



December 2023  
Volume 22 Issue 3

2023  
2024

For The Parents, Staff, Students & Community Of Seminole High School

# WarHawk News

## Mission Statement

*An organization where the faculty and staff work to build meaningful relationships through relevant academic and extracurricular activities. A place where students grow intellectually and lead successful, fulfilling lives through rigorous training and modeling.*

## Vision

*All students are able to learn and experience success leading to post-secondary and career readiness.*

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'Warhawk News'  
December 2023

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Issue #3

## A Message from the Principal

Hello Warhawk Families!

As I begin this message, we are experiencing an unprecedented level of success at Seminole High School! The "Warhawk Way" is prevalent throughout our campus! Here are some of the incredible highlights and exemplars of 1st Semester:



- Seminole High was the host for the 2023/2024 Pinellas County Schools Legislative Gathering. Superintendent Hendrick, the entire PCS School Board, Sheriff Gualtieri, and Florida Legislators met to collaborate on next best steps for the advancement of education in our county and beyond.
- The Sustainable Engineering Academy (SEA) is an Academy of Distinction with Distinguished Honors status!
- Seminole High is named on the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Roll due to our outstanding work in welcoming more students to AP coursework and supporting them on the path to college success. The College Board also honored Math Department Chair, Bill Rasmussen, and SHS with the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award!
- Congratulations to Kasey Kittay for achieving a perfect score on the Biology 1 EOC Assessment!
- Congratulations to Becca Bernard and Brenna Zumpe for achieving a perfect score on the FAST ELA assessment!
- Congratulations to Christian Moreno for achieving a perfect score on the U.S. History EOC Assessment!
- Congratulations to Sofia Lampos and Jack Slocum for achieving a perfect score on the Biology Cycle 1 assessment!
- Meaningful Fall Sports & Activities Senior Nights & Honor Society Inductions took place this Fall, whereby hundreds of students and their families were recognized for their dedication and accomplishments.
- A fantastic Homecoming weekend with 93.3 schoolwide pep rally, football victory, and a magical dance.
- College and Career Fair with over 40 universities represented, hosted by counselors and Ms. Sims, our College & Career Center Director/Family Community Liaison.
- The Biology & STEAM Faculty partnered with USF-SP in an Integrative Biology consultancy.
- For an unbelievable 3rd year in a row, Seminole High has a Top 10 Finalist for Pinellas County Schools Teacher of the Year! Congratulations to Mr. Gerard Madrinan! The Warhawk Nation, Superintendent Hendrick, and Area Superintendent Hinds were on hand, in a red-carpet celebration, replete with our Marching Band, cheerleaders, athletes, and entire Warhawk student body for the surprise announcement! He will be honored at a Mahaffey Theatre ceremony in January.
- Also being honored at the Mahaffey Theatre is stellar "Emerging Teacher of the Year" Kelsey Wells, our Seminole Sports Academy Director!
- Our fantastic Senior Data Management Tech TeriAnn Riordan is SHS's Support Employee of the Year and a distinguished "Certificate of Distinction" awardee! She was recognized at an honorary breakfast at the St. Pete Hilton!
- The Warhawk Marching Band is a Top 10 Finalist for the Bands of America Super Regional in Orlando; the Grand Champion of the T.S. Outdoor Music Festival, FMBC Silver Medalist State Champion, hosted the 46th Annual Seminole Sound Spectacular, and was selected to perform in the 2025 Tournament of Roses Parade!
- The boys swim team placed 10th out of 45 teams at the State meet in Ocala this weekend and are the highest ranked Pinellas County team. The girls swim team tied for 8th place out of 44 teams, and the 2nd highest ranked Pinellas County team.
- Our Women in Science, Technology, Arts, Engineering & Mathematics (STEAM) Collective were hostesses to the U.S. State Department and The International Women in STEAM honorees, under the expert leadership of Mrs. Laurie Vaughn. These entrepreneurial superstars were from 7 diverse countries and were able to inspire and engage in a Q & A with our SHS students through their "Hidden No More: Empowering Women Leaders in STEM" consultancy.

