



HAWK TALK

SEPTEMBER 2023

Issue 1

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Students:

It is my honor and pleasure to welcome all of you to Lake Howell High School! The 2023-2024 school year will be filled with promises, challenges, and opportunities for growth. We are all united in our efforts to make this a successful school year for our students, and we appreciate the patience and understanding of our parents, students, faculty, and staff. Our theme for this year is *"Keep Moving Forward"* and together we will accomplish great things!

One of our goals this year is to once again be an "A" rated school. We can do this through a combined effort from all stakeholders. The Lake Howell High School community has established a tradition of academic, athletic, and arts excellence. This is the result of an outstanding faculty and staff, combined with the dedication of our students, the Lake Howell community, and our supportive business partners. Your continued support is very much needed and most appreciated!

Many thanks to our administrative team, school counselors, our faculty, and non-instructional staff for their tireless efforts over the summer as we prepared to start the school year. We also want to thank our award winning **PTSA** for their continued support of our students, faculty, and staff. They help our school in so many ways! As a result of their support of our school and community, the PTSA was named a 2022-2024 National PTA School of Excellence. Lake Howell High School PTSA is one of only 368 PTAs nationwide to be recognized. Thank you as well to our **School Advisory Council** for their continued support. Parents interested in getting involved with our PTSA or SAC should email mia_keyser@scps.k12.fl.us.

Please extend a warm Silverhawk welcome to the four newest members of our administrative team: Assistant Principal **Kristin Mudd**, Assistant Principal **Marc Pitters** (transferred from Seminole High School), and Dean of Students **Wesley McLaughlin**. We are also honored to welcome our **new teachers and new non-instructional staff** to the Silverhawk family for the 2023-2024 school year!

As we start our new school year together, the year itself will present many challenges and opportunities for all of us. We welcome you and invite your active involvement in helping us become the best that we can be – with your involvement and support, we can look forward to continuing our rich tradition of excellence! *Lake Howell High School...Keep Moving Forward!*

And as always, GO SILVERHAWKS, AND STAY HAWK STRONG!

Sincerely,

Michael D. Howard, Principal

Lake Howell High School...Together We Rise!

Yearbook News

Purchase your yearbook now and save! Visit yearbookforever.com by 12/2 to get your yearbook for only \$65 (prices rise to \$75 on 12/3).

Save the dates:

- 9/25 and 9/29 underclass photos
- 9/25 senior portraits
- 11/13 underclass retakes
- 12/2 last day for \$65 yearbook sales

Leadership

Leadership Sponsors:

- Freshman and Sophomore Class Sponsor: Amy Hockenjos
- Junior Class Sponsor: Sandra Rivas-Cole
- Senior Class Sponsor: Cheyenne Sutton
- Student Government Sponsor: Detra Dopson

Get Involved:

If you like working behind the scenes, making new friends, planning events, and making decisions on behalf of your student body, then Leadership is the class for you! Elections are held in Spring for the following school year. Join Us! We'd love to have you!

Upcoming Events:

10/4 - 10/6	Homecoming Court Nominations
10/11 - 10/13	Homecoming Court Voting
10/16 - 11/1	Homecoming Ticket Sales
10/30 - 11/3	Homecoming Spirit Week
11/1	Powder Puff (Juniors vs. Seniors)
11/4	Homecoming Dance
12/11 - 12/15	Winter Week



Student Services News

News – Counselors have been busy this first nine weeks getting to know their students, as well as continuing to enroll new ones almost daily. Senior credit checks started the first week in September to discuss graduation requirements and post high school plans.

Student Services will be utilizing Skyward, eCampus, and Instagram to send out notifications and information. Follow us on Instagram: @LHHS_StudentServices. All students are enrolled in the Student Services eCampus course. Visit the course for valuable information from community service documents to virtual college visits.

