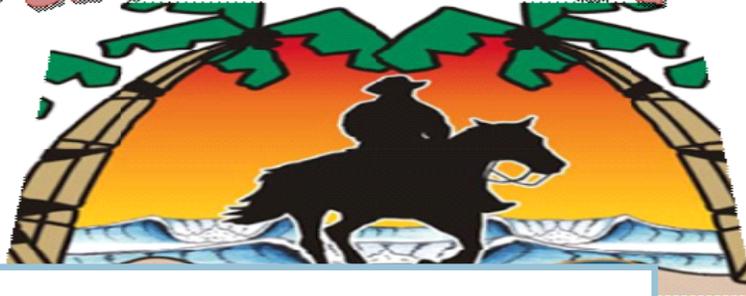


Sebastian River Times



Dear Parents,

We are well into the second semester and as we prepare for our end of the year activities we are also beginning to plan for next year. Later this month, our Guidance Counselors will be visiting classrooms to help students select courses for next year. Students will be given a course selection sheet and counselors will review the options. Students will then bring the course selection sheet home for you to sign which they will then return to school.

I'm proud to report that our students have been performing very well on their Unit Assessment exams and iReady Diagnostics in Reading and Math. Overall, our students have been top performers in the district in Math, Algebra, Geometry, and Civics. Our Reading scores have shown steady improvement from the beginning of the year. The iReady Diagnostic scores in January, which were compared to the baseline scores in August, demonstrate that every grade level showed improvement with many students reaching their performance goals. Our teachers have been celebrating these accomplishments with their students and setting new goals for the end of the year as we approach FSA and EOC exam dates. The Unit Assessments and iReady scores are used to determine which standards our students have mastered and which ones need to be retaught.

Average Daily Attendance in January was 93.94% which was our lowest average of the year and no grade level reached our goal of 95%. February ADA is currently at 93.94% with 7th grade leading the stats at 94.29%. Hopefully, everyone makes attendance a priority and we reach our goal of 95%. Research shows student attendance directly affects their success on grades and performance on standardized tests such as the EOCs in Civics, Algebra, Geometry, and the FSA in Reading, Writing, and Science.

We ask that you assist us in reducing behaviors that we have identified as affecting attendance and that is students signing out early, especially on Fridays. Also, we have been experiencing issues with students contacting parents via cell phone and parents showing up to sign out students who say they are ill or want to go home. Students should never be using their phones during the day to contact parents to leave. The procedure, if a student is ill, is that they go to the nurse and she will contact an adult on the contact list. If students need to contact parents for other reasons during the day they are permitted to use a classroom phone or the main office phone. However, this use should be very limited and based on emergencies only. The days ahead are very busy months for our teachers and students as everyone prepares for the end of year FSA and EOC tests. Our students will take the FSA Writing exam in early April and then in May students will test in Reading, Math, Science, and Civics. Those dates are closer than we think. We need to prepare now to perform our best for the test!! And, Spring Break is just around the corner March 18-22.

Every day and every class period matters at SRMS!! Go Cowboys!

Mr. Racine
Principal

Staying the Course for
Success!

Sebastian River Middle School
9400 CR 512
Sebastian, FL 32958

Main Phone:

772-564-5111 (Answered 7:30
A.M. - 3:15 P.M.)

<https://srms.indianriverschools.org/>

ADMINISTRATION

Todd Racine,
Principal

Michele Holmes,
Assistant Principal

James Thimmer,
Assistant Principal

Guidance,
772-564-5122

Attendance,
772-564-5123

March Newsletter
Volume 3, Issue 6

PENNY WARS



Student Council is holding a competition called Penny Wars! All 3 grade levels will compete against each other to try and get the most points. The more coins you donate, the higher your points, and the more likely you are to win a prize! You will be able to donate during your grade's lunch period from March 1st until March 29th. Let's do this Cowboys!!!!

DONATE

PENNES & BILLS
ADD TO YOUR
GRADES TOTAL

1 penny = 1 point
1 Dollar = 100 pts

PRIZES!

Prizes based on
School Total
\$500 = Cookies
\$800 = 1wk Music@ Lunch
\$1200 = Fun in the Sun
\$2000 = Racine in a
Red Dress

1, 2, 3, 4

Student Council

Challenges you

to a

PENNY

WAR!!!

