



**ST. JOHNS
RIVERKEEPER®**

STEAM BOAT TRIP PROGRAM



FULL STEAM AHEAD

For the last three years, St Johns RIVERKEEPER and Duval County Public Schools partnered through the STEAM Cultural Passport Program to **provide on-the-water learning experiences for Title I 5th-grade students.**

The STEAM Cultural Passport provides Title I elementary schools with field trip experiences that are connected to programs and offerings in Science, Technology, Engineering, The Arts, and Mathematics.



The 2015-2016 school year...

3,848

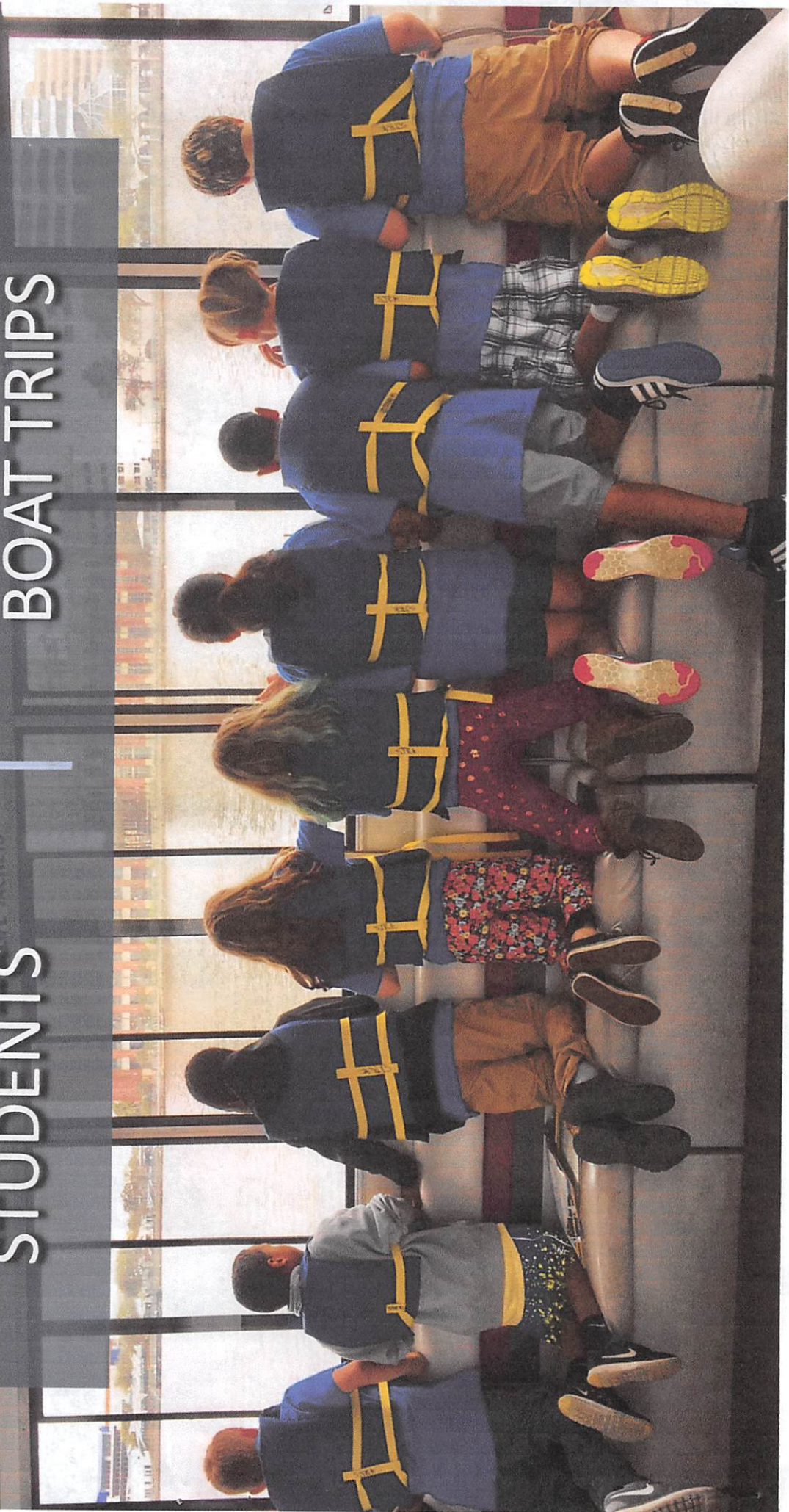
TITLE 1, 5TH GRADE
STUDENTS

91

WATER TAXI
BOAT TRIPS

WHITE JACKETS

CHILD LIFE



The 2016-2017 school year...

4,722

TITLE 1, 5TH GRADE

STUDENTS

108

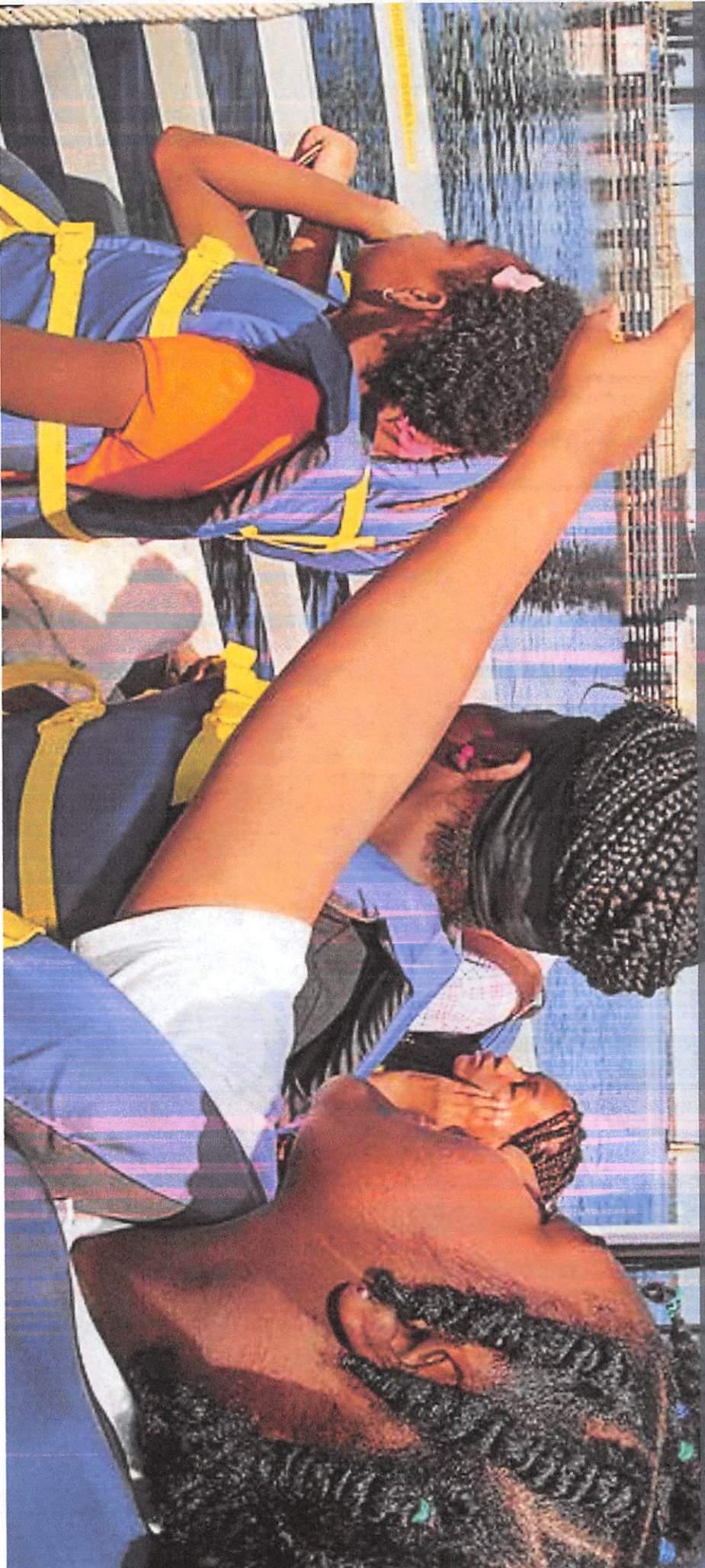
WATER TAXI

BOAT TRIPS

23% ↑

STUDENT

PARTICIPATION





The 2017-2018 school year...

5,050

TITLE 1, 5TH GRADE
STUDENTS

105

WATER TAXI
BOAT TRIPS

7% ↑

STUDENT
PARTICIPATION

BOAT TRIP AGENDA

- Record observational data on birds, manatee, dolphins, trash and boat traffic.
- Use scientific instruments to collect water quality data.
- Make connections between river plants and animals and see how adaptations enable them to survive in the St. Johns River ecosystem.
- Integrate water quality data, observational data, and what they have learned to make predictions about the future of the St. Johns River.



BOAT TRIP ACTIVITIES AND CORRELATING STANDARDS

Topic	Description	Standards
Water Quality Monitoring	During the boat trip, students will use St. Johns River water samples and take salinity data from different points along the St. Johns River. Students will discuss and interpret their results.	SC.5.E.7.2, SC.5.N.1.6
Animals and Plants of the St. Johns River ecosystem	There are many animals and plants along the St. Johns River seen everyday by students, yet many are unaware of the connection between these living things and their environment. We will take a look at these animals and plants and the adaptations that allow them to thrive as part of the St. Johns River ecosystem.	SC.5.L.17.1
Natural and man-made changes to the St. Johns River	Whether natural or man-made, change is a part of every ecosystem. We will observe some natural and man-made changes along the river and discuss how they have impacted the local ecosystem. After reviewing our water quality data and exploring some potential changes to the river we will develop hypotheses about what might happen within the ecosystem.	SC.5.L.15.1
Observational studies on the St. Johns River	We will conduct observational surveys for dolphin, manatees, and shore birds as we travel along the river and discuss what we can and cannot do with the data collected.	SC.5.N.1.6

TEACHER FEEDBACK

- “I thought it was a great learning experience for the students. I hope next year we get to attend before the Science FCAT. Good resources were used that would help further explain certain areas of science.”
- “This was by far one of the BEST experiences that our students have had all year! The content was aligned to the curriculum, the setting was phenomenal, and the staff was kind and informative. Hope we are able to take advantage of this AWESOME experience next year.”
- “The students were on their best behavior (big surprise!) and engaged the entire time. The staff was knowledgeable, patient, engaging and supported the students. It was a fantastic excursion and I hope we are invited back next year. The students LOVED it and participated the whole time. It was the first time for some of them on a boat and it was an extremely positive experience. THANK YOU!!”



MEDIA

THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION

New program gives poor students front-row seat to St. Johns River aquatic life

By Rhema Thompson Mon, Sep 29, 2015 @ 4:13 pm | updated Tue, Sep 29, 2015 @ 8:47 am



Bruce Lipsky@jacksonville.com
Students from Carter G. Woodson Elementary look out the window of the St. Johns River Taxi before departing on the inaugural educational tour of the river with the Riverkeeper.

The downtown water taxi barely inched away from Friendship Park, when the heads of about 40 gleeful fifth-graders dart back and forth, trying to catch a glimpse of anything in the murky river below.

Teacher Nyeika Thorne chided them, "I know we're excited we're on the boat, but it's time to pay attention."

For many of the students from Carter G. Woodson Elementary — where nearly 80 percent of students are considered poor — Monday's hour and a half tour was a first.

Most aboard had never been this up close to the St. Johns River before in their life, including 11-year-old Jerome Davis and his mother Latoya Anderson.

"It's very exciting to be able to spend time with him here," Anderson said.

FIRST COAST NEWS



(Photo: Robbins, Lisa)



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -- Duval County Public Schools is offering a unique opportunity for students who need it most.

Thousands of fifth graders from low-income families will have the chance to ditch the classroom for a trip on a boat.

The new program is a partnership between [St. Johns Riverkeeper](#), an environmental advocacy organization, and DCPS.

"Many of these students have never been on the river, or some of them have not even been near the river," said Jeff Smith, Director of Arts for DCPS.

Around 4,500 fifth grade students will benefit from the program, which focuses on the district's title I elementary schools.

Monday, students from Carter G. Woodson Elementary were the first to take the 90 minute educational boat trip up and down the St. Johns River.

"We'll be working on water chemistry. We're going to study the ecosystem. These guys are going to participate in some dolphin and manatee counts," said Jennie Busey, Executive Director of St. Johns Riverkeeper.

It's a chance Latoya Anderson didn't want to miss.

MEDIA

NEWS 4 JACKSONVILLE

MORNING SHOW

Educational boat trips for students

Posted: 11:49 AM, September 28, 2015
Updated: 11:49 AM, September 28, 2015



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ACTION NEWS JAX

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — A partnership between Duval County Schools and the St. Johns River Keeper created a program through the STEAM Cultural Passport Program that will provide on-the-water learning experiences for some Duval County students.

About 4,500 Duval County fifth-grade students at Title 1 schools will soon add boat rides on the St. Johns River as part of their school curriculum for the 2015-2016 year. The STEM program provides students in Title 1 elementary schools with three to four educational field trips per year.

FOLIO WEEKLY BOUQUET



BOUQUETS TO THE STEAM CULTURAL PASSPORT PROGRAM With additional funding from CSX, the St. Johns Riverkeeper and the Duval County School Board have partnered to provide on-the-water learning opportunities for approximately 4,500 low-income Duval County students during the 2015-'16 school year through the STEAM cultural passport program.

Opinion

Wednesday's Editorial: A ride on the St. Johns River opens the eyes of students to science

By Times-Union editorial board

Posted Nov 7, 2017 at 8:07 PM

It was a glorious day Downtown on the St. Johns River.

The bright blue sky was marked by a few cotton balls of clouds.

The quiet majestic river was rippled by the movement of the river taxi.

The sun was warm, the breeze was cool.

With all of this natural beauty as a backdrop, a group of fifth-graders from Susie Tolbert Elementary School were receiving action-packed lessons on the environment, science, ecology and more.

They were participating in the STEAM Cultural Passport Program in the Duval County public schools.

The program, now in its third year, is run by the St. Johns Riverkeeper for the Duval County Schools. The program does a masterful job of packing lessons into a 90-minute boat trip.





For information about sponsorship
opportunities, contact:

Jimmy Orth, Executive Director
904-256-7919
jimmy@stjohnsriverkeeper.org

Watch the STEAM Boat Trip video!
<https://youtu.be/t4eCtQJ62qk>