The PSAT will be given October 17-24. The PSAT is given once a year and is good practice for the SAT. All 9th, 10th, and 11th graders will test. This is the only chance for juniors to compete in the National Merit Scholarship Competition. 12th graders will take the SAT the week prior on October 11.

Seniors – Seniors should be completing college applications and sending transcripts. To send a transcript, complete a request here <https://tinyurl.com/LHHSTranscriptRequest>. Please keep in mind that though you may request an electronic copy to be sent that day, the county only sends these records Tuesdays & Thursdays. Hard-copies of transcripts will be sealed in an envelope for the student to pick-up. Be sure to apply early (at least one school by Thanksgiving!) Florida colleges fill up quickly as supply is less than the demand. Pay attention to each college's application deadline as they don't all have the same one.

Tips for Seniors & Parents from College Financial Services -

- Find out about grants & scholarships that are available in your state; make sure you understand the requirements (www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org)
- Find out if the schools of your choice have their own financial aid applications that need to be filled out. Be sure to request one now if you have not done so.
- Don't assume you won't qualify for need-based financial assistance. Apply even if you think you won't qualify. Students who receive financial assistance come from a wide variety of family income levels since many factors affect eligibility.
- Make sure you know about all the deadlines. Deadlines vary from school to school and program to program, and are very rarely extended!
- Make copies or notes about all documents you send; record when and to whom you sent them.
- The FAFSA for 2024-2025 (the year current seniors will enter college) can be submitted any time after October 1, 2023. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov, the official website for the free financial aid form. We will have a FAFSA Open Lab in December, more information to come.

Scholarship Information - Scholarship information is beginning to arrive. As this is received, the information is placed on the announcements, as well as being posted in classrooms, and listed on the website (<https://lakehowell.scps.k12.fl.us/student-services>). Seniors should be checking weekly for this information.

Florida State Grants & Scholarships Application (this includes Bright Futures) - Any student who applies for the Bright Futures Scholarship **MUST complete an online application at <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/>**. Once the application is completed, each student will receive a PIN number for future access. It is important that you don't lose this information as you will need to access your scholarship for the next four years with this login and pin. Senior parents, please make sure your student completes the online application. We encourage all seniors to apply once the application opens as it also evaluates them for other state grants and scholarships they may be eligible for. This application process should open for this year's seniors October 1, 2023.

Test Dates - You can register and access practice materials online at: www.collegeboard.org and <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat> for the SAT and at www.actstudent.org for the ACT. Please note the registration deadlines are usually one month before each test date.

- **SAT DATES:** 10/7/2023, 11/4/2023, 12/2/2023, 3/9/2024, 5/4/2024, 6/1/2024
- **ACT DATES:** 9/9/2023, 10/28/2023, 12/9/2023, 2/10/2024, 4/13/2024, 6/8/2024/ 7/13/2024




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Nominate a Staff Member of the Month



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Lake Howell High School
4200 Dike Road
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Spotlight on Summer Silverhawk Events

Summer Career Camp

Lake Howell High School teamed up with SCPS Student Support Services to host 4 weeks of Summer Career Camp, where students learned career skills in practical lab experiences. Participants spent a week in Barbering, Cosmetology, TV Productions, and Culinary. A special thank you to Ms. Bradley, Ms. Simpson, Ms. Glass, and Mr. Joiner for leading these sessions! The students learned so much in the lab, and they also got to take a field trip to local business sites to learn from area professionals. While exploring these new career paths, students also learned about self-advocacy, resume writing, and much more!

Summer Expedition

LHHS welcomed a group of our incoming 9th grade students in the Summer Expedition program to prepare them for academic success in high school. Our team of teachers took our students on an Expedition that helped them explore their "Why." Activities were focused on Employment, Enlistment in military or law enforcement, and Enrollment in all levels of college including trade schools, state colleges, and universities. Students also grew their executive functioning skills, conflict resolution, and self-advocacy skills during the summer through Ethos activities. And as an added bonus, program participants had the opportunity to become familiar with Lake Howell's campus before the 2023-2024 school year began. Attendees even got a behind-the-scenes look at Top Golf as they explored different career opportunities.

