

February 2021

# THE HOOK

Volume XI Issue 2

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I wanted to take a moment to say thank you to an amazing group of educators at Matanzas High School, our guidance counselors: Ms. Cuevas, Ms. Davis, Ms. Feist, Ms. Sawyer (and our December retiree, Ms. Pat Trimmer). These counselors work tirelessly covering a wide range of issues for our students and community. They address the topics of mental and emotional health, helping guide our students by offering a listening ear. Additionally, our counselors offer support and resources to families to ensure students' physical needs are met.

Our guidance team encourages our students to explore new ideas and offers guidance on career and college opportunities. They provide a safe space for students to share what they are thinking and accomplish all this while ensuring that students are on track academically and prepared to graduate on time. No small feat!

In honor of National School Counseling Week, here are a few pearls of wisdom from the many conversations I've had with our counselors over the years:

- **Be Informed.** Take time to learn about your students' GPA, curriculum, advanced courses, dual enrollment, extracurricular activities, graduation requirements, and college admissions. The more you know the better you can assist your child.
- **Pay Attention to Mental Health.** Mental health issues among high schoolers are real. If you notice changes in sleep, energy level, concentration, appetite, or motivation, take those concerns seriously and seek professional assistance.
- **Trust but Verify.** At times, students will miss important information when it comes to their courses, graduation requirements, and college. When in doubt, contact a counselor by phone or by email for clarification.
- **Encourage Your Children to be Advocates for Themselves.** While we as parents want to pave a smooth path for our children, it is much more important that they learn how to communicate with adults, face-to-face; that they learn how to ask for what they want or bring attention to something important to them; and that they learn life lessons from the challenges they encounter.

Remember, life is a journey. Stay positive. A little progress each day adds up to big results. Let's go Pirates. You've got this!



## 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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matanzas/matanzas.php](http://www.academypublishing.com/schools/matanzas/matanzas.php)



## PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR AND TEACHER OF THE YEAR!

(L) Principal of the Year Jeff Reaves

(R) Teacher of the Year Khady Harmon



Matanzas High School is proud to have both the Principal of the Year AND the

Teacher of the Year! Mr. Reaves has been the Matanzas High School principal since 2017 and during those years he has shown an unwavering commitment to student success. Mr. Reaves is also committed to the professionalism, effectiveness, and well-being of the Pirate Nation staff. He is often seen out and about on the campus, greeting students and staff alike with a friendly smile and taking time to make a personal connection.

French and chemistry teacher, Khady Harmon, is Flagler County's Teacher of the Year. When she was 17, Ms. Harmon immigrated from Senegal. Ms. Harmon's family held a strong commitment to education as a way to escape poverty. Fueled by that commitment, Ms. Harmon became the first person in her family to graduate from college. Her classroom is a daily example of what it means to inspire, encourage, and challenge students. This year Ms. Harmon started the HOSA club, an internationally recognized organization dedicated to those interested in a career in the medical field. Ms. Harmon is currently furthering her education as she pursues a Master's degree.

**The Pirate Nation congratulates Mr. Reaves and Ms. Harmon! We are so proud.**

## MU ALPHA THETA MATH CLUB

Mu Alpha Theta Math Club has four students competing in the MathWorks Math Modeling Challenge at the end of February. Sarah Flannery, Nicholas Vilay, Eduardo Crespo Lauzao, and Carson Lee will work together for 14 hours to research, model, and present their solutions to a real-world modeling problem. Also, Rachael Krayter, Mia Shoemaker, and Carson Lee are working to write and film a video to teach a math concept for the national Math Minutes video contest.

## NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR FINALISTS!

Congratulations to our two National Merit Scholar finalists,

Nicholas Vilay and Sarah Flannery!



## SENIORS OF THE MONTH



Congratulations January Senior of the Month Jessica Slusarz!



Congratulations February Senior of the Month Rokavetty Phan!

## FIRST TEEN TOWN HALL

In coordination with the school district and Flagler Youth Coalition, students Brianna Whitfield and Kyleigh Ruddy organized the first Teen Town Hall. Twenty students attended where discussion topics included vaping and the student code of conduct. Any students wishing to register for future meetings can email Brianna at [briannawhi7700@flaglercps.org](mailto:briannawhi7700@flaglercps.org) or Kyleigh at [kyleighrud7920@flaglercps.org](mailto:kyleighrud7920@flaglercps.org).