...continued on page 2

[www.seminole-hs.pinellas.k12.fl.us](http://www.seminole-hs.pinellas.k12.fl.us)

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## Phone Numbers

Seminole High School Phone:  
727-547-7536

Principal

Dr. M. Jane Lucas

Principal's Secretary

Mrs. Barbara Farmer ext. 2005

Assistant Principal

Mr. Justin Bending

Ms. Courtney Gicka

Ms. Alana Lawson

Mrs. Lisa Sinatra

Senior DMT

Mrs. Teriann Riordan ext. 2007

Records Clerk/Transcriptions

Mrs. Elsa Soto ext. 2303

Guidance Clerk/Receptionist

Ms. Tiffany Panier ext. 2039

Front Office Clerks

Ms. Kim Williams ext. 2038

Mrs. Dricilla Johnson ext. 2037

Student Services Clerk

Ms. Amber Serata ext. 2036

Media Center

Ms. Jennifer Nicodemus ext. 2030

Tech Specialist

Mr. Austin McGinnis ext. 2095

Bookkeeper

Ms. Ivana Adamiak ext. 2006

Clinic-Nurse

Ms. Katrina Allred ext. 2026

Community Involvement/Volunteers

Ms. Susan Sims ext. 2045

School Resource Officers

Deputy James Walker ext. 2222

Deputy Charlie Matthews ext. 2223

Social Worker

Ms. Joheisly Espinal ext. 2070

Psychologist

Mrs. Paula Thomas ext. 2027

Behavior Specialist

Ms. Terry Marlett ext. 2057

VE Specialist (ESE Services)

Ms. Dawn Gentry ext. 2315

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## Principal's Message

...continued from cover page

- 6 All County Chorus students represented the Warhawk Nation in a special concert at Ruth Eckerd Hall, and our own Ms. Berrios served as coordinator for the event.
- Warhawk visual artists featured, with their artwork curated at the Pinellas County Schools Administration Building. Artist Rissa Schmader is a standout this year winning 2 major awards with her installations. This includes World & Image Exhibit Honorable Mention for "My Built-In Heroes," and Best in Show for her piece "Two-Faced" at the Visual Metaphor competition!
- Seminole High School recognized for the National Healthiest School Award!
- Our Choral, Band, and Orchestral Departments, under the expert direction of Ms. Maya Berrios, Mr. Steve Harris, and Mr. Gerard Madrinan presented their Fall Concert series, including a collaboration with USF's Wind Ensemble to honor, posthumously, composer Robert W. Smith.
- SHS began a new Magnet District Application Program (DAP) this year. The Resiliency in Student Experience (RISE) Academy is designed for students who are interested in service provider careers and professions. Contact Assistant Principal Gicka for more information.
- SHS Senior Gracie Tubbs was featured in a media blitz for her incredible service and volunteerism in supporting our Nation's Military Service Members.
- Our 4A Performing Arts and CEL Academy members helped local Elementary Schools and Community Partners celebrate and honor our active and retired military personnel in several Veterans Day Ceremonies.
- The Center for Education & Leadership (CEL) Academy, under the direction of Mrs. Deanna Russo, District Application Magnet Fairs, Discovery Nights, and hosted a plethora of rising Warhawks, who shadowed our SHS students throughout the Fall.
- The Warhawk Nation is a National PTA School of Excellence and 5 Star Blue Ribbon Award Winner, School-wide AVID site and International Cambridge School!
- Ms. Hohmann and our stellar Robotics Club hosted the Annual Robotics Competition, with over 30 schools competing!
- Seminole High School is a Positive Behavior Implementation System (PBIS) Platinum Award Winner – The only High School in the Tampa Bay Area to receive this distinction!

Seminole High School continues to demonstrate strong academic growth while promoting more rigorous course work, in tandem with innovative support systems for all learners, as we seek to engage each student in finding a connection. We care for our community through our continued partnership with "Feeding Tampa Bay," and we are excited to break ground for our new school renovation in the Spring! Thank you for your support, and as always: "GO WARHAWKS!!!!"

