

THE HOOK

October 2023

Volume XIII Issue 5

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It's hard to believe that the first quarter of the 2023-2024 school year is already over! This first quarter was full of fun activities, including "Freshmen Frenzy" orientation, the Potato Bowl week festivities and Homecoming Week. We also completed our first round of F.A.S.T. Progress Monitoring testing and Retake assessments for juniors and seniors. I want to thank all of our parents and legal guardians for the support that you show to your students in their education at Matanzas High School. One new initiative that has been very successful is adjusting our expectations for students to comply with new Florida legislation dictating that mobile phones must be put away during instructional time. We appreciate our parents and legal guardians for supporting this initiative and helping us set the bar for students - we have seen amazing things going on in classrooms when our students are fully engaged with their learning and not distracted by their mobile devices.

I'd like to encourage all of our parents and legal guardians to stay connected with your child's education here at Matanzas. If you have not already, please "Like" Matanzas High School on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram @PirateNationMHS so that you can follow all of the good things happening at MHS. Also, you should be receiving a weekly email from me with important updates for the week. If you are not receiving the weekly emails, reach out to me directly via email so that I can update your contact information in our system. I also encourage you to check your student's grades and attendance regularly using our Skyward system. If you do not have access, please contact our front office to request access. Finally, if you have any concerns about your child's academic progress, please reach out to their individual teachers or if you have a general concern, please contact their school counselor. Tutoring is in full swing weekly after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays with bus transportation available, so all students can get the help they need.

Our goal is for 100% of our students to graduate on time, prepared to take on postsecondary education or a career. Our Pirate Nation family is committed to helping each child achieve that goal. **Go Pirates!**



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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

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Jamie Greiner

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SENIORS OF THE MONTH



August - Carly H.



September - Austin W.



PBIS: PROMOTING POSITIVITY IN THE PIRATE NATION

Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) is a campus wide effort to support students to *Make Good Choices, Hold Yourself Accountable, and Strive for Excellence*. Through the state resiliency initiative, each month will focus on a character trait through announcements, classroom activities, and student of the month recognition. Below is an outline each month's focus trait:

- August - Resilience: Coming back after challenges or setbacks.
- September - Empathy: Understanding how and why others think, feel, and act.
- October - Perseverance: Continuing to try even when things are hard.
- November - Grit: Working consistently towards long-term goals.
- December - Responsibility: Using good judgment, self-control, and owning my actions.
- January - Critical Thinking: Gathering information to think through and determine the best choice. Problem Solving: Coming to a solution by working together.
- February - Responsible Decision-Making: Thinking about all options and outcomes, then making the best choice.
- March - Self-Awareness: Understanding how and why I think and act, including my impact on others. Self-Management: Governing how I think and act, including my impact on others.
- April - Mentorship: Giving and asking for support, guidance, training, or expertise
- May - Citizenship: Making good choices that help my community and nation. Honesty: Telling the truth



From L to R:

Cleona D., Violet O., David D. and Joshua S.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the students awarded certificates and free ice cream from the cafeteria. A big thanks to all of the teachers who submitted nominations. Freshmen Joshua was nominated by Mr. Rizzo as a student who helps others instead of discourages them during times of difficult math! Amazing student! Sophomore David was nominated by Mrs. Paone as a student who is willing to look at other student's work and offer helpful suggestions to improve their grade. He is cheerful and always positive. Junior Violet was nominated by

Ms. McLean who stated Violet is always ready to help another student, be it emotionally or academically. She's always ready to ask how another student is doing and if they're okay. Senior Cleona was nominated by Dr. Jared Allen as a student who shows genuine concern for others.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR BLUE STEEL!

Matanzas Blue Steel has some exciting events planned for this school year! Our fifth annual Blue Steel 5K Night Run is on Saturday, November 4 at 7 p.m. All participants in this untimed run/walk will receive a medal, T-shirt, and goodie bag! Register at www.runsignup.com/mhsbluesteel/.

The Caribbean Cafe, a ticketed dinner fundraiser is on Thursday, November 16 at 7 p.m. in the MHS Courtyard. We partner with our incredible Culinary Flagship to offer an authentic Caribbean dinner with authentic Caribbean tunes from Blue Steel. Tickets can be purchased at pirates32137.booktix.com.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, December 12 and 13 at 7 p.m. in our Pirate Theater, the Holiday Extravaganza concert will feature Blue Steel! The Holiday Extravaganza is admission by donation.

