

# Cougar Tracks



L.A. AINGER MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Message from the Principal

245 Cougar Way  
Rotonda West, FL 33947

Phone:  
941-697-5800

Office Hours:  
8:00a.m. to 4:15p.m.

**Principal:**  
Bruce Fourman

**Assistant Principals:**  
Nicole Davel  
Matina Pulliam

**Guidance Counselors:**  
Kelly Gilbert  
Kevin Skavhaug

**School Resource Officer:**  
Officer Tameris

**ESE Liason:**  
Lucinda Kelley



Dear L.A. Ainger Families,

It is difficult to believe that the school year is coming to a close. I am very proud of some of the outstanding accomplishments of our students this year. We have won superiors in band, we have finalists in the science fair, and we have had outstanding performances in math, art, and computer certifications.

Again, as we approach the end of the school year, this is the time for our students to focus and finish the year strong!!! We ask that you check your child's Focus for grades, attendance, and to help us reinforce successful habits for a positive end to the school year.

We do have one sporting season left: wrestling. We also have our Spring Concert coming up, National Junior Honor Society inductions, and the dance for the 8th graders. We will send out dates and time via Remind and School Messenger.

Please take some time to look through the newsletter to see all the wonderful things going on at L.A. Ainger. I am immensely proud to be your principal.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us anytime. Your student's success is our priority here at L.A. Ainger.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Fourman,  
Your Proud Principal  
One Team, One Vision: Ainger





L.A. Ainger uses the Remind App to communicate with the stakeholders in our community by sending text messages to their phones. To subscribe to any of the classes, simple text the “@ code” listed below to the number **81010**.

- “**L.A. Ainger Middle School Families**” text: @ **laaingermi**
- “**L.A. Ainger Middle School PTO**” text: @ **laaingerp**

You may un-subscribe from any of the classes listed above at any time.

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 1445 Education Way  
 Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1052

### PTO NEWS

Spring is here! Hard to believe that we are just a few short months away from the end of the school year! Lots and lots of exciting things happening at Ainger including Teacher Appreciation week, the 8th grade Field Trip to North Port Aquatics and the field days for each grade!

Our Cougar Color Run on February 9th was a BIG success! Thank you to all of the families, students, high school volunteers, administration and staff that came out to enjoy a great night of family fun! The track was full of a sea of COLOR, laughter and worn out participants from running/walking the course! Pizza and Kona Ice were enjoyed by all after the race!

We are looking for new board members to take over for next year! Please come to our upcoming meetings to hear about how you can help! We are SO appreciative of all of our volunteers that keep the PTO up and running for the benefit of the students and staff at Ainger! Without all of you, the PTO would not exist and the amazing opportunities it provides and funds for our school would disappear.

We hope to see you at our upcoming PTO meetings in the Media Center this spring! If you haven’t attended, please consider joining in! And if you’ve been coming, please come again! See you there!

#### Box Tops for Education

Download the Box Tops For Education App OR Send in your Box Tops for Education! Students can drop off Box Tops in the office or give to one of their teachers.

#### Save the Date!

- **SAC/PTO Meeting – April 8th beginning at 5:30pm, Media Center**
- **8th Grade Field Trip – North Port Aquatics – April 19th from 6:30pm to 9pm**
- **Teacher Appreciation Week at Ainger – April 22-26th**
- **8th Grade ONLY DANCE – May 10th – Singer from 6pm to 8pm**
- **End of the Year Field Days for 6th, 7th and 8th Grade – May 24th**
- **SAC/PTO Meeting – May 13th beginning at 5:30pm, Media Center**

#### Stay Informed!

**FACEBOOK** – Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LAAPTO/](http://www.facebook.com/LAAPTO/)

**REMINDE** – to receive messages from PTO, Text to: 81010, Message: @laaingerp

**Email Us** – [aingerpto@gmail.com](mailto:aingerpto@gmail.com) with questions or suggestions

**SCHOOL WEBSITE** - <https://www.yourcharlotteschools.net/lam>

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### News from the PE Department

We have now opened our COUGAR FITNESS center for our L.A. Ainger community. We will be offering this as a P.E. option throughout the year and starting in March on Tuesdays and Thursdays we will offer intramural fitness training.

### Art News

Come join the fun and see L.A. Ainger featured visual artists.

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## Band News

MPA stands for “Music Performance Assessment”. In the months of February and early March, our 8th graders (and some 7th graders) attended two MPA events. The judges at these events are experienced professional musicians that grade the students’ performance. Using a music rubric, the judge’s grade and then afterwards average the scores for an overall rating. The ratings include: “Superior” = A, “Excellent” = B, “Good” = C, “Fair” = D, and “Poor” = F. Students are judged on fundamentals, technical accuracy, and musicality.

