

THE HOOK

October 2024

Volume XIV Issue 5

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Matanzas High School Parents and Students,

It's hard to believe that the first quarter of the 2024-2025 school year is already over! This first quarter has been full of fun activities, including "Freshmen Frenzy" orientation, fall athletics, 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 our parents and legal guardians for supporting your student's education at Matanzas High School. This year has presented some new challenges as we are still under major construction of our addition while welcoming over 2100 students to MHS this year. Most of the construction is set to be completed in January. That will allow us a little more elbow room; until then we are working to accommodate students with travel times during class changes in the crowded hallways. We also are under new guidance from the state in terms of school safety, as all doors on campus are locked at all times; we know at times this has caused frustration for students as they wait for doors to be opened, but we appreciate our students' patience as we work to keep them safe!

I'd like to encourage 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 Instagram @PirateNationMHS so that you can follow all of the good things happening at MHS. Also, you should receive a weekly email from me with important updates for the week. If you do not receive those weekly emails, contact me directly via email (bozemank@flaglerschools.com) so 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 contact individual teachers, or if you have general concerns, please contact your student's school counselor. Tutoring is in full swing ensuring all students get the help they need. Tutoring is weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays with after-school bus transportation.

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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Assistant Principal

MR. JOSH SCOTT
Assistant Principal

MS. SAVANNAH BROCK
Assistant Principal

MS. KARA MINN
Assistant Principal

MR. JOHN WHITE
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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

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WHO'S WHO AT MHS

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Flagler County School Board

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COUNSELORS' CORNER

While fall weather hasn't yet arrived, they say that to welcome autumn is to accept change as it symbolizes transition in our own lives. As we leave the summer behind and transition into fall school days, the School Counseling Team will shift into conducting grade level presentations for students in 9th-11th grades.

Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior Grade Level Presentations

The School Counseling Team conducted presentations through English classes including college and career and grade level-specific preparation in the Pirate Theater.

Senior College and Career Prep Presentations

In September, the school counselors completed senior college and career prep presentations, and we are currently meeting individually with every senior to discuss their post-secondary plans. Seniors, please continue to do the following:

- Utilize college and career prep resources provided to you in the presentation and packet including College Board Big Future, Floridashines.org, Florida State University System Guide, and MyNextMove.org.
- Wrap up college and career research and begin applying to your colleges. Most early application deadlines are before November 1st, with FSU's and a few other Florida colleges' deadlines as early as October 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/CLT and use the provided study resources
- Check the following locations for **scholarship and Financial Aid 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 website
 - » **FFAA or Bright Futures application opened on October 1st** - This application **MUST** be completed before graduation! See your college and career packet for instructions.
 - » **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens on December 1st** - Students who complete the FAFSA early typically receive better financial aid packages!

Attention Dual Enrolled Students

Open registration for the Spring 2025 semester will begin on **October 31, 2024**.

Returning DE students

- **Make an appointment with a Daytona State College adviser before October 31st**, to review your "Falcon Flight Plan" (the plan that outlines your progression toward your AA degree) and also for recommendations toward 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 when completing your dual enrollment course request form.

New DE students- Visit the DE info site, <https://www.daytonastate.edu/dual-enrollment/index.html>, for a step-by-step guide on how to get started and the steps to dual enrollment.

- **Now through October 30th - Application, Testing, and Advising Window** - New students must apply, take placement tests, and attend an advising session by October 30th.
- **All DE Students** - The MHS **deadline** for Spring 2025 registration is **November 15th**.

We wish you a fun and productive school year! Please remember that your school counseling team cares about you, and we are here to support you through your high school journey!



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Dual Enrollment Programs


- Nursing Assistant (CNA)
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- HVAC and Electrician Pre-Apprenticeships





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CLINIC NEWS

1. If medical records are non-compliant, students could face unexcused absences until documents are compliant (per district policy and state guidelines). For example, a record needs a complete physical, certified immunization record, or other required registration documents.
2. Emergency Contact Information and Annual Registration must be completed every school year. Please visit www.myforms.flaglerschools.com to update.
3. Proper forms are needed for students to self carry EPI pens, inhalers, or diabetic treatments. **PLEASE BE SURE TO INFORM THE SCHOOL CLINIC OF ANY MEDICAL CONDITIONS THAT REQUIRE TREATMENT.**



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INTRODUCTION TO TEACHING

Last year MHS introduced the new course Introduction to Teaching class. We hope this program will yield future teachers, especially for Flagler County. Students were very pleased with the results of a recent bulletin boards project.



