



355 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Palms Post April 2025

Dear Otter Families,

We're excited to begin by recognizing two outstanding members of our Otter Raft. Congratulations to Lisa Farese, our Adult Volunteer of the Year, and Connor Dean, our Youth Volunteer of the Year! Lisa has given her time, heart, and creativity to Ocean Palms for many years, supporting everything from schoolwide initiatives to family engagement. Connor, a Nease sophomore, has spent the past two summers preparing our campus for a fresh start - organizing, and pitching in wherever help was needed. We are so grateful for their dedication and proud to honor them.

If you have an incoming kindergartener, registration is open! We encourage early registration to help us plan and ensure a smooth transition for our newest otters. For our returning families, the district will begin sending Returning Student Verification (RSV) emails in mid-April. You'll receive one per child, spread out over several days by grade level. We'll send a text reminder when they begin going out.

In early May, families of current K-4 students will receive a Google Form from their child's teacher to provide input for next year's class placement. While we welcome insight about learning styles and needs, we kindly ask that families do not request specific teachers. Staffing decisions - including grade-level placements can shift over the summer to meet enrollment needs. Class placement notifications for the 2025-26 school year will be sent out before Meet the Teacher in the fall.

Looking ahead to May, students will take their final state-required FAST progress monitoring assessment. We strongly encourage parents to sign up for the Family Portal to access your child's scores, typically available within 24 to 48 hours. Families of third-grade students who score a Level 1 will be contacted by the school to discuss next steps once scores are available. More information about testing is included later in this newsletter. **A heartfelt thank you to everyone who signed up to serve as test proctors—your support allows us to maintain a focused testing environment and ensure students are set up for success.**

Finally, Field Day was a blast! Huge thanks to Coach B for organizing such a fun event and to all the parents who volunteered to run stations and cheer on our otters. Your energy and support helped make it a day to remember! Thank you for being such a vital part of the Ocean Palms family. Together, we continue to make waves of positive impact for our students.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Tiffany Cantwell and Ms. Kim Bays*

OPE Administration Team

## SPRING FAMILY NIGHT Food Orders Due Thursday, April 3



### April

- 10 – Spring Family Night & 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



# 2024-25 PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Please support these amazing businesses that support our school!

## GOLD Partners



## SILVER Partners



## BRONZE Partners





# **Volunteer Spotlight: Lisa Farese, OPE's Adult Volunteer of the Year**

**We are proud to recognize Mrs. Lisa Farese as our Adult Volunteer of the Year—a well-deserved honor for someone who has made a lasting impact on our school community through years of dedicated service.**

**Lisa has been an active and involved member of the OPE parent community for the past seven years, including two years as PTO President. Her contributions have supported countless school events and initiatives, and her thoughtful leadership has helped strengthen the connections between families, staff, and students.**



**Among her many efforts, Lisa played a key role in launching and sustaining our school-wide STEM field study program, providing all students with enriching, hands-on learning opportunities each week. She has also worked tirelessly to support our Fall and Spring Book Fairs—volunteering hours of her time to ensure the events run smoothly and that proceeds directly benefit classrooms through the purchase of Sunshine State Young Reader texts.**

**Lisa's leadership has also brought life to community-building events such as our Fall and Spring Festivals, which bring OPE families together in celebration and connection. She prepares back-to-school communication folders, delivers supplies to teachers before the first day, and finds creative ways to support both staff and families year-round.**

**Her innovative spirit shines through in initiatives like the Otter Raft Program, which pairs new families with returning ones to ease transitions, and the Kids' Corner at PTO meetings, allowing more parents to participate by providing a space for their children during meetings.**

**One of Lisa's most meaningful contributions is her work on the Mike Parrish Storybook Path, a tribute to OPE's first principal that now serves as a cherished resource to inspire young readers across campus.**

**Lisa also extends her service to the greater community through her support of the PVHS Girls Gymnastics and Softball Teams. She continues to look ahead with a vision for increasing family engagement and advocating for students at the district level.**