## NEW TEACHER SPOTLIGHTS

**Ms. Hartshorn** will soon mark her two-year Floridaversary, quite the change from growing up in Alaska and Vermont! After college graduation, Ms. Hartshorn and her husband moved to Utah for 11 years. Ms. Hartshorn adores her two dogs, Marley, a 16-year-old Aussie rescue, who has traveled the country with her, and Lucy, a 5-year-old Golden rescue with epilepsy. Her favorite book is 1984 by George Orwell and when not reading or in the classroom, she enjoys fly fishing.

**Mr. Hebert** was born in Tallahassee but grew up a mile down the road from the University of Miami. Before beginning his teaching career in the 1990s, Mr. Hebert was an exercise physiologist. He enjoys the outdoors, reading, physical fitness, and eating a pound of peanut butter every week! While living in South Florida, Mr. Hebert enjoyed windsurfing and boating, but now he enjoys spending his free time kayaking.

**Ms. Bovasso** is in her 24th year of teaching including students from ages 2-21. The challenging northeast winters brought Ms. Bovasso to Florida 1 1/2 years ago. She enjoys running, biking, and boxing fitness classes. Among her favorites are the color purple, a good hamburger or buffalo wings, any Stephen King book, and beachcombing.



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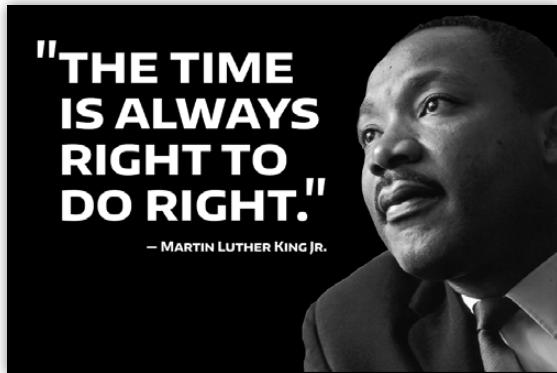
# WELCOME ABOARD THE SHIP!

2021 New Pirates:

- Heidi Hartshorn - Social Studies teacher
- John Hebert - Science teacher
- Mena Bishay - Science teacher
- Phoenix Davis - Parapro
- Alexander Houlihan - Parapro
- Heather Bovasso - Support Facilitation
- Philip Haire - Security

## TESTING CALENDAR

- Feb. 24-26 . . . FSA ELA Retakes for juniors & seniors
- March 3 . . . . SAT School Day for juniors
- March 30 . . . . ASVAB
- April 6 . . . . . FSA ELA Writing for 9th & 10th graders
- April 6 . . . . . ACT School Day for juniors



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Ms. Keen and Ms. Jones guided the Step Team students as small teams created activities and events to commemorate Black History Month. Some of the results were a museum-type exhibit with a scavenger hunt. There was a music Friday complete with a lunch Flash Mob. Well done, Step Team!

## GUIDANCE NEWS!

### Seniors

As graduation is quickly approaching, please make sure you are attending all your classes and not letting "senioritis" take over. You are almost there!

### Juniors - Save the date!

**March 3, 2021**, is the school day SAT. If you are a DSC student, please see guidance for a verification letter to give to your professors.

### Underclassmen

Please make sure you are taking advantage of tutoring and test retakes especially as we are heading into the fourth quarter.

## CAMBRIDGE AICE

Applications for the 2021-2022 AICE program are now being accepted. The due date for completed applications is April 2, 2021. Don't miss out on the opportunity to be part of the AICE Program where earning the diploma gives you the highest Bright Futures Scholarship! Also, if you pass the exam, your AICE classes can give you college credit. For more information, contact Mrs. Castanheira at castanheiran@flaglerschools.com or Mrs. Cuevas at cuevasy@flaglerschools.com.

