

355 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL· 32082 Palms Post Issue 1 - July 2025

Dear Ocean Palms Families.

Welcome to the 2025–2026 school year! We are beyond excited to reunite with our wonderful students and to welcome new families to our school community. Over the summer, we've eagerly anticipated the return of the joy, laughter, and energy your children bring to our campus. Our hearts are full as we set sail on another incredible year together.

This year marks a fresh beginning for all of us. As we embark on this new journey, we invite you to join our *otter raft*. A close-knit, supportive community that, like a raft of otters, sticks together, lifts one another up, and makes waves of positive change. Otters are known for their playful and cooperative nature, and we aim to embody those same qualities through our school motto: *Everyday – Everyone – Everything Matters!*

You can expect a welcome email from your child's teacher between 8:00–10:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 7th. A great deal of time, thought, and care has gone into the class placement process. We consider input from families while prioritizing student learning styles, peer dynamics, and individual needs. While we recognize that children may have preferences for specific friends or teachers, we ask for your partnership in reinforcing that each new school year brings exciting opportunities to grow, form new friendships, and learn from new experiences. Our staff is deeply committed to creating a nurturing environment where every child can thrive.

As we dive into this new chapter, let's embrace the spirit of the otter raft by working together, supporting one another, and celebrating every success along the way. We are honored to have your family with us on this journey and look forward to the adventures ahead. Let's make this a year filled with kindness, connection, and boundless possibilities.

With great excitement,

Mrs. Tiffany Cantwell

Principal

SCHOOL SPIRIT

WEAR YOUR OPE GEAR EVERY FRIDAY!

August

- 7 Welcome email sent to families (8:00-10:00)
- 8 Meet the Teacher/Mini Book Fair (8:00-11:00)
- 11 First day of school for PreK & Grades (1-5)
- 11 14 Staggered Start for Kindergarten Students
- 15 All Kindergarten students report to school
- 18 Tea and Tissues for Kindergarten and New Families to OPE and PTO Meeting (9:00-10:30)
- 28 Classroom Volunteer Meeting (9:00-10:00) And CAAP Art Volunteers Meeting (10:00-11:00)

September

- 1 Labor Day No School
- 8 PTO Meeting (9:00-10:00)
- 10 Interims: Posted on HAC
- 18 Fifth Grade Classroom Spelling Bee
- 18 Fall Family Night with book fair and open house with teachers (5:00-7:00)
- 19 Teacher In-service Day No School
- 22 26 Fall Book Fair Class schedules TBA
- 24 (K,1, 3) Health Screenings (8:45-12:00)
- 25 SAC Meeting (3:15-4:15)



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR AMAZING

2025-26 PARTNERS IN EDUCATION







































































Meet the Teacher - Friday, August 8 (8:00-11:00 a.m.)

We're so excited to welcome all our otters new and returning for a new school year! During this event:

- Kindergarten parents will sign up for their child's staggered start day.
- Students can drop off school supplies (online orders will be waiting in classrooms).
- Families can explore the mini-book fair in the cafeteria.
- Our amazing PTO will be there with spirit wear, volunteer sign-ups, and a photo area to capture your back-to-school memories.
- Don't forget: every Friday is OPE Spirit Day! Staff and students wear OPE gear to show their otter pride!

Campus Safety - Raptor System & Visitor Access

Our students' and staff's safety is our top priority. All visitors entering the building beyond the front office during school hours must be approved through the St. Johns County School District's Volunteer Application system, supported by Raptor Visitor Management. Even if you're planning to walk your child to class on the first day of school, you must be approved in advance. **Apply now** at: www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/volunteer

This includes:

- Attending class events or performances,
- Eating lunch with your child
- Volunteering in the classroom
- Chaperoning field trips

Bus Information – BusPlanner & Chipmunk App

Starting this year, all bus transportation information will be accessed through BusPlanner and its mobile companion, the Chipmunk app. HAC no longer provides bus route details.

Use BusPlanner to: View your child's assigned bus stop, route, and pick-up/drop-off times. Receive alerts for route changes or delays and confirm transportation updates or special requests

Bus routes will be available starting July 30, 2025.

Visit: https://sjcsd.mybusplanner.com/ or download Chipmunk in your app store.

Need help? Contact Routing Specialist Tiffany Bravo at (904) 547-8076.

