

THE BULL PEN

Tocoi Creek High School Weekly Newsletter

Toro Nation,

On Friday, November 10th, St. Johns County Schools will observe Veterans Day, which officially falls on Saturday, November 11th.

Veterans Day, previously known as Armistice Day, has been an official U.S. holiday since the year 1938. The holiday is intended to be a day to pay tribute and give thanks to veterans who have served our wonderful country.

TCHS would especially like to thank all veterans who now serve our school community and acknowledge their families who have also sacrificed their time for the benefit of our country.



With Winter activities now in full swing, I would like to remind families that for the second year in a row, there will be no high school midterms. Classes will meet as they normally do, through Thursday, December 21st, when quarter 2 officially ends.

The Tocoi Creek Marching Band ended its season this past weekend at a national regional held at Troy University in Alabama. The band placed 10th overall in prelims and won the bronze medal in class 3A. The band advanced to finals and finished the competition in 11th place among some of the best bands in the country!

This season the band received straight superior rating at our district 21 Music Performance Assessment. The band also finished in the top 15 at the Bands of America Orlando regional!



Congratulations on an incredible season Toros!

IMPORTANT DATES

TORO WEEK

at a Glance

Monday, Nov. 13th-	Winter Team Sports Pictures 4-6pm
Tuesday, Nov. 14th-	Health Science Field Study @ Univ. of St. Augustine
Wednesday, Nov. 15th-	Winter Athlete Meeting during Toro Time
Thursday, Nov. 16th-	Picture Retakes in the Auditorium Foyer
Friday, Nov. 17th-	Q2 Interim Grades Posted in HAC

SAVE THE DATE

- **NOVEMBER 16TH** PICTURE RE-TAKES IN AUDITORIUM
- **DECEMBER 13TH** ASVAB TEST
- **FEBRUARY 8TH** JUNIOR RING AND PIN CEREMONY IN AUDITORIUM
- **MARCH 22-23RD** JUNIOR/SENIOR CAMPOUT
- **APRIL 12TH:** SENIOR GRADBASH @ UNIVERSAL STUDIOS
- **APRIL 18TH:** JUNIOR/SENIOR PROM @ WGV RENAISSANCE RESORT (1000 TICKETS)
- **MAY 20TH:** GRADUATION AT THE ST. AUGUSTINE AMPHITHEATER @ 7PM

TORO ATHLETICS

at a Glance

- Tues., Nov. 14th @ 5:30/7:20pm Girls Soccer v Fleming Island HS @ Fleming Island HS
Wed., Nov. 15th @ 4pm Girls Weightlifting v St. Augustine @ SAHS
Wed., Nov. 15th @ 5:30pm Boys Soccer (JV) v Oakleaf HS @ Oakleaf HS
Thurs., Nov. 16th @ TBA Boys Golf v Nease @ Ponte Vedra Inn & Golf Club
Thurs., Nov. 16th @ 5:30/7:20pm Girls Soccer v Seabreeze HS @ TCHS
Fri., Nov. 17th @ 5/7pm Boys Soccer v Spruce Creek HS @ TCHS
Sat., Nov. 18th @ TBA Comp. Cheerleading v West Nassau HS @ West Nassau HS



STUDENT LIFE

PURCHASE A YEARBOOK!

YEARBOOKS ARE SELLING OUT!!!!

The TCHS yearbook only has **100** yearbooks left for the 2023-2024 school year. To guarantee a copy, please purchase ASAP at www.buytheyearbook.com



TORO GEAR!

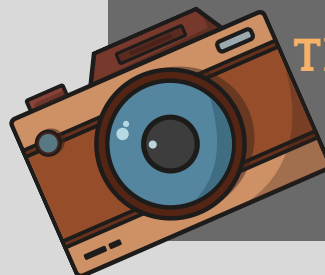


Limited time, holiday shop and exclusive lululemon TCHS gear!! Get it while you can!!

*Guaranteed Christmas delivery!!

CLUB PICTURES & PICTURE RETAKES

Picture retakes and Club Picture Day will be **Thursday, 11/16** in the auditorium foyer.



TOCOI CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

DINNER GAMES MOVIE... AND MUCH MORE

JUNIOR / SENIOR CAMP OUT

MARCH 22-23 2024
6:30PM-9:00AM

THIS EVENT AIMS TO CELEBRATE AND ENERGIZE OUR JUNIORS AND SENIORS AS THEY HEAD INTO THE LAST GRADING QUARTER OF THE YEAR.