## DUAL ENROLLED STUDENTS BOOK RETURN

Please place your books in a bag with your name on it and return them to the front desk on the last day of your class. This is critical to book redistribution for the summer semester. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

## 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

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

Kathy Ryan

### Guidance Secretary

Kathy Summerlot

### Deans' Office Secretary

Maryann Mlinac

### Testing Secretary

Eugenia Moore

### Athletic Secretary

Clarice Dias

"The Hook" • February 2021 • Issue #2  
Flagler County School Board

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## ROTC CONTINUES TO WIN

The MHS JROTC program continues its winning ways. The rifle team is 3-0 and tied for first place in its area. Our top marksmen are Avery Distler and Aurora Dennis. Brooke Miner has established herself as the top new marksman.

The Drill Team and Color Guard took four trophies home in the Matanzas Invitational Drill Meet on February 6. Last but not least, the Academic Team advanced to the second round of the National JROTC Academic Tournament. All teams will continue to compete in future events as we head into spring.



## SGA SPREADS SCHOOL SPIRIT

The Student Government Association continues to promote school spirit by designing bulletin boards for winter sports, adorning the school with hanging hearts and heart decals, and is currently holding a Pets of Matanzas contest sponsored by a local pet company. Students submit photos of themselves



and their pets in three categories: Cuddle, Action, and Display. Winners will be voted on by the entire school; watch for the entries and the voting forms in Schoology. Keep up the great work, SGA!

## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY SERVES

During the holiday season, the National Honor Society made over 40 gift baskets for veterans! NHS President Lovie Haley and Vice President Nick Vilay delivered the baskets to Commander of the VFW, Keith Tremblay. Thank you to everyone involved in this joint effort to provide for local veterans!

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## KEY CLUB NEWS

Key Club has lots of things happening in the spring. If you are a senior and still needing hours for the Bright Futures scholarship, please feel free to join us. Mrs. Summerlot will gladly sign off on your hours.

### Food Pantry in Bunnell

Please sign up before serving. Key Club is scheduled for the following dates: 02/20/21, 03/20/21, 04/17/21, and 05/15/21. Social distancing is observed and masks are required as well as closed-toe shoes.

### Garden Work Days

Speaking of the food pantry, we are refurbishing the garden at Matanzas and hope to donate the crops to the pantry. We need all the help we can get. Please wear closed-toe shoes and appropriate clothing taking into consideration the weather. Any of the Pirate family is welcome to join us on the following days: February 27, March 6, and April 24. We will be out there from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## LOOK FOR NEWSIES TO HIT THE STREETS!

Come to Matanzas High School and enjoy their production of *Disney's Newsies*, by Alan Menken, Jack Feldman, and Harvey Fierstein. Embark on the journey with Jack Kelly (played by Ethan Fink) and his gang of Newsies as they fight Joseph Pulitzer (played by Corbin Payne) for the rights of not only themselves but the Newsies all around the city of New York. Helped by ambitious news reporter Katherine Plumber (played by Lauren Marie), and recruits Davey (played by Matthew Eaton) and Les (played by Eli McIntyre), the group learns about the power they've had inside them all along.

*Disney's Newsies* is a Broadway hit, known for iconic songs such as "Seize the Day," "King of New York," and "Carrying the Banner." Directed by Noel Bethea, expect the show to bring lively energy, overcoming the difficulties of the years past. Despite being canceled two weeks before the original showing, recasting the ensemble, and changing the way they perform on stage, Matanzas' cast and crew have stayed determined through dark times, persevering to give their audience a show that will shine brightly during these trying times.

*Disney's Newsies* will be opening on April 8, 2021, at 7 p.m. and run through April 10, 2021, with a matinee showing on April 10, 2021, at noon. Tickets will be \$10 for face-to-face shows, as well as a live streaming option for \$20, which will be available through showstix4U.com. For more information, visit the MHS Pirates website or contact Noel Bethea by phone at (252) 202-2272 or by email at bethean@flaglerschools.com.

*Disney's Newsies* is produced by special arrangement with Musical Theater International.



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### Sea World Education Trip

Many of the Key Clubbers will be traveling to Sea World on February 26th to reinforce the importance of keeping our beaches safe and clean. They will see firsthand how our many beach clean-ups help the sea life exist.

### Beach Cleanup

Sunday, March 7. Come one, come all to help us clean up Flagler Beach. Bags and gloves will be distributed. We will meet from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Flagler Pier.

