

40 Orange Street St. Augustine, Florida 32084 (904) 547-7500 www.stjohns.k12.fl.us

August 10, 2023

SCHOOL BOARD

Beverly Slough District 1

Anthony E. Coleman Sr. District 2

> Jennifer Collins District 3

> > Kelly Barrera District 4

Patrick Canan District 5 Dear Elementary School Parents/Guardians:

I'm writing to share the annual required instruction information, per State Board Rule. All students in grades kindergarten through 12 are to receive instruction related to youth substance use and abuse health education and child trafficking prevention and awareness (Rule 6A-1.094124, F.A.C).

These are important topics that will help our students have the knowledge and ability to act when faced with difficult situations. I believe this instruction will be extremely beneficial for your children and/or reinforce what is taught at home.

School counselors and classroom teachers will lead the instruction and discussions on substance use and abuse health education. Only school counselors will lead the instruction and discussion on child trafficking.

I am proud of the work district staff has done to select and develop instructional materials that are age appropriate. This is statutorily required instruction and there is no opt out opportunity for students. To learn more about the lessons, topics, and to review the frequently asked questions, I encourage you to visit our website https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/mental-health/instruction/elementary/.

As always, I thank you for the support of our schools, and your time and commitment to your children's education.

Sincerely,

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*Tim Forson*Tim Forson Superintendent of Schools