



Wards Creek Elementary 6555 SR 16, St. Augustine, FL 32092 Aug-Sept 2015

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## OUR CORE VALUES

We believe that:

- The Character Counts Pillars of Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship are essential qualities to model and instill in our students.
- The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People are the foundation for developing leaders.
- All individuals are valuable and can make meaningful contributions.
- A caring and compassionate learning environment will support the needs of the whole child and inspire all to reach their full potential.
- Leaders are life-long learners.

## THE SEVEN HABITS OF HAPPY KIDS

1. Be Proactive – I am in charge!
  2. Begin with the end in mind – Have a plan!
  3. Put first things first – Work first, then play!
  4. Think win/ win – There's plenty for all!
  5. Seek first to understand, then to be understood – Listen before you speak!
  6. Synergize – Together is better!
  7. Sharpen the saw – Balance feels best!
- BONUS:
8. Find your voice, and inspire others to find theirs – I'm on a mission!

**OUR VISION IS TO:** Be a school Where Children Excel by developing leaders with character and a passion for lifelong learning.

**OUR MISSION IS TO:** Engage Learners to Excel in Life and Embrace Leadership to Enhance our Local and global society.

## Jarrell's Journal

Hi Warrior Families,

Welcome to the 15-16 School Year! We are excited about the new year and look forward to partnering with you to ensure our students have engaging educational experiences this year. Our teachers and students are building their classroom cultures, making mission statements, and establishing their rituals and routines. As I have visited each classroom, I am amazed that the students are already settled and focused.

Communication is an essential part of building relationships and we have multiple systems in place to keep a strong home/school connection. This newsletter will be published monthly and teachers will be sending weekly emails. I will be using the Blackboard system to send schoolwide emails and voice messages. Our website is full of information and you may contact our school if you ever need clarification or questions answered. We appreciate our families and want you to feel welcome and informed.

One area we are focusing on this year is attendance. We have been cited for excessive absences, tardies, and early check-outs. We need our parents to help us with this. Please drop off your children in the morning between 8:00 - 8:25. Any students who are not in their classrooms by 8:30 will be marked tardy. If you need to make appointments, please schedule those after school. Our instruction goes bell to bell and students checking out early miss valuable instruction. Finally, we ask that you plan non-emergency family events on non-school days. Unexcused absences are very impactful to student progress and missed classroom time cannot be replicated with out-of-classroom assignments. We appreciate you for helping us address our attendance issues this year.

For our new families, I want to welcome you to the finest school I have ever been so fortunate to serve. Wards Creek has a wonderful faculty and staff, fabulous students, amazing families, and an outstanding community. We have 900 students and over 100 staff members. There are currently 49 classes K-5 and a PreK class and 2 classes for students with special needs. Our students have Related Arts on a rotating wheel which includes Art, Music, PE, Media, Computers, and new this year is our Health/Leadership class. We are in our 5<sup>th</sup> year of implementing our student leadership framework as a Leader in Me school. We have visitors around the globe who visit to see how your children are leaders of their own learning and finding their voice to make a difference in the world. We will be sharing with you throughout the year and inviting you to see firsthand how your children have their greatness within!

I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know you as we partner together to provide the finest educational experiences for your children. Here's to the possibilities the new year has to offer!

Eddie Jarrell, Principal

### PTO Update

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful (if short) summer! Please remember to join the PTO. The first two classes that reach a 100% membership receive an ice cream party and the teachers receive a free hoodie!

The PTO tried something new and had various sizes and colors of shirts on sale at meet and greet. It was a great success! We will be ordering more shirts, along with hoodies and long sleeve shirts in September. PTO memberships and Spirit wear will be on sale during the Curriculum Chats Tuesday and Thursday, August 25 and 27. We had a good response on the shirt design using the Eight Habits this year. A big thank you the Orange House, Lighthouse Team, and Mary Keller for their help and ideas!

We had our annual Tears and Cheers (formerly Tissue and Tears) to welcome our new Kindergarten families on Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. We had a good crowd and want to thank everyone for coming.

Coming up on September 11<sup>th</sup> is our first Staff Appreciation Day and on September 18<sup>th</sup> we will have our Welcome Back Family Fun Festival. More details will be forthcoming!

Please feel free to contact any member of the PTO if you have any questions or suggestions. We always welcome your input!