**Lisa Farese's creativity, commitment, and care have helped create meaningful experiences for our students and families. We are honored to celebrate her contributions**

# **Youth Volunteer Spotlight: Connor Dean, OPE's Youth Volunteer of the Year**

**We are honored to recognize Connor Dean as our Youth Volunteer of the Year for his outstanding service and commitment to Ocean Palms Elementary. A 10th grader at Nease High School, Connor balances a full academic schedule in the rigorous Engineering Academy while also playing on the Junior Varsity Baseball Team - where he contributes as both a pitcher and outfielder. Despite his busy schedule, Connor continues to make time to give back in a big way.**



**Over the past two summers, Connor has dedicated countless hours of his break to supporting OPE's campus readiness efforts. From painting and furniture assembly to campus clean-up and textbook organization, Connor has taken on every task—big or small—with a positive attitude and a strong work ethic. He has become a reliable and trusted presence on campus, often showing up early and staying late to ensure the school is prepared to welcome back students and teachers.**

**Connor's service has made a visible impact. His quiet leadership, initiative, and humility speak volumes about his character. He is never one to seek attention or recognition, yet his contributions have not gone unnoticed.**

**In a time when many teens are focused solely on their own commitments, Connor has chosen to serve the community. His dedication to giving back reminds us all of the power of community and the difference one person can make.**

**Thank you, Connor, for your hard work, your heart for service, and the positive example you set for younger students. We are incredibly proud to honor you as Ocean Palms' Youth Volunteer of the Year.**





**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**







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](http://OPEPTO.COM)

### SHOP

THE SCHOLASTIC  
BOOK FAIR



PONTE VEDRA  
Pediatric Dentistry  
& ORTHODONTICS

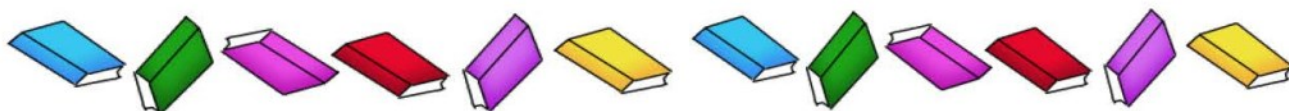
TREATS FOR SALE BY TIKIZ SHAVED ICE & MILLIE'S ICE CREAM  
EVENT ADMISSION & PLAY ACTIVITIES ARE FREE OF CHARGE



# Spring Family Night Dunk Tank Schedule

Times	Dunk Tank 1	Dunk Tank 2	Dunk Tank 3	Dunk Tank 4
5:00-5:30	Mrs. Crouch	Mrs. B. Frecks	Ms. M. Lee	Mrs. M. Frecks
5:30-6:00	Mrs. Sebestyen	Mrs. Becksmith		
6:00-6:30	Ms. Pharis	Coach B	Mrs. Dalton	Ms. Reid
6:30-7:00	Mrs. Garner	Mrs. Hopkins	Mr. Korn	Mr. Flowers
7:00-8:00	Mrs. Cantwell	Ms. Bays		

## 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	

# GO BANANAS FOR BOOKS!

BOOK FAIR 2025!

April  
10-16

**THIS YEAR'S SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR WILL  
OPEN AT SPRING FAMILY NIGHT ON APRIL 10  
AND GO THROUGH APRIL 16 WITH  
SCHEDULED TIMES FOR EACH CLASS.  
PLEASE CHECK THE CLASS SCHEDULE FOR  
YOUR STUDENT'S DAY AND TIME. CASH,  
CHECK, AND E-WALLET WILL BE ACCEPTED.  
PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR TEACHER BY  
CHECKING OUT HIS OR HER WISH LIST  
WHICH WILL BE POSTED INSIDE THE FAIR.  
NO RETURNS OR EXCHANGES.**

