



THE HAWKS NEST

DECEMBER 2018

Parents, Guardians and Hawks,

Congratulations are in order to all of our Valley Ridge students for the successful completion of the first semester. You have all worked extremely hard and hopefully you will begin to see the rewards reflected in the progress monitoring tools such as iReady, midterms and end of course exams. Please be reminded that teachers use several methods to monitor progress and guide their instruction and that these diagnostics are just one of the data points. The goal is to make sure that instruction is both rigorous and paced appropriately and meeting the needs of students.

The energy and preparation that students put into their classes each day is what ultimately leads to understanding, learning and achievement. We are halfway through this school year and I encourage each of you to continue to push yourselves to new heights in the second semester.

There has been a change at the district level as to how midterms will impact student grades. The decision was made that midterms for all year long courses such as the four cores, will be used strictly for progress monitoring and will have no impact upon a student's grade. Courses that are a semester in length will have an end of course exam (EOC) and will count for 10% of a student's grade. Courses that are considered High School level courses, will still have a midterm that counts as 10% of a student's semester grade. The list of courses with either EOC's or midterms that will count as 10% of the student's grade is as follows:

MJ Comprehensive PE-GR 7/8 (1508700):	M/J Learning Strategies 6-8(7863090):
M/J Exploratory Spanish, Beginning:	M/J Team Sports-Grade 7 (1508200):
M/J Exploring 2D Art (0101005):	Algebra 1 Honors
M/J Fitness Grade 6 (1508000):	Physical Science
Geometry Honors	

Before we turn the page on the calendar to January and 2019, I wanted to make sure I took the opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season. This time of year is one in which we can stop and reflect upon the all little moments that make up a year. Both the joyous and happy times as well as those in which we may struggle, each moment offers us the opportunity to learn and grow as people. I, for one, feel thankful and fortunate for all of those opportunities that we as a school community are able to grow together and learn from each other.

As we move toward the winter break, it is my sincere hope that each of you find time to relax and recharge. Whether it is time spent with extended family or quiet moments at home, I hope that each of those moments is special to you. I look forward to seeing everyone in 2019.

Warm Wishes!

Ms. McMandon, Principal

VALLEY RIDGE ACADEMY

**ENDLESS THANKS TO OUR WONDERFUL FAMILIES FOR MAKING THE
2018 HAWK RUN FUNDRAISER A GREAT SUCCESS!**

VRA raised over \$54,000

Top Middle School Pledgers:

1. Davis Kinsey
2. Michaela Peinsipp
3. Diego Molina

TOP Middle School Homerooms:

1. Ms. Zitiello's Homeroom
2. Ms. McDowell's Homeroom
3. Ms. Anzualda's Homeroom



Top Elementary Pledgers:

1. Riley Riettie
2. Logan McDade
3. Jake Euelenfeld

Top Elementary Classes:

1. Ms. Ashley Williams' 1st Grade Class
2. Ms. Murphy's 5th Grade Class
3. Ms. Marchese's 3rd Grade Class

Pledges from 44 states and 6 countries Canada, China, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, Philippines, & Singapore. – PTO











Enjoy more pictures from the FUN RUN - 1st grade!





Have you ever wondered what “Inclusion” really is and means in our school setting?



Inclusion is not simply about physical proximity. It is about intentionally planning for the success of all students.

thinkinclusive.us

Inclusion is the educational practice of educating children with disabilities in classrooms with children without disabilities. Prior to PL-94-142, children of special needs did not have to be included with their peers. Our goal in St. Johns County is to provide a child with his/her Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). Children may be in the general education setting for the majority of their day with push-in or pull-out services.

Students sometimes need most of their academic supports in a self-contained setting, but then may go to resources or be provided other opportunities with their typical peers. Providing a more inclusive environment is a win-win situation for all.

Children who are identified with a need benefit from peer role models, where children who are not identified may benefit from understanding how children are children no matter their differences.

With the above stated, we also focus on Person First Language. It is guaranteed this video will change your way of thinking and you will catch yourself when you speak.