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CONGRATULATIONS

ADRIANNA ANZALONE!

Digital Media 2 student Adrianna Anzalone designed the winning logo for the PBIS logo contest. The PBIS team presented Adrianna with a gift card for her hard work and fantastic design.



JROTC- BUILDING FUTURE LEADERS

JROTC has seen a change in leadership this year, with Major Mallard taking over for Major Hall who retired after 10 years of teaching JROTC. This change has not stopped Matanzas JROTC from the focus of developing leadership skills for the cadets and accomplishing the JROTC mission of "Becoming better citizens within our community." During class, cadets have begun to learn about the core values JROTC represents so they are prepared to take on leadership roles in the program and life. These cadets will continue the year by learning different life skills, such as goal setting, time management, and physical and mental resilience.

Part of being a good leader is understanding teamwork. Teamwork is defined as an ability to work together towards a common goal. Throughout the year there are countless opportunities for cadets to place this leadership principle into practical application. In September, the JROTC cadets participated in our first Raiders meet of the year. Cadets were required to perform five events that covered over six miles while climbing over and under obstacles and carrying simulated casualties. These events are physically and mentally challenging to all the participants and an opportunity for real leaders to rise to the challenge and motivate their peers to accomplish the mission. At this particular meet, the Raiders male-mix team, led



by Cadets Smith and Weisenberger, placed 1st Place in the Raider Relay event and 2nd overall. The Male Raider team, led by Cadets Suarez and Sherman, were able to place 4th overall. The Raider team has and will continue to work hard over the next few weeks in the hope of bringing home more trophies, but more importantly to display the leadership skills necessary to make everyone around them better.

This year there is a slight change to the Thursday dress uniform. The JROTC cadre has enhanced the Dress For Success goals by allowing cadets to wear a JROTC polo and slacks every other week.

JROTC also hosted the quarterly Cadet of the Quarter Board, where all the participants were tested on their general knowledge of JROTC, JROTC ranks, Drill and Ceremony, and current events. We proudly recognize the winners, Cadet Sergeant Brayden Vaughn and Cadet Private First Class Jaci Kassha. Congratulations!

VIVA, HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH!

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrated annually from September 15 to October 15, brings alive the contributions of Hispanic Americans who have enhanced and enriched our world. Our World Language Department and Spanish students dedicated time and effort to educate the entire school about the importance of this month. Students honored MHS Hispanic faculty members by highlighting their special gifts to our school and the world. Gallery walks were created to depict the contributions of Hispanic Americans in different areas such as technology, food, music, art, literature, and politics. Students made flags of Spanish-speaking countries including important facts. Self-portraits and writings regarding students' heritage were also created. The morning announcements featured students speaking in Spanish to share Hispanic-American Heritage facts. Be sure to look at the different displays throughout the school and visit Building 10 to see the work of our amazing World Language Pirates! Gracias!



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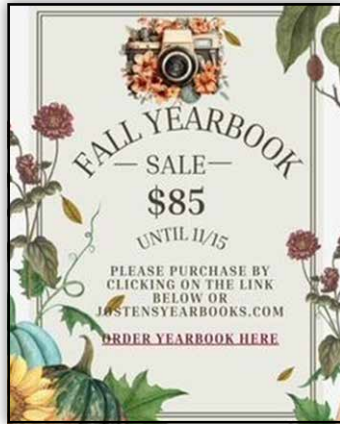
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/ SCHEDULE A CAMPUS TOUR TODAY!



LOGAN PACCARO RECOGNIZED FOR HEROISM

MHS is proud of junior Logan Paccaro who was recognized as the inaugural Beaver Toyota Student of the Week for his heroic act this summer. Logan and his mother, Crystal, visited the Flagler Education Foundation, where he participated in his first radio interview and received a swag bag from Beaver Toyota. A big thank you to Beaver Toyota and the Flagler Ed Foundation for celebrating this heroic Pirate!



