



355 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Palms Post March 2025

Dear Otter Families!

It's hard to believe, but it's already time to start thinking about the 2025-2026 school year! If you have an incoming kindergartener, registration opens March 1st, and we encourage you to register as soon as possible. Early registration helps us plan for a smooth transition and ensures we have the best possible start for our otters.

For our current families returning to OPE next year, keep an eye out in April for an email from the district regarding the Returning Student Verification (RSV) process. You will receive a separate RSV email for each child over the course of a week as they are sent in batches based on students' grade levels. We'll send reminders as we get closer, but it is extremely important to complete your RSV promptly so we can confirm your child's return and include them in class placements over the summer.

As we navigate into testing season, we need proctor volunteers to help ensure a smooth and successful experience for our students. Proctors play a vital role in assisting teachers and maintaining a focused testing environment. Without proctors, teachers cannot administer exams to their own students. Proctoring is simple, yet incredibly valuable, and your support makes a big difference! To ensure fairness, proctors will not be assigned to classrooms where they have family members, and all volunteers must be cleared through school access. If you're available to help or have any questions, please contact Faie Pellegrino, School Counselor, at (904) 547-3772, or sign up using the link below. Thank you in advance for your time and dedication - it truly takes a village, and we are grateful for our amazing Otter family!

Next week is Field Day! Be sure to review parent procedures on page 6 of this edition of *The Palms Post* to ensure a smooth and fun-filled event for everyone. We also encourage you to check out this edition for celebrations, upcoming events including kickball games and detailed state testing information. Thank you for your continued support and for being part of our Otter Raft!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Tiffany Cantwell and Ms. Kim Bays
OPE Administration Team



FAST Proctors: OPES Proctors
for FAST Testing 2025

March

3 - PTO Meeting (9:00-10:00)

Field Day Schedule - p.6
Wear Your Class T-Shirt

4 – Kindergarten and First Grade

6 – Second and Third Grade

7 – Fourth and Fifth Grade

13 – Third Quarter Ends

14 – Teacher Planning Day / No School

17 – 21 Spring Break / No School

24 – Classes Resume

26 – Rain Date: Field Day

26 – (K-1) Otter Spirit Auction with Teachers
(2:00-3:00)

27 – Report Cards posted on (HAC)

SPRING FAMILY NIGHT

Food Orders Due April 3

EAT

PAPA JOHN'S MEALS
AVAILABLE BY ADVANCE
PURCHASE ONLY
ORDER BY APRIL 3!

SCAN TO PURCHASE MEALS
& DUNK STATION BEANBAGS

OR VISIT OPEPTO.COM



**KICKBALL
FUN!**

**OTTER
SPIRIT
AUCTION**

SUPPORT OPE AND ENJOY AN
AFTER SCHOOL KICKBALL GAME!

GRADES K-1: MARCH 26

GRADES 2-5: APRIL 16

1:45-3:00PM

**TEAM UP WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND TEACHERS
FOR SOME GRADE-TO-GRADE RIVALRY!**

BIDDING OPENS MARCH 12 @ 7PM

TEXT

**"OTTERS25"
TO 243725**

OR

TYPE

**BIDPAL.NET/
OTTERS25**

OR

SCAN





2024-25 PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Please support these amazing businesses that support our school!

GOLD Partners



SILVER Partners



BRONZE Partners



Character Counts Recognition



Caring

Kindergarten	Henry Blaich, Cameron Pierce and Logan Reeping
1 st Grade	Elijah Genebriera, Alessia Milo, Everest Seoane and Sierra Shea
2 nd Grade	Alexa Dalton, Olivia Henderson, Nathan Hsu and Luke Vaughn
3 rd Grade	Adelyn Long, Olivia Piltin and Delfina Rossetti
4 th Grade	Emilia Acosta, Alex Brown, Kylie Dipola and Noah Schoch,
5 th Grade	Liam Dean, Kayla Pelham, Arabella Roffino and Scarlett Shea,

Respect

Kindergarten	Vivian Farrell-Samms and Andrew Socwell
1 st Grade	Bruce Barger, Victoria Genebriera, Cali Middleton and Dahlia Rosenberg
2 nd Grade	Sophie Armel, Joseph Perry and Brynn Rasmussen
3 rd Grade	Quinn Blaich, Nathan Grimm and Owen Hopkins
4 th Grade	Callie Doherty, Charlie Freedman, Drew Hill and Jack MacGilvray
5 th Grade	Norah Abbosh, Owen Koppenhafer, Athulya Prasad, Jackson Roberts and Defne Sar-

All Pillars

Kindergarten	Khaza Moore, Cecilia Pezak and Kaden Terwillinger
1 st Grade	Sawyer Barker, Eleanor Bomba, Raven Macht and Josie Menne
2 nd Grade	Carter Gatling, Cash Lee and Bennett Mangiaracino
3 rd Grade	Mayla McIntyre, Landon Mitcham and Laine Morgan
4 th Grade	Rose Dauchy, Ellie Henderson, Aria Lenz and Scarlette Thompson
5 th Grade	Annabella Baldwin, Maria Dumitrascu, Nathan Gilbert and Madeline Spooner



CHIP IN *for charity*

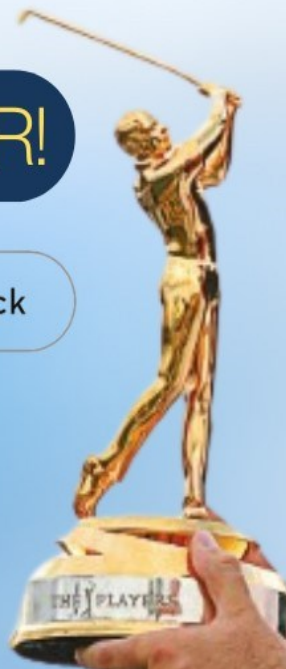
Each ticket purchased for
THE PLAYERS Championship
earns \$40 for our school!