October

- 2 Individual Student Pictures
- 3 Fifth Grade <u>School</u> Spelling Bee (9:00-10:30)
- 6 PTO Meeting (9:00-10:00)
- 10 First Quarter Ends
- 10 Otter Run Pep Rally for students
- 13 Teacher Planning Day No School
- 21 (K-5) Otter Run Day Schedule TBA
- 22 Report Cards posted on HAC
- 23 SAC Meeting (3:15-4:15)
- 23 & 24 Rain Dates for Otter Run
- 27 31 Canned Food Drive
- 27 31 Red Ribbon Week

November

- TBD Art to Remember orders due
- 3 5 Treats for Troops Candy Donation/Drive
- 3 28 Holiday Toy Drive for OPE Otters through Amazon
- 7 Veteran's Day Flag Placement
- 10 PTO Meeting (9:00-10:00)
- 10 Rain Date: Veteran's Day Flag Placement
- 11 Veterans Day No School
- 13 Interims: Posted on HAC
- 13 Picture Retake Day
- 14 Sumo Wrestling Show for students
- 20 SAC Meeting (3:15-4:15)
- 24 28 Thanksgiving Break No School



When are school tours?

Thursday, July 31

9:00-10:00 or 10:30-11:30

Who Should Attend the School Tour?

All incoming Kindergarten students and any students who are new to Ocean Palms Elementary are invited to attend a school tour. If your child previously participated in a school tour during the school year, there is no need to attend again.

Sign up using the signup genius link below:

https://www.signupgenius.com/ go/20F0C45A8AE23A7F58-57600404-school

What to Expect?

We encourage everyone to read their Student— Parent Handbook prior to the tour. We will have a short presentation in the cafeteria to learn about OPE. Then we will break up into small groups to tour the school and end in the cafeteria for parents to start checking off their back to school list "To do's".

Can I get a jump start on my back to school to do list during the tour?

PTO volunteers will have laptops set-up in the cafeteria to assist parents with the following: Becoming an OPE Booster, Visitor Access, Paypams lunch account, and Home Access Center.

Welcome to the Otter Raft!



December

- 9 Kindergarten Celebrations
- 10 PreK & Varying Exceptionalities (VE) Celebrations
- 11 SAC Meeting (10:00-11:00)
- 11 First Grade Celebrations
- 12 Second Grade Celebrations
- 15 Third Grade Celebrations
- 16 Fourth Grade Celebrations
- 18 Fifth Grade Celebrations
- 19 Holiday Sing-along & Pajama Day
- 19 Second Quarter/First Semester Ends
- 19 Early Dismissal 1:45
- 12/22 1/2 Winter Break/No School

January

- 2 Teacher Planning Day/No School
- 5 Classes Resume
- 12 PTO Meeting (9:00-10:00)
- 15 Report Cards posted on (HAC)
- 19 Martin Luther King Day/No School
- 29 SAC Meeting (3:15-4:15)



What is Kindergarten Staggered Start?

Staggered Start provides an opportunity for the kindergarten teacher to work with a small group of students each day to teach rituals and routines and ensure students are comfortable with their environment before introducing them to the entire class.

How does Staggered Start work?

On Friday, August 8, at Meet the Teacher Kindergarten families will select one of the following days: August 11, 12, 13, or 14 to participate in Staggered Start.

- Monday 8/11/25 (Dismissal 2:45)
- Tuesday, 8/12/25 (Dismissal 2:45)
- Wednesday, 8/13/25 (Early Dismissal 1:45)
- Thursday, 8/14/25 (Dismissal 2:45)
- Friday, 8/15/25 All Kindergarten Students Report to School (Dismissal 2:45)

What time is Staggered Start drop off?

We are asking parents of kindergarten students who wish to walk their child to class during staggered start to complete the visitor access application (see p.5) and arrive at school between (8:40-9:00) on the staggered start day they signed up for at Meet the Teacher. Please bring your photo ID for check in. Kindergarten students riding the bus to school on their staggered start day will be assisted to class by OPE Staff.

When do all Kindergarten Students Start?

All Kindergarten students will report to school on Friday, August 15 during our regular arrival time (8:00-8:25). Please note that every Wednesday is early release and we dismiss at 1:45.



Home Access Center (HAC) for K-5 Parents

https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/

The Home Access Center (HAC) provides parents with secure, password-protected access to important information about their child's education. Through this web-based system, you can view:

- Attendance
- Report cards
- Schedules
- Assessment data

HAC is part of our district's eSchoolPlus Student Information System. To get started, please complete the Home Access Center User Registration form, available on the district's website. If you experience any issues creating your account, please contact: Vicki Morales Email: Vicki.Morales@stjohns.k12.fl.us



Parentsquare – Mass Communication System

www.parentsquare.com/signin

What is ParentSquare?

ParentSquare is our new district-wide communication platform. It brings together everything you need in one place messages from the principal,

updates from your child's teacher, reminders, forms, and more!

