August 2023

The Hook

Volume XIII Issue 4

Matanzas High School
3535 Pirate Nation Way
Palm Coast, FL 32137

Message from the Principal

I am so pleased to welcome the Matanzas HS Pirate Family back to "The Ship" for for the 2023-2024 school year. We expect to open our doors on August 10th for approximately 2,000 students, 100 teachers and 76 support staff members. We are exceptionally pleased to welcome our incoming 9th grade class and new student registrations from all over the U.S.A and beyond!! We also welcome 21 new teachers and 11 new support staff members to the MHS Pirate Crew.

We want all of our community members to be informed about events and things YOU need to know. The primary means we use to communicate information to parents about events and important information for MHS is through the weekly email newsletter. This newsletter contains upcoming dates as well as brief articles about things you need to know as a parent or legal guardian. It is emailed directly to the email address on file in Skyward every Friday evening. If you are not receiving this weekly email, please log in to your Skyward account and verify your email address is correct. The MHS Website (www.mhspirates.com) contains information about the school, points of contact, and a calendar of upcoming events including an athletic events calendar. Finally, we do maintain a Facebook page and a Twitter account (@mhspiratenation), which we use to share "good things" featuring our students and events on campus - follow us on both!

Parents and legal guardians are our most important partners in educational success; we welcome your involvement and communication. For specific questions about your child's classes or grades, please reach out via email to their teacher first. If you are not sure who the right person to contact is regarding a question or concern, call the main office of the school and one of our front office staff will direct you to the best point of contact to answer your question or direct your concern. Finally, my Assistant Principals and I are happy to answer or direct any questions or concerns from parents, legal guardians or students - email is typically the best way to get in touch with one of us.

We are proud to be a part of Pirate Nation and are looking forward to a great year!

Administration

Ms. Kristin Bozeman
Principal

Ms. Sara Novak
Assistant Principal

Mr. Josh Scott
Assistant Principal

Ms. Savannah Brock
Assistant Principal

Mr. Fred Terry
Assistant Principal

Mr. John White
Dean

To download a pdf version of this newsletter, go to 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

Make Good Choices.
Hold Yourself Accountable.
Strive for Excellence.

Who's Who At MHS

Secretary to the Principal
Marie Drumm
Receptionist
Holly Keck
Bookkeepers
Paula Teixeira
Maria Urrutia
MIS
Angela Coates
Attendance Clerk
Tammy Freeman
Media Specialist
Cate Brandner
Media Clerk
Judy Rosell
Registrar
Kathy Ryan
Guidance Secretary
Eugenia Moore
Deans' Office Secretary
Maryann Mlinac
Testing Secretary
J.L. Mendel-Blewett
Athletic Secretary
Jamie Greiner

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Reminders from the Clinic

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. Updating Emergency Contact information on paper or on SKYWARD must be completed each school year.
3. Please visit **www.flaglerschools.com** for ALL medication administration and other forms needed regarding health and wellness.
   a. **STUDENTS MAY NOT CARRY MEDICATION** unless appropriate documents are signed and given to the clinic.
   b. **ALL MEDICATION** to be administered during school hours **MUST BE SIGNED IN BY A GUARDIAN.**
4. **ALL DIABETICS MUST HAVE AN UPDATED DMMP** on file **BEFORE** the first day of school. For students who will self-manage their care, a note from the parent stating such is required along with the DMMP. Any extra supplies or medications MUST be signed into the clinic with the nurse or an administrator.
5. Proper forms are needed for students to self-carry EPI pens, inhalers, or diabetic treatments. **PLEASE BE SURE TO INFORM THE SCHOOL OF ANY MEDICAL CONDITIONS WHICH REQUIRE TREATMENT.**

Blue Steel Earns Top Honors

Matanzas Blue Steel performed in the Virginia International PANFest this past May. In addition to earning a national superior rating, our steelband earned second place overall. Congratulations to Matanzas Blue Steel on being recognized as one of the top school steelbands in the country!

