dolphin DIGEST
VOLUME 103, NO. 1, SEPTEMBER 2025

Character Counts!

AT KETTERLINUS

Ketterlinus Elementary School
Where we learn, love, and laugh.
67 Orange Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 547-8540

Important Dates at Ketterlinus

9/1	**Labor Day – No School**
9/3	Early Release – 1:45 p.m.
9/3	Wear Your Words
9/4	**Fall Picture Day!**
9/5	Spirit Day – Wear your KES T-shirt
9/9	PTO Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
9/10	Early Release – 1:45 p.m.
9/10	**Interims Issued**
9/12	Spirit Day – Wear your KES T-shirt
9/15	**Spirit Night at Texas Roadhouse!**
9/16	SAC Meeting – 7:45 a.m.
9/17	Early Release – 1:45 p.m.
9/19	**Teacher Inservice Day/Student Holiday**
9/24	Early Release – 1:45 p.m.
9/26	Spirit Day – Wear your KES T-shirt

It has been a fantastic start to the new school year! Our Dolphins are working hard and playing hard.

Cell Phones

Students in elementary and middle school are **prohibited from using wireless communication devices** during the school day. They must be turned off and placed in their backpack. This also applies to the school bus. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Check out the master calendar for 2025-26 school year. Available online at https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/. This is a great way to plan for holidays and vacations.

SchoolPay®
Login / Create an Account

is a convenient and secure way for you to make payments for all school-related fees. Create an account at https://www.schoolpay.com/login/

Principal's Corner

Dear Ketterlinus Families and Friends –

It was a great start! The kids, families, and staff are truly amazing here at KES! I say this often, but it was very affirming when a parent shared that this school is "magical". It is our expectations and values we share with our students – not just our staff and parents, but also this wonderful community that supports and embraces our little school.

KES is committed to the **security and safety** of our students and staff. We work very closely with the St. Augustine Police Department. We are fortunate that they station themselves in front of our school every day, all day. Officer Shipp is routinely walking the hallways and outside during lunch and recess – not only to interact with the students but also to ensure we are all safe. He is checking doors and walking the perimeter of the school. We are very fortunate for our partnership with our city police officers, as well as the city's fire department.

Everyone who enters our school should have an approved school access form. You will need to bring a valid ID into the school to be scanned to enter beyond our front doors. We want to account for every adult entering the building and know his/her purpose for being in the school and near your child. **If you have an appointment or have made arrangements to be at the school, please sign in on the computer as a VOLUNTEER and the front office receptionist will call the staff member, announce that you have arrived, and direct you to the classroom/office. You will need to wear the badge on your front chest area. This tells staff members and students that you are cleared to be in the school.**

Please know that my intentions are never to create procedures and policies that offend or inconvenience others, but to create the safest and most secure environment for our students, staff and volunteers.

As per state law, we conducted a fire and lockdown drill during the first 5-10 days of school. For the first semester, I will send an email reminding parents of this PRACTICE DRILL so as not to cause an alarm. In the event there is a real emergency, parents will be notified through an alert via ParentSquare. Therefore, it is important that you keep your contact information up to date.

Speaking of ParentSquare, please remember we will not use that for 2-way communication. We want to restrict our mode of communication to email, calls, or parent conferences.

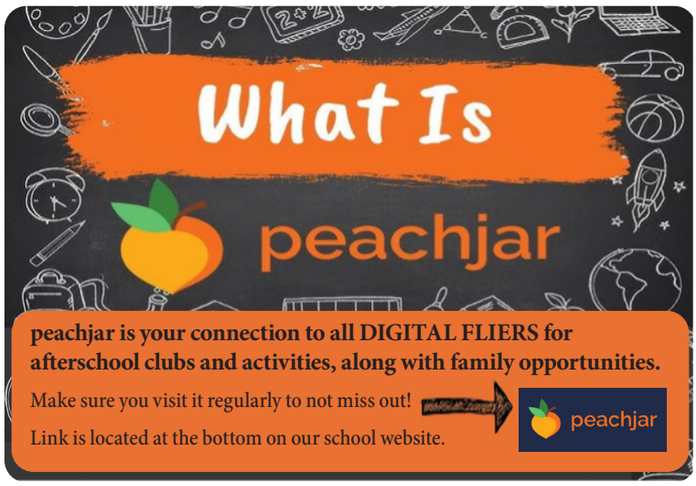
We love everything you do for your children and school – our magical school. Thank you for your trusted support.

Kathy Tucker

Download the ParentSquare App to stay up to date on all communications!

Android

iOS



peachjar is your connection to all DIGITAL FLIERS for afterschool clubs and activities, along with family opportunities.

Make sure you visit it regularly to not miss out!

