

MAIN SAIL



DECEMBER 2024

Volume 9, Issue 1

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Sailor Families!

As we approach the final month of 2024, it's a perfect time to reflect on all that we have accomplished and express gratitude for the outstanding efforts that make our school community so special. This year has been a testament to the power of collaboration, resilience, and a shared commitment to creating an environment where every student can thrive. From academic milestones to athletic triumphs, from creative endeavors to community outreach, we have much to be proud of.

At the heart of our success is the work of our incredible staff, whose dedication and passion for education drive everything we do. I am continuously inspired by the commitment of our teachers and staff members who go above and beyond to create an engaging, supportive, and challenging learning environment. Their tireless efforts are reflected in the growth and accomplishments of our students.

Equally important are the contributions of our families. Your partnership in supporting our school's mission and engaging with your children's education makes all the difference. Whether you are volunteering, attending events, or simply offering words of encouragement at home, your involvement strengthens our community and helps foster a culture of care, respect, and ambition. Together, we are shaping an environment where our students are not only prepared for academic success but also equipped with the values of integrity, responsibility, and kindness.

As we continue to build on our foundation of excellence, we are deeply rooted in the rich history of our school and community. Our slogan, "We Are Sarasota," serves as both a reminder of the legacy we carry and a guiding light for our future. It taps into the pride and traditions that have shaped us, while inspiring us to move forward with purpose and vision. The spirit of Sarasota has always been one of strength, resilience, and unity, and by embracing these values, we are not only honoring our past but also paving the way for the bright future ahead. Our history gives us the foundation, and the pride we carry today propels us toward even greater achievements in the years to come. The pride we have on this campus is palpable, and I truly believe it will continue to grow. By fostering an environment where all students feel empowered and supported, we are preparing them not only for the challenges of tomorrow but for the opportunities that await.

As we head into the winter break, I encourage each of you to take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the holidays with loved ones. Thank you for your unwavering support, your dedication to our school, and for helping us cultivate a culture we can all be proud of.

I am excited for what lies ahead in 2025 and beyond.

Wishing you and your families a joyful, restful, and peaceful holiday season!

Go Sailors!

Ryan Chase
Principal

SARASOTA HIGH SCHOOL

941-955-0181 • Fax: 941-361-6380

Principal

Ryan Chase

ryan.chase@sarasotacountysschools.net

Assistant Principal - Curriculum

Lindsay Gallof

lindsay.gallof@sarasotacountysschools.net

Assistant Principal - Administration

Robin Livingston

robin.livingston@sarasotacountysschools.net

Assistant Principal - ESE

Alana Pietranton

alana.pietranton@sarasotacountysschools.net

Assistant Principals

Holly Hultgren

A-F

holly.hultgren@sarasotacountysschools.net

Brooke Teal

G-M

brooke.teal@sarasotacountysschools.net

Jason Jackson

N-Z

jason.jackson@sarasotacountysschools.net





MISSION STATEMENT

Sarasota High School collaboratively engages students and staff in a culture of learning to ensure high achievement for all students.

VISION

Sarasota High School will be a high-functioning professional learning community that will graduate all students career and college ready, prepared to contribute to their community.

SARASOTA COUNTY PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Our very own Mr. Chase was named Sarasota County *Principal of the Year*. This recognition is a testament to the exceptional leadership, dedication, and boundless passion that Mr. Chase brings to Sarasota High School every day.

We are incredibly blessed to have such a visionary and dedicated leader at the helm, guiding us toward even greater achievements.

Congratulations Mr. Chase!

Dr. Megan Green, Principal Ryan Chase, Superintendent Terry Conner and Rachael O’Dea



TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Ken Middleton was named Sarasota High School’s *Teacher of the Year* for 2024-2025. Mr. Middleton was born and raised in Sarasota. He attended Wilkinson Elementary, McIntosh Middle and is 2004 graduate of Sarasota High School. In high school, Mr. Middleton played football for Coach Perkins.

Upon graduation from Sarasota High, Mr. Middleton attended the University of South Florida and earned a degree in Criminology. He never thought he would be a



teacher but after being a substitute for two years at Sarasota High in various positions, he discovered a love for teaching and working with students with cognitive disabilities. After obtaining his teaching certification, he continued working as an ESE Aide until a teaching position became available.