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FQQOpKPxoyHs&data=02%7C01%7Cjulie.hudson%40stjohns.k12.fl.us%7C883879492e10477e638508d63ac99aaa%7Cb3b3d057fc124f3f92f472be6e844351%7C0%7C0%7C636761035767238419&sdata=kRgRPSqCgWZVliCRiZN5RhpqmlbhpHmBrKoZj4VHih8%3D&reserved=0>



What is Person First Language?

Puts the person **before** the disability, and describes what a person has, not who a person is.

Become a Child's Cheerleader! Have you ever thought of becoming a mentor to a St Johns County student? Mentors are individuals that meet with a student one-to-one or in very small groups, with the mentor providing encouragement for life success. Mentor sessions usually take place during lunchtime, once per week. Here is the information you will need to be trained as a mentor:

Mentor Orientation Dates, Time

Dates (all Tuesday): January 8, February 5, March 5, April 2

Time: 9 – 11 a.m.

Location: RSVP/Volunteer Services

Directions to RSVP/Volunteer Services Office

The address is 10 Hildreth Drive, St. Augustine, Florida, 32084. Upon approaching the campus (it's a former elementary school), take a left hand turn into the staff parking lot. Look to your left, and drive through the lot to the small beige building on the northwest corner of the property, by the playground/park. It is the same color as the big building, and the signs read "RSVP Volunteer Services." This is our meeting place, and parking is (usually) plentiful. If you would like further information please contact Cheryl Freeman (Director, RSVP of St. Johns County Coordinator, SJCSJ Volunteer Services) at 904-547-3952 or follow this link

www.rsvpstjohns.com



2018-2019 Instructional Materials Adoption Mathematics



The St. Johns County School District curriculum department representatives and adoption committee members are currently conducting the review process for the 2018-2019 Instructional Materials Adoption for Mathematics. Resources are available for review at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/instructional-resources-media-services/textbooks/adoption/> by our parents and community members. The core resources that have been submitted for evaluation are listed on the state adoption consideration lists. AP materials that will be reviewed are from College Board recommended materials. If you are interested in serving on an adoption review committee, please contact the principal or assistant principal.

Some print materials may be available for review. If you would like access to the available printed materials or require assistance reviewing the online resources, please call the Instructional Resources and Media Services office at 904.547.3947. Materials are available for review from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM when district offices are open.

Resource lists may be revised throughout the review process. Please check the website frequently for updates.

Please note the following Florida statute regarding instructional materials that pertains to parent input regarding adopted materials:

F.S. 1006.28 (1)(a)(3) Each district school board must establish a process by which the parent of a public school student may contest the district school board's adoption of a specific instructional material. The parent must file a petition, on a form provided by the school board, within 30 calendar days after the adoption of the material by the school board. The school board must make the form available to the public and publish the form on the school district's website. The form must be signed by the parent, include the required contact information, and state the objection to the instructional material. Within 30 days after the 30-day period has expired, the school board must conduct at least one open public hearing on all petitions timely received and provide the petitioner written notification of the date and time of the hearing at least 7 days before the hearing. All instructional materials contested must be made accessible online to the public at least 7 days before a public hearing. The school board's decision after convening a hearing is final and not subject to further petition or review.



Coats 4 Kids
Coming Soon



Dear St. Johns County Families,

Once again, “Somebody Cares St. Augustine” and many of our community organizations, staff members, and stake holders have collected many coats for distribution for St. Johns County School District families in need in preparation for the upcoming Holiday and Winter seasons. In addition to coats, they have collected socks, underwear, and various other necessities that may be needed for the Holiday season. If you are interested in receiving coats or any of these items, the pick-up date is Friday, December 14th from 10:00am to 6:00pm at King Street Self Storage in St. Augustine located at 238 West King Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084. Families that are receiving coats should come to the second entrance door of the storage facility. If there any questions, please contact Michael Israel at 904-547-7589 or Mitchell Moody at 904-547-7593 with the ASSIST Program. We wish everyone a very happy Holiday season!