6th vs. 7th vs. 8th
Grades

During ALL
Lunches
March 1 thru
March 19

DONATE

Nickels, Dimes &
Quarters
SUBTRACT from
other Grade Totals

Nickels = -5 points
Dimes = -10 points
Quarters = -25 pts

**AGAINST
OTHER
GRADES!**

SAY SOMETHING WEEK

As part of our Sandy Hook Promise, we will be participating in the "Say Something Week" March 2-6. When it comes to threats of violence or suicide, most are known by at least one other individual BEFORE the incident occurs. Given the growth of digital platforms, many students are learning about threats via social media. "Say Something" teaches students how to look for warning signs, signals and threats, especially in social media, of an individual who may be a threat to themselves or others, and to say something to a trusted adult to get help. This week will allow students to participate in activities that reinforce the power young people have to prevent tragedies and save lives.

For more information, visit: <https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/saysomethingweek>



NEWS FROM THE MEDIA CENTER

The Media Center would like to once again thank all the students and staff that participated in the SRMS Literacy Week activities.

Winners of the SRMS Literacy Week Poetry Contest:

Brooke Billings

Izzy Bok

Emily Hernandez

Emily Kupchek

Jailyn Luna

Kelsey Martin



Congratulations to all our winners!

This year's Sunshine State Young Readers Award Vote and Celebration is scheduled to take place April 7th in the SRMS Media Center. Students will need to read three of this year's fifteen titles and register with Mrs. Beller or Mrs. Zimei by March 31st to receive an invitation. Check out this year's selection Sunshine State Young Reader's Award Grades 6-8 titles for Sunshine State Young Reader's Award Program at the following link:

https://www.floridamediaed.org/uploads/6/1/4/2/61420659/6-8_annotated_list_2019-2020.pdf

The SRMS Media Center is open for students in the morning from 7:30 - 7:50 a.m. Students may read, check-out books, use computers for school related activities, study and complete assignments.

As always, keep Reading!

Congratulations



Congratulations to our five winners of the Take Stock in Children Scholarship! Pictured with Mrs. Taglione and Mr. Racine are Drevon Mack, Valeria Flores Gomez, Katherine Padilla, Alexia Magana, Rogelio Ramirez. We are so proud of these students and thankful to Take Stock in Children for believing in our kids. Each student has earned a Florida Prepaid Scholarship even before finishing Middle School! Way to go, Cowboys!





The yearbook is almost ready for publication. See Ms. Crawford in room 511 with a \$50 payment if you haven't reserved your copy yet. Also, there are still some "Student Celebration" ad pages still available. Reserve you full-page or half-pages before they're all gone. Full-pages are \$65 and half-pages are \$35.

Irish-American Heritage Month



Celebrated on March 17th, Irish-American Heritage Month is celebrated to appreciate the ways Irish immigrants have contributed to the United States.

Originally a religious holiday to honor St. Patrick, who introduced Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into a celebration of all things Irish. The world's first St. Patrick's Day parade occurred on March 17, 1762, in New York City, featuring Irish soldiers serving in the English military. This parade became an annual event, with President Truman attending in 1948.



Student of the Month!

FEBRUARY WINNER

Congratulations to Emma Youngblood! She was chosen as the Exchange Club Student of the Month for the month of February. Emma is a wonderful student, she is kind, respectful, always attentive. She is the kind of student that makes every day as a teacher a great day. Emma has an excellent work ethic, she is always willing to help others and shows the kind of personality that we have come to expect from those who demonstrate our IB learner profiles. She thinks about her assignments critically, is not afraid to ask questions, shows empathy for others and has an attitude that is always seeking to learn. Great job, Emma!

Gradventure

Attention 8th Graders! Ready for your end of the year celebration? Check out the details below!

Destination: Universal Studios/Islands of Adventure

Day/Date: Friday, May 15, 2020

Departure from SRMS: 1:30 p.m.

Departure from Theme Park: 12:00 Midnight

Arrival at SRMS: 2:00 a.m.



Cost: \$140.00 (includes admission to both parks, t-shirt, dinner in park, and transportation on a charter bus). This can be broken down into two payments of \$70.00/\$70.00 each. If paying by check, make payable to SRMS and include student's name, & ID #. A telephone number is required to be printed/ written on check. If paying by cash, put money in an envelope labeled with student's name and ID #.

Payments dates: initial payment of deposit \$70.00 on or before Friday, February 28, 2020

Final Payment of \$70.00 on or before Friday, April 3, 2020

Payment and permission slip should be turned in to Mrs. Walker during lunches on Fridays ONLY. You can all at once if you prefer or break it down into the payment schedule above. NO LATE PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

ACADEMIC AND DISCIPLINE REQUIREMENTS: Students attending Gradventure MUST meet the following requirements beginning January 7, 2020 through May 15, 2020.

