

Tim Forson Superintendent of Schools

40 Orange Street St. Augustine, Florida 32084 (904) 547-7500 www.stjohns.k12.fl.us

August 12, 2024

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 School Parents/Guardians:

Students in grades 6-12 will have five hours of required instruction on substance use and abuse, child trafficking prevention and awareness, and mental and emotional health education (Rule 6A-1.094124, F.A.C.). Students in grades 7-12 will be required to receive instruction on healthy relationships per section 1003.42 (2)(n), Florida Statutes and also on the DOE website <a href="https://www.fldoe.org/schools/healthy-schools/comprehensive-health-edu.stml">https://www.fldoe.org/schools/healthy-schools/comprehensive-health-edu.stml</a>. These are important topics that will help our students have the knowledge and ability to act when faced with difficult situations. I believe this instruction will be extremely beneficial for your children and/or reinforce what is taught at home. The required instruction for grades 6-12 will be led by teachers utilizing evidence-based, high-quality instructional materials infused in monthly Character Chats videos created by district staff.

Parents, you are encouraged to access the list of instructional materials utilized in all of our schools by visiting <u>https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/instructional-materials/approved/</u>. If you have questions or would like to review available print or digital resources, please call the Instructional Resources office at 904.547.8904. I am proud of the work district staff has done to select and develop instructional materials that are age appropriate. This is statutorily required instruction and there is no opt out opportunity for students. To learn more about the lessons, I encourage you to visit our website <u>https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/mental-health/instruction/</u>.

As always, I thank you for supporting our schools, and your time and commitment to your children's education.

Sincerely,

7im Forson

*Tim Forson* Tim Forson Superintendent of Schools

> 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.