

# South Fort Myers High School

## News from the Pack Leader

"A Powerful School of Teaching and Learning"

A Title 1 School  
14020 Plantation Road  
Fort Myers, FL 33912  
239-561-0060  
<http://sfm.leeschools.net/>

### ADMINISTRATION

MR. ED MATHEWS  
Principal

MS. MICHELLE EDWARDS  
Assistant Principal of Student Affairs  
10th Grade Administrator

MS. ALLISON DEMMING  
Assistant Principal of Student Affairs  
9th Grade Administrator

MR. MIKE STEELE  
11th & 12th Assistant Principal of  
Administration

MRS. TAYLOR LOCKE  
Assistant Principal of Curriculum – 12th

### VISION

To inspire students to be life-long learners through rigor and relevance.

### MISSION

To prepare all students to successfully enter the world of work and/or further their education by challenging them with rigorous academic and technical studies.

We are now more than halfway through another powerful year of teaching and learning. I am proud and honored to share in the continued success of all the students, teachers and staff of Team South! As Principal of South Fort Myers High School, I want to make sure everyone related to the Wolfpack Family realizes how important they are to our school and community. Student success occurs when everyone is working and moving forward together in a positive direction. You are encouraged to stay informed of your student's progress through communication with their counselor and teachers.

Please make it a priority to stay involved with South Fort Myers High School through our social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and X. One final and important note: please make sure that we have current contact and emergency information for your student. Please go to the FOCUS Parent Portal on [www.leeschools.net](http://www.leeschools.net) and verify that your contact information is correct. If you are not able to access the portal, please come by or call the school and we will be happy to assist you. Together, we can help our students reach their full potential. Have a Powerful Wolfpack Day! Thank you for being a member of our Wolfpack Family!

Ed Mathews, Principal

# WOLF TRACKS



"A Powerful School of Teaching and Learning"

You may also view the parent/community newsletter online:  
<http://www.academypublishing.com/schools/southfortmyers/southfortmyers.php>

FEBRUARY 12, 2024 • VOLUME 12 • ISSUE 2

For the Parents, Students, Staff and  
Community of South Fort Myers High School



## Follow the Pack! #StayConnected

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Website ..... [sfm.leeschools.net](http://sfm.leeschools.net)  
Twitter ..... @SouthFMHS  
Facebook ..... SouthFortMyersHigh  
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### WOLFPACK ATHLETICS:

Twitter ..... @SFMHSWolfpack  
Instagram ..... sfmhsathletics

### STUDENT NEWS:

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### NEWSLETTER:

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## School Counselors

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Winter Roback ..... A - G  
Melissa Gorman ..... H - O  
Michelle Tracy ..... P - Z

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### Wolf Tracks

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14020 Plantation Road  
Fort Myers, FL 33912



# FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

The School District of Lee County

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## COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS ABOUT THEIR CHILD'S PROGRESS IN MATH

Math can be an emotionally fraught topic for parents, and discussing a child's performance with empathy can ease the tension.

Talking about math is easy for math teachers when talking with fellow math teachers. We love to geek out on strategies, games for our students to play, hands-on activities, common errors, and on and on.

When it comes to talking with our students' parents/caregivers about math, it can be a bit more difficult. Explaining their child's math progress can venture into emotional territory. (Check out educator Vanessa Vakharia's podcast Math Therapy to explore more on math trauma.)

As math educators, we might have heard similar grumblings from parents:

- "That is not how I learned when I was in school."
- "She cries and gets upset when I try to help her with her homework."
- "I went to MIT/Harvard/[insert school name here]—how can my child be struggling in math?"
- "I've never been good at math, so I can't help him."
- "He's never had a C before!"
- "She must be enrolled in sixth-grade advanced math. She is going to be an engineer."

Each of these statements expresses a strong emotion that a parent has around their child's math progress. It can be a hit to a parent's ego if they have always been a math whiz themselves, but their child is currently struggling. It can also bring up old trauma and insecurities for parents who had a negative experience with math.

