

December 2023

# THE HOOK

## Volume XIV Issue 1

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we conclude the first semester and the busy holiday season, I look back with so much gratitude for all that our students and staff accomplished so far this year. We have so much to celebrate at "The Ship" in the first half of the 23-24 school year. Our athletic successes include district, regional, and state competitions by all of our fall sports teams. In addition, our students in various Programs of Study and mentoring programs participated in dozens of college, university, and career-related field trips. Our MHS Army JROTC Program has been in full swing of participating in both competitions, including Raiders and Rifle Team, as well as participating in events around the community such as Veteran's Day recognitions at local retirement homes.

We'd also like to celebrate and recognize the achievements of our students in the arts. Our Theater department had a great fall season, including performing a full-length play "Night of the Living Dead" as well as preparing their District Thespian Festival pieces including a one act and several solo and ensemble pieces, which were recognized with Superior ratings at the District Festival. Our Blue Steel Steelband performed at numerous sites around Flagler County including Wadsworth Elementary, First Friday at Flagler Beach, and the Starlight Parade, as well as putting on their own performances at MHS during their Caribbean Cafe and their Holiday Concert. The Band of Pirates Marching Band wrapped up a hugely successful season by earning straight Superiors at their Music Performance Assessment in November. Our band also performed at the Flagler Beach Christmas Parade and put on their annual Holiday Concert in the Pirate Theater for parents and community members. Looking forward to Winter Break and beyond, our Chorus will perform their winter holiday concert on December 19th in the Pirate Theater and several of our chorus students will be jetting off to New York City during the holiday break to perform at Carnegie Hall! Our piano students are holding a recital on December 20th in the Pirate Theater to showcase all of their hard work in class so far this year.

We're also proud of the community service that our students have been engaged with in this season of giving. Several of our clubs including the National Honor Society and Interact organized and participated in food drives and work for local food pantries in the area. Key Club hosted the annual Breakfast with Santa and collected and wrapped gifts for children in need. Interact partnered with our local Rotary Club to put up an Angel Tree and provide holiday gifts for families in need in our community. Thank you to all who donated or participated in these events.

As we turn the page from 2023 to 2024, I thank all of the members of our Matanzas community for your support of Pirate Nation and wish all of our students, parents, and guardians a safe and happy holiday season.



3535 Pirate Nation Way  
Palm Coast, FL 32137

### Administration

MS. KRISTIN BOZEMAN  
*Principal*

MS. SARA NOVAK  
*Assistant Principal*

MR. JOSH SCOTT  
*Assistant Principal*

MS. SAVANNAH BROCK  
*Assistant Principal*

MR. FRED TERRY  
*Assistant Principal*

MR. JOHN WHITE  
*Dean*

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





## 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

Make Good Choices.  
Hold Yourself Accountable.  
Strive for Excellence.

## WHO'S WHO AT MHS

### Secretary to the Principal

Marie Drumm

### Receptionist

Holly Blair

### Bookkeepers

Paula Teixeira

Maria Urrutia

### MIS

Angela Coates

Tamzin Freeman

### Attendance Clerk

Jessica Leggio

### Technology Support Specialist

Kyshawn Morris-Puckrien

### Media Specialist

Cate Brandner

### Media Clerk

Judy Rosell

### Registrar

Kathy Ryan

### Guidance Secretary

Wanda Pittman

### Guidance Clerk

Holly Keck

### Deans' Office Secretary

Maryann Mlinac

### Testing Secretary

J.L. Mendel-Blewett

### Athletic Secretary

Jamie Greiner

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR OWN SARA NOVAK!

Longtime Pirate, Ms. Sara Novak, was recently selected as the district's assistant principal of the year. Congratulations, Ms. Novak, on a well-deserved honor.



## SENIORS OF THE MONTH



October: Ciara G.



November - Stanley G.



## STUDENT IDs

Parents and legal guardians, please check with your students to ensure that they have their Matanzas High School Student ID card, and that they are bringing it to school with them every day. MHS will be checking for IDs throughout the day and students who do not have an ID will be required to go to the media center to obtain a new ID.

