

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

St. Johns County School District

Volume 10, Issue 1

Back to School

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



A new round of Project SEARCH Interns are back at The Renaissance World Golf Village Resort for the 2020-2021 school year! This is the program's fourth year at the resort but, for the first time ever, St. Johns County School District's Project SEARCH will be operating during a pandemic.

While on site, interns will have to follow strict CDC guidelines per the request of Marriot and Atrium Hospitality. Interns will be required to wear masks at all times, practice social distancing and more, all while learning to work within the hotel and hospitality industry.

The new interns have been undergoing daily intensive trainings that focus on how to work smart and safe during a pandemic, community mapping, work place safety, self-advocacy and more. In the coming weeks the interns will begin shadowing and working hands on in certain departments while continuing their daily orientation trainings.

The Renaissance World Golf Village Resort, Project SEARCH staff and our statewide partners are very excited to see what opportunities and success the future will hold for our new and eager interns!

Contributed by Byron Pennington, Project SEARCH Instructor

Helpful SJCS D Information

COVID-19 Dashboard

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/blog/covid-19-dashboard/>

The St. Johns County School District will provide a weekly update on the number of students and employees who have tested positive for COVID-19 as well as the number of students and employees currently quarantined at home due to close contact to a case.



Distant Learning

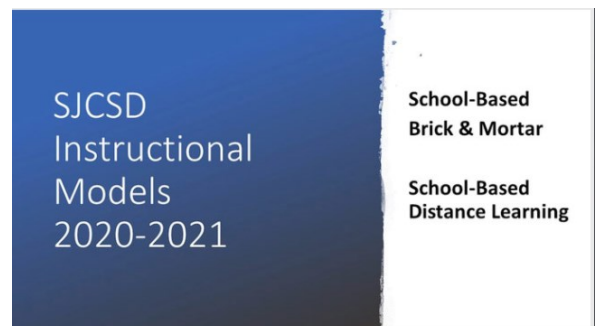
<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/online-learning/>

Parents are invited to watch the following two presentations to find out what school-based distance learning looks like for [elementary students](#) and [secondary students](#).

Instructional Models 2020-2021 Presentation

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/blog/instructional-models/>

Learn about the two instructional models which will be provided during the 2020-2021 school year: school-based brick & mortar and school-based distance learning.



STAFF Spotlight



Kristen Logan is a ESE Program Specialist. Kristen is new to St. Johns County. Her first job in the district was at Ketterlinus Elementary as an ESE teacher. Prior to her relocation she taught in a Title 1 Elementary School in Key West, Florida. She taught Kindergarten, 4th grade, ESE Resource and in a behavior unit. She has a Bachelors in Elementary, a Masters in Educational Leadership, is ESE certified and reading and ESOL endorsed. She will be providing curriculum support in the Behavior Units and with Access Points in the general education setting. She will also be providing help with students that are identified OHI, TBI and OI.

Tori Carnall is a Teacher on Assignment working in Elementary, Middle and High School Behavior Units. For the past four years Tori has been a behavior unit teacher- most recently at The Webster School. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Learning and Behavior Disorders. Tori is ESE certified and ESOL endorsed.



How They Can Help

Kristen Logan

- Curriculum support in Behavior Units
- Training in progress monitoring/ diagnostics
- Support for IEP meetings
- Modeling/ Co-Teaching
- Support for Access Points in the gen-ed setting

Tori Carnall

- Assistance in intensive instructional interventions (reading and math)
- ELA/Math Instructional Strategy Support
- Assistance in determining appropriate IEP goals, IEP writing and progress monitoring



St. Johns County School District

Exceptional Student Education

40 Orange Street

St. Augustine FL 32084

(904) 547-7672

(904) 547-7687 (fax)

Lisa Bell

Director



September 15, 2020

Dear Parents:

On June 13, 2008, Governor Crist signed into law Senate Bill 856. The bill, called "Disability History and Awareness Instruction," requires school districts to designate the first two weeks of October as Disability History and Awareness Weeks. The bill also encourages schools to provide information about disability history and promote the awareness of the contributions of individuals with disabilities.

One of every five Americans is a person with a disability. A person may be born with a disability. A person may acquire a disability through an accident or illness. A person may acquire a disability simply as a part of growing older. Despite the fact that disability is a natural part of life, people with disabilities have not always had access to equal opportunities. Not until 1975, with the passage of the federal Education for All Handicapped Children Act, did school-aged children with disabilities have a right to a free appropriate public education.

