

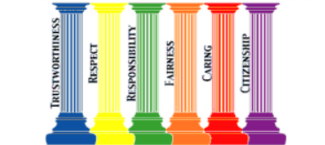
Fruit Cove Middle School "THE PILOT"



Bi-Weekly Newsletter

October 7, 2022

CHARACTER COUNTS!



ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pillar of the Month:
October — Responsibility

Important Dates

October 11
Picture Retakes
Volleyball GRMS @ FCMS

October 13
6th Grade *Seeds For Success*
Volleyball MMS @ FCMS
PTO Jeremiah Spirit Night

October 14
First Quarter Ends

October 17
Teacher Planning Day-
Student Holiday

October 18
Volleyball FCMS @ LMS

October 20
Volleyball FCMS @ SMS

October 21
PTO Welcome Back
Dance

October 24
PTO Meeting 6:30pm

School Hours
7:30am-1:50pm

Wednesday Dismissal @
12:50pm

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

3180 Racetrack Rd

"HOME OF THE FLYERS"

904-547-7880

Mission Statement

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

Parent Survey

Cognia, the organization that oversees our district's accreditation, is conducting a review of our school district this year. Cognia has created surveys specifically for families in our school district. Please complete Cognia's Family Survey to assist the district in our continuous improvement process.

Please click this link to take the survey:

<https://eprovesurveys.advanc-ed.org/surveys/#/action/197512/p2065>

Thank you for your feedback!

Student Drop-Off

Please help us keep our students safe and our car drop-off line moving smoothly by not having your student exit the vehicle in a non-designated area, such as Plantation Park and school entrance intersection area. This is creating a safety hazard and interrupts the traffic flow.

We ask that you use the parent drop-off line that begins at the east entrance of Plantation Park, located off Durbin Creek Blvd, and drop students off at the designated area in front of the school building.

**SAFETY
FIRST**

School Advisory Council News

SAC NEEDS PARENTS!!

Please contact vicki.barfoot@stjohns.k12.fl.us.
Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 11 at 2:40 in the
Media Center.



Calling All 6th Graders



Please join your WEB leaders on Thursday, October 13 from 1:50 to 2:30pm for *Seeds for Success*. Come decorate a clay pot, plant a flower and have fun with your WEB leaders. The event is free and just for you! Please use the Sign-Up Genius to RSVP. We look forward to hanging out with you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D49A4A629A0F94-webwelcomes>

Kindness

Kindness is in our hands! During the month of October, we are celebrating kindness, inclusion and compassion. Our theme this year is "Kindness is in our hands." We are encouraging all of our students to take time to be intentionally kind, include others and show compassion. The WEB team will be posting special messages on the @FCMS WEB Instagram account. Go check it out! Thank you for encouraging these special traits a home!



NJHS News



Congratulations to Mrs. Doemel, Mrs. Schmitt, and Mrs. Jarrell for having the winning homerooms for the Sock Drive. They will be treated to fresh baked cookies on Wednesday, October 12. The NJHS, WEB, and B6 Club Sock Drive brought in over 800 pairs of socks for the homeless shelters in our area. Nice job FCMS!!!

The NJHS induction ceremony will be held on Monday, November 7th at 6PM in the school auditorium. All inductees need to be at the school by 5:40 to line up for the procession.

Picture Retake Day

Picture retake day is Tuesday, October 11th! The schedule is as follows:

1st period- 8th grade (7:30-8:16)

2nd period- 7th grade (8:20-9:06)

3rd period- 6th grade (9:10-9:56)

Students will be called down each period to the auditorium to take their pictures. Picture forms will be given out to Homeroom/1st period teachers. Please see them for another picture form if needed.



2022-2023 Sunshine State Young Readers Award Program

The SSYRA Program will begin Tuesday, October 18. Interested students will be added to an SSYRA Course in Schoology **after** the [parent permission form](#) is returned. Students will read an SSYRA book and take a 25-point quiz on the book. They will have 2 attempts and must score over 60% (cumulative) to receive credit for the book. Successful quizzes are rewarded with a Schoology badge and a PBIS point. The program ends on March 9, 2023.

