



355 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 Palms Post Issue 3 - September 2025

Dear Ocean Palms Families,

We are now several weeks into the school year, and it has been wonderful to watch our otter raft settling into strong routines and joyful learning. Children thrive on rituals and consistency, and these early weeks are the perfect time to establish habits that set the tone for the entire year. From morning greetings to classroom expectations, these daily rhythms give students a sense of comfort and belonging, while also opening the door for them to take on new challenges with confidence.

One of the most powerful rituals you can create at home is reading with your child. Whether it's a bedtime story, reading aloud together, or enjoying a quiet time side-by-side with books, these moments build vocabulary, strengthen comprehension, and spark imagination. At school, students have the opportunity to take A.R. quizzes to earn points and prizes for their independent reading. Ask your child what book they're reading now you might be surprised how excited they are to share!

We also love celebrating positive choices and character. At Ocean Palms, students earn Positive PAWS when they demonstrate the pillars of character. Each week, one student from every classroom is drawn to visit our school store, the Otter Outpost. The more PAWS a student earns, the better their chances! In addition, students are working together to earn compliments for teamwork, listening, and following expectations. Once a class reaches 100 compliments, they receive a special reward. We are only in the third week of school and already have classes with more than 40 compliments. That's a lot of teamwork to celebrate!

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)

October

- 2 - Individual Student Pictures
- 3 – Fifth Grade School 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

A quick reminder from the lost-and-found otters: please write your child's name on water bottles, lunch boxes, and jackets. As the weather begins to cool down, labeled items are much easier to return to their owners when they're left behind on the playground or in the cafeteria.

We are also looking forward to welcoming families to Fall Family Night, a wonderful evening where students get to showcase their classrooms and share their hard work with pride. Be sure to also review the Calendar of Events that was included in your child's blue communication folder at Meet the Teacher. This calendar is your go-to guide for upcoming events and will help you plan ahead around work, so you don't miss out on the fun!

For everyone's safety, thank you for following our drop-off and pick-up procedures. Once your child is safely buckled in your car, please move into the left lane to exit the parking lot. Having car tags visible and following our system ensures the line runs quickly and smoothly for all families.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Business Sponsors and PTO. Their generosity allows us to provide classroom resources, and memorable events for our otters. It truly takes a village to raise children, and our village is made stronger by the dedication of our families, staff, and community partners. Together, we create the kind of environment where children are supported, celebrated, and loved.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Tiffany Cantwell
Principal

November

- 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

December

- 9 – Kindergarten Celebrations
- 10 – PreK & Varying Exceptionalities (VE) Celebrations
- 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



**See what's on the menu:
Scan the QR Code.**





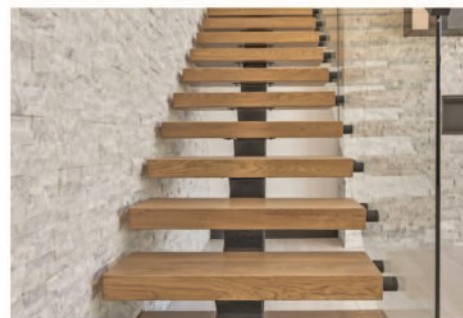
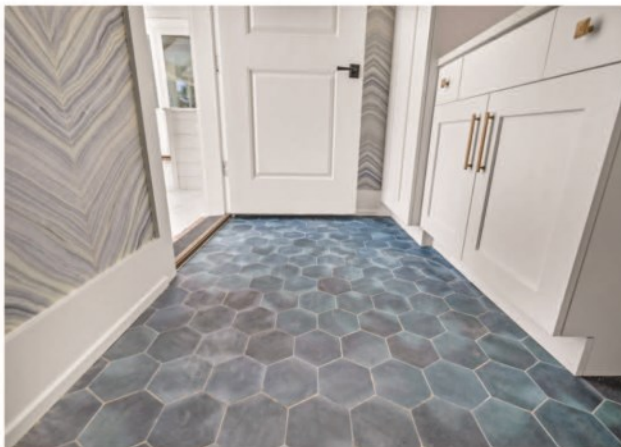
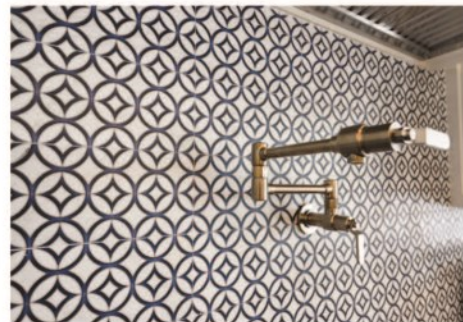
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OCEAN PALMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PTO CORNER



NEXT UP:

At our September meeting, we'll review our current budget standings and discuss the plans for our upcoming Otter Run fundraising campaign.