Mr. Middleton credits former Physical Education teacher and mentor Lucy Cowan for helping him reach his goal of becoming a teacher. Lucy mentored him every Saturday morning for six months in preparation for his certification tests. When he passed his certification tests and was hired for a teaching position at Sarasota High, Lucy was thrilled. Another key encourager along the way of Mr. Middleton becoming a teacher was former Assistant Principal Jamie Massengale Lowicz. Jamie encouraged Mr. Middleton to continue on even when the going got difficult.

Mr. Middleton met the love of his life, Ashlee, when she came to Sarasota High as an English teacher. They are now married with two children, a son and a daughter, and Ashlee is currently a teacher at Southside Elementary. Mr. Middleton took his love for teaching to the field and track where he once coached football and track for seven years, but he has stepped away from coaching these days.

Mr. Middleton is a strong advocate for his students, and he is always looking for new ways to impact their learning. He says he has the most rewarding job in the world.

*Congratulations Mr. Middleton!
Once a Sailor, always a Sailor!*

SCHOOL RELATED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Amanda Mavrikas who was selected as this year’s “School Related Employee of the Year”!



Mrs. Mavrikas began working at Sarasota High School in the Attendance Office more than two decades ago. After being surplused, she took a leave for child care and eventually resigned. It wasn’t long before she

returned to Sarasota High and worked as a substitute in the front office for many years. For the past eleven years, Mrs. Mavrikas has held the position of administrative assistant to our Assistant Principals. In her role, she covers a myriad of tasks, details and processes. There isn’t a job too challenging or difficult for her to tackle and complete. Mrs. Mavrikas autographs her work with excellence and creativity, always looking for ways to improve and simplify processes and procedures. Each Veterans Day morning since 2015, students and staff are greeted to a remarkable display of flags, banners and decorations marking this memorable day for us as a campus. Her behind-the-scenes planning and brainstorming culminates in a beautiful graduation ceremony at the end of each school year.

Mrs. Mavrikas was born and raised in Sarasota and is a 1999 graduate of Sarasota High. Her roots as a Sailor run deep. In earlier years, she was the JV Cheerleading Coach before becoming the Head Cheerleading Coach for 15 years. Mrs. Mavrikas married her middle school sweetheart, Nick, who is a 1998 Sailor graduate. Their three children are also Sailor graduates, and their oldest daughter Crystal is a teacher at Dreamers Academy.

Mrs. Mavrikas enjoys working with our students and staff and endeavors to make a change in the world around her one day at a time.

*Congratulations Mrs. Mavrikas!
Once a Sailor, always a Sailor!*

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 December 2024
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 Sarasota County District Schools
 1960 Landings Blvd.,
 Sarasota, FL 34231
 Issue #1

SAILOR SPOTLIGHT

“A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE”

Senior Art student, Claudia Balbuena, had her painting entitled, "A Glimpse Into The Future" accepted into the 20th Annual Embracing Our Differences Exhibition. This year's call for submissions generated 10,124 entries from 122 countries, 46 states and 511 schools around the world.

The 2025 exhibition will be shown in two locations. The Sarasota Exhibition will be at Bayfront Park January 19 – April 13 and the St. Petersburg Exhibition will be at Poynter Park March 1- March 31.

Congratulations Claudia!

ACADEMIC STATE CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to Coach Ellis-Sams and her student athletes! The Lady Sailor Golf team was named Academic State Champions for holding the highest GPA in their classification in the state. This accomplishment is a testament to our student athletes' dedication both in the classroom and on the golf course.



PERFECT SCORE

Congratulations to Thomas Selim for earning a perfect score on the Business Ownership Industry Certification!

SAILOR HEROES

During a lunch period in late September, a team of three staff members acted quickly to help a student who had begun choking on a piece of food. They took turns performing the Heimlich maneuver and eventually were able to dislodge the piece of food and save his life. Thank you to Campus Security Larry Wilson, Assistant Principal Mr. Jackson and former School Resource Officer Ekis for their bravery and lifesaving actions!

A Glimpse Into the Future

by: Claudia Balbuena
 12th Grade, Sarasota High School, Sarasota, Florida
 Teacher: MaryJo Floryjanksi



ANCHORS AWEIGH

Congratulations to Sidney Brann on her recent appointment to the United States Naval Academy!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

CAREER SKILLS CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the following CTE (Career Technical Education) students who competed and placed in this year's Career Skills Challenge!

