

Kindergarten Key Information

Visit <https://www-pia.stjohns.k12.fl.us/> for information and updates.

- I. **School Hours** – 8:00 – 2:20 – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
 - i. Wednesday (early release) – 8:00 – 1:20
- II. **Staggered Start** – Students are assigned their first day of school on either Thursday, August 10, Friday, August 11, Monday, August 14 or Tuesday, August 15 Students will only attend on the date that is assigned for a full day of Kindergarten. This is done throughout the county to give teachers a day to get to know students in small group settings. On Wednesday, August 16, ALL students will attend.
- III. **Escorting students to class** – Parents can walk students to class on their staggered start date.
 - i. **PTO Welcome Breakfast, TBD** –All kindergarten parents will be invited to join PTO to celebrate the beginning of their child’s educational journey. I would encourage you to attend to get to know other families in our community. We need you! Exact date and time will be communicated at a later date.
- IV. **AM Drop Off** – Parents are encouraged when dropping off in the morning that students are prepared to exit the vehicle as soon as a staff or Patrol opens the door.
- V. **PM PPU (Parent Pick-up)** – Be prepared at the beginning of the school year for the time it takes to dismiss students safely in the PPU line. As the year moves forward, the car rider line becomes much more efficient and moves at a quicker pace.
 - i. In addition, please remain in your car during PPU to ensure the safety of all students. We cannot release children to parents walking up.
 - ii. Should you need to change your child’s dismissal transportation, please email or send a written note to your child’s teacher BEFORE 7:00 AM. If there is a situation during the day and a change in normal dismissal is needed, please email piatransportation@stjohns.k12.fl.us **BEFORE 1:30 PM (12:30 PM on Wednesdays)**. Include your child’s name, grade, teacher and how they need to get home.
- VI. **School Access (visiting your student during the day)** – Pine Island and SJCS D want you to be an active part of your child’s education. It is required that all visitors/volunteers have School Access to be on campus during the school hours. Please make it a priority to visit our School Access link located at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/volunteer/> to become an active part of the Pine Island Learning Community. **This includes:**
 - i. Chaperoning on field trips
 - ii. Volunteering in the classroom, attending classroom parties, etc.
 - iii. Parent/Teacher conferences

VII. **Lunch** – Lunch is always new for our Kindergarten friends. Please begin to work with your student over the summer on opening items they bring/buy for lunch.

VIII. **Attendance Policy** - Any student who has been absent from school is to submit one PIA Absentee form the day the student returns to school stating the cause of the absence, completed, and signed/submitted by parent/guardian.

- The PIA Absentee Form is available as a web submission form and as a printable pdf form.
- If your student has been out 3 (three) or more days, you will also need to provide a note from a physician.
- You will receive the automated phone notification that your child is absent.
- Please see the St. Johns County School's Student Code of Conduct for the district's attendance policies and list of excused and unexcused absences.

If your child is leaving early please send in a note to your child's teacher stating the need and reason for the early checkout request. To assist our front office please pick up your child before 1:20 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and by 12:20 pm on Wednesdays.

IX. **Peanut Awareness School** – Pine Island encourages families to send in peanut-free snacks for celebrations and classroom parties. A Peanut Awareness letter will be sent to all families before school begins with snacks that are safe for all students.

X. **Health**—Please remember that if children are sent home with illness or out sick, they must be free of vomiting, diarrhea or fever without the aid of medication for 24 hours before they can return to school.