OCEAN PALMS ELEMENTARY

PTO Meeting

Please join us for an update on what we are currently working on, as well as a school update from Mrs. Cantwell.

OPE Kitchen Resource Room

9:00 AM
September 8

OPEPTO.com

CAN'T MAKE IT?

View meeting minutes or request a remote meeting invite at OPEPTO.com by clicking "Our PTO" and then "Meetings."



READING ROUNDUP AT OTTER RANCH

SEPTEMBER 18-25

FALL SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

We need volunteers to man our Fall Scholastic Book Fair! We'll show you everything you need to know! 😊 Find the link with more information at OPEPTO.com.

JOIN OUR PTO: BECOME AN *OTTER BOOSTER!*

Your one-time monetary donation to our PTO supports our students and staff and funds projects that improve our school!



FOR UP-TO-THE-MINUTE PHOTOS, EVENT INFO & HELPFUL SCHOOL UPDATES AND REMINDERS:



Ocean Palms
Elementary PTO



@OPEPTO

scan
ME!



OR VISIT OPEPTO.COM

Thanks to
our Event
Sponsor!



PONTE VEDRA
Pediatric Dentistry
& ORTHODONTICS

Ocean Palms Elementary's Fall **Family Night**

Join us for an evening of useful information!
Say hello to your teachers and let your child
walk you through their daily routine and show
you what they're learning.

TO DO:

- ✓ Visit your classroom
- ✓ Meet our Partners
- ✓ Balloon art fun
- ✓ Check out new OPE Merch
- ✓ Visit the CAAP Project Stage



Grab some food from



Stop by the Kitchen Resource Room to shop!

 SCHOLASTIC

BOOK FAIR

Sponsored by
Beaches Orthodontics
Dr. Shreena Patel

Sept 18 5-7pm

INFORMATIONAL BREAKOUT SESSIONS

FAST PRACTICE TESTING
with Mrs. Cantwell, OPE Principal
5:30-6:00 & 6:15-6:45
Room 411 (across from cafeteria)

LEXIA CORE & READING COACH
with Mrs. Fitch, OPE Literacy Coach
5:30-6:00 & 6:15-6:45
Room 405 (across from cafeteria)



OPE's Fall 2025 Book Fair **Reading Round Up at Otter Ranch** Sponsored by Beaches Orthodontics



Hi Parents,

We'd like to welcome you to our Fall OPE Scholastic Book Fair, which starts September 18th ! That's right, support Ocean Palms, while stocking up on books. Please see the attached schedule to learn what day your child will attend the fair. Parents are welcome to come in and shop the fair with their child during their scheduled time. You can send cash, a check, or sign up for E-Wallet (details on the next page), so that your child has money to spend at the book fair. Unfortunately, prepaid gift cards and debit cards that must use a pin do not work on the Scholastic registers. We are not able to accept returns or exchanges from students or parents, so we are encouraging parents to communicate any purchase preferences beforehand with their child or attend the fair to shop with their student. Also don't forget, you can further support your child's class by purchasing books from their teacher's wish list, which will be available at the fair.

Why Participate?

- Ocean Palm's Scholastic dollars raised at the book fair purchase books each year for our upper-grade classrooms and early readers for our younger grades!**
- Scholastic dollars raised during the fair help teachers build their classroom libraries by covering a percentage of all books purchased at the fair by teachers and staff.**
- Our Scholastic dollars provide hundreds of dollars to our school's library each year.**

Thank you for supporting OPE! We look forward to seeing your child at the book fair!

Sincerely,

Your Book Fair Committee Chairs

Jill Tant and Liz Morgan

SPONSORED BY
Beaches Orthodontics
Dr. Shreena Patel



Fall Book Fair Schedule



Opening Night - Thursday, September 18th (5:00-7:00)				
	Mon. 9/22	Tues. 9/23	Wed. 9/24	Thurs. 9/25
8:40 - 9:00	Sheen	Owens	Sebestyen	Blaich
9:00 - 9:20	Frecks	Seese	Jette	Webster
9:20 - 9:40	Conroy	Flowers	Mcfarlen	McVeigh
9:40 - 10:00	Crouch	Gomez	Moore	Nannetti
10:00 - 10:20	Dalton	Reid	Molter	Hopkins
10:20 - 10:40	Frein	Garner		
11:20 - 11:40	Johnston	Knee		

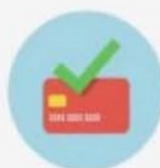


The easiest way to shop the Fair!