2024-2025 YEARBOOK SALE

See Mrs. Graifer if you are interested in a yearbook! Every year the yearbook gets even better. Don't miss out!

Nomination Paragraph:

Logan Paccaro, a 17-year-old junior at Matanzas High School and dedicated football player, is a true hero both on and off the field. Over the summer, Logan displayed extraordinary bravery when he saved his 85-year-old neighbor from a house fire; this courageous act earned him the prestigious Civilian Life-Saver Award from the Palm Coast Fire Department. Logan's selflessness and quick thinking in a life-threatening situation exemplify the character and integrity he carries with him here on campus as a Matanzas Pirate and in all aspects of his life. As a devoted older brother to two younger sisters, Logan balances his love of football and video games with a commitment to helping others. He dreams of continuing his football career in college and later pursuing a career as a firefighter, inspired by his heroic actions and passion for serving his community. Logan is a shining example of leadership, bravery, and determination, making him a deserving candidate for this award.

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AICE News

Exciting news regarding AICE exam results from the Spring 2024 testing cycle! We are proud to share the many successes from this testing cycle:

- English General Paper: 96% pass rate, 23% higher than the national average
- Environmental Management: 86% pass rate, 21% higher than the national average
- Spanish Language: 100% pass rate, 5% higher than the national average
- English Language: 72% pass rate (A and AS levels), 10% higher than the national average
- Global Perspectives: 89% pass rate, 9% higher than the national average
- Travel and Tourism: 90% pass rate, 31% higher than the national average
- Drama: 100% pass rate, 16% higher than the national average
- History (International and US): 80% pass rate, 24% higher than the national average
- Marine Science: 98% pass rate, 46% higher than the national average
- Thinking Skills: 86% pass rate, 28% higher than the national average
- Literature in English: 82% pass rate, 17% higher than the national average
- Psychology: 67% pass rate, 22% higher than the national average

Congratulations to the following students who have earned their AICE Diploma prior to graduating from high school:

Bruce Blazer	Hunter James	Timothy Kaminskiy
Ariadnah Kardas	James Keeney	Kate Kern
Maria Martins	Violet Ochrietor	Sophia Preysz
Joseph Sherman	Leah Stevens	Sarah Sanchez-Venegas
Caroline Diccio	Jasper Donoso	Paige Duckworth
Vince Ferrer	Brianna Forbes	Reina Harper
Violetta Kinsha	Tyler Miller	Makayla Murray
Erica Rimstidt	Rene Salaun	Aubrei Sleep
Gavin Winfree	Donald Khek	Ella Koehler
Leonard Leighton	Eva Servello	

AICE would also like to recognize our students of the month in each course as recognized by their nominating teacher:

SUBJECT	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Spanish	Jasper Donoso	Zach Esquivel Novak
Art & Design	Jeh-Hanni Strong	Jeh-Hanni Strong James
Psychology	Lola Cottle	Jeh-Hanni Strong
Sports & Physical Ed	Carly Owens	Michael Paris-Arnaud
Thinking Skills	Ayva Forbes	Jackson Davis
Environmental Management	Ruth Jean	Adham Sabek
Literature	Stefany Cruz	Eva Luis
Marine Science	Keifer Tibcken	Corina Vogel and Josiah Baccus
Computer Science	Svitlana Tsukanova	Jenna Kester
English General Paper	Nathaniel Bird	
US History	Adham Sobek	
European History	Leah Ruddell	
English Language	Zoie Rush	
Geography	Mary Grace Seward	

If you want to keep up with everything AICE, please join our REMIND group by texting @gg4cab2 to 81010. Remind is updated regularly with testing, club info, and community service opportunities.



NATIONAL



HONOR

SOCIETY



The Matanzas National Society helped out at the October Pink On Parade. Students cheered on participants and helped pass out water bottles and medals at the finish line.

MACBETH COMES TO MHS!

A donation from the Flagler County Education Foundation is helping to bring the play Macbeth to MHS grade 10 English students. Students must submit a completed Field Trip Permission Form from their parent/guardian. Every ELA grade 10 student is invited to attend on Wednesday, October 23, in the MHS Pirate Theatre at no cost but to help defray costs associated with this performance, a \$5.00 donation is welcomed. Donations can be made via this link: <https://square.link/u/EKYUdsTE>. Grade 10 English teachers are excited for their students to get to see Shakespeare come alive on stage!