Sponsored by





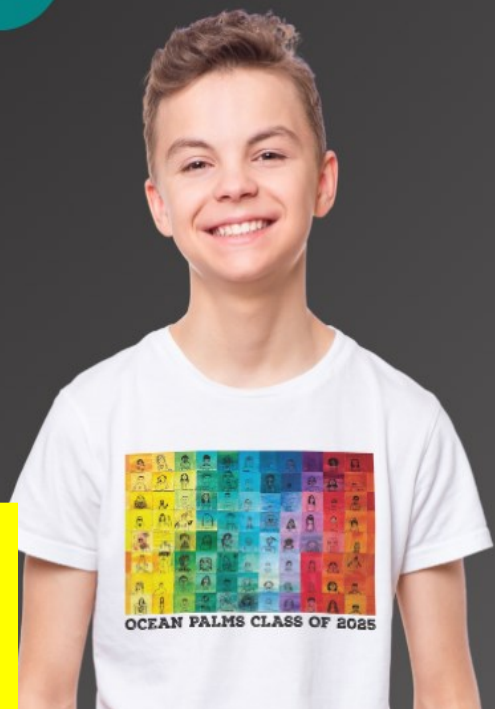
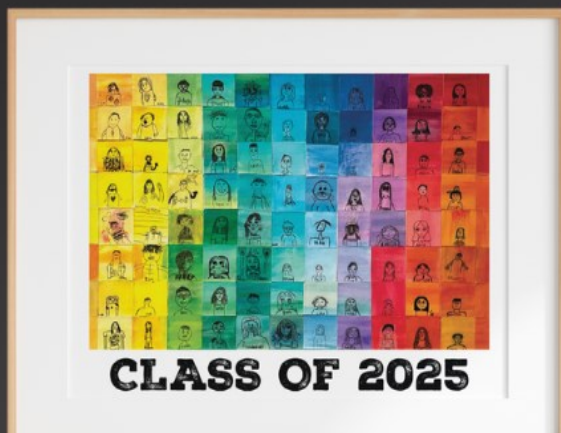
*Congratulations to our*  
**CLASS of 2025!**



**YARD SIGNS**



**POSTERS & SHIRTS**



Order your memorabilia by  
April 1st at [OPEPTO.com](http://OPEPTO.com)!

Limited  
Time!



**GRADUATION**  
*Paver Sale*

**COMMEMORATE YOUR TIME AT  
OPE WITH A MEMORIAL PAVER!**

**\$50 EACH - ORDERS DUE APRIL 4**  
INSTALLED OUTSIDE THE FRONT OFFICE EARLY MAY



SCAN OR VISIT  
[OPEPTO.COM](http://OPEPTO.COM)



\*TAX DEDUCTIBLE



# LANDRUM MIDDLE SCHOOL CHEERLEADING



Be a part of the first in-school  
spirit squad at Landrum!

- Tumbling skills not required to try out
- More affordable (~\$300)
- Non-competitive
- Year-long program
- Cheering for school events and in-school sports (volleyball, basketball, track, etc.)\*

**SCHOOLGY GROUP CODE:  
VRBZ-S7SR-Z88P7**

\*Home events



Thank you for considering trying out for the 2025-2026 LMS Cheer team! Tryout date is 4/24 from 2:00-3:00 (3:00-4:00 for rising 6th graders traveling from OPE and PVPV)

Prior to tryouts, there will be a clinic hosted on 4/10 from 2:00-3:00 (3:00-4:00 for rising 6th graders) to learn the expected tryout cheer and dance.\*\*

\*\*If you can't attend clinic, videos will be uploaded to the Schoology group



Coach: Brooke Rose

brooke.jared@stjohns.k12.fl.us

*Leonard's*

# YEARBOOK

**YOUR OWN PERSONAL  
TIME CAPSULE**

**ORDER ONLINE TODAY**

**BuyTheYearbook.com**

**School ID: 725774**



# **BEFORE & AFTER Child Care**

**OPE'S EXTENDED DAY!**

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

**GRADES  
(K-5)**



**Registration is Open for the  
2025-2026 School Year**

Registration forms can be picked up and  
dropped off at the front office.