Book Fair eWallet is a safe and secure alternative to cash, featuring contactless checkout. Simply create an account to add funds and/or invite family and friends to contribute. Then, shop in-person or through the Virtual Book Fair to discover 6,000+ products.



Create Account



Add Funds

and / or



Share with Family & Friends



Shop the Fair

***If your child has money on an E-Wallet from a previous Book Fair, you will need to go to the Scholastic Website and transfer the funds to this Fair.**

GET YOUR CLASS SHIRT!

All students are encouraged to purchase a class shirt for school events and field trips.

Order by OCTOBER 1st to receive your class shirt in time for the Otter Run!



SCAN



Each class has an assigned color - just select your teacher from the drop-down menu on the class shirt website! All orders are shipped to home.

or visit OPEPTO.com

Printed by our Partner in Education



2 Exciting Educational Courses are being offered at Edie Williams State Farm!

Saturday, September 13, 2025

Child and Babysitting Safety Certification Course

For youth ages 11-16, \$52/participant

Sat, Sept 13 1, 9-11a

Format: Online course + classroom on Sept 13



Register: <https://aftontickets.com/babysittingsept13>

AND / OR

Community CPR AED – Infant, Child & Adult

For youth ages 11+ and adults, \$47/participant

Sat, Sept 13, 11:00a-1:00p

Format: Online course + classroom on Sept 13



Register: <https://aftontickets.com/sept13>

Space is limited, so register as soon as possible. Brought to us by
Safety First CPR and Safety Training, LLC.

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IN SCHOOL YEAR 2024-25:



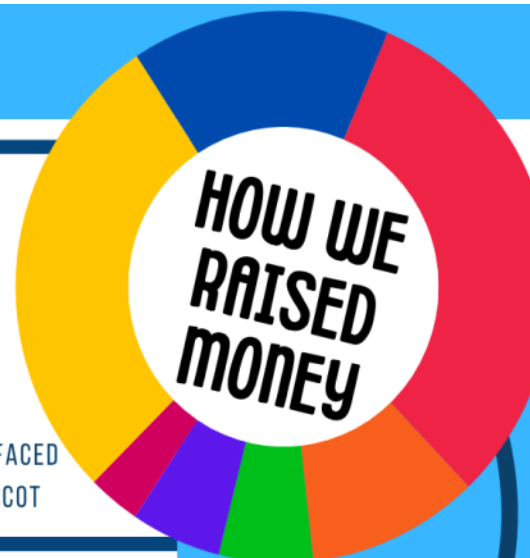
PTA MEMBERS

INVESTMENTS MADE

PARRISH STORYBOOK PATH
MULTI-SPORT TURF FIELD
NEW LAPTOPS & I-PADS
OUTDOOR CLASSROOM TABLES
SOUND SYSTEM UPGRADE
P.E. & BASKETBALL COURTS RESURFACED
LEADERSHIP LETTERING NEW MASCOT

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

PTO EVENT STAFFING (FAMILY NIGHTS, BOOK FAIRS, OTTER RUN, STEM NIGHT, ETC.)
ROOM PARENT ORGANIZATION & SUPPORT
CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO ART PROGRAM (CAAP)
SCIENCE LAB



- Otter Run
- Partners
- Otter Boosters
- Otter Spirit Auction
- Donations
- Other Fundraising
- Book Fair

FOR 2025-26:



CLASSROOM & EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES - \$33,650

- ONLINE LEARNING SOFTWARE (IXL MATH, FLOCABULARY, ACCELERATED READER, STARFALL, ETC.)
- TEACHER DUTY ELSEWHERE FUNDING (COVERS SUBSTITUTES TO ALLOW TEACHER PLANNING DAYS)
- INDIVIDUAL GRANTS FOR EACH TEACHER AND RESOURCE TEACHER
- INDUSTRIAL TONER CARTRIDGE FOR EACH TEACHER'S PRINTER
- 90 SUNSHINE STATE BOOKS FOR THE MEDIA CENTER



STAFF APPRECIATION & SUPPORT - \$16,800

- WELCOME BACK LUNCHEON
- CLASSROOM STARTUP GIFT CARDS
- HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
- HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS
- STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK
- STAFF LOUNGE SUPPLIES



STUDENT SUPPORT - \$25,500

- CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO ART PROGRAM (CAAP)
- SCIENCE LAB
- STEM LAB RESOURCE
- BACK-TO-SCHOOL: PLANNERS, FOLDERS, ETC.
- FIFTH GRADE PROMOTION EVENTS
- OTTERS IN NEED SUPPORT



