



KETTERLINUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Where we learn, love, and laugh.
67 Orange Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 547-8540

Principal's Corner

Dear KES Families, and Friends –

Thank you for a great start of the year. It has been a little challenging with some changes in policies and procedures. I want to do a “repeat” of a previous principal's article I have sent out over the two years regarding cell phones and/or wireless communication devices. This summer, the state passed a law regarding wireless devices in schools. Please ensure that your child is keeping their devices turned off and away in their back packs – if they must bring them to school.

From Principal's Corner of January of 2021.

I really cannot explain in words how this past year has been. The ups and downs of this year have been challenging for us, particularly our children. Although children have great resiliency, I can share with you that I have never seen such an impact on the social and emotional well-being of children as I have over my 27 years in education. As a result of being more isolated and dependent on technology, many of our students are given smart phones. As a parent, I totally get the need of a phone for emergencies. My own children received cell phones to ensure they got home safely. So, what is different now?

My children did not have smart phones. No apps or social media platforms on the phone. A good old flip phone they could call or text on. I am not even sure they could take a photo or video. Maybe? But uploading it instantly had to be difficult.

Today, we are finding that smartphones with apps such as Snapchat or other social media platforms are where students are socializing. Elementary-aged students do not have the skills to understand how to engage appropriately online. Also, as busy adults we forget to filter what our children are seeing online. Children innately want to please and seek affirmation from others. They are easily influenced and will seek approval/affirmation. Think about it... how many “likes” or comments on social media are now ways of affirmation they seek – from their online “friends.”

So, I am asking for your support and help. If your child has a phone (or wireless device) and brings it to school, we will require that it be turned off - not just on silent, but the power turned off. In addition, I ask that you check your child's phone frequently, at least every few days. You should look for things that are being sent out and that they are receiving. Also, check the history on the phone's browser. Children are impressionable, so see what music and videos they are viewing.

Thank you for your support. I feel very honored of the trust you have in Ketterlinus to ensure your child is safe at school.

Sincerely,
Kathy Tucker, Principal

Cove News

I am so excited to begin another great year in Cove! This year we are exhausting all means to create a fun, happy, and safe environment for your kiddos! In the Cove, homework is of the utmost importance and always comes first!

Here are some awesome, upcoming Cove events:

- Cove Pumpkin Patch (students will decorate their pumpkin like a KES staff member of their choice). BOL for more information.
- Cove Special, “It's Harvest Time” Festival, October 27. The afternoon will be filled with activities such as pie eating contests, face painting, cool arts, music, games, and much more.
- Costume Fashion Show, October 31, to show off your costume. (No mask, please).

*Remember when writing a check to the Cove you **MUST** have a Driver's license number, address, and **two phone numbers** on the check. If paying with cash, please enclose in a labeled envelope.

Ms. Janet

KES Spirit Night at Marble Slab was a great success!



Café News

Great news for you and your students! All enrolled students at our school are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school at **no charge** to your household each day of the 2023-2024 school year. No further action is required of you. Your child/children will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit an application. **Please note that there is a cost for snacks such as chips, Rice Krispy treats, etc. On Fridays, ice cream is available to purchase as well. To put funds into your student's account, go to <https://paypams.com/>**

Classroom Libraries

New Florida Law and State Board of Education Rule states that starting July 1, 2023, all books available to students must be reviewed by a certified media specialist. As a result, SJCSD staff is investing time and resources to support the robust classroom libraries that our teachers have built. Our first step in the process is to sort the classroom libraries into two groups - those that are listed in Destiny and those that are not. Destiny is the program we use to inventory and track circulation of library materials. Titles listed in Destiny have already been reviewed and approved by a certified media specialist. Therefore, the books in Destiny will remain in the classroom. Books that are not in Destiny must be stored until they are approved. Approving titles for a school collection is a process guided by SJCSD School Board Rule 4.131 School Library Media Services linked here: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/board/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2022/09/4-131.pdf>. The effort to add titles will be ongoing.

We believe that access to books by elementary students is critical to growing into successful and informed readers. Our elementary students have time in the media center on a regular basis to select books for checkout. Please ask them about their library books and read together often.

