

August 2024

# THE HOOK

Volume XIV Issue 4

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Matanzas High School Parents and Students,

I am so pleased to welcome the Matanzas HS Pirate Family back to "The Ship" for the 2024 - 2025 school year. We expect to open our doors on August 12th to approximately 2,025 students, 100 teachers, and 76 support staff members. We are exceptionally pleased to welcome our incoming ninth grade class and new student registrations from all over the U.S.A. and beyond! We also welcome 20 new teachers and 11 new support staff members to the MHS Pirate Crew.

We want our community members to be informed about events and information YOU need to know. The primary means to communicate information to parents 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 email me directly so that I can ensure you receive the information (bozemank@flaglerschools.com). The MHS Website ([www.mhspirates.com](http://www.mhspirates.com)) contains information about the school, points of contact, and a calendar of upcoming events including an athletic events calendar. Finally, follow us on your favorite social media platform. We post "good things" featuring our students and events on campus via Facebook, Instagram (@piratenationmhs), and Twitter/X (@piratenationmhs).

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 email their teacher first. If you are not sure who the right contact person is, 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 contact us.

We are proud to be a part of Pirate Nation and look 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*

**MS. KARA MINN**  
*Assistant Principal*

**MR. JOHN WHITE**  
*Dean*

To download a pdf version of this newsletter,  
go to [www.academypublishing.com/schools/matanzas/matanzas.php](http://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 Blair

### Bookkeepers

Paula Teixeira

Donna Whiteside

### MIS

Angela Coates

Tamzin Freeman

### Attendance Clerk

Samantha Bowers

### Technology Support Specialist

Kyshawn Morris-Puckrein

Amber Wielgorecki

### Media Specialist

Cate Brandner

### Media Clerk

Judy Rosell

### Registrar

J.L. Mendel-Blewett

### Guidance Secretary

Wanda Pittman

### Guidance Clerk

Holly Keck

### Deans' Office Secretary

Maryann Mlinac

### Testing Secretary

Maria Urrutia

### Athletic Secretary

Jamie Greiner

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## COUNSELORS' CORNER

Welcome to the 2024 - 2025 school year! We hope you had a fun and restful summer break and are revitalized and invigorated to return to The Ship! We wish you a wonderful school year filled with interesting classes, creative questions, and laughter with friends. Backpack? Check. Laptop? Check. Bright, shining attitude? Check. You are all ready for an amazing year at MHS!

### First things first - The Guidance Team is here to support you!

(Students are assigned by program and student last name.)

*\*\*School counselor caseloads have changed, so please confirm your student's counselor/adviser assignment in Skyward.*

**Terri Anderson:** A - G

**Yasmin Cuevas:** H - Ka & AICE

Diploma Cohort

**Tammy Stuve:** Ke - Ri

**Kay Feist:** RO - Z & ACCESS Cohort

**Heidi Fitzgerald:** Interventions, ESE & Behavior Cohort

**Josh Scott:** Administrator Overseeing the Guidance Department

**Anna Baker:** Graduation Coach

**Wanda Pittman:** Guidance Secretary

**JL Mendel:** Registrar

**Angela Coates:** MIS/Skyward

**Tammy Freeman:** MIS/Skyward

We are dedicated to our students and wish to help them become ambitious learners. As we start a new chapter and school year, please see below for some helpful routines and tips to assist our student Pirates.

### DEVELOP A GOOD SLEEP ROUTINE

Inadequate sleep is correlated with difficulty concentrating, impaired learning, and overall lower academic success. Ideal sleep hours for most teenagers is 8-10 hours per night.

- Set a consistent bedtime and routine.
- Parts of a calming, consistent bedtime routine could include taking a warm bath or shower, reading, drinking a

cup of non caffeinated tea, journaling, stretching, or mindfulness activities.