CONTACT MR. CABRERA 2-017 FOR MORE INFO



TOY DRIVE

Help TCHS win the competition for the third year in a row!

Drop off new unwrapped toys to the main office between October 23- December 1

New unwrapped toys only
no toy guns, clothing, or food items allowed

JUNIORS!

Jostens



TOCOI CREEK HS CLASS OF 2025

ORDER NOW

DEADLINE TO ORDER!

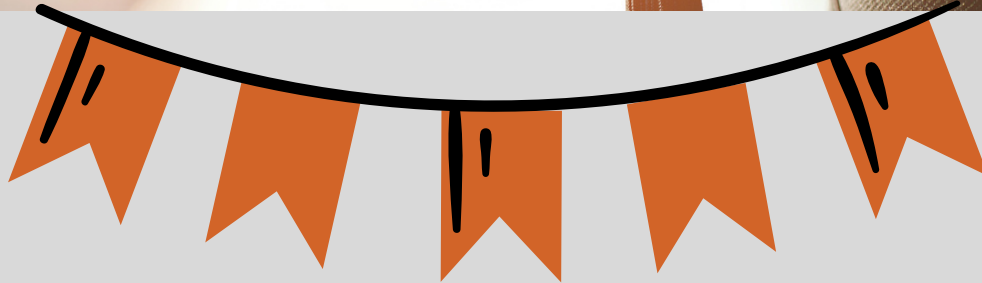
OCT. 16

RING CEREMONY

FEB. 8

Visit **JOSTENS.COM**
to design your ring and place your order.

SENIOR INFORMATION



SENIOR DATES:

- April 12th: GradBash @ Universal Studios
- April 18th: Prom @ WGV Renaissance Resort
- May 20th: Graduation at St. Augustine Amphitheater



Grad Bash tickets are going fast! **There are 30 seats left** to attend the senior class overnight event at Universal Studios/Islands of Adventures on April 12th. To purchase tickets, you need to pay senior dues and select the first deposit for Grad Bash available in School Pay.

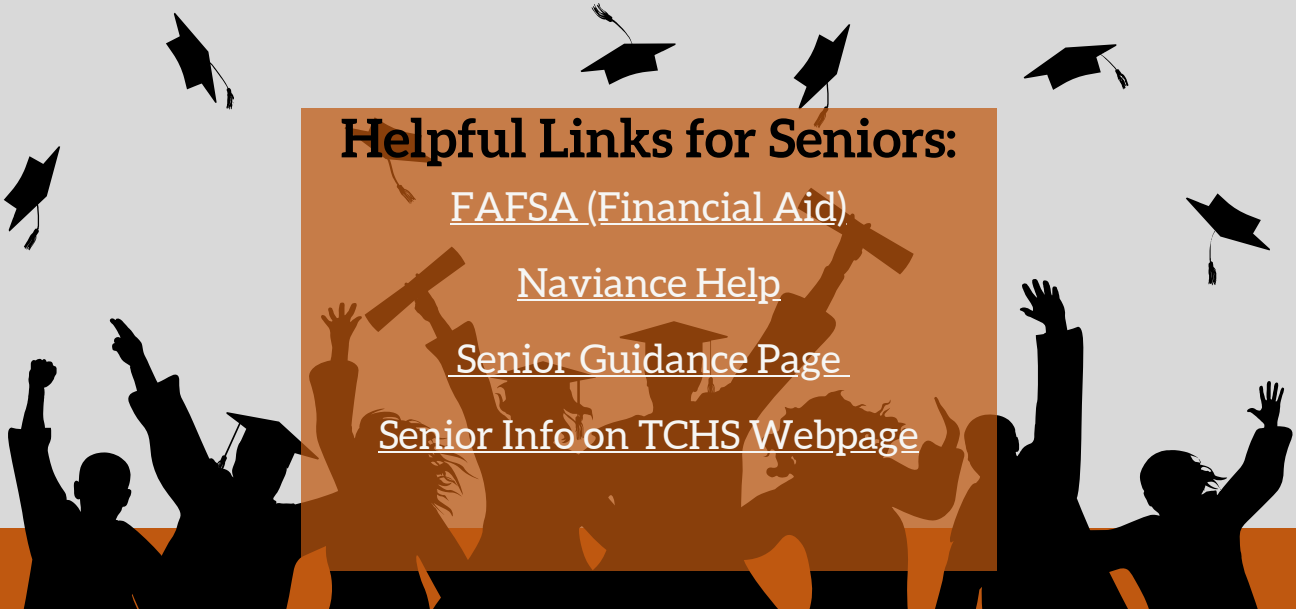
Helpful Links for Seniors:

[FAFSA \(Financial Aid\)](#)

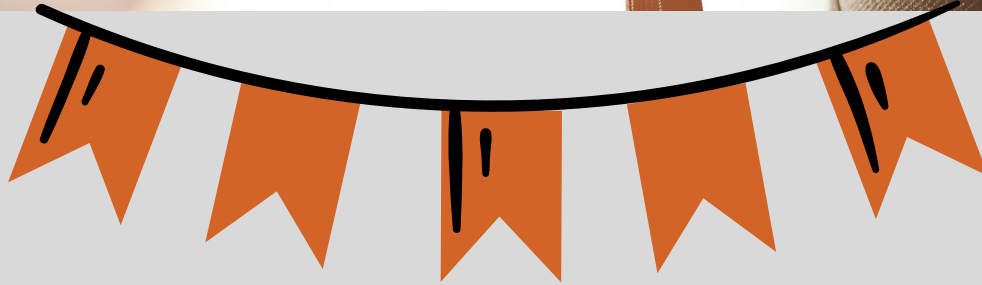
[Naviance Help](#)

[Senior Guidance Page](#)

[Senior Info on TCHS Webpage](#)



SENIOR INFORMATION



SENIOR TO-DO LIST:

- **By October 21st:** Order your Cap and Gown
- **By December 1st:** Order Senior Ads for Yearbook
- **By December 1st:** Pay Senior Dues: \$100
- **By January 15th or until full:** Pay Grad Bash Deposit 1: \$125.00 (Limited spots- please reserve early to guarantee a seat.) **must pay senior dues first

Yearbook ads for seniors are now open until sold out. To order an ad for your senior, please visit www.buytheyearbook.com and enter in school id 715033. There are a limited number of senior ad spaces available, and spaces will sell out.



CAREER ACADEMIES



Order your Academy shirt by visiting

<https://theultimatefan.store/collections/tocoi-creek-academy-shirts>

Students will wear these shirts for field trips, club meetings, etc.



CONGRATULATIONS TO CORD CONVENIENCE ON ADVANCING TO THE PITCH FACTORY

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 14- Edwards DVT 2-4 Adobe testing
- November 14- Health Science field study to University of St. Augustine
- November 16- Dr. Ritchie- Guest Speaker
- November 17- Senior AIBE leaders field study
- November 27- Middle School Blitz at Mill Creek Academy
- December 4- Middle School Blitz at Mill Creek Academy
- December 5- UNF College of Computing, Architecture, and Construction Tour (link on Schoology)
- December 8- Blood Drive

CERTIFICATION TESTING UPDATE

As a certified testing center, the certification exams administered at TCHS are proctored through Certiport, an independent testing platform. Students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 may apply for accommodations through Certiport. Because it is an outside testing company, like ACT or SAT, accommodations, such as extended time, must be applied for and implemented to the individual student's testing platform by Certiport. The school cannot request these services, the student and their legal guardian (if student is under 18) must submit the request directly to Certiport. Accommodations are granted by Certiport annually, so even if your student was granted accommodations for testing in the 2022-2023 school year, the application must be submitted again for the 2023-2024 school year to ensure that accommodations are provided at the time your student tests.

Certiport has an online accommodations application process. The process is detailed on their website at:

<https://certiport.pearsonvue.com/Educator-resources/Exam-policies/Accommodations.aspx>

UPCOMING TESTING DATE: 11/14 EDWARDS PERIOD 3



[Click Here](#) for the November edition of the Academy Newsletter



TESTING CORNER

UPCOMING TESTING:

Winter 2023 EOC (End of Course) Exams for Students That Took Class Virtually
TCHS will be offering the following EOC's: Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology, and US History in between December 4th - December 15th. Deadline to request Winter 2023 EOC testing is Wednesday, November 29, 2023. Please complete the form to secure a testing date.

