



Week at the Creek

August 17, 2026

Hawk families,

Our students have jumped right into the new school year! We have had the pleasure of visiting classrooms and learning environments this week! Our students are engaged and actively learning. This week our biggest focus was building community and learning our routines and procedures. Our teachers took the time to get to know their students via games, morning meetings, and other interactive activities.

Another huge accomplishment this week is our morning arrival car line. We have been very efficient in getting our students in our building! A huge thank you to our families for having students ready to unload safely. Our fifth-grade safety patrols have been a big help too. They are unloading vehicles, and some are transporting students to their homeroom. Without their help and leadership, we wouldn't be as successful!

Please make sure that you continue to visit our website for the most up-to-date information regarding our school: <https://www-hce.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>.

HCE Administration



August

8/25 SAC Quarterly Meeting @ 3:30PM

September

9/1 PTO Monthly Meeting @ 3:30PM

9/7 NO SCHOOL: LABOR DAY

9/10 PTO Sponsored Tailgate Lunch for Teachers

9/15-10/10 Hispanic Heritage Month

9/15 Volunteer Room Parent Training

9/15 HawkSTARS, 1, 3, 5, Curriculum Night/Open House @ 6PM

9/17 PK, K, 2, 4 Curriculum Night/Open House @ 6PM

9/24 Picture Day

9/25 NO SCHOOL: Teacher Inservice Day

9/30 Character Counts Celebration: Fairness @ 9AM

October

10/6 PTO Meeting @ 3:30PM

10/9 First Quarter Ends

10/12 NO SCHOOL: Teacher Planning Day

10/21 Report Cards Issued

Lunch Menu for Week of 8/17

Breakfast is \$1.75; Lunch \$3.25

Monday

- Chicken Slider Biscuit
- French Toast

Tuesday

- Penne Pasta w/Meatballs
- Penne Pasta w/Marinara Sauce
- Chicken Nuggets

Wednesday

- Crispy Chicken Sandwich
- Crispy Chorizo Quesadilla

Thursday

- Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza
- Mini Corn Dogs

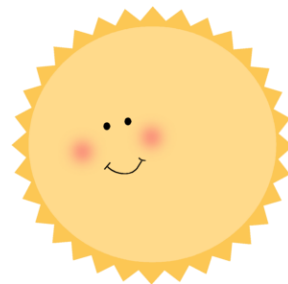
Friday

- Hamburger or Cheeseburger
- Cheese Pizza Sticks



Please visit our [cafeteria's site](#) for more information regarding our Café Policies.

Excessive Heat Watch



Please be reassured that we monitor the weather to ensure safe conditions for outdoor activities. Excessive heat, like storms, may cause outdoor activities to be limited or suspended. In these conditions, students may have PE and recess in indoor spaces. We will continue to monitor weather conditions and adjust our outdoor plans throughout this week. Please have your student dress in light, cool clothing and bring water bottles to school.

Arrival

First Grade-Fifth Grade Students: Parents **will not** be able to walk students in the building on the first day of school. We understand that some of our students are new and do not know exactly where to go on the first day. For this reason, we have a number of staff members stationed all along the entrances and hallways to assist our students. Staff members will have class lists and room numbers to help students get where they need to go. In addition, all students will receive a backpack tag to place on their backpack at the Meet Your Teacher event. The tag will state their name, grade, and teacher's name. **This tag should remain on your child's backpack all year.** The Meet Your Teacher event is a perfect time to have students practice walking to their classroom.

Kindergarten: Students will follow staggered start the first four days. Families will sign up for a staggered start date at the Meet Your Teacher event. Kindergarten parents can arrive at 8:45AM (after car line is over), park (we will also have the additional overflow lot open to give more space) and walk their child up to their classroom during staggered start days ONLY. You must have completed the [School Access Application](#) to come into the building. For our instructional day to begin on time, we ask that drop off be brief. *After staggered start, kindergarten students are expected to walk to their classrooms.* Please note that we will have safety patrol escorts to assist our kindergarten students get to their destination safely for the first three weeks of school. Same as above, additional staff will be available to assist our youngest Hawks.