- *NO Out of School Suspension
- *NO more than one (1) In-School Suspension
- *NO more than two (2) Saturday School Detentions
- *NO excessive tardiness or absences (SRMS expectation is a 95% Attendance Rate)
- *No F's/failing grades or U's/unsatisfactory behavior (On either 3rd 9 weeks Report Card or 4th 9 weeks Progress Report)
- *No outstanding financial obligations, (books, locks, lunch acct., team uniforms from the Athletic Department, etc.).
- *Students on behavior agreements require special permission from administration to participate.

If any of these requirements are violated, the student may be refused permission to participate in the activity and forfeit all monetary investment and the park ticket.

All students must abide by the dress code set by Universal Studios and are required to wear the designated school shirt that will be provided. Hats, undershirts, bikini swim tops are NOT allowed.

If you have any questions, please contact · Mrs. Walker, at 772-564-5161, frances.walker@indianriverschools.org OR · Mr. Thimmer, at 772-564-5202, james.thimmer@indianriverschools.org



Attendance News



Attendance

We at SRMS know you want your child to have the best education possible and regular school attendance is an important factor in meeting that goal. However, when your child does have to miss school, it is also very important that those absences are excused. Unexcused absences, can impact your child's grades and makeup work and can result in a violation on their driving record, even before your child gets a learner's permit. Please ensure your child is in school daily and send documentation to the school as required whenever your child does have to miss school due to illness. A pattern on nonattendance is considered when a student misses Five (5) unexcused absences or absences for unknown reasons with one calendar month or Ten (10) unexcused absences or absences for unknown reasons within a 90 calendar-day period. Absences must be reported to the school within two days (48 hours) electronically, in writing or by phone.

Early Departure

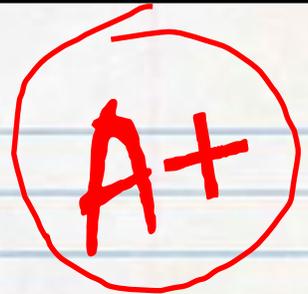
An early departure is any unexcused departure prior to the end of the class or school day. Parents are encouraged to keep students in school for the entire school day with minimum interruptions or requests for early dismissal. Early dismissals interfere with classroom instruction. Dismissal within the final 30 minutes of the school day is prohibited unless the Principal determines that it is an emergency, or the student has a medical, dental, or court appointment that cannot be rescheduled.

Dropping Items off to School

In an effort to eliminate interrupting instruction time, SRMS has implemented a new procedure for items dropped off for students at the front office. All deliveries will be made during lunch or at the very end of the day.

Test Dates

- FSA Reading - May 4th and 5th
- FSA Math (Algebra and Geometry EOC included) - May 6th and 7th
- FSA Writing - April 1st
- Civics EOC (7th graders) and FSA Science (8th graders) - May 13th
- Exam Week - One exam on Friday, May 22nd and the rest will take place May 26th - May 28.



Testing Tips

- Eat a healthy breakfast in the morning; **DO NOT SKIP BREAKFAST!**
- Make sure you get around 9 hours of sleep. You can't focus when you're tired.
- Negative thoughts create negative outcomes; think positive!
- Use process of elimination; if it doesn't make sense, mentally or physically mark it.
- Done already? Review your answers over again.





Congratulations to the January Volunteers of the Month: Students: Payton Dipietro, Tate Jones, Matthew Blue, Kyla Martin, Joniah Holson Parents: Tammy Green, The Cavill's, Elizabeth Blue, Jeena Lakins

Please keep logging your volunteer hours into the Volunteer website! Students who have completed their required SRMS volunteer hours (6th = 10 hours, 7th = 15 hours, & 8th = 20 hours) have been receiving a Certificate of Completion, a Golden Cowboy Credit, a Cowboy Rubber Ducky, and their choice of a Patio Pass or a Lunch Speed Pass. Volunteer website can be found on the SRMS website under the IB & Middle Years Program tab.

Save the Date: Thursday, March 12th: 5th Grade Information Night starting at 6 PM

Informational meeting for our 2020-2021 incoming 6th grade parents and students.

Tuesday, April 21st: Portfolio Extravaganza starting at 5:30 PM

- The 6th Grade project is the **Learner Profile and Me**. Students will reflect on their growth and progress during their 6th grade school year using work samples and the Learner Profile.
- The 7th graders will be researching a person from history who they believe should be included in the **International Hall of Fame**.
- Our 8th grade students will be presenting their **IB Community Projects**. 8th grader students have been working hard over the past 5 months researching a problem in a community, planning their action/service, and now are taking action, reflecting, and working on their presentations.