## COLLEGE BOARD RECOGNITION



Congratulations to students earning a College Board Recognition Award!



### Ask Your Counselor About Our Dual Enrollment Programs!

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#### Dual Enrollment Programs

- Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Heavy Equipment Operations Technician Program (HEOT)
- HVAC and Electrician Pre-Apprenticeships







## HOSPITALITY AND CULINARY FIELD TRIP

In November, hospitality teacher Mrs. Burke and culinary teacher Mrs. Kittrell took students to the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Trade Show in Orlando. Students were able to view and sample new technology coming to the industry this year, including rides, animatronics, virtual reality, and gaming.



## HOSPITALITY & TOURISM HOTELS

Ms. Burke's classes recently completed a project where each student designed their own hotel. This included identifying the hotel type and completely designing the exterior and interior and identifying the services offered.



## SENIORS

- Cap and gown orders are still open on the Jostens Website.
- Only 20 Grad Bash tickets are left for the **April 19th** event. Tickets cost \$140. Permission slips are located outside Coach Roe's door.
- Senior Class Panoramic picture is set for **January 12th** at 12:30 pm in the Pirate Gym.
- Cap and Gown Delivery Date will take place on **April 3rd** during both lunches in the lower spot bus loop area.
- Graduation practice is on **April 20th** at 9 am in the Pirate Gym.
- Graduation is on **May 22nd** at 3 pm at the Daytona Beach Ocean Center.

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**Hammock Beach**  
GOLF RESORT & SPA



Matanzas Blue Steel and Percussion Ensemble has some exciting events planned for this school year! On Wednesday, February 7th at 6 pm in Pirate Theater, our Percussion Ensemble will premiere their Percussion Ensemble for this school year, *The Stars Began To Burn*, by Matthew Gillott. We will also have other solos and ensembles that have been prepared for our District Solo and Ensemble MPA.

On Thursday, April 11th at 7 pm in the MHS Courtyard, join us for our Outback Night featuring Blue Steel performing with Barry Mannette, Director of the Mannette Academy of Music in Trinidad! Outback Night is a ticketed dinner fundraiser sponsored by Outback Steakhouse. Tickets can be purchased at [pirates32137.booktix.com](http://pirates32137.booktix.com).

Our most popular show is A Night of Percussion on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 23rd and 24th at 7 pm in our Pirate Theater. This show will feature the Percussion Ensemble and all of the Steelbands' outstanding accomplishments this year. The Night of Percussion is admission by donation. It is a show that you won't want to miss!

Thank you so much for your support of Matanzas Blue Steel. We can't wait to jam with you at our next show!

## COUNSELORS CORNER

As we welcome the Florida winter, we cannot believe we're almost halfway through the school year already! The counseling team recently completed our grade-level classroom college and career presentations, and we will move on to future course selections after winter break. If your family is traveling this holiday season, we hope that you might consider using some of that time to tour prospective colleges to continue your college research.

### College and Career Prep

On November 16th, 17th, December 5th, and 6th, the school counselors visited 10th and 11th-grade English classrooms to conduct college and career prep lessons. Students were given tools, tips, and assessment inventories to plan for life after high school. Our goal was for students to learn more about themselves, their aptitudes, and about school and community resources available to assist them in preparing for their future aspirations.

We also put together a packet of resources for the students including career, college, and scholarship search engines, planning timelines, community service opportunities, graduation requirements, state testing requirements and concordant scores, and personality and career interest inventories among other helpful items.

As a follow-up, we have encouraged our students to begin building a resume, to start researching scholarship opportunities such as Raise.me, and to utilize career interest inventories such as the O\*Net Interest Profiler.