Matanzas Blue Steel has some exciting events planned for this school year. Our fifth annual Blue Steel 5K Night Run will be on Saturday, November 4, at 7:00 p.m. All participants in this untimed run/walk will receive a medal, T-shirt, and goodie bag! Register at www.runsignup.com/mhsbluesteel.

The Caribbean Cafe, a ticketed dinner fundraiser, will be held on Thursday, November 16, at 7:00 p.m. This event is a partnership with the incredible Culinary Flagship who will prepare a delicious and authentic Caribbean dinner. Enjoy the dinner and the Caribbean tunes by purchasing your tickets at pirates32137.booktix.com.

Come to the Pirate Theater on Tuesday, December 12, or Wednesday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m. for the annual Holiday Extravaganza concert featuring Blue Steel. The Holiday Extravaganza is admission by donation.

On Thursday, April 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the MHS Courtyard, enjoy the Outback Night featuring Blue Steel performing with Mr. Barry Mannette, Director of the Mannette Academy of Music in Trinidad! Outback Night is a ticketed dinner fundraiser sponsored by Outback Steakhouse. Tickets can be purchased at pirates32137.booktix.com.

Our most popular show is A Night of Pan on Tuesday, April 23, and Wednesday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m. in the Pirate Theater. You won't want to miss this show which features all of the steelbands' outstanding accomplishments. Admission is by donation.

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

Amigos

Hispanic and Latino Society

Hispanic and Latino Society will meet again this year.
Listen to morning announcements for meeting times!
Join our email list by sending a message to lagockif@flaglerschools.com.
"Amigos" T-shirts are available for $10 in Mrs. Lagocki's room, **6-245.**

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Nancy Snell • snelln@flaglerschools.com

Matanzas Riverkeeper Contest Winners

Congratulations to Mrs. Hall's science students who were Matanzas Riverkeepers contest winners! Malik Murray wrote an opinion piece for the Palm Coast Observer and won the top prize of $500! Ruben Barreto created a Google slide presentation on weird bird facts and won a surfboard donated by the Surf Station and Matanzas Riverkeeper. Aylah Morales won a swag bag from the Surf Station and Mellow Mushroom for an essay and two posters created for Mrs. Hall's science classroom. Tony Tucci won a skateboard donated by Aqua East for his Instagram posts on ospreys. Well done!

The Tagalongs in Japan

This summer 21 students, parents, and teachers ventured to Japan to experience a fantastic world full of shrines, temples, cuisine, and culture! For 11 days, the "Tagalongs" experienced everything from the largest bronze Great Buddha in the world to restaurant robot servers.

The next trip is an Aegean Cruise in June of 2025 with visits to Italy and Greece. See Mr. Ossler if you're interested in this "once in a lifetime" experience.

Culinary Earns A 96% Pass Rate!

Congratulations to the Culinary Department who ended the 2022 - 2023 school year with a 96% pass rate for the ServSafe Manager Industry exam! We are excited to announce that we will be offering another food certification this coming school year.

While summer vacation started in early June for students, Mrs. Kittrell had the opportunity to attend Culinary Training sponsored by the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association. Mrs. Kittrell was able to go behind the scenes at the Rosen Shingle Creek and Universal restaurants. This experience will further help Mrs. Kittrell prepare culinary students for careers in the food and hospitality industry, and she is very excited to share opportunities with her students!

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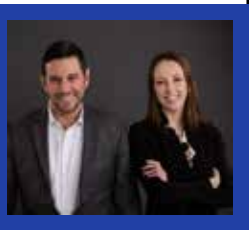

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Counselors' Corner

We are excited to welcome everyone back for the 2023-2024 school year. We hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and extend a warm welcome to students and families who are new to Matanzas High School. We wish you a wonderful school year at The Ship!

Last year we were thrilled to introduce two school counselors to the team, Dr. Fitzgerald and Ms. Anderson. This year we are happy to introduce Ms. Anna Baker as our Graduation Coach, and Ms. Wanda Pittman as our Guidance/ESE Clerk. Welcome aboard Ms. Baker and Ms. Pittman; we are excited to work with you!

