

BOBCAT PRIDE

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NORTH PORT HIGH SCHOOL

Administration

Brandon Johnson
Principal

Shannon Fusco, APC,
grade 12

Zoltan Kerestely, APA,
grade 12

Ryan Shurley, AP (A-Gi)
grades 9-11

Julie King, AP (Gr-O)
grades 9-11

Ron Corso, AP (P-Z)
grades 9-11



A Message From The Principal

Dear North Port High School Families,

I am incredibly excited to welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year. We have truly represented what it means to have collective efficacy on our campus. We all believe that students can learn, and we have proven it by moving our data and becoming an “A” rated school. It will be a challenge to keep moving our data forward, but I know we are capable of being one of the highest rated schools in the state. It is with the support of our parents and the community that NPHS will continue to be one of the most celebrated schools in the state.

The new school year promises to be fun, educational and challenging all at the same time. We will continue to support your child’s academic and social needs. We want your child to experience everything North Port has to offer including clubs, extracurricular activities and after-school tutoring to help them succeed. As a reminder, you can reach out to your child’s teacher through e-mail or calling to set up an appointment. We truly appreciate you being involved in their education and supporting NPHS.

NPHS is a comprehensive high school offering Cambridge AICE, Honors, Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, Visual and Performing Art (VPA) and Career Technical classes (CTE). As a Positive Behavior Intervention Support school, we strive to meet the social emotional needs of your child. Our Bobcat PRIDE initiative provides students and staff an opportunity to share a positive message about a student or staff member and learn about different programs on campus.

Attendance plays a crucial role in helping your child succeed academically. School starts at 7:30 and dismisses at 2:15. It is important that you remind your child about being on time and being here daily. As a reminder, “excused” absences are limited to illness, observance of a religious holiday service or death in the family. Family vacations, mission trips, etc. are “unexcused” absences. The calendar for the 2019-2020 school year is available online at <http://sarasotacountyschools.net/calendar.aspx>. For those families who like to plan, remember to consider the calendar as you make appointments, travel arrangements, etc.

It will take a team effort for us to be successful this upcoming year. The most important aspects of a successful school are the teachers and parents working together to support our students. Parents and families play an important role in helping their child succeed in school and life. We value your participation and look forward to a wonderful school year.

Striving for Excellence,

Brandon Johnson

North Port Works, North Port Wins!

MISSION STATEMENT: North Port High School will inspire tomorrow’s leaders by providing rigorous instruction, maintaining a safe and respectful environment and developing socially responsible individuals in their community and beyond.

SCHOOL WEBSITE: www2.sarasotacountyschools.net/schools/northporthigh/default.aspx



HOW TO IMPROVE FOCUS IN SCHOOL

By: Alexis Jankowski (NPHS Student)

School is something many students dread every single day. Whether you're stressed about a test or you don't understand a concept in the class, there are ways to be less worried about obtaining a high GPA. One major influence on grades is focus. Paying attention in class will help students interpret the content and understand it fully. Focus is essential to good grades.

Many students find that they are better at some subjects than they are at others. Not being comfortable with a subject may discourage a student and make them lose focus. Other subjects are easier for some students to focus on because they are interested in what they're learning. Whether or not you want to admit it, most of us have that class period where it is hard to focus. Following are tips to help you focus.

Think about your goals: Everyone has a plan for their own career path for when they get out of high school. No matter what the job, all the classes you take now you need to pay attention in because they will benefit your knowledge when entering your career path. Even if the student believes one class is useless to pay attention in, colleges pay close attention to your GPA. Think about how you want your future to unfold, then shift that focus and determination into your schoolwork. Working hard now will pay off in the end.

Ask for help: During lessons in class, it's your time to ask for help if you need it. Not understanding a topic can make you zone out because you're not following along. If you need help, ask, it's what the teachers are here for. Whether you ask during a lesson or after class, asking for help could clear up any confusion about the topic you are learning. Once you know what you are doing, and you are confident with your work, focusing will be easy.

Be organized: Having organized notes can be helpful towards obtaining better focus. Try writing down important points that the teacher may say in class. Taking notes like this can help you focus on what the teacher is saying. This will also help you to be a proactive learner.

Engage in class discussions: In classes, sometimes the teacher will be open to class discussions where people can ask questions or speak about what they think about the topic. When taking part in these, make sure you say something. Being involved in a class discussion can help you focus much better in class and understand the material being taught.

Following any of these tips will help you focus better in class. Whether or not you care about the subject, keeping your grades up is extremely important. Being focused in class will help you keep your GPA high and prepare you for your future.