Student Advisory Council (SAC) Dates for 2023/2024

October 17	What is SAC? It is a group of parents, staff, and community
November 28	members who meet monthly to discuss Ketterlinus' school goals
December 19	and make decisions that are in the best interest of the school.
January 23	Our KES SAC meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesdays of the
February 20	month at 7:45 a.m. in the Media Center. We are looking for
March 26	members and would love for you to be a part of this team. To
April 16	sign up, or if you would like more information, please contact
May 14	Bethany Hilbert at Bethany.Hilbert@stjohns.k12.fl.us .

Important Dates at Ketterlinus

10/3	PTO Meeting – 7:50 a.m. Media Center
10/4	Early Release – 1:45 p.m.
10/4	Coffee with a Cop – 7:30-8:30 a.m.
10/4	Wear Your Words
10/6	Spirit Day – Wear your KES T-shirt
10/11	Early Release – 1:45 p.m.
10/13	Spirit Day – Wear your KES T-shirt
10/13	1st Quarter Ends
10/16	Teacher Planning Day/Student Holiday
10/17	SAC Meeting – 7:45 a.m. Media Center
10/18	Early Release – 1:45 p.m.
10/20	Spirit Day – Wear your KES T-shirt
10/24	Report Cards Issued
10/25	Early Release – 1:45 p.m.
10/27	Spirit Day – Wear your KES T-shirt
10/31	Character Parade – 9:15 a.m.

Spotlight on Speech

Welcome back to all my speech friends! Our groups are going well, and we seem to have gotten into a rhythm. Our star chart is filling up and my speech friends are doing their best to get to that “green” line. Remember when talking with your child, be a good speech model.

It is going to be a wonderful year.

Ms. Wilkerson



Child Find Do you have any concerns about your child's...

- Speaking
- Understanding
- Moving or playing
- Seeing or hearing
- Getting along with other children
- Learning and paying attention
- Self-feeding, dressing, or toileting

Child Find provides **FREE** services for children (birth – 5 years of age) which include screening of communication, motor development, vision, hearing, and preschool readiness skills. Child Find will also give assistance in placing children with special needs in appropriate exceptional student education programs or other early intervention services.

For more information go to <http://www.fdlrsnec.org/child-find-services>

Housekeeping Information

Check-out Policy

If you need to check your student out early, please know that we do not permit early checkout after 2:15pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and after 1:15pm on Wednesdays. We are preparing to dismiss our students, and teachers are finishing academic instruction for the day. Thank you for understanding!

Dismissal Changes

Parents/guardians, please be sure to note student's dismissal changes in your student's planner. This helps us to ensure a safe dismissal and avoid classroom interruption. In the event of an emergency dismissal change, please call before 1:15pm (Wed)/2:15pm (M, Tu, Th & Fr).

Car Tags

Car tags must be displayed on your rearview mirror when picking up your child in Parent Pick-Up. This helps the staff to identify you as someone who is allowed to pick up your student and gives staff the opportunity to radio ahead so that your child is ready at the curb for pick-up. Additional car tags may be purchased at the front office for \$2 (cash only). In addition, please make sure you display your car tag when parked in our school parking lot to avoid being towed.

Safety Reminders

- Drop off begins at 7:55am. Safety is our top priority at KES. Please do not allow your child to wait on the school property unsupervised.
- Please use the crosswalk when walking your child to school.
- All school zones and crossings are Hands Free Zones. Please finish your phone calls or texts before entering the parking lot and crossing zone if you do not have hands-free capabilities.

Home Access Center (HAC)

Please be sure to utilize this for reviewing your child's report cards and monitoring their progress throughout the year.

Tardiness

School opens at 7:55am. Students are tardy if not in their classroom by 8:25am. If a student arrives after 8:25am their parent/guardian must walk up to the front office to sign them in.

Please label all your child's belongings such as water bottles, lunchboxes, backpacks, etc.

This helps us to return items to your child when they are misplaced.

PTO News

The KES PTO had its first meeting in September. We were happy to see lots of familiar faces as well as many new members! The PTO is a great way to help the school, meet other families, and stay up to date on what is going on at KES. We have lots of fun stuff planned for the year and it is never too late to join in. Membership is open to all KES families and there are no membership dues. Our monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:50 a.m. in the KES Media Center (attendees must have a School Access form on file and sign in at the front desk upon arrival). Also, don't forget to follow Ketterlinus Elementary School PTO on Facebook for information about what's going on at our amazing school!

