

December 2019

THE HOOK

Volume X Issue 1

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Ahoy Pirate Nation!

Each year the state requires schools to complete a School Improvement Plan that highlights successes and outlines areas of focus for the coming school year. This year was no different. We celebrated our graduation rate increases, our acceleration success (students who earned industry certification, dual enrollment, or passing AP or AICE exams), and our increases in math learning gains for our lowest quartile! All of which we hope to build upon this year!

Also, we are focusing on our reading achievement goals. We outperformed the state in reading achievement and tied in learning gains, but our lowest quartile performance did not reflect the desired learning growth in reading. Students with disabilities and students who have historically struggled in reading comprise the lowest quartile component. Teachers are using research-based strategies to help students build their reading skills. With the guiding support of the administration, district staff, and our literacy coach, we hope to close this achievement gap.

Reading is a key to the success of every person. It is a critical component for an individual to grow and experience a rich life. We are committed to our students' success and believe that if we can gain an increase in this area of focus, our students will excel across all of their academic courses.

I invite you to help your students. Encourage them to find articles and books that interest them. Model reading and prioritize time for them to read. Show them that you value reading, and they will pick up the habit too! Looking forward to an amazing 2020!



Administration

MR. JEFF REAVES
Principal

MRS. NICOLE CASTANHEIRA
Assistant Principal

MS. MANDY KRAVEROTIS
Assistant Principal

MR. KENNY SEYBOLD
Assistant Principal

MR. BOB SAWYER
Dean

MR. ZACH RIGNEY
Athletic Director

To download a pdf version of this newsletter,
go to www.academypublishing.com/schools/matanzas/matanzas.php



ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK!

Yearbooks are currently \$70; the price will increase to \$80 in January. Parents of seniors, please preorder the yearbook as we anticipate being sold out. Yearbooks can be purchased online at <http://jostensyearbooks.com> or send a check or cash to Mrs. Graifer in room 1-202.

We also have space for senior ads and business ads. If you would like to purchase a senior ad, please email Mrs. Graifer at graifers@flaglerschools.com for details. If you own a business, we would love to have your ad placed in our yearbook. All ads are needed by the end of January.

GUIDANCE NEWS!

Seniors - The application for local scholarships is now open through AwardSpring. You must complete your application to be eligible to receive any scholarship. The deadline is January 12, 2020. You can complete an online application at <https://flaglerschools.awardspring.com>. The News Journal Medallion of Excellence application is also open and can be accessed online.

Please make sure you are submitting your community service hours.

Underclassmen - Please make sure you are checking Skyward for your updated grades and take advantage of our test retake policy, after-school tutoring, and any makeup work opportunities your teachers may provide.

SENIOR NEWS

- Seniors who have not ordered their Cap and Gown can now do so online by visiting thegraduationcenter.com. Directions for accessing the site can be found on the MHS senior page website. After December 15, the price increases.
- Graduation is set for May 28, 2020 at the Daytona Beach Ocean Center at 4:00. Please start making your plans today to attend this wonderful event.
- Grad bash tickets go on sale on December 2d for \$90. After the winter holiday break, the price increases to \$100. Remember, only 150 seats are available for this event.
- The Senior Panoramic picture is scheduled for January 17 at 1:00 pm in the Pirate Gym. Please plan on arriving at the gym no later than 12:30.

POE CRIMES GALLERY WALK

It all started as a simple conversation between two teachers. It ended up being a spectacular Poe Gallery Walk which showcased 11 days of collaborative work. Mrs. Graifer, English I Honors/AICE teacher, and Ms. Barton, Criminal Justice teacher, combined their classes to explore crimes and works by Edgar Allen Poe.

Groups comprised of students from both classes chose an Edgar Allen Poe poem or short story. Students not only analyzed the text but also learned about different types of crimes related to the story. Students had to determine what crime was committed, what type of court was involved, and what types of evidence were found at the scene. Some creativity was necessary. For example, the Raven was guilty of trespassing, stalking, and harassment. Deputies Landi and Champion added to the learning process by talking to students about the different crimes represented in the Poe pieces.