Pre-K/HawkSTARS: Students will arrive in the regular car line anytime between 8:00AM-8:25AM. Our PreK/ESE staff will be stationed outside during the first week of school to help get PreK/HAWK Stars students out of car seats and safely into the building. After the first week, our PreK/ESE paraprofessionals and Safety Patrols will help with this process. ****PreK/HAWKStars parents – please have your BRIGHT PINK car tag visible for quicker recognition.****

Bus and Biker/Walker students: School Bus Riders and Daycare Van/Bus riders will be assisted by Ms. Rachel Kenyon (ILC) and select bus duty staff. Bikers and Walkers will be directed to enter the building through the bus loop sidewalk. Please note that our Biker/Walker gate will open at 7:55AM. Car Line students will be assisted by Ms. Alice Larson (Assistant Principal) and select car line staff.

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO STATE SAFETY PROTOCOLS, THE BIKER/WALKER GATE WILL OPEN AT 7:55AM AND CLOSE AT 8:25AM.

Car Line protocol for arrival: **Students must exit the car on the passenger side only.** This is very important to ensure the safety of everyone. Car line student vehicles need to travel all the way down Hickory Creek Trail, go around the cul-de-sac and back up to the school entrance gate. There will be staff out to assist with this traffic pattern. Please **STAY IN THE LINE** and once your child(ren) has/have safely exited the vehicle, continue to stay in line until you are through the car loop and out the exit gate. Please do not skip in line or drive around another vehicle unless instructed to do so by a staff member. **Parents are not allowed to park and walk their student to the front door. You will be asked to get back in your vehicle and drop off your student via the car line.**



Home Access Center



The Home Access Center (HAC) is a web-based application that is part of our Student Information System called eSchoolPlus.

Please visit the website below to access or sign up for an account: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/>.

This system provides parents and students with a daily summary page, schedule and attendance, discipline information, class work, test scores and course requests for all students in grades 3-5. This is also where families can access their student's interim report and report card. If you need assistance with your account, please contact our Computer Operator, [Lizeth Antonetti](#).

Dismissal

Times: K-5 Students are dismissed at 2:45PM every day except Wednesday. On Wednesdays, students are dismissed at 1:45PM.

Dismissal will be a work in progress for the first two weeks as we learn everyone's regular mode of dismissal and transportation. *We ask that your student begin the school year following their regular, daily mode of dismissal.*

Car Line: **NEW FOR THE 26-27 SCHOOL YEAR** All cars **MUST** line up OUTSIDE OF THE HCE GATE. **ONLY PK families** will be allowed to enter our car line beginning at 2:15PM, all other vehicles will remain outside of the gate, behind the cones with the STOP sign. Staff will instruct vehicles to come in after we load PK students into their vehicles at 2:30PM. Please have your car tag clearly visible (for those who did not get one at Meet Your Teacher, you should receive one from your child's teacher sometime during the first week). All vehicles (K-5), please drive all the way down to the cul-de-sac and back up into the property. Students will be released from their classroom to come to the car line holding area. We have a number of staff on duty throughout the hallways to keep them heading in the right direction. Please make sure the car tag is visible to all staff members helping load students in cars. *PLEASE BE PATIENT* as this process will take a bit of time initially as we learn a new routine. PLEASE DO NOT SKIP IN LINE OR DRIVE AROUND a stopped car, unless directed to do so by one of our car line staff members. *Please do not park in the Swiss Point Parking Lot to pick up students.* This lot is not our property, and we need permission to use it. Please note parking in this location is considered trespassing.

Bus: Bus students will be dismissed by grade level to load the buses. Kindergarten is always dismissed first in order to seat the kindergarten students at the front of the bus. Bus drivers will have seating charts. It is very important that students follow the directions given to them by the bus driver. To stay up to date on transportation changes and/or delays, please sign up for [BusPlanner](#).

Biker and Walkers: Students will be dismissed by grade levels and walked out by staff members at about 2:40PM. It is important that bikers follow Bicycle Safety. Please take a moment and review some safety tips with your child. All bikers, including e-Bikes and e-Scooter riders, **MUST** wear helmets to and from campus. Please take time to view these videos with your student: [Pedestrian Safety](#) and [Bicycle Safety](#).

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO STATE SAFETY PROTOCOLS, THE BIKER/WALKER GATE WILL OPEN AT 2:35pm (M, T, TH, F)/1:35pm (W).

Extended Day: Staff will follow the procedures shared with families. At 3:00PM, students will meet their team lead at the specified location after school. Students will have a snack and then will work on their home learning (about 20-30 minutes). Students will also attend recess, weather permitting.