Please help, support, and guide your child with their Portfolio Extravaganza project. The 6th and 7th grade students will start preparing for Portfolio Extravaganza in late March/early April in their Advanced Language Arts classes.

Tuesday, May 19th: 8th Grade Wave and Pebble Ceremony starting at 6:30 PM

It will be a night of celebrating the accomplishments of our 8th grade Advanced IB-MYP students who will continue to make waves at the high school.

Got IB Questions? Please feel free to contact Brad Wright (IB Coordinator) at Bradley.wright@indianriverschools.org or 564-5127. Please visit the SRMS website under the IB & Middle Years Program for more information about the SRMS IB-MYP Program.

A yellow sun-like graphic with a central oval containing text.

Spring
Break: March
23-27

A red, distressed stamp with a double border.

SAVE THE DATE

A yellow speech bubble graphic.

3rd 9 Weeks Report
Cards go home on
April 1st.



Health News

HEALTH ROOM INFORMATION

Spring is still a time for colds and flu. Handwashing is your first and best defense against germs, along with good nutrition and plenty of sleep!!

- **Attention 6th grade parents:** It's not too early to think about 7th grade requirements. In order to start 7th grade, your child needs to have their T-dap Immunization. Letters will be going home March/April to remind you to get your child vaccinated.
- If your child requires medication during the school day, please contact Mrs. Farina for proper forms and procedures. Students are not allowed to carry medication on them while at school unless they have a signed authorization to carry form used for inhalers, diabetic supplies, EpiPens, or other emergency medications. All other medications must be stored in the health room and a signed permission slip, and doctor's prescription is needed. This includes cough drops, Tylenol, ibuprofen, vitamins, etc.
- If your child has a medical condition please contact the school health assistant, an individualized care plan may be needed.
- Every student needs to have a Health and Wellness form on file in the health room. Health and Wellness forms went home with the students the third week of school. Have your child return the completed Health and Wellness form to the health room.
- A doctor's note is required for students to carry a water bottle and all medications: this includes inhalers, cough drops, PE excuses, use of wheelchair or crutches, or to wear shoes without a back strap for foot injuries. If your child requires accommodations due to a health/medical issue, please provide a doctor's note so that we can better help your child.
- For any health concerns contact our school's health assistant, Mrs. Farina, LPN @ 564-5198. You can also visit the District Website and click on departments then Health Services.



6 Tips to Keep Children Healthy During Cold and Flu Season

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1  Wash hands frequently | 2  Get active | 3  Get plenty of sleep |
| 4  Eat a well-balanced diet | 5  Decrease stress | 6  Avoid sharing |

Choir News

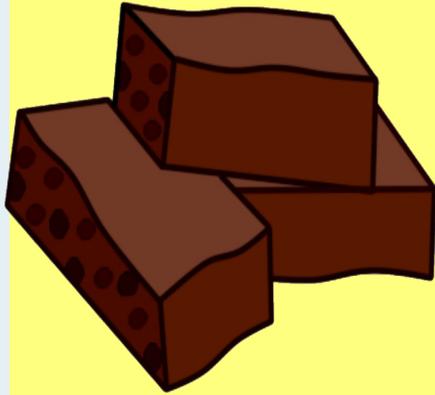


Mr. Kinkle is so proud of his students who participated in Solo and in Ensemble only Boy's Choir in Indian River County. They earned their second superior rating in two-year existence!

IB COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Help Needed!

We would like to invite you all to come out and support us in our IB project for Halo. We will be at the River view park on **March 15, 2020 @9am-11am.**



We will be selling brownies, cookies, etc. Everything we sell will be 50 cents and donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

- Camila Zamora, July Wise, Sky Herrera.



Ace McLain and Zacary Cavill are accepting donations for any pet food and supplies in **room 911, Mrs. York's room.** link All donations are given to For the Love of Paws in Fellsmere, Fl.



First Responders Breakfast

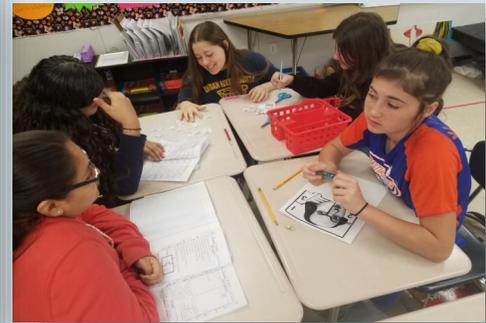


On March 17th, First Responders are invited to a complimentary breakfast hosted by SRMS IB Students, who are completing their IB Community Project. The Breakfast will be held in the bus loop of Sebastian River Middle School at 8:15—9:15 A.M. We welcome all First Responders! We thank you and appreciate all that you do for our community. Hope to see you there!

