

February 2024

THE HOOK

Volume XIV Issue 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

February is a month filled with celebrations, so I want to take this opportunity to spotlight some great things going on this month at Matanzas High School.

The week of February 5 - 9 was National School Counseling Week, to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems. Here at Matanzas High School, we have five school counselors who do so much for our students, from supporting their academic success to assisting families with needed services including mental health and other resources. Special shout out to our Guidance Department Chair, Ms. Feist, who was recognized this year as the Matanzas High School Teacher of the Year. Please join me in recognizing our School Counselors here at MHS!

- Ms. Anderson - Student last name A-G
- Ms. Cuevas - AICE Cohort and last name H-Ka
- Ms. Feist - ESE Access Points Cohort and student last name Ru-Z
- Dr. Fitzgerald - Students with IEPs and Grad100 Students
- Ms. Stuve - Student last name Ke-Ro

Our school counselors will be meeting individually with every 9th, 10th, and 11th-grade student in the coming weeks to review their academic progress and collaborate on their course selections for next year. We are looking forward to each of our students engaging with this process to prepare themselves for success in the 2024-2025 school year.

We also celebrate Black History Month in February! This month, our SGA students will be creating Black History Month posters and bulletin board displays around the school. The students in our African-American History class are sharing information on the morning announcements, and our Ebony Society is sponsoring a door-decorating contest. We hope to see great participation!

Go Pirates!



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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

To download a pdf version of this newsletter,
go to 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 Drum

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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

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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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MHS CELEBRATES OUR PIRATES OF THE YEAR

These amazing Pirates were recognized for their dedication and commitment to the Pirate Nation. Congratulations to all on your well-deserved recognition!



Sara Novak - District AP
of the Year and Kay Feist -
Teacher of the Year



Janel Walker -
Rookie Teacher of the Year



Maryann Mlinac -
Employee of the
Year



JUNIORS, SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, March 12, 2024: Junior in-school SAT day

- You don't need to do anything to register for the SAT; MHS has taken care of your registration and payment.
- The tests begin promptly at 8:10 AM, so be in your testing room well BEFORE 8:10 AM.
- Don't forget to get a good night's rest, eat a healthy breakfast, and come prepared! You can bring a drink and snacks for break times. Bring layers! Some testing rooms can be cold or warm.
- Check Schoology for your testing location (information will be available closer to the testing date).
- If you want to take the SAT, ACT, or CLT any time after the in-school SAT day, you will need to register for the exam on your own (qualifying students can request a fee waiver from the Guidance Secretary).

Volunteer Opportunities - Remember that you need 100 work and/or community service hours to qualify for the top Bright Futures award and an average of 250 volunteer hours to look marketable for scholarships. Visit the Community Service board outside the Building 6 Guidance Office, or visit the Flagler Volunteer Services link for volunteer opportunities - <https://flaglervolunteer.org/>

Scholarships Opportunities - Please be sure to check the scholarship area located in building 5 on the wall outside the Registrar's Office (5-216) as well as the scholarship page on the MHS Pirates website. There are still many scholarships available, but deadlines are approaching quickly! Make sure you're also checking Schoology and the Principal's weekly newsletter as scholarship opportunities are posted there as well.

Save the
DATE!



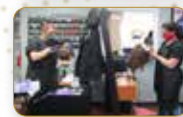
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Dual Enrollment Programs

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





CRITICAL THINKING - FEBRUARY'S RESILIENCY TRAIT

February's Resiliency Trait of the Month is critical thinking! Critical thinking is defined by the state's initiative as "gathering information to think through and determine the best choice." Teachers, be on the lookout for the student of the month nomination form, and be sure to nominate your student(s) exhibiting critical thinking in and out of the classroom.