A.S.S.I.S.T.

**Aid & Support for
Students in Sudden Transition**



Greetings!

4th Annual Sock and Shoe Drive December 10-14



We are hoping to collect 100+ **new or gently used** pairs of sneakers (children's & adult sizes) and 200 pairs of new socks.

All donations will be directed to our sister school, Southwoods Elementary, and

The Salvation Army in St. Augustine. Southwoods Elementary is a Title I school where the majority of their families receive services and assistance.

Southwoods Elementary has been designated as a "Community School" by the School District, providing services to the families in that area beyond the scope of a typical elementary school.

We will be taking in donated items in the VRA front office, as well as in my classroom-Room 404. Students who bring donated items will receive (2) Hawk Bucks for each donation.

Thanks in advance for any help you can give in making this effort a success!

Best regards, Mrs. Hill

REMINDER: Any payments made to VRA should include at least one phone number and current address on the check! We do our best to be as accurate as possible and your continued help is greatly appreciated.

Check out our entire first grade team celebrating the First Thanksgiving dressed as Pilgrim boys and girls, Native American boys and girls and turkeys. We were able to all feast together to celebrate a time we are THANKFUL for.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Girls On The Run team 5K race was at UNF on 12/1!
Our Valley Ridge Girls on the Run Team did an amazing job completing their 5K and received a medal at the end of the race.

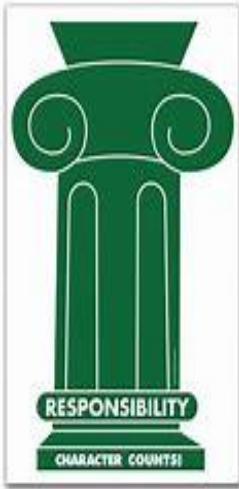


Coach Kovacs and Coach Xanders are so proud of their 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade girls for their dedication to their lessons and training. WE DID IT!!!!



Our next season is coming soon in 2019. If you would like to register your 3-5th grade girl for the Spring GOTR team sign up at <https://www.gotrnefl.org/>

(Word is- the spring season will be STAR WARS themed)



Congratulations to this month's
Character Counts recipients!

This celebration was an
observance of those students
who exemplified the trait of
being Responsible.



Middle School Character Counts

Carter Thorell, Nicole Hunter, Britt Walker, Celine Taylor, Alyssa Salomon, Isabella Gallego, Lauryn Edel, David Nebus, , Tess Murphy, Ethan Ash, Collin Chack, Julia DeVincentis, Nicol Murphy, Caroline Whyte, Morgan Booth, Ava Smith, Robert Vohs, , Brynna Ingle, Addyson Temple-Pustay, Avarie Taylor, Elliott Lim, Ava Thomas, Daveed Riffo, Brady Stoutamire, Fernando Perez.

CONGRATULATIONS!



5TH and 4TH Graders: Andrew Bennie, Emma Dresback, Morgan Shreve, Sayan Bhattacharya, Kara Yeaton, Carson Wright, Oliver Minch, Lauren Higgins, Amelia Wilhelm, , , Sophia Lorch, Alexis Avshalumova, Maia Polito, Keira Davidson, Li Si Vu, Cailey Price, Lani Modansky, Isabel Wolf



3rd and 2nd Graders: J.D. Folladori, Addison Paster, Charlotte Hyman, Emma Odavar, Brody Holgrimson, Kyra Horn, Lucy Davis, Maira Mehmedinovic, Peyton Smith, Troy Lewis, Abbi Cooper, Olesia Capriccioso, Jackson Byrd, Kacie Minx, Yusra Lakhani, Nishka Chauhan



Kindergarten and 1st Graders: Emma Hardy, Fletcher Huffman, Ava Nguyen, Brooklyn Grex, Anvi Sagar, Mae Harry, Miguel Riffo, Ellie Minch, Liana Vitetta, Lily Davidson, Karin Toju, Skylar Gammon, Brooklyn Deuter, Cody Cipolla, James Dubocq, Scarlett Riccio (kdg), Avery Price



St. Johns County School District Transportation Department

Become a School Bus Driver



Make a
difference
every day!