Mrs. Pagan's Problem Solvers



Break the Code game! Student had to solve 5 different locks in order to get the 5 puzzle pieces. The goal was to learn to use the correct form of the verbs to be "ser" and "estar". How fun! Awesome job to those that cracked the code!



SRMS Softball Team



Congratulations to the Cowgirls that made the SRMS softball team! We know that they are going to have a great season. Be sure to check out the schedule on the next page so that you can attend the games!



Whitney Villars
McKayla Smith
Emma Smith
Natalie Saylor
Ava Anderson
Jasmine Hunt
Zoey Vincent
Grace Sweeney
Skyler Hampton

Kalena Picaro
Aliessa Aranda
Layela Murtha
Morgan MacCleary
Daliana Moran
Darlene Padilla
Alexia Magana
Hailey Yates

SRMS COWBOYS 2020 BASEBALL SCHEDULE

ALL HOME GAMES WILL BE PLAYED AT BARBER STREET FIELDS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
03/03	Tuesday	Storm Grove	SRMS	4:30pm
03/04	Wednesday	St. Edward's	St. Edward's	4:30pm
03/05	Thursday	Gifford Middle	SRMS	4:30pm
03/09	Monday	Pemayetv Emahakv	P.E.C.	4:30pm
03/12	Thursday	Oslo Middle	SRMS	4:30pm
03/17	Tuesday	Imagine	Imagine	4:30pm
03/31	Tuesday	Master's Academy	SRMS	4:30pm
04/01	Wednesday	SGMS	VBHS	6:00pm
04/04	Saturday	District Tourney	TBA	TBA

SRMS COWBOYS 2020 SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

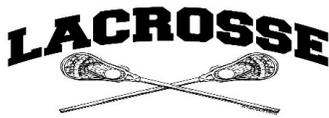
ALL HOME GAMES WILL BE PLAYED AT NORTH COUNTY FIELDS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
03/03	Tuesday	PEC	SRMS	4:30pm
03/05	Thursday	Osceola Middle	SRMS	4:30pm
03/09	Monday	Osceola Middle	Osceola	4:30pm
03/10	Tuesday	Yearling Middle	SRMS	4:30pm
03/12	Thursday	Oslo Middle	Oslo	4:30pm
03/16	Monday	Storm Grove	Storm Grove	4:30pm
03/19	Thursday	Imagine Charter	SRMS	4:30pm
03/30	Monday	PEC	PEC	4:30pm
03/31	Tuesday	Gifford Middle	SRMS	4:30pm
04/04	Saturday	District Tournament	TBA	TBA



SRMS COWBOYS 2020 LACROSSE SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
03/05	Thursday	Gifford Middle	SRMS	4:30pm
03/09	Monday	Holy Trinity	Holy Trinity	4:30pm
03/10	Tuesday	Oslo Middle	Oslo Middle	4:30pm
03/17	Tuesday	Gifford Middle	Gifford Middle	4:30pm
03/19	Thursday	Storm Grove	SRMS	4:30pm
04/02	Thursday	Holy Trinity	SRMS	4:30pm
04/06-04/08	Mon.-Wed.	District Tournament	TBA	TBA



SRMS COWGIRLS 2020 LACROSSE SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
03/05	Thursday	Gifford Middle	Gifford Middle	4:30pm
03/10	Tuesday	Oslo Middle	SRMS	4:30pm
03/17	Tuesday	Gifford Middle	SRMS	4:30pm
03/19	Thursday	Storm Grove	Storm Grove	4:30pm
04/06-04/08	Mon.-Thurs.	District Tournament	TBA	TBA



Important! - Fortify



Remember, the FortifyFL app is LIVE. Now any student, educator, parent, or member of the public can report school safety concerns directly to law enforcement and school administrators anonymously and easily through the FortifyFL app or www.getfortifyfl.com. The app, which is available for download on Apple and Android mobile devices, is critical to ensuring all Florida schools are safe environments where students and educators can experience and share the joy of learning without fear. We hope that you will become familiar with this tool and help us spread the word about it with our students and their families. Please note that the official app's logo will look exactly as it does in the graphic above. You may also contact authorities by using their tip line. **IRCSO TIP Line: 772-978-6000 or email**

SchoolTips@ircsheriff.org