At this point, there has not been a final decision regarding a District Middle School Battle of the Books. When information is available, I will let you know. If we do participate, the team of 5 students and 2 alternates will be chosen based on the number of titles read and the overall score earned on the Schoology quizzes.

See the media center website for more information:

<https://www-fcs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/sunshine-state-young-readers-program/>

Minecraft Club

Minecraft "*Session 1*" begins Tuesday October 18.

Please check room 670 for your session number.



B6 Club News



Upcoming Meetings:

Thursday, October 6 - 1:55- 2:55

Thursday, October 13 - 1:55- 2:55

Thursday, October 20 - 1:55- 2:55

Thursday, October 27 - 1:55- 2:55

Testing News

Please check the testing tab on the FCMS Website. There you will find a parent letter that describes the new FAST testing for Reading and Math. Also there you will find calendars that show the testing dates for Progress Monitoring 1 and Progress Monitoring 2. If you have questions, please email our testing coordinator Debra Dill at debra.dill@stjohns.k12.fl.us



Future Educators of America Club

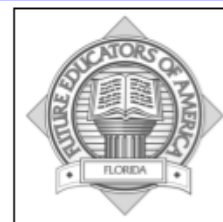
Where: Ms. Carroll's Room 660

When: 3rd Wednesday Each Month @ 1pm

How: Applications available from Ms. Carroll or Coach Richardson

Why: To learn more about becoming a teacher, demonstrate leadership skills, and make connections with others around you in FCMS

Requirements: Parental Permission, Teacher Recommendation, and 2.5 GPA



FCMS Chess Club



Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday, October 4 - 1:55- 2:55

Tuesday, October 11 - 1:55- 2:55

Tuesday, October 18 - 1:55- 2:55

Tuesday, October 25 - 1:55- 2:55

Disability History and Awareness Weeks

The first two weeks of October are Disability History and Awareness Weeks! Section 1003.4205, Florida Statutes, entitled *Disability History and Awareness Instruction*, was signed into law in 2008. It requires school districts to designate the first two weeks of October as Disability History and Awareness Weeks and also promotes providing instruction for students in all public schools to expand student knowledge, understanding, and awareness of individuals with disabilities, disability history, and the disability rights

Bev Slough's School Update



It has been a pleasure to welcome a normal new school year! I am so glad that parents and community members have access to our schools again and such things as football games and plays are able to accommodate full capacity. Both students and teachers alike have welcomed the return to school as usual.

That said, we have certainly face challenges this year. The staff shortages that have been experienced all over Florida have finally caught up with us in St. Johns County. We still have teaching positions as well as support staff jobs that remain unfilled. We are working hard to have a teacher in place for every class. Our Human Resources department has reached out to our intern students from UNF, Flagler College and other colleges to encourage them to join our substitute pool to give them experience in the classroom and to provide introductions to various principals around the county. In addition, they are providing preparation for the certification test so that students can graduate with that already accomplished, thus ready to go to work as teachers. In

addition, job fairs are being held at several colleges of education and outreach to the community at large is ongoing.

We also continue to seek paraprofessionals to fill vacancies at nearly all our schools. To be a para at a Title I school requires an associates degree (60 hours of college credit), but that requirement has been lifted at non Title 1 schools to encourage more applicants. Hourly rates have been increased to a minimum of \$15 for all these positions, with extra pay for several of them.

