

# THE BUZZ

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## Principal's Notes



Dr. DeArmas Graham

Yellow Jacket Family, we are having a great school year and preparing our students for all of their assessments. Student assessments provide both formal and informal information about how and what students are learning. Assessments have a great focus in the classroom than ever before and play a unique role in the learning process. Our teachers at St. Augustine High School are focusing on 4 best practices that help prepare our students for assessments. These are as follows:

- 1. Review and Practice** – Many teachers find that holding review sessions, issuing practice tests, and teaching test-taking skills to be the most effective strategies of assessment preparation. Practice tests are frequently used because well-designed practice tests support learning, serve as a review, and builds students' test-taking skills. Additionally, our teachers have implemented periodic benchmark assessments as a predictor of student performance on state assessments. Teachers have used the results of the benchmark assessments diagnostically to guide their instruction.
- 2. Differentiating Instruction** – Small group instruction, peer tutoring, and web-based programs are some of the most popular strategies teachers use to prepare students with diverse learning needs for testing. Small group instruction enables teachers to focus on the particular needs of the group. Peer tutoring benefits both students because one student gets extra help while the tutor gets to develop skills that reinforce learning. Web-based programs allow teachers to focus on specific content for a group or individuals to help prepare them for assessments.
- 3. Engage and Motivate** – At SAHS, we believe that learning should be rigorous, but FUN. Teachers report that interactive content, such as games and competition, helps engage and motivate students. Additionally, enabling students to monitor their own progress keeps them involved in their learning and makes them feel successful as they watch their individual results improve.

*continued on next page...*

## St. Augustine High School

- Principal:** Dr. DeArmas Graham
- Assistant Principals:** Trevor Abbs  
Michelle Davis  
Twila Needham
- Executive Secretary:** Janelle Bremer
- Athletic Director:** Quinterrance Cooper
- Career Specialist:** Robert Raimann
- Maintenance Coordinator:** Mike Oxborough
- Deans:** Joseph Gregos  
Amy Huber  
Sean Palmer
- Registrar:** Monica Billoch
- Guidance Counselors:**  
Melody Cashwell.....A-G  
Cammy Barber.....H-P  
Parish Rollins.....Q-Z  
Dena Bechtle .....AICE  
Dawn Eakins.....College & Career

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**For the Parents, Staff,  
Students & Community of  
St. Augustine High School**

**'THE BUZZ'**  
March 2023  
Published Five Times Per Year  
Saint Johns County School District  
40 Orange Street  
St. Augustine, FL 32084  
Issue # 3

## Mission Statement

*The St. Johns County School District will inspire in all students good character and a passion for lifelong learning, creating educated and caring contributors to the world.*

# Principal's Notes

...continued from front page

4. **Partner with Parents** - We believe that it takes a village. Communicating with parents on a regular basis is an integral part of engaging our parents and their child's success in testing. Teachers at SAHS use other tools such as email and websites to communicate with our parents. These tools give parents visibility into their child's progress and convey ways in which they can help their child at home.

Thank you **Mrs. Jen Stevenson** (PTO President) and the parents who serve on our PTO HIVE Committee at SAHS! The faculty/staff at SAHS are very appreciative of our PTO HIVE and their continued support for our teachers. SAHS is a Great School because of outstanding teachers, parents, business partners, and volunteers! Parents, I want to encourage you to continue to check Schoology and HAC.

GO JACKETS! #DTWT

DeArmas Graham, Ed.D.

## Growing in the Garden

Saint Augustine High School celebrates the many talents of all of our students. Amy Arnow takes time to engage her students in hands-on science instruction by having them use their gardening talents. Two years ago, Amy received a grant through Blue Schools which gave her the funding to build two raised gardening beds. For the raised beds she and the students start with seasonal plants, starting the winter garden in October, planting a variety of lettuces, kale, collards, radishes, broccoli. "Everything is started from seed, that way when we harvest the kids can see the size of the seed compared to the plant we pick," Amy shared. "Cucumbers, snap peas, green beans went in last week and sunflowers go in next week, that way the kids can see them flower at the end of the school year and have vegetables, too." The students culminated the harvesting activity by inviting staff to come by and be served a salad grown fresh in their own garden to kick off the new year. They served the staff with great pride and professionalism. The next project is to plant gerber daisies for the kids to take home for mother's day. What a beautiful gift for our students to be able to share. The gardens do so much more than simply teach students about cellular respiration, food groups, and nutrition. They teach the students how to work together, how to give to others, and how to care.