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER!](#)

Choose a date, click:

 [Unlock](#)

Enter Code **469GMF**



VALID ON STADIUM PASSES FOR MARCH 13-16, 2024
LOWEST-PRICE GUARANTEED THROUGH TICKETMASTER
MAX 6 TICKETS PER ACCOUNT PER DAY



PARENTS - FIELD DAY PROCEDURES

Location: Front Field

Tuesday, March 4	Thursday, March 6	Friday, March 7
Kindergarten	Second Grade	Fourth Grade
(8:45-10:45) Field Day	(8:40-10:40) Field Day	(8:45-10:45) Field Day
First Grade	Third Grade	Fifth Grade
(11:45-1:45) Field Day	(11:45-1:45) Field Day	(11:45-1:45) Field Day

- ❖ **IMPORTANT RSVP - Any adult wishing to attend, or volunteer must be an approved volunteer and RSVP with their child's room parent or teacher on or before 3:00 p.m. Friday, February 21.**
- ❖ Check in and Field Access – Adults will go to the front field to check in. You must be on the preapproved list and check in at the front field. Each adult shall present their driver's license to access the event.
 - Any adult NOT on the approved volunteer list will be directed to the front office for assistance. Don't wait to complete your volunteer access application – go to <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/volunteer/>
- ❖ The front office has restrooms available to any adult who needs them. Field Access stickers must be returned to OPE staff as they exit the field.
- ❖ Adults with field access only stickers will NOT be permitted into the building (except through the front office for restrooms). No Exceptions.
- ❖ Field Day Volunteers and PTO Board Members must sign in at the front office with their driver's licenses to receive their Volunteer Badge.
- ❖ There will be no dismissal of students from the field. All check-outs must go through the front office.
- ❖ Parents, please coordinate with your child's teacher on what supplies they may need such as: field tent, prepackaged snacks, and prelabeled drinks with students' names.
- ❖ Students should bring a water bottle (labeled with their name), wear sneakers, hats are welcome, and sunscreen must be applied at home or by a parent at school. Staff members are not permitted to apply sunscreen.



Birdies for
CHARITY



Donate \$20 or more



Guess the total number of birdies during
The PLAYERS Championship 2025

You're entered to win \$10,000!



Visit OPEPTO.com - or scan the QR
code - to make your guess!!



OPEPTO
PRESENTS

SPRING

FAMILY NIGHT

APRIL 10 5-8PM



EAT

PAPA JOHN'S MEALS
AVAILABLE BY ADVANCE
PURCHASE ONLY

ORDER BY APRIL 3!

PLAY

INFLATABLE SLIDE
OBSTACLE COURSE
HUMAN FOOSBALL
BUNGEE RUN
FACE PAINTING
DJ CANDY WALK

BID

OTTER SPIRIT AUCTION

TO PREVIEW & BID:
TEXT **OTTERS25**
TO 243725

DUNK

SOAK OUR STAFF:
DUNK STATIONS
FEATURING YOUR
TEACHERS & ADMIN

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE OR
IN PERSON AT THE EVENT

SCAN TO PURCHASE MEALS
& DUNK STATION BEANBAGS



OR VISIT OPEPTO.COM

SHOP

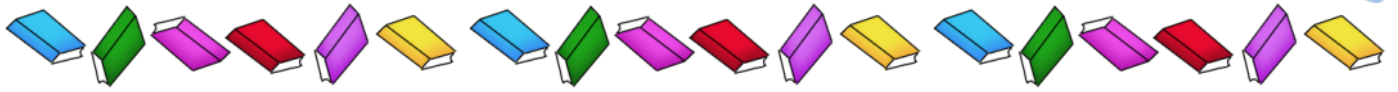
THE SCHOLASTIC
BOOK FAIR



PONTE VEDRA
Pediatric Dentistry
& ORTHODONTICS

TREATS FOR SALE BY TIKIZ SHAVED ICE & MILLIE'S ICE CREAM
EVENT ADMISSION & PLAY ACTIVITIES ARE FREE OF CHARGE

Otter Hall of Fame!



DATE	GR	STUDENTS
6-Jan	5	Mackenzie Mann
7-Jan	4	Annalise Bridges
9-Jan	1	Josie Menne
10-Jan	K	Cameron Happel
14-Jan	5	Eliana Feldman
16-Jan	1	Sawyer Barker
21-Jan	5	Case McHale
27-Jan	1	Rowan Dugan

We are thrilled to congratulate our newest members of the Otter Wall of Fame! So far this year, 45 students have completed this incredible challenge by reading all 15 Junior Sunshine State Books or the Sunshine State Books (Grades 3-5). Your dedication, imagination, and love for reading continue to inspire us all. Keep up the fantastic work! There's still time to join the fun! Keep reading, otters! We can't wait to see who joins this incredible group next. Let's make waves with our love of books!

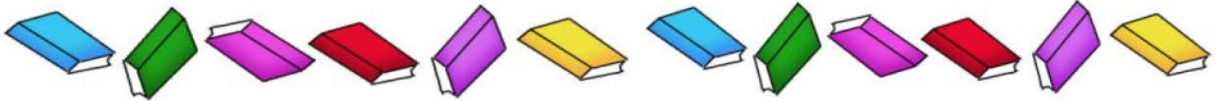
BATTLE OF THE BOOKS TEAM!