Link is located at the bottom on our school website.

peachjar

Café News

Exciting news for you and your students! All enrolled students at our school are eligible to receive a free healthy breakfast and lunch each school day during the 2025-2026 school year. There is no need for any further action from you. Your child/children can enjoy these meals without any cost or application required. Please be aware that snacks such as chips, Rice Krispy treats, etc., come with an additional cost. Additionally, on Fridays, ice cream will be available to purchase for $1.00. To add funds to your student's account, please visit https://paypams.com/

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in volunteering at KES, please get in touch with Donna Ott at donna.ott@stjohns.k12.fl.us to learn about the different ways you can contribute. **Please note that to volunteer, you must have an approved School Access form on file in our new Raptor system.** If you need to apply for School Access, please visit apps.raptortech.com/Apply/OTY0OTplbi1VUw==

Volunteer Responsibilities:

- **Please follow the instructions provided by KES teachers or staff members.**
- **Report any student discipline issues to the staff member you are volunteering with.**
- **Always sign in and out using the kiosk located in the front office lobby by scanning your Driver's License.**
- **Please remember to wear your volunteer badge on the top left part of your shirt.**

The Cove News

Where Fun and Learning Go Hand in Hand!

This year is packed with fun activities for our Cove students, including monthly Cove specials, pizza parties, super cool science experiences, Fun Fridays, and so much more!

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to Kylie McCutcheon, the newest member of our Cove team! We're so excited to have her on board as we continue to make The Cove a place where the magic never stops and the adventure never ends.

Friendly Reminder: Make sure your student brings a book to The Cove every day. We love encouraging reading time, and having a favorite book on hand makes it extra special! Stay tuned for more updates and surprises. We can't wait to share the magic with you!

Ms. Janet and The Cove Crew!

School Access - Raptor

As we start the new school year, **please ensure that you have applied for School Access through our new Raptor System.** Scan the QR code to apply. Anyone entering past the front office MUST have an approved School Access form on file. School Access allows you to attend activities such as performances, teacher meetings, school lunches with your students, volunteering, field trips, etc.

*ALL GUESTS MUST BE CLEARED BY THE RAPTOR SYSTEM & HAVE LICENSE / ID TO ENTER KES

Reminder: When you visit the school, remember to bring a valid photo ID. You will need to scan it at the kiosk located in the front office to receive your visitor badge. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Ott at donna.ott@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

Speech Spot

Hello to all my *Speech Friends!* It has been so much fun seeing everyone and hearing about your summer. I look forward to meeting my new speech friends, too. We started our small groups, and my heart smiles as my speech friends are remembering what we worked on together last year. Just a note to my friends and families; I am not one who gives out traditional speech and language therapy homework. If we have not truly developed the skills yet, there is a high chance we are practicing the old way. I believe that quality time together spent talking and interacting by playing games, cooking, gardening, and bike rides are better ways to improve those speech and language skills. These are great ways to naturally work on those communication skills. Remember, be a good listener, provide good speech models, and give lots of hugs.

If you have any questions about your child, please send a note in your child's planner, or you may contact me directly at 904-547-8540. It is going to be a wonderful year at the Speech Spot!

Ms. Wilkerson

SAC Student Advisory Council Dates for 2025/2026

Sept. 16	What is SAC? It is a group of parents, staff, and community members who meet monthly to discuss Ketterlinus' school goals and make decisions that are in the best interest of the school. Our KES SAC meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7:45 a.m. in the Media Center. We are looking for members and would love for you to be a part of this team. To sign up, or if you would like more information, please contact Catherine Williamson at Catherine.Williamson@stjohns.k12.fl.us
Oct. 21	
Nov. 18	
Dec. 16	
Jan. 20	
Feb. 17	
Mar. 24	
Apr. 21	
May 19	

Housekeeping Information

Car Tags

Please display your car tag on the rearview mirror when picking up your child in Parent Pick-Up. This helps staff identify you as someone authorized to pick up a student and allows them to prepare your child for pick-up at the curb. To avoid being towed, also display your car tag when parked in the school parking lot. Parents and guardians can buy extra car tags for $5 (exact cash only) at the front office. You must show an ID when purchasing a tag.

Label Items

Please label all your child's belongings so that we can return items to them when lost.

Home Access Center (HAC)

Please be sure to utilize this for reviewing your child's report cards and monitoring their progress throughout the year. Please note that bus routes for the 2025-2026 school year will no longer be available on HAC, but in the new Bus Planner Portal.

Tardiness

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

Dismissal Changes

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

Early Check-out Policy

We do not permit early checkout after 2:15 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and after 1:15 pm on Wednesdays. We are preparing to dismiss our students, and teachers are finishing academic instruction for the day. Thank you for understanding!

Absences

When your student is absent, please send a parental note. or a doctor's note within 48 hours of the student returning to class. We follow the SJCSD Code of Conduct and FLDOE requirements; please review these for information.

Items Dropped Off

Due to the high volume of items being dropped off at the front desk, we kindly request that you label any items intended for your student. Please include your student's name as well as their teacher's name.

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.

Every Wednesday is Early Release.
Dismissal is at 1:45pm

Spirit Day is Every Friday!
Wear your KES apparel or KES Blue.

Ketterlinus Art News

ART We Awesome (Art Club with Mr. Lewis) will begin accepting registration forms and payment for Art Club beginning September 10. There are only 40 total spots available. The three sessions will be divided on a "first-come, first-served" basis, so secure your spot by being first to submit your registration form AND payment! Email curtis.lewis@stjohns.k12.fl.us for a registration form or see the front desk for a copy.

Visit our KES PTO on Social Media!

Ketterlinus Elementary School PTO

@Ketterlinuselementarypto

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.