

December 2020

THE HOOK

Volume XI Issue 1

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy Holidays, Pirate Nation!

While these are difficult times, we still have much to celebrate and be thankful for this holiday season. We finalized our graduation rate for last year, and we ended up with 95.30%. That is 409 out of 429 students who entered Matanzas High School as a freshman in 2016! Despite the challenge of the pandemic in the final quarter of the school year, our students rose to the occasion. Two key areas of growth for us are our students with disabilities; their graduation rate is 90%, and our African American rate is 93%. Congratulations to the class of 2020 seniors, parents, and staff for their hard work and determination. Together we were able to help make these students' dreams come true.

As we turn the corner and head into 2021, don't grow weary of continuing to focus on personal safety and academics. We must continue to follow our three steps here at The Ship and at home: **Mask up, Wash up, and Back up.** Remember if you cannot be more than six feet away, wear a mask or face covering. Frequently wash your hands or use hand sanitizer to avoid the spread of infectious diseases. Whenever possible back up, giving yourself and others some space. I know it's been a very challenging year, but together we can be the difference in helping stop the spread of Covid-19. Don't allow fatigue to set in. Let's continue to focus on the things we can control and help each other be our best in the new year!

While learning during this time is anything but routine, whether students are remote, face to face, hybrid, or enrolled in IFlagler, we all must stay vigilant in our academic efforts. Parents and guardians, please take a few moments a day to engage with your student to make sure they are on track. **When in doubt, ask questions.** We are here to help. We do not want any of our Pirates to fall behind. All of us need to work together. The pandemic is impacting our community in a number of ways. Let's strive to ensure that all our Pirate students succeed.



Administration

MR. JEFF REAVES
Principal

MRS. NICOLE CASTANHEIRA
Assistant Principal

MS. MANDY KRAVEROTIS
Assistant Principal

MS. SARA NOVAK
Assistant Principal

MR. BOB SAWYER
Dean

MR. ZACH RIGNEY
Athletic Director

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go to [www.academypublishing.com/schools/
matanzas/matanzas.php](http://www.academypublishing.com/schools/matanzas/matanzas.php)



MHS MARKETING ENJOYS GUEST SPEAKER



The Shark Daymond

Thank you to Daytona State College News for making it possible for marketing students to enjoy Daymond John. 'The Shark Daymond' is known for his successful role on ABC's smash hit, *Shark Tank*. He shared the journey that led him to global recognition for his commitment to promoting and supporting entrepreneurs.

GUIDANCE GOODBYE AND HELLO

After fifteen years at MHS, and many more in education, Head Guidance Counselor Pat Trimmer said goodbye to the Pirate Nation and her education career. We thank her for her years of dedication and wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement. You will be missed!

A warm welcome to Ms. Cuevas as our new guidance counselor. Ms. Cuevas is responsible for students with the last name F – Le and AICE students. Ms. Cuevas was born and raised in Elizabeth, New Jersey, but after a trip to St. Augustine for a wedding last year, the decision was made to make the move south. Prior to her move, Ms. Cuevas worked in various New Jersey school districts where she worked in both elementary and secondary counseling. Ms. Cuevas is a certified yoga instructor and essential oils enthusiast. Welcome aboard the Ship!



*Welcome,
Yasmin Cuevas!*



*Former Digital Media
student still showing off
the program's T-shirt*

MRS. JOHNSON IS BACK

Digital Media and AICE Travel and Tourism teacher Mrs. Johnson has returned from her maternity leave. She is ready to see how many more Digital Media students will earn certifications this year! Congratulations on your new little one, and welcome back to the Ship.

PIRATE CUSTODIAL STAFF ROCKS!

The Pirate Nation would like to extend special thanks to our custodial staff. The Pirate custodial staff has always been amazing, but during this pandemic, they have gone above and beyond to ensure our school is clean, sanitized, and safe for students, teachers, and staff. Although much of what happens is 'behind the scenes', we notice and want to say **THANK YOU** to each and every one of you!



CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER
Senior of the Month
Lovie Haley



DECEMBER
Senior of the Month
Michelle Taing



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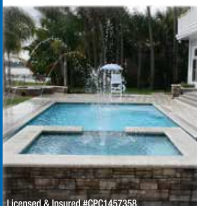
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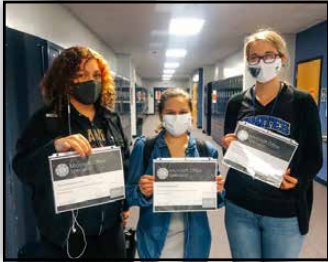
RECOGNIZING COLLEGE BOARD SCHOLARS



Congratulations to our College Board Rural and Small Town Scholars, Nicholas Vilay and Sara Flannery!

DAR GOOD CITIZEN AWARD

Congratulations to our Matanzas DAR Good Citizen recipient Briana Bell! The Pirate Nation is so very proud of you and all you do for our school and community!



RESUME UPDATE!

Congratulations to Arianna, Tatiana, and Trinity for their MOS Word certification!



PIRATE TEACHER AND EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



2nd from left: Teacher of the Year Khady Harmon



2nd from left: Employee of the Year Marie Drumm

Khady Harmon, MHS Teacher of the Year, is originally from Senegal and moved to the U.S in 2003. This is Ms. Harmon's 7th year at MHS where she currently teaches French and Chemistry. In her spare time, Ms. Harmon enjoys spending time with her family and watching Asian drama shows.

Mrs. Drumm, MHS Employee of the Year, started in 2009 as the Media Aide then left for a few years to work at the district office. She returned to the Ship in 2016 as our bookkeeper and in 2017 moved into her current position as Secretary to the Principal.

VISION STATEMENT

Through the collective partnership with our families, students, staff, and community, Matanzas will become a premier high school in the nation by inspiring independence and confidence in all learners as they prepare for college, career, and life.

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

Secretary to the Principal

Marie Drumm

Receptionist

Paula Teixeira

Bookkeepers

Denise Barger

Sharon Jackson

MIS

Angela Coates

Attendance Clerk

Tammy Freeman

Technology Support Specialist

Stanley Wright

Media Specialist

Cate Brandner

Media Clerk

Judy Rosell

Registrar

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Guidance Secretary

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"The Hook" • December 2020 • Issue #1
Flagler County School Board

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WINTER WONDERLAND

For the second year, SGA (Student Government Association) created 3-D snowflakes and turned the halls of MHS into a winter wonderland. Anyone who can find one of the three candy stickers hidden on the underside of the snowflakes wins a prize!



CULINARY TALKS TURKEY

Culinary students learned how to prepare an entire Thanksgiving meal as well as set a table for the holiday. Mr. Reeves shared his turkey carving skills, and staff members enjoyed the opportunity to whet their appetite with a pre-Thanksgiving meal.



A HOLIDAY TRADITION CONTINUES

Ms. Taylor's art class once again created a holiday mural for the annual Fantasy Lights Festival in the Town Center. In keeping with this year's theme 'Old Fashioned Christmas', the mural depicts a festive and wonderful outdoor scene combining nature and the wonders of the holidays.



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CRIMINAL AND JUSTICE CLASSES

WELCOME SPECIAL GUESTS

In a slight change from the usual 'guest speaker', Criminal and Justice students welcomed the opportunity to meet two important members of the Flagler County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit. Thank you to the handlers who brought Holmes, the bloodhound, and Odin, the German shepherd, to MHS. Holmes and Odin seemed to enjoy their visit as much as the students.



COVID CAN'T STOP MHS JROTC

The MHS JROTC Pirate Battalion is continuing to stay active despite the challenges presented by the COVID environment. The Raider Team participated in another virtual Raider competition. The team took home trophies in the relay race and cross country rescue events. The MHS JROTC Color Guard has posted the colors for two football games as well as a school board meeting at the Flagler County Government Services Building.



The drill team and color guard are ramping up their practices in preparation for competitions that will be held upon return from the December break. One of those competitions will be virtually hosted by MHS in conjunction with college ROTC cadets from

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. The ERAU cadets will judge the schools via Zoom from their Daytona location. Major Hall will be on hand with them to record the scores and determine the placements of the competing schools. First Sergeant Caraballo will coordinate the activities of the MHS JROTC drill team and color guard here on campus.

