

October 25th, 2021

Dear High School Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to share the annual mental health required instruction information, per Florida Statute and State Board Rule. Students in grades 6-12 will have five hours of required instruction on substance use and abuse, child trafficking prevention and awareness, and mental and emotional health education (Rule 6A-1.094124, F.A.C.). Students in grades 7-12 will be required to receive instruction on healthy relationships per section 1003.42(2)(n), Florida Statutes.

These are important topics that will help our students have the knowledge and ability to act when faced with difficult situations. I believe this instruction will be extremely beneficial for your children and/or reinforce what is taught at home.

The required instruction for grades 6-12 will be led by teachers utilizing research-based, high-quality instructional materials infused in monthly Character Chats videos created by the district staff.

I am proud of the work district staff has done to select and develop instructional materials that are age appropriate. This is statutorily required instruction and there is no opt out opportunity for students. To learn more about the lessons, I encourage you to visit our website <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/mental-health/instruction/middle-school>.

As always, I thank you for support of our schools, and your time and commitment to your children's education.

Sincerely,

Tim Forson

Superintendent of Schools