Coordinator: Mrs. Kim LaMondie  
Email: [kim.lamondie@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:kim.lamondie@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

# Ocean Palms Elementary School's (K-5) Extended Day Pre-Registration Form

Coordinator's Contact Information: Mrs. Kim LaMondie, 904.547.4150 or kim.lamondie@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Registration Fee \$100 (non-refundable)	
*Check all the programs you are interested in participating in for the 2025-2026 School Year	
<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly - Before and After Care \$350	<input type="checkbox"/> Before School Only (7:00am-8:00am) \$150/month
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday Only \$100/month	<input type="checkbox"/> After School Only (Dismissal-6:00pm) \$300/month

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Name preferred: if different

Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Bus# \_\_\_\_\_

Sibling's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Name preferred: if different

Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Bus# \_\_\_\_\_

Child(ren) Resides with: Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Father \_\_\_\_\_ Both \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian email: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Phone HM \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ WK \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian email: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Phone HM \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ WK \_\_\_\_\_

**CUSTODIAL RIGHTS:** Parent permitted to pick up the student from extended day.

Mother: \_\_\_Yes\_\_\_No Father: \_\_\_Yes\_\_\_No Other \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_Yes\_\_\_No  
Relationship

If "No" is answered above on the natural parents, school papers must be on file with the school

**ALTERNATIVE CHILD PICKUP/EMERGENCY CONTACT APPROVED LIST**

I hereby give Ocean Palms permission to release my child(ren) to the following persons:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS AND/OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS:** \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# April's Lunch Menu

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>March 31st</b>	<b>April 1st</b>	<b>April 2nd</b>	<b>April 3rd</b>	<b>April 4th</b>
Chicken Nuggets & Choice of WG Garlic RipStick Philly Steak Sandwich Green Beans or Tater Tots Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit Dipping sauce dunk cup, cheese cup	Mini Corn Dogs Mac & Cheese Baked Beans Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit Ketchup, mustard, dipping sauce dunk cup	Grilled Cheese Sandwich BBQ Chicken Quesadilla Sweet Potato Fries Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit Ketchup, mustard, Mayo, dipping sauce dunk cup	Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza Hot Dog or Chili Dog Steamed Broccoli Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit Dipping sauce dunk cup, Ketchup, mustard	Hamburger or Cheeseburger Max Cheese Sticks with choice of marinara dipping sauce Baked Potato Fries Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit & Choice of 100% Juice Ketchup, mustard, Mayo, dipping sauce dunk cup
<b>April 7th</b>	<b>April 8th</b>	<b>April 9th</b>	<b>April 10th</b>	<b>April 11th</b>
Chicken Slider Biscuit French Toast sticks Tater Tots Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit Ketchup, mustard, dipping sauce dunk cup, syrup	Penne Pasta with Choice of Marinara Sauce OR Marinara sauce with Meatballs Mini Corn Dogs Green Beans & Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit WG Garlic Ripstick	Homestyle Chicken Sandwich BBQ Turkey Sandwich Sweet Potato Fries & Baked Beans Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit Ketchup, mustard, Mayo, dipping sauce dunk cup	Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza Hot Dog or Chili Dog Steamed Broccoli Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit Dipping sauce dunk cup, Ketchup, mustard	Hamburger or Cheeseburger Max Cheese Sticks with choice of marinara dipping sauce Baked Potato Fries Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit & Choice of 100% Juice Ketchup, mustard, Mayo, dipping sauce dunk cup
<b>April 14th</b>	<b>April 15th</b>	<b>April 16th</b>	<b>April 17th</b>	<b>April 18th</b>
Chicken Nuggets & Choice of WG Garlic RipStick Philly Steak Sandwich Green Beans or Tater Tots Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit Dipping sauce dunk cup, cheese cup	Mini Corn Dogs Mac & Cheese Baked Beans Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit Ketchup, mustard, dipping sauce dunk cup	Grilled Cheese Sandwich BBQ Chicken Quesadilla Sweet Potato Fries Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit Ketchup, mustard, Mayo, dipping sauce dunk cup	Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza Hot Dog or Chili Dog Steamed Broccoli Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit Dipping sauce dunk cup, Ketchup, mustard	Student / Teacher Holiday No School
<b>April 21st</b>	<b>April 22nd</b>	<b>April 23rd</b>	<b>April 24th</b>	<b>April 25th</b>
Chicken Slider Biscuit French Toast sticks Tater Tots Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit Ketchup, mustard, dipping sauce dunk cup, syrup	Penne Pasta with Choice of Marinara Sauce OR Marinara sauce with Meatballs Pepperoni Calzone Green Beans & Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit WG Garlic Ripstick	Homestyle Chicken Sandwich BBQ Turkey Sandwich Sweet Potato Fries & Baked Beans Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit Ketchup, mustard, Mayo, dipping sauce dunk cup	Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza Hot Dog or Chili Dog Steamed Broccoli Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit Dipping sauce dunk cup, Ketchup, mustard	Hamburger or Cheeseburger Max Cheese Sticks with choice of marinara dipping sauce Baked Potato Fries Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit & Choice of 100% Juice Ketchup, mustard, Mayo, dipping sauce dunk cup
<b>April 28th</b>	<b>April 29th</b>	<b>April 30th</b>	<b>May 1st</b>	<b>May 2nd</b>
Chicken Nuggets & Choice of WG Garlic RipStick Philly Steak Sandwich Green Beans or Tater Tots Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit Dipping sauce dunk cup, cheese cup	Mini Corn Dogs Mac & Cheese Baked Beans Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit Ketchup, mustard, dipping sauce dunk cup	Grilled Cheese Sandwich BBQ Chicken Quesadilla Sweet Potato Fries Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit Ketchup, mustard, Mayo, dipping sauce dunk cup	Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza Hot Dog or Chili Dog Steamed Broccoli Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit Dipping sauce dunk cup, Ketchup, mustard	Hamburger or Cheeseburger Max Cheese Sticks with choice of marinara dipping sauce Baked Potato Fries Assorted Fresh Vegetables Assorted Fruit & Choice of 100% Juice Ketchup, mustard, Mayo, dipping sauce dunk cup