How to Get Started:

- Go to: <u>www.parentsquare.com/signin</u> Use the email or phone number you provided to the school when you registered.
- Download the free app Search "ParentSquare" in the App Store or Google Play
- Sign in and customize your notifications and language settings







Exciting News for SJCSD Parents!

Welcome to the Bus Planner Transportation Parent Portal!

- Easy direct access to your student's bus information
- Improved alerts for late buses more accurate & timely notifications
- Easier requests communicate directly with Transportation anytime
- Advanced notice for any route time or bus stop changes
- Confirmation receipts for all communication with Transportation

Stay informed and experience a smoother school transportation process with Bus Planner!

Scan the QR code below to get started!



sicsd.mybusplanner.com





Ocean Palms Elementary School's (K-5) Extended Day Registration Form Coordinator's Contact Information: Mrs. Kim LaMondie, 904.547.4150 or kim.lamondie@stjohns.k12.fl.us

☐ After School Only (Dis	5-2026 School Year :00am-8:00am) \$150/month missal-6:00pm) \$300/month
☐ After School Only (Dis	(A. F.)
	missal-6:00pm) \$300/month
First	_
	Name preferred: if different
deTeacher	Bus#
First	
First	Name preferred: if different
de Teacher	Bus#
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ner:YesNo Other	YesN
school papers must be on file with	Relationship 1 the school
my child(ren) to the following pers	sons:
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ONDITIONS:	
o ne o	the student from extended day. er:YesNo Other chool papers must be on file with

Biker/Walker Procedures







Biker/Walker Permission Form

Students must have a completed Biker/Walker Permission Form on file before they are allowed to leave campus as a biker or walker. This form must be submitted to the front office and is available on our school website: www-ope.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Arrival (8:00 - 8:25 a.m.)

- Biker/Walker students should enter through the designated gate located near the front field canopy between 8:00 and 8:25 a.m.
- The biker/walker gate is for student use only during arrival and dismissal. All parents must check in through the front office if entering the school campus.
- The gate will be locked at 8:30 a.m. Late arrivals must be escorted to the front office by a parent for check-in.
- In accordance with Florida Statutes (F.S. 316.2065 and 316.20655), students riding bicycles, electric bikes, or scooters must wear a safety helmet.
- For safety reasons, students must walk their bikes, scooters, or e-bikes to the bike rack once they enter school grounds.

Dismissal (2:45 p.m. | 1:45 p.m. on Wednesdays)

- An authorized adult must be present at the biker/walker gate to receive the student unless a
 parent has provided written permission on the biker/walker form for the child to walk or bike
 home independently.
- In the event of lightning at dismissal, biker/walker students will be held at school and must be picked up through the Parent Pick-Up line by an authorized adult. A text alert will be sent to all families notifying them of the dismissal change.
- Please do not park on the grass along Landrum Lane to drop off or pick up students. If you
 are unable to meet the requirements for your child to be a biker/walker, please use the
 parent drop-off/pick-up line or enroll in our Extended Day program.



Biker/Walker Permission Slip

Please complete this form and return to school.

Full Name: Full Name: Full Name:	
Full Name:	
•	
Addition 200 deducts to plot up student	at the gate (Photo ID is required at the gate).
Authorized adults to nick up student	
() Hold my student at the biker/walker g	ate until received by an adult.
() Allow my student to pass through the	e biker/walker gate without an adult.
dents are released at the biker/walker gate. Students before leaving campus. Once students exit the biker for their student. Please note crossing guards are n students. Students are not permitted to bike/walk or	o have this form signed and returned to school before stus s must check out with the staff member stationed at the gate r/walker gate, parents/guardians assume full responsibility not present on Landrum Lane or Palm Valley Rd. to assist in S. Roscoe Blvd. In the event of lightning at dismissal all ent pick up. A School Messenger text message will be sent to ally if lightning is detected at dismissal.
Route traveled by student (please list street nan	mes):
Address of destination:	
Parent's Name:	



STAY CONNECTED TO OPE! We encourage everyone to follow our PTO's Instagram and Facebook pages for hot off the press information and fabulous footage of our school events!

OPE's Website - https://www-ope.stjohns.k12.fl.us

PTO's Website - https://opepto.membershiptoolkit.com

PTO's Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/OceanPalmsPTO/

PTO's Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/opepto/



OCEAN PALMS ELEMENTARY

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Home

Our PTO

Mv Accoun

Programs & Event

Fundraising

Volunteer

CAAP

Shop

Our Partners

2025-26 MEETINGS

September 8 February 9

October 6 March 9

November 10 April 13

January 12 May 11

9:00AM OPE CAFETERIA



Visit OPEPTO.com for meeting minutes and to request a remote meeting link.