When educators enter into conversations about math progress, keep an open mind to whatever reactions might come up. We cannot cure a parent's insecurities or a damaged ego, but we can lend a listening ear. As mentioned in my book, *When Calling Parents Isn't Your Calling*, "Let the parent(s) talk first. Really listen to what they value and what they fear. Respond to their comments with empathy and suggestions as you see appropriate."

For parents and older students who are anxious about math, I send them a link to Orly Rubinsten's TED-Ed video, *Why Do People Get So Anxious About Math?*

What can math educators say to parents to effectively communicate math progress despite the emotions that might surround the topic?

## COMUNICARSE CON LOS PADRES SOBRE EL PROGRESO DE SUS HIJOS EN MATEMÁTICAS

Las matemáticas pueden ser un tema emocionalmente tenso para los padres, y discutir el desempeño de un niño con empatía puede aliviar la tensión.

Hablar de matemáticas es fácil para los profesores de matemáticas cuando hablan con otros profesores de matemáticas. Nos encanta hablar de estrategias, juegos para que nuestros estudiantes jueguen, actividades prácticas, errores comunes, y así sucesivamente.

Cuando se trata de hablar con los padres/cuidadores de nuestros estudiantes sobre matemáticas, puede ser un poco más difícil. Explicar el progreso matemático de su hijo puede aventurarse en territorio emocional. (Echa un vistazo al podcast de la educadora Vanessa Vakharia Terapia matemática para explorar más sobre el trauma matemático.)

Como educadores de matemáticas, es posible que hayamos escuchado quejas similares de los padres:

- "No es así como aprendí cuando estaba en la escuela."
- "Llora y se molesta cuando trato de ayudarla con su tarea."
- "Fui al MIT/Harvard/[inserte el nombre de la escuela aquí], ¿cómo puede mi hijo tener dificultades en matemáticas?"
- "Nunca he sido bueno en matemáticas, así que no puedo ayudarlo."
- "¿Nunca antes había tenido una C!"
- "Ella debe estar inscrita en matemáticas avanzadas de sexto grado. Va a ser ingeniera."

Cada una de estas afirmaciones expresa una fuerte emoción que un padre tiene en torno al progreso matemático de su hijo. Puede ser un golpe para el ego de un padre si siempre han sido un genio de las matemáticas, pero su hijo actualmente está luchando. También puede traer a colación viejos traumas e inseguridades para los padres que tuvieron una experiencia negativa con las matemáticas.

Cuando los educadores entablan conversaciones sobre el progreso en matemáticas, mantén la mente abierta a cualquier reacción que pueda surgir. No podemos curar las inseguridades de un padre o un ego dañado, pero podemos prestar un oído atento. Como mencioné en mi libro, *Cuando llamar a los padres no es tu vocación*, "Deja que los padres hablen primero. Escucha realmente lo que valoran y lo que temen. Responde a sus comentarios con empatía y sugerencias como consideres apropiado."

Para los padres y estudiantes mayores que están ansiosos por las matemáticas, les envío un enlace al video de TED-Ed de Orly Rubinsten, *¿Por qué la gente se pone tan ansiosa por las matemáticas?*

¿Qué pueden decir los educadores de matemáticas a los padres para comunicar de manera efectiva el progreso en matemáticas a pesar de las emociones que puedan rodear el tema?

For more information on Title I and family involvement, contact Mary Jo Potter at 239-561-0060 X250 or [MaryJoP@LeeSchools.net](mailto:MaryJoP@LeeSchools.net).



## SENIOR NEWS

### IMPORTANT SENIOR DATES TO REMEMBER

**Cap & Gown Orders:** Deadline is February 15th @ <https://gradproinc.com/product/cap-gown-tassel-unit/>

**PROM:** April 6th @ Pelican Preserve 7-10pm

**GRAD BASH:** April 19th - \$200 Reserves your spot. Due by January 31st.

**Graduation Ceremony:** Sunday, May 19th @ 7:00 p.m., Alico Arena @FGCU  
**Yearbooks:** \$80

If you'd like to put an ad in for your senior, please go to: [www.buytheyearbook.com](http://www.buytheyearbook.com).