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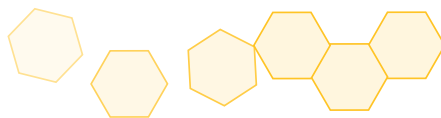
## Counselors' Corner

The SAHS School Counseling Department has been working hard this month to complete student registration appointments for the 2023-24 school year. Students met with counselors through English class. Students who still need to meet with a counselor will have a makeup appointment over the next few weeks. Students who would like to request a change to their course requests for next school year may do so by following the [2023-24 SCHEDULE CHANGE REQUEST](#) link located on the SAHS webpage. This link will be active until spring break.

## Meet our Administration



Left to Right—  
Twila Needham, Trevor Abbs,  
DeArmas Graham, Michelle Davis



## Saint Johns County Center of the Arts (SJCCA) Recognitions

**SJCCA Theatre** is performing two separate plays in the SJCCA Black Box Theater. *Silent Sky* runs from February 16-19 and *Puffs* runs from February 23-26.

**SJCCA Musical Theatre** just performed SJCCA MT Sings: The Muppets, a new revue series. Students had a limited two week rehearsal process to prepare an entire 2 hour revue.

**SJCCA Dance's *The Collective*** competed at DTU Nationals where they placed 6th overall in Hip-Hop and 9th Overall in Jazz!

**SJCCA Chorus** was invited to perform at Disney's Candlelight Processional in December with guest narrator Mariska Hargitay.

**SJCCA Jazz Ambassadors** performed at the UNF Koger/ Matteson Jazz Festival.

2 students were selected as **Best Soloists** for their sections:

- Drake Guennel- Best Trumpet Solo
- Cash Eubanks- Best Rhythm Section Solo (Pianist)

Drake Guennel was also awarded a Scholarship to the *UNF Summer Music Camp*.

**SJCCA Visual Arts** selected 4 finalists to represent our campus at the *SJEA MLK Jr District* wide poster contest. Please congratulate these 4 students:

1. Evelyn DoRego (12th)
2. Sabrina Dougherty (11th)
3. Mara Fontaine (11th)
4. Greyson Doucet (10th)

A HUGE congratulations go out to Evelyn DoRego who placed 2nd in the district, and Greyson Doucet, who placed 3rd in the district for their posters.

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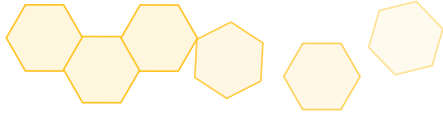
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# Athletics

## Spring Home Schedule

Date	Sport	Time	Opponent
Feb. 20	Boys LAX	6:00	Ponte Vedra
Feb. 21	Girls LAX	5:30/7:00	Bartram
Feb. 21	Softball	7:30	Flagler Palm Coast
Feb. 21	Tennis	4:15	Ponte Vedra
Feb. 22	Boys Weightlifting	3:30	Tocoi/Taylor
Feb. 23	Boys LAX	6:30	Sandlewood
Feb. 23	Softball	5:00/7:00	Beachside
Feb. 24	Girls LAX	5:30	Oak Hall
Feb. 24	Boys LAX	7PM	Oak Hall
Feb.24	Baseball	6:00	Spruce Creek
Feb. 27	Softball	6:00	Stanton
Feb. 28	Boys LAX	5:30/7:00	Mandarin/Bartram
Feb. 28	Baseball	4:30/7:00	Columbia
Feb. 28	Tennis	4:15	Tocoi Creek
Mar. 1	Boys Weightlifting	3:30	Matanzas/Creekside
Mar.2	Boys LAX	5:30/7:00	Creekside/Flagler Palm Coast
Mar. 2	Softball	6:00	Bolles
Mar. 2	Tennis	4:15	Orange Park
Mar. 3	Boys LAX	6:00	Key West
Mar. 3	Baseball	6:30	Creekside
Mar. 6	Baseball	6:00	Ponte Vedra
Mar. 6	Boys LAX	6PM	Nease
Mar. 7	Baseball	4:30/7:00	Palatka
Mar.7	Girls LAX	5:30/7:00	Charlotte
Mar. 7	Tennis	4:15	Ponte Vedra
Mar. 8	Boys Weightlifting	3:30	County Championship
Mar. 9	Baseball	7:00	Fernandina Beach
Mar. 9	Flag Football	6:00	Crescent City
Mar. 9	Boys Volleyball	6:30	Bartram Trail
Mar. 20	Boys LAX	6:00	Father Lopez
Mar. 21	Boys LAX	5:30/7:00	Episcopal
Mar. 21	Softball	5:00/7:00	Academy at the Lakes
Mar. 21	Tennis	4:15	Oakleaf
Mar. 22	Boys Weightlifting	3:30	Pedro
Mar.23	Girls LAX	6	Fletcher