Congratulations to Our Battle of the Books Team! We are thrilled to announce the students who have earned a spot on this year's Battle of the Books Team! These dedicated readers have worked hard to master a variety of Sunshine State books and will now move on to represent Ocean Palms as they compete against other schools for the Battle of the Books Champion Title on March 27th. Join us in cheering them on as they showcase their teamwork, comprehension, and love of reading! Good luck, Otter Readers!

GR OPE'S TEAM

- 4 **Annalise Bridges**
- 4 **Blaze Lickliter**
- 4 **Blix Lickliter**
- 5 **Ella Scarborough**
- 5 **Evan Kuhl**
- 5 **Gavin Pacifico**
- 5 **Mackenzie Mann**

SPRING BOOK FAIR SCHEDULE 2025



Opening Night - Thursday, April 10 (5:00-8:00)			
	Mon. 4/14	Tues. 4/15	Wed. 4/16
8:40 - 9:00	Becksmith	Owens	Frein
9:00 - 9:20	Sebestyen	Frecks	Garner
9:20 - 9:40	Jette	Blaich	Korn
9:40 - 10:00	Seese	Webster	Hopkins
10:00 - 10:20	Sheen	Moore	McVeigh
10:20 - 10:40	Crouch	Lewis	Nannetti
10:40 - 11:00	Sweeney		Conroy
11:00 - 11:20	Dalton (11:00-11:20)	Happel (11:05-11:25)	Flowers
11:40 - 12:00		Gomez	
12:00 - 12:20	Reid	Johnston	

Leonard's
YEARBOOK

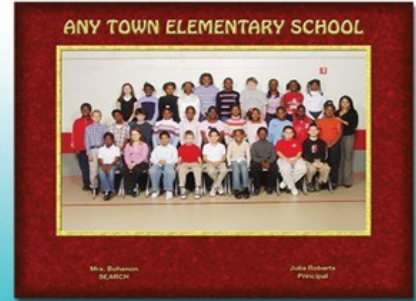
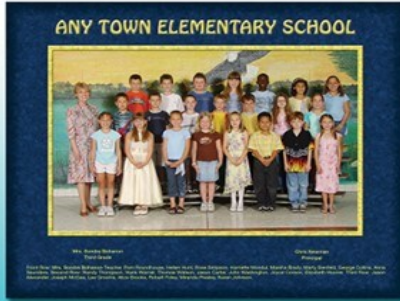
**YOUR OWN PERSONAL
 TIME CAPSULE**

ORDER ONLINE TODAY
BuyTheYearbook.com
 School ID: 725774

CAPTURE YOUR CLASS



KEEP THIS YEAR OF MEMORIES WITH A LEONARD'S GROUP PHOTO!



ORDER NOW ONLINE

FOR EASY ORDERING AND TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD, ORDER ONLINE AT
WWW.LEONARDS.COM/ORDER

PICTURE DAY: Thu, Mar 27, 2025

Día de la Foto:

**MAKE CHECKS OR
 MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO:**
 Escribe su cheque o giro de pago a:

Leonard's

ACCESS CODE:
 Código De Acceso:

G660284

Packages

1	1 - 8x10 Class Group with Border 1 - 8x10 Foto de grupo con Borde	Package 1	\$15.00
2	1 - 8x10 Class Group with Border with Protective Coating / 1 - 8x10 Foto de grupo tienen una capa para proteger las fotos con borde	Package 2	\$18.00

NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION»



**Registration opens online March 1, 2025,
for all St. Johns County Schools.
Learn more about your home zoned school
by going to our website.**

<https://www-ope.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>

OPE School Tour Dates:

- Monday, February 10 @ 10:00 am
- Monday, March 3 @ 10:00 am
- Monday, April 14 @ 10:00 am
- Monday, May 12 @ 10:00 am
- Thursday, July 31 @ 9:00 am

School Tours: We are delighted to invite you to tour Ocean Palms Elementary! This is a wonderful opportunity to explore our campus, learn more about our programs, and experience the warm and welcoming environment of our school community.

Call 904-547-3760 to sign up for a tour.