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- At least 24 Credits
- Minimum 2.0 G.P.A.
- Pass FSA ELA 10th Grade
- Pass Algebra 1 EOC
- Take Geo, USH, Bio EOC'S



### Senior Sunrise

In December, the Senior Class of 2024 hosted their annual Senior Sunrise while enjoying hot chocolate and donuts. Thank you to Mrs. Schultz, Sr Advisors Mrs. Kim Bathey & Mary Jo Potter, and Mrs. Makenzie Perez for helping.



### BARR (Building Assets, Reducing Risks)

South Fort Myers High School is the only school in the district that partakes in the B.A.R.R. Curriculum. BARR (Building Assets, Reducing Risks) is a proven model that improves the education system predicated on two pillars – relationships and data. It is designed to create strong schools and communities by empowering students, teachers, and faculty to nurture a unified and personalized culture of support and success for every student, both inside and outside of the classroom.

At South Fort Myers High School, we believe that each and every student, regardless of race, ethnicity, or economic status deserves a high-quality education where adults know them, recognize their strengths, and help them thrive both personally and academically.

In the upcoming issues, we will share with you ways the school is creating a powerful and positive learning environment through the use of I-Times within core classes.



*Mr. Ben Lewis of the BARR Center, came for a visit to SFMHS to see how BARR has benefitted our students.*



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## SFMHS Semester 2 Testing Schedule

Q #	Date	Assessment & Pertinent Information
3	February 20-22 • Makeups: March 5-8	FSA ELA Writing & Reading Retakes • Grade 12 students who have NOT yet met the FSA ELA requirement • Session 1: Writing • Sessions 2 and 3: Reading • Must take all three sessions to receive a score
3	February 27-28 • Makeups: March 5-8	FSA Algebra 1 EOC Retake • Students who took Algebra 1 PRIOR to 2022-23 and have not yet met the graduation requirement • 2 sessions over 2 days • Must take both sessions to receive a score
3	March 4 - 14 or April 15 - 26 • Exact Date is TBA	SAT School Day (Non-College Reportable) • All Grade 12 students who have not yet met the FSA ELA or Algebra 1 EOC requirement(s). • Students receive accommodation 1.5x time.
4	March 26 - April 3 • Exact Dates are TBD	ACT School Day • All Grade 11 AND 12 students who have not yet met the FSA ELA or Algebra 1 EOC requirement(s) • Nonreportable • Students receive the accommodation of TRIPLE time. • One session per day: English, Math, Reading
4	April 4	B.E.S.T ELA Writing • All 10th Graders
4	April 25	AICE English General Paper - AM AICE Psychology - AM
4	April 26	AICE Environmental Management - PM AICE Marine Science - PM
4	April 30	AICE Travel and Tourism - PM
4	May 1	AICE General Paper - AM AICE Environmental Management - PM AICE Marine Science - PM
4	May 2	AICE Global Perspective - AM AICE Pure Mathematics - PM
4	May 3	AICE English Language - AM AICE History - PM
4	May 6	AICE English Language - AM AICE AL Spanish and Literature- PM
4	May 9	AICE Psychology - AM
4	May 10	AICE History - PM
4	May 13	AICE Math (Probability and Stats) - PM
4	May 15	AICE Spanish Language and Literature - PM AP Computer Science Principles - PM
4	May 17	AP Physics 1 - AM
4	May 22	AICE Spanish Language and Literature - PM
4	May 24	AICE Sports and PE - PM
4	May 8 - 24 • Exact Date is TBD	FAST ELA Progress Monitoring • All Grade 9 & 10 students
4	May 8 - 24 • Exact Date is TBD	Algebra 1 & Geometry EOCs • All students enrolled in Algebra 1 and Geometry. • If enrolled in both courses, students will test Algebra 1 first and Geometry during makeup days.
4	May 8 - 24 • Exact Date is TBD	Biology & US History EOCs • All students enrolled in Biology & US History classes. • If enrolled in both courses, students will test Biology first and US History during makeup days.