TCHS ASVAB Test – Wednesday, December 13, 2023

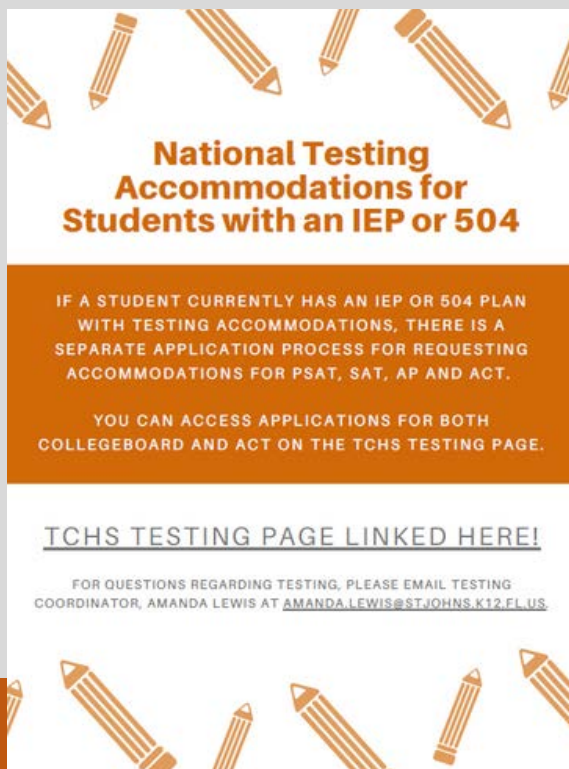
The ASVAB Career Exploration Program (CEP) will be administered on Wednesday, December 13th at 9:15 AM in The Auditorium.

THIS EXAM IS FOR 10TH, 11TH, and 12TH GRADERS ONLY.

You must register to take the ASVAB Test through SignUpGenius linked here.

Deadline to register for the test is Friday, December 8th.

Learn more about the ASVAB Test here.



**National Testing
Accommodations for
Students with an IEP or 504**

IF A STUDENT CURRENTLY HAS AN IEP OR 504 PLAN WITH TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS, THERE IS A SEPARATE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR REQUESTING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PSAT, SAT, AP AND ACT.

YOU CAN ACCESS APPLICATIONS FOR BOTH COLLEGEBOARD AND ACT ON THE TCHS TESTING PAGE.

[TCHS TESTING PAGE LINKED HERE!](#)

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING TESTING, PLEASE EMAIL TESTING COORDINATOR, AMANDA LEWIS AT AMANDA.LEWIS@STJOHNS.K12.FL.US



GUIDANCE INFO FOR SENIORS

ADVICE
ASSISTANCE

GUIDANCE

HELP

Published by the Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance

NyFF
NAVIGATING YOUR
FINANCIAL FUTURE

OCT - NOV 2023

NAVIGATING YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Florida

View information about the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program at the following link:
www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN

The Bright Futures Student Handbook is divided into three chapters covering a variety of topics.

CHAPTER 1: INITIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDES:

- Requirements for Scholarship Types (FAS, FMS, GSC, and GSV); and
- Non-Traditional Students (Home-Educated, Personalized Education Program, GED, Out-of-State, and Mid-Year).

CHAPTER 2: SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION, INCLUDES:

- Length of the Scholarship Award;
- Award Amounts; and
- Transferring the Award between Institutions.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- 2024-25 *Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)*: We encourage all high school seniors to submit an application, even if you do not plan to attend a university, college, or technical center immediately after graduation. The state application opens on October 1, 2023. Read the fact sheets for program deadlines found here: www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN.
- 2024-25 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*: The anticipated opening date for the federal application is December 2023. Create your FSA_ID and Password here: <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>.
- Private Scholarships: Apply! Apply! Apply!
- National College Fairs: www.nacacfairs.org

Florida

colle



CHAPTER 3: RENEWAL ELIGIBILITY, INCLUDES:

- Renewal Requirements; and
- Reinstatement/Restoration Requirements.

Bright Futures Florida Medallion Scholarship (BFFMS) students enrolled in an associate degree program at a Florida College System (FCS) institution receive 100 percent of tuition and specific fees. Upon completing an associate degree, a student may use his or her award to pursue a baccalaureate degree and receive 75 percent of tuition and specific fees.

PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS:

Many scholarship committees are looking for students who have the ability to communicate effectively in writing. Essays are an excellent way for scholarship judges to choose the most qualified candidates. Tips for writing the essay include:

- Giving yourself time - Quality essays take time;
- Following directions - Word count and font size may be eligibility requirements;
- Focusing on the topic - Answer the question that is being asked;
- Proofreading and editing your work - Be clear, concise, and correct any errors; and
- Getting feedback - Ask family or counselors to read your essay and provide feedback.

GUIDANCE INFORMATION

ADVICE
ASSISTANCE

GUIDANCE

HELP

School Counselors attended our annual training with the State University Admission Directors, ACT/SAT/CLT representatives, and the Department of Education. There are a lot of updates this year that we are anxious to share with you and your students.

We have dispersed this information in the following ways:

Individual Senior Meetings: Counselors met with every senior individually. The counselors discussed graduation requirements and post-secondary planning with each student.

Classroom Guidance:

School counselors visited 9th and 10th grade English classes during the weeks of September 25th and October 2nd and 11th grade English classes during the week of October 17th. [You can view a copy of the presentation here](#)

Website: The following sections of the website have received significant updates:

Bright Futures- Includes updated Bright Futures test score requirements for the class of 2024 and 2025. In addition, it specifies that community service hours and paid service hours can now be combined to reach the 100 hour requirement. Bright Futures has also extended the deadline to submit standardized test scores to the August 31st after graduation!

Testing for College- Includes an introduction to the Classic Learning Test (CLT) which is an online exam that can be taken from home and used for Bright Futures, College Admissions, and to meet high school graduation testing requirements! There is also additional information about the ACT, PERT, PSAT, and SAT exams.

Graduation Requirements - Includes notification that the on-line course requirement has been removed as a graduation requirement for all grade levels as well as NEW graduation requirements for students entering high school in the 23-24 school year and beyond.

Counselor Videos- Includes an updated Toro Academic Handbook which walks students 8-12th grade through navigating the high school and post-secondary process. It also has updated guides for both the Florida Private Schools and Florida State Universities which includes average accepted GPA's and test scores all in one place!

Who is my Counselor?

- [Elizabeth Wright](#) :
 - Early College Students & Last Name A
- [Artina Coma](#):
 - Last Names B-Dh
- [Laura Kuhel](#):
 - Last Names Di-I
- [Alyssa Socket](#):
 - Last Names J-Ml
- [Rachel Blount](#) :
 - Last Names Mo-Sa
- [Linda Smith](#) :
 - Last Names Sc-Z

PARENT INVOLVEMENT



Please join us in supporting the fine arts at Toco Creek High School. The vision of the One Toro Arts Booster Organization is to ensure that ALL students at Toco Creek High School benefit from the collaborative support of our parent, community, and booster organization. Follow us on Facebook @OneToroArtsBoosters

Interested in joining or donating to PTSO?

- [Our Website](#)
- [Our FB Group](#)
- [Our FB Page](#)
- [Our Email](#)



Join the Athletics Booster to help with:

- Facility improvement Projects
- Fundraising
- Concession Stand
- Promoting the School



If interested, contact: [Billy Blackmon](#)

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Next SAC Meeting will be December 14th at 8:10AM in Mr. Cabrera.



ONETORO ARTS

EVENTS



NOV 4

BOA TROY
VETERANS MEMORIAL
STADIUM, TROY AL
MARCHING TOROS
COMPETE AT 3PM

NOV 5

**DISNEY'S OLD
KEY WEST
RESORT
AUCTION ENDS**

NOV 8

**SPIRIT NIGHT@
SIMONE'S**
4-9PM AT SIMONE'S
WOOD-FIRED CRAFT
KITCHEN, MUST MENTION
TCHS

NOV 11

**ONE-ACT
FESTIVAL**
TBA, TCHS AUDITORIUM

**NOV
17-18**

**INTERNATIONAL
THESPIAN
SOCIETY ONE-
ACTS EVENT**
TBA, TCHS AUDITORIUM

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
[HTTPS://ONETOROARTS.WIXSITE.COM
/ONE-TORO-ARTS](https://onetoroarts.wixsite.com/one-toro-arts)

TOCOI CREEK ARTS PRESENTS ONE ACT PLAY FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER

WHERE

TIME

11

**TCHS
AUDITORIUM**

7:30

TICKETS

QR CODE

\$10



BEACH PRINCESS

Written & Directed by: Gracia Romaine

THE HAUNTED CAROUSEL

Directed by: Abigail Carberry

THE UGLY DUCKLING

Directed by: Catalina Martinez-Wittinghan

ONETORO ARTS



Sponsorship

Funds are allocated for purchasing high-quality frames, matboards, hosting our quarterly receptions, and covering competition fees.