Another area where we are experiencing personnel shortage is bus operators. As our district grows (we currently have almost 50,000 students), the demand for bus operators and additional bus routes increases. We are currently short so many operators that we have had to stop school field trips until we have more drivers. On October 1, another opportunity for people to come drive a bus and see what that is like will be held. When we did this last year, we were able to hire some new drivers from those who took advantage of the opportunity. If you or someone you know has a desire to work for St. Johns County Schools, there is ample opportunity to do so. Please visit the district webpage, www.stjohns.k12.fl.us, to see the current openings. Even with all the growing pains, our children are still deeply engaged in their learning. As I visit schools and classrooms, I see eager learners taking advantage of all the opportunities that our schools afford them. The first interim grades have been released, and I encourage all parents to visit Home Access Center to check their children's progress. If your child is struggling in an area, please reach out to the teacher to create a plan for his/her success going forward.

The School Board recently approved a \$1.2 billion dollar budget for this school year. Our district is the largest employer in the county, runs the largest transportation service and the largest food service department in our area. The school district is a large business, with over 6000 employees who are all focused on a quality education for St. Johns County students.

This year is our accreditation year. You may have received a survey from your child's school with questions about the education being delivered in our district. I encourage you to complete the survey because it will provide valuable information both to our district and to the accreditation team that will visit later in the year. As always, it is my honor to serve as your school board representative. If I may assist you in any way, please contact me at Beverly.Slough@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

Library News



Welcome to the 2022/2023 School Year!

Hours: 7:10am—1:50pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
7:10am—12:50pm Wednesday

Please check the [Media Center homepage](#) for updates and visit our **Virtual Library!** Find informative videos on Schoology, using the library catalog, and much more!

Don't forget to check out our eBook library at [MackinVia](#).

Students may check out three books at a time and keep them for two weeks.

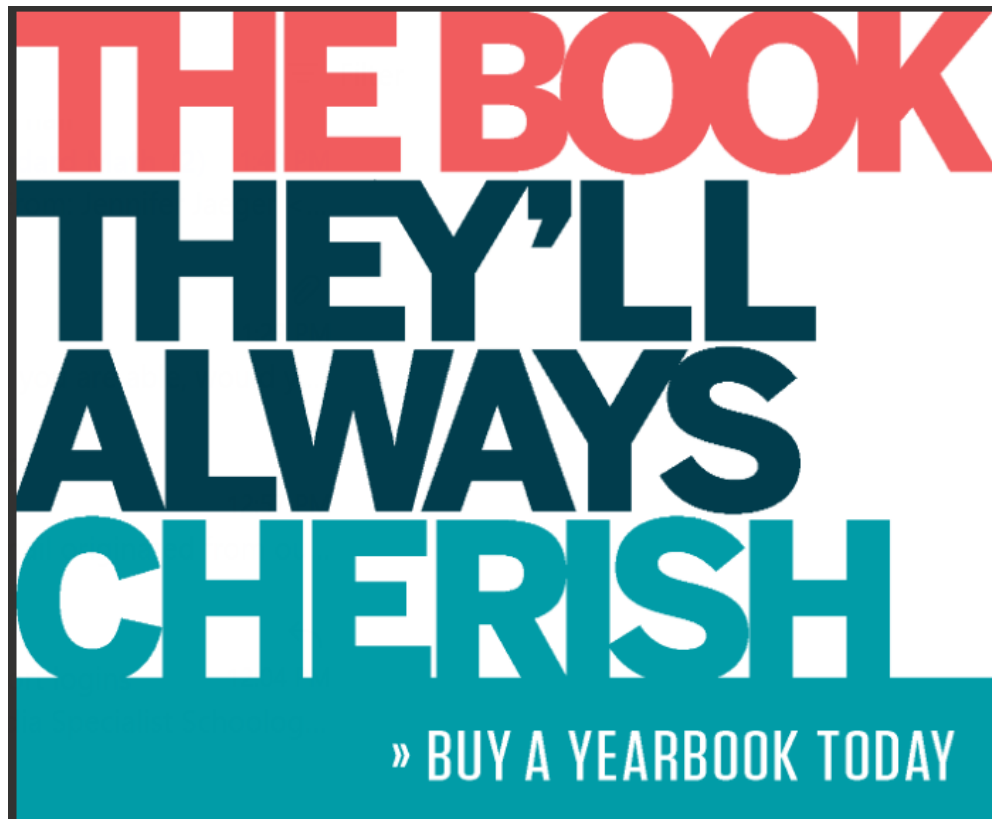
Overdue book notices are sent by email every Wednesday at 9:00am. There are no overdue fees, however, students who lose or damage a book are responsible for the cost of the item. Payments can be made using SchoolPay: \$10 for paperback books, \$20 for hard cover books. Contact Mrs. Jaeger for details.