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Date	Sport	Time	Opponent
Mar. 23	Softball	5:00/7:00	Interlachen
Mar. 23	Boys Volleyball	6:30	Tocoi Creek
Mar. 24	Girls LAX	5:30/7:00	Oveido
Mar. 24	Softball	5:00/7:00	Menendez
Mar. 24	Baseball	4:30/7:00	Chiles
Mar. 27	Baseball	4:30	Tocoi Creek
Mar. 27	Boys LAX	6PM	Bolles
Mar. 28	Flag Football	6:00	Pedro
Mar. 28	Softball	5:00/7:00	Tocoi Creek
Mar. 28	Tennis	4:15	Pedro
Mar. 29	Girls LAX	5:30/7:00	Lake Brantley
Mar. 30	Baseball	4:30/7:00	Seabreeze
Mar. 30	Track	5:30	TBA
Mar. 31	Boys LAX	6:30	Bucholz
Mar.31	Baseball	4:30/7:00	Nease
Apr. 3	Flag Football	6:00	Matanzas
Apr. 4	Tennis	4:15	Nease
Apr. 6	Track	3pm	Ancient City
Apr. 6	Tennis	4:15	Matanzas
Apr. 10	Boys Volleyball	6:30	Creekside
Apr.11	Baseball	4:30/7:00	Middleburg
Apr. 11	Boys Volleyball	6:30	Beachside
Apr. 13	Softball	6:00	Trinity Christian Academy
Apr. 13	Boys Volleyball	6:30	Warner Christian
Apr. 18	Baseball	6:30	Baker County
Apr. 20	Softball	6:00	Matanzas
Apr. 20	Boys Volleyball	6:30	Pedro
Apr. 21	Baseball	7:00	West Nassau
Apr. 22	Boys Volleyball	11:30/2:30	PV/ Lake Highland Prep
Apr. 25	Softball	6:30	Fleming Island
Apr. 25	Boys Volleyball	6:30	Beachside
Apr. 26	Track		District Tournament
Apr. 27	Baseball	6:30	Beachside
May. 24	Football	6:00	Bishop Kenny



Come out to the HIVE and support our student athletes!

Use the QR code to purchase tickets to any athletic event at SAHS.

Quinterrance Cooper, Athletic Director.  
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## Academy of Aviation & Aerospace

The Academy of Aviation and Aerospace currently has 9 students enrolled in the Northrop Grumman HIP (High School Involvement Partnership) mentoring program. Juniors participate in 10-12 virtual sessions focused on products, technologies, and workforce skills. They join in on 2-3 activities per year on-site at Northrop Grumman, St. Augustine. Seniors work with mentors (technicians, engineers, administrators, etc.) on-site to develop a hands-on project in the areas of STEM (Science, Technology, Mathematics, and Engineering). Students will present their projects at the end of the 2022-23 school year. Our academy continues to partner with Northrop Grumman with a common goal of providing workforce opportunities for our students.

## Academy of Law & Homeland Security

This fall, our academy sent 12 seniors to tour the St Johns County Sheriff's Office new facility. Students toured the Communications Center and the Intelligence Department, they participated in the Use of Force Simulator and even were able to do a ride-a-long on the driving course with Certified Deputy Sheriffs. Sheriff Hardwick stopped by to visit with them and took photos.

We also participated in the state regional competition held at A. Phillip Randolph High School in Jacksonville. The academy back 48 of the 54 ribbons awarded that day!

Students attended the North Florida Criminal Justice Alliance competition, held in Orlando Florida, the first 5 days of February. It was held at a resort on the grounds of the Universal Studios, where they relaxed and enjoyed 2 days of fun in the sun at the Universal Studios parks. We took 20 students on this trip, bringing back 13 medals from the 22 contests at this event.



ST. AUGUSTINE  
HIGH SCHOOL

St. Johns County  
Academy of  
Future Teachers

## Academy of Future Teachers

The Academy continues to have a strong chapter in the Florida Future Educators of America. This year we sent 16 students to the Statewide competition in Orlando, Florida. Students competed in lesson planning, educational research, video design, public speaking, and display board creation. They also participated in a series of workshops relating to the field of Education.

This year we have 10 seniors who are completing dual enrollment college courses related to the teaching profession. Concurrently, they are completing internships with mentor teachers in middle schools and elementary schools around St Johns County. They plan to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with St. Johns County School District. This MOU provides them with incentives for employment with St Johns County School District after they complete their high education degrees.

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## Congratulations Teachers



*Pictured L to R: Front Row:*

*Ms. Needham, Mr. Rivera, Ms. Rivera (RTOY),  
Mr. Miska (TOY), Ms. Miska, Ms. Davis Back Row:  
Mr. Abbs, Dr. Graham, Ms. Smith, Mr. Johnston.*

On Thursday, February 2nd, St. Johns County celebrated our Teachers of the Year (TOY) and our Rookie Teachers of the Year (RTOY) at the Renaissance Hotel in World Golf Village. Saint Augustine High School celebrated two of its finest educators, Mr. Thomas Miska-Teacher of the Year, and Ms. Mary Rivera-Rookie Teacher of the Year. SAHS is blessed to have their leadership and their talents making a positive impact on our students and our culture!