Meet the Team

Students are assigned a guidance counselor by program and student last name.

- **Ms. Terri Anderson** - A - G
- **Ms. Yasmin Cuevas** - H - Ka & AICE Diploma Cohort
- **Ms. Tammy Stuve** - Ke - Ro
- **Ms. Kay Feist** - Ru - Z & ACCESS Cohort
- **Dr. Heidi Fitzgerald** - Interventions, ESE & Behavior Cohort
- **Ms. Anna Baker** - Graduation Coach
- **Ms. Eugenia Moore** - Guidance Secretary
- **Ms. Kathy Ryan** - Registrar
- **Ms. Angela Coates** - MIS/Skyward
- **Ms. Melissa Kopka** - MIS/Skyward
- **Ms. Wanda Pittman** - Guidance/ESE Clerk

We are dedicated to all our students being prosperous and productive learners. As we enter this new school year, please see the helpful homework and study tips to assist our student Pirates as well as tips for our senior Pirates.

DEVELOPING GOOD HOMEWORK and STUDY HABITS

Creating a consistent homework routine conducive to work completion promotes academic success.

- Schedule sufficient time for homework and study in a quiet area with no or limited distractions.
- Non-essential devices or other distractions should remain off or away until after homework time.
- Supervise essential device and internet usage.
- Be available to support your student and answer questions, but do not do the work for your student.
- Stretching or short breaks can help alleviate brain or eye fatigue.
- Utilize checklists, timers, reminders, and planners to organize assignments.
- Check the MHS Pirate's webpage for tutoring opportunities.

CALLING ALL SENIORS! It's college and career prep season!

Please review the college and career prep packet provided last year, and check the MHS Guidance page for helpful information. We hope summer provided a time for researching schools and programs and building your list of top choices! Please continue to do the following:

- Accumulate community service hours and/or work hours (100 needed for top Bright Futures award).
- Complete college research and visits; begin applying to your colleges in the fall of your senior year.
- Financial Aid and Scholarships - Complete the FAFSA and the FFAA; both open on October 1 of your senior year. The FFAA (Bright Futures application) **MUST** be completed before graduation! Look for the opening of the Award Spring Senior Local Scholarship application; check the scholarship section of the college resources document (in your prep packet), and check the scholarship wall across from the Building 5 Guidance Office.
- Prepare for and register for the SAT/ACT, and use the provided study resources.

A NOTE about STUDENT SCHEDULES

MHS continues to experience positive growth. We sincerely appreciate your patience regarding student scheduling. Our goal is to schedule students in appropriate core courses, and every effort has been made to place students in their chosen electives.

Scheduling changes will only be considered during the district outlined add/drop period for the following reasons.

1. Wrong course level
2. Prior completion of the course

Please know that there was limited availability in some electives, especially our most popular classes, and many electives are now closed.

We are looking forward to working with our students, families, and staff as we continue our commitment to helping each student navigate through a new and exciting school year at The Ship!

MHS DUAL-ENROLLED STUDENTS

All Summer session books must be returned to Mrs. Moore in the Upper Spot by **August 15, 2023.**

For Fall 2023 book pick-up, complete the following forms:

1. Dual Enrollment Form
2. Class Schedule
3. Enrollment Textbook Voucher
4. Parent/Guardian Textbook Agreement Form

Do not email these forms; bring them with you to Mrs. Moore in the Upper Spot on any of the following days/times:

Dates:	**Times:**
Wednesday, August 23, 2023	8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 24, 2023	8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Friday, August 25, 2023	8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

VyStar Internship Program

The Matanzas VyStar internship program would like to congratulate the following new interns: Nolan Schmidt, Ava Muldoon, and AnaMaria Gagoshidze. They all successfully passed their internship training held at the VyStar Tower in Jacksonville and Matanzas this June. These students worked hand in hand with students from Pedro Menendez and Palatka during the six-day training. Ava Muldoon was the highest-scoring new intern in the VyStar program. Please head down to your local VyStar branch in either Palm Coast or Flagler Beach to say hello to these interns.