Students completed Field Notes, similar to those a crime scene investigator would complete, which included information on the victim, the crime, the address, and the evidence. Students chose a character to complete a Character Analysis or a Character Autopsy. Once completed, groups worked on recreating their crime scene in diorama form or even life-sized crime scenes. Mrs. Bethea, Performing Arts teacher, joined the collaboration by loaning props and decorations as well as providing student performers. Students totally transformed upper building 9 and opened it for other classes to visit. Everyone agreed it was a fun and excellent way to learn more about crime and to study Poe!



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SENIORS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Abigail Denino, Vincent Zheng, and Catherine O'Mahoney, our October, November and December Kiwanis Seniors of the Month. Keep up the great work! You all make MHS proud!



LOVIE HALEY COMMITS TO EMBRY RIDDLE!

Congratulations to Lovie Haley, a high honors junior student, on her commitment to further her education and softball career at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach. Lovie accepted an offer from ERAU softball on November 1st. She plays varsity softball for Coach Sabrina Manhart and has been a softball varsity starter for Matanzas since freshman year. Lovie also plays travel ball for Gainesville Gold out of Jacksonville. When away from the softball field, she is a dual enrollment student at Daytona State College and is a member of the National Honor Society, the MHS Pirate Athletic Committee and is a Matanzas High School Ambassador.



L to R: *Bianka Bell - Assistant Softball Coach Embry Riddle; Lovie Haley - MHS 2021 grad, Varsity softball player; Kelsi Dunne -Head Coach*

CAMBRIDGE AICE

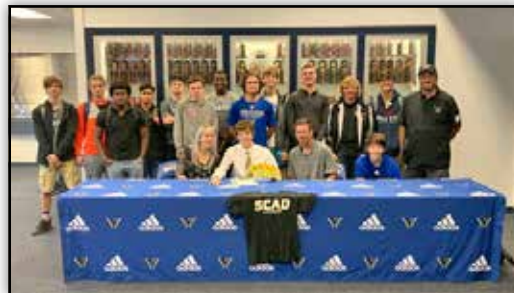
Our AICE informational meeting was a big success. The AICE SAC president, Bailey Russell, and vice president, Emelia Kern, did a fantastic job with the presentation. Also, thanks to Jacob Warren, the photographer and Shantal Hanna, assistant to administration. Applications for the 2020 - 2021 school year are now available. The deadline is March 13, 2020. Please contact Mrs. Castanheira or Mrs. Trimmer for information about the Cambridge AICE Program.



AICE student leads presentation

CONGRATULATIONS TO SETH LEISTER!

Seth Leister signed to play lacrosse next season on scholarship to SCAD!



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MISSION STATEMENT

By providing a rigorous education, Matanzas prepares all students for success and empowers them as passionate learners to lead lives of purpose.

MOTTO

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WHO'S WHO AT MHS

Athletic Secretary

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Attendance Clerk

Tammy Freeman

Bookkeeper

Sharon Jackson

Denise Barger

Discipline Office Secretary

Maryann Mlinic

Guidance Secretary

Kathy Summerlot

Testing Secretary

Eugenia Moore

Media Clerk

Judy Rosell

MIS

Angela Coates

Registrar

Kathy Ryan

Receptionist

Paula Teixeira

Secretary to the Principal

Marie Drumm

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AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING

After School tutoring is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm. For students living in the MHS school zone, buses depart at 4:15 pm.

Subjects:

- Biology
- AP Biology
- English/Language Arts
- ESOL and Spanish
- Math (Algebra and Geometry)
- Math (Algebra II and Upper Level)
- Test Retakes
- Chemistry
- SAT Test Prep



PLAN AHEAD FOR THE MATANZAS PERCUSSION!

The Matanzas Percussion Program has some exciting programs planned for this school year! On Tuesday, February 4, at 7 pm in the MHS Cafeteria, we have our Solo Bistro which will feature the percussion ensembles and solos who are preparing for the District Solo and Ensemble Assessment. This year our large percussion ensemble is Shades of Glass by Dustin Schulze. On Wednesday, April 8, at 7 pm in the MHS courtyard, we have our Caribbean Cafe featuring Blue Steel performing with Mr. Victor Provost, the steelpan professor at George Mason University! The Caribbean Cafe is a dinner fundraiser so it is a ticketed event. Tickets can be purchased at pirates32137.booktix.com.