### Students should continue to do the following:

- Check the MHS website (MHSpirates.com) for announcements, news, dates, and other information.
- Continue working towards good grades, taking advantage of test retake opportunities, using organization tools, and asking for help when needed.
- Attend the MHS free tutoring opportunities on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 2:50 - 4:20 pm (late bus provided for students that live in the MHS zone).
- Engage in MHS clubs, activities, athletics, and other opportunities.
- Accumulate community service hours and/or paid work hours towards looking marketable for scholarships and other programs and opportunities.
- Utilize college/career planning resources such as [Floridashines.org](http://Floridashines.org) and [MyNextMove.org](http://MyNextMove.org) to help begin your plans for your future, your career, and your post-secondary plans.

We look forward to continued work with our students and to supporting students throughout their high school careers.

### Senior News

Please bookmark and consistently check the Senior Page and Senior Schoology site <https://www.mhsirates.com/students-families/seniors>

Questions about your cap and gown order or senior activities and events? Contact our activities director at [Roer@flaglerschools.com](mailto:Roer@flaglerschools.com). Don't wait to order your cap and gown!

The Award Spring Application for Senior Local Scholarships is now open! Please visit the MHS scholarship page to locate the application (Deadline - Jan. 5th) <https://www.mhsirates.com/students-families/scholarships>

Please be sure to turn in your community service sheets to the Guidance Secretary. You need 100 volunteer and/or paid work hours as part of the eligibility requirements for the top Bright Futures award, and having approximately 250 volunteer hours makes you more marketable for scholarships.

You must complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (Bright Futures Application) by graduation as part of the eligibility requirements <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome?url=home>.

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MATANZAS TUTORING SCHEDULE			
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS			
2:50-4:20PM			
(BUS LEAVES PROMPTLY AT 4:30PM FROM THE BUS LOOP)			
Courses	Teacher:	Days	Location
TESTING MAKE-UPS & RETAKES	Mrs. Hartshorn	Tues/Thurs	BLG. #5 - 225 (Courtroom)
ESOL (ALL SUBJECTS)	Ms. Lagocki	Tues/Thurs	BLG. #6 - 245
CREDIT RECOVERY (EDGENUITY)	Ms. Baker	Tues/Thurs	BLG. #5 - 208
ALG 1A/1B/ALG 1 & GEOMETRY	Mr. Carilli	Tues/Thurs	BLG. #5 - 232
BIOLOGY & ALL OTHER SCIENCES	Ms. Green	Tues/Thurs	BLG. #6 - 225
ALG 2 & ALL UPPER LEVEL MATH	Mr. Winfree	Tuesday Only	BLG. #9 - 116
ENGLISH 1-4	Mr. Johnson	Tuesday Only	BLG. #6 - 214
ENGLISH 1-4	Mrs. Coliario	Thursday Only	BLG. #6 - 214

## NEW SENSORY ROOM

We are pleased to announce the launch of our sensory room at MHS! Flagler County Schools is in the process of installing sensory rooms on each campus to enhance the support and resources available to our students with disabilities. MHS is proud to say that the sensory room at Matanzas was one of the first rooms to be completed! These rooms are specially designed to provide a calming and therapeutic environment for students who may need some sensory breaks during their school day.

Exceptional Student Education parents were recently emailed information about the new room. If you are an ESE parent and did not receive an email, please call the school to update your email address. Our incredible team of ESE teachers, paraprofessionals, and other faculty and staff, have been diligently undergoing the necessary training on how to utilize the room. We are excited to provide our students with this opportunity to engage in sensory activities with their peers and our staff members!



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## CARPENTRY GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

The Matanzas High Carpentry Students gave back to their community by constructing the Elf Houses for this year's City of Palm Coast Fantasy Lights Festival. Year 2 and 3 Carpentry students took part in the house design, layout, and construction. Mr. Douglas, MHS's carpentry teacher, worked with students to design houses that can be assembled and disassembled quickly and with much more ease than in the past. The Fantasy Lights Festival will run through December 30th at Central Park at the Town Center. Be sure to come out and enjoy this year's Christmas Village.