Parents who wish to restrict titles their child may check out in the school library should complete the form linked below and return it to your child's teacher or the media center. This link is also available on the media center homepage. No form is necessary if there are to be no restrictions.

[Library Book Access Form](#)



Yearbook Information



School Advisory Council News

Additional parent representation is needed on SAC.

SAC is the best way to know what is going on at FCMS and to have a voice in how SAC funds are spent. Meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 3:00 in the Media Center. The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13.

Contact vicki.barfoot@stjohns.k12.fl.us for any questions or to express interest in joining.

What is SAC?

- ◆ A council of parents, school faculty and staff, and other community and business members that meet to address the needs of the school, as related to the school improvement plan.
- ◆ FCMS SAC meets once a month, on the second Tuesday of each month at 3pm. Meetings will be available in person and virtually to accommodate needs and preferences. Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13th at 3pm in the Media Center and on Microsoft Teams.

What are the duties of parent, business, and community representatives

- ◆ Members act as a resource for SAC in the areas of community related issues that affect the school

- and its students.
- ◆ Members serve as a communications link between SAC, business, community, and parent groups.



The agenda for the meeting on Tuesday, October 11 is as follows:

1. Welcome & Handouts
2. Old Business
3. New Business
4. Reports
5. Good of the Group & Future Agenda Items

See you there!

Future Meeting Dates

November 8, 2022
December 13, 2022
January 10, 2023
February 14, 2023
March 7, 2023
April 11, 2023
May 9, 2023

Testing News

Please check the testing tab on the FCMS Website. There you will find a parent letter that describes the new FAST testing for Reading and Math. Also there you will find calendars that show the testing dates for Progress Monitoring 1 and Progress Monitoring 2. If you have questions, please email our testing coordinator Debra Dill at debra.dill@stjohns.k12.fl.us



Attendance

We have an all-new "[Attendance Information](#)" tab on our website! If you have general questions about attendance at FCMS, you will find the answers there. Also, there is information and access to the two ways you can report your student's absences: our digital absence form and a printable absence form. You are required to send one of these to the school within 48 hours of your student returning to school after an absence. If you have further questions about attendance, please contact Ginny Michalski, ginny.michalski@stjohns.k12.fl.us, FCMS Guidance/Attendance Clerk.

FCMS WEB NEWS

Check out our new Instagram Pages @ FCMSWEB!

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.

FRUIT COVE VOLLEYBALL 2022



TRYOUT INFORMATION

6TH GRADE GIRLS: Monday, August 22, (2-4PM)

7TH GRADE GIRLS: Tuesday, August 23, (2-4PM)

8TH GRADE GIRLS: Friday, August 26, (2-4PM)

BOYS: Monday, August 29, (2-4PM)

***CALL BACKS: Tuesday, August 30, (2-4PM)

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Girls' and boys' practices will begin on Thursday, September 1st from (2-4). There will be a mandatory parent and player meeting on Thursday, September 1st following practice at 4PM. Practices will be every day after school from (2-4). Practices on Wednesdays will be from (1-3). After September 19th, there will not be practices on Tuesdays or Thursdays which are game days. Students provide their own transportation home from practices and to all home and away games.