Dr. M. Jane Lucas  
Principal



## PCS Praise Shoutouts

Eve Healey – "Eve Healy has been a teacher for many years, dedicating her life to serve children and families. She is a valuable member of the Seminole High English team, always offering words of encouragement and academic support. I am so thankful for Ms. Healy's kindness!" – Acknowledged by Aden Barnes

Deanna Russo – "Mrs. Russo works tirelessly to support our CEL students while holding them accountable to high, rigorous expectations both on and off our campus." - Acknowledged by Courtney Gicka

Barbara Farmer – "Barbara goes above and beyond to support our DWT for kindergarten teachers that takes place each August and February on the Seminole campus. She ensures that we have everything we need to create a wonderful experience for our teachers. This year she went above and beyond and supported us the day prior to DWT during our set up from her home while sick. She reached out to introduce me to a teacher on

*continued on next page*

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campus that would be supporting us in her absence. She reminded me multiple times to not hesitate to contact her if my team needed anything. The next morning, she came immediately to make sure we were set. Barbara always takes care of our K team... this year she took it to another level. Our day was a success much to her commitment to supporting us!" - Acknowledged by Jennifer Mekler, Director of Early Childhood Education

Gerard Madrinan - "Gerard stepped in to support Kindergarten DWT set up just when we needed him. He was gracious with HIS time to be getting ready for the upcoming school year. He reached out to me prior to my arrival on campus and checked on the entire team to ensure our day would be successful. Upon arrival on Seminole's campus, the power was out. He contacted the plant operations staff to be able to give me updates. When the power was restored, he came to check on us, once again. He also ensured that we understood the system well enough to get started the next day projecting our presentation and connecting audio because he would not be on campus to assist. Gerard went above and beyond to support us, and it did not go unnoticed!" - Acknowledged by Jennifer Mekler, Director of Early Childhood Education

Clara Avlonitis - "Clara has been my guiding light this year as I navigate how to best support my English language learners. As our bilingual assistant at SHS, she has shown such a commitment to our students, connectedness with stakeholders, and cultural competence while students are both on and off campus. Clara is proactive and reaches out about students in my biology honors class who may be struggling or could use her help to navigate the language and routines; she meets with students before and after school to set them up for success. She pulls students on Fridays and brings them to the food pantry on campus to make ensure they have food at home for the weekend. Most importantly, she has become a safe haven on campus for our students who might spend most of their day feeling lost. Clara is a colleague I am proud to work with and honor for her hard work and dedication!" - Acknowledged by Jenna Troiso

Irene Breedlove - "Irene is very helpful to new employees and is willing to help other shifts when we are short-handed." - Acknowledged by Janet Cruikshank

Joheisly Espinal-Gonzalez - "Joheisly "Jo" is an amazing social worker. She is kind and patient but offers students the truth. She is an advocate for students and families and provides supports that go above and beyond her professional responsibilities. Her attitude and demeanor are welcoming and speaking to her is like getting a hug! At Seminole, so many students and staff members depend on her expertise and straight talk. She manages to complete her professional and be a sounding board for staff members. She is an exemplary member of the Seminole High community." - Acknowledge by Cheryl Plummer

Maya Berrios - "Ms. Berrios was the Coordinator for the High School SSAA All-County Choir and did a phenomenal job organizing the directors and students who were part of the ensemble. She worked through challenging logistics, ensured equity in the audition and rehearsal process, and created a wonderful product that concludes tonight at the All-County Chorus Concert. Bravo, Ms. Berrios!" - Acknowledged by Brigitte Poulson  
Paula Thomas - Paula is a tireless advocate for all students, staff, and teachers, as well as our Seminole Community members. Her expertise, sensitivity, and collaborative spirit have a galvanizing effect on our entire educational ecosystem. From her day-to-day dedication, to providing exceptional services during times of tragedy and triumph; Mrs. Paula Thomas is an invaluable member of the Seminole Warhawk team! - Acknowledged by Dr. Lucas



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## SHS Teacher of the Year

For an unbelievable 3rd year in a row, Seminole High has a Top 10 Finalist for Pinellas County Schools Teacher of the Year! Congratulations to Mr. Gerard Madrinan! The Warhawk Nation, Superintendent Hendrick, and Area Superintendent Hinds were on hand, in a red-carpet celebration, replete with our Marching Band, cheerleaders, athletes, and entire Warhawk student body for the surprise announcement! He will be honored at a Mahaffey Theatre ceremony in January.