Juried Digital Art – 3rd Place

Israel Garcia
 Madeline Gersh
 Ryan Knoll
 Elliot Pasternak

Culinary Clash – 1st Place

Ethan Combs
 Ashton Fox
 Parker Knox-Alexander
 Halie Pollard
 Chris Schrum
 Tech Bowl – 2nd Place
 Owen Bohdan
 Oliver Ostlander
 Bohdan Wietrzykowski

Onsite Video – 3rd Place

Massimo Parkin
 Sebastian Quiroz-Rengifo

Problem Solving – 2nd Place

Jeremiah Chaney
 John Murphy

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AICE

The AICE program has been busy this fall. We are currently in our recruitment season, and applications for 2025-2026 will be available at the beginning of January. If you know a current 8th grader or current 9th grader who is interested in applying for next year, please direct them to the AICE website www.shsaice.com. Information and detailed steps about the application process can be found under the "Prospective Students" tab. Interested 8th grade families are invited to sign up for a campus tour. A sign up for tours can also be found on the AICE website. AICE tours are held on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings in December, January and February.

We would like to give a huge shout out to all of our AICE families who donated to the AICE Boosters at the beginning of the school year. We had 125 families raise over \$6,000 to the AICE program. If you would still like to donate to the AICE Boosters, please visit paypal.me/shsaice. Thanks to your donations, we were able to gift our AICE teachers and staff with Der Dutchman gift cards for the Thanksgiving holiday! Our AICE Boosters will also be hosting a winter coffee cart express in December, delivering coffee and treats to all of our teachers and staff on campus.



AICE Marine Science Out On The Water

We are preparing for our upcoming testing season in the spring. The updated testing calendar is posted on our website. Please visit our website and check the date(s) during which your student will be testing. AICE students must be present for all components of each exam they are scheduled to take. Students will not receive a score from Cambridge if they miss any component of an exam. Please plan your spring and summer vacations accordingly to ensure your student completes each required exam.

Seniors – please make sure to submit a Bright Futures application. If you need assistance with the Bright Futures scholarship, stop by the Student Success Center. Students MUST complete an application before the end of the school year. Failure to complete an application will result in not receiving any Bright Futures scholarship money.

The AICE Department's office has been temporarily located in building 14-205 this semester. We are looking forward to moving back into our original, newly renovated office space soon. When we return to school after winter break, the AICE office will be back in 13-200. We wish each of our families a restful and joyous winter break!



AICE Marine Science Out On The Water

EQUITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Equity Policies and Procedures for students and employees for 2024-2025 are located on the Sarasota County Schools district website under Human Resources/Equity. They can also be accessed on the Sarasota High School website under the "Families" tab.

FIND YOURS HERE!

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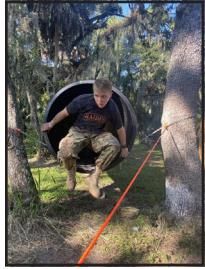
State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate and baccalaureate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota. State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota does not discriminate on the basis of sex, pregnancy, race, religion, age, national origin/ethnicity, color, marital status, disability, genetic information or sexual orientation in any of its educational programs, services and activities, including admission and employment. Direct inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies to: Equity Officer, 941-752-5599, 5840 26th St. W., Bradenton, FL 34207.

JROTC

By Cadet First Lieutenant Mallory

We are almost halfway through the school year, and the Bulldog Battalion has been making a mark. Many of our teams have been practicing and competing at a furious pace.

The Raider season just finished after the Raider Meet on November 2nd. The Raider Team competes in events such as 5k runs, tire flipping, one-rope bridges and litter carries. At the District Raider Meet, our team notched the fastest in-competition one mile litter carry time, winning 1st Place in the district.



Our JLAB (JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl) team has also performed exceptionally well. In JLAB, the JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl, cadets compete virtually, taking online tests which assess their knowledge of math, reading

comprehension, grammar, leadership and many more. Our Academic Team scored high on the Level 1 Test, which will most likely result in them moving on to Level 2. If they advance once more, they win an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. to compete nationally.

The season for Drill has just begun as well. In Drill, cadets hone their marching skills in preparation for meets in January and February, competing against other school's JROTC programs.

And it's not just our teams that have been making a splash. On Veterans Day, select cadets in the Battalion marched in the parade downtown, a proud display of over 100 cadets. It is an honor for the Battalion cadets to be a part of Sarasota's annual Veterans Day Parade. In addition, our program's Service-Learning Project is kicking off soon on January 14th & 15th. This year, we partnered with Suncoast School for Innovative Studies to promote citizenship and the United States flag to elementary students.

GO BULLDOGS!



NAHS

By Alana Bland

The National Art Honor Society has been involved in many activities and events. Scholarship and Show season has officially begun with many opportunities at local, state, and national levels. We recently hosted the *Charlotte Jordan Artwork Exhibition*. Charlotte was a 2017 graduate, and the exhibition displayed her artwork in a chronological sequence. The club is currently displaying the NAHS Member Show with art from many mediums, such as photography, painting, drawing and ceramics.

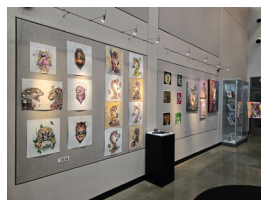
This fall, club members have participated in several community markets including The Artful Giraffe and Limelight. Their handmade items are very popular and are selling fast at the markets. An upcoming market, *The Holiday Art Festival*, is taking place at Art Center Sarasota on Saturday and Sunday, December 14th and December 15th from 12 PM to 5 PM. Stop in to support our club and other fantastic vendors.

2025 NAHS CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE

The calendar displays club members' artwork each month. We are offering SMALL (8.5 x 11 for \$5) and LARGE (11 x 17 for \$10). Purchases can be made online, through the QR codes or directly through the club members. Contact Mrs. Markley (5-204) or any NAHS club member to purchase a calendar or for additional details.



Charlotte Jordan Artwork Exhibition



Charlotte Jordan Artwork Exhibition

NAHS

2025 CALENDAR

Email Mrs. Markley if you have any questions
Debra.Markley@sarasotacountyschools.net

NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY PRESENTS...

2025 CALENDAR

Artwork created by SHS Students

Small Calendar 8.5 x 11 inches

Large Calendar 11 x 17 inches

IMPORTANT!
Show proof of purchase to collect your calendar in room 5-204!

NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY



Small Calendar \$5



Large Calendar \$10

Proceeds from the markets and the 2025 NAHS calendar go directly towards scholarships. We thank all those who support the National Art Honor Society.



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Two (4 by 7) metal banner hung on Bahia Vista street gate and pedestrian path of SHS for one calendar year, from when banner is hung. Marquee advertisement, and advertisement on SHS website throughout school year.

\$800.00

ORANGE LEVEL

Metal Banner (4 by 7) hung on front fence on Bahia Vista street of Sarasota High School for one calendar year, from when banner is hung. Includes advertisement on SHS Marquee, and all social media outlets.

\$300.00

WHITE LEVEL

Advertisement on SHS Marquee, and all social media outlets throughout the 2024-2025 school year.

All returning partners will receive 20 percent off renewal.

WE LOVE FINDING WAYS TO BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

Would you like some face time to share about your company or organization with our teachers?

Our teachers work hard to make our students and community a success. If you would like to sponsor a teacher appreciation meal (consider providing coffee, breakfast, lunch, or refreshments) and receive some time with our 260 teachers and faculty.

Can you donate a few \$5-\$10 gift cards as we positively recognize faculty and students of their hard work as they go above and beyond?

For Donations or refreshments, meals, gifts, service, or time, Sarasota High will post a "thank you" and tag you on both our Facebook & Instagram to share with our community.

Connect with Us

We are looking for new and innovative ways to engage with more local businesses and organizations. We are willing to explore new ways to build your business or organization and creatively attain resources and outcomes for our school.

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SARASOTA HIGH SCHOOL FINANCIAL INFORMATION & FAFSA NIGHTS

Please join us for help with:
 Completing the FAFSA application
 Creating your FSA-ID
 Creating your Bright Futures Account
 Searching for Scholarships with Schoolinks
 Answering your financing college questions

FAFSA DATES
 January 29, 2025
 March 12, 2025

5:00pm – 7:00pm in the Global Learning Center (GLC)

*** STEP ONE ***
 CREATE A STUDENT AND PARENT FSA-ID
 PLEASE CREATE THESE AT LEAST 3 DAYS BEFORE ATTENDING ONE OF OUR FINANCIAL INFORMATION NIGHTS

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
 Full Legal Name
 Social Security Number
 (No SSN? There are some circumstances in which you can still apply.)
 Date of Birth

CREATE YOUR FSA-ID:
 Go to
www.Studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch
 Save your username and password somewhere safe.
 By creating this FSA-ID, you have created an account, but you will still need to complete the FAFSA application.