COUNSELORS CORNER

It has been a busy winter here at The Ship, and we will continue to be in full bloom as we move into the spring in a few short weeks! As the weather gets warmer, we want to encourage students to be active outdoors through MHS sports, clubs, and community activities. Now is a great time to volunteer through some of our local organizations such as the Florida Agricultural Museum, the Flagler Humane Society, and Whispering Meadows Ranch, or perhaps participate in a fundraising walk such as the Turtle Trek 5K Run/Walk coming up on March 2nd.

Future Course Selection - Spring at MHS also marks the time for students to start planning their future schedules. Please engage in conversations with your teachers about course recommendations for next year. Your teachers are the experts in their subject areas and can assist you with selecting future classes that are appropriate for you. You will also have an opportunity to sit down with your school counselor for an individual future course selection meeting. During that meeting, your counselor will discuss your plans for your future, review your selections, and make any needed changes or recommendations based on your plans, progress, goals, and needs.

Throughout the Spring semester, please continue to work hard in school and be engaged in opportunities and activities that will help you prepare for college and career.



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JANUARY SENIOR OF THE MONTH

Rilee Whitmore was the Kiwanis/Matanzas High School January Senior of the Month. Rilee is known for being helpful, energetic, determined, mature, and athletic. Rilee plans to continue her education at Daytona State in the Fall where she will major in Biology.



SENIOR FIONN DALY MEETS THE MAYOR

Congratulations to Senior Fionn Daly who met with Palm Coast's Mayor Alfin to discuss upcoming opportunities regarding his desire to attend a military college. Thank you to Mayor Alfin for the letter of recommendation to help Fionn move forward in his goals. Way to go, Fionn!



CONGRATULATIONS, YEARBOOK SENIORS!

Congratulations to Seniors Mae Fasnacht and Ben Apfelbach for designing a yearbook spread and winning 3rd place at the competition. Each student won a \$50 gift card to Amazon.



PIRATE DARIUS ROBINSON IN DC!

Darius Robinson, a Junior and Honor student at Matanzas High School, visited Washington D.C to participate in the "On the Hill" Legislative Summit with the Jack and Jill of America, Inc. Jack and Jill members and teens from 262 chapters representing more than 50,000 families spanning 36 states convened in the nation's capital for four legislative advocacy days. The experience allowed Darius to examine social, political, and economic changes that took place during important chapters in history as well as today's ongoing changes. The congressional introduction to the legislative process, presentations, and meetings with his congressional leaders, among other events, provided him with a thought-provoking overview of history in the making. Darius was able to interact with legislators and staffers and sit in the same seats that were occupied by historical figures over 200 years ago, where the process of defining the country's values and beliefs started.

Before heading to the Capitol, Darius, amongst the other 700 plus teens who were in attendance, was surprised to have an honored visit from The United States of America Vice President Kamala Harris, who encouraged attendees over breakfast to continue being great leaders for their generation and always to be proud of their aspirations and ambitions.

Founded in 1938, Jack and Jill of America, Inc. is a national non-profit organization of mothers focused on a mission to develop youth into leaders through cultural, civic, and social experiences. Eighty-four years later, the organization continues its commitment to children and the community; at its core, it is an organization dedicated to the development of strong families. Headquartered in the nation's capital, Jack and Jill of America, Inc. works to be a driving force in communities across the nation to enhance the quality of life for all children. Jack and Jill incorporate "service learning" as a means of providing the academic connection between the skills and knowledge taught in the classroom, and the leadership and service skills experienced and needed in the community. JJOA believes their youth must be involved in the political process, including elections, legislative agenda, and other important civic duties, as they become global citizens in the marketplace of the future.

To this end, JJOA endeavors to create and develop meaningful experiences to facilitate youth in gaining the values, knowledge, skills, and commitment necessary for citizenship and leadership. One of the signature events in this effort is their national On The Hill Summit program for leadership development through legislative advocacy.

Darius plans to study radiology and his top two college picks are one of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Howard University or Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

Darius with the National President of Jack and Jill of America, Kornisha McGill Brown



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SCHEDULE A CAMPUS TOUR TODAY!