Congratulations to Mr. Gerard Madrinan for being nominated not only for teacher of the year at Seminole High School, but for also being nominated as a Top Ten Finalist for all of Pinellas County. Thank you for everything that you do!

## Terrific Teacher Tribute

Educators Rising has awarded the Terrific Teacher Tribute each month to a Warhawk faculty member that students choose to receive the "Golden Podium" for their outstanding teaching efforts! Congratulations to Mr. Wayman, Mrs. Drake, and Sra. Velasquez for being our Terrific Teachers so far this year!

Every month students will be able to vote to have their favorite teachers recognized with this fun and exciting award! The Educators Rising club wants our Warhawk teachers to know that they are amazing, and students notice! Be sure to watch and see who will win the Golden Podium next month!



## SHS Emerging Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Kelsey Wells, our Seminole Sports Academy Director, and SHS's Emerging Teacher of the Year. She will also be honored at the Mahaffey Theatre. Thank you for everything that you do for our staff and students.



## SHS Support Employee of the Year

Our fantastic Senior Data Management Tech TeriAnn Riordan is SHS's Support Employee of the Year and a distinguished "Certificate of Distinction" awardee! She was recognized at an honorary breakfast at the St. Pete Hilton! Thank you for all of your hard work and effort.

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## A Message from Senior Class

This year the senior class is motivated to make school enjoyable for everybody, and to present events that appeal to everybody's interest. So far, we have organized senior parking spots and senior sunrise, which both resulted in an amazing turnout. Some upcoming events we have planned are the senior assembly and our senior panoramic photo. These events are important to make memories of your last year in high school and to spend time with your friends. Don't forget to buy your senior shirt in D7 to wear in the senior photo and buy your senior packages!



### Gilbert's Corner

- **CAPS & GOWNS-** Seniors, scan the Wally Warhawk QR code and enter your cap and gown measurements no later than January 1, 2024.
- **SENIOR PACKAGES-** The date is set! Graduation will take place on Thursday May 16th at Tropicana Field. Order your Grad Package on the Warhawk Shop by January 1, 2024.
- **SENIOR PICTURES-** The **FINAL** day to take your Senior Picture for the yearbook is on December 1st. Seniors who have not had their Senior Picture taken by Prestige Portraits by this date will report to the auditorium with their English classes. Photos taken after this date or by another photographer will **NOT** be published in the yearbook. Bowties and black tops will be provided. All you need to bring is a smile!
- **SENIOR ADS-** Buy your senior a gift that lasts forever. Dedicate a space in the yearbook to your graduate with your favorite childhood pictures and timeless messages. Senior Ads are available on the Warhawk Shop until February 1st—or when space runs out!
- **SAVE NOW!** Pre-Order Your 2024 Yearbook at Balfour.com for \$85!
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## Are You Ready to RISE?

Introducing the new Resiliency In Student Experience (RISE) Academy at Seminole High School! This academy is designed for students who are interested in student services careers, such as guidance counselors, social workers, psychologists, and other service provider professions. RISE Academy students take academic classes that prepare them for entry into colleges or universities, with an emphasis on the social sciences. In addition to rigorous coursework, students will have the opportunity to build the resiliency necessary in navigating obstacles in any environment. Working in tandem with faculty, university, and industry partners, the RISE Academy students will have access to dual enrollment coursework, conduct field observations, as well as take part in professional internships and externships. Rise Academy students will graduate from the program poised for success in college, career, and beyond!

## PSI Alpha

The induction ceremony for new members was held on December 12th, congratulations to the new members! We will also be celebrating the holiday and the spirit of giving by participating in the "Angel Tree" here at the high school. We would like to announce that any students who fit the requirements and are interested in joining Psi Alpha may do so after the first semester. If you have any questions about anything mentioned above, please feel free to ask any of the Psi Alpha members or visit Mr. Russell in C21!



