

Fruit Cove Middle School "THE PILOT"



Bi-Weekly Newsletter

August 30, 2019

CHARACTER COUNTS!



Pillar of the Month:
September: Fairness

3180 Racetrack Rd

"HOME OF THE FLYERS"

904-547-7880

Mission Statement

Fruit Cove Middle School will inspire in all students good character and a passion for lifelong learning, creating educated and caring contributors to the world.

Important Dates

September 2
Labor Day - Student/
Teacher Holiday

September 3
7&8th Grade Open
House
6:00pm

September 10
Interims Issued

Oct 11
First Quarter Ends

Oct 14
Teacher Planning Day –
Student Holiday

Oct 29
Report Cards

Nov 11
Veteran's Day –
Student / Teacher
Holiday

School Hours
7:30am-1:50pm

Wednesday Dismissal
@ 12:50pm

The building is open
from 7:00am to
3:00pm.

School Advisory Committee

The School Advisory Committee is a school-based group intended to represent the school, the community, and those persons closest to the students that shares responsibility for supporting the school's continuous improvement.

SAC is responsible for the final decision-making at the school relating to the annual implementation of a school improvement plan (SIP). We are the approving body for the expenditure of School Improvement funds and School Recognition funds. We meet once a month and the meetings are tentatively scheduled for the second Tuesday at 2:45 in the FCMS media center. Mrs. Jacobson usually addresses the group on various topics that affect the school.

You are needed on SAC! We had a great year last year and would like to continue with our positive support of the school. Your only real commitment is your time once a month and your input would be greatly valued.

Please contact Vicki Barfoot vicki.barfoot@stjohns.k12.fl.us or Amanda Gaus Amanda.gaus@stjohns.k12.fl.us if you have any questions. We would welcome your addition to SAC.

Thank you in advance,
Vicki Barfoot
SAC Chairman

8th grade trip to Washington, DC

Sunday, January 19, 2020 – Friday, January 24, 2020



For more information, visit the "8th Grade: News and Events" webpage <<https://www-fcs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/8thgrade/>>

or contact Mr. Steve Whitmer
Steve.whitmer@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Mr. Whitmer will be in the cafeteria collecting Washington DC forms and deposits (at least the first \$200) at 7:00 am on September 10th, 11th, and 12th.

Meet Your FCMS Counselors

6th Grade – Brooke Melian
Brooke.melian@stjohns.k12.fl.us
7th Grade – Cathy Harrill
Cathy.harrill@stjohns.k12.fl.us
8th Grade – Kelly Schraff
Kelly.schraff@stjohns.k12.fl.us



Study Hall

The after-school study hall is available for testing, retests, homework, and reading on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 1:50 until 2:40 in room 740. Students are not required to stay the entire hour and must have transportation home.

Cafeteria News

Starting the week of August 19, we will be selling these additional items for lunch:

- Tuesday—Zaxby's for \$1.75 each
- Thursdays—Chick-Fil-A for \$5.00 each
- Fridays—Papa Johns Pizza. The first slice is included in lunch, additional slices are \$2.50 each.



FCA



The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) will begin meeting on Tuesday, September 10. We meet every Tuesday in the drama room. This student lead club is open to all students who attend FCMS. For more information on this club, you can go to fca.org. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) will sponsor the "See You at The Pole" prayer event (SYATP) on September 25. We will meet at the flagpole in front of the school at 7:00am. This is time to come together and pray for your school, friends, family, and more. For more information on this global week of student prayer, you may go to syatp.org.

FCA Club Sponsors: Mrs. Dill and Mrs. Benavides.

WEB News



Attention 6th graders!

You are invited to WEB's inaugural Sundae Monday on Monday, September 23. We invite you to come out to the cafeteria patio for music and ice cream sundaes from 1:50 - 2:30pm. We will be selling tickets for \$1. Look for more information to follow. See you there!

Clinic News

ABOUT LICE...

News from the clinic:

Please be aware that head lice can occur- especially when kids are having close contact with each other. Students who participate in group sports, have sleepovers and take selfies are most at risk. Please check your child regularly for lice. St. Johns county school district has a no lice/nit policy.

Library News



Library hours:

7:10am—1:50pm Mon., Tues., Thur., Fri.