- The blue light emitted from a device's screen has been associated with sleep disruption. Devices should be turned off or put away at least 30 minutes before bedtime.
- CALLING ALL SENIORS! It's college and career prep season.**

Please review the college and career prep packet provided to you last year. Also, please review the MHS Guidance page for helpful information. We hope you carved out time over summer break to research schools and programs and build your list of top college and career 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 and begin applying to your colleges in the fall of your senior year
- Financial Aid and Scholarships
  - ◊ Complete the FFAA (opens on Oct. 1st - date subject to change) and the FAFSA (opens on Dec. 31st - date subject to change) of your senior year. To receive any potential award money, the FFAA Bright Futures application must be completed by the deadline and preferably **BEFORE YOU GRADUATE!**
  - ◊ Look out 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 page on the MHS Pirates website and the scholarship wall across from the building 5 Guidance Office.
- Prepare for and register for the SAT/ACT/CLT and use the provided study resources



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- Heavy Equipment Operations Technician Program (HEOT)
- HVAC and Electrician Pre-Apprenticeships





# A NOTE ABOUT STUDENT SCHEDULES

MHS continues to experience positive growth, and we sincerely appreciate your patience as we work through student scheduling. Our goal is to schedule students in appropriate core courses, and we made every effort to place students in their chosen electives. Scheduling changes will be considered during the district-outlined add/drop period and prioritized for the following reasons:

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

Please know there was limited availability in some electives, especially our most popular classes, and many electives are now closed. We will be happy to assist you during the schedule add/drop period if there are any issues in your schedule or classes.

We look forward to working with our students, families, and staff, and we continue to be committed to helping you navigate through a new and exciting school year at The Ship!

# WAY TO GO, MATANZAS BLUE STEEL!



Matanzas Blue Steel performed in the Virginia International PANFest this past May. Blue Steel earned a national excellent rating for the fourth time in school history. Congratulations to Matanzas Blue Steel for being recognized as one of the top school steelbands in the country!



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# VISUAL ART NEWS

Matanzas Art Students awarded in 2024 Mike Waltz Congressional Art Contest



**1st Place Winner  
Painting, "Oblivion"**

by Devon Hoffman, 11th Grade,  
Honorable Mention Overall  
Teachers: Ms. Taylor, Ms. Vitkus  
Description: Acrylic paint on canvas. The piece focuses on contrast. The main elements are black and white. The subject is three band members. There is also dry brushing to make the painting look distressed.

This Honorable Mention Overall work is displayed in Rep. Walt's Palm Coast office for one year.

**2nd Place Winner  
Mixed Media, "It's Called a Heart"**

by Isabella Butler, 12th grade  
Teachers: Ms. Taylor- Ms. Vitkus  
Description: Acrylic paint on board with buttons and string.  
This work is a triptych.



# MATH TEACHERS READY FOR A NEW YEAR!

Some of our math Pirate teachers attended the FCTM (Florida Council of Teachers of Mathematics) Annual Conference. They are ready to bring to the classroom what they learned about the latest and greatest innovations in teaching math!



# CALCULATOR REQUIREMENTS FOR AP MATH CLASSES

All AP math classes, AP Precalculus, AP Calculus, and AP Statistics, will need a graphing calculator for class and homework. The TI Nspire CX II, is the recommended calculator. Either the regular version or the CAS version. If a student already has a TI 84, that type will work too. There will be calculators available to use in class, but for students planning to take multiple AP math classes and/or continue on with STEM classes in college, it is highly recommended to get your own calculator. The classroom calculators are the TI Nspire type. Each calculator comes with TI points on the package. If you purchase your own calculator, please cut out the points certificate and bring it to your math teacher. We use those points to purchase additional technology, calculators, and backup batteries for the school.

# ROTC

Normally, most student organizations slow down or go dormant over the summer. Such is not the case with JROTC. For four days in June, 13 MHS cadets attended the Junior Cadet Leadership Camp (JCLC) at Camp Shands near Melrose, FL. Joseph Sherman finished as the third highest-rated cadet out of almost 300 who attended. Ana Hartz was selected to serve on the color guard for the camp closing ceremony. Cadets participated in various activities including ziplining, rappelling, a confidence course, water survival, and many others. The rifle team also began practice to defend its title as the Area One Champions.