## PBIS FIELD TRIP

Over Thanksgiving break, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Systems (PBIS) sponsored a field trip to the Florida Classic football game in Orlando. Over 38 Pirates had a great time watching Bethune Cookman and Florida A&M play and also enjoyed the halftime battle of the bands.



## JROTC

During the second quarter, the MHS JROTC program continued to excel in its school support and competitive events. The Raider team traveled to Duval County to participate in Raider Meets at Wolfson and Baldwin High Schools. The Rifle Team began its season with a solid victory, defeating Interlachen with a score of 923 to 573. The season will continue with matches against Englewood and Baldwin High Schools. All JROTC cadets participated in the Flagler County Veterans parade on November 11th, which began in Bunnell and ended at the Government Services Building. Also, several cadets visited an assisted living facility to honor resident Veterans. The Veterans were honored with a certificate and a hat representing their respective branch. One of the honorees was a veteran of World War II.

As ROTC looks ahead to next quarter, planning has already started for some of our cadets to travel to Fort Moore, Georgia in February.



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## VISUAL ARTS NEWS

Matanzas High School Visual Arts Students won top awards at the Daytona State College's 6th Annual Art Show Competition! The Art Show was curated out of 175 entries by DSC Faculty, of which 45 pieces were selected for the Show, and the top awards were determined by DSC Art Club College Students. Students in Flagler, Volusia, and surrounding counties entered the competition. **Devon Hoffman** won 1st place in the 2D category, and **Olivia Rabbat** won 1st place in the 3D category. **Mei Butler** was awarded Best of Show! Look in the Lower Spot display case to view the artwork.






# MHS CHESS CLUB

LEARN TO PLAY CHESS!

First Meeting  
After School  
Thursday,  
December 7  
Upper Spot



Chess Club will meet  
twice a month!

INTERESTED?  
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UPPER SPOT.

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- What we'll see and do
- Travel logistics
- How to earn high school or college credit
- Affordable payment options
- How to enroll on this trip (before it fills up!)

I look forward to seeing you there!  
Jeremy Ossler

P.S. Can't make the meeting but want more information?  
Register using the QR code or link below and select "No but send info."

**Join us at the meeting for more details!**

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For more information contact me: [jeremyossler@yahoo.com](mailto:jeremyossler@yahoo.com)



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## YOUTH LEADERSHIP

The Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Foundation, better known as HOBY, has been empowering young students all over the world for over 60 years. Their mission is "to inspire and develop our global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service, and innovation." HOBY offers the opportunity to inspire students to make a difference and become catalysts for positive change in their homes, schools, workplaces, and communities. Today, more than 500,000 HOBY alumni around the world are making a difference in the lives of others, thanks to the vision and passion of Hugh O'Brian who founded this amazing non-profit leadership program.

This summer, Matanzas High School 10th-grade students **Ava Muldoon** and **Anthony Menendez** will attend the HOBY Youth Leadership Seminar in June 2024. This summer seminar allows our students to explore their personal leadership strengths and skills, learn how to work more effectively together with others to create positive change, and discover how their local actions can contribute to solving global issues. As a school, we are extremely excited for our students to have this opportunity and are looking forward to the new ideas they will bring to Matanzas High School as a result of their experience with HOBY.

## MATANZAS HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS FSU Bound

Congratulations to MHS golfer Alexandra Gazzoli, high school and women's amateur state champ, who has signed her letter of intent to Florida State University! We wish her all the best and appreciate her contributions to Matanzas as a State Champion.



## GIRLS LACROSSE

Interested in playing Girls Lacrosse? Beginners are welcome! Open Field is on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm behind the Field House. You must go to <https://athleticclearance.fhsaahome.org/> to be cleared to participate. Tryouts will be on January 22nd. If you are interested, please see Coach Alred in 6-152 or email [alredb@flaglerschools.com](mailto:alredb@flaglerschools.com).

## LADY PIRATES CROSS COUNTRY

Lady Pirates cross country team headed to Tallahassee in November for the state tournament. And congratulations to Christian N. who qualified as an individual for the state tournament in Tallahassee on the boys' side!