7:10am—12:50pm Wednesday

The Sunshine State Young Readers Award (SSYRA) book list is developed each year utilizing input from experienced committees of media specialists from throughout Florida. The books on this list may not be appropriate for all students. Some books may include main characters navigating mature teen and/or adult situations. Stories represent various genres, formats, reading levels, viewpoints, and ethnic/cultural perspectives, while exploring sensitive issues. Therefore, it is imperative that concerned parents/guardians play an active role in their child's reading selection by previewing the titles to ensure an enriching and exciting reading experience.

The SSYRA books are used for our Battle of the Books (BotB). Battle of the Books is a school and district-based competition used to promote the love of reading amongst students and encourage students to read widely from the list of Sunshine State Young Reader books. At FCMS, we have three battles. Each battle includes five of the fifteen SSYRA titles. (If there are five members on a team, each member has to read one book!) The questions asked at each battle are about the details of the five different stories. All of the answers to the questions are the titles of the five books. The team accumulating the most points from all three battles will be our winner and will represent FCMS at the SJCS Middle School Battle of the Books in January 2020.

Students do not have to participate in Battle of the Books to read the SSYRA books. Please preview the attached annotated list of this year's books. Sign up for Battle of the Books will begin September 3. Any student wishing to participate must have a signed permission slip turned in by September 18. Permission slips will be handed to the students when they sign up in the media center.

Building Security

Parents: In a continuing effort to provide safety and security to our students and staff we ask that you complete a School Access Form if you plan to enter a facility in the St. Johns County School District. The link for the School Access Form and related information can be found on the FCMS homepage or at: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/volunteer/>. This includes if you would like to meet with a guidance counselor, teacher, or volunteer for special activities such as the book fair, field trips, school dances or other activities.

Any person going beyond the front office area of a school must have a completed school access form, and present a valid driver's license or state identification card when signing into a school. To check your status, contact the school which you wish to enter two weeks after completion of the school access form. It is suggested that the form be completed right away, as it can take two to six weeks to process. Once school access has been granted, a person signs into the school as a volunteer, and chooses the activity that best describes what he/she will be doing in the school. Driver's license and state identification card are required upon each sign in.

School Website

<<http://www-fcs.stjohns.k12.fl.us>>

Visit often for up-to-date information about our school!

Don't forget to check the Peachjar
for eflyers about community events.



Sports Information

The students are to bring a 3 ring binder for PE on Wednesdays.
We are also in need of latex free band aids, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, baby wipes.

VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE 2019-2020



PRACTICE: Every Monday, Friday and most Wednesdays 2:00 – 4:15.

GAME SCHEDULE 5:30 girls 6:30 boys

SEPTEMBER 10	AWAY @ MILLS CREEK ACADEMY
SEPTEMBER 12	HOME VS MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 17	HOME VS LIBERTY PINES ACADEMY
SEPTEMBER 19	HOME VS PACETTI BAY MIDDLE
SEPTEMBER 24	AWAY AT GAMBLE ROGERS MIDDLE
SEPTEMBER 26	HOME VS SWITZERLAND POINT
OCTOBER 1	AWAY AT PATRIOT OAKS
OCTOBER 3	HOME VS SEBASTIAN MIDDLE
OCTOBER 8	HOME VS FREEDOM CROSSING
OCTOBER 10	AWAY AT PALM VALLEY ACADEMY
OCTOBER 15	AWAY AT LANDRUM MIDDLE
OCTOBER 17	AWAY AT VALLEY RIDGE ACADEMY
OCTOBER 22	BYE
OCTOBER 24	FINAL 4 CHAMPIONSHIP (TOP SEED HOSTS)

Cross Country:

FCMS XC practice begins August 19 from 150-330pm. Bring Participation Form, EL2 Sports Physical, and Participation Fee to Mrs. Benavides room 715 on or before August 19 or to first practice. Change in the locker rooms and meet outside under the canopy. All runners welcome. Any questions email Coach Benavides at jill.benavides@stjohns.k12.fl.us.



Basketball: More information to come.