OCEAN PALMS ELEMENTARY
PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

TEA & TISSUES - KICKOFF MEETING

Join us for coffee at our first PTO meeting of the year! We'll start with a brief overview of our organization for new families and then get down to business.

MONDAY AUGUST 18 9:00AM



BECOME AN OTTER BOOSTER!

Your one-time monetary donation to our PTO supports our students and staff and funds projects that improve our school! Visit OPEPTO.com for more information!

OCEAN PALMS

TEA & TISSUES KICKOFF MEETING

Join us for coffee at our first PTO meeting of the year! We'll start with a brief overview of our organization for new families and then get down to business!



DATE August 18



TIME 9:00AM



OPE CAFETERIA





OPEPTO.com

SAVOR THE STORY

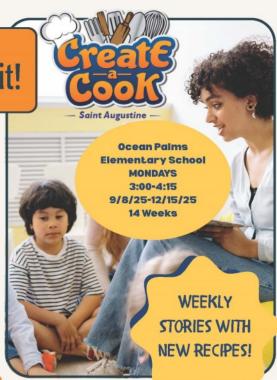
Magical Culinary Adventures Await!

Gather around as we weave enchanting stories paired with delightful cooking activities that are sure to captivate the hearts and minds of young listeners.

LET'S CREATE TOGETHER!

This 1.25-hour class is designed for children in grades K-2 and meets weekly for a semester.

We offer payments plans!!
4 monthly payments of \$150.
(\$45 per class)



Register at: www.sacreateacook.com



AFTER SCHOOL COOKING CLASS GRADES 3-5

Join us for a culinary adventure! Our Junior chefs will gain skills to master both basic and advanced recipes, fostering confidence, growth, and creativity.

WHAT WE OFFER

- Engaging cooking lessons for all skill levels
- Master new cooking and baking techniques
- Discover global flavors
- Enjoy making new friends while having fun



ABOUTUS

Greate a Gook offers cooking lessons that build self-confidence and foster creativity. Our interactive and educational classes inspire students to think like chefs as they learn culinary techniques from basic to advanced and develop a love for cooking.

WHEN?

FALL SEMESTER- MONDAYS 3:00-4:30 9/8/25 - 12/15/25

WHERE?

OCEAN PALMS ELEMENTARY

COST?

4 EQUAL PAYMENTS OF \$150 PER MONTH (\$50 PER CLASS- INCLUDES ALL MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES)

For more information, call 904-640-1344 or email us at sacreateacook@gmail.com.





OR GO TO WWW.SACREATEACOOK.COM

Pre-Kindergarten

- 2 boxes, jumbo crayons, 8 ct.
- 1 box, jumbo, colored pencils, 8 ct.
- 2 primary journals, draw top-lines bottom
- 2 boxes, washable markers, classic colors, 8 ct.
- 2 black dry erase expo markers
- 1 old t-shirt for art class
- 2 watercolor paint pallet sets 8 colors
- 1 scissor, 5 inch blunt
- 1 bottle Elmer's glue, 4 oz.
- 8 glue sticks
- 1 set of multicolor bingo dotters/daubers (non-toxic)
- 1 pencil pouch
- 1 box of tissues
- 1 pair of headphones

If your child is in diapers, please supply:

- 2 pkgs. Baby wipes, unscented
- 1 box disposable gloves, latex free size medium

Kindergarten

- #2 pencils, sharpened, 40 ct.
- 4 primary journals, draw top-lines bottom
- 5 boxes, crayons, 24 ct.
- 1 scissor, 5 inch blunt
- 8 dry erase expo markers, fine tip, black
- 24 glue sticks, washable purple
- 2 pkgs. washable markers, thick 8 ct.
- 1 red plastic folders with pockets & prongs
- 1 large plastic envelope, Velcro / side load
- 1 box of tissues
- 1 large sturdy zipper pencil pouch must hold all art supplies
- 1 pair of headphones preferably sturdy design (no ear buds) with USB-C connection

Ocean Palms Elementary School Supply List 2025-2026



First Grade

- #2 pencils, sharpened, 40 ct.
- 1 pencil pouch
- 2 composition primary journals
- 3 boxes, crayons, 24 ct.
- 8 dry erase expo markers, fine tip, black
- 1 plastic folder with pockets & prongs, red
- 6 large washable glue sticks, purple
- 1 scissor, 5 inch blunt
- 1 clear cover white binder, 1 inch 3 ring
- 1 bottle Elmer's glue
- 2 black sharpies
- 2 boxes, washable markers, assorted colors,
- 10 ct.
- 2 large erasers
- 1 box of tissues
- 1 container Clorox wipes
- 1 pair of headphones preferably sturdy design (no ear buds) with USB-C connection