## SHS Warhawks



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## Dia De Los Muertos

SHS celebrated Hispanic History Month with several activities from special guest morning announcers to music and dancing during lunch. Finishing off the festivities of course with the celebration of Dia De Los Muertos.



## CEL

CEL 1 students have just completed their career exploration unit by creating "professional skeletons" who are dressed for success! After thoroughly researching careers of interest and creating career comparison posters, they were tasked with taking their knowledge of workplace ethics and applying it to a career of their choice. They wrote about this on the backs of their skeletons and then they dressed them professionally for that career. They did an outstanding job! Some of our best dressed skeletons included Aubry Ralph's homicide detective, Ethan Spurgeon's pilot, Callie Fruit's marine biologist, Mariah Schwartz's artist, Eli Spearl's soccer player and Neil Trivitayakhun's actor as Phantom of the Opera!

CEL 2 students are currently studying school age development. They have been researching classroom behavior plans and are now working together to create utopian classrooms!

CEL 3 students are volunteering to tutor students in the AVID program and have also begun presenting HIP (Health Information Project) lessons to ninth grade students across campus. This nationally recognized program allows for peer health educators to make connections with and provide resources to ninth graders, teaching them about important topics like healthy eating habits and nutrition.

Our CEL 4 students are actively interning at 6 local elementary schools, 2 middle schools and here on our SHS campus in reading classrooms. Our interns are conducting small group lessons, supporting social growth by being lunch buddies, tutoring one on one, planning, and delivering content and much more! They are also tasked with connecting this experience to the CEL standards each week. For example, when asked about the importance of grouping, CEL senior Maddie Russo wrote, "it is clear that it is extremely important for teachers to use intentional grouping in a classroom in order to provide varied options for students to show mastery of content. This is saying that teachers do things intentionally. As an intern in a first-grade classroom at Oakhurst Elementary School, I have been able to see this firsthand. There is a method to the teacher's madness. As a student it is hard to see this sometimes, but through this interning program, I have been given the opportunity to appreciate this and see the behind the scenes of why teachers do the things that they do, their motives." These connections are vital to the CEL internship experience, and students are witnessing firsthand each day how the CEL standards are being put into action across Pinellas County Schools."



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## Warhawks Swim & Dive

Congratulations to the boys and girls of our swim & dive team for an amazing season!

**Districts:** Girls: Maya Golubovic placed 1st in the 50 and 100 freestyle. Boys: Jackson Healy placed 1st in the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly; Tre Jones placed 1st in the 100 breaststroke; The Boys 200 freestyle relay team placed 1st: Jonny Herold, Liam Cavanaugh, Tre Jones and Jackson Healy.

**Regionals:** Senior Maya Golubovic is the Regional Champ in both her events the 50 Free and 100 free. Sophomore Jackson Healy is the Regional Champ in the 50 Free. Tre Jones is the Regional Champ in the 100 Breaststroke.

**States:** The boys swim team placed 10th out of 45 teams at the State meet in Ocala and the highest ranked Pinellas County team: Jackson Healy placed 7th overall in the 50 free and 21st in the 100 Fly; Tre Jones Placed 3rd overall in the 100 breaststroke, and 16th in the 200 Free; Jonny Herold placed 22nd overall in the 50 free and 24th in the 100 free; Liam Cavanaugh placed 18th overall in the 100 breaststroke; Jonny Herold, Liam Cavanaugh, Tre Jones and Jackson Healy placed 8th overall in the 200-medley relay and 7th overall in the 200 free relay.

The girls swim team tied for 8th place out of 44 teams, and the 2nd highest ranked Pinellas County team: Victoria Teixeira Placed 9th overall in the diving event, all 11 of her dives were amazing, and her highest scoring dive was 2 forward somersaults, earning 43.9 points towards her final score of 345.25; Maya Golubovic placed 2nd overall in the 50 and 100 Freestyle; Alana Hauser placed 23rd overall in the 100 Free; Brooke Billitto placed 12th overall in the 200 IM and 22nd in the 100 Backstroke; Brooke Billitto, Alex Growe, Alana Hauser and Maya Golubovic placed 7th overall in the 200 free relay and 6th overall in the 400 free relay.