MHS Carpentry Program Partnership Project

This year the Matanzas Carpentry Program has partnered with the Flagler Home Builders Association for our first community project for the Rotary Club. The carpentry class will build the elf houses for Santa's Village displayed at Fantasy Lights in Palm Coast. This project promotes a sense of community, purpose, and leadership in our students. Our goal is to show students the importance of community interaction and to work cooperatively with others in the community to sustain relationships. We are excited to start the school year off strong and look forward to our partnership with the Flagler Home Builders Association.

Matanzas Theater Company Announces the 2023-2024 Season!

The theater department at Matanzas High School has an exciting season planned for 2023-2024, featuring not one but two major musicals! Tickets are already on sale for all of our productions at pirates32137.booktix.net.

Students in all grades at Matanzas High School are invited to audition for the cast or sign up to be on the technical crews of our two musicals: Monty Python's *Spamalot* in this fall, and *Mamma Mia!* in the spring. Audition information is available by emailing theater instructor James Brendlinger at brendlingerj@flaglerschools.com or by visiting classroom 09-102. And remember, we can't have a show without set builders, painters, customers, a publicity team, AV technicians, make-up and hair designers, ticketing agents, and a stage crew! There's a place for EVERYONE on our stage.

Theater Leadership students will also be working on the hilarious one-act comedy *Here Comes the Bride and There Goes the Groom*, which they will present at the District 3 Thespian Festival at Lyman High School in November. Additionally, AICE theater students will present the romantic comedy *Almost, Maine* at Matanzas in the spring, a project that will be completely produced by students from acting to directing to all facets of technical design.

The theater department will also sponsor the school-wide Talent Show in January, a rummage sale fundraiser, and a final Senior Showcase in April. If you're a student who hasn't found your tribe yet, we've got a place in the Pirate Theater that needs your face!

Matanzas Theater Company Presents Broadway Hit Musical Spamalot!

Join the legendary King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table on their epic quest to find the Holy Grail right here in Flagler County! Monty Python's *Spamalot* was written by Eric Idle as a musical stage adaptation of the *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* film. It's historical. It's hysterical. It will send you home with a surprisingly inspirational message! The show will feature over 100 Matanzas High School students in the cast and crew. It will be directed by James Brendlinger with musical direction by Jens Oliva and choreography by Noel Bethea. The show is October 26 - 28 in the Pirate Theater, and tickets are on sale now at pirates32137.booktix.net!

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Mu Theta Alpha Math Club

Looking for a new club at school? The Mu Alpha Theta Math Club may be the one for you. We are open to all students of all abilities who enjoy doing, learning, and being creative with math.

Last year, we entered contests from the National Mu Alpha Theta program for designing T-shirts and creating a math video to teach a lesson. We also had a team that competed in the Mathworks Math Modeling Challenge, a 14-hour competition that included researching a topic, building a mathematical model based on their findings, and then writing a technical paper based on their work to answer various questions posed. In previous years, we have also had subject-specific teams train to compete in local math competitions in Central Florida, and expect to continue that this year. Many of the projects we take part in are from the students' interests. We usually have car washes to help raise club money and a Pi Week celebration in March.

If you have questions, please contact Mr. Winfree at winfreeb@flaglerschools.com. Watch for more information about our first meeting in August.

Interact Club

Since the last Hook installment, the Interact Club has been up to many more exciting events! Last March, Interact partnered with the Rotary Club of Flagler Beach and dozens of other Interact and Rotary clubs across the area and successfully packed over 100,000 meals to feed food-insecure students in the NE Florida area. Then, in April, several Interactors headed to Flagler Beach to participate in clean-up as a part of a coordinated worldwide Earth Day campaign! This summer, over a dozen different Interact members took time out of their vacations to unload, sort, pack, and distribute over 400 shopping carts filled with groceries to over 1500 hungry community members. You can see some of their hard work by following our Instagram: MatanzasInteract.