Freshman Kickoff

Welcome to our new Silverhawks! The Class of 2027 made a splash debuting at this year's Freshman Kickoff.



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CTE Spotlight: NJROTC

Lake Howell HS is proud to offer a flagship CTE program, the NJROTC Silverhawk Battalion. JROTC is a free program that helps committed cadets develop leadership, life skills, health and wellness--students even receive free uniforms while getting to learn from retired Marine Corps and Navy instructors.

Lake Howell NJROTC offers courses over all four years of high school with academic classes and special STEM instruction in aerospace science, seamanship, and navigation. Traditional military instruction includes activities such as color guard and close order drill, as well as auxiliary programs offered for Aviation and for Marksmanship.

Cadets in the Silverhawk Battalion have opportunities to take courses for CTE credits, learning skills to make them more competitive in the workplace and more prepared for leadership roles. And through our Dual Enrollment partnership with Gaetz Aerospace Institute at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, JROTC Cadets in grades 10-12 can take college-level aviation courses to earn up to 17 college credits along with industry certifications and licensures.

Students who are interested in learning more about NJROTC may contact Master Sergeant Ulloa or Senior Chief Keeling.



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Student Spotlight: Peer Connectors

LHHS Peer Connectors program empowers juniors and seniors to positively influence their peers and underclassmen on campus, through leadership labs, volunteering events, and peer mentoring. But don't just take our word for it, here is what LHHS alum, Homecoming king, and current college soccer player Mason Rone had to say about Peer Connectors:

"My freshman year I was struggling with a lot of stuff. Not just at school but outside of school as well. I just needed someone to talk to and that's when Peer Connectors helped me. I was able to talk to someone who is a student and experiences the same things as me. I am currently a freshman in college and I still talk to my Peer Connector from freshman year. Fast forward to senior year I wanted to join Peer Connectors to give the same impact it had on me to other students. I was the Homecoming king, the soccer team captain, and the glitter boy. Many people looked up to me, which allowed me to have a positive impact on so many of the younger students at Lake Howell. I hope that they continue to carry on that energy and keep making Lake Howell a better place."



Math Department Spotlight



Teacher Feature: Ms. Stevie Place, Algebra 1 and AP PreCalculus

Ms. Place is our Algebra 1 PLC lead and new teacher instructional coach and has been teaching at Lake Howell for 8 years. When you enter her classroom, you can expect to learn math in fun and interesting ways! She loves to integrate technology into her classroom instruction, so students are not only learning the math concepts but also seeing them in action and using them. One of the first to incorporate station rotations in her classroom, Ms. Place has become a model and support to other teachers on campus, new and experienced! Her fun-loving approach, love for sharing knowledge and new skills and tips for improving the learning environment makes her an asset to LHHS. A great person to know and an excellent teacher, her love for family and helping others shines through. She makes it a point to get to know her students and their interests; she values the relationships she builds in her classroom, modeling the keys to success. As an instructional coach, Ms. Place now works closely with our new teacher program and is an integral part of the support and retention of our newest teachers.



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6 World Languages Spotlight

AP Success: Congratulations to last year's AP Spanish Lang and AP Spanish Lit students for bringing home a 100% pass rate on the AP exams.

Did you know? World Languages offers so many opportunities to get involved! We have ASL Club, ASL Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Latin Legacy, and World Language Festival in March!

- We are excited that the ASL 3 & 4 students will be signing the national anthem at all home football games again this year.
- Latin Legacy meets every Monday and Friday in room 1-159
- ASL Club will meet every Monday in room 1-157
- ASL & Spanish Honor Society memberships are by invitation only. Please reach out to a Spanish or ASL teacher if you feel that you qualify to be invited!
- Every Silverhawk who participated in last year's World Language festival walked away with a trophy--wow! To be part of this year's event, students must be in a world language class or in an ESE class. The festival will be held on Saturday 3/2/2024. If you are interested please talk to your World Language teacher.