Florida started the first special education class in 1926 in Jacksonville. Since 1926, specially designed instruction and related services have expanded throughout Florida. Now, approximately 401,700 students identified with disabilities are participating in Florida's public education and are graduating and going on to postsecondary education or employment. In St. Johns County, over 7,000 students are identified as students with disabilities.

We are proud to participate in promoting awareness of disability history and contributions of individuals with disabilities. At the regular school board meeting on October 13, 2020, I will ask that the board adopt a resolution to designate the first two weeks in October 2020 as Disability History and Awareness Weeks.

Thank you for helping us raise awareness of the abilities of all persons and for sharing this information with other family members. Should you need further information, please contact us at (904) 547-7672.

Sincerely,

Director for Exceptional Student Education

Social emotional learning (SEL) is the natural process of developing the life skills that will enable a person to better manage emotions, interact well with others, and make effective decisions. Within the realm of education, the CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning) organization is considered the “gold standard” of SEL research and theory. CASEL categorizes SEL skills into five ability groupings called competencies. Below are the five competencies, a brief explanation of each, and associated skills:

Self-awareness	the knowledge of one’s own thoughts, feelings, and motivations	identifying emotions accurate self-perception recognizing strengths self-confidence self-efficacy
Self-management	the regulation of emotions and actions in a variety of environments	impulse control stress management self-discipline self-motivation goal setting organizational skills
Social awareness	the capacity to empathize and appreciate another perspective	perspective-taking empathy appreciating diversity respect for others
Relationship skills	the means to create and maintain healthy relationships	Communication social engagement relationship-building teamwork
Responsible decision-making	the ability to make responsible choices and accept their outcome	identifying problems analyzing situations solving problems evaluating reflecting ethical responsibility

This section of *Parents as Partners* will provide a suggested activity for the first competency, Self-Awareness. Understand that these are broad suggestions that may be appropriate or not based on student age or ability-level. If a suggestion doesn’t fit, modify or substitute it as needed. Hopefully these exercises will be a helpful resource for you.

It is also important to know that the best way to teach children social emotional skills is to model them. When you have the opportunity, reflect on these skill categories to determine if you have opportunities for improvement. No one is perfect, so be honest about the areas in which you can grow. When you identify areas that could be strengthened, discuss it with your child. This is a great example of our first activity that supports self-awareness, *encourage a growth mindset*.

Encourage a Growth Mindset (Self-awareness): “Growth mindset” is a term coined by Dr. Carol Dweck in her book Mindset. The book chiefly outlines the idea that skills, including things like math and artistic ability, are learned and can be improved. According to Dweck, effort and determination play much more essential roles than natural talent. Parents should encourage and praise effort in their children instead of performance. The belief is children will continue to put forth effort if they think the same outcome will be seen. However, if they reach a point of challenge and do not believe success is likely, they won’t put in the effort for fear of failure. Praising effort instead of outcome should mitigate that tendency. The practice of praising effort should also create a safe space in the relationship to admit shortcomings.



ST. JOHNS COUNTY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM



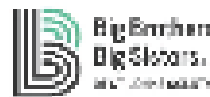
OCTOBER 6, 2020
FROM 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
SAVE THE DATE!

ACCESSING OUR COMMUNITY'S SOCIAL SERVICES & SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN 2020/2021

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS ARE INVITED TO HEAR
FROM OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY PROVIDERS AND
LEARN ABOUT THE LATEST PROGRAMS AND
RESOURCES BEING MADE AVAILABLE FOR OUR
FAMILIES IN 2020-21.

VIRTUAL LINK COMING SOON!!!
WWW.SJCBHC.COM/NEWS-AND-EVENTS

JOIN THESE AND OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR A LIVE VIRTUAL PRESENTATION





**ST JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
IN COLLABORATION WITH
ST JOHNS COUNTY PUBLIC AGENCIES**

PRESENTS

ACCESSING OUR COMMUNITY'S SOCIAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

**All parents and guardians are invited to join us
as we meet with local community agencies to find out
about the resources and services that are available to
children and families in St Johns County**

Join the meeting online via WebEx

**[https://sjcsd.webex.com/sjcsd/onstage/q.php?
MTID=e4a9bda82faf38f176ec068e1a987cbf8](https://sjcsd.webex.com/sjcsd/onstage/q.php?MTID=e4a9bda82faf38f176ec068e1a987cbf8)**

or join via phone by dialing

1-844-992-4726

and then entering the access code:

120 255 4726

**ST JOHNS COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Flagler Health+
CARE CONNECT**

**Big Brothers Big Sisters.
of ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

epic MYFLFAMILIES.COM
EDUCATIONAL HEALTH CARE

**Children's Home Society
of Florida**

SAYS
ST. AUGUSTINE
YOUTH SERVICES
"Path to a Brighter Future"

YouthCrisisCenter
Involving Children, Families, and Schools

SEDNET
The Multiagency Network for Students
with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM**

**This meeting will
be held via
WebEx platform**

OCTOBER 6, 2020

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

2020/2021 PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WebEx MEETING TOPICS and DATES:

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is composed of parents, educators, administrators, business representatives, and other interested community members concerned with the education of exceptional students.