**Email Mrs. Morales if you have questions
about registration!**

Vicki Morales, Registrar - Vicki.Morales@stjohns.k12.fl.us



March's Lunch Menu

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
March 3rd		March 4th		March 5th		March 6th		March 7th	
Chicken Nuggets & Choice of WG Garlic Ripstick	Hot Dog	Grilled Cheese Sandwich	Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza	Hamburger or Cheeseburger	Max Cheese Sticks with choice of marinara dipping sauce				
Loaded Philly Tots	Mac & Cheese	BBQ Chicken Quesadilla	Mini Corn Dogs		Baked Potato Fries				
Green Beans	Baked Beans	Sweet Potato Fries	Steamed Broccoli						
Assorted Fresh Vegetables	Assorted Fresh Vegetables	Assorted Fresh Vegetables	Assorted Fresh Vegetables						
Assorted Fruit	Assorted Fruit	Assorted Fruit	Assorted Fruit						
Dipping sauce dunk cup, cheese cup	Ketchup, mustard, dipping sauce dunk cup	Ketchup, mustard, Mayo, dipping sauce dunk cup	Dipping sauce dunk cup, Ketchup, mustard						
March 10th		March 11th		March 12th		March 13th		March 14th	
Chicken Slider Biscuit	Penne Pasta with Choice of Marinara Sauce OR	Homestyle Chicken Sandwich	Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza						
French Toast sticks	Marinara sauce with Meatballs	BBQ Turkey Sandwich	Mini Corn Dogs						
Tater Tots	Beef & Bean Chili with choice of cheese cup	Sweet Potato Fries & Baked Beans	Steamed Broccoli						
Assorted Fresh Vegetables	Green Beans & Assorted Fresh Vegetables	Assorted Fresh Vegetables	Assorted Fresh Vegetables						
Assorted Fruit	Assorted Fruit	Assorted Fruit	Assorted Fruit						
ketchup, mustard, dipping sauce dunk cup, syrup	WG Garlic Ripstick	Ketchup, mustard, Mayo, dipping sauce dunk cup	Dipping sauce dunk cup, Ketchup, mustard						
March 17th		March 18th		March 19th		March 20th		March 21th	
SPRING BREAK									
March 24th		March 25th		March 26th		March 27th		March 28th	
Chicken Slider Biscuit	Penne Pasta with Choice of Marinara Sauce OR	Homestyle Chicken Sandwich	Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza	Hamburger or Cheeseburger	Max Cheese Sticks with choice of marinara dipping sauce				
French Toast sticks	Marinara sauce with Meatballs	BBQ Turkey Sandwich	Hot Dog or Chili Dog		Baked Potato Fries				
Tater Tots	Mini Corn Dogs	Sweet Potato Fries & Baked Beans	Steamed Broccoli						
Assorted Fresh Vegetables	Green Beans & Assorted Fresh Vegetables	Assorted Fresh Vegetables	Assorted Fresh Vegetables						
Assorted Fruit	Assorted Fruit	Assorted Fruit	Assorted Fruit						
ketchup, mustard, dipping sauce dunk cup, syrup	WG Garlic Ripstick	Ketchup, mustard, Mayo, dipping sauce dunk cup	Dipping sauce dunk cup, Ketchup, mustard						

Morning Drop-Off Procedures

Drop-Off Procedures

- Please release your students closer to the front of the car line where staff members are available to assist.
- For safety, students must exit the vehicle from the right (sidewalk) side.
- Adults should remain in their vehicles during drop-off.

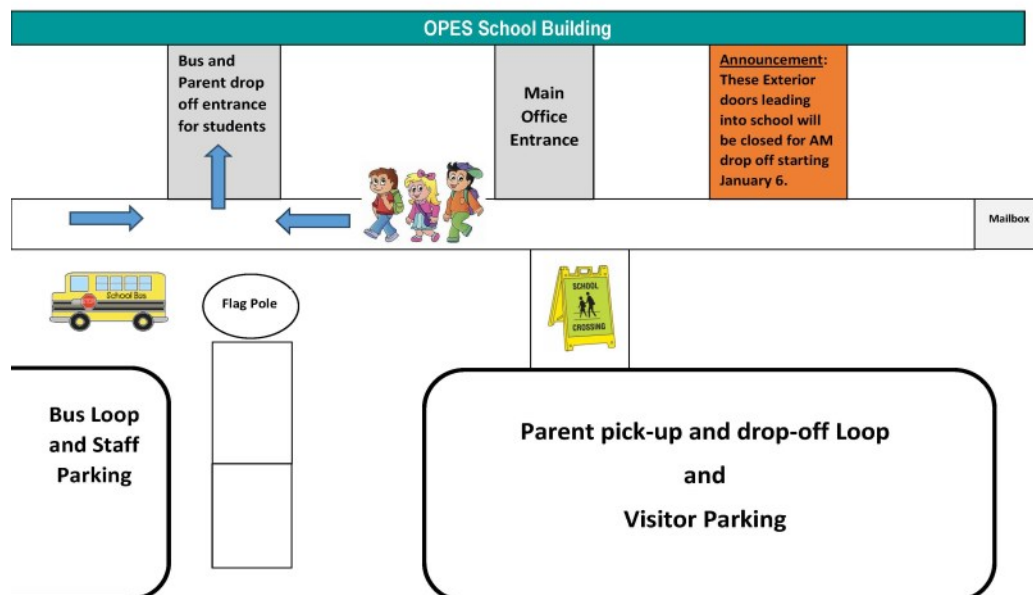
Arrival Reminders

- Supervision begins at 8:00 a.m., and instruction starts at 8:25 a.m. Students arriving before 8:00 a.m. must be enrolled in the before-care program unless attending a club activity.
- Parents dropping off PreK and self-contained ESE students should ensure car seats are on the passenger side and display their Parent pick-up (PPU) tag clearly. Staff members will assist these students to their classrooms.

Important Note

The exit lane is reserved for exiting traffic only. Any vehicle bypassing the car line will be asked to park and retrieve their child from the front office. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our drop-off and pick-up procedures safe and efficient for everyone. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and visitors.

OPE Parent Drop Off Map



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Missing a day of school here and there may not seem like much, but absences add up!

When a student misses **2** days a month..

They will miss **20 DAYS** a year.

They will miss **30 HOURS** of math over the school year.

They will miss **60 HOURS** of reading & writing over the school year.

They will miss over **1 YEAR** of school by graduation.

When a student misses **4** days a month..

They will miss **40 DAYS** a year.

They will miss **60 HOURS** of math over the school year.

They will miss **120 HOURS** of reading & writing over the school year.

They will miss over **2 YEARS** of school by graduation.