# 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](http://OPEPTO.com)





OUR STAFF IS  
*Sun-sational!*



STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK





# Year-End Celebrations

May 13: Kindergarten

May 20: Third Grade

May 14: Pre-K & VE

May 21: Second Grade

May 19: First Grade

May 22: Fourth Grade

May 23: Fifth Grade Fun Day

May 29: Fifth Grade Graduation

9:15-10:45 Conroy & Flowers

11:30-1:00 McVeigh & Nannetti



# A-Z Count Down to Summer Vacation!

April & May 2025

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



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!

## 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 the last day of school**

**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](mailto: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**

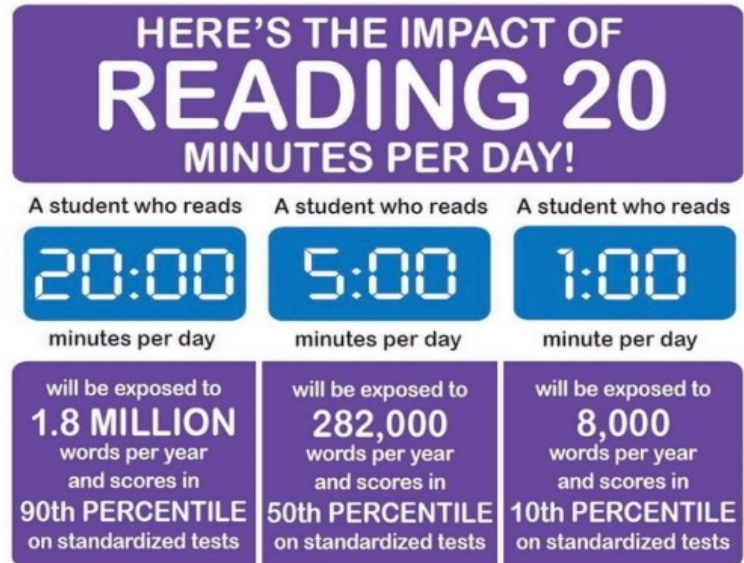
<b>Dates</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Monday, March 31, 2025	Grade 5 Writes
Thursday, April 3, 2025	Grade 4 Writes
Monday, May 5, 2025	Kindergarten STAR Early Literacy and Grades 1-2 STAR Reading
Tuesday, May 6, 2025	Kindergarten and Gr. 1-2 STAR Math
Thursday, May 8, 2025	Grades 3-4 FAST ELA
Friday, May 9, 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?

