



August 10, 2017

Tim Forson
Superintendent of Schools

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

SCHOOL BOARD

Beverly Slough
District 1

Tommy Allen
District 2

Bill Mignon
District 3

Kelly Barrera
District 4

Patrick Canan
District 5

Dear Elementary School Parent or Guardian,

Welcome to the 2017-18 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, 2017 - January 3, 2018, and in the spring, April 12 -July 11, 2018, 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 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.

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.

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 "Tim Forson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tim Forson
Superintendent of Schools



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2017-2018 School Year

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

The St. Johns County School District (SJCS D) is required by the State of Florida Constitution to fully implement the Class Size Amendment (CSA). The CSA requires that core classes not exceed the following numbers of students in specific grade levels:

Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 3:	18 students
Grade 4 through Grade 8:	22 students
Grade 9 through Grade 12:	25 students

In order to comply with these class limits, the SJCS D must make some difficult choices. One of the unfortunate consequences of the CSA is the need to make student placement decisions and adjustments based on the number of students, rather than strictly on the needs of the students. We have also had to decrease the number of elective choices available to students in order to increase the required number of core classes.

Financial implications to the CSA include hiring personnel, adding relocatables or finding additional space within our current facilities, purchasing additional textbooks for teachers, etc. Our school district is using "co-teaching" as one method to meet the CSA. Adding a teacher to the classroom keeps the class from being split, which creates less disruption and more consistency for our students. It is, however, not a perfect solution, as the cost of the second teacher must be absorbed by the district.

The dynamic of a mobile and growing student population adds another layer of difficulty to student placement. As students enroll or withdraw in a school, the class size caps must be maintained. Therefore, all families enrolling their child(ren) should be aware that classroom assignments may require a change in student placement to comply with the CSA. Students will be placed in an available seat in their grade. Should shifts from one classroom to another be necessary, either a volunteer or a selected student will be moved.

Immediately following the tenth day of school (August 23rd), all classes will be balanced, which could include moving teachers, associate teachers and/or students. Additional balancing based on growth or student movement will continue until September 15th. We will make every attempt to minimize student movement, but we must be both fiscally responsible and CSA compliant. We have always held, and will continue to hold, the educational needs of all students as a high priority.

Thank you for your understanding with this challenging requirement. If you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to call your child's principal.