Testing season begins on March 31st and runs through May 20th. During this time, all students in grades K-5 will take a reading and math assessment, while VPK students will participate in a reading assessment only. In addition: Grades 4 & 5

will complete a writing assessment and Grade 5 students will also take a science assessment. A full assessment calendar with specific dates for each grade level and subject is on page 8 of this newsletter. Please review it to ensure your child gets a good night's sleep before testing days and is able to test with their class, rather than needing to take a make-up assessment later.

Supporting Your Child During Testing Season

Encouraging a growth mindset and reinforcing test-taking strategies at home can help your child feel more confident and prepared. Some key strategies students practice in class that you can review at home include:

- ✓ **Process of elimination** – Narrowing down answer choices by removing incorrect options
- ✓ **Reviewing all answers** – Taking the time to check responses before submitting the test
- ✓ **Underlining key vocabulary** – Identifying important words in reading passages and questions
- ✓ **"Select all that apply" questions** – Many test items require multiple correct answers, so reading carefully is essential

Practicing these skills when reviewing classroom assessments can help students feel more comfortable applying them during state testing.

Writing Assessment for Grades 4 & 5

Students in 4th and 5th grade will participate in the B.E.S.T. Writing Assessment, where they will:

- Read multiple passages
- Plan and type an essay response
- Include proper citations

Accessing Your Child's Scores

If you haven't already, sign up for the Florida Family Portal to access your child's progress monitoring scores and track their growth year after year. The portal provides insight into how your child is progressing and allows you to see their performance on each assessment.

We appreciate your partnership in making testing season a smooth and successful experience for our students. Let's help them set sail for success!

April

3 - FOOD ORDERS DUE TODAY for Spring Family Night

- 10 – Spring Family Night and Book Fair (5:00-8:00)
- 10-17 – Spring Book Fair
- 11 – FAST Testing Pep Rally for Students
- 15 – Honor Choir Performance (6:00-7:00)
- 16 – (2-5) Otter Spirit Auction with Teachers (2:00-3:00)
- 18 – Student/Teacher Holiday/No School
- 23 – Interims
- 23 – Otter Spirit Auction with Resource Team (2:00-3:00)
- 24 – First Grade Music Performance (6:00-7:00)
- 24 – A-Z Count Down to Summer Vacation starts

May

- 5 – 9 – Staff Appreciation Week
- 13 – Kindergarten End of Year Celebrations
- 14 – PreK & VE End of Year Celebrations
- 15 – (K-5) STEM Night and Art Show (5:00-7:30)
- 19 – First Grade End of Year Celebrations
- 20 – Third Grade End of Year Celebrations
- 21 – Second Grade End of Year Celebrations
- 22 – Fourth Grade End of Year Celebrations
- 22 – End of the Year Water Balloon Growth Event
- 23 – Fifth Grade Talent Show (9:00-10:00) and Fifth Grade Fun Day (10:00-1:00)
- 26 – Memorial Day / No School
- 29 – Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremonies (9:15-10:45) Conroy and Flowers (11:30-1:00) Nannetti and McVeigh
- 30 – Last Day of School for Students – Fifth Grade Clap Out (1:20-1:45) - Early Dismissal 1:30 PreK & 1:45 Grades K-5
- 30 – Fourth Quarter Ends/Report Cards posted on Home Access Center (HAC)

The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST)

The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) is a progress monitoring system that is administered three times per year to track your student's progress in learning the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards throughout this school year in grades PreK - 5. Each time your child takes this assessment they will be presented with items that cover the entire test "blueprint," meaning students will encounter items representative of the standards within the subject or grade level. For more information on the test design, please visit <https://www.fl DOE.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/best/>. If you or your student would like to review FAST Reading and Mathematics sample materials at home, sample test materials are available at <https://flfast.org/families.html>.

Please review the following policies with your student before testing:

Electronic Devices - Students are not permitted to have any electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, and smartwatches, at any time during testing or during breaks (e.g., restroom), even if the devices are turned off or students do not use them. If your student is found with an electronic device or is found using Bluetooth/wireless headphones/earbuds during testing, his or her test will be invalidated.

Calculator Policy - Calculator use is prohibited for Grades 3–5 FAST Mathematics. For Grades 7–8 FAST Mathematics, approved handheld scientific calculators will be provided. For Grade 6 FAST Mathematics, a handheld four-function calculator will be provided.

Testing Rules Acknowledgment - All tests include a Testing Rules Acknowledgment "I understand the testing rules that were just read to me. If I do not follow these rules, my test score may be invalidated." Prior to testing, test administrators read the rules to students, and students acknowledge indicate on their computer that they understand the testing rules.

Discussing Test Content after Testing - Testing Rules Acknowledgment states that because the content of all statewide assessments is secure, students may not discuss or reveal details about the test content (including test items and passages) after the test. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting to social media sites. Please make sure your student understands this policy prior to testing and remind them that "discussing" test content includes any kind of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, posting to social media, or sharing online. While students may not share information about secure test content after testing, this policy is not intended to prevent students from discussing their testing experiences with their parents/families.

Working Independently - Students are responsible for doing their own work during the test and for protecting their answers from being seen by others. If students are caught cheating during testing, their tests will be invalidated.

Leaving Campus - If your student leaves campus before completing a test (e.g., for lunch, an appointment), he or she will not be allowed to return to that test. If your student does not feel well on the day of testing, it may be best for him or her to wait and be tested on a make-up day. Please remember not to schedule appointments on testing days.

Testing Accommodations - Please contact the school to discuss any other testing accommodations that will be provided for your student.

Testing Irregularities - In the event a testing irregularity occurs in your student's testing room, as part of a school investigation, your student may be asked questions to provide clarification of the incident. In addition, your student may be required to retake the assessment if a suspected irregularity is reported that may affect the validity of the test results.