MHS and the JROTC Department honored MAJ Tom Hall as he announced his retirement from teaching for 19 years, 10 of which were at Matanzas. He will be replaced by MAJ Charles Mallard who joins us from Englewood High School.



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# UPCOMING BLUE STEEL EVENTS

## Saturday, November 9th at 7 PM

Our sixth annual Blue Steel 5K Night Run! All participants in this untimed run/walk will receive a medal, t-shirt, and goodie bag. First place will earn the coveted gold medal. Register at [www.runsignup.com/mhsbluesteel](http://www.runsignup.com/mhsbluesteel).

## Thursday, November 21st at 7 PM

Join us in the MHS Courtyard for the annual ticketed fundraiser, the Caribbean Cafe! Blue Steel partners with our incredible Culinary Flagship to offer an authentic Caribbean dinner with Caribbean tunes from Blue Steel. This year will include a special guest and a special performance by an alumni steelband. You won't want to miss this! Tickets can be purchased at [www.pirates32137.booktix.com](http://www.pirates32137.booktix.com).

## Tuesday & Wednesday, December 17th & 18th at 7 PM

The Holiday Extravaganza concert featuring Blue Steel will be in the Pirate Theater. The Holiday Extravaganza is admission by donation.

## Thursday, April 10th at 7 PM

Join us in the MHS Courtyard for our Outback Night featuring Blue Steel performing with Dr. Kendall Williams, Director of Pan in Motion and Adjunct Steelpan Professor at New York University. Outback Night is a ticketed dinner fundraiser sponsored by Outback Steakhouse. Tickets can be purchased at [pirates32137.booktix.com](http://pirates32137.booktix.com).

## Tuesday & Wednesday, April 22nd & 23rd at 7 PM

Our most popular show is A Night of Percussion held in our Pirate Theater. This show will feature all the steelbands and the percussion ensemble's outstanding accomplishments this year! It is a show that you won't want to miss. The Night of Percussion is admission by donation.

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



## MHS ADMIN EMBRACE SUMMER LEARNING

MHS administration participated in a district initiative at NEFEC to learn different strategies to increase student achievement. Thanks to our admin for investing in being the best!

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## MU THETA ALPHA 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 where the team had to research a topic, build a mathematical model based on their findings, and then write 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 based on the students' interests. We usually have car washes to help raise money for the club and a Pi Week celebration in March. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Winfree at [winfreeb@flaglerschools.com](mailto:winfreeb@flaglerschools.com). Listen for upcoming information about our first August meeting.

## KEY CLUB

Welcome back, Pirates, as we begin our 2024-2025 Key Club school year! We are excited to kick off another year of service with fun team-building and community service activities. Key Club offers everyone the opportunity to develop new skills, earn volunteer hours, and connect with others who share similar interests. Last year our activities included beach cleanups, breakfast with Santa, 9-pin fundraisers, and more! Join us this year to assist in our mission of making a positive impact on our school, the environment, and our local community.

If you are interested in joining our Key Club chapter for the 2024-2025 school year, you can contact our advisor Mrs. Cypert by email at [cyperta@flaglerschools.com](mailto:cyperta@flaglerschools.com) or visit her classroom at 9-111. We look forward to seeing you and hearing your ideas at our next meeting.

## PIRATES' BOUNTY FISHING CLUB

By Taylor Camic

Last school year, Ms. Hall's marine science students created the Pirate's Bounty Fishing Club. Starting small, the club quickly grew with a diverse group of students who love to be outside, have fun, and go fishing!

In partnership with the Flagler Sportfishing Club (FSC), students learned about fishing practices, conservation, and pond management. Students also gained service hours by volunteering with FSC fishing tournaments and other fun events!

Fishing club members helped raise and release bluegill into our school pond that were obtained from Ms. Hall's classroom aquaponics system. With a newly stocked pond, MHS marine science students had a chance to fish the last week of school. Club members helped educate their fellow students about equipment setup, pond safety, and good fishing techniques.