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KEY CLUB IS BACK PIRATES!

We're excited to announce that Key Club has officially kicked off the 2024-2025 school year! We held our interest meeting on September 3rd, followed by our first official meeting on September 24th under the Pavilion. Both had a phenomenal turnout! During the first official meeting, many new and

returning members paid a \$20 fee to become paid members for the 2024-2025 school year and as a result, they received their official Key Club shirts. As part of our community service project, attending members whose parents/guardians signed the opt-in form created cards for veterans. This allowed all participating members to earn their first community service hour with Key Club. We appreciate everyone who participated and look forward to seeing you all again! Key Club meets every Tuesday and new members are welcome! For further inquiries, see Mrs. Cypert in room 9-111.

TRAVEL THE WORLD!

Have you ever wanted to travel the world? Now you can! The Tagalongs Travel Group is heading to Germany, Italy, and Switzerland in June of 2026! These educational tours are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and your student is invited! Please see Mr. Ossler for details.



ART NEWS

Art Club meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Meetings are after school in Ms. Vitkus's room, 1-120. The next meeting is October 22nd. Student's parents must fill out the permission form online and can use the QR code. A group of art students will attend the DSC HS Art Academy on October 25th.



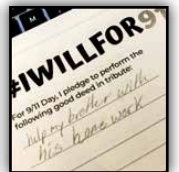
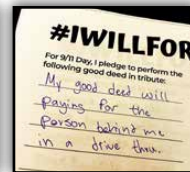
CHESS CLUB

Fellow MHS Pirates, consider joining the Chess Club, a growing club that challenges minds and helps bring people together. Whether you're a beginner, intermediate, or experienced player, the chess club welcomes anyone interested. Chess teaches strategic thinking, patience, and problem-solving skills that benefit everyday life. Come and learn from one another, enjoy friendly competition, and have the opportunity to build lasting friendships. We hope as a club to bring chess into the Palm Coast Community.

If you're interested in joining please see Coach Frank Novak in Room 5-137 before school or between classes or email the club secretary at calvinkhe0531@flaglercps.org. Meetings are held twice a month in the Black Pearl! Join us to play chess and sharpen your skills as well as connect with others in the community. **Checkmate!**

MARKETING STUDENTS REMEMBER 9/11

On September 11th, Matanzas Marketing students discussed the National Day of Service and Remembrance. Students also watched some post - 9/11 commercials followed by a discussion of emotional advertising. In response, students reflected and recorded a random act of kindness to complete in honor of 9/11.



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR BLUE STEEL!

Matanzas Blue Steel and Percussion Ensemble has some exciting events planned for this school year! Our sixth annual Blue Steel 5K Night Run is on Saturday, November 9th at 7 pm. All participants in this untimed run/walk will receive a medal, t-shirt, and goodie bag! First place will earn the coveted gold medal! Get registered at www.runsignup.com/mhsbluesteel.

On Thursday, November 21st at 7 pm in the MHS Courtyard, we have our Caribbean Cafe. This is a ticketed dinner fundraiser. We partner with our incredible Culinary Flagship to offer an authentic Caribbean dinner and tunes from Blue Steel. This year includes a special guest and a special performance by an alumni steelband. You won't want to miss this!

On Tuesday and Wednesday, December 17th and 18th at 7 pm in our Pirate Theater, we have our Holiday Extravaganza concert featuring Blue Steel. The Holiday Extravaganza is admission by donation.

On Tuesday, February 4th at 7 pm in the Pirate Theater, our Percussion Ensemble will premiere their Percussion Ensemble for this school year. We will also have other solos and ensembles prepared for our District Solo and Ensemble MPA.

On Thursday, April 17th at 7 pm in the MHS Courtyard, we have our Outback Night featuring Blue Steel performing with Tom Miller, Adjunct Steelpan Professor at the University of Denver! Outback Night is a ticketed dinner fundraiser sponsored by Outback Steakhouse.

Our most popular show is A Night of Percussion on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 29th and 30th at 7 pm in our Pirate Theater. This show will feature all the steelbands and the percussion ensemble's outstanding accomplishments this year. It is a show that you won't want to miss! The Night of Percussion is admission by donation.

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



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