### Car Wash

Come join us at CenterState Bank on Cypress on March 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will be hard at work washing cars to raise money for Relay for Life. Everyone knows someone who has been affected by cancer. We appreciate your support for fighting cancer and finding a cure!

### Key Club Leadership Convention

Due to Covid restrictions, this year's convention will be very different. In the past, as many as wanted could attend, but this year only two members and one chaperone will attend. Key Club will be represented by members Kaitlyn Gerhard and Jenny Dotson accompanied by chaperone, Mrs. Summerlot. All other members will be able to participate virtually.



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## FLAGLER COUNTY ART LEAGUE ANNUAL SHOW

Congratulations to Ms. Taylor and Mrs. Johnston's art and design students who participated in the Flagler County Art League show.

A special shout out to the following students:

**Ms. Taylor's:**

- Elle Marin - 1st place Colored Pencil
- Alana Portas - 1st place Pastel
- Christina Courson - 1st place Painting
- Lauren Sampsele - 2nd place Painting
- Alana Portas - 3rd place Painting
- Christina Courson - 4th place Painting
- Joshua Pruett - Honorable Mention Drawing

**Mrs. Johnson's:**

- Amira Rooney - 1st place in the Digital Art category
- Alex Galbraith - 3rd place in the Digital Art category

The virtual art show can be viewed on the Flagler County Art League website: [bit.ly/3pl7f04/](http://bit.ly/3pl7f04/).



*The Jungle*  
by Alexander Galbraith Lauren

*Refraction* by Amira Rooney



*Sampsele painted one of her teachers, Ms. Khadijah Jones*



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## STANDING O ATHLETE LOVIE HALEY



The Palm Coast Observer named Lovie Haley the Standing O athlete this year. Lovie is described as not only being an outstanding athlete but also of excellent character. Coach Manhart states that Haley's versatility will serve her well on the college field. Haley played seven positions out of nine in her freshman year and will continue her education and softball career with Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach.

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# MHS FLAGSHIPS: CLASSROOM TO CAREER

Matanzas High School is proud of our four Flagship Programs which are designed to help students discover paths that lead from the classroom to a career. The four MHS flagships are Finance and Corporate Services, Culinary Arts, Construction Tech, and Law and Justice.

## CONGRATULATIONS CULINARY STUDENTS!

Students not only spend time creating delicacies in the kitchen, but students also gain valuable knowledge for the culinary industry. We are proud of how many Culinary students have already passed industry certifications exams this year. Congratulations to our recently certified Culinary students!



Trinity DeFalco - Top Score for Serv Safe!

L-R: Ashley Gomez, Eleanor Coker, Luke Fisch, Trinity DeFalco, Jerard Baptista, River Janovsky, Mrs. Kittrell  
(Not pictured: Markel Hoffman, Alissa Sambolin, Jakob Turlington-Parker)

## CONSTRUCTION TECH

The Construction Tech flagship began the new year with a new teacher. Mr. Eric Eitzen was born in New York but relocated to Florida in 2004. He is an FPC graduate and before embarking on a teaching career, spent eight years in construction. His main skill is carpentry, but he can work on anything from plumbing, electric, roofing, to drywall. As a certified National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER) instructor, Mr. Eitzen can teach the NCCER curriculum as well as proctor the industry certification tests. The hard work of both the teacher and students is paying off with many construction students passing the NCCER modules putting them well on their way to being Carpentry Certified!



Mr. Eitzen shows student how to properly harness up for roofing

## LAW & JUSTICE FLAGSHIP WELCOMES JUDGE DISTLER

In mid-January, Flagler County Judge Melissa Distler took time out of her busy schedule to speak to our Law Studies students. Judge Distler discussed her path to becoming a judge, as well as the role of the judge inside and outside of the courtroom. Judge Distler has presented many times since she helped to create the Law and Justice Flagship back in 2018. This year was unique in that the topic of discussion switched to the ways that the judicial system has adapted in the world of Covid-19. The students learned that the judicial system cannot just stop during times of crisis and that the use of platforms like Zoom has enabled the system to keep moving. Guest speakers, like Judge Distler, are vital to providing our students with real-world experiences as they prepare for their chosen career path of Law and Criminal Justice.

