



**Tim Forson**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

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[www.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us)

August 10, 2023

**SCHOOL BOARD**

**Beverly Slough**  
District 1

**Anthony E. Coleman Sr.**  
District 2

**Jennifer Collins**  
District 3

**Kelly Barrera**  
District 4

**Patrick Canan**  
District 5

Dear Middle/High School Parent or Guardian,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! I hope you had a wonderful summer. I am writing not only to welcome you to the new school year, but also remind you of Program of Choice opportunities as well as resources available on the district website.

Programs of choice include career academies, advanced academic programs, virtual school options, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps and the arts. For most programs, the application process is tentatively set to begin on January 5, 2024 and end January 31, 2024 for the 2024-2025 school year. More information is available at <https://cte.stjohns.k12.fl.us/programs/>. It is never too early to begin consideration of your child's future educational goals.

Part-time virtual school options are available either during the regular school day or after school and in the summer. All virtual course requests must be approved by a guidance counselor. The next open enrollment periods to apply for St. Johns Virtual School as a full-time student are November 3<sup>rd</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, and in the spring, April 12<sup>th</sup> to July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. To learn about all virtual options, please go to <http://www-sjvs.stjohns.k12.fl.us> or call 904-547-8080.

Blended courses provide instruction delivered by both online/digital resources and the classroom teacher. Industry certification in information technology may be earned with or without enrollment in or completion of the corresponding course pursuant to Florida Statute 1008.44. Check with your school regarding blended courses or industry certification opportunities.

In addition to programs of choice and virtual courses, all St. Johns County schools offer Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) options, which looks different at each level. Options include but are not limited to:

- Middle – high school courses in middle school; virtual instruction in a high grade-level course; qualifying students may even participate, at no cost to them, in Dual Enrollment with St. Johns River State College and FCTC. ACCEL options do not supersede the core course requirements for promotion to high school (three English language arts, three math, three sciences, and three social studies) but courses taken in middle school may earn high school credit (1003.4156 F.S.)
- High – college credit via Advance Placement (AP), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) or International Baccalaureate (IB) exams, Dual Enrollment (DE) in St. Johns River State College or Career Dual Enrollment (CDE) in First Coast Technical College courses that meet high school graduation requirements and earn college credit at the same time; high school credit by passing the state End-of-Course (EOC) assessments for selected courses; virtual instruction in advanced courses; early graduation; college credit by passing the College Level Examination Program, (CLEP) assessment for a college course or an AP exam without actually being enrolled in the course. Also, industry certifications earned while in high school may articulate for college credit. To see a list of articulation agreements, visit <https://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/career-technical-edu-agreements/industry-certification.stml> (1003.4295 F.S.)

As you consider an academic path keep in mind that there are several diploma options. Designations are dependent upon a student's course of study. Details regarding the criteria for each option and graduation requirements by cohort year are available at <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/k-12-public-schools/sss/graduation-requirements/>.

Your planning should also include post-high school goals. After high school, your child may qualify for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. To find out how your child can qualify for Bright Futures Scholarship go to <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome?url=home> Also, industry certifications earned while

*The St. Johns County School District will inspire good character and a passion for lifelong learning  
in all students, creating educated and caring contributors to the world.*



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Admission into Florida's State University System is competitive so prospective students should complete a rigorous curriculum in middle and high school. Eligibility requirements are available at <https://www.flbog.edu/universities/admissions-transfers/undergraduate-admissions/>.

The Florida College System is the primary access point to high education for Floridians, including recent high school graduates and returning adult students. The 27 member colleges of the Florida College System respond quickly and efficiently to meet the demand of employers by aligning certificate and degree programs with regional workforce needs. With an array of programs and services, our colleges serve individuals, communities and the state with low-cost, high-quality education opportunities. More information is available at <https://www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/get-ready-for-college/college-admission-requirements>.

Florida also offers students 46 accredited career and technical centers through the state, including our own First Coast Technical College, located right here in St. Augustine, which provide the education and certification necessary to work in a particular career or technical field. More information is available at <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/>.

This is a great deal of information to consider, so as you plan, one of the first places you may wish to visit is the district Parent Resource Guide, <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/families/resource/>, and the Student Progression Plan, <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/cs/spp/>. These user-friendly tools may promote a better understanding of the options open to your student. In addition, you can access district approved instructional materials at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/approved/>. The Florida Department of Education website provides resources related to parental rights at <https://www.fldoe.org/ParentalRights/>.

I am proud that our schools offer so many academic choices for our students. Regardless of whether a student wishes to attend a university, join the military, go directly into a career after high school or some combination of these options, St. Johns County School District has programs to support those goals. With so many good options to consider, I hope that you will work with your school's guidance department to develop the best learning path for your child.

Thank you for considering this information and best wishes to you and your family for an outstanding school year!

Sincerely

*Tim Forson*

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