Second Grade

- #2 pencils, sharpened, 50 ct.
- 2 boxes, colored pencils, 12 ct.
- 1 black composition book, wide ruled
- 2 boxes, crayons, 24 ct.
- 2 large erasers
- 10 black dry erase expo markers
- Plastic folders with pockets
- 1 each: purple, red, yellow
- 5 glue sticks
- 1 large, sturdy pencil pouch
- 1 scissor, 5 inch blunt
- 1 pkg. lined paper
- 1 box of tissues
- 1 pair of headphones preferably sturdy design (no ear buds) with USB-C connection

(K-2) Varying Exceptionalities

- 1 pkg. beginner pencils, 12ct. sharpened
- 3 composition books, wide ruled
- 2 box crayons, 24 ct.
- 4 dry erase markers, color set, chisel
- 1 box, washable markers, 8 ct.
- 2 highlighters
- 12 large washable glue sticks, purple
- 1 scissor, 5 inch blunt
- 1 box of tissues
- 1 pair of headphones preferably sturdy design (no ear buds) with USB-C connection
- If your child is in diapers, please supply:
- 2 pkgs. Baby wipes, unscented
- 1 box disposable gloves, latex free

Third Grade

- #2 pencils, sharpened, 40 ct.
- 1 large eraser
- 8 dry erase expo markers, colored, chisel tip
- 6 large washable glue sticks
- 1 scissor, 6 inch pointed
- 5 highlighters, any color
- 1 box, colored pencils, 12 ct.
- Plastic folders w/ pockets & prongs 1 each:
- yellow, green, black, red
- 1 pkg. wide ruled filler paper, 150 ct.
- Composition notebooks, wide ruled
- 1 each: yellow, green, red, black
- 1 clear cover white binder, 1 inch, 3 ring
- 1 pkg. post-It notes, 3 x 3, 100 pk.
- 1 small 8x5 pencil box 1 pair of headphones - preferably sturdy design (no ear buds) with USB-C connection



Ocean Palms Elementary School Supply List 2025-2026

Fourth Grade

- #2 pencils, sharpened, 50 ct.
- 1 large eraser
- 1 scissor, 6 inch pointed
- 1 box, washable markers, 10 ct.
- 1 box, colored pencils, 12 ct.
- 6 black dry erase markers
- 12 glue sticks
- 1 pk of 4 highlighters (multi color)
- 1 pack of index cards, 3x5 100 ct.
- 6 composition books, wide ruled/ 100 sheets 1 clear cover white binders, 1.5 inch, 3 ring
- 2 pkgs. wide ruled notebook paper, 150 sheets
- Plastic folders with pockets & prongs 1 each:
- blue, green, orange, purple, red, yellow
- 1 plastic pencil pouch no boxes please 1 clear protractor
- 1 box of tissues
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 Accordion Folder- 7 pocket
- 1 pair of headphones preferably sturdy design (no ear buds) with USB-C connection

Fifth Grade

- #2 pencils, sharpened, 24 ct.
- 1 box, markers, 10 ct.
- 1 box, markers, 10 ct. 1 box, colored pencils, 12 ct.
- 8 dry erase markers, color, fine tip
- 6 washable glue sticks
- 1 pair scissors, 6 inch pointed
- 1 zippered pencil pouch 3-hole
- 2 yellow highlighters
- 4 post-It notes, 3 x 3, 50 ct. per pack
- 1 clear cover white binder, 1.5 inch
- 1 pkg. of dividers, multi-color- 5 tabs
- 7 composition books, wide ruled Plastic folders with pockets & prongs 1 each:
- blue, green, orange, red, yellow
- 1 pkg. wide ruled filler paper, 175 ct.
- 1 box tissues
- 1 pair of headphones preferably sturdy
- design (no ear buds) with USB-C connection

(3-5) Varying Exceptionalities

- #2 pencils, sharpened, 48 ct.
- 1 hard plastic pencil case
- 1 box large markers 8 ct., classic
- 12 large washable glue sticks
- 1 scissor, 5 inch blunt
- 6 composition books, wide ruled
- 1 box, colored pencils, 12 ct.
- 4 highlighters
- 4 pocket folders
- 2 boxes of tissues
- 1 pair of headphones preferably sturdy design (no ear buds) with USB-C connection



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













https://getfortifyfl.com/