SPORTS

GIRLS SOFTBALL

A HUGE thank you to our amazing softball parents who spent their Saturday morning with us at our 2024 Field Day! Because of your devotion to our program, we were able to get the windscreen installed, batting cage cleaned,



garage organized, locker room cleaned, home bullpen net installed, visitor bullpen renovated, and our concession stand ready to go for the Preseason Classic. Our Championship Season wouldn't happen without your support!



#TakeEverything

The Football Team is putting in the work at 6:30 AM workouts during the offseason from Monday to Thursday. "You have to work hard in the dark to shine in the light." -Kobe Bryant



LADY PIRATE LIFTERS WIN AGAIN!

On Thursday, January 25th, the Lady Pirate Lifters won their 3rd straight Traditional District Title and won their 1st ever Olympic District Title as well! Ryann Parkinson (101), Madison Glisson (119), and Sarah Sanchez (154) were individual District Champions in both events! Ten Lady Pirate Lifters qualified to compete for a Regional Championship.



MATANZAS HIGH SCHOOL 2024 SOFTBALL SCHEDULE			
10-11 SPRINGFIELD 11-12 MARIAN 13-14 MATANZAS 15-16 NEW ENGLAND 17-18 SPRINGFIELD 19-20 MATANZAS 21-22 NEW ENGLAND 23-24 SPRINGFIELD 25-26 MATANZAS 27-28 NEW ENGLAND 29-30 SPRINGFIELD 31-32 MATANZAS 33-34 NEW ENGLAND 35-36 SPRINGFIELD 37-38 MATANZAS 39-40 NEW ENGLAND 41-42 SPRINGFIELD 43-44 MATANZAS 45-46 NEW ENGLAND 47-48 SPRINGFIELD 49-50 MATANZAS 51-52 NEW ENGLAND 53-54 SPRINGFIELD 55-56 MATANZAS 57-58 NEW ENGLAND 59-60 SPRINGFIELD 61-62 MATANZAS 63-64 NEW ENGLAND 65-66 SPRINGFIELD 67-68 MATANZAS 69-70 NEW ENGLAND 71-72 SPRINGFIELD 73-74 MATANZAS 75-76 NEW ENGLAND 77-78 SPRINGFIELD 79-80 MATANZAS 81-82 NEW ENGLAND 83-84 SPRINGFIELD 85-86 MATANZAS 87-88 NEW ENGLAND 89-90 SPRINGFIELD 91-92 MATANZAS 93-94 NEW ENGLAND 95-96 SPRINGFIELD 97-98 MATANZAS 99-100 NEW ENGLAND 101-102 SPRINGFIELD 103-104 MATANZAS 105-106 NEW ENGLAND 107-108 SPRINGFIELD 109-110 MATANZAS 111-112 NEW ENGLAND 113-114 SPRINGFIELD 115-116 MATANZAS 117-118 NEW ENGLAND 119-120 SPRINGFIELD 121-122 MATANZAS 123-124 NEW 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THE ARTS AT MHS

BLUE STEEL NEWS and EVENTS Congratulations!

Congratulations to Matanzas Blue Steel on their invitation to perform in Tampa. The Florida Music Education Association featured them in a general session with hundreds of music teachers in attendance. They were also featured in their own private concert. Blue Steel performed exceptionally well and represented Pirate Nation and Flagler County Schools in the best way possible. Thank you to Superintendent LaShakia Moore for attending the performances and supporting Blue Steel!

Drumming Up Amazing Events

On Thursday, April 4th, at 7 PM in the MHS Courtyard, we have 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.

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. It is a show that you won't want to miss! The Night of Percussion is admission by donation.