If you have any questions related to this test administration, you may contact Faie Pellegrino at 904-547-3772 or via email at Olivia.Pellegrino@stjohns.k12.fl.us. For more information about the FAST program, please visit the portal at <https://flfast.org/fsa.html>.

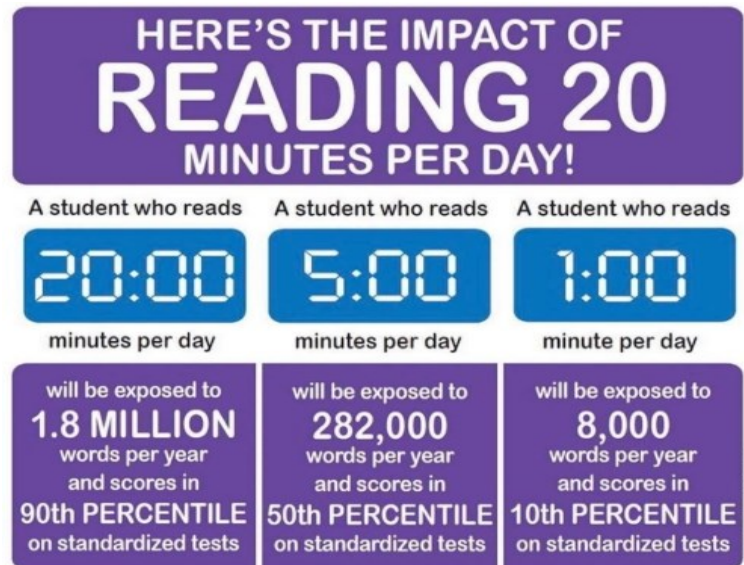
Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) Schedule Spring 2025

Dates	Assessment
Monday, March 31, 2025	Grade 5 Writes
Thursday, April 3, 2025	Grade 4 Writes
Monday, May 5, 2025	Kindergarten STAR Early Literacy and Grades 1-2 STAR Reading
Tuesday, May 6, 2025	Kindergarten and Gr. 1-2 STAR Math
Thursday, May 8, 2025	Grades 3-4 FAST ELA
Friday, May 9, 2025	Grades 3-4 FAST Math
Tuesday, May 13, 2025	Grade 5 FAST ELA
Thursday, May 15, 2025	Grade 5 FAST Math
Monday, May 19, 2025	VPK STAR Early Literacy
Tuesday, May 20, 2025	Grade 5 FAST Science

Make-up testing will occur as soon as possible upon a student's return to school.

Third Grade Promotion & Retention

At Ocean Palms, we are dedicated to fostering a positive and supportive environment for all of our students. While state guidelines require us to inform families about third-grade promotion and retention policies, we want to assure you that we do not discuss promotion or retention directly with students. Our goal is to avoid creating any unnecessary stress or anxiety, especially related to testing. Instead, we encourage students to approach each test with a growth mindset, focusing on doing their best and “showing what they know.”



We emphasize the importance of taking all assessments seriously and view these moments as opportunities for growth. This mindset helps us maintain a balanced approach that prioritizes student well-being while still meeting important academic milestones. Below, we’ve outlined the state guidelines and additional support available to ensure all students are prepared for success in fourth grade and beyond.

According to section 1008.25(5), Florida Statutes (F.S.), to be promoted to fourth grade, a third-grade student must score a Level 2 or above on the statewide Florida Assessment of Student Thinking – English Language Arts (FAST-ELA) in their third progress monitoring assessment in the area of Reading. The intent of the third-grade progression statute is to ensure that students have the necessary reading skills to be successful in grade 4 and beyond.

If a student does not score Level 2 or above on the third grade English Language Arts (ELA) assessment on Thursday, May 8, they may attend the district provided Summer Reading Program for additional reading instruction. Some third graders who score Level 1 on the statewide FAST-ELA can be exempted from the retention requirement and be promoted to fourth grade. This is called a “good cause exemption”. See page 12 for the different exemptions.

THIRD GRADE PROGRESSION STATUTE & GOOD CAUSE EXEMPTIONS

The third grade progression statute is to ensure that students have the necessary reading skills to be successful in grade 4 and beyond, where the rigors of reading in the content areas increase. According to section 1008.25(5), Florida Statutes (F.S.), to be promoted to fourth grade, a third-grade student must score a Level 2 or above on the statewide Florida Assessment of Student Thinking – English Language Arts (FAST-ELA). The following plan describes several ways for students who do not meet this standard initially to be promoted to fourth grade.

If a student does not demonstrate proficiency on the statewide FAST- ELA Assessment during the third progress monitoring (PM3) test in May, they can attend the district provided Summer Reading Program to ensure they receive additional instruction.

There is also statutory language that prohibits the statewide FAST- ELA from being the sole determiner of promotion and states that additional evaluations, portfolio reviews and assessments are available to the child to assist parents and the school district in knowing when a child is reading at or above grade level and ready for grade promotion.

Good Cause Exemptions 1, 4, 5, 6 Students who earn a Level 1 on the FAST for PM3 and meet one of the Good Cause Exemptions outlined below must also attend the Summer Reading Program. A student only needs to meet the criteria for one of the 6 Good Cause Exemptions.

Good Cause Exemption #1: Limited English proficient students who have had less than two (2) years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other Languages program based on the initial date of entry into a school in the United States.

Good Cause Exemption #2: Students with disabilities whose individual education plan indicates that participation in the statewide assessment program is not appropriate, consistent with requirements of s.1008.212, F.S.