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THE CAMBRIDGE AICE DIPLOMA

The Cambridge AICE Diploma is a distinguished award that requires passing scores on 7 college level AICE exams. The diploma and passed exams are recognized by hundreds of colleges and universities across the country and internationally. Each year NPHS has numerous students earn their Cambridge AICE Diploma, and last year we reached a school record of 113 Cambridge AICE Diplomas awarded. Not only were these students recognized as the top achievers in our school, but they earned the highest amount of Florida Bright Futures Scholarships among seniors at NPHS. All of our Cambridge Diploma recipients will have 100% of their tuition paid at a Florida public college or university. These students are not only a shining example of their own hard work, but also of their families, the entire AICE department and their wonderful guidance counselors. For more information about the Cambridge Program, please see Mrs. Brandenberger (Cambridge AICE Coordinator), any member of the guidance office or Ms. Drew Grissell (College and Career Coordinator).



CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

COMBATING MYTHS ABOUT THE AICE PROGRAM

The following statements are all true statements:

- Although a student can take AICE courses without being in the Cambridge AICE Diploma program, entrance into the diploma program is through an application process. Due to the rigor involved in passing multiple AICE exams while earning a high school diploma, we have set a standard of a 3.00 GPA and FSA scores of 3 or higher. Applications are available in Mrs. Brandenberger's office, building 1, room 120.
- A total of 7 passed exams is required to earn the Cambridge AICE Diploma. This is completely doable over three school years. Most of our students leave NPHS with more than 7 passed exams.
- Earned AICE college credits are fully transferable to over 600 colleges and universities throughout the U.S. despite the rumor that there are few colleges that accept AICE credits. These college credits also transfer internationally for students desiring to study abroad.
- All Florida public colleges and universities are **REQUIRED BY LAW** to accept earned AICE college credits. A visit to the UF, FSU, USF, etc. websites put all concerns quickly at ease. Private colleges and universities are not required to accept AICE credits, but the large majority of them do. A visit to websites such as University of Miami, Barry, Rollins, Stetson, etc. will be quite informative.
- High School students that earn the Cambridge AICE Diploma and complete 100 community service hours automatically earn the 100% level Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, regardless of SAT/ACT and/or GPA. A student without the Cambridge Diploma must earn a 1290 on their SAT to receive the 100% level. This level of scholarship covers 100% of tuition at a Florida public college or university, most fees and \$300 per semester toward books for four years. An equivalent amount is awarded to students that choose to attend a Florida private college or university.

As you can see, the Cambridge AICE Diploma and passed AICE exams are quite valuable, easily transfer to numerous colleges/universities and contribute heavily to easing a family's financial burden in providing a college education for their children.



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Lee Thomas
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Nichele Brown
9th - 11th A - G
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9th - 11th G - O
Jessica Rutherford
9th - 11th P - Z
Christine McKay
9th - 11th AICE

FROM YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELORS

The first quarter has come to an end for the 2019-2020 school year. Please keep in mind key factors in maintaining good grades: Turn in **ALL** work, monitor grades through the parent/student portal, communicate with teachers, utilize math lab and after school tutoring. Another great option is meeting with your school counselor. Appointments can be made through Kisha Sims, Guidance Administrative Assistant. Students can come before/after school or between periods to make appointments. Parents can call the school and ask for Guidance, which is directed to Ms. Sims.

Midterms

Exams begin for the first semester on Tuesday, December 17th. Exams will continue through Friday, December 20th. Please remember that December 19th and 20th are half day for exams and students will be released at 10:55 AM these days. For half