This year, the MHS fishing club hopes to increase educational outreach in our school by teaching others about ethical and sustainable fishing practices, fishing techniques and tips, and pond management strategies. In addition, we plan on participating and volunteering in FCS events including competitive fishing tournaments. Most importantly, we are going to fish A LOT and have fun! We hope you'll join us!



## COLLABORATIVE LEARNING IN SPANISH CLASS

MHS teachers are committed to collaborative learning and engaging lessons. Ms. Kessler's Spanish 2 students finished the past school year creating visual teaching aids about cities in the Spanish-speaking world. After a few days of a deep dive into the texts, students used their shared knowledge to create the visual teaching aids that reflected their learning of another part of the world. Spanish students can look forward to more collaborative learning this year!



## TAGALONGS LEARN BY TRAVEL

Fifteen students and fifteen adults comprised the 2024 Tagalongs who ventured their way through Rome, Florence, Meteora, Delphi, Athens, Santorini, Ancient Ephesus, and Türkiye. The sites, culture, and history of these amazing cities will stay with these travelers for the rest of their lives!

The 2025 Tagalongs will be heading to Ireland and Scotland. See Mr. Ossler for more details.



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# CROSS COUNTRY

*Are you fast? Not afraid of a challenge? Want the best conditioning for a winter or spring sport?*

Join the Pirate Cross Country Team. We run trails all around Flagler County, Princess Place Preserve, and our race course at MHS. When school resumes, practice is before school, and we race on Saturday mornings.

Never run a race? No problem. All you need to run for us is a pair of running shoes and a water bottle.

Interested in joining our award-winning program? Contact Coach Hoover or Coach Winfree for more information. Also please be on the lookout for information about our Spirit Nights. Cross Country welcomes your support!



# SOFTBALL

The softball team comes off of the 2024 season with a regional appearance at Gulf Breeze High School in Pensacola. The team has had much success over the past six seasons including two district titles and three historic runs into regionals. We are excited to see what the next year brings.

Any girls interested in playing softball this year should contact Coach Manhart, at [manharts@flaglerschools.com](mailto: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 2025.

She Who Has  
The Will To  
Win Cannot Be  
Defeated!



# ATTENTION SWIMMERS!

Swim team practices began on July 29th. Be sure to complete your athletic clearance and NFHS courses ahead of time. Any boys or girls interested in swimming this fall can contact Assistant Coach Manhart, at [manharts@flaglerschools.com](mailto:manharts@flaglerschools.com) or see her in the gym before or after school.

# LADY PIRATE GOLF

Attention, ALL Golfers! Tryouts and practice will begin on Monday, August 5th at 3:00 PM at Palm Harbor Golf Course. All interested or returning golfers need to be cleared on [www.athleticclearance.com](http://www.athleticclearance.com) 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](mailto:alredb@flaglerschools.com) for more information. Come be a part of a winning team!

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## MATANZAS THEATER COMPANY ANNOUNCES THE 2024-25 SEASON!

The theater department at Matanzas High School has an exciting season planned for 2024-2025, featuring four major plays!

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 the fall play, *Up the Down Staircase*, and our spring musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*. Audition information is available by emailing theater instructor James Brendlinger at [brendlingerj@flaglerschools.com](mailto:brendlingerj@flaglerschools.com) or by visiting classroom 09-102. And remember, we can't have a show without set builders, painters, costumers, 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 one-act drama *First Person Shooter*, which they will present at the District 3 Thespian Festival at Lyman High School in November. Additionally, AICE theater students will present the Shakespearean tragedy *Romeo and Juliet* at Matanzas this winter. This project will be completely produced by students from acting to directing to all facets of technical design.

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





# FORTIFYFL

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By accessing FortifyFL, students can provide a description of the threat, share pics and videos and optionally submit their contact information.

<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;"><b>Anonymous or Non-Anonymous</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">You decide whether you want to include your name and contact information.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;"><b>Convenient</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Submitting a tip is quick and easy using our mobile app or website.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;"><b>Include Photos and Video</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">You can also include photos or video with your tip report.</p>
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<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;"><b>State-Level Officials</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">State-level officials also have access to your tips to make sure proper steps are taken.</p>	

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