Ricke Ricciardelli  
President, WCE PTO

### Counselor's Corner

With the 2015-2016 school year in full swing, I wanted to provide Wards Creek Families with several guidance updates. I would also like to welcome Mrs. Stacy Neal to the Guidance Department! Mrs. Neal has taken on the role as a Guidance Para and is a huge asset to the program.

Social Skills Groups and Lunch Bunches have also been implemented at Wards Creek. These groups will begin to meet the week of September 21<sup>st</sup>. The curriculum being utilized is called "Skillstreaming". This program helps student's develop and fine tune their Social Skills. Finally, WCES is pleased to have "HeartMath" installed in the Guidance office. This program uses biofeedback (finger sensor) to help students learn to connect their hearts and minds in order to breathe correctly and use self-calming techniques.

The guidance website has been updated for the 2015-2016 school year. Please visit this site for important updates regarding gifted screenings, bullying, local counselors, etc. Please feel free to contact the Guidance Department with any questions at 547-8743, [Leanne.Adolf@St.johns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Leanne.Adolf@St.johns.k12.fl.us), or [Stacy.Neal@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Stacy.Neal@stjohns.k12.fl.us).

I look forward to serving Wards Creek families for the 2015-2016 school year!

Leanne Adolf  
Guidance Counselor



Two missed days a month adds up to being a half a year behind by the time your child reaches 4th grade.

And once a child falls behind, they rarely catch up.

It is important that your child arrive at school between 8:00 am and 8:25 am.

Please make sure your child arrives at school by 8:25 am so that they can be in their classroom ready to learn by 8:30 am.

If you child is absent please send a note or email within 48 hours of returning to school.

*\*Research shows that attendance is an important factor in student achievement.*

### **Calling All Proctors!**

Our Discovery Ed. testing begins next week and we need your help. Please click on the link below and see if your schedule will permit you to help with proctoring. A proctor is an extra adult in the testing lab to provide assistance to the teacher, if needed. You can sign up for one spot or several. We are most appreciative for any time you can contribute.

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F044AA5A92FA1FA7-proctors](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F044AA5A92FA1FA7-proctors)

Thank you for your partnership and support.

## Extended Day 2015/16:

Registration for Extended Day 2015/16 school year began on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. You can come by the school from 8:00-4:00 and register your child. The registration fee is \$75.00 per child. The first month's payment will be due at time of registration and the second month's payment will be due August 15<sup>th</sup>. See the below schedule of fees for the due date and dates that the payment covers.

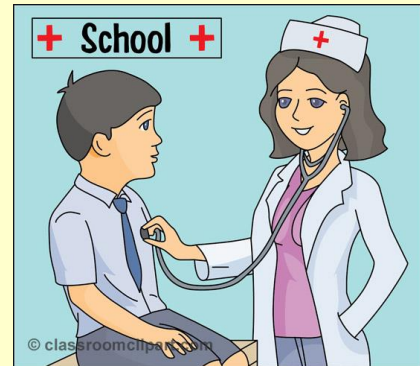
Payment #	Due	Payment covers care through-
1	Aug 1st	Aug. 10th - Sept. 2nd
2	Aug. 15th	Sept. 3rd - Sept. 29th
3	Sept. 15th	Sept. 30th - October 26th
4	Oct. 15th	Oct. 27th - Nov. 20th
5	Nov.15th	Nov. 23rd - Dec. 18th
6	Dec. 15th	Jan. 6th - Feb. 1st
7	Jan. 15th	Feb. 2nd - March 1st
8	Feb. 15th	March 2nd - April 5th
9	March 15th	April 6th - May 2nd
10	April 15th	May 3rd - May 26th

If you have any questions, please contact Casie Messenger at (904)547-8730 or [casie.messenger@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:casie.messenger@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

## Clinic News: Welcome Back!

As we return from summer break, I want to take a moment to welcome you back to **Ward's Creek Clinic!** My name is **Angela Kalem, RN, BSN** and I am the School Nurse at Wards Creek Elementary. My clinic is located in the front office. I am responsible for keeping the children safe and healthy at school, as well as first aid for injuries that occur at school. I am also responsible for any chronic illness and scheduled, as needed and emergency medication administration and triage.