Sincerely,

Tim Forson
Superintendent of Schools

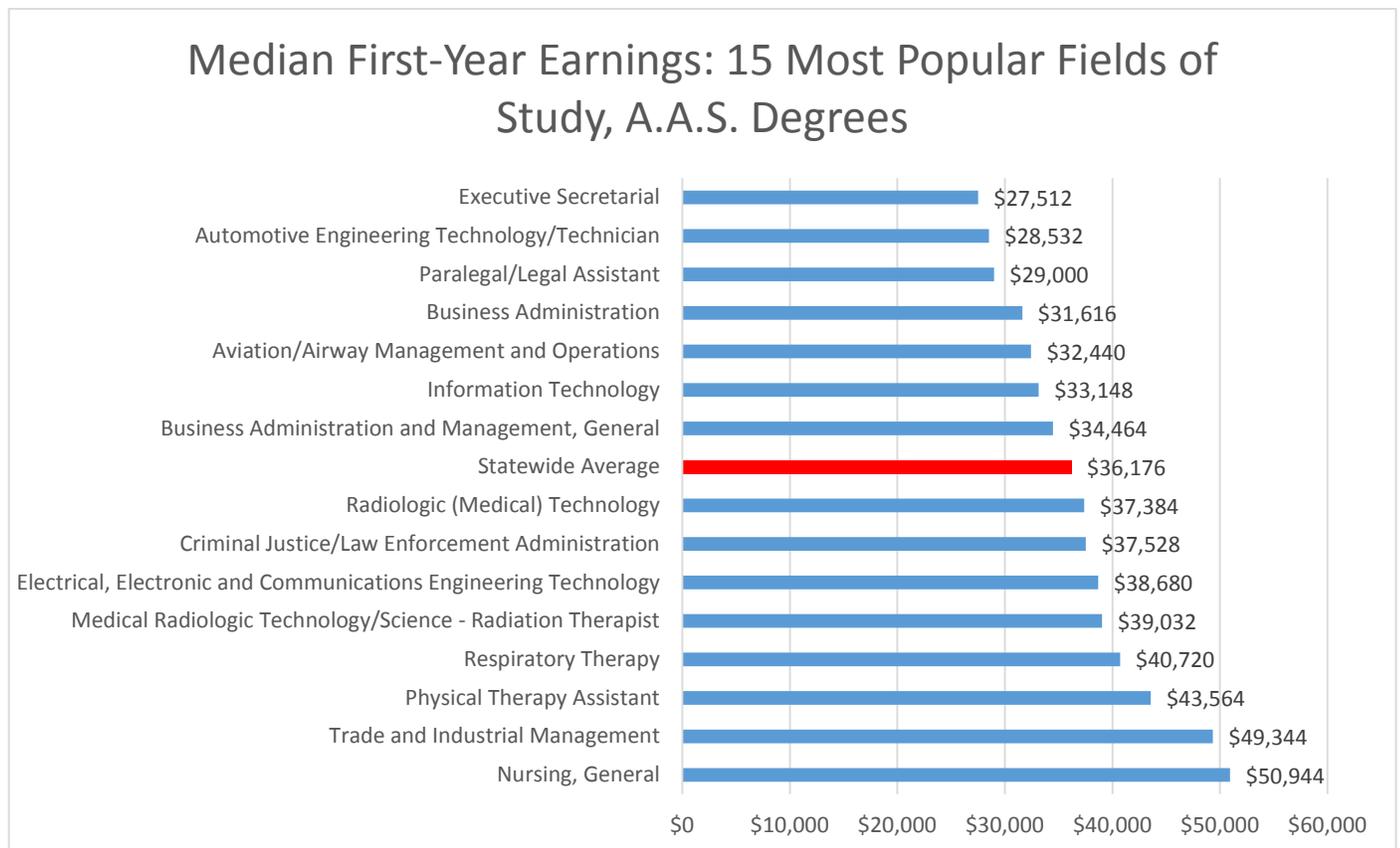
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Measuring the Economic Success of Florida's Graduates

The Economic Security Report provides students, parents, and others with information on graduates of Florida's public institutions of higher education, including the State University System (SUS), Florida College System (FCS) and District Technical Centers (DIST).¹

Degrees and certifications matter – the more you learn, the more you earn. Increased levels of educational achievement provide a boost in earnings power.

Typically, the type of degree selected will be associated with earnings potential as well. The chart below shows earnings for various associate of applied science degrees at the FCS level.² As indicated in the chart, a student's career choice and field of study can greatly impact the student's long-term earnings potential.

