities for all our POA families!

8th GRADE FAMILIES

PTO will be covering the cost of several items for your 8th grade student! This includes a class shirt, a class photo, and class treats at least six times throughout the school year. This is due to the generosity of our families and business partners each year through their support of our initiatives such as ChargerTHON and PTO membership, to name a few. The first class treat will be offered in Sept.

For class shirts, we are collecting shirt size as well as each student’s name (first and last) as you would like it to appear on the back of the shirt. Please complete this form by October 25. If you do not fill this form out by the designated deadline, your student’s name will be listed as per enrollment and he/she will be given a generic size (adult medium or large).

Please note that PTO will be hosting a semi-formal 8th grade dance. It will be held in the Spring and will be an off-site dance. The cost of the dance will NOT be covered by the PTO. Tickets will be sold.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, September 11 – Patriot’s Day

In memory of the lives lost on 9/11 and in honor of all first responders, we ask that students wear red, white, or blue on this day.

Friday, September 13, 6:00-800pm, Save the Date

MS Dance – Neon Nights

Middle Schoolers - It’s time to dance and party at our Neon Nights! Dance will be held at POA. Students must arrive by 6:30 and once students leave, there will be no re-entry.

Tickets are $10 and will be on sale during MS lunch 9/9-9/12. Cash only! Please note, school dress code applies.

We will need volunteers to help us before, during, and after the dance! Teen volunteers (not POA students) are welcome for setup and breakdown (see details in sign up link).

Please be sure to sign up below:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4BACAE2CA5FD0-50936741-volunteers

Week at a Glance, Week of September 9th:

• Monday, September 9th:

o 1st & 2nd Grade STAR Testing- Math

o Safety Assembly in Café 3rd, 4th & 5th Grade

o VBall practice after school

o Blue Chip Basketball 6 pm

o Girl Souts in Café Expansion 6 pm

• Tuesday, September 10th:

o 1st & 2nd Grade STAR Testing- Math

o Safety Assembly in Café MS 1st Period Math, Science, Social Studies

o VBall Practice After School

o Home Volleyball Game v. POA: Purchase your tickets here!!! Students wearing Charger Gear get in for free!

• Wednesday, September 11th:

o Wear Red, White, or Blue in honor of Patriot’s Day

o Safety Assembly in Café- Kindergarten, 1st Grade, & 2nd Grade

o VBall Practice

o Blue Chip BBall after School

o POA v. VRA Football @ Creekside

• Thursday, September 12th:

o Safety Assembly in Café- MS 1st Period ELA & Electives

o 1st Grade STAR Testing, Math

o Assistant Principal Meeting- Alexis & Kiersten off campus

o VBall Practice

• Friday, September 13th:

o Make-Up Testing

o 1st Grade STAR Testing- Math

o MS Dance 6:00 – 8:00 pm

That’s all for now Chargers. Work Hard. Learn Something. Be Kind.

Respectfully,

Drew Chiodo, Principal

drew.chiodo@stjohns.k12.fl.us

(904) 547-4053