If your student has a chronic illness that requires any medication at school, including over the counter medication, such as ibuprofen, topical creams, nose sprays, and eye drops, please be sure to email me, call me or stop by so we can have the proper paperwork on file for me to administer these medications. *Students in elementary school are not allowed to have any medication on them during the school year including Chap Stick, sun screen, cough drops, etc.* Inhalers and EpiPens are allowed to be held by the student but only with the physician and parent signature on the proper form. Please see my website at [www-wce.stjohns.k12.fl.us/clinic](http://www-wce.stjohns.k12.fl.us/clinic) for all forms and contact information for me.



Please take a moment and look over the St. John's County School District's adopted [Illness Guidelines](#). This can be found on my website under information or by following the link. This will give you specific guidelines that the district follows regarding sending a student home or when you should keep a student home when they are sick.

Dehydration is one of the reasons why I see students most frequently. It can manifest itself as cramping, headaches or sore throat. I encourage the students to drink water frequently throughout the day. Not from the water fountain, as this is one of the easiest ways to exchange germs between students. I encourage students to have their own water bottles and keep them with them throughout the day. If your student doesn't enjoy water, you can try add in drops that are sold in tons of flavors.

Encourage your student to use proper cleanliness techniques: Covering your mouth when you cough, using a tissue and blowing your nose after sneezing, keeping hands clean with soap and water in the bathroom or waterless hand sanitizer and not sharing food or drinks with other students.

Lice never take a vacation. Head to head contact is all that a louse needs to find a new home. Over the summer, the number of cases of lice in the county increases, as many more sleep overs, family from out of town and summer camps are going on. Also, parents are usually not as vigilant at performing weekly head checks or using prevention techniques to prevent lice. Please make sure you are back in the habit of performing weekly head checks on your children. Put all their long hair up, giving the lice less of a "ladder to climb on." Preventative sprays have been clinically proven to prevent lice as they contain scents and essential oils that the lice do not like and are less likely to move over to your child's head. If you have any questions, concerns or issues, please do not hesitate to call, [email](#) or stop by. I am happy to help!

**Welcome Back to Wards Creek Clinic!**  
**I know that we are going to have a great year in 2015-2016!**

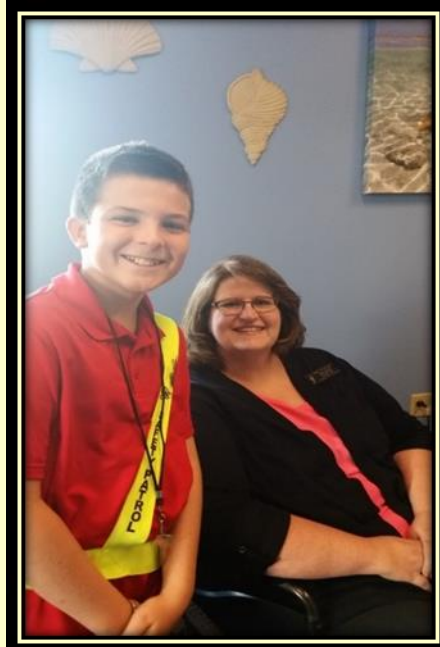


# Safety Leader Spotlight

Many of you have seen our newest members of the Safety Leader team around campus. Each month we will feature students who are nominated for outstanding performance. These students arrive to school early, leave late, and have additional jobs around school during the day in addition to their regular duties as 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.



Raigen H. nominated by Mrs. Fanning



Jake C. nominated by Mrs. Jarrell



Kennedy C. nominated by Nurse Kalem



Bradley P. nominated by Mrs. Brock



Caden W. nominated by Mrs. Rose

## Warrior Highlights!

### Cool Kindergarten!

The Wards Creek Kindergarten Team was so excited to meet our new Warriors! Our Kindergarten Leaders consist of Mrs. Rachel Kenyon, Mrs. Katie Causey, Mrs. Jennifer Lusk, Mrs. Renee Tatman, Ms. Samantha Fisher, Mrs. Jessica Allen and Ms. Angela Rossi. We enjoyed meeting our new Warriors and their parents at our Meet & Greet. During our first week together, we started establishing our rituals and routines. We even tried to catch Pete the Cat as he traveled through our school! We never caught him, but did we get upset? Goodness, no! In the upcoming weeks, we will continue to focus on creating our learning environment with our Character Counts and 7 Habits programs. We are looking forward to seeing our parents at our Curriculum Chat on August 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. It's going to be a great year!