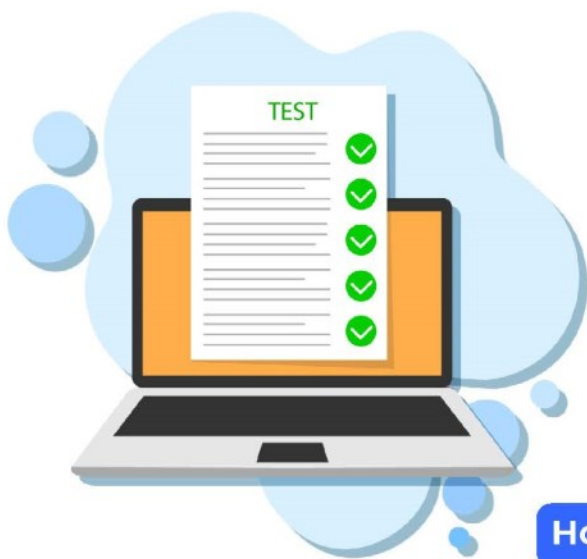
Good Cause Exemption #3: Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of performance on an alternate standardized reading or English Language Arts assessment approved by the State Board of Education. Alternate Assessments: SAT-10 or STAR Reading.

Good Cause Exemption #4: A student who demonstrates through a student portfolio that he or she is performing at least at Level 2 on the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment.

Good Cause Exemption #5: Students with disabilities who take the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment and who have an individual education plan or a Section 504 Plan that reflects that the student has received intensive remediation in reading or English Language Arts for more than two years but still demonstrates a deficiency and was previously retained in kindergarten, grades 1, 2 or 3.

Good Cause Exemption #6: Students who have received intensive reading intervention for two or more years but still demonstrate a deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3 for a total of two years. A student may not be retained more than once in grade 3.

How to Access the Family Portal



The Family Portal provides a central location for your student's assessment results.

The Family Portal can be used to:

- access your student's results for FAST Progress Monitoring testing, EOCs, Statewide Science, Retakes, the Florida Civic Literacy Exam, and the Florida Alternate Assessment.
- access prior statewide assessment results.
- print score reports.

How can I access the Family Portal?

- **At the Florida Statewide Assessments Portal:**
<https://ffast.org>
- **Or at the direct link:**
<https://fl-familyportal.cambiumast.com/>

What information do I need to log in to the Family Portal?

- Your student's unique 6-digit access code (found in HAC under the Registration tab).
- Your student's date of birth.
- Your student's first name as it appears on their official school record.

What information can I find on the Family Portal?

- Your student's results from Fall 2020 through present.
- Your student's Individual Student Reports with interpretative guides.
- Glossary
- FAQs
- Performance Levels

Where do I get the Access Code?

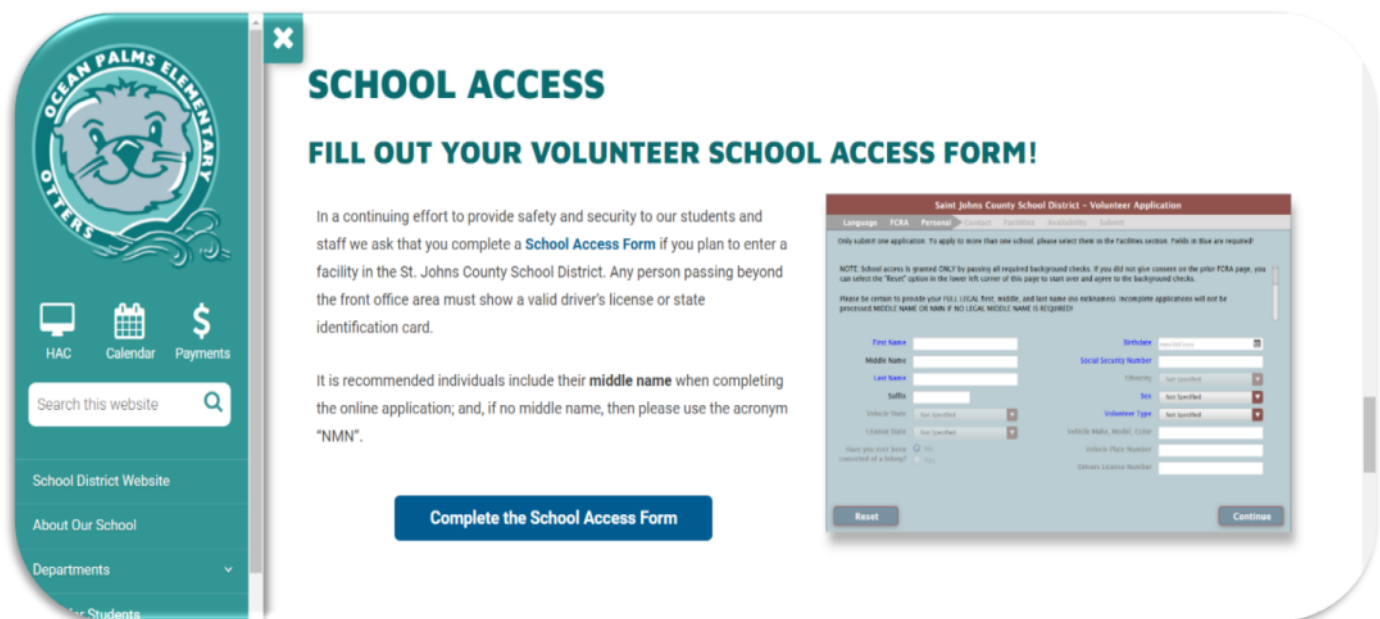
The code can be found in the Home Access Center (HAC) under the Registration tab. The code will be located on the right side of the page under Additional Information.

