

# MAIN SAIL



MAY 2024

Volume 8, Issue 3

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Sailor Nation,

As we reach the close of another school year, I take this moment to reflect on all that we have achieved together. It has been a year filled with tremendous joy and accomplishment as we have worked together to continue to make Sarasota High the beacon of educational excellence in this community and beyond. I want to personally thank everyone for the warm welcome this year as I transitioned as your principal. While change can be difficult, I am working each day to earn your trust and bring the best out of this school that we love.

I am incredibly proud of our students for their dedication, resilience, and growth throughout the year. They have consistently impressed me as they embody the heart of Sailor Nation! A heartfelt thank you goes to our dedicated teachers and staff who foster a nurturing and rigorous learning environment for our students; their commitment to excellence is what truly makes Sarasota High such a special place. I would also like to express my gratitude to our parents and guardians for your unwavering

support and partnership. Your involvement in your child's education is crucial to their current and future success!

To our graduating Class of 2024, congratulations! You have faced one of the most unique high school experiences in modern history and have come out ready to face the world with the skills to conquer anything thrown at you. We are so proud of the individuals you have become, and we have no doubt that you will achieve great things in the future.

To everyone in our school community, I wish you a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer break. For our underclassmen and families, we look forward to welcoming you back for another exciting year of learning and growth in August!

Go Sailors!

Ryan Chase  
*Principal*

## SARASOTA HIGH SCHOOL

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## 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.*

### LITERACY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Maria Motz who was named the 2023-2024 Sarasota High Literacy Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Motz is a true champion for high levels of learning for all her students and we are pleased to have her on campus.

### ABC7 CHALKBOARD CHAMPION



*Ms. Felten ABC7 Chalkboard Champion*

Each month, ABC7 and Carl Reynolds Law Firm recognizes one teacher who is nominated by a community member for their dedication to their students. Ms. Kathy Felden was named April's Chalkboard Champion and was recognized in her classroom and awarded a \$500 check.



### STATE CHAMPION WEIGHTLIFTER

Congratulations to senior Mark Monchecourt for winning the 219 lb. Weightlifting State Championship!

*Mark Monchecourt 219 lb. Weightlifting State Champion*

### LIFESAVERS

Through our partnership with Suncoast Blood Centers and their Bloodmobiles, 126 units were collected this year and Sarasota High donors saved 378 lives in our community. 103 seniors donated blood this year, the highest number of senior donors in over a decade. Thank you Sailors for being amazing lifesavers!

### WEST POINT APPOINTMENT

Congratulations to Hayden Wilding for his appointment to the US Military Academy, West Point.



*Ella Collier  
2024 Frank Humanitarian Award/Wyatt Wrigley 2024 Yale Book Award*

*Volunteers of the Year*



## JROTC BULLDOG BATTALION SALUTES CLASS OF 2024

*By Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Kaia Nelson*

As the last quarter of the 2023-2024 school year ends, the Bulldog Battalion celebrates a great year. As a battalion, we have accomplished many of our goals this year including our continuous improvement plan, retention. The battalion executed this by creating fun events for the new and existing cadets, such as the Bulldog Battle! The first-ever Bulldog Battle was a great success. This battle included competitive games between all the companies. Cadets enjoyed socializing as well as competing with one another in teams. The winner of the entire Bulldog Battle was Delta Company. Cadets also were awarded for their excellence this year at the annual JROTC Awards. Several cadets won amazing awards and they can now wear the medals on their uniforms for the remainder of their time in JROTC.

The graduating cadets of the Class of 2024 have made a huge impact on the battalion as a whole and they have inspired the new cadets to be the best they can be. Congratulations to Logan Warren, Renna Ramsaran, and Hayden Wilding for earning Military Officer Association Scholarships. Special recognition to those going on to serve in our military--Andres Nguyen (USMC), Luis Campos (USMC) and Alexis Greenwell (US Army). Congratulations to Hayden Wilding for his appointment to the US Military Academy, West Point. Best of luck to all graduating seniors!

We wish farewell to one of our instructors, Sergeant First Class Frederick Pulphus. Sgt. Pulphus has changed the lives of innumerable cadets and is retiring after 18 years of hard work. Congratulations Sgt. Pulphus! Enjoy your much deserved retirement!