### Fabulous First Grade!

#### 8 Habits Recipe for Success

One way to introduce the 7 Habits at the beginning of the year to our first graders is to do a read aloud with books that can be tied to the habits. The goal is for students to be able to pick out the correct habit after hearing the book. Also, in order to establish a sense of community within our classes and grade level, we each purchase a small food item to contribute and make a batch of success for the year. Each day you will add a small scoop full to your class container. We will rotate books and snacks each day so that everyone can use the books. By the 8<sup>th</sup> day, you will have 8 ingredients. Either at the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> day or 9<sup>th</sup> day, TBA, we will come together as a grade to synergize and enjoy our recipe.

Habit #1-Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, etc..

Habit #2- If you Give a Mouse a Cookie

Habit #3- The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Habit #4- Rainbow Fish

Habit #5- Jamaica's Find

Habit #6- Swimmy

Habit #7- Party Animals

Habit #8- Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon



## Sensational Second Grade

Second graders have been busy learning about routines and procedures for the new school year. The teachers have been embedding “leadership” into the curriculum by having the students participate in making class rules and a class mission statement. You can find these proudly displayed in their classrooms.

The students have been working on their Leadership Notebooks by writing their own mission statements, goals for the quarter, and deciding what leadership role they want to take on for the start of the year. They will enjoy sharing their Leadership Notebooks on our Second Grade Data and Donuts event which will be on Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 to 8:30. Please “Save the Date” and plan on attending.

The teachers are hoping to see all the parents at our Curriculum Chat which is scheduled for Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. They will be sharing important information about your child’s second grade year – the standards, the expectations, the curriculum, testing, special projects and our community service project. After they have made a group presentation, you will be invited to your child’s classroom and hear more specific information from your child’s teacher. Please “Save the Date” and plan on attending this important evening that will be jam packed with information.

As that evening will be the Curriculum Chat for pre-kindergarten through second grade, you may have more than one child’s class to attend. We recommend that you “split up” and one parent attend one child’s classroom and the other parent attend the other child’s classroom.

The second grade students and teachers are looking forward to a terrific year filled with learning, growing, and of course – fun!

### Excellent ESE!

Happy New Year from Wards Creek ESE staff! This year Ms. Smythe and Ms. McGaughey will be serving our two K-5 special education classrooms while Ms. O’Rourke continues to lead our pre-kindergarten friends to greatness! Ms. Baker and Ms. Miller can be found in classrooms across all grade levels providing students with additional academic and social support. WCE also has several itinerant teachers, therapists and support staff on campus throughout the week. They include Ms. Bos, Occupational Therapist, Ms. Whitlock, Physical Therapist, Ms. Schurmann and Ms. Cozzens, Speech Language Pathologists and Ms. Carberry, teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing. Check back each month to learn more about our team members and the various levels of service and support we provide to the students at Wards

### **Terrific Third Grade!**

Third grade is off and running! This year, our team includes 9, yes, 9 teachers (and very close to 10). Mrs. Klein, Mrs. Lawless & Mrs. Oswalt joined the team from 4th grade and Mrs. Ruth Jarriel returned to us from 1st grade. Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Truelove, Mrs. Blaylock, Mrs. Lareau, and Mr. Milite remained on 3rd grade team. We will be sponsoring Nurse Kalem in the clinic as our year long project. Information will be sent home soon asking for small waters, animal crackers, Goldfish crackers and band-aids. These are some basic items Nurse Kalem annually pays for out of her own pocket to help our young Warriors in their time of need. We are very excited to be helping your children along their third grade journey!



### **Fantastic Fourth Grade!**

We are off to a wonderful start in fourth grade! We spent the first week of school discussing grade-level expectations, procedures, academic standards, and the Eight Habits. Over the next couple of weeks, we will continue our grade-level study of the habits, which will wrap-up with a culminating lesson presented by our amazing fourth grade teachers. We invite you to feel free to visit the learning villas to check out the excitement in fourth grade.

### **Phenomenal Fifth Grade!**

The 5th graders at Wards Creek spent the first few days of school building a community of learners by getting to know each other through different kinds of activities and games. For example, the students in Mrs. Brock's and Mrs. Badger's class created selfies and wrote a little "all about me" excerpt to go with each. It was fun to see the students interacting with one another and building those positive relationships while sharing a little about themselves. It was definitely a win-win for all!



## PE Hut Update!

### Welcome to Physical Education!

Hello, this is Coach Henson and I am excited to kick off a new year! I look forward to working with your students this year and watching them grow into fitness leaders. Stay tuned for my after school activities and clubs. A couple that I will have are the Junior River Run and Triathlon Club. Last year our triathlon team was in the top 10 for number of participants. I hope to grow that number again this year.

### The 6 Pillars of Character and The 8 Habits of Healthy Kids

**Be Proactive:** *Citizenship:* You are in charge of knowing when you have P.E.

**Begin with the end in mind:** *Responsibility:* Plan to wear tennis shoes on your P.E. day.

**Put First Things First:** *Trustworthiness:* Come to class ready to work so you get to play.

**Think Win-Win:** *Fairness:* We all get a chance to play, improve and grow.

**Seek First To Understand Then To Be Understood:** *Respect one another:* When playing a game listen to your teammate before you voice your opinion.

**Synergize:** *Caring:* Work together with your team and see how successful you are.

**Sharpen Your Saw:** *Respect:* Use what you learn in P.E. and have fun!

**Find Your Voice:** Be ready to share what you know.

# Platinum Business Partners

COMING SOON!



## ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT HALF-CENT SALES TAX REFERENDUM

# FACT SHEET

### DID YOU KNOW?

-  The St. Johns County School District has been the **TOP RATED** district in Florida for 6 consecutive years and **A-Rated** for 10 consecutive years.

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-  Top-rated schools help attract businesses and jobs, improving the county's economy and increasing property values.

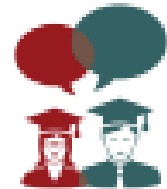
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-  The District has implemented a comprehensive energy management reduction program that has avoided more than \$33 million in costs since 2008.

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-  All new revenue generated by the half-cent sales tax will benefit classrooms directly and 25%-40% will be paid for by out-of-county visitors.

## What the Referendum Means for Our Schools



New school construction to keep up with the growth of St. Johns County



Reconstruction to ensure that existing schools continue to be well-maintained to serve our students and teachers

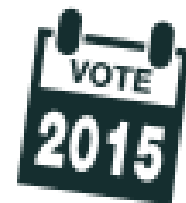


Technology upgrades to help prepare our students for jobs of the 21st century



Safety improvements which enhance existing measures to provide for the security of our students

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER



#### **ASAP**

For unregistered voters, voter registration ends on Oct. 5, 2015

#### **09/18/2015**

Overseas absentee ballots will be mailed beginning Fri., Sept. 18

#### **10/01/2015**

Regular domestic absentee ballots will be mailed beginning Thurs., Oct. 1

#### **10/24/2015**

Early voting begins at 9 a.m. on Sat., Oct. 24 and runs daily through Sat., Oct. 31 until 6 p.m.

#### **11/03/2015**

Election Day - Last chance to vote



For more information go to: [www.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us)

A special thanks goes to Agility Press, Inc. for sponsoring this document. No School District funds or tax dollars were used in its preparation or printing.

## **Helping Your Child Succeed on Florida Standard Assessments**

Plan to attend an informational meeting  
for families of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students

\*\*\*\*\*

Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, R.B. Hunt Elementary School  
Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, Valley Ridge Academy  
Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, Osceola Elementary School  
Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, Ocean Palms Elementary School  
Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, Timberlin Creek Elementary School  
6:30 – 8:00 PM



**What is FSA?**

**Did FCAT Go Away?**

**How can I help my child?**

If you've asked any of these questions, please plan on attending an FSA informational presentation. Each evening will begin at 6:30 and conclude by 8:00, and will consist of a writing and ELA session followed by a mathematics portion. Time for questions will be built into the process. For more information call 904-547-7503.

This Year We

GO

BIG

WE ARE RECYCLING BIG  
TO EARN BIG!

DONATE LASER PRINTER CARTRIDGES  
TO HELP US EARN TOWARDS OUR GOAL!



FOR MORE INFO VISIT [RECYCLINGFACTORY.COM](http://RECYCLINGFACTORY.COM)

## Food and Nutrition Services Parent Info Guide

### MEAL PRICES for 2015-2016:

Elementary Breakfast	\$1.25
Secondary Breakfast	\$1.25
Reduced Price Breakfast	\$0.30
Elementary Lunch	\$2.55
Secondary Lunch	\$2.75
Reduced Price Lunch	\$0.40
Extra Milk	\$0.60
Adult Breakfast	\$1.60
Adult Lunch	\$3.50

### Free and Reduced Priced Meal Application REMINDER:

Parents are encouraged to complete one Free and Reduced Price Meal Application per family, rather than one per child. The application can be completed ON LINE by going to [www.stjohns.K12.fl.us](http://www.stjohns.K12.fl.us) and clicking Free & Reduced Meal Application, which is located on the left side of the page under **Featured Links**. Once completed by the parent/guardian, the form is electronically sent to the Food & Nutrition Services Department for eligibility determination. A printable pdf application form is also available on this link. Schools have limited availability of printed applications. This single application for the family may be returned to any of the District schools where parents have a child/children enrolled; we prefer that parents return the application to the school where their youngest child is enrolled. The schools will be sending all completed applications to the District School Food Services Office for centralized approval. Until the application is processed and approved by the District Food Service Office, any meal charges will be the responsibility of the adult/guardian. The approval process can take up to ten (10) days at the beginning of the school year.

**Your student'(s) meal status (free or reduced) at the end of the 14-15 school year will continue up through September 21, 2015. Unless a new 15-16 Family Meal Application has been processed and approved by September 21<sup>st</sup>, your student'(s) meal status will revert to PAID.**

**HOW DOES THE STUDENT ACCESS THEIR MEAL ACCOUNT AT THE SCHOOL?**



All students will receive a personal identification number (PIN) for their meal account from the food service manager at school start up. This can range from a three to five digit number. Your student should memorize this number and not share with any other students as this number is directly tied to their personal account. Your student will use this PIN number until he/she leaves that school. When the student moves to middle or a high school, a new number is assigned. Student Identification Scanners are used at some of the elementary, middle, and high schools and must be used to access their account. Please check with your student.

### **FORGOT YOUR LUNCH MONEY?**

Although students are to pay for their meal upon receipt, students may forget their lunch or lunch money. Each school has a policy, as established by the Principal, and the Food Service Manager as to what can be charged. In most cases your student will be allowed to charge up to one meal. There will be no charging of any a la carte food items to include entrees and snacks.

### **MEAL CHARGES:**

If your student does incur a charge, please ask your student and /or check your student's pockets or backpack for a note. You can also set up an account with PayPAMS.com to review student meal transactions.

### **ALA CARTE ITEMS:**

Many of the schools provide extra Ala Carte items, such as ice cream, baked chips, fruit juice in addition to many specialty items. These items range in price from \$.35 to \$3.50 and are **not** included in the free and reduced price meal program.

### **PARENTAL RESTRICTIONS:**

Restrictions can be placed on your student's meal account. Once restrictions are placed, they cannot be removed unless the parent provides the food service manager with a letter asking for the restrictions to be removed.

### **PREPAYMENT FOR FOOD ITEMS:**

Prepayments to your child's meal account with your VISA, MasterCard, or Discover credit card can be made. Log onto [www.Pay PAMS.com](http://www.PayPAMS.com) or call 1-888-994-5100. Payment can also be received by the food service manager in form of check or cash. If check is used, please indicate students' name and student

personal identification number (PIN) on the check in the memo section. Prepayment is encouraged as it assists in movement of students through the line.

**FOOD ALLERGIES:**

If your child has food allergies, please provide the school nurse with a physician's note indicating the allergies and the appropriate substitutions that are recommended by the physician or medical authority.

**COMMUNICATION WITH THE FOOD SERVICE MANAGER:**

The food service manager is on site prior to the school starting to begin breakfast meal preparation and departs from the school upon completion of lunch. Inquires should be made **prior** to meal service time or immediately after meal service. Please check with your school to determine the best time to contact the food service manager in the event that you have questions.

**REFUNDS:**

Refunds are addressed at the school level and require a written request. Please contact the food service manager for a refund.

**ACCOUNT BALANCES:**

Student account balances can be obtained on the web site [www.payPAMS.com](http://www.payPAMS.com) at no charge to you. Your student's account balance, either positive or negative, from the previous school year will roll into the new school year unless a refund has been requested.

**MENU:**

Menus can be found on the St Johns County School District Website [www.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us) under the Food & Nutrition Services Department tab.