Science Department Spotlight

Silverhawk Celebration: Lake Howell students were the regional champions in spring 2023 for Envirothon! Envirothon is a hands-on environmental problem-solving competition, featuring natural resource education in soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and current environmental issues. 2023 was LHHS's second time participating but it proved to be a fun, rewarding experience for all three teams that attended, as well as great preparation for the AP exam. Congratulations to our championship team who won 1st place at the Regional competition and went on to represent Seminole County at State, tying for top score in the oral presentation on climate change. Way to go, "Earth Mamas" students--Emily Denczek, Jacob Giambalvo, Toryn Ramkissoon, Cindy Wong & Lisa Wong--and to the many supporting teachers and staff!

To help keep the Envirothon championship title at Lake Howell for another year, or if you're interested in joining the LHHS Environmental Club, contact Mr. Cutcher (james_cutcher@scps.k12.fl.us).




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Performing and Fine Arts News

Lake Howell Chorus and Orchestra will have their Fall Concert on September 15. They'll be performing music from The Greatest Showman. This is a show you won't want to miss!

The Lake Howell Theatre Company is pleased to announce the 2023-2024 season. For more information, contact tiffany_ortiz@scps.k12.fl.us or visit us online, lh4937.com | [@lh4937](https://www.instagram.com/lh4937).



Lake Howell High School Silverhawk Athletics News

Welcome Silverhawks!

My name is Mark Ayad, and I am the new Athletic Director here at Lake Howell! I am a Lake Howell alum and have been blessed to be back at LHHS for the last 8 years. Our new Assistant Athletic Directors are also familiar faces on campus: Coach Paul Giambalvo (Another Lake Howell alum) and Coach Matt Martin. We look forward to serving all of our Student-Athletes and continuing to add to our strong community to make Lake Howell Athletics better than ever!

Volleyball, Swimming, Cross Country, Bowling, Golf, and Football have kicked off their seasons. Winter Sports including Basketball, Soccer, Wrestling, and Girls Weightlifting will be starting before you know it!

New this Year!!!! All athletes **MUST** watch required videos along with their physical and ECG screening to participate in any sport. You will upload all results when you start the process with Athletic Clearance.

All athletes **MUST** be registered and cleared via www.athleticclearance.com before any student will be permitted to participate in preseason conditioning, tryouts, or competition. Physical paperwork and steps to follow for Athletic Clearance can be found in the athletic office or on the school website.

Athletes, families, and fans can find information on the LHHS website and by following our social media accounts on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Students can also stop by the athletic office or give us a call at 407-746-9011, where our Athletic Secretary Mrs. Judski can answer questions.

Students and Adults still have time to purchase an All-Sports pass at Gofan.com. We have plenty of home events that you don't want to miss! Season passes will be available for each individual sport as their seasons get underway. Check Gofan.com or with your coaches for more information.

We'd also like to give a special shout-out to Buffalo Wild Wings! Many thanks for providing hospitality at our Kickoff Classic. If you are interested in sponsoring our athletic programs and building a Business Partnership, please reach out at mark_ayad@scps.k12.fl.us for more information.

We look forward to seeing you all at our events and supporting all of our student-athletes!

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LHHS PTSA

The Lake Howell High School PTSA (Parent - Teacher - Student Association) is dedicated to building a strong, collaborative relationship between parents, school staff, and the community. We invite you to attend a PTSA meeting to learn more about what's happening in our school, volunteer to support our teachers, and bring your family to an event to enjoy time together as a community. It takes a village! Please take a minute to renew your Lake Howell High School membership at the start of the school year to support your child and all of the children in our community!

Did you know? PTSA membership costs only \$10 for the year and includes a fantastic discount card for local businesses? Join TODAY and support our campus community and off-campus community partners!

JOIN TODAY



PTSA
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<https://lakehowellhighschool.memberhub.com/>

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