The season schedule for our Rifle Team has been released. We will have six matches followed by a postseason tournament which will determine our placement among the area schools. The JROTC Academic Team competed in the nationwide JROTC competition, and the results will be released in early January. We are confident that the team will advance to round two of the competition.



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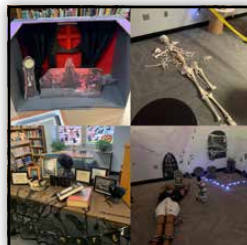
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**GREAT JOB
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MRS. GRAIFER!**

WARNING: CRIME SCENE

Notwithstanding Covid restrictions, the second annual Poe Crimes collaboration was a huge success. Mrs. Graifer's ELA classes and Mrs. Barton's Criminal Justice classes joined forces to investigate Poe crimes. Students recreated the crime scenes complete with character autopsy reports. Other classes were invited to walk through the crime scenes and enjoy the efforts of this collaboration.

GO MATANZAS CHEER!

The end of November found our Matanzas Competition Cheer team in Daytona for their first competition. Way to go, Senior cheerleaders Raquel Torres, Trinity Defalco, and Natalie Valenteychik for making All-American and representing Matanzas High School at Universal.



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Organisation	Phone	Web
ChooseMyPlate: Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Info		choosemyplate.gov/teens
Florida Abuse Hotline	1.800.96.ABUSE	myflfamilies.com/service-programs/abuse-hotline
Love is Respect - prevent and end abusive relationships	1.866.331.9474 or text loves to 22522	loveisrespect.org
National Eating Disorders Association	1.800.931.2237 or text NEDA to 741741	nationaleatingdisorders.org
National Human Trafficking Hotline	1.888.373.7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733)	humantraffickinghotline.org
National Institute on Drug Abuse for Teens		teens.drugabuse.gov
National Road Safety Foundation	1.866.SAFEPATH	nrstf.org/teenlane
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	1.800.273.8255	suicidepreventionlifeline.org
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STOMP Out Bullying		stompoutbullying.org
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YEARBOOKS

Yearbooks are now \$70. Please purchase your yearbook in advance to guarantee you get one. Bring cash or check made payable to MHS Yearbook to Mrs. Graifer in Room 1-202, or you can order yearbooks at www.jostensyearbooks.com.

The last day for on-campus senior pictures is December 18. If you haven't already taken your senior photo, come to the yearbook-only photo shoot in the Pirate Theater lobby. There's no appointment necessary. See Mrs. Graifer in room 1-202 with any questions.

ATTENTION ALL DUAL-ENROLLED STUDENTS!

Be sure to return your dual-enrolled books on the last day of your fall classes. The books are needed for inventory and cleaning before the spring book deployment. Book pick-up for spring classes will be **all day** on Friday, January 15, from 6:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. in room 5-233. Books can also be picked up the following week before school starts from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and after school from 1:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. in room 5-233. Please note these dates and make plans to pick up your books.

If you have not emailed your schedule to Mrs. Summerlot yet, please do that to ensure your books are ordered. You will not be given any spring books if your fall books are not returned before pick up day. There will be a one day delay after returning your spring books late. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Summerlot at extension 8120.

SENIORS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Class of 2021 Graduation Practice – MANDATORY

Thursday, May 27, 2021, 9:00 a.m. in the MHS Gym

- Please arrive at the gym no later than 8:30 a.m. as there are items that need to be filled out before graduation practice can begin.

Class of 2021 Graduation Ceremony

Wednesday, June 2, 2021, 4:00 p.m. at the Daytona Beach Ocean Center on A1A

- Procession of the Senior Class of 2021 will start at 3:45 p.m.

Parents, please plan to arrive early so you do not miss out on the start of the ceremony.

INTERACT CLUB PARTICIPATES IN PROJECT SHARE

The MHS Interact Club partnered with the Rotary Club of Flagler Beach in their Project Share program. The Rotary Club welcomed help in gathering donations of toys and clothing to ensure the approximately 1,000 children on their list have a happy Christmas morning.