©Lakeshore

*\$500 sign-on bonus for
newly referred drivers

*\$500 bonus for referring
SJCSD employee

(Conditions apply, call for details)

New Drivers:

- We will pay you to train for your CDL Class B licensing with the Passenger and School Bus endorsements

Compensation:

- Pay scale based on experience: \$13-21.00/hr
- Hiring full and part time drivers for daily routes, field trips, and weekends
- 180 work days & 6 paid holidays

Benefits:

- St. Johns County School District Benefits Package includes medical, dental, and vision coverage, and much more
- Enrollment in the Florida Retirement System

Requirements:

- Licensed driver for the past 5 consecutive years
- No DUI/Reckless Driving charges
- Background check
- Drug screen
- Physical

OVER

Contact Rebecca D'Alessio for
more information:

P: (904) 547-8814

E: Rebecca.Dalessio@stjohns.k12.fl.us



Thank you for your interest in becoming a **Bus Driver**. The first step of the recruitment process is to fill out an online application. Please visit the **St Johns County School District** homepage at:

www.stjohns.k12.fl.us

1. Select the **JOB SEEKERS** tab at the top
2. Select the **AppliTrack** box on the right
3. Select **Substitute Bus Operator (Driver)** on the left
4. Click red **Apply** box on the right

The online application process will take approximately 30-60 minutes to complete. In Section 4 of the application, **Vacancy Desired**, make sure the JobID 5523 (Substitute Bus Operator) box is checked. In Section 5, **Position Desired**, "Transportation" is listed. Do NOT check this box. Leave it blank. These instructions are to ensure that you are applying for the correct job opening and that your application will be seen by the Transportation Department.

PLEASE NOTE Pay extra attention to the security questions regarding background screening. To be considered for employment with the St Johns County School District you must successfully pass a high-level background check. The information provided in your online application **MUST** correspond with the results of your background check. Be sure to disclose **ANY** infractions, no matter how minor or long ago they may have been. A record of an infraction may not disqualify you for consideration. Failure to disclose an incident in your application, however, is reason for an employment offer to be withdrawn.

After you submit your application please call **(904) 547 8814** or email **rebecca.dalessio@stjohns.k12.fl.us**. Leave a message stating that your application is complete. If you require assistance filling out an online application please call to make an appointment.



THE ESE PARENT ADVISORY,
ST JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

WELCOMES

MARLENA JENKINS,
LEAD CLINICIAN FOR THE UF JACKSONVILLE
DIAGNOSTIC LEARNING & RESOURCE
SYSTEMS MULTIDISCIPLINARY CENTER

FOR A DISCUSSION ON:

*STRATEGIES TO ASSIST CHILDREN
TO COPE WITH ANXIETY*



GOAL:

In an effort to provide parents of 504, Gifted, and ESE students with strategies to cope with anxiety, Marlena Jenkins, Lead Clinician from UF Jacksonville FDLRS-MDC, will disseminate information and resources.

ESE PARENT
ADVISORY

ST JOHNS COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

EXCEPTIONAL
STUDENT
EDUCATION

UF HEALTH
DEVELOPMENTAL
PEDIATRIC CENTER

JAN 8, 2019

LOCATION:

FULLERWOOD
TRAINING CENTER

10 HILDRETH DR
ST AUGUSTINE, FL

32084

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

St. Johns Virtual School

DRIVER EDUCATION & TRAFFIC SAFETY COURSE



- St. Johns County Instructors
- ½ credit fulfills the graduation requirement to complete an online course
- Get your 4 hour traffic law and substance abuse education test waiver
- May lower the cost of auto insurance
- **FREE** to St. Johns County students

Sign up at: stjohnsvirtual.com

High School Showcase
January 24, 2019
3:30-7:00pm
World Golf Village Convention Center

Did you know that over 40% of all high school students in St. Johns County are enrolled in one or more of our Programs of Choice? Programs of Choice provide excellent options for the students of St. Johns County. To help families learn more about the Programs of Choice, each high school displays their programs at the St. Johns County School District High School Programs of Choice Showcase.