- We had 30 students participate in Jazz MPA and the Jazz Band earned straight “**Superior**” or “**A**” ratings from all three judges.
- We had 65 students participate in Concert Band MPA and the Advanced Band earned **straight “Superior” or “A” ratings** from all three stage judges as well as the sight-reading judge.
- Congratulations to our **AMAZING** student musicians for another great year at MPA’s!



*Jazz Band at MPA at Venice HS*

### Recruitment Performance

The week of March 4th, members of the Beginning Band and Jazz Band performed for our rising 5th graders for our annual “Step-up Days”. Each instrument was featured by our sections in the Beginning Band and both ensembles concluded by performing a rock medley together. In addition to some new tunes, the rock medley will be performed with ALL Beginning Band members at LBHS for our spring concert in April. It’s a toe tapper!

*Sam Ostrow and another 5th grader from EES volunteered to sit with the Beginning Band for their final performance*



### Upcoming Band Events for April and May

- Tuesday, April 9th - **BB and JB Rehearsal** in the LAMS Cafeteria on Tuesday after school until 5:30pm
- Saturday, April 13th – **Solo and Ensemble Festival** at Woodland Middle School (Exact Times TBA)
- Tuesday, April 16th beginning at 7pm - **BB and JB Spring Concert** at Lemon Bay HS
- Tuesday, April 23rd beginning at 7pm - **IB and AB Spring Concert** and Awards at Lemon Bay HS
- Thursday, May 9th 4:10-5:30pm – **8th Grade Band Members Ice Breaker** with LBHS Band in the Cafeteria
- Saturday, May 4th ALL DAY - **All Bands EOY Trip to Busch Gardens!**

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### Mrs. Lytle's Entrepreneurship Class Entrepreneurship and Small Business Certifications

On Wednesday, March 13th the 8th grade students in Mrs. Lytle's Principals of Business class completed their Entrepreneurship and Small Business certification test. This is an upper-level course and incredibly challenging. The students have 3 opportunities to pass. 14 out of the 20 students succeeded in the first round. This is an amazing effort! Their next opportunity for the remaining 6 students will

be on Tuesday, April 9th. If you see the following students, please congratulate them on their certification! Grady Abbott, Hannah

Abbott, Devin Allgire, Katherine Leon, Daniel Ordaz Leon, Bonnelle Lewis, Julia Lowder, Brady McDanel, Renona Potter, Justin Sutherland and Kristina Troshuk

### Science Fair

Congratulations to 8th grader Zoe Hendricks who represented L. A. Ainger at the Thomas Edison Regional Science Fair on Saturday, February 17th. Zoe placed 2nd in her class in Behavior Science. Zoe received a ribbon and a \$50 gift card. Great work Zoe.



### Student Council

As we bid farewell to another month of wonderful social gatherings, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all students and staff who joined us after school for some quality time with friends and the Ainger Staff. Your presence and enthusiasm have truly made these events memorable!

But hold onto your hats because we're not quite done yet! Student Council has one final extravaganza in store for our 8th-grade students as they gear up to bid adieu to Ainger Middle School. It's time to mark your calendars for the "Festival of Flowers" school dance, exclusively for 8th graders, on Friday, May 10th, from 6 to 8 PM.

Get ready to dance the night away and create lasting memories with your fellow classmates, all while celebrating the friendships and experiences you've cherished throughout the year. Tickets for this highly anticipated event will be available for purchase during the week leading up to the dance.

We're incredibly grateful for the support from our dedicated Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), whose assistance ensures that this event will be nothing short of spectacular. Let's make this final school dance of the year a night to remember!

Stay tuned for more details, and let's make the "Festival of Flowers" dance an unforgettable finale to an amazing school year!

## Kenneth W. Lounders

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# Cougar Athletics

## Wrestling

**\*\*Wrestling Season in Full Swing After Spring Break!\*\***

As we dive into the post-Spring Break season, excitement fills the air with the start of wrestling season! The wrestling team has been diligently preparing, and we're thrilled to announce two exhilarating home meets coming up on April 28th and May 2nd at the Ainger gym. Mark your calendars for a thrilling showcase of athleticism and team spirit, beginning promptly at 5:30 PM.

But that's not all! The intensity continues as we gear up for the county tournament on Saturday, May 4th, hosted at Charlotte High School. The action kicks off at 10 AM, promising a day filled with fierce competition and camaraderie.

We encourage all students to consider joining this electrifying sport. Whether you're a seasoned wrestler or a newcomer eager to try something new, there's a place for everyone on the team. However, it's essential to note that participation requires an up-to-date physical on file.

Let's rally behind our Cougars as they step onto the mat, showcasing their skills, determination, and Cougar pride. Go Cougars!