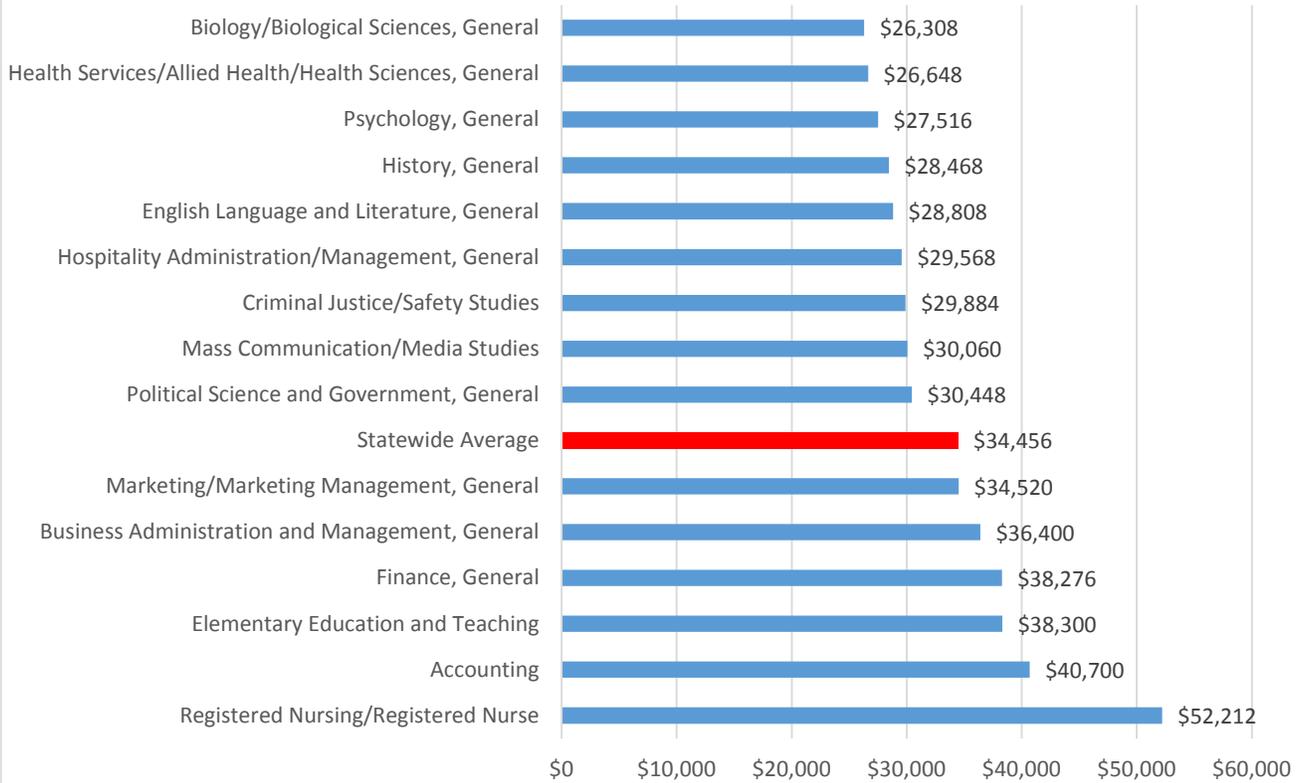


A wide variation in earnings is also true for graduates with a bachelor's degree. While personal interest and other factors should drive choice of institution and major, understanding the earnings of recent bachelor's graduates will aid students in choosing a program to meet their long-term career goals. The chart below shows the 15 most popular bachelor's programs in 2013-2014 by earnings.

¹ The data source for information in this summary report is the Florida Department of Education's Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP).

² Data represents the median initial earnings for 2013-2014 graduates the first year after graduation.

Median First-Year Earnings: 15 Most Popular Fields of Study, Bachelor's Degrees



Although each graduate’s success reflects a variety of factors – such as their background, the local job market, and where they choose to live – www.beyondeducation.org and the Economic Security Report provide valuable information for students and parents to consider when exploring education and career choices.



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August 1, 2017

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Student Code of Conduct is based on the School Board's rules governing student conduct and discipline. The Code is updated annually, and distributed either manually or electronically by every school principal in the school district. It is important that you review the Code in its entirety and return the required signature forms. In addition to containing the required forms for signature, the Code includes important information relative to:

- Students Rights & Responsibilities
- Student Attendance
- Student Health
- Specific grounds for disciplinary action
- Student-Athlete Code of Conduct
- Student Discipline and Rules of Conduct

The Code also contains the following forms for signature which must be signed and returned within 5 days of receiving the Student Code of Conduct, where applicable:

- The Parent/Student Acknowledgement of Student's Rules and Regulations must be signed and returned by all students and parents.
- The Student Acceptable Use Procedures Agreement must be signed and returned in order for students to use school computers and/or digital devices.
- The Release of Student Directory Information Options form **must be signed and returned IF parents do not want a student's name, address and other directory information released to the Armed Forces, Military Recruiters, Military Schools, yearbooks, or for other purposes listed on the form.**
- The Pursuing Victory with Honor Parent and Student -- Athlete Agreement must be signed and returned **IF** a student is planning to participate in interscholastic athletics.

If you have any questions, regarding the Student Code of Conduct or the information highlighted above, please contact your principal.