Sponsorship starts at \$50
-Each * will represent
additional increments of \$50



[CLICK HERE TO SPONSOR](#)

Donors will have their name(s) laser engraved onto a sponsors plaque in the main Performing Arts Center Gallery.

PTSO

SUPPORT

TOCOI CREEK
HIGH SCHOOL



PTSO

GIFT CARD DRIVE

The PTSO is collecting gift cards for the holiday gift for each teacher/staff member. If you can, please send in a \$20 gift card. If you'd prefer - donate \$20 via this link and we'll do the shopping for you. Our goal is 200 gift cards! You can drop them to the front office in an envelope labeled PTSO or reach out to us and we'll come pick them up.



BRICK DRIVE

PURCHASE A COMMEMORATIVE
BRICK FOR YOUR STUDENT
INSTALLED IN OUR ACTIVITY WALKWAY

ARTS
ACHIEVEMENTS



SPORTS
CLUBS

ENGRAVED 4X8 COMMEMORATIVE BRICK FOR \$100
Order by December 31st for installation in May



Email:

onetoroptso@gmail.com

PARENTS

- 1 We held our first general membership meeting in the HUB on the 17th and shared information as well as gave out gifts to the attendees and a preview of our holiday gift to teachers
- 2 We sent out a committee invitation to all parents interested in participating. We have a few exciting events coming up and need a few hands.

OCTOBER RECAP

TEACHERS/STAFF

- 1 We continued our Fourth Friday Teacher/Staff cart with a halloween theme with drinks and snacks sponsored by Amy Wojaczyk REALTOR Heroesfirsthomegroup
- 2 We unveiled our first ever teacher/staff grant request form. Stay tuned to listen if we were able to grant any special requests.

STUDENTS

- 1 We held our first Quarter Reward Event. More than 450 students were treated to a Jimmy Hula's Nacho Bar. Our next event is in January for all A/B honor roll students.
- 2 We continued Cotton Candy in the Courtyard! We had student volunteers help us spin and hand out fresh cotton candy to the students. Next month look for our popcorn stop!

PARTNERS

- 1 We placed the first 10 banners on the fence for our new Fill the Fence fundraiser. We have another 5 with the printer.



GENERAL SCHOOL INFO



@TOCOI_CREEKHS



@TOCOI CREEK HIGH SCHOOL



@TOCOICREEK



Helpful Links:

[SJCSD Dress Code](#)

[TCHS Clubs](#)

[Lunch Applications](#)

[TCHS Yearbook](#)

[Absences and Early
Dismissal](#)

[Athletic Tickets](#)

[Cafeteria](#)

[Clever](#)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TCHS IS LOOKING FOR SOME OUTSTANDING STAFF MEMBERS TO WORK WITH OUR TOROS! PLEASE EMAIL MR. WILLETS DIRECTLY AT JAY.WILLETS@STJOHNS.K12.FL.US FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- TEACHER ENGLISH (10TH/12TH GRADE)
- ESE PARAPROFESSIONAL
- CUSTODIAN
- CUSTODIAN



St Johns County School District

Next Hiring for

GUEST TEACHER (Substitute)

Posting September 1, 2023

in AppliTrack Application System

SJCSD is ready to hire Guest Teachers who are ready to make a difference for students in Pre-K - 12th grade. Daily hourly rate \$15.00.

The Guest Teacher role provides:

- Opportunity to put your degree to work.
- Flexibility – you pick the days and schools.
- An opportunity to work with diverse student populations.
- An opportunity to contribute to the learning and development of the students in our school district.

Come join our team.

Applicants who hold a minimum of an Associate degree or equivalent of 60 credits or higher and who are 20 years of age or older are eligible to apply. Preferences given to applicants that have graduated or are graduating from an Education program. All applicants will be reviewed for strong teaching potential, above average references, experience in critical need areas, and/or an education degree.

For full job description, requirements and to apply online,

Visit: <https://www.appliTrack.com/stjohns/onlineapp/>

Questions? Please call 904-547-7636 Smartfind Helpdesk or application questions call AppliTrack helpdesk 547-7631



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#FORTIFYFL

GETFORTIFYFL.COM



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