## Warhawk Football

Warhawk Football kicked off to a great start for the 2023 Season, finishing at 4-5 which is the most wins in 20+ years! This season was full of excitement beginning in our weightroom and transferring to our practice field in preparation for some good old fashion smash mouth football. This year's group of young men was some of the toughest football players in the county. Their dedication to the entirety of the program proved that it's not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight that's in the dog! Our Warhawk football team is dedicated to the weightroom which is where the development of better athletes begins. At SHS, this strength training program is designed for each individual student-athlete, while programs are tailored to be sport and position specific, considering the movement and energy systems involved in football. The Strength & Conditioning program is evaluated and monitored continuously and adjusted when necessary to reach optimal gains. SHS student-athletes workout year-round with phases for in-season competition, pre-competition, post-competition, and off-season. The Strength and Conditioning program is administrated by SHS Head Strength Coach James Nicodemus and overseen by Head Football Coach, Auggie Sanchez. In addition, our football program also has nutritional guidelines athletes follow to provide the necessary amount of nutrients needed for muscular growth including the athletes own snack bar area and refrigerator. Donations are provided by parents and food is always readily available for our athletes to refuel their bodies for intense training. The SHS Football Program prides itself on the dedication, determination, and effort that every athlete and coach puts in everyday. Our goal is simple: hard work = WINS! As a program, our goal is to provide all our players with the coaching and resources to be successful. This includes providing the best; equipment, environment, technology, teaching and training methods. We appreciate the hard work that is required to prepare for and play football. We believe the memories and lessons learned will last a lifetime and are worth the sacrifice.



# Go Warhawks!

Dr. Adam Miller and the whole team are creating beautiful smiles at Orthodontic Associates of Pinellas County!

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Supporting the Seminole HS Community





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For The Parents, Staff, Students & Community Of Seminole High School

# WarHawk News

8

## AVID Recruitment

AVID Fun days bring together students across grade levels to work collaboratively in fun, engaging games. These games are done once a month, and any students interested in joining the AVID academy can scan the QR code below to be invited to one of our upcoming games! AVID is an elective academy that focuses on college and career readiness and is taken 9th -12th grade. Current 9th and 10th graders who have the following criteria are encouraged to come see how we work collaboratively to learn success skills for life after high school:

- have a 2.5-3.5 GPA.
- have no referrals.
- have a desire to go to college or have a career following high school.
- desire help applying for jobs, internships, scholarships, and colleges.
- or are part of an underrepresented community.

If these fit you, scan the QR Code to see what we are all about!



## Interact

Interact is a service-based club here at SHS that operates through the Seminole Rotary. This year we've already participated in some awesome events to give back to our community! Our first event of the year was our Maderia Beach cleanup in September, which saw our members keeping our shores clean and healthy. Starting in fall we unloaded and arranged the pumpkin patch at Saint Lutheran Church from their semi-truck. We also helped at the Haunted Graveyard during Seminole Plaza's First Friday, setting up and taking down decorations while handing out candy to keep spirit up on Halloween weekend! As the holiday season gets closer, we've volunteered to pick up and sort donated goods at the Seminole Lake Country Club's drive by food donation, and we're looking forward to future events, including our Red Sled volunteer night upcoming in December. As always, thank you to our sponsors and our members for helping us make a difference!



## Always A Warhawk

Seminole High School has a legacy that is strong throughout the community and life has a way of circling back around. This year SHS had the honor of accepting the generous donation of a painting by the late Mark Stock who was a Seminole High alumnus. An unveiling ceremony was held for his friends and family not only to celebrate his memory, but to also carry on his Warhawk spirit. The painting is on display in the SHS media center and will be used to educate & motivate our students as they learn from others that came before them. This is truly a story that embodies the phrase, "Once a Warhawk, Always a Warhawk".