*Sgt. First Class Frederick Pulphus*



## FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS TO TOP IN COUNTRY

The University of Cambridge AICE program at Sarasota High continues to grow and thrive. In the first year of AICE at Sarasota High, there were 342 students in the program. Currently, there are 878 students in the AICE program. When the pages close on this spring's exam series, there will be a total of 1,022 students tested during the administration of 2,367 tests. In our first AICE Diploma cohort, we had 41 students complete the AICE curriculum. This year, we have 205 seniors who have completed the AICE curriculum. There are 33 seniors who have already earned their AICE Diploma – accomplishing a three-year task in two years by completing the requirements by the end of their junior year. Eighteen of these 33 students passed their exams with Merit and three of these students passed with Distinction, meaning they earned enough points over two years of testing to put them in the second highest and first highest score brackets.

Our seniors have earned over 3,474 college credit hours to date. They are competing at the highest level not only here in Sarasota County, but in the state of Florida, in the entire country, and in the world. Sarasota High School produces the fourth largest number of AICE Diploma recipients in the state of Florida, out of 148 schools in Florida who award AICE Diplomas. In addition, two of our Class of 2023 seniors scored the highest mark in the United States, earning "Top In Country" in Marine Science and History last year. Congratulations AICE Diploma recipients and Class of 2024 AICE graduates!

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**MORE THAN CONQUERORS**

The **STRIVE** program, sponsored by the Education Foundation of Sarasota County, annually honors and celebrates juniors and seniors from high schools in Sarasota County Schools. **STRIVE** Award recipients are nominated by teachers, school counselors and principals for demonstrating resilience while overcoming personal and academic challenges. Each recipient is recognized for their grit, determination and perseverance in their strive for success. Senior recipients receive \$1,000 each and juniors receive a \$100 gift card.

This year's Class of 2024 Sarasota High School **STRIVE** recipients are Joaquin Alfonso, Tristan Asfur, Shade Halscheid, Christopher Hernandez-Canas and Nazareth Soza Icabalzeta. Junior **STRIVE** Award recipients are Cody Clanton, Isabella D'Amico, Kaitlyn Mohr, Amber Powers, and Anais Zambaux.



Joaquin Alfonso



Tristan Asfur



Shade Halscheid



Christopher Hernandez-Canas




Nazareth Soza Icabalzeta

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**LET'S GET TO WORK**

On the fourth Thursday in April, young future Sailors joined their parents for the annual *Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day*. Among our young Sailors that day was Olivia Brown, Myla Costa, Peyton Gallof, Christopher Harris, Trey Ivey, Tre Latronica, Zoey Richardson, Mario Rodriguez Gomez and Scarlett Zacharias.

Also joining us that day was Hayley Sherwood, daughter of English teacher Meryl Sherwood. Hayley is a Junior Girl Scout and chose Sarasota High staff for her *Hometown Heroes* project. Together with her mom, Hayley distributed boxes of Girl Scout cookies to staff.



Chris Harris  
(Mrs. Harris's son)



Chris Harris and Peyton Gallof



Mario Rodriguez Gomez plays Kahoot! with students



Mrs. Sherwood and daughter Hayley deliver Girl Scout Cookies



Mrs. Costa and daughter Myla moving Science supplies



Mrs. Latronica and son Tre



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**ALTA VISTA SWAG  
(STUDENTS WITH AWESOME GOALS)**

This spring, Sarasota High hosted 4th and 5th graders from Alta Vista Elementary. This group of 80 students, known as SWAG (Students With Awesome Goals), were working on long-term and short-term goal setting and also exploring careers. While on campus with us, the SWAG group was taken on a tour and experienced our award-winning AICE and MaST programs, JROTC, Agri-Science, Culinary, and Marine Science firsthand. It was a great way to plant seeds of interest in their young hearts and minds and to get them excited about their future.

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## AWARD WINNING ART

By Alana Ball, NAHS Secretary

The National Art Honor Society has continued its success by earning more money, prizes and awards within and outside the club. Over three thousand dollars of prize money was awarded to SHS Art students in March at the Sarasota County Fair. In addition, our students collectively earned more than one thousand dollars in prizes at the North County Art Show.

The North County Art Show winners included, Chase Jones, Lucy Bopp, Estephany De Luna-Aguinaga, Kayla Bruno, Charlotte Pico, Summer Riley, Eva Brock, Samantