MISSION-BE A LEARNER, BE A LEADER, BE A TARPON VISION-Promote a culture where Tarpons do their best, do what is right and treat others the way they wish to be treated.

Charlotte High School

1250 Cooper Street Punta Gorda, FL 33950 Phone: (941) 575-5450 Attendance Extension: *7000

Fax: 941-575-5464

School Hours: 7:10 am - 2:10 pm School Mascot: Fighting Tarpons School Colors: Royal Blue and Gold



December 8th, 2023

http://chs.yourcharlotteschools.net

Rarents, Staff, Students And Community Of Charlotte High School

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Each and every day, I am so thankful to have the best job in the world, Principal of Charlotte High School! As the Holiday Season approaches, I wanted to take a moment to share some of the things I am most thankful for at my home away from home.

- I am thankful I get to spend time with amazing children every day Sometimes when I am having a challenging day, all I have to do is leave my office and go visit classrooms, walk the halls, or visit the cafeteria to visit and talk with some very special and remarkable kids! I consider these times to be the bright spots in my day!
 - I am thankful for the dedicated Fighting Tarpon Staff at Charlotte High School Without each of them, our school would not be able to meet such high standards and the needs of all of our students. Thank you for your dedication to our students and families!
 - I am thankful to our teachers and families for holding our students accountable for their learning and behavior This increases our students' efforts to be successful and responsible future adults.
 - I am thankful to our coaches and club sponsors at Charlotte High School You give our Tarpons something to look forward to participating in above and beyond the school day.
 - I am thankful to all of our parents and visitors who support our staff and follow our visitor guidelines every time you visit the school You help our school run smoothly and safely, and I cannot thank you enough for that!
 - I am very thankful to our staff and family members who always lead by example and set a good example for our students Our students are ever so observant and learn from everyone around them. Thank you for working hard to set a good example for our students!
 - I am thankful to our SAC for all they do each day for our staff, students, and families Their continued support is invaluable to our staff, students, and families!
 - I am thankful for our community and their support I am constantly amazed at how often organizations and people step forth to donate their time and resources to our school and families! Our success is your success.

Happy Holidays to each of you! May your New Year be filled with love, happiness, and blessings!

Sincerely,

and hotally

Angie Taillon

Simpon Line

To download a PDF version of this newsletter, go to http://academypublishing.com/schools/charlotte/charlotte.php



"Always remember, Tarpon Pride never graduates!"

ADMINISTRATION

Principal

Angie Taillon

Assistant Principals

Nicholas Brown Jeffrey Damico Kathryn Pyle Andrew Tenney

Deans

Kathleen Moore David Kelley

Guidance Counselors Josalyn Leath, 9th grade Trish Marcus, 10th grade Kathleen Carroll, 11th grade Amy Perkey, 12th grade)

School Board Members Kim Amontree, Member Wendy Atkinson, Member John LeClair, Vice Chairman Cara Reynolds, Chairman Robert Segur, Member

Charlotte High School is known as Charlotte County's First and Finest High School. Having first opened its doors in 1926, CHS is rich in history, community support, and tradition.

Go Tarpons!



'Tarpon Line' **December 8, 2023 Published Five Times Per Year Charlotte County Public Schools** 1445 Education Way Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1052

Issue #1

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Night courses available to start EMT or Firefighter program during your senior year.

Call today to start your EMS and Fire Rescue career!





CHS TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND SUPPORT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Charlotte High School's 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year, Tara Cain, and Support Employee of the Year, Sandra Cuddy. We are so very fortunate to have both of these dedicated employees working at CHS!

Teacher & 5#YEAR

UPCOMING DATES

December 21	End of Quarter 2
December 22	Teacher Work Day-NO STUDENTS
December 25-January 5	Winter Break
January 15	MLK Jr Day-NO SCHOOL
February 19	Presidents' Day-NO SCHOOL



PARENT CONTACT INFORMATION

It is imperative we have accurate records (new addresses, phone numbers, etc.) so we are able to contact you in the event of an emergency involving your son or daughter. In addition, there are times when teachers and other school personnel also need to speak with parents and/or guardians. Please give the office a call if you need to update your information.

ABSENCES

CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER: 941-575-5450

Please be reminded that on the day your child is absent from school, the Attendance Office should receive a phone call before 7:30 a.m. from the parent or guardian explaining the absence. In addition, for your convenience, a 24-hour voice mail is available before and after school hours so you are able to leave messages regarding absences. Other important extensions you may need are as follows:

OFFICES	EXTENSIONS	OFFICES	EXTENSIONS
ATTENDANCE	*7000	ESE	*7111
ATHLETICS	*7004	FACILITIES	*7112
BOOKKEEPER	*7007	GUIDANCE/CURRICULUM	*7035
CAFETERIA	*7077	MAIN OFFICE	*7001
CLINIC	*7002	MEDIA CENTER	*7088
CPAC	*7086	PRINCIPAL	*7011
CUSTODIAL	*7078	REGISTRATION	*7006
DATA ENTRY	*7008	SOCIAL WORKERS	*7036/*7142
DEAN/DISCIPLINE	*7049		

(Make sure to add the * before extension number when dialing.

CHS STUDENT ID CARDS

Once students are issued IDs in the fall, they are expected to wear their ID over their neck and it must be visible at all times. Students will be required to show their ID when entering the school building and when they enter and exit the school bus. Students who do not have their ID will be issued a temporary badge. Those who repeatedly do not bring their ID to school may face disciplinary action.

If an ID is lost or needs repair, students should stop by the Dean's Office to get their ID or lanyard repaired or replaced. Students needing additional IDs, sleeves, or lanyards will pay \$2 for an ID and \$1 for a lanyard. Replacement sleeves are free.



SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS for children, teens, & adults:

- Individual & Group Therapy
- Psychiatric Services

Teen Anger Management

- Parent/Child Conflict
- Bullying
- Crisis Services
- Substance Use Disorder

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The FOCUS portal allows parents and students 24/7 secure access to information such as attendance, assignments, grades, and discipline. Please visit chs.yourcharlotteschools.net, click on this link and get started today!



Bullying, which includes cyberbullying, occurs when a person or group of people purposefully and repeatedly hurt, embarrass, or frighten another. During freshman year, all Tarpons participate in a classroom lesson about bullying run by our Assistant Principal and School Resource Officer. Students are educated about how to identify, react to and report bullying. As a parent, it is important to have open dialogue with your child about their experiences at school. If you become aware of a bullying situation, please report it immediately. Charlotte High School does not tolerate any form of bullying. For more information, or to report bullying, see the "Students & Parents" section of our website.

DIRECTIONS FOR PARENT PICK UP



Our MAIN parent drop off area is just off Henry Street behind the Deep Creek Church. There are signs on Cooper Street directing you to this area. This is the largest area and is designed to accommodate a large volume of traffic. Students dropped off here enter the school on the gymnasium side of the campus.

Our SECONDARY drop off area is at CPAC. Because of the volume of students dropped off at CPAC, there is usually a waiting time to get in and out due to the seniors who drive to school who also use this area.

> FOR SAFETY PURPOSES, THE VISITOR PARKING LOT OFF COOPER STREET IS NOT A DESIGNATED DROP OFF OR PICK UP AREA.



ADVERTISE IN THE **TARPON LINE!**

This is a wonderful way for your company to get community recognition and exposure, and at the same time help support your local schools! Email Carmen Blake at carmen.blake@yourcharlotteschools.net







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NOTES FROM YOUR COUNSELORS

Freshman Counselor - Josalyn Leath

Freshmen, you are almost done with your first semester of high school. Take this time to reflect on your strengths and needs so you can come back stronger than ever for your second and final semester of 9th grade. I believe in each and every one of you. It is my pleasure and duty to guide and support you through your high school journey! Remember I am here to help. You can schedule an appointment with me by scanning the QR code available on the school website or in guidance. You can also contact me through Remind. Keep in mind that the registration process for next school year will begin quickly after the start of semester 2. Start thinking of the courses you would like to take in 10th grade, and how they align with your college/career path. Sophomore Counselor - Trish Marcus

Hey Sophomores, I am your 10th grade counselor and am so excited to be working with you this year! Give yourselves a high five as you've already completed the first quarter of your journey as a Sophomore. This year is an important one, as you should be on your way to earning some of your graduation requirements. In addition to the core classes needed (4 English, 4 Math, 3 Science, 3 History) you will also need a HOPE and a Performing or Practical Arts credit. Additionally, if you have any 9th grade credits that you need to recover, you should be doing so through Edgenuity (can be accessed through Classlink). Please be sure to work on these courses during the school year so that you can be on track to graduate! I look forward to working with you all this year to help make the rest of your high school career successful!

<u>Junior Counselor - Kathleen Carroll</u>

Dear Juniors, I am thrilled to be your counselor this year! In our recent Junior meetings, we discussed graduation requirements and met with our Career Specialist, Mrs. Eyster, who introduced Xello. As we approach the end of 2nd Quarter, it's important to start thinking about taking the ACT/SAT on a Saturday to kickstart your college plans. You still need to fulfill the testing requirements for graduation, including passing the Algebra 1 EOC and the FSA/ELA. With graduation only a year and a half away, please ensure you are mindful of all your graduation requirements, including maintaining a 2.0 GPA, earning the correct class credits, completing the mentioned tests, and taking an online course. If you have credits to make up in Edgenuity, please prioritize completing those courses. If you have any questions, please schedule an appointment with me by scanning the QR code or sending a message through Remind. Keep up the great work during this crucial year of high school!

Senior Counselor - Amy Perkey

Seniors, you are quickly approaching the end of semester 1 of your senior year, and will be starting your final high school semester in January 2024. This is your last chance to make changes for the better and to get on track if you have fallen behind. Making positive changes with your work ethic, time management, and priorities so you can be on track for graduation is CRUCIAL at this time.

If you are behind in credits, make sure you are working on your Edgenuity. If you have not passed your Alg 1 EOC or FSA Reading, and you have not earned a concordant score for these assessments, please make sure to register for an ACT or SAT as you need to pass both of these assessments for graduation. Come see me if you have any questions about these graduation requirements or if you are unsure about anything.

You can message me on Remind, email me or scan the QR code and make an academic appointment to see me in the Career Center. I am here to help. **Do not wait until the last minute.** If you have not met with Mrs. Eyster, please do so to start planning for after high school whether that includes college, working, or military. Enjoy senior year with the least amount of stress as possible. This should be a memorable, enjoyable time.

Please sign up for your grade level Counselor's Remind if you have not done so already.

- For Freshmen Text @gradme2027 to 81010
- For Sophomores Text @gradme2026 to 81010
- For Juniors Text @gradme2025 to 81010
- For Seniors Text @gradme2024 to 81010

COUNSELOR NEWS YOU CAN USE

"A dream written down with a date becomes a goal. A goal broken down into steps becomes a plan. A plan backed by action makes your dreams come true." - Greg S. Reid

Tarpons, we are quickly approaching the end of first semester. Remember you can do more than you think, all you have to do is push yourself. We are in the final stretch for semester 1. It is not too late to end this semester strong and come back with a fresh start for semester 2.

Important dates to remember:

- SAT Test: March 9th 2024- Deadline without a late fee is February 23rd 2024. Deadline with a late fee is TBA. Register at www.sat.org.
- ACT test: February 10th 2024- Deadline without a late fee is January 5th 2024. Deadline with a late fee is January 19th 2024. Register at www.act.org.
- Pre-Registration for the 24-25 School Year: February 5th 2024 -February 9th 2024 for Grades 9-11
- Registration for the 24-25 School Year: February 19th 2024 March 8th for Grades 9-11

*Juniors and Seniors only- If you qualify for free or reduced lunch, please see Mrs. Rhodes in Guidance for a Test Fee Waiver for ACT or SAT.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Please encourage your child to attend class when school is in session. Attending school all day, every day, is an important opportunity for students to learn as well as connect with peers and their teachers. Regular school attendance has an impact on a student's academic success. Let us know how we can best support your child so they can show up for school on time every day. We are here to help!

Students Improve



FREE TUTORING AVAILABLE AFTER SCHOOL

Math tutoring is available on Thursdays in B112 after school until 3:50 pm. In addition, students in the National Honor Society provide tutoring in any subject area on Wednesdays in B112 after school until 3:50 pm.

CTE CERTIFICATIONS

The CTE Department would like to announce that the following students gained their Industry Certification:

- Dale Smith Adobe Dreamweaver, Adobe Web Design bundle
- Eleanor Richter Adobe Photoshop
- Carmona Eduardo Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Video Design bundle
- Eve D'Orazio Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Visual Design bundle
- Ethan Drake Autodesk Inventor
- Travis Immich Autodesk Inventor
- Colin Keegan Autodesk Inventor
- Richard Lehmkuhl Autodesk Inventor
- Scott Mason Autodesk Inventor





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CAREER CENTER INFO

Scholarships are starting to come in! Be sure to check Xello, the College and Career Ready website, and the Career Center for applications. Turn in completed applications to Mrs. Eyster in the Career Center before the due date. The Charlotte High School Scholarship Application will be available after midterms are completed. However, start working on the resume, essay, and obtaining letters of recommendation letters now.

FAFSA will be opening this month! Be sure to check online and apply by going to studentaid.gov. Add up to 10 colleges to see what financial aid is available to you for each school. Additionally, apply to each college's scholarship applications nice and early. Once your application is submitted to the schools you are interested in, start working on each of their scholarship applications right away.

Local Foundations are great resources as well. Be sure to apply to the following foundations that support Charlotte High students every year. All foundations can be found online on the College and Career website or Xello. Charlotte Community Foundation Collaboratory Foundation Community Foundation of Sarasota County Gulf Coast Community Foundation Uncommon Friends Foundation William G and Marie Selby Foundation.

xello

We would like to introduce you to a new program our school has acquired to help your child prepare for academic, career, and future success.

Say hello to Xello!

Xello is an engaging online program that helps students build the skills, knowledge and plans to be future ready. The program uses an investigative, discovery-based learning process. Students better understand themselves, their future career options, and the 21st century skills they'll need to

Here's how it works...

The Student Experience with Xello

Build Self-knowledge

With Xello, your child will:

Define their interests, skills, preferences, and aspirations so they can explore the

Learn about career possibilities and educational pathw content and lessons.

Create a Plan Your child can cre

school career and life goals

6 Learn & Reassess

success in school and beyond

Parent Involvement

You're encouraged to explore Xello with your child by logging in together. Your child can his or her account via desktop or mobile device to share what they've learned about the the world of work, and their future options.

Safe and Secure Environment

We take data protection and privacy very seriously. So does Xello. The program complies with legal requirements for safety and security outlined in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). That means advertising is not displayed within Xello, nor is data used for commercial purposes. Xello is also a signatory of the Student Privacy Pledge, requiring them to uphold strict.

You can learn more about Xello and the student experience by visiting www.xello.world

We hope you're just as excited as we are about this new program and making every student future

SENIORS

The long-sleeved t-shirts have been ordered and are available for pickup in the Career Center for those students who have already paid their senior dues. We have also released the information about Grad Bash happening on April 13th. You can find that information on the CHS Webpage under Seniors. The cost is \$215 and can be purchased in the Career Center with Mrs. Eyster. Remember, the Senior package of \$130 is due by December 21st and must be paid before you can purchase Grad Bash. After winter break the price goes up to \$150. After spring break is cash only. You can make payments at any amount towards your package if that helps.

The end of the school year will be here before you know it. It is important that every Senior is finishing the 1st Semester strong. There are several events happening 2nd Semester and Seniors, you want to make sure you have everything in order for Graduation. This is the time of year when you really need to be making wise choices. Have fun, be smart, and let's finish the second half of senior year strong!







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HOLIDAY SPIRIT WEEK



NJROTC

By Cadet C/CPO Josephine Martin

The Charlotte Navy NJROTC Unit is pushing through the year fast! Our unit is now going on 50 years strong as an elective class and extracurricular activity. We've already done many community service events such as football game cleanups and security, road clean-ups, and a garden clean-up with Team Punta Gorda. Most recently, we volunteered at the Punta Gorda airshow. Our cadets helped with clean-up and tear down of the annual event featuring The Thunderbirds. We have already proudly marched in two parades this year which include Charlotte High's homecoming parade and Charlotte County's Veterans Day Parade. Our cadets have competed in several competitions already. One competition, Iron Bear, we did especially well. We came home with many trophies and most impressively, winning second place overall which is the best we have done in several years. Our Air Rifle team continues to uphold their rank as the number one team in the state of Florida. Our cadets have also been preparing for our first drill competition of the season. This past week, we took 41 cadets on a trip to the Navy Seal Museum located in Fort Pierce, FL. This is where cadets learned about the rich history of the Navy SEAL's and what it takes to become a SEAL. Many of our former cadets have come back to share their experiences within the military and to help those thinking of pursuing a military career. Our unit's main goal is to create model citizens and to educate and inspire others to look into proudly serving our country.



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SILVER KING MARCHING BAND

The Silver King Marching Band has returned superior yet again. This past month, Charlotte High School Marching Band traveled to showcase their Stranger Things marching show in front of hundreds of people to receive appraisal and rating of the many different aspects of performance that go into a marching band show. With great success at their Music Performance Assessment, our marching band achieved the highest rating of a superior from every single one of the six judges diligently evaluating the musical and visual effects of our students. This outstanding accomplishment demonstrates the strive for excellence present in Charlotte High School's band program.

The Silver King Marching Band has made history at Charlotte High School time and time again. Last year, even with the hindrance laid upon them by Hurricane Ian, the marching band students persevered, earning straight superiors for the first time since 2006. With yet another superb performance this past Music Performance Assessment, this band has managed to set a new standard of excellence here at Charlotte High School, which is evident to the audience both on the field and stage. These students devote themselves to withhold an outstanding sense of honor, dedication, and overall enthusiasm for the community developed throughout the Charlotte High music program. Great job to our Silver King Marching Band!

ATHLETICS

Charlotte High School Online Athletic Clearance for Participation in Sports

- Go to www.athleticclearance.com. Click on the Florida picture.
- Click on "Create an Account" and follow steps. Or Sign in if you have previously created an account. Watch tutorial video if help is needed.
- Register. PARENTS register with valid email username and password. 3.
- Login using your email address that you registered with.
- Select "Start Clearance Here" to start the process.
- Choose the School Year in which the student plans to participate. Example: Football in Sept 2023 would be the 2023-2024 School Year.
 - Choose the School at which the student attends and will compete for.
 - · Choose Sport. *You can also "Add New Sport" if a multi-sport athlete. Electronic signatures will be applied to the additional sports/activities.
- Complete all required fields for Student Information, Educational History, Medical History and Signature Forms. (If you have gone through the AthleticClearance.com process before, you will select the Student and Parent/Guardian from the dropdown menu on those pages)
- Upload the physical form (EL2 page 4 only). You must upload your physical in order to be cleared. Physicals are valid for 365 days. If the athlete does not have medical insurance, you can purchase insurance online at www.schoolinsuranceofflorida.com.
- Once you reach the **Confirmation Message** you have completed the process.
- 10. All of this data will be electronically filed with your school's athletic department for review. When the student has been cleared for participation, an email notification will be sent to the parent.

For Sports Schedules, go to: https://chs.yourcharlotteschools.net/athletics.html



CLUBS

Art Club	LEO Club
Blue Crew	Mock Trial
Book Club	National Honor Society (NHS)
Bowling Club	Pride Club
Drama Club (Thespians)	Robotics
Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)	Sign Language
Future Farmers of America (FFA)	S.P.A.R.K. (Kindness Club)
Green Tarps	Tarpon Empowerment
Interact Club	Tarpon Leadership Academy (TLA)
Key Club	Youth in Government







CHS DRAMA

Mark your calendars for CHS Drama's spring musical, Little Shop of Horrors.

April 5-7 and April 1 -20



Tickets: \$15-Adults \$10-Students

Tickets go on sale after Winter Break.



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DECEMBER 2023 ISSUE 1

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REPORTING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES OR THREATS

Students, parents, CCPS employees, and members of the community have a responsibility to report suspicious activities and potential threats to schools. Any suspicious activity or threat shall be promptly reported to one of the following individuals, agencies or reporting tools:

- School Resource Officer or local law enforcement agencies.
- School Administrator or any available staff member.
- **The FortifyFL Reporting APP** or to the Crimestoppers Tipline (1-800-780-TIPS).
- Contacting the Supervisor of District Security and Emergency Management at (941) 255-0808.
- Calling 9-1-1.



The School Board of Charlotte County does not discriminate (including anti-Semitism [as defined in Bylaw 0100]) on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, gender status, or gender identity), recognized disability, pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law (collectively, "protected classes") in its programs and activities, including employment. The School Board also ensures equal access for Boy Scouts of America and other identified patriotic youth groups, as required by 34 C.F.R. \$108 (Boy Scouts Act). (School Board Policy 1122, 3122, 4122, 2260)

The District Title IX Coordinators and Equity Compliance Officers for the District are Adrienne McElroy (Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Labor Relations), available at (941) 255-0808, Michael Desjardins (Assistant Superintendent for School Support), available at (941) 255-0808, and Danielle Hudzina (Director of Human Resources), available at (941) 255-0808. The District Section 504 Compliance Officer and ADA Coordinator is Rebecca Marazon (Coordinator of Psychological Services), available at (941) 255-0808. (School Board Policy 2260)