CLUBS

KEY CLUB

As the 2023 year came to an end, our club members focused on giving back to our community. On December 16th we hosted our annual Breakfast with Santa. Our members set up various Christmas-inspired games and activities, served pancakes, and created a joyful atmosphere for everyone who attended. And, of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus made a special appearance and put a smile on everyone's faces! We would like to thank our sponsors who helped make this event happen. From Dunkin Donuts, IHOP, Home Depot, and The Vintage Spur, to our very own Mr. Reeder, Deputy King, and Mrs. Johnston. We greatly appreciate everyone's support in making Breakfast with Santa possible!

On February 3rd, we hosted our Division Council meeting (DCM). This meeting is an opportunity for all Key Club chapters from across Division 7 to come together on a community service project. Our service project was cleaning up our beautiful Flagler Beach.

If you are interested in joining the MHS Key Club chapter for the remainder of this school year, you can contact our advisor Mrs. Cypert by email at cyperta@flaglerschools.com or visit her classroom at 9-111. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

WAY TO GO, MU ALPHA THETA MATH CLUB!

The Mu Alpha Theta math club traveled to Gainesville High School to compete with regional schools. The Statistics team, consisting of Austin McKay, Sami Samaan, Carly Hyers, and Sebastian DeLeon, took home the 3rd place trophy for that division. Austin came in 14th place overall to earn an individual medal. Kayla Mercado-McFadden teamed up with an FPC student in Algebra 2 and placed 5th in their division. The math team competes again in March at Seminole High School.



VISUAL ARTS NEWS

Don't miss the Flagler Palm Coast & Matanzas **High School Art Show**
When?

- March 28 through May 4, 2024
- Opening Reception: Sunday, April 7, 2024

Where?

- Expressions Art Gallery: Grand Living Realty Building
2298 Colbert Lane, Palm Coast, FL 32137
 - Operating Hours: Monday - Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM
- Thank you to our Art Show Curators, Maggie Corder and Jan Jackson.



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FLAGSHIPS

FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP

Matanzas High School Vystar interns presented at the 3rd financial literacy workshop. Students presented topics ranging from budgeting to long-term savings tips. Monopoly money was used to conduct an interactive budgeting exercise.



DECA COMPETITION WINNERS!

Congratulations to these Matanzas DECA members: Isabella Hopkins, Karolina Jaronis, Lexi Hixon, and Nickolas Rosato for placing in the top three in our Florida DECA District 2 competition. This is a very competitive exam, and we are so proud of these DECA Pirates!



- Isabella: Third Place in Apparel and Accessories
- Lexi and Karolina: Third Place in Business Law and Ethics and Team Decision-Making
- Nickolas: Second Place in Entrepreneurship

JROTC MAKES WINNING A HABIT

There's a saying in sports and competitive events that winning can become a habit. This saying applies to the MHS JROTC program as it continues to bring home trophies. The Drill Team and Color Guard traveled to Williston to participate in the Williston Invitational Drill Meet. MHS entered a team in four events and placed first in every event. The team won first-place trophies for the unarmed squad, LET 1 squad, color guard, and armed squad. The Drill Team and Color Guard will compete in two more meets and plan to qualify for the state final. The rifle team had its best year ever. The team led by Kayla Weisenberger won trophies for best overall shooter in the area, regular season champions, and first place in the Area One qualifier match. During the State Competition in Cape Coral, the rifle team earned a final ranking of 16th in the state. During the last four years, the rifle team has compiled a record of 23 wins against three losses.



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VAMOS A COMPRAR ROPA LET'S GO BUY CLOTHES!

Ms. Kessler's, Ms. Langley's, and Mrs. Gilliam's Spanish II students worked hard to learn the vocabulary, phrases, numbers, and grammar needed to perform a skit in a clothing store. First, students researched different Spanish-speaking countries to understand each season's climate, the country's currency, and what would be needed to travel in that country. After students studied a dialogue example between a clerk and two shoppers, students created their own skit. Students determined the clothing prices and some went as far as conversion from US dollars to the country's currency. This experience allowed students to walk away with many practical and useful shopping phrases. Spanish II continues to prepare students with phrases that can be used in the real world!





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