GAME INFORMATION

Girls games start at 5:30pm Boys games start at 6:30pm Tickets are \$3

Tuesday- September 20: LMS@FCMS

Thursday- September 22: SMS@FCMS

Tuesday- September 27: FCMS@SPMS

Thursday- September 29: FCMS@MMS

Tuesday- October 4: FCMS@PBMS

Thursday- October 6: FCMS BYE

Tuesday- October 11: GRMS@FCMS

Thursday- October 13: MMS @FCMS

Tuesday- October 18: FCMS @LMS

Thursday- October 20: FCMS @SMS

Tuesday- October 25: SPMS @FCMS

Thursday- October 27: PBMS@FCMS

Tuesday- November 1: FCMS BYE

Thursday- November 3: FCMS@GRMS

Tuesday- November 8: Playoff Semi-Final – 1 vs 4 and 2 vs 3 *Highest Seeded Team Hosts

Thursday- November 10: Championship Games

GO FLYERS!

SIX SIMPLE STEPS FOR A SUNNY DAY



1. High Five Yourself

Giving other people a high five always feels good. So look in the mirror and give yourself one.



<https://www.high5habit.com>

2. Make Your Bed



Starting your day with a completed task can give you the lift you need to start the day right.

Make Your Bed By William H. McRaven

3. Smile

Your body releases three hormones including dopamine, endorphins, and serotonin that make you feel good when you smile. Smile at others for a bonus hit of happiness.



<https://online.uwa.edu/news/benefits-of-smiling-and-laughter/>

4. Keep Your Head Up

By keeping your head up, you will breathe more deeply, connect with others, and think more positively.



<https://www.guideposts.org/btber-living/life-advice/3-reasons-to-keep-your-head-up-high-in-winter>

5. Say Something Positive About Your Day

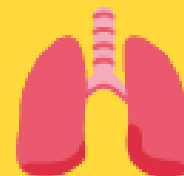


What you say influences what you believe. So be positive about your day and about yourself.

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=71_NkXgAK1g

6. Take Deep Breaths

Deep breathing allows more air to flow into your body. It can help calm your nerves, which reduces stress and anxiety.



<https://rightasrain.uwmedicine.org/mind/stress/why-deep-breathing-makes-you-feel-so-chill>

2022 Flyers PTO News

Follow FCMS
PTO on
Facebook



Follow FCMS
PTO on
Instagram



PTO Meetings In the Media Center

October 24

January 24

February 28

Center

6:30-

7:30 pm

Fall Calendar

10/13 - Jeremiahs Spirit Night

10/21 - Welcome Back Dance

10/21- Fall Fundraiser ends

Exciting News

We have raised \$520 from spirit nights and that pays for the snacks in the teacher's lounge and Hallowing for the teachers!



Fundraising for a Purpose

This year we are aiming to buy the school an electronic sign as well as still be able to support their other needs; like new computers. The sign will be another way for the school to keep you informed of upcoming dates and events

The PTO is so excited to partner with Real Men Wear Pink and offer pink FCMS socks for purchase. They are \$12.00. Scan the QR code to purchase. The socks will arrive to school within 2 days of ordering!



SCAN ME

PTO NEWS



Bring your best dance moves to kick-off a new school year at FCMS

WELCOME BACK DANCE

NEW DATE

Sign-up via Cheddar Up link below (ONLY 400 SPOTS AVAILABLE)
Ticket Includes: 2 pieces of pizza, cookie, & drink
Snacks available for purchase.

10.21.2022 | FRI | 6-8PM | \$10

Wear your favorite TEAM shirt or FCMS spirit wear and jeans
all outfits must comply with dress code

NEW DATE for the WELCOME BACK DANCE! The dance has been rescheduled for October 21, 2022 from 6-8 PM. Wear your favorite team jersey/FCMS Shirt to represent! Tickets will be \$10 (includes 2 pieces of pizza, drink, and cookie.) If a refund is needed because of the date change please [email: fcmssptodance@gmail.com](mailto:fcmssptodance@gmail.com). Tickets are back up for sale since the date was moved back. Deadline to purchase tickets is 10/16. Please use this link to purchase dance tickets <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/welcome-back-dance>

WELCOME BACK DANCE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We are looking for many volunteers to help run the dance and we need your help to make this a success! You can use this sign up genius to volunteer. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bafa723a5fdc25-welcome>



FRUIT COVE MIDDLE SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

FALL CATALOGS

Purchase holiday goodies while raising money for your student's school!!