Sincerely,

Tim Forson
Superintendent of Schools

/rb

Student/Athletic Accident Insurance

July 1, 2017- June 30, 2018

The St. Johns County School Board has purchased **accident coverage** through BMI Benefits, to protect all students involved in any school sponsored and supervised activity including Sports against accidental injury or death occurring while the policy is in force. *However*, please note that if your child is currently covered under any other medical policy, claims **MUST** be submitted under that policy **FIRST**.

The Student Accident Insurance policy has caps on medical benefits and a \$250.00 deductible.

Claims Instructions:

- In the event of accident, notify the school immediately.
- Secure a claim form from the school.
- Complete and Sign the claim form.
- **Claim MUST be filed within 90 days of the accident or the claim could be Denied.**

Include: Itemized bills and the Explanation of Benefits from your primary Insurance Carrier.

OPTIONAL

VOLUNTARY - Student Accident Benefits

Provides coverage for accidental injuries occurring around-the-clock, at home, at school, on weekends and during the summer. Coverage is effective from the date the application and premium are received by the Company, until one year after the school year began.

For additional questions or information, phone or e-mail

K&K Insurance Group
855-742-3135
www.StudentInsurance-kk.com

Applications online



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Dear Parents,

The St. Johns County School District is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for your child. Each St. Johns County school has an Emergency Operations Plan with incident specific procedures that is reviewed and practiced regularly. These plans have been formulated using Federal Emergency Operations Agency and Department of Education guidelines that conform to federal, state and local guidelines. They have been coordinated with St. Johns County Emergency Services including law enforcement, fire and rescue, and the Emergency Operations Center. All principals are linked to the District's Crisis Management Team through telephone landlines, cellular phones and/or two way radios. St. Johns County School District recognizes **The Incident Command System (ICS)**, a nationally recognized organization structure that provides for role assignment and decision-making while planning for and responding to critical incidents of all types.

Our school district works closely with local public safety officials using their expertise and input. Regular safety, health, security and fire inspections take place each year in all district schools. All district schools have been designated as shelters to be used in the event of a hurricane or other emergency requiring temporary shelter. Each school has a Safety Committee that meets a minimum of four times per year to discuss issues of safety and security. Fire drills are conducted each month beginning with two in August. We also practice tornado, lockdown and AED Response Drills and instruct students in procedures used for bomb threats and shelter in place drills. Bus evacuation drills are held once each semester.

Visitor and volunteer sign in procedures are required in each school. All district schools use the Keep N Track sign in system. We require all visitors and volunteers to sign in and wear name tags when visiting the school. All volunteers must complete a St. Johns County School Volunteer Application. A background check will be completed by the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office for security approval before applicants can volunteer.

All St. Johns County high school and middle schools are assigned full time Youth Resource Deputies and provide support to all our elementary schools. These resource officers are St. Johns County Deputies and have received extensive training in working with students and local 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.

The Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools' Practical Information on Crisis Planning suggests that schools clearly let families know they should not call the school's direct line or come to the campus during an emergency. If the school has not been evacuated, calls could tie up desperately needed communication lines in and out of the school and parents' cars could physically block law enforcement, fire/rescue and other first responders. Therefore, in the event of a crisis, we will communicate that:

- *A crisis has occurred*
- *Specific directions on what to do and not to do*
- *All possible steps are being taken to see to the safety of your children.*
- *Assurance that you will be reunified with your child as soon as it is safe to do so*

Every school has specific plans for the reunification of parents and their children in the event of a major emergency. Under certain circumstances, students may be evacuated to another site. In the event our school is evacuated, our primary relocation site is the **Solomon Calhoun Center**. To communicate with parents in a crisis, our mass communication system, SchoolMessenger, will be used. This system provides instant telephone, text and email communication accepting up to four phone numbers and two email addresses per student. In order to receive text messages you must opt in. Please visit <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolmessenger/> for instructions. Our system can be used for emergency calls, community outreach, special events, and other school/district messages.

School psychologists, social workers, and counselors trained in crisis intervention are available to students and their families in all emergencies. A district counseling team is available for school support. All high schools, middle and elementary schools are equipped with AEDs (Automated External Defibrillator). Each school has CPR/AED certified faculty and staff and an AED Response team.

If at any time you have concerns about the safety of your child or issues concerning safety or security, please call the school.

Sincerely,

Principal

/rb