FAMILY & COMMUNITY EVENTS - \$9,300

- CHARACTER COUNTS PROGRAM
- FALL FAMILY NIGHT
- SPRING FAMILY NIGHT
- CAAP ART SHOWCASE
- KINDERGARTEN & NEW FAMILY TOURS



ADMINISTRATIVE - \$4,500

- ONLINE SOFTWARE PLATFORMS
- INSURANCE
- WEBSITE
- CREDIT CARDS FEES



ANNUAL PROJECT(S) - \$15,000

- TO BE DETERMINED*

*ALL FUNDS RAISED IN EXCESS OF PLANNED SPENDING ARE ADDED TO THIS CATEGORY. THE MORE WE RAISE, THE MORE WE CAN SPEND ON OUR AMAZING SCHOOL!



THANK YOU FOR
PARTNERING WITH

OCEAN PALMS ELEMENTARY PTO!



JOIN THE
SCHOOL
TEAM
CHALLENGE!



JAIL BREAK 5K

RUN & WALK

SAT., OCT. 25, 2025 - 8:00 AM

ESCAPE FROM THE OLD JAIL
167 SAN MARCO AVENUE | ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32084

JOIN THE SCHOOL TEAM CHALLENGE!

The St. Johns County public school with the highest registration wins \$1,000, second highest wins \$500, and third wins \$250!

Save \$10 with discount code "School"

The Jail Break 5K benefits Investing in Kids (INK!) and supports innovative programs and resources for our St. Johns County public schools!

Learn more or register at: <https://bit.ly/JB5K>

5K USATF CERTIFIED COURSE #FL17069TY

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getonthebusstjohns@gmail.com
www.ink-stjohns.org



SCAN HERE

RAPTOR
TECHNOLOGIES

1

2

3

4

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6

7

8

WelcomePersonal InformationSchool PreferencesFunctionsDocumentsOrganizationsDisclaimerDone

District Volunteer Application

We appreciate your interest in volunteering for the District Volunteer Program. Our district offers a variety of activities you may choose from when volunteering your time. Simply complete and submit a volunteer application and upon approval you will receive instructions on next steps.

It is very important that the information you enter on the application matches your government issued identification card including your full legal name. It is important that you provide a valid email address so you can be notified as to the status of your application and for future communication. If you are unable to provide an email address, you use the district's email address. All information collected on the application will remain confidential and not be shared outside the volunteer program.

If you have any questions about the application, please request to speak with a volunteer representative.

Thank you,
District Volunteer Coordinator

Cancel ApplicationNext

Once approved, you'll receive a congratulatory email confirming your school access status. See screenshot below.

Congratulations,

Your volunteer application has been approved. We look forward to working with you on the volunteer activities you selected. If you have any questions, please contact the District Volunteer Services office at 904-547-3945.

Thank you,

Volunteer Services

St. Johns County School District



All approved visitors must:

- Sign in through the Raptor system at the front desk
- Present a valid driver's license or state-issued ID (no expired IDs)
- Wear printed Visitor or Volunteer Badge at all times while in the building
- Sign out and return the badge before leaving campus

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: www.parentsquare.com/signin 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



**Download the
ParentSquare
mobile app**

Send and receive school
communications on the go





BusPlanner®



Exciting News for SJCS D Parents!

Welcome to the Bus Planner Transportation Parent Portal!

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➡ **Scan the QR code below to get started!**



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Personalized Learning:

In our coding CREATE and JR programs as well as our new AI and Robotics Academies, kids progress at their own pace with our Code Senseis providing guidance and support along the way.

Future Ready:

Kids these days aren't just expected to use tech today — they'll be also be the ones developing and leading it in the future. Digital fluency isn't optional anymore.

Skill Development:

Coding fosters critical thinking, creativity, and resilience — skills essential for success in a tech-driven world.

CODE NINJA PROGRAMS



Great for Ages 5-9:
Learn Code Through Play



Great for Ages 7-17:
9 Belt Coding Program
Learn Javascript, C# and
Develop Your Own Game!



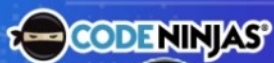
Ages 6-14:
Minecraft, Roblox, Drones,
Gamer Time and More*



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*Availability Varies by Location

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PONTE VEDRA



WORLD GOLF





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GRADES 3-5

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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

OWNERS/CHEFS
MARIA &
BETHANY



ABOUT US

Create a Cook 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.

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REGISTER



OR GO TO WWW.SACREATEACOOK.COM



First Coast Cultural Center



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Find the days and times for your location along with more information on our website.

Use the link to register now!