On Thursday, April 4 at 7 p.m. in the MHS Courtyard, the Outback Night features Blue Steel performing with Mr. 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 Pan on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 23 and 24 at 7 p.m. in the Pirate Theater. This show will feature all of the steelbands' outstanding accomplishments for the year. It is a show that you won't want to miss! The Night of Pan is admission by donation.

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

2023-2024 YEARBOOK ORDERS


MHS Yearbook
order info
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MHS CUSTODIAL STAFF ROCKS

Ms. Walker's and Ms. Guadagno's classes made an appreciation card to present to our amazing custodial department on National Custodial Appreciation Day!



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COUNSELORS CORNER

We are excited to welcome the fall, and we hope that autumn weather arrives soon! Moving into October, we will begin presenting in freshman classrooms to provide students with guidance on how to lead a successful high school experience. Seniors are in peak college application season, and we will continue to support all 12th graders in preparing for their future aspirations. October is also recognized nationally as Bullying Prevention month.

College and Career Prep

In September, the school counselors completed senior college and career prep classroom presentations, and we met individually with every senior to discuss their post secondary plans. We have provided seniors with guidance, tools, and resources to assist them in preparing for life after high school. Seniors, please continue to do the following:

- Utilize college and career prep resources provided to seniors in the presentation and packet including Floridashines.org and MyNextMove.org.
- Wrap up college and career research and begin applying to your colleges. Most early application window deadlines are prior to Nov. 1st. FSU's early application deadline was Oct. 15th!
- Accumulate community service hours and/or paid work hours (100 needed for top Bright Futures award)
- Prepare for and register for the SAT/ACT and use the provided study resources
- Check the following locations for scholarship opportunities:
 - Scholarship wall across from the building 5 Guidance Office
 - Scholarship section of the college and career prep packet
 - Links in the college and career presentation
 - Scholarship page on the MHS Pirates website
 - FFAA or Bright Futures application opened on October 1 - This application MUST be completed prior to graduation! See your college and career packet for instructions.
 - Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens on December 1 - students that complete the FAFSA early typically receive the better financial aid packages!

Attention Dual-Enrolled Students

Open registration for the Spring 2024 semester will begin on November 2, 2023. Be sure to make an appointment to meet with a DSC adviser prior to November 2, to review your "Falcon Flight Plan" (the plan that outlines your progression towards your AA degree) and also for recommendations towards your intended major. Visit the DSC course search when it opens to look up your course information including the class name, class number, session, and instruction mode (face to face, online or hybrid). You will need that information available in order to complete your dual enrollment course request form. The MHS deadline for Spring 2024 course registration is November 15th. For more information, visit the Dual Enrollment Information site at <https://www.daytonastate.edu/dual-enrollment/index.html>. Please bookmark the page and check it often.

Test Requirements for Graduation

If you are a junior or senior who still needs to pass one or both tests, mark down the dates below for this year's testing opportunities.

Graduation REQUIREMENT
ATTN: JUNIORS & SENIORS
 IF YOU HAVE NOT MET THE ALGEBRA 1 TESTING GRADUATION REQUIREMENT, YOU MUST PASS ONE OF THESE SIX TESTS!

497	497	430	420	16
FSA ALG 1 Srs Only	BEST ALG 1 or BEST GEO	NMSQT-Jrs MATH	SAT MATH	ACT MATH
DATES (during school) September 25, 26 Feb 21, 22	DATES (during school) ALG 1: Sep 14 ALG 1/GEO: Nov 28 ALG 1/GEO: MAY 6	DATES (during school) Oct 11	DATES MHS SAT School Day: October 11-Srs March 6-Jrs SATURDAY TEST DATE/ Registration Deadline: Aug 26/Aug 15 Oct 7/Sep 26 Nov 4/Oct 24 Dec 2/Nov 21 March 9/Feb 27 May 4/April 23 June 1/May 21	DATES Saturday Test Date/ Registration Deadline: Sep 9/Aug 18 Oct 28/Oct 6 Dec 9/Nov 17 Feb 10/Jan 19 April 13/March 22 June 8/May 17 July 15/June 21
You <u>MUST</u> take all <u>TWO</u> days of testing for a score. <small>Note: FSA score release takes longer than FAST/SAT/ACT.</small>	Results will be back within 2-3 days			

SAT/ACT Saturday Tests cost \$55.00 - \$60.00.
 If eligible for a fee waiver, students can take the SAT and ACT each twice at no charge.