Closing out the school year on Tuesday, April 21, at 7 pm in Pirate Theater is Percussion Palooza, the countywide percussion concert featuring percussion from the different music programs in our Flagler County schools. Our biggest and most popular show is A Night of Percussion on Thursday, April 23, at 7 pm in the Pirate Theater. This show will feature the percussion ensembles, steel bands, drumline, and all of the amazing accomplishments of our Percussion Program this year! It is a fast-paced, non-stop, interactive show that you won't want to miss! All shows, excluding Caribbean Café, are a suggested donation of \$5 per person. Thank you so much for your support of the Matanzas Percussion Program. We can't wait to see you at our next show!

JOIN THE ROYAL BANQUET!

The Fine Arts Department is presenting its second Madrigal Dinner. The festive Renaissance English court awaits you—the setting for a Yuletide feast. The King and Queen of Castle Matanzas cordially invite you to join them for a royal banquet attended by graceful dancers, playful jesters, strolling musicians, frolicking fools and gallivanting wenches. The MHS chorus will perform holiday carols while the Thespians will present a commedia dell'arte skit.

The feast will be Thursday and Friday, December 12 and 13, in the Pirate courtyard. The Royal Banquet Hall opens at 6:00 pm and Fanfare for Dinner is at 6:30 pm. Tickets to this feast are \$20 which includes traditional Medieval fare of wassail, quartered chicken, greens, vegetables, and bread pudding. Join us for merriment and festivity in this joyous season. Tickets are available online at Booktix. Click the link <http://pirates32137.booktix.com/> then follow the directions. Print out your ticket and bring it to be scanned at the door. Tickets purchased the night of the show are \$25.

THESPIAN NEWS



A packed house enjoyed the November Thespian Showcase

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TWENTY-TWO CERTIFIED ASSOCIATES AND COUNTING!

According to Certipoint.com, "Adobe Photoshop is the industry-standard image editing software, used worldwide by professional photographers, amateur photographers, and the camera. An Adobe certification is an industry-recognized credential that effectively validates one's skills in Adobe digital-media software". After only three months of learning and using the software, Mrs. Johnston's Digital Media students took the Photoshop industry certification exam. A total of twenty-two Digital Media students have earned the title of Adobe Certified Associate in Adobe Photoshop cc 2018. This is quite an accomplishment! We have only tested in our Fall Block classes so far; our goal for the year is to have 40+ ACA certified students by the end of the 2019-2020 school year.



HIGH SCHOOL HIGH TECH FIELD TRIP



On November 5, Matanzas High School's HSHT (High School High Tech) Program traveled to Ormond to visit Delta P. Carver, a manufacturer of water pumps whose mission is to produce the highest quality, most reliable pumping packages on the market today. Students were able to learn firsthand from staff about their various positions at Delta P. Carver. From each work team member, students learned the day-to-day requirements of their positions, the skills needed to be successful in their career, and how to build self-confidence when looking for a career path. Students were given the opportunity for hands-on experiences including assembling a pump, wiring a panel, and even running a system through the test!



JROTC MAKING THE MARK

The MHS JROTC program enjoyed one of its most successful semesters in recent history. The Raider Team traveled to Lake Wales, Florida to compete in their first Raider State Finals where they finished third overall as well as third in two separate events.



The JROTC Program also provided valuable assistance to the Flagler County Walk to End Alzheimer's. Our cadets presented the colors for the opening ceremony and assisted with the setup and breakdown of the event. In December, our cadets go to Atlanta to present the American Flag during the National Anthem at the Southeastern Conference Championship Game at Mercedes Benz Stadium.

The MHS JROTC program looks forward to continued success next semester with our Drill Team, Color Guard and Rifle Team.



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CULINARY KEEPS ON COOKING!



In October, students enjoyed participating in the annual Cake Wars Contest.



Last month, MHS Culinary Pirates were taught how to prepare a turkey. This was just the beginning of a delicious Thanksgiving feast, which included mashed potatoes (50 pounds worth!), dressing, gravy, macaroni and cheese, green beans, and an assortment of tantalizing pies.