Judge Melissa Distler addresses Law & Justice Flagship Students



## SIGNING DAY #TAKEEVERYTHING

Earlier this month Seniors Rex Robich, Stephen Usina, and Nick Morin were recognized at a Signing Day organized by Coach Forrest. Coach Forrest recognized these three players as student-athletes, players who perform well on the field and in the classroom. Congratulations to Nick Morin, offensive tackle, who signed with Mount Marty; Stephen Usina, kicker, who signed with Salisbury College; and Rex Robich, long snapper, who signed with Mississippi State University.



Rex Robich



Stephen Usina



Nick Morin

## BOYS SOCCER WINS DISTRICTS!

Earlier this month our soccer team traveled to Ponte Vedra High School to play in the district final. Nick Ferrer scored the goal, assisted by Diego Bernardi, for a final score of MHS Pirates 1 to Ponte Vedra Sharks 0, securing the win for the 2021 District Final!

The team will move on to Regional Quarter Finals which will be held here at Matanzas. Best of luck and congratulations to Coach Aguilar and the Matanzas soccer team!



## LADY PIRATE LIFTERS QUALIFY FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



(L) Andie Tice gets ready to bench press during the 2A Region 2 Championships

(R) Lucie Dudley finishes out a Clean & Jerk at the 2A Regional Championships

Both Junior Andie Tice and Senior Lucie Dudley advanced out of Regionals to qualify for the FHSAA Girls Weightlifting State Competition. With a 130 pound Bench Press and a 135 pound Clean & Jerk for a 265 pound total, Tice was the Regional Champion in the 119 pound Weight Class, automatically earning her spot at States. Dudley's 140 pound Bench Press, 150 pound Clean & Jerk, and 290 pound total were enough for her to also head to States. Both of these outstanding young ladies were captains for the Lady Pirate Lifters this year and will no doubt proudly represent Pirate Nation with fierce competitiveness as they vie to be State Champions!



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## MATANZAS PERCUSSION EXCITING PROGRAMS AHEAD

Mark your calendars for the Matanzas Percussion Program planned for the Spring semester! All shows (excluding Outback Night) are a suggested donation of \$5.00 per person.

### **Outback Night**

Thursday, April 1, 7 p.m. at MHS Courtyard

- Blue Steel will perform with highly published Pan Educator, Mr. Ed Anderson.
- Tickets for this fundraiser dinner event can be purchased at [pirates32137.booktix.com](http://pirates32137.booktix.com).

### **Percussion Palooza**

Thursday, April 27, 7 p.m. at Pirate Theater

- The countywide percussion concert featuring percussion from the different music Programs in Flagler Schools.

### **A Night of Percussion**

Thursday, April 29, 7 p.m. at Pirate Theater

- The biggest and most popular show of the year, featuring all of the fantastic accomplishments of the year from the percussion ensembles, steelbands, drumline. You won't want to miss this fast-paced, non-stop, interactive show.

## SENIORS

### **Senior Cap and Gown Pick Up Day #1** - Wednesday, March 31, 2021

- More information to follow regarding how this distribution will take place. Please check for updates!

### **Graduation Practice** - May 27, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

- Graduation Practice will take place in the Matanzas High School Gym.
- Please arrive at the gym no later than 8:30 a.m. as there are forms to complete before graduation practice can begin.
- More information will be added so please check back later in the school year.

### **Class of 2021 Graduation Ceremony** - June 2, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

- The location for this year's Graduation Ceremony will be at the Daytona Beach Ocean Center on A1A. Look for more information regarding parking and tickets for this event.
- Procession of the Senior Class of 2021 will start at 3:45 p.m. Parents, please arrive early so you do not miss out on the start of the ceremony.

### **Senior Class Panoramic Picture Day** - The Class of 2021 Senior Panoramic picture will be held on February 26, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Matanzas High School Football Field. Please follow the guidelines below for this year Senior Panoramic Picture.

- We are asking that every senior who attends this event please wear a white shirt and blue mask. If you do not have a blue mask, we will be handing out the Matanzas Masks upon arrival.
- Please arrive no later than 5:45 p.m. and park in the senior parking lot.
- Spots will be marked on the football field to indicate where everyone should stand.
- This is **NOT** a mandatory event but an option for all seniors who would like to be a part of this year's panoramic picture.
- If you have any questions, contact Coach Roe or Mrs. Graifer.