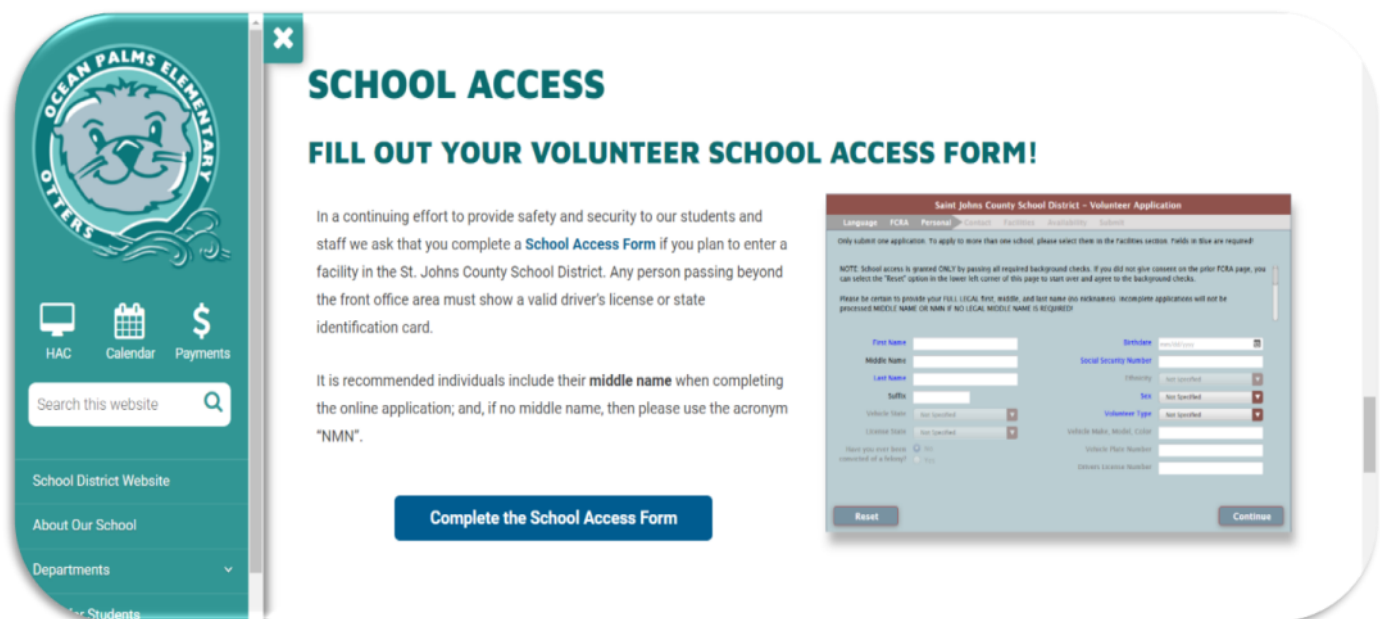
The code can be found in the Home Access Center (HAC) under the Registration tab. The code will be located on the right side of the page under Additional Information.

# 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 icons for HAC, Calendar, and Payments, a search bar, and a menu with items like 'School District Website', 'About Our School', and 'Departments'. 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 blue button labeled 'Complete the School Access Form'. To the right is a preview of the online application form, which includes fields for First Name, Middle Name, Last Name, Suffix, Birthdate, Social Security Number, and other personal information.

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.





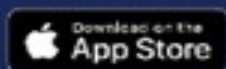
# FORTIFYFL

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.