This year, the High School Showcase will be held Thursday, January 24, 2019 from 3:30 – 7:00 pm at the World Golf Village Convention Center. This event highlights Career Academies and specialized programs available to rising 9th and rising 10th grade students who live in St. Johns County. All high school programs to which current 8th or 9th graders can apply for next school year will have booths to share information. These programs include the Career Academies; Accelerated Programs – International Baccalaureate (IB), and Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE); JROTC – Navy, Army and Air Force; and the St. Johns County Center for the Arts (SJCCA). Seventh graders and their parents are also welcome to join us as they gather information for their future planning. Students can apply to any of these programs no matter which school they are zoned to attend, although some program exceptions apply to this process. For example, students will need to apply and audition to be considered for the St. Johns County Center for the Arts at St. Augustine High School.

Auditions will be held on Friday, February 15, 2019 at St. Augustine High School. For more information about the audition process, go to the St. Johns County Center for the Arts (SJCCA) website. For additional information on program exceptions and considerations, please visit the Career Academy of St. Johns website. Families must make transportation arrangements for students who attend schools other than their zoned school. Out-of-zone transportation is only provided to students attending St. Johns Technical High School. If you are unable attend this event, additional information is available on the Career Academy website. Each school also has a video overview of the programs offered at their school. Furthermore, each high school will have an Academy Night at their school to allow prospective students to tour the school, visit the classrooms, and hear more in-depth information about the programs from teachers, current students and business partners. Academy Nights will all be held at 6:00 pm on the dates and at the locations listed below. *St. Johns Technical High School Academy Night begins at 5:30 pm. Jan. 29 – St Augustine & St. Johns Tech Jan. 30 – Allen D. Nease Jan. 31- Bartram Trail Feb. 04 – Creekside Feb. 05- Pedro Menendez & Ponte Vedra

Students currently in 8th or 9th grade who wish to enroll in one of the Programs of Choice for the first time MUST apply between January 24, 2019 at 8:00 am to February 19, 2019 at 5:00 pm. (Current high school students already in programs do not need to reapply.) Current SJCS D students must apply online through the student's Home Access Center (HAC) and directions can be found at on the Career Academies website. Home School, Private School or Virtual School students who are interested in enrolling in a Program of Choice at one of the SJCS D high schools next year need to pre-register at the CURRENT zoned school your child would have attended in the SJCS D this school year. After registering as a potential student, the currently zoned school will provide you with a paper application to complete and return. The due date to apply is still February 19 at 5:00 pm.

Only students residing in St. Johns county are eligible to apply for any of these programs. Students currently not attending a SJCS D school need to pre-register. Please visit the school district's website for the required documentation that you will need for preregistration. If accepted into one or more of these Programs of Choice, the family will need to complete the application process by bringing additional registration documents (such as transcripts, immunization records, etc.) before the start of the 2019 -2020 school year. Eligibility to apply to the Career Academies and JROTC Programs is open to all 8th or 9th graders who reside in St. Johns County who apply during the application dates. IB and AICE have academic eligibility requirements as they are accelerated academic programs. Teacher Recommendations Forms must be submitted to the IB or AICE Coordinators at the schools for which the student is applying by Feb. 19th .

Each Program of Choice has a limited number of space for new students, so applying does not guarantee acceptance in to a program. An automated lottery system is used to select the students who will be accepted. All families will receive email notifications by the end of February as to whether their child has been accepted into one or more programs or not for the next school year. By law, students of active military parents receive additional consideration to Programs of Choice. Active military parents of applicants should go to their child's current school office before February 19th and show their military card to the office staff to have their military expiration date updated in the student's eSchool records. For questions about the SJCSD Programs of Choice that cannot be found on the website, please contact our office at 904-547-4870.