- Located at your child's school
- 90-minute classes weekly
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CONTACT:

Silvia Romero
Senior Director of Operations

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First Tee – North Florida’s After-School classes teach golf fundamentals through engaging, activity-based lessons that integrate life skills. In a safe, supportive environment, participants build confidence, develop character, and gain skills for success on and off the course.

- **Dates:**
 - **Block I : 8/26 – 10/14**
 - **Block II : 10/21 – 12/16**
- **Ages:**
 - **5–11**
- **Time/Location:**
 - **Ocean Palms Elementary**
 - **3PM – 4PM**
- **Price:**
 - **\$200**



Visit firstteenorthflorida.org for more information



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BEGINNERS-WELCOME, LAUGHTER-FILLED,
FANTASTICALLY-FUN CHESS AT
OCEAN PALMS ELEMENTARY!**

**THURSDAYS
3:00-4:15PM**

**STARTING SEPT 4TH
\$99 PER MONTH**



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Fun, Focus, Friendships, Planning,
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WWW.THEKNIGHTSCHOOL.COM





2025-2026 On-Campus After School Tech Club

Year Long Session
September 2025 -
May 2026

**Learn from certified teachers.
Experience integrated
technology, coding, game design,
robotics, and FUN!**

Our Program:

- ✓ Minecraft
- ✓ Coding - Basics to Advanced
- ✓ Robotics
- ✓ Wearable Technology
- ✓ Roblox
- ✓ Artificial Intelligence

**Kids Can Code cheerfully provides after school
enrichment for schools all over the First Coast**

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Scan here!**



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K - 5th Grade
Monday - Friday
Times Vary by Location

**\$100
ONLY /MONTH**





TEACHING KIDS THE SPORT OF A LIFETIME



KIDS TENNIS CLASSES

OCEAN PALMS ELEMENTARY

www.TennisTimeOceanPalms.com

Spots Will Fill Up Fast...



CLASS DATES: Wednesdays, September 17th-December 3rd

CLASS AGES: K-5

CLASS TIME: 2:00-3:00pm

CLASS COST: \$295

NO CLASS DATES: 10/1, 11/26

---- >> *Coaches provide all the Equipment for kids!*

Tennis Time Coaches Supply Everything for your child - Including: Age appropriate kid size Rackets, Clubs, Foam and Low Compression Balls, Miniature Tennis Nets, & lots of **FUN!**

Among Other Things Kids will learn all about Tennis including:

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- Serves + Volleys
- Hand-eye coordination
- Speed & Movement
- Fun Games
- Balance...And more...



ENROLL FOR EITHER OR BOTH ONLINE TODAY: www.TennisTimeOceanPalms.com

Questions: TEXT Our Support Team @ 404-467-2103



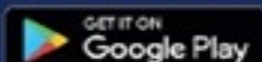
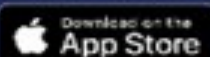
FORTIFYFL

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



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

<https://getfortifyfl.com/>

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.











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.

FLORIDA STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

2025–2026 SCHEDULE

The testing windows below denote the amount of time provided for districts and schools to select test administration days; they do not represent the amount of time students spend taking the assessments. The windows are established to provide maximum flexibility to efficiently deliver these important measurements of student progress and performance and maximize student learning and instructional time.

Dates ¹	Assessment
Fall	
August 4–September 26, 2025	Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) PM1 Grades K–2 FAST English Language Art (ELA) Reading & Mathematics
August 11–September 26, 2025	FAST PM1 Grades 3–10 FAST ELA Reading Grades 3–8 FAST Mathematics
September 8–October 3, 2025	FAST Retake Grade 10 ELA Reading Retake
	End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1, Civics, U.S. History
Winter	
December 1, 2025–January 23, 2026	FAST PM2 Grades K–2 FAST Reading & Mathematics Grades 3–10 FAST ELA Reading Grades 3–8 FAST Mathematics
December 1–19, 2025	EOC Assessments Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1, Civics, U.S. History
	FAST Retake Grade 10 ELA Reading Retake
Spring	
March 30–April 10, 2026	Writing Grades 4–10
April 13–May 29, 2026	FAST PM3 Grades K–2 FAST Reading & Mathematics
May 1–29, 2026	FAST PM3 Grades 3–10 FAST ELA Reading Grades 3–8 FAST Mathematics
	Statewide Science Assessment Grades 5 & 8 Science
	EOC Assessments Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1, Civics, U.S. History
	FAST Retake Grade 10 ELA Reading Retake
Summer	
July 13–24, 2026	EOC Assessments Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1, Civics, U.S. History
	FAST Grade 3 ELA Reading Grade 10 ELA Reading Retake