KEY CLUB-SERVING OUR COMMUNITY



The members of Key Club have been spending every meeting this month doing various community service projects, such as making decorative inspirational doors for the teachers, helping to create beds out of plastic bags for the homeless, making dog toys for the humane society, and wrapping books to hand out to children in the community. Projects like these keep us busy as we prepare for the holiday season. These projects also help lift our school's spirits and help those less fortunate than us, while also providing each participant in the club with 1.5 hours of community service a week! Additionally, we also provided twelve shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child through the Samaritan's Purse organization.

Upcoming events include the following:

- Caroling in local neighborhoods
- Fireside roasting of marshmallows with fellow club members
- Collecting health aids for the homeless people in our community
- Collecting clothing for the Family Life Center

These service events provide students many opportunities to earn community service hours and give back to their community while making the holidays a time of giving and joy. If you are interested in participating in these events and joining in on our weekly meetings, you are more than welcome to come to the Plank on Thursday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. Don't miss out on the fun we have as we serve together to make the world a better place.

CONGRATS, LOVIE HALEY!

Congratulations to senior lady pirate varsity softball captain, Lovie Haley. Lovie signed a National Letter of Intent for early signing day at the beginning of November. She will continue her education and softball career with Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, where she will study Global Conflict and Homeland Security.

Lovie is the senior Pirate Athletic Committee representative for MHS softball. She thanks all of the Matanzas faculty and her MHS friends who have supported her over the last four years. All of you have helped to make her journey successful.



BASEBALL SEASON IS COMING

The spring baseball season is fast approaching. There was an informational meeting for potential players on December 9. If you missed the meeting and are interested in being a part of the baseball team, email Coach Perry at perryj@flaglerschools.com.

The first day for tryouts is January 18. A completed physical form and a 2.0 or higher GPA are required. Physical forms are available on the school website under Athletics.



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A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR!

After fifteen years, Matanzas High School hosted its first football playoff game. The Pirates not only hosted the game but celebrated a 7 – 6 win over New Smyrna. Also, for the first time since 2016, the Pirates celebrated winning four straight games.

Quarterback Ethan Dattilio singlehandedly broke the school record for passing touchdowns. He surpassed 1500 yards in the air this season. Linebacker Rex Robich led the team in sacks. Our Junior Wide Receiver Noah Cundiff recently received a full ride offer from Troy University.

Congratulations to Head Coach Matt Forrest and his team of coaches and players for "Continuing to Climb".

TAKE EVERYTHING



MATANZAS GOLF TEAMS SHINE

Both the boys and girls Matanzas Golf teams WON district this year! The girls team advanced to state where they had a great showing, placing top 10 in state, the best in school history. Freshman



Alexandra Gazzoli

Alexandra Gazzoli placed 3rd shooting a combined two-day score of 150. The girls golf team also placed 1st in the All Area Challenge beating FPC, Seabreeze, and Spruce Creek. Congratulations, Coach Alred and Pirate Lady Golfers on an awesome season!



PERCUSSION



The Matanzas Percussion Program has some exciting programs planned for the spring semester!

Tuesday, February 2 at 7 p.m. in the MHS Cafeteria, we have our Solo Bistro featuring the Percussion ensembles and solos preparing for District Solo and Ensemble Assessment.

Thursday, April 1 at 7 p.m. in the MHS Courtyard, we have our Outback Night featuring Blue Steel performing with Mr. Victor Provost, the steelpan professor at George Mason University! Outback Night 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 27 at 7 p.m.** in the Pirate Theater is Percussion Palooza, the countywide percussion concert featuring percussion from the different music programs in Flagler Schools.

Our biggest and most popular show is A Night of Percussion on **Thursday, April 29 at 7 p.m.** in the Pirate Theater. This show will feature the percussion ensembles, steelbands, 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 Outback Night) 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!

BAND OF PIRATES

This year Matanzas welcomed Ryan Schulz as our new band director. Despite Covid, the band is pressing on having performed at several football games with the show name 'Music for a Darkened Stadium' featuring selections from Beetlejuice and The Simpsons. The band is looking forward to a great concert season and scoring superiors on their MPA (Music Performance Assessment).