How Do I Get Approved to Access the School Building?

<https://stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply>

In an ongoing endeavor to provide safety and security for students and staff, school access is required for every individual that is not a staff member of the St. Johns County School District. Below are the steps every visitor must complete to access the building during school hours.

1. **Complete the School Access Form at <https://stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply>. Do not wait to complete your application because the process can potentially take up to two weeks to clear.**



The screenshot shows the Ocean Palms Elementary website interface. On the left is a teal sidebar with the school logo, navigation links (HAC, Calendar, Payments), a search bar, and a menu (School District Website, About Our School, Departments, For Students). The main content area is titled "SCHOOL ACCESS" and "FILL OUT YOUR VOLUNTEER SCHOOL ACCESS FORM!". It contains text explaining the need for the form and a "Complete the School Access Form" button. To the right is a preview of the "Saint Johns County School District - Volunteer Application" form, which includes fields for name, address, contact information, and vehicle details.

2. Bring your ID when you check in at the front office.

- Proper identification must be presented each time a person signs in at a school. The only forms of proper identification are the following:
 - Current state issued driver's license
 - Current state issued identification card (issued only by the DMV)
- If a person has a visa and/or does not have a social security number, the applicant must contact the Volunteer Services department right away for alternate steps.
- School access lasts for 3 year intervals. Upon approaching 3 years of access, it is the responsibility of the applicant to contact Volunteer Services and renew the form. To reduce duplication, do not complete a new form.



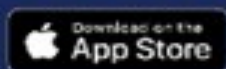
FORTIFYFL

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.



#FORTIFYFL
GETFORTIFYFL.COM



DOWNLOAD
NOW



<https://getfortifyfl.com/>



FORTIFYFL HOME FEATURES HOW IT WORKS SCREENSHOTS ABOUT ESPAÑOL

Suspicious Activity Reporting App

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.

Submit A Tip Online

Download On The App Store | Get It On Google Play




The image shows two smartphones. The left one displays the main menu with options: 'Report a Tip', 'Call 911', 'My Tips', 'About', and 'Settings'. The right one shows a 'Tip Report - Step 2 of 4' screen with a text input field containing 'Suspicious person in a green car near road' and navigation arrows for 'Previous' and 'Next'.



Anonymous or Non-Anonymous

You decide whether you want to include your name and contact information.



Convenient

Submitting a tip is quick and easy using our mobile app or website.



Include Photos and Video

You can also include photos or video with your tip report.



- Your School Officials**
The tip report goes to your local school officials when submitted.
- Local Law Enforcement**
Your local police department or sheriff office receive copies of your tips automatically.
- State-Level Officials**
State-level officials also have access to your tips to make sure proper steps are taken.

PAIN'T THE OTTER ROCK!

**CELEBRATE YOUR STUDENT
OR TEACHER WITH A
SPECIAL MESSAGE!**

3 Otter Rocks to choose from: one at each entrance!



SCAN NOW

or visit OPEPTO.com



A-Z Count Down to Summer Vacation!

April & May 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
21	22	23	24 "A" - Adventure Day Dress like an explorer or adventurer and wear a safari hat or explorer cap.	25 "B" - Backwards Day Wear your clothes backwards and a backwards hat.
28 "C" - Color Day Wear your favorite color from head to toe and a matching hat.	29 "D" - Dinosaur Day Dress up as a dinosaur or wear a dinosaur-themed shirt and hat.	30 "E" - Emoji Day Dress up as your favorite emoji or wear clothing with emojis and a fun hat.	1 "F" - Favorite Character Dress up as your favorite book or movie character.	2 "G" - Green Day Wear all green and a green hat.
5 "H" - Hat Day Wear a fun, silly, or stylish hat.	6 "I" - Inside Out Day Wear your clothes inside out and a backwards hat.	7 "J" - Jersey Day Wear your favorite sports team's jersey and a matching hat.	8 "K" - Kindness Day Wear a shirt with a positive message and a hat that spreads kindness.	9 "L" - Luau Day Wear Hawaiian shirts, leis, and a straw hat.
12 "M" - Mismatch Day Wear mismatched clothes and a silly hat.	13 "N" - Neon Day Wear bright neon colors and a neon hat.	14 "O" - Outer Space Day Dress like an astronaut or alien and wear a space-themed hat.	15 "P" - Pajama Day Wear your favorite pajamas and a cozy hat.	16 "Q" - Queen/King Day Dress like royalty and wear a crown or tiara.
19 "R" - Rockstar Day Dress like a rockstar and wear a cool hat or bandana.	20 "S" - Superhero Day Dress as your favorite superhero - NO MASKS	21 "T" - Team Spirit Day Wear your school's colors or team spirit wear and a matching hat.	22 "U" - USA Day Wear red, white, and blue and a patriotic hat.	23 "V" - Vacation Day Wear vacation attire like shorts, t-shirts, sunglasses, and a vacation hat (sun hat, beach hat, etc.).
26 Memorial Day No School	27 "W" - Western Day Dress like a cowboy or cowgirl and wear a cowboy hat.	28 "X" - Xtra Fun Day Wear something fun and silly that makes you happy, and a fun hat.	29 "Y" - Yellow Day Wear all yellow and a yellow hat.	30 "Z" - Zoo Day Dress as your favorite zoo animal or wear an animal print hat.