Please note: **Once dismissed, a student cannot come back on campus to retrieve personnel items.** Please talk to your child about retrieving all their belongings **BEFORE** leaving their classroom. Anything left behind will be there the next morning.

RAINY DAY DISMISSAL: Administration monitors weather every afternoon. A ParentSquare message **AND** text message will be sent if we need to follow rainy day dismissal. If there is lightning in the area, we will hold all bikers/walkers until the lightning clears. We ask that bikers/walkers always have a Plan B for rainy days.

Absences

A note is needed within 48 hours of returning to school stating the cause of the absence. Please use the [form](#) on our website.

Excused absences include personal illness, illness of an immediate family member, a death in the family, religious holidays of the student's established religious faith, required court or law agency appearances, public functions, state competitions, scheduled doctor or dentist appointments.

For a complete list of excused and unexcused absences, refer to the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

SAC Committee

Be part of our School Advisory Council!

What is SAC? → The School Advisory Council is a state-mandated organization that allows for school-based management and accountability.

An improvement plan is developed each year, largely composed of defined areas of growth based on school data. The School Advisory Council is made up of the principal, faculty, parents, and other members of the school community. Meetings are open to the public quarterly at 3:30PM. All are welcome to attend. If you wish to be part of the committee please reach out to Yvette Gonzalez for more information at Yvette.Cubero-Gonzalez@stjohns.k12.fl.us.



BUS PLANNER

Stay informed and experience a smoother school transportation process with Bus Planner!

- Easy direct access to your student's bus information
- Improved alerts for late buses – more accurate & timely notifications
- Easier requests – communicate directly with Transportation anytime
- Advanced notice for any route time or bus stop changes
- Confirmation receipts for all communication with Transportation



Assigned bus routes will be shared by the SJCS D transportation department via Bus Planner on or before July 31, 2026. For more information and to create an account please follow this link:

[BUS PLANNER](#)

HCES EXTENDED DAY



Please visit our school site under the tab [EXTENDED DAY](#) to learn more about our program. Currently our program is full, however we have a waitlist you can join, please complete the [form online](#). To contact our coordinator, Debra LaGruda, please call (904) 547-7450.

Please review our [Enrichment Schedule](#)! We are offering art, basketball, flag football, chess, volleyball, golf, tennis, cooking, and much more!

Communication with Teachers

Please avoid emailing our teachers during instructional time. Our teachers are not checking email during this time, because they're focused on teaching. If you need help immediately, please call our front desk reception (904)547-7451. If it is not an emergency, please note that your student's teacher will get back as soon as possible. Please note it can take up to 48 hours for a response, especially on weekends. We ask that all transportation changes be reported to our front desk via our [DISMISSAL CHANGE FORM](#). Our reception keeps a list and calls all classrooms beginning at 2pm with transportation changes. Please follow the [HCE Parent Communication Flowchart](#) for all other communication needs.



Please note, in order to access our school, you must sign-in to our lobby Raptor System as a volunteer, you **MUST** be a cleared volunteer, and you **MUST** have a driver's license. Please follow the directions posted on the iPADS to sign in. Michelle, our receptionist, can also help.

Please visit the link below regarding school access:
[SCHOOL ACCESS/VOLUNTEER APPLICATION](#)



FortifyFL

FortifyFL is a mobile app and web-based tool that allows students, parents, and community members in Florida to anonymously report suspicious activities, potential threats, or safety concerns related to schools. The app immediately forwards these reports to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials for rapid response.

Cell Phones and Other Wireless Devices*

Student Use: Pages 25-26 of the [Student Code of Conduct](#) state-

Students are permitted to possess cellular phones and other wireless communication devices on school grounds, school buses, and at school-sponsored events. However, all devices must remain powered off and securely stored in a student's backpack, purse, locker, or vehicle during the school day. In accordance with House Bill 1105, the use of wireless communication devices by elementary and middle school students is strictly prohibited during the school day. *Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the confiscation of the device. Repeated violations will be treated as defiance of school rules and may lead to disciplinary consequences.*



*Wireless devices include smart watches. All smart watches should be on Airplane Mode. Texting, making, or receiving calls, and/or recordings are not allowed. *Failure to comply may result in the device being confiscated.*

HICKORY CREEK ELEMENTARY

CURRICULUM NIGHT

Grades 1st, 3rd, 5th & HawkStars on
Sept.15 6-7pm

Grades PK, K, 2nd, 4th on
Sept.17 6-7pm



Stop by the PTO Table!