year courses, these exams constitute the final exam and credit will be given at the semester.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH: 4TH/5TH EXAMS					
1 st	7:30-8:10 (40 MIN)	1 st	7:30-8:10 (40 MIN)	1 st	7:30-8:10 (40 MIN)
2 nd	8:15-8:55 (40 MIN)	2 nd	8:15-8:55 (40 MIN)	2 nd	8:15-8:55 (40 MIN)
3 rd	9:00-9:40 (40 MIN)	3 rd	9:00-9:40 (40 MIN)	3 rd	9:00-9:40 (40 MIN)
Lunch	9:40-10:10	4 th	EXAM: 9:45-11:25 (100 MIN)	4 th	EXAM: 9:45-11:25 (100 MIN)
5 th	EXAM: 10:15-11:55 (100 MIN)	Lunch	11:25-11:55	5 th	11:30-12:10 (40 MIN)
6 th	12:00-12:40 (40 MIN)	6 th	12:00-12:40 (40 MIN)	Lunch	12:10-12:40
7 th	12:45-1:28 (43 MIN)	7 th	12:45-1:28 (43 MIN)	7 th	12:45-1:28 (43 MIN)
8 th	1:33-2:15 (42 MIN)	8 th	1:33-2:15 (42 MIN)	8 th	1:33-2:15 (42 MIN)
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH: 2ND & 6TH EXAMS (NO 3RD PERIOD)					
1 st	7:30-8:08 (38 MIN)	1 st	7:30-8:08 (38 MIN)	1 st	7:30-8:08 (38 MIN)
2 nd	EXAM: 8:13-9:53 (100 MIN)	2 nd	EXAM: 8:13-9:53 (100 MIN)	2 nd	EXAM: 8:13-9:53 (100 MIN)
Lunch	9:53-10:23	4 th	9:58-10:36 (38 MIN)	4 th	9:58-10:36 (38 MIN)
5 th	10:28-11:06 (38 MIN)	Lunch	10:36-11:06	5 th	EXAM: 10:41-12:21 (100 MIN)
6 th	EXAM: 11:11-12:51 (100 MIN)	6 th	EXAM: 11:11-12:51 (100 MIN)	Lunch	12:21-12:51
7 th	12:56-1:33 (37 MIN)	7 th	12:56-1:33 (37 MIN)	7 th	12:56-1:33 (37 MIN)
8 th	1:38-2:15 (37 MIN)	8 th	1:38-2:15 (37 MIN)	8 th	1:38-2:15 (37 MIN)
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19TH: 1ST & 7TH (1/2 DAY)					
1st	EXAM: 7:30-9:10 (100 MIN)				
7th	EXAM: 9:15-10:55 (100 MIN)				
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH: 3RD & 8TH (1/2 DAY)					
3rd	EXAM: 7:30-9:10 (100 MIN)				
8th	EXAM: 9:15-10:55 (100 MIN)				

Seniors

Priority deadline for University applications is November 1st. Make sure that you are working through your school counselors and utilizing the support of the Student Success Center. All students must use the Naviance Program to request transcripts and proper application documents. Naviance can be accessed by signing into your MYSCS account and clicking on the college and career tab. DO NOT wait to the last second to complete teacher requests and counselor documents through Naviance as this will make it difficult to meet

your deadlines. Appointments are available with school counselors and the Student Success Center for questions. Reminder: ALL letters of acceptance, either through email or regular mail, MUST be turned into Ms. Sims in Guidance. If you have not completed your FAFSA and you are attending any schooling after high school, Tech/College/University, do so ASAP! Applications for the State College system should be completed before Christmas.



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Thursday, 12/12, during 4th, 5th,
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Topics covered: search tools, essay tips, academic resume template, promoting student strengths, highlighting future goals, and interview tips. Workshop ideal for 11th and 12th grade students.

RSVP **required** via NAVIANCE.

CAPS: College Admission Process Seminar

Tuesday, 1/28, 5:30 P.M. Check-in
and 6:00-8:30 P.M. CAPS Event
and College Fair

Sophomores and Juniors with an unweighted 3.0 with 1+ honors course are invited to experience this unique opportunity to get the inside scoop and behind the scenes look to the college admissions process with Admissions counselors from 20+ colleges and universities from around the county.

Questions? Contact, Jenna Thiel, College Career Advisor, jthiel@edfoundationsrq.org.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The Student Government Association had a very busy start to the school year. They hosted a Fall Leadership conference for District 4 on September 28th for various schools from Naples to Tampa. They also hosted the 2019 Aloha Nights Homecoming on Oct. 5th and multiple activities throughout the week.

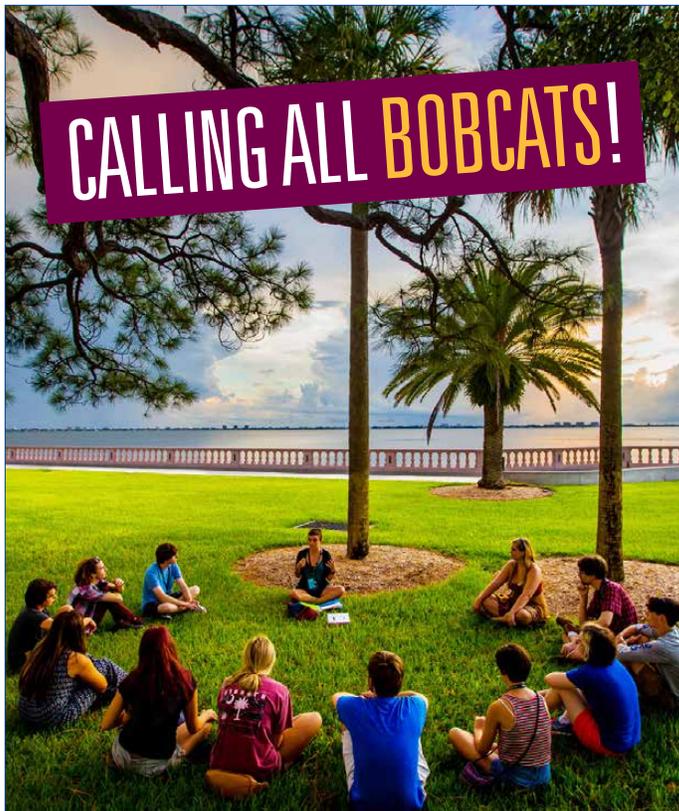
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WHAT'S UP WITH THE ONE MILLION PROJECT