STUDENT FSA-ID COMPLETED PARENT FSA-ID COMPLETED

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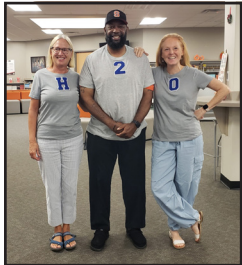
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DURING
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Veterans Day Concert



Jazz Band Strikes a Pose After Entertaining at Parent University



SHS Theater Presents "A Christmas Carol"

SAILOR ATHLETICS

LADY SAILOR WEIGHTLIFTING

Holly Shafer, Head Coach

- Jan. 9 Venice High @ Home
- Jan. 25 District Meet @ Manatee High
- Jan. 29--Feb. 1 . . . Regional Meet
- Feb. 14-Feb. 15 . . State Championships

LADY SAILOR SOCCER

AJ Stapleton, Head Coach

- Jan. 8 . . . @ Venice 5 PM/7 PM
- Jan. 10 . . Lakewood Ranch @ Home 5 PM/7 PM
- Jan. 14 . . @ North Port 5 PM/7 PM
- Jan. 16 . . Parrish @ Home (Senior Night) 5 PM/7 PM

SAILOR SOCCER

Enrique Coletti, Head Coach

- Jan. 7 . . Riverview @ Home 5 PM/7 PM
- Jan. 9 . . . @ Braden River 5 PM/7 PM
- Jan. 13 . . Lakewood Ranch @ Home 5 PM/7 PM
- Jan. 15 . . Booker @ Home 5 PM/7 PM
- Jan. 17 . . Clewiston @ Home (Senior Night) 5 PM/7 PM

SAILOR BASKETBALL

BJ Ivey, Head Coach

- Jan. 2-Jan. 4 . . Chick-Fil-a Classic TBA
- Jan. 3 Booker 6:00 PM/7:30 PM
- Jan. 8 @ Manatee 6:00 PM/7:30 PM
- Jan. 10 Riverview @ Home 6:00 PM/7:30 PM
- Jan. 11 Jim Haley Classic TBA
- Jan. 14 @ Booker 6:00 PM/7:30 PM
- Jan. 17 Wally Keller Classic @ Cardinal Mooney 8:00 AM
- Jan. 18 Wally Keller Classic @ Cardinal Mooney TBA
- Jan. 22 @ Venice 6:00 PM/7:30 PM
- Jan. 24 Southeast @ Home 6:00 PM/7:30 PM
- Jan. 31 Lakewood Ranch @ Home 6:00 PM/7:30 PM
- Feb. 4 @ Cardinal Mooney 5:30 PM/7:00 PM

LADY SAILOR BASKETBALL

Sara Nuxol, Head Coach

- Dec. 27-Dec. 30 . . Tampa Bay Christmas Invitational TBA
- Jan. 7 @ Charlotte 6:00 PM/7:30 PM
- Jan. 15 @ Venice 6:00 PM/7:30 PM
- Jan. 21 @ Port Charlotte 6:00 PM/7:30 PM
- Jan. 22 Lemon Bay @ Home 6:00 PM/7:30 PM
- Jan. 24 @ Bradenton Christian 6:00 PM
- Jan. 30 IMG @ Home 6:00 PM/7:30 PM



Attorney Lauren P. Kohl



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8

WOMEN IN STEM

In October, Amanda Holly, a class of 2012 graduate and meteorologist from WFLA News Channel 8, met with the girls in the WISTEM (Women in STEM) Club and shared about her job as a broadcast meteorologist. Amanda was in the MaST program during her time at Sarasota High and then went to the University of Florida where she earned a degree in Engineering. She continued her post-grad work at the University of Florida and studied meteorology. Her visit was very inspiring as she shared her journey to becoming a meteorologist. Her time with the WISTEM club was a wonderful opportunity for our female students to learn about different STEM-related fields and the unique pathways that can be taken after high school to find a rewarding STEM-related career.



IMPORTANT DATES

- Dec. 23—31 Winter Break
- Jan. 1—3 Winter Break
- January 16 End of 2nd grading period
- Jan. 17 Professional Day—No School
- Jan. 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day—No School
- Feb. 17 Presidents Day—No School
- Mar. 17-21 Spring Break
- Mar. 28 End of 3rd Grading Period
- Apr. 11 Grad Bash
- Apr. 18 Mini Break
- Apr. 26 Prom
- May 26 Memorial Day—No School
- May 29 Last Day of School