- Online Orders
- Sale Dates: 09/26/2022 – 10/21/2022
- Items will be shipped to your home in time for Thanksgiving
- Help your student win prizes with every order that's placed

REGISTER AT SHOPFUND.COM

Families, it's Fall Fundraiser time!!!

Fall catalogs and packets went home with your student on 09/26. Sales run through 10/21 and are only online. Orders will be shipped directly to your home in time for Thanksgiving. Ensure your student is registered at shopfund.com by Friday 10/06 and they will receive a prize!!

With fundraising funds this year we are aiming to buy the school an electronic sign, as well as still be able to support their educational needs, like new laptops. The sign will be

another way for the school to keep you informed of upcoming dates and events.

Thank you for your support!
PTO FUNDRAISING

The PTO is so excited to partner with Real Men Wear Pink and offer pink FCMS socks for purchase. They are \$12.00. You can use the link or QR code to purchase. The socks will arrive to school within 2 days of ordering!

[https://my.cheddarup.com/c/fcmsspiritwear?cart=02df022e-b07a-4b52-8c7f-a19f8ecae72d%21%](https://my.cheddarup.com/c/fcmsspiritwear?cart=02df022e-b07a-4b52-8c7f-a19f8ecae72d%21%2138681489&fbclid=IwAR2wEgxd7ir4xV48XdVMc5yx1LvBI-dsVv3FW8Zhd6UMTOGu1HljtlzmRs)

[2138681489&fbclid=IwAR2wEgxd7ir4xV48XdVMc5yx1LvBI-dsVv3FW8Zhd6UMTOGu1HljtlzmRs](https://my.cheddarup.com/c/fcmsspiritwear?cart=02df022e-b07a-4b52-8c7f-a19f8ecae72d%21%2138681489&fbclid=IwAR2wEgxd7ir4xV48XdVMc5yx1LvBI-dsVv3FW8Zhd6UMTOGu1HljtlzmRs)



PLEASE JOIN THE PTO TO SUPPORT AND HELP

REAL MEN WEAR PINK

a community fighting breast cancer

SOCKS FOR A CAUSE

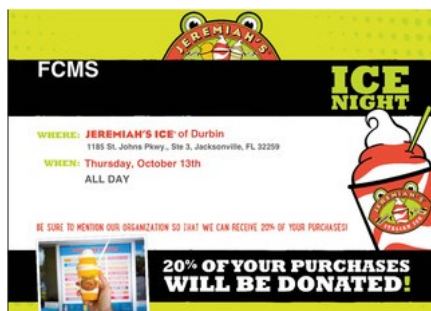
Proceeds will go to Real Men Wear Pink charity

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
IT'S SO APPRECIATED!

Scan the QR code to purchase! **\$12.00**

SCAN ME

FLYERS



FCMS

ICE NIGHT

WEEKEND: JEREMIAH'S ICE of Durbin
1185 St. Johns Pkwy., Ste 3, Jacksonville, FL 32209

WEEKEND: Thursday, October 13th
ALL DAY

BE SURE TO MENTION OUR ORGANIZATION SO THAT WE CAN RECEIVE 20% OF YOUR PURCHASES!

20% OF YOUR PURCHASES WILL BE DONATED!

Join us for a Jeremiah's Spirit Day on October 13th at the Durbin location! 20% of your purchases will be donated back to our school

PTO NEWS

Thank you to our 2022-2023 Blue Angel Partners in Learning!





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
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EDUCATION
fldoe.org