Athletic Website: www-fcs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/athletics

PE Uniforms through School Pay or an order form (see student's PE Coach)



Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books 2019-2020 List for Grades 6-8



24 Hours in Nowhere by Dusti Bowling

Gus hopes in just a short twenty-four hours, he can explore and escape the abandoned mine in his home of Nowhere, Arizona. He just has to find the rumored gold, win back a dirt bike from a thirteen-year-old bully, and try not to die from dehydration, cave-ins, and wild animal attacks. But man can't survive on Twinkies alone. A life-threatening adventure such as this requires the companionship of the dirt bike-riding new girl in town and Gus's two former friends. Throughout the day and night, the group of outsiders learn that they have more things in common than they realized, and it's their newly formed bond that will be the key to their survival. Bikes might get damaged and bones might get broken, but their newly formed friendships will thrive in this desert town.



The Adventurers Guild by Zack Loran Clark

Zed Kagari and Brock Dunderfel are preparing for the Guildcullen. The day where children find what path they will take for the rest of their life. Before they can be chosen, they find themselves drafted into the Adventurer's Guild. The guild that travels outside the walls of Freestone, into the wild lands between cities filled with monsters and "Dangers". When the boys uncover that the city might have a traitor, looking to destroy all the city had worked for, they have to work with new allies to save their town and prove their worth.



All's Faire in Middle School by Victoria Jamieson

As a squire-in-training, eleven-year-old Impy must demonstrate her bravery to move up in the ranks at the Renaissance Faire where her family works. Though she can wield a sword and handle the threats of dragons, will she survive the challenge that is MIDDLE SCHOOL? Impy will learn how to transition from home-schooled child to a public school student. How will she navigate the school hallways? How will she deal with hard teachers? Will she make friends who accept her for who she is? Impy is about to find out just how brave she can be and which dragons she needs to slay to conquer middle school.



Boy X by Dan Smith

Twelve-year-old Ash wakes up in an unfamiliar room with an IV in his arm, a head full of jumbled memories, and a host of superhuman abilities. He has no idea what he is capable of, but if he is going to save the world, he needs to evolve. With the lead scientists locked in quarantine including his mother, it is up to Ash to track a group of criminals intent on releasing a deadly virus into the world. Unfortunately, a dense jungle full of terrifying creatures is between the biosphere where he is being kept and the getaway boat.



Breakout by Kate Messner

Nora Tucker is looking forward to summer vacation in Wolf Creek--two months of swimming, popsicles, and brushing up on her journalism skills for the school paper. When two inmates break out of the town's maximum security prison, everything changes. Doors that were never locked are locked, helicopters fly over, and the police are on patrol. The worse part is everyone is on edge. The fear has brought out the worst in people Nora has known her whole life. Even if the inmates are caught, she worries that home might never feel the same.



Captain Superlative by J.S. Puller

Janey Silverman doesn't know what to make of the girl in the red mask, blue wig, silver swimsuit, high top sneakers and a cape. She's determined to find out more about the girl who runs through the halls of Deerwood Park Middle School championing good deeds and standing up to bullies. When she tries out her secret identity, she gets more than she bargains for as Captain Superlative's new sidekick. Janey also finds out some secrets about herself and what makes a good hero, and a good friend.



Elephant Secret by Eric Walters

Samantha Gray is known as the "elephant girl" since she lives in an animal sanctuary with eleven elephants and her dad. She finds her elephant family much easier to get along with than most people, including her dad's lawyer girlfriend, Joyce. When a beloved elephant dies giving birth to a newborn, Sam's world is upended. She knew raising a newborn would be a challenge, but something is very different about *this* baby. Secrets begin to threaten not only the herd's peaceful existence at the sanctuary, but even Sam and her dad's place among the elephants.

Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books 2019-2020 List for Grades 6-8, Page 2



Ethan Marcus Stands Up by Michele Weber Hurwitz

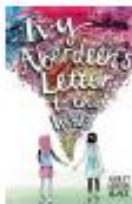
Ethan Marcus isn't usually a rule breaker but one day at school he decides he is fed up with sitting all day. His refusal to sit does not go over well with his teachers and leads to detention.

While in detention it is suggested that Ethan participate in the school's upcoming Invention Day. Ethan's sister and her goody two shoe friends participate every year but Ethan has never had the desire or an invention idea, until now. Will an idea be enough to motivate Ethan to participate at Invention Day?



