

St. Johns County School District's
MARINE SCIENCE PROGRAM
2026 PARENT INFORMATION SHEET

TWO SESSIONS OFFERED:

Session 1: June 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11

Session 2: June 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25

(Note: please check each date carefully)

All sessions are from 8:15 A.M. to 2:15 P.M. Students are assigned to small classes (approximately 14 students) by grade level.

LOCATION:

Gamble Rogers Middle School

6250 US 1 South

St. Augustine, FL 32086

(904) 547-8700

(1 mile north of the US 1 and SR 206 intersection or 3 miles south of the Publix at US 1 and Wildwood Drive – watch for school signs on US 1)

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

<u>Bus Stop</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>A.M. Pickup</u>	<u>P.M. Drop off</u>
A	Julington Creek Elementary	7:00	3:30
B	Julington Creek Elementary	7:00	3:30
C	PV/PV Rawlings Elementary	6:55	3:30
C	Landrum Middle School	7:05	3:15
H	Timberlin Creek Elementary	7:10	3:25
D	Valley Ridge Academy	7:20	3:20
E	Ketterlinus Elementary	7:30	3:15
E	R.B. Hunt Elementary	7:40	2:45
E	Crescent Beach Fire Station	8:00	2:30
F	Tocio Creek High School	7:15	3:00
G	Southwoods Elementary	7:45	2:45
G	Hartley Elementary	8:00	3:00

Parents who transport their children need to arrive promptly at Gamble Rogers Middle School at 8:15 A.M. and 2:15 P.M.

WALKERS/BIKERS/NON-PARENT PICK UPS-NOTE IS REQUIRED:

If your child will be picked up by someone other than a parent/guardian OR your child will walk/bike from a bus stop a note must be in your child's backpack. Include child's name, parent name, all accessible phone numbers, list of people that may take your child from the stop with phone numbers or a statement "I give my child permission to walk/bike from the bus stop".

LUNCH:

Students need to bring their own lunch from home. Though all instructors take water out into the field with their classes, it is strongly suggested that you send individual waters or Gatorade with your child. Soda is not recommended. Drink and snack machines are not available.

(NOTE: Students are outside engaging in physical activities every day beginning around 9:00 A.M. We recommend that your child eat a good breakfast every morning.)

MATERIALS NEEDED EVERY DAY:

*marine science t-shirt	pen/pencil
**sturdy lace-up old tennis style shoes	folder with paper
lunch	bathing suit (on under clothes)
individual drinks or snacks	dry change of clothes
sunscreen and hat	any necessary medications (see medical section below)
towel	

*For immediate student recognition and safety in the field and in public, Marine Science T-shirts must be worn every day. Students are given two shirts the first day of the program.

****SHOES:** Since students are often in soft mud or around oysters, lace up or Velcro fasten OLD tennis-style shoes with enclosed toes and enclosed heel shoes are required. Most students throw away their shoes at the end of the program. Flip-flops, water shoes, open-toed Tevas, Crocs, five fingers, etc. are not safe for our activities. Students who do not have appropriate footwear will not be taken out in the field with their class and will have to call parents to pick them up at the school.

All students are required to wear our provided PFD's (personal flotation devices) in all water activities.

SECURING OUR PLACE IN THE PROGRAM:

A minimum deposit and the notarized final application must be **received** by April 17th, 2026, at GRMS. We suggest you make a copy (take a picture) of your notarized application before you send it by USPS. We cannot accept emailed applications.

METHODS OF PAYMENT:

\$450 total cost if paid by 5/15/26-deposit due by 4/17/26. Payment for the program may be made by the following methods:

Preferred Method:

To pay by **credit card**, go to the Gamble Rogers Middle School website and click on the link for Marine Science where instructions will be found under "SCHOOL PAY". Make sure you fill in the block for "FULL STUDENT NAME." There will be a surcharge to School Pay when paying by credit card. Credit card payments must be made a minimum of 3 days prior to the child's first day of the program. You must go through our MSP website to access School Pay.

Additional Method:

Payments by **check or money order** should be enclosed with the final notarized application and mailed to the address below. Please put student's name and grade level on check or money order.