By: Amir Bustamante (NPHS Student)

It's hard to deny that technology has become an oddly important part of schoolwork and life in general. Students are required to write essays online, research topics for a newspaper, and a ton of other things. However, these all require something. Access to Wi-Fi and the internet. People would no doubt get held back in their potential if they had no internet service at their house. Students might not be able to do homework for a certain class, or they would be limited to going to the library for researching a subject. However, there may be a solution to those who have this problem. Enter the One Million Project.

"Sprint partnered with the county for free internet for students who can't afford it or have poor connection," said Mr. Kerestely, the appointed person for the One Million Project at our school.

Yes, contrary to popular belief, I can read peoples thoughts. So, before anyone asks. YES. This program is completely FREE! This program is dedicated to giving students access to internet when they are unable or simply don't have a stable connection, to the point where it gets in the way of the student trying to accomplish schoolwork.

I can hear another question. "What do you mean 'gives them access to internet?'" Be more specific!" Once they are enrolled in the project, they will receive a device that lets you have internet at home. Keep in mind: there are restrictions on the sites that they can access.

So, how might one sign up for this seemingly amazing program? Well, it's simple, really. Students should go to their teachers and ask for a survey, which will evaluate if they're eligible for the program. Additionally, the student's parent(s) will need to complete a parent confirmation form. Once they have all that jazz done, the students can turn in their forms to Ms. Grissell in the Student Success Center. As of now, about 100 people at this very school have already signed up and around 30 have already received their devices.

And now, time for the dreaded question. Is this program worth it? Why shouldn't I just simply buy a plan from a company, like Sprint or Verizon? The internet connection students get from the One Million Project is just as good as any other WiFi that professional companies can provide them. The one and only difference between what this program provides and what companies can give for money is simply that students must follow guidelines the district lays out for them, which basically means that the sites students are able to visit are limited.

So, overall, the One Million Project is aiming to help students who are suffering from their lack of internet at home. If the student can't afford internet access, or their connection is simply poor, this program is here to help.



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Athletic Director: Tony Miller

Athletic Secretary: Elizabeth Skelton



Sports Schedules

Girls Soccer Tryouts

Girls Soccer Tryouts start October 21st through 23rd. Teams will be announced on October 24th. Don't forget to attend the parents' meeting on October 25th at 6:00 P.M. in room 7-115.



Varsity Football	JV Football	Cross Country	Swimming	Wrestling	Girls Weight Lifting
10/25, 7:30 P.M. @ Riverdale High School	10/24, 6 P.M. @ NPHS	10/26, 8 A.M. DISTRICTS @ NPHS	11/2, 12 P.M. DISTRICTS @ Riverview High School	11/23, 8 A.M. Pre-Season Classic @ Palmetto High School	11/6, 3:30 P.M. @ Lemon Bay High School
11/01, 7:30 P.M. @ Lemon Bay High School	10/30, 7 P.M. @ Parrish Community High School	11/2, 8:30 A.M. REGIONALS @ Lake Region High School		12/07, 8 A.M. @ Lemon Bay Duals	11/21, 3:45 P.M. @ Braden River High School
		11/09, 7:30 A.M. STATES @ Apalachee Regional Park		12/13, 12 P.M. & 12/14, 8 A.M. @ Hernando IBT	12/5, 3:30 P.M. @ Port Charlotte High School
Girls Basketball Begins October 28th Boys Basketball Begins November 4th				12/20, 12 P.M. & 12/21, 8 A.M. @ Braden River Duals	12/18, 4 P.M. County Meet @ Venice High School
Athletic Packets are due to Mrs. Skelton BEFORE tryouts.				12/27, 12 P.M. & 12/28, 8 A.M. @ Osceola Knockout IBT	



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The students listening to the guest speaker at fall rally



The 2019 Homecoming Court!



Mr. Troyer at the schoolwide Pep Rally