Greetings from Witness Protection by Jake Burt

Nicki's father is in jail and her grandmother is dead so she's in the foster care system. One day two US Marshalls show up and offer her "the adventure of a lifetime." They need her to help hide a family in witness protection from a very dangerous criminal. Since the criminals are looking for a family of 3, adding a daughter to the family will make it easier to keep them hidden. Adding a street-smart, savvy, kleptomaniac like Nicki may help to keep them alive - unless her past puts them all in danger!



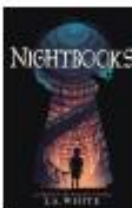
Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World by Ashley Herring Blake

Ivy is trying to pick up the pieces of her life--both literally and figuratively. After a tornado destroys her family's home, life throws her another blow when her notebook containing several drawings of girls holding hands goes missing at the shelter. Ivy feels ignored by her family as they struggle with rebuilding their home and their lives, so she has no one to turn to about all the feelings about her identity. One day, the drawings from her notebook start appearing in her locker along with anonymous notes that encourage Ivy to be herself. Ivy has hopes that the keeper of the notebook might be her crush, but does Ivy have the courage to share her true self with the world? Ivy soon learns that sometimes you have to have your world turned upside down to find out who you really are.



Knockout by K.A. Holt

When Levi discovers his love for boxing, he finds himself in the ring with those who love him most. He knows he's strong enough to fight for his life. But can he convince everyone else to believe in him too? This funny and emotional novel in verse looks at what it means to be a typical kid- and all the many definitions of strength.



Nightbooks by J.A. White

Everyone loves a good scare, right? Alex is a kid who loves scary stories so much that he writes his own spooky tales. One night he finds himself knocking on a stranger's door after hearing the sounds of one of his favorite movies, *The Night of the Living Dead*. This stranger invites him inside, but she has no intention of letting Alex leave. Natacha is a witch who only finds joy from Alex's spooky storytelling from his nightbooks. With the help from the other prisoners at Natacha's place, Alex makes up new stories to please the witch. But then his writer's block puts an end to his stories and--now--possibly his life. Can Alex write his way out of danger and out of this prison?



Playing Atari with Saddam Hussein by Jennifer Roy

At the start of 1991, eleven-year-old Ali Fadhil was consumed by his love for soccer, video games, and American television shows. Then, on January 17, Iraq's dictator Saddam Hussein went to war with thirty-four nations led by the United States.



Slider by Pete Hautman

David is an average kid with an unusual talent - eating large amounts of food in a small amount of time. It's just something his two best friends, Cyn and Heyman, time him at for fun. That is until he accidentally charges \$2000 on his mom's credit card - then he has to figure out how to use his talent to earn some cash before his mom finds out what he's done! Will David find enough time to train while still keeping an eye on his little brother? Will he be able to handle competing with professional competitive eaters, or will he have to confess to his mother?



Small Spaces by Katherine Arden

"Avoid large places. Keep to small." Seems like sound advice for Ollie to heed as she now finds herself on a stalled bus during the trip to the farm. Armed with a broken wristwatch displaying alarming warnings to her, Ollie and two classmates make the decision to leave their classmates on the bus and venture into the misty fields with only scarecrows around. But scarecrows only scare crows, right?



All-Star Back to School Dance
Friday, September 13 from 6:00-8:00 pm

Wear your favorite team jersey or sport's team wear. Hang out with your friends, dance, and play games. There will be a photo booth, DJ, games, contests, prizes, pizza, drinks, dessert and more! Admission is \$10 including pizza, dessert and a drink. Chips, snacks and drinks will also be available for purchase. Tickets will be available for purchase in the cafeteria during lunches the week of the dance, or you can buy them online below.

[Click here to buy tickets online.](#)

[Volunteers, please click here to sign up to help with the dance.](#)

[Sign up to donate drinks and cookies for the dance here.](#)

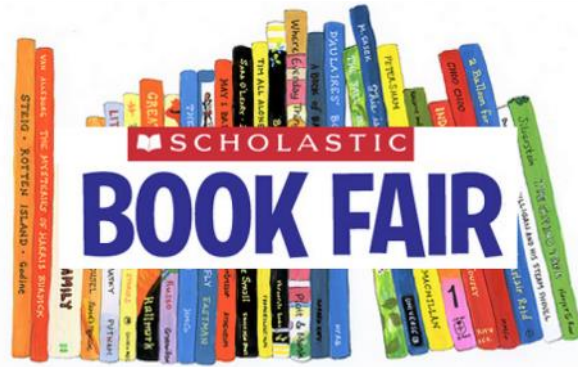
FCMS Night at Icemens Hockey
Saturday, October 12 at 7:00 pm

Join your fellow FCMS families and help the Jacksonville Icemens kick off their third season on their opening night! Opening night is expected to sell out, so if you plan to attend and support FCMS, please buy your tickets now.