**GO JACKETS!**

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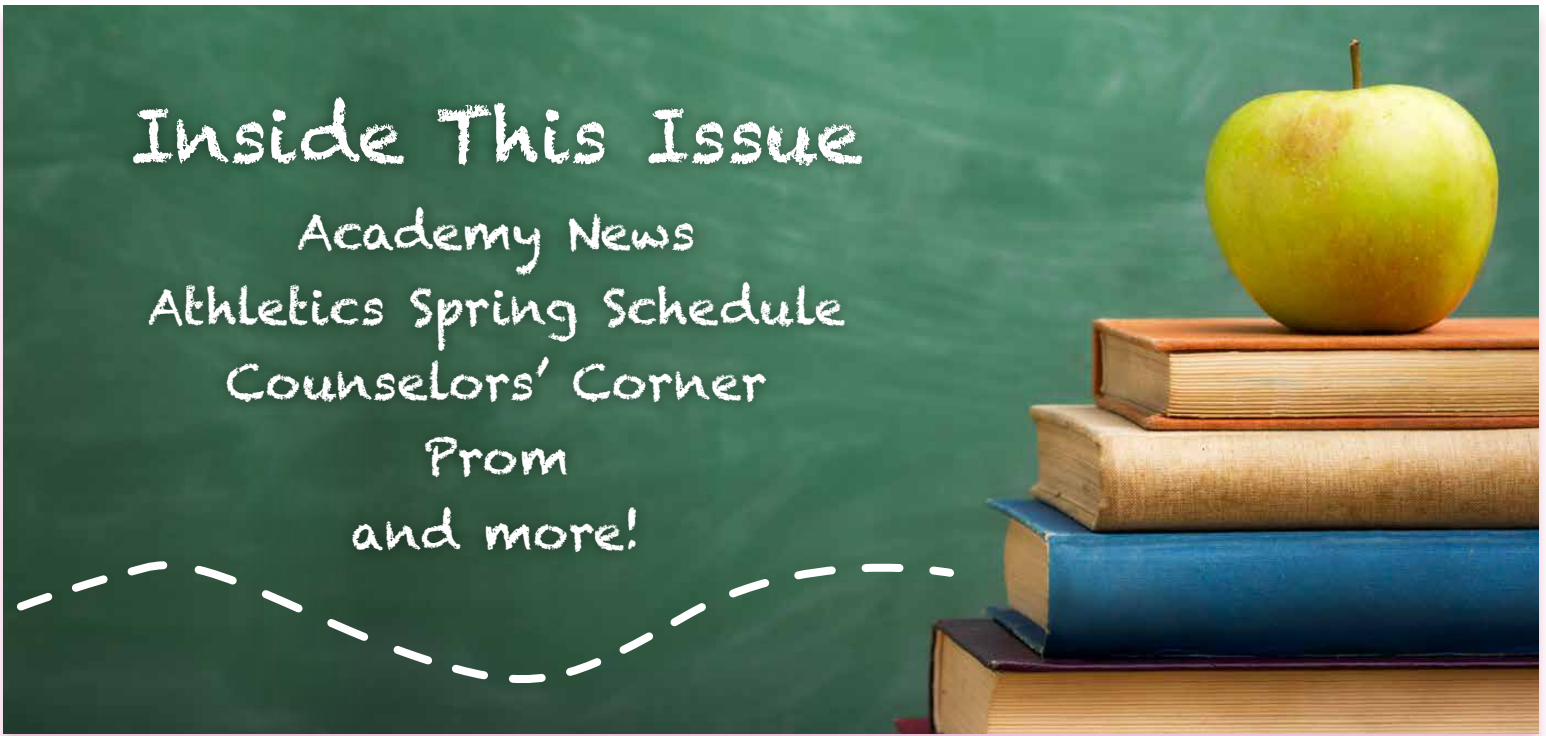
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# THE BUZZ

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## Inside This Issue

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Prom

and more!

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The St. Johns County School District Board Policy 2.16 contains the grievance procedure related to harassment and discrimination for employees, students and applicants.

If you believe you have been harassed or discriminated against, contact the School Administration or a member of the Equity Committee: Rhoda Ferrell – Coordinator/Chairperson(547-7602), Scott Sherman (547-7684), Lisa Bell (547-7537), Joann Johnson (547-7682), George Leidigh (547-3869).