Lunch Time Outside!



UFHealth
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA HEALTH

CARD & FDLRS-MDC
Satellite Clinics

10:00-6:00 PM
8/1/2023
9/5/2023
10/2/2023
11/7/2023
12/5/2023

St. Johns County

The UF-Jacksonville Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) and the UF-Jacksonville Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System Multi-Disciplinary Center (FLDRS-MDC) offer clinics to outlying counties in order to more effectively serve their constituents.

Sign up for a consultative appointment with clinicians who specialize in child psychology, behavior therapy, academic interventions, Autism Screeners, Transition, and more. Appointments are at no cost to the family.

Location: Southeast Library, 6670 US-1, Saint Augustine, FL 32086

For more information or to schedule an appointment please contact Jennifer.O'brien@jax.ufl.edu

CARD **FLDRS**

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RECESS TIME!



It's time to order your Ketterlinus Yearbook!

This year we are taking orders **ONLINE ONLY!**

Order now and save!

Cost is \$25 until 2/14

After that price goes up to \$30.00 until sold out

Order and payment can be made directly on the Leonard's website at buytheyearbook.com. Use code 717111 to find Ketterlinus and follow the steps to complete your order.

Attention parents of 5th grade students!

A limited amount of space in the 2023-24 yearbook is available for dedication ads. Spaces will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis through **February 9, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. NO EXCEPTIONS CAN BE MADE** as space is limited! We have three ad sizes available (see below). Order forms were sent home to all 5th grade students. **Please complete the order form with payment and photos/messages.** Please make payments directly to Ketterlinus PTO via check, money order, or cash. Photos must be submitted on a jump drive or by email to lindsay.robertson@stjohns.k12.fl.us. **ALL** photos must be submitted in **jpg format** and separate from the dedication wording, which can be emailed and typed in Microsoft Word or can be submitted on the jump drive. Please, no PDF formatted ad materials. **Please note this order form is for ads only, not for yearbooks. They must be purchased separately.** Please direct any questions and payments to Lindsay Robertson.

Child's Name: _____ Teacher: _____

Parent/Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

¼ Page	\$35	1-4 Photos, plus message
½ Page	\$60	1-6 Photos, plus message
Full Page	\$100	1-12 Photos, plus message



October is a busy month with all things character. The week of October 17, Ketterlinus will celebrate **Kindness Week**, which focuses on Red Ribbon Day/ Drug Prevention, Character Counts! and Bully Prevention. Students will receive additional information in the coming weeks.

Gentle Reminder

Safety is one of our top priorities at Ketterlinus! As we begin this school year, please make sure you have applied for School Access. Anyone who enters past the front office **MUST** have an approved School Access on file. We would love to have you attend activities here such as performances, teacher meetings, school lunches with your student, volunteering, field trips, etc. In addition, please be prepared to scan your Driver's License.

If you have not yet applied and would like to begin the process, please go to <https://stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply/>. The application process can take up to 4-6 weeks. School Access lasts for 3 years, and it is the responsibility of the applicant to contact Volunteer Services at 904-547-3952 or Donna Ott at donna.ott@stjohns.k12.fl.us to renew the form.



SAFER, SMARTER KIDS!

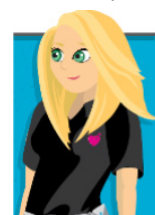
From the Guidance Counselor

In the coming weeks, all students Kindergarten – 5th grade will be introduced to the *Safer, Smarter Kids* curriculum. *Safer,*

Smarter Kids is an abuse prevention education curriculum designed for Pre-K and elementary-aged children, created by the Lauren's Kids foundation. Lauren's Kids is an organization founded and led by Lauren Book, M.S. Ed. This district-approved curriculum introduces students to personal safety, understanding safe and unsafe situations, and teaches them



Safety Tools to use in any situation when they may feel unsafe. This curriculum meets the new state mandate to teach Child Trafficking prevention. For more information, please visit www.safer-smarterkids.org and the Florida Department of Education.



Visit our KES PTO Facebook page at Ketterlinus Elementary School PTO

Ketterlinus Elementary School encourages persons with disabilities to participate in all the programs and activities scheduled at KES. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please call the front office 24 hours prior to participation or visit.