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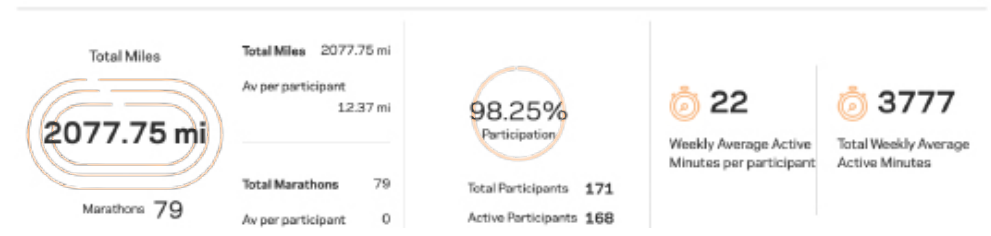
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# Testing Information

## Testing Update:

Hello families! State testing season is fast approaching and it is vital that students are in attendance for testing dates. Please make sure students are well rested and eat breakfast at home or school on these dates:

- **Writing (all students)- April 2nd**
- **FAST ELA (all students)- May 1st**
- **FAST Math, B.E.S.T Algebra EOC, and Geometry EOC (all students dependent of math class)- May 7th**
- **NGSSS Civics (7th grade) and Science (8th grade)- May 14th**
- **NGSSS Civics (8th graders enrolled in Civics)- May 15th**

Additionally, here are some important testing rules to review with your child:

- **Electronic Devices**—Students are not permitted to have any electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, and smartwatches, at any time during testing or during breaks (e.g., restroom), **even if the devices are turned off or students do not use them.** If your student is found with an electronic device or is found using Bluetooth/wireless headphones/earbuds during testing, his or her test will be invalidated.
- **Testing Rules Acknowledgment**—All tests include a Testing Rules Acknowledgment that reads: “I understand the testing rules that were just read to me. If I do not follow these rules, my test score may be invalidated.” Prior to testing, test administrators read the rules to students, and students acknowledge that they understand the testing rules by clicking a checkbox beside the statement in the secure browser indicating they understand the testing rules.
- **Discussing Test Content after Testing**—The last portion of the testing rules read to students before they click the box to accept the Testing Rules Acknowledgment states that because the content of all statewide assessments is secure, students may not discuss or reveal details about the test content (including the passages, prompts, and writing responses) after the test. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting to social media sites. Please make sure your student understands this policy prior

to testing and remind them that “discussing” test content includes any kind of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, posting to social media, or sharing online. **While students may not share information about secure test content after testing, this policy is not intended to prevent students from discussing their testing experiences with their parents/families.**

- **Working Independently**—Students are responsible for doing their own work during the test and for protecting their answers from being seen by others. If students are caught cheating during testing, their tests will be invalidated. In addition, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) employs Caveon Test Security to analyze student test results to detect unusually similar answer patterns. Student tests within a school that are found to have extremely similar answer patterns will be invalidated.
- **Leaving Campus**—If your student leaves campus before completing a test session (e.g., for lunch, an appointment), he or she will not be allowed to return to that test session. If your student does not feel well on the day of testing, it may be best for him or her to wait and be tested on a make-up day. Please remember not to schedule appointments on testing days.
- **Testing Accommodations**—If your student has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Plan, or is an English Language Learner (ELL) or a recently exited ELL, please contact the school to discuss the testing accommodations that will be provided for your student.

## In addition to state testing, below are the dates for semester 2 exams.

- Exams for all students by period- May 20th-23rd (20th periods 7/6, 21st periods 5/4, 22nd periods 3/2, 23rd period 1)

If students miss an exam and do not make it up, the grade will be entered as a 0. Please contact your child’s teacher if you have additional questions.

We look forward to a great testing season and rest of the school year!

Thank you,  
Nicole Davel  
Assistant Principal



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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.



**Regular School Calendar 2023-2024**

APRIL '24						
M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
1	2	3	4	5	145	159
8	9	10	11	12	150	164
15	16	17	18	19	155	169
22	23	24	25	26	160	174
29	30				162	176

MAY '24						
M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
		1	2	3	165	179
6	7	8	9	10	170	184
13	14	15	16	17	175	189
20	21	22	23	24	180	194
27	28	29	30	31		196

- 24 Last day for Students/ End of Qtr 4
- 27 Memorial Day
- 28 Teacher Work Day
- 29 District PD Day #3
- 29 Last Day for Teachers

JUNE '24						
M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
3	4	5	6	7		
10	11	12	13	14		
17	18	19	20	21		
24	25	26	27	28		

Grading Period Dates	Everyone Off/Unpaid
Students Off	Everyone Off
Teachers Work	Field Holiday