



Joseph G. Joyner, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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

August 10, 2016

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Dear Elementary School Parent or Guardian,

Welcome to the 2016-17 school year! I hope you had a wonderful summer spent with loved ones and friends. As we look forward to a new elementary school year, it may seem early to focus on middle and high school options for your child, but I want to ensure that you are aware of the many programs of choice and acceleration options St. Johns County Schools have to offer. Programs of choice include Career Academies at each of our high schools, Advanced Academic Programs such as International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), as well as St. Johns Virtual School (SJVS), Florida Virtual School (FLVS) and Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). More information about Career Academy Programs is available at <http://academies.stjohns.k12.fl.us/info/>. It is never too early to begin consideration of your child's future educational goals.

All virtual course requests must be reviewed and approved by a guidance counselor to ensure the course is an appropriate placement for the student. The next open enrollment periods to apply for SJVS as a full-time student are November 18, 2016 - January 3, 2017, and in the spring, April 13 to 30 days before the start of the school year, exceptions can be made for good cause. Enrollment in part-time virtual courses is subject to the school's normal drop/add policy. Full-time virtual school is also an option. To learn about all virtual options, please go to <http://www-sjvs.stjohns.k12.fl.us> or call 904-547-8080.

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:

- Elementary – single course and whole grade acceleration; virtual instruction in a higher grade-level course; ACCEL options do not supersede initial placement by age criteria (1003.21 F.S.)
- Middle – take high school courses in middle school; virtual instruction in a higher grade-level course; ACCEL options do not supersede the core course requirements for promotion to high school (three English language arts, three math, three science, and three social studies – 1003.4156 F.S.) but courses taken in middle school may earn high school credit
- High – earn college credit by completing the coursework and passing the examination for Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Enrollment (DE) or IB/AICE courses; earn high school credit without taking the course by passing the state End-of-Course (EOC) assessment; virtual instruction in advanced courses; early graduation

Finally, there are also several diploma options with different requirements that are associated with a specific program of choice. Even the standard diploma type has designations that are dependent upon

*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.*

a student's course of study. For example, a student may qualify for the Scholar and/or Merit designation along with their standard diploma depending upon the courses and assessments they completed. Details regarding the criteria for each option can be found at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/cs/> or accessed through your school counselor.

I am proud that our schools offer so many academic choices for our students. With so many good options to consider, I hope that you will work with your school's guidance department to develop the best customized learning path for your child. Thank you for your consideration of this information and my best wishes to you and your family for an outstanding school year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph G. Joyner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Joseph G. Joyner, Ed.D.
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