The purpose of the committee is to provide information to parents and input to district staff regarding our ongoing effort to continuously improve services for exceptional students.

All 2020/2021 meetings will be held via WebEx virtual platform.

A link to join these meetings will be emailed one week prior to meeting date.

Topic: ACCESSING OUR COMMUNITY'S SOCIAL SERVICES & SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN and FAMILIES IN 2020/2021

Presenters: Care Connect/BRAVE, St. Augustine Youth Services, Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Johns County, SMA Healthcare, Department of Children and Families, Family Integrity Program, Children's Home Society and more...

Date/Time: 10/06/2020 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Topic: STRESS MANAGEMENT FOR CAREGIVERS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Presenter: Sandra M. Rebeor, Psy.D., M.S.H.S.

Date/Time: 11/10/2020 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm.



Keira Knightley

Diagnosed with dyslexia at age 6, Pirates of the Caribbean star Keira Knightley has said her struggles with reading at an early age only made her tougher. Knightley's mother told her that she could only act if she read every day during the holidays and kept her grades up. With her dream of acting now on the line she wouldn't be stopped, and in her own words, "I drove myself into the ground trying to get over dyslexia and when I finished school I had the top grades", proving that perseverance is key.

<https://www.special-education-degree.net/25-famous-people-with-learning-disorders/>



Events



9/17/2020 – 10/22/2020

Parent Training for Disruptive Behaviors

UF CARD is offering a free parent training program to parents of children 2-14 years of age with autism spectrum disorder or related disabilities. This parent training program consists of 6 sequential sessions designed to teach parents ways to reduce disruptive behaviors.

<https://ufl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUucumrqjstE9YJT1b3SMnEJhdhTulVH5mc>



WEEKLY

Parent Support Group

The purpose of these meetings is for parents to have some time to relax, talk, and share about our children and experiences. Please come join us! Please contact Margie Garlin if you are interested in attending. Weekly ONLINE meetings on alternating Wednesday evenings and Friday mornings

[Email Margie Garlin for details](#)



WEEKLY

Story Time with UF CARD & Friends

It's story time! Join CARD staff and community friends Tuesdays at 4:30PM as they read one of their favorite children's books, live on Zoom. Grab a snack, and a comfy place to sit while you let your imagination wander. Weekly books will be announced on our Facebook page @UFCARD.

[Join us Tuesdays at 4:30PM](#)



MONTHLY

UF CARD Orientation

Join us ONLINE via Zoom to: Learn about CARD's purpose and how our staff may help you on your journey to better understanding autism and related disabilities through education and support; Receive information and tools to help you get started on your next steps; and Meet other families to build and strengthen your support network. Orientation is usually held on the second Friday of the month at 10:30AM.

[Email Alissa Yax for details](#)



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Autism Spectrum Disorders, Access Points Curriculum

St. Johns County School District **Exceptional Student Education Department**

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Jill Sumner, Executive Secretary

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Carlyn Whitty, Confidential Staff Secretary

(904) 547-7712 Carlyn.Whitty@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Mission Statement: To identify and meet the unique educational needs of exceptional students and to provide support and resources to enhance educational opportunities so they become productive citizens.

ESE programs and services address the unique needs of students who are gifted in kindergarten through 12th grade and those with mild, moderate and severe disabilities from age three until they graduate with a regular diploma or until their 22nd birthday. ESE programs and services are designed to assist students in reaching their educational goals through the use of instructional and behavioral approaches which are research-based and exemplify best practices. Technology is used in many creative ways to meet student needs as well.

ESE services are available at all district schools for gifted students and students who have mild to moderate disabilities. PreK students with disabilities and students with more significant disabilities are served in cluster programs at selected sites. Program support is provided to students, parents and school personnel by program specialists based at the district office. Students with disabilities who are not eligible for services through the ESE program may be eligible for an accommodations plan under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

We hope that you find this newsletter informative and useful. *Parents As Partners Newsletters* are posted to the St. Johns County School District web site at:

<http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ese/>