Our leadership members have also attended monthly meetings with the Rotary Club to further our working relationship with their club members. Gillian Moisao, the outgoing club president, was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship for her hard work and dedication to her community throughout her time at MHS! Mr. De Ceglie, the club sponsor, also received a Paul Harris Fellowship. The club and school are very proud of both of them. Gil will attend the Florida Institute of Technology in the fall to pursue a degree in Aeronautical Engineering.

The club is ready to hit the ground running in August when school resumes and has projects lined up with the Rotary Club of Flagler Beach, Youth and Peace In Action, Soles for Souls, Meals for Hope, and more! Text 81010 to message @pcinteract to join our club. We hope to see you at one of our meetings, held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:45 a.m. in 6-218, Mr. De Ceglie's room!

Matanzas High School SPORTS

Join Cross Country

Cross Country Cross Country, a perfect conditioning sport for many other sports, started training in June and has been training all summer. Our runners include members from the following teams: weightlifting, wrestling, softball, soccer, and track. This year we will be hosting a preseason event called the Pirate XC Relays and the Run Matanzas XC Invitational. Cross Country runs at school, on the trails around Palm Coast, and at Princess Place Preserve.

When school resumes, practice will be every day before school, with meets on Saturdays. No experience is required; all you need is a pair of running shoes and a water bottle. If interested in joining, please contact Coach Kane, Coach Winfree, or Coach Hoover. Also please be on the lookout for information about our Spirit Nights. Cross Country welcomes your support!

Lady Pirate Golf

Attention, Lady Golfers! Tryouts and practice will begin on Monday, August 7 at 3:00 p.m. at Palm Harbor Golf Course. All interested or returning golfers need their GA7 form to be eligible to participate and practice. You can contact the athletics office to make sure you are eligible. Please contact Brandie Alred at alredb@flaglerschools.com for more information. Come be a part of a winning team!

Join Girls' Softball

Any girls interested in playing softball this year should contact Coach Manhart, at manharts@flaglerschools.com or see her in the gym before or after school. Softball team building and conditioning will start in October. Tryouts for the spring season will be in January 2024.

We have had much success over the past five seasons including two district titles and two historic runs into regionals. We are excited to build from last year's growth toward our next championship season.

Pictured L-R is the Lady Pirate Softball team at the end-of-year Awards Ceremony:
Back: Gabriella Salgado, Alyssa Lugo, Carmella Cuccinello, Front: Skylar Ludovici, Ashleigh Pigeon, Emily Warren, Kyra Crawford, Addison Rio, Aurora Simmons, Eva Ossler, Chloe Baker.

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2023-2024 Calendar

Wed., Aug. 2 - Tue., Aug. 9	Professional Learning/Pre-Planning
Wed., Aug. 10	First Day for Students
Mon., Sep. 4	Labor Day - No School
Tue., Sep. 12	Progress Reports - First Quarter
Wed., Oct. 11	End of First Quarter
Mon., Oct. 16	Teacher Work Day
Fri., Nov. 10	Veterans Day - No School
Tue., Nov. 14	Progress Reports - Second Quarter
Mon., Nov. 20 - Fri., Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Break Holiday - No School
Mon., Nov. 27	School resumes
Fri., Dec. 22	End of Second Quarter/First Semester
Mon., Dec. 25 - Thu., Jan. 4	Winter Break - No School
Fri., Jan. 5	Teacher Work Day
Mon., Jan. 8	Teacher PL Day
Tue., Jan. 9	School Resumes - Start of Second Semester
Mon., Jan. 15	Martin Luther King Birthday Holiday - No School
Fri., Feb. 9	Progress Reports - Third Quarter
Mon., Feb. 19	Presidents' Day Holiday - No School
Thu., Mar. 14	End of Third Quarter
Fri., Mar. 15	Teacher Work Day
Mon., Mar. 18 - Fri., Mar. 22	Spring Break - No School
Tue., Apr. 23	Progress Reports - Fourth Quarter
Thu., May 23	End of Fourth Quarter/Second Semester/Last Day of School
Fri., May 24	Teacher Work Day