QUESTIONS: SEE MR. FRY'S IN 10-216 OR EMAIL AT FRYSA@FLAGLERSCHOOLS.COM

Graduation REQUIREMENT
ATTN: JUNIORS & SENIORS
 IF YOU HAVE NOT MET THE ELA TESTING GRADUATION REQUIREMENT, YOU MUST PASS ONE OF THESE FOUR TESTS!

350	350	Sr: 480 on EBRW	18 avg on Engl & Rdg
FSA ELA Srs Only	FAST ELA	SAT -Srs	ACT
DATES (during school) September 20, 21 & 22 Feb 27, 28, 29	DATES (during school) Sep 12 Nov 29 May 1	DATES MHS SAT School Day: October 11 March 6 SATURDAY TEST DATE/ Registration Deadline: Aug 26/Aug 15 Oct 7/Sep 26 Nov 4/Oct 24 Dec 2/Nov 21 March 9/Feb 27 May 4/April 23 June 1/May 21	DATES Saturday Test Date/ Registration Deadline: Sep 9/Aug 18 Oct 28/Oct 6 Dec 9/Nov 17 Feb 10/Jan 19 April 13/March 22 June 8/May 17 July 15/June 21
You <u>MUST</u> take all <u>three</u> days of testing for a score. <small>Note: FSA score release takes longer than FAST/SAT/ACT.</small>	Results will be back within 2-3 days		

SAT/ACT Saturday Tests cost \$55.00 - \$60.00.
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QUESTIONS: SEE MS. SNELL IN 6-209 OR EMAIL AT SNELLN@FLAGLERSCHOOLS.COM

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See Ireland and Scotland in Summer of 2025

Student travel opportunities continue for the summer of 2025! This adventure will take us through Ireland and Scotland for 10 days in June! Payment plans are available and students can earn high school & college credits for traveling. Contact Mr. Ossler for details: osslerj@flaglerschools.com.

SCHOLASTIC ART AND WRITING AWARDS

Scholastic Art and Writing Awards is an Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. Teens in grades 7-12 (or ages 13 and up) can apply in 28 categories of art and writing. Please see this link for more information and to create an account. Students receive scholarships, cash awards, or tuition assistance by participating in the awards! <https://www.artandwriting.org/>

MATANZAS THEATER COMPANY PRESENTS... NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD!

Just in time for Halloween! *NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD* is the creepy, crawly stage version of the 1968 cult classic film, in which a small group of strangers hides from mindless zombies in a remote farmhouse—and if they can't learn to work together, their future is in doubt! The show will feature over 80 Matanzas High School students in the cast and crew. It will be directed by James Brendlinger, with choreography by Noel Bethea.

Don't miss the show on October 26 - 28 in the MHS Pirate Theater. Tickets are on sale now at pirates32137.booktix.net!

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VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

Earth without Art is "EH"



Art Club meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month right after school in room 1-120 (Ms. Vitkus). This is a student run group of visual artists who are working together to create new ideas.



Students in the art room are having fun while learning Geometry!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Mrs. Allen's Jr/Sr reading classes had 28 students who passed their FAST test in September! Three cheers for these students as they are one step closer to their graduation goal!

DIGITAL MEDIA DESIGNS

Digital Media students designed shirts for the PBIS shirt design contest. The winners were Morgen Butler (Digital Media 1) who designed the black T-shirt and Tyler Bellows (Digital Media 2) who created the blue T-shirt.



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AICE News

AICE Exam results from June 2023 returned on August 10th and we are so proud of the many successes we can share from this testing cycle:

- AICE English General Paper, 22% above the global average with a 98% pass rate
- AICE Environmental Science, 29.8% above the global average with a 93% pass rate
- AICE Spanish Language, 4.5% above the global average with a 100% pass rate
- AICE English Language AS, 16.2% above the global average with a 80% pass rate
- AICE Global Perspectives, 7.7% above the global average with a 91% pass rate
- AICE Travel & Tourism, 34.5% above the global average with a 100% pass rate
- AICE Music, 23.3% above the global average with a 100% pass rate
- AICE History, 9.4% above the global average with a 61% pass rate
- AICE Marine Science, 37.3% above the global average with a 95% pass rate
- AICE Thinking Skills, 13.5% above the global average with a 81% pass rate
- AICE Literature in English, 10.3% above the global average with a 76% pass rate

Major shout outs to Ms. Kessler, Ms. Davis, and Mr. Schulz for their 100% pass rates!