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## CTE Academy Highlights

2023 Career Expo was held here at the SFMHS Campus in December. With over 50 businesses showcasing their company, we had an amazing turnout as well as people getting hired on the spot. Congratulations to Emily Lincolnhol and Lisa Richardson for all of the time and effort that went into this event.



Principal Ed Mathews had the opportunity to do a segment on ABC7 & NBC2 news to promote the event. Brian Mangan, Director of CTE for Lee County School District stopped by to show his support.

The Class of 2024 donated 10 artificial trees to the school to start the annual "Hall of Trees" tradition here on our campus. We were also treated to a visit from our very own professional Santa, Mr. Rumple who teaches the TV Production Academy. JROTC won Best Decorations by the staff and students, while the Custodial Staff won by Social Media voting that was set up by SFMHS. Congrats to all!



## School Advisory Council News

All South Fort Myers High School stakeholders - parents, students, community members, and business partners - are invited to participate in our 2023-2024 School Advisory Council (SAC) meetings virtually via Zoom.

We discuss happenings around the SFMHS campus, as well as future exciting events we have planned for our powerful students. The remainder of this school year's meeting dates are February 5th, April 8th, and May 6th. The meetings begin at 6:00 PM

If you have any questions or would like the Zoom link, contact Rachel Mas @ rachaelcm@leeschools.net

## FOCUS PARENT ACCOUNTS

FOCUS parent accounts access student grades, assignments and schedules. Register for a *Focus Parent Portal* account using the appropriate link located on the main Focus login page or contact Carol Roth Information Specialist 561-0060. To register for an account, you will need to know (and use) the active email address on file with the district, along with the Student's ID number and Date of Birth. Parents who have children enrolled in more than one school, only need to setup one account.

## PARENTLINK®

ParentLink® is a messaging system that allows us to communicate with you concerning your child's assignments, schedule, grades, attendance, lunch balance, and special events happening at school. In addition, in the event of the emergency, ParentLink® is the fastest, most reliable way you can get need-to-know information directly to you. It is important that you communicate regularly to ensure we have accurate phone numbers and e-mail addresses on file for your family.



Additionally, there is a ParentLink® app available for your smartphone. This app will allow you to receive real-time messages directly from your child's school or the District.

Web site address is: <http://parentlink.leeschools.net/>

The format for logon is as follows:

- User name is the Student ID of the eldest child in the School District, living in the student's household, followed by the parent's first and last initial.
- The password is the birth date of the student whose ID was used for the Username, in the format of MMDDYY.



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# ATHLETICS

## Fall Sports



## Wrestling

Congratulations to Coach Willie Eyres and three of his Wolfpack Seniors who have committed to colleges to play baseball after graduation at the school hosted event. Andy Garcia will travel to South Carolina where he will play for Erskine College, while Orlando Jose Fernandez travels to Louisiana to play for New Orleans College and Anthony Cruz will travel to Tennessee to play for Maryville College.

**GO  
WOLVES**

**Spring Sports Schedules**  
Go to: [https://sfm.leeschools.net/athletics/sports\\_teams](https://sfm.leeschools.net/athletics/sports_teams)

**GO  
WOLVES**



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## US History

The US History classes spent the day at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates learning about two amazing gentlemen in US History.



We are very proud of our Latinos In Action program! They did a great job putting together a celebration for Hispanic Heritage Month. Thank you to Mr. Aguedo and Mrs. Mas for organizing this exciting event.



The Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club spent the day with Mr. Mathews touring our campus and learning about all of the great opportunities our academies offer our students.



Bill Daubmann of MY Shower Door for your #powerful donation of \$3,000 to South Fort Myers High. This donation will go directly to Mr. Tim Greenwell and his Welding Academy.



We are proud to share that the Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club will be sponsoring several scholarships for our students to attend Fort Myers Technical College. Thank you Chester, Stanley, and Thomas for your powerful support.



JFG Advisor Kevin Schell & Assistant Principal Michelle Edwards had the opportunity to visit the Miami Heat Arena along with 25 plus students to tour and watch the game.

## Community Thrift Store

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