SPECIAL PAYMENT PROVISIONS:

If special payment provisions are absolutely necessary, accommodations will be made in the following way:

- A \$200 non-refundable deposit must be RECEIVED by check, money order, credit card by the payment deadline of April 17th 2026. This is received not postmarked
- The balance of the fee \$250 must be RECIEVED by 5/15/26. NOT POSTMARKED
- When paying balance after 5/15/26 the fee of \$275 is due by cash or money order on the child's first day of attendance. *No checks will be taken after May 15th.* (District policy is that all field trips must be paid in full before the student goes on the trip. Marine Science field trips go out every day.)
- Cash payment must be exact amount owed however, we discourage sending cash with your child. Please plan ahead to obtain a cashier's check/money order.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE: Gamble Rogers Middle School

MAIL CHECKS AND APPLICATION TO:

Gamble Rogers Middle School
6250 U. S. 1 South
St. Augustine, FL 32086
Attention: Marine Science Program

CONFIRMATION OF SESSION:

Once your child's notarized application and payment have been received, a Confirmation of Session email with updated parent information will be sent to you the first week of May. If this is not received, there is an issue, and your child has not been placed in our program. Please email marinescienceprogram@stjohns.k12.fl.us to resolve the issue. We recommend you set a reminder in your phone. We respectfully ask you wait until after 5/8 to ask about your application.

REFUND POLICY:

Our full 8-day medical refund will be balance paid after a 6% deduction with a physician's note only. Our prorated medical daily refund will be \$45 per day. Please allow 4-6 weeks for refund processing.

CELL PHONES/ BEHAVIOR: The program cannot be responsible for any phones which are damaged, lost, or stolen. Any student misusing their phone during their time with us may be subject to removal from program. Sharing photos with a willing or unwilling participant during program time is prohibited.

Students in this enrichment program are expected to behave appropriately. This is especially important in a program of this nature for safety reasons. Fees will be refunded on a pro-rated basis to any parent whose student's behavior or attitude prevents this program from being a positive and safe experience for themselves or their classmates.

HOMEROOM/GROUP REQUESTS:

Because of the large number of students who apply to the program (over 1,000 each summer), we do not honor requests for friends to be together. We do try to group several students from a school in the same class. Once placed in a group your student will not be moved for any reason due to equipment logistics. Please encourage your child to make new friends. We politely ask you do not email for reassignment of your child.

MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS – Any student taking prescribed medications (inhalers, epipens, ADHD medication, etc.) during the times of attendance in the program must have an "Authorization to Assist in the Administration of Medication/Treatment" form on file with the program coordinator. This form can be downloaded from the website (see

website address below), and should be sent with the final notarized application form and payment. All instructors are trained in medication administration.

The “Authorization to Assist” form, however, is not necessary for prescribed medications that are taken at home before the child arrives at school. It is also not necessary for over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol, Advil, etc. However, if over-the-counter medications will be used by the child during the program, a note from the parent or indication on the back of the final application form if necessary.

IMPORTANT - Please list any IEP/504 information that may be helpful for our teachers. Any medication that your child regularly takes during the school year, either before or during school, should be continued during this program as well. (i.e. ADHD medications, etc.)

IMPORTANT RESCUE MEDICATIONS – If you indicate on the final application form that your child uses an inhaler or epipen, it **must** be sent to the program with your child **every day**. If not, your child will not go on the daily trip and will remain at the school until picked up by a parent. The Authorization to Assist form also **must** be on file with the program. Remember if you write it, they must have it.

FOCUS/CURRICULUM:

The Marine Science Program has maintained a strict academic focus since its beginning in 1982. The program is designed for students who wish to expand their knowledge and experiences in the marine science field through hands-on learning. Students will be responsible for material covered and grades will be assigned and entered on a Certificate of Completion to be sent to parents to indicate their child’s mastery of the material taught. Though some classroom instruction is necessary, the majority of learning takes place in the field and students will access various coastal environments by canoes, kayaks, sailboats, windsurfing boards, SUP’s (stand up paddle boards), bicycles, snorkeling, hiking and boating. Details of grade level curriculum was provided with the pre application and can be viewed at any time on our webpage at:

<http://www-grms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/marinescience/>

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR SHARING INFORMATION WITH YOUR CHILD:

Please take the time to cover our expectations with your child so everyone is on the same page for a fun, safe in the field learning environment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Kristina Bransford, program coordinator email at marinescienceprogram@stjohns.k12.fl.us