Major shout outs to Mr. Feist, Mr. Neisler, Ms. Cypert, and Ms. Binn who increased their passing rates from 2022 to 2023, in a year where the target expectations were increased and their students still exceeded expectations!

AICE has many great things in store this year, including upcoming college visits to University of North Florida, University of Central Florida, and University of Florida. We cannot wait to see these beautiful campuses!

Please take a moment to follow our Social Media:

- Facebook page we invite you to follow: <https://www.facebook.com/MatanzasAICE>
- AICE Student Advisory Council Instagram account @matanzasaiice



10 Reasons to Choose the Cambridge Pathway

1 SUCCESS Our Cambridge Pathway gives students a clear path for educational success from age 3 to 19. Cambridge Pathway Learn • Discover • Achieve	2 FLEXIBILITY Schools can shape the curriculum around how they want students to learn - with a wide range of subjects and flexible ways to offer them.	3 FUTURE SKILLS We help students discover new abilities and a wider world, and develop the skills they need for life, so they can achieve at school, university and work.	4 DEVELOPMENT Each stage builds on learners' development in the previous stage, or from other education systems.	5 CHOICE We offer an unrivalled choice of subjects: over 70 at Cambridge IGCSE™ and over 50 at Cambridge International AS & A Level. Schools can let students choose subjects in any combination.
6 RECOGNITION Our qualifications are recognised by universities worldwide, including over 850 in the US.	7 PREPARATION 98% of admissions officers surveyed said Cambridge programmes give students excellent preparation for university.	8 TRAINING We provide first-class support for teachers through publications, online resources, training and professional development.	9 GLOBAL Every year, Cambridge learners from 10,000 schools in over 160 countries prepare for their future with an education from Cambridge International.	10 HERITAGE We have a 150-year history of providing international exams. We are also a not-for-profit organisation and part of the University of Cambridge.

Cambridge Pathway has a wide range of subjects and flexibility, giving schools the chance to shape the curriculum so that it is exciting and relevant for learners. Students can acquire the knowledge and skills they need to achieve at school, university and beyond.



CAMBRIDGE International Examinations

AICE Art student Sydney M was nominated by her art teacher, Ms. Taylor as a student who exemplifies AICE's Attribute of the Month - Responsibility.



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DIVE INTO MARINE SCIENCE AT MHS



Sea Monkey Science

By Marine Science student Lily Hernaez

Matanzas High School's very own Marine Science teacher, Ms. Hall, hosted a series of experiments with each of her classes. The selected test subjects were brine shrimp, better known as sea monkeys! Each group was tasked with coming up with their own experiment to determine how different environmental factors affect the hatch rate of the brine shrimp. A variety of things were added to the petri dishes: monster energy drink, food dye, cleaning products, and more. One group even microwaved the brine shrimp, yielding the shocking result of an increased hatch rate. All in all, this was the first of many fun experiments and learning experiences to come for the MHS Marine Science Class.

Aquaponic System Right in the Classroom!

By Marine Science student Anelise Assiff

On September 15, 2023, the Florida Department of Consumer Services (FDACS) and the UF Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences (UF/IFAS) joined Ms. Hall's classes for the day to build and install a recirculating aquaponic system (RAS). With guidance, students built the system that includes a 200 gallon tank and vegetable grow beds. The fish tank will eventually hold 50 to 75 bluegill fingerlings. Ms. Hall, Anelise Assiff, and a few other students worked with Eric Cassiano (UF/IFAS) and Katrina Bayliss (FDACS) to build the RAS. Materials used included a circle pvc pipe cutter, pvc pipes, bulkhead fittings to put the pvc in, a reducer male adapter, a silicone gun, plumbers tape, and a few other materials. The class is going to raise bluegill and eventually release them into the pond on campus for catch and release fishing. Data will be collected by students, including fish weight and length, to provide to the Florida Wildlife Commission. With the hydroponic setup, students are already starting to grow peppers, as well as tomatoes and herbs for a salsa or perhaps a pizza party! At this time, students are basically farming bacteria to make sure that the water is suitable for fish to live in. Once the system is cycled, the bluegill will be added around mid-October to have a fully operating system farming not only bacteria - but fish and vegetables too!