PIRATE LAW & JUSTICE FLAGSHIP

The MHS Law and Justice Flagship Programs offer the opportunity for students to explore the varied and exciting field of law and criminal justice, before even stepping into college or a career. Recently, Criminal Justice students taught Forensic Science students how to ink on ten-digit cards. Both classes learned how to lift latent prints using fiber and magnetic brushes.



SPORTS MARKETING FIELD TRIP




Sports Marketing students enjoyed seeing the Jacksonville Iceman School Day Game.



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MHS CLUB NEWS

NHS Giving Thanks by Giving Back

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of donations, the National Honor Society was able to provide a basket of Thanksgiving food to 15 Veteran families. NHS delivered the baskets to the Palm Coast VFW who, in turn, ensured their delivery to local Veteran families.



Interact Club Collecting Gifts

The MHS Interact Club is preparing for a busy December! If you would like to sponsor a child in need this holiday season, visit our Project Share Giving Tree in MHS's Upper Spot (near Mrs. Summerlot). Bring an UNWRAPPED gift to Mr. DeCeglie's room 6-218 by December 13. The MHS Interact Club wishes everyone the happiest of holidays and an amazing start to a new decade in 2020!

MHS SPORTS NEWS

Girls Golf Finished Strong

Matanzas Girls Golf had an amazing season! We WON Districts, advanced through Regionals and made it to State, which was held in Howey-in-the-Hills at the Mission Inn Golf Course. Matanzas had a great showing and placed 14th as a team. Senior Beatrice Dietz led the team with a score of 79 on both 18 hole days. She placed 13th overall which is an amazing feat. Congratulations on a job well done!



From L to R: Beatrice Dietz, Sarah Barrett, Coach Alred, Katherine Bentley, Cadence Lasher

Cross Country News

Another Cross Country season came to a successful end on November 9, at the FHSAA Class 3A State Championship in Tallahassee, Florida. For the fifth consecutive season, the Lady Pirates sailed through both the District and Regional Championships and qualified to compete in the State Championship.

The Lady Pirate Varsity Team included the following:

- Seniors: Lexie Hawkins, Caitlyn Norfolk, Kelly Steffens
- Juniors: Emily Hatten, Genevieve Mundy
- Sophomore: Lauren Marshall
- Freshmen: Sophya Wodchis, Carina Tavares

Kelly Steffens led the Lady Pirates by running a 20:41 for the 5K race, while Caitlyn Norfolk and Emily Hatten ran personal records (PR) with a 21:19 and 21:42 respectively.

The Boys Cross Country Team also competed in the District and Regional Championship. Dalton Hawley individually qualified for the State Championship by placing tenth in the Regional Championship. Dalton ran a personal record (PR) in Tallahassee finishing 33rd overall with a time of 16:42 for the 5K race. Dalton was the first male to represent MHS at the State Championship since 2014. Congratulations, Dalton!

The MHS Cross Country Teams consists of two coaches, two managers, and thirty-one student-athletes. Congratulations to all on a successful cross country season!



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PIRATE TEAMS SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Lady Pirate Softball

The Lady Pirates softball team has been serving the community in the offseason. They have been seen lending a helping hand at the Palm Coast Little League Fall Festival, umpiring games, and helping out at local camps. The team also helped with the Fantasy lights set up at the Town Center.

The softball team currently meets for open conditioning after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Anyone interested in trying out for the softball team in the spring should join us!

Spring tryouts will be held Tuesday, January 21. All students interested in participating must have a current physical and all paperwork turned into Athletics. Reach out to Coach Manhart with any questions.



Lady Pirate Lifters

Thank you to the Lady Lifters who gave back to the community by helping construct the Christmas Village in the Palm Coast Town Square.



Boys Lacrosse Community Service



Helping with holiday lights!

Cheering for the Pink Army 5K

Every October, the MHS Cheerleaders enjoy this meaningful event. They were up bright and early to cheer both runners and walkers. Before the race, the cheerleaders gathered in front of the hospital to perform a few chants and get everyone in the spirit! 100 percent of the proceeds raised by the Pink Army 5k go toward financially supporting



m a m o g r a m s , breast ultrasounds, stereotactic breast biopsies, education, and other specific diagnostic services to aid in the early detection of breast cancer. Great job by all!

