



Tim Forson
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Middle School Parents:

I hope that the school year has been a positive experience for your children so far. I'm writing to share new requirements for our schools as a result of three State Board Rules. Beginning this year, students in grades 6-12 will have five hours of required instruction on substance use and abuse (Rule 6A-1.094122, F.A.C), child trafficking prevention and awareness (Rule 6A-1.094123, F.A.C), and mental and emotional health education (Rule 6A-1.094121, F.A.C.).

These are important topics that will help our students have the knowledge and ability to act when faced with difficult situations. I believe this instruction will be extremely beneficial for your children and/or reinforce what is taught at home.

The mental and emotional health education for grades 6-12 will be led by teachers utilizing research-based, high-quality instructional materials. During the second semester each K-8 academy, middle and high school, will modify its schedule on five days to complete the five-hour requirement at the secondary level.

I am proud of the work district staff has done to select and develop instructional materials that are age appropriate. This is statutorily required instruction and there is no opt out opportunity for students. To learn more about the lessons, topics, and to review the frequently asked questions, I encourage you to visit our website www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/mh-instruction.

As always, I thank you for the support of our schools, and your time and commitment to your children's education.

Sincerely,

Tim Forson
Superintendent of Schools