Each \$20 ticket includes:

- Admission to the game against the Greenville Swamp Rabbits
- A group gift of the game
- Post-game photo on the ice
- A portion of every ticket sold will be donated back to the FCMS PTO.

[Click here to buy your tickets online.](#)




**Fall Scholastic Book Fair
September 16 – 20**

The book fair will be held during school hours that week. More details coming soon.

[Volunteers, please click here to help with the book fair.](#)

Thank you to our 2019-2020 Blue Angel Business Partners, Joy Orthodontics and Tutoring Club!


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Thoughts from the Guidance Team



Media and Your Child

Our children's connection to media is everywhere, coming from more sources and more screens than we probably remember when we were kids: TV, movies, video games, handheld games, computers, cell phones, ipads, ipods, watches, etc. There are many wonderful uses for media that provide conveniences and education for us and our families. There are also dangers in media that as parents and educators, we are tasked to protect children from. With all the amazing advances in technology, we cannot forget to make advances in how we protect children from media that is not age-appropriate.

It's important to remember that children's brains are not fully developed, specifically the part of the brain (pre-frontal cortex) responsible for critical thinking, judgement, problem-solving, and impulse control. When a child or adolescent views media showing violence, sexual content, or harmful stereotypes, their own ideas, feelings, and behaviors are impacted. Without some guidance from a trusted grown-up, repeated exposure to these kinds of media may lead to an increase in aggression and a decrease in empathy.

For more information and research about media use and children, please visit:

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/research>.

Quick tips for setting media guidelines:

- Limit the amount of screen time to 1-2 hours a day (or less if you notice it is negatively impacting your child).
- Model screen-free times/activities (like dinner time, for example).
- Keep children's bedrooms free of screen media (no TV, game systems, laptops, I-pads, cell phones, etc).
- Preview media that your child is interested in before you allow them to view/play it.
- Co-view media (if appropriate) with your child and discuss the content - this will help them develop critical thinking skills.
- Do your research about social media websites (like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) and closely monitor usage. Remember, these sites are typically for ages 13 and up.
- Stick to rating recommendations. They exist for a reason.
- Use your parental judgement. Your children are counting on you to set limits!



St. Johns County
School District

NOTICE

St. Johns County School District prohibits discrimination against students, employees and applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, ethnicity, national origin, marital status, disability, political or religious beliefs and national or ethnic origin.

In accordance with the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act 20 U.S.C. § 7905, the School Board shall not deny equal access to District facilities or discriminate against the Boy Scouts of America or any youth group listed in Title 36A patriotic society.

The St. Johns County School District Board Policy 2.16 contains the grievance procedure related to harassment and discrimination for employees, students, and applicants.

If you believe that you have been harassed or discriminated against contact

Your School or Department Administration
Or
A member of the Equity Committee

Equity Committee Members

Name: Cathy Hutchins, Equity Coordinator/Committee Chairperson
Phone Number 547-7601
Email: cathy.hutchins@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Name: David Morell, Director of Accountability & Intervention Services
Phone Number 547-8910
Email: david.morell@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Name: Stacey Brown, Employee Specialist
Phone Number 547-7609
Email: stacey.brown@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Name: Kim Dixon, Director of Instructional Technology, Media Svcs. and Instructional Materials
Phone Number 547-3948
Email: kim.dixon@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Name: Lisa Bell, Director of Exceptional Student Education
Phone Number 547-7537
Email: lisa.bell@stjohns.k12.fl.us

St. Johns County School District
40 Orange Street
St. Augustine, Florida 32084

A copy of Policy 2.16 can be found at
http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/board/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2015/02/2_16.pdf
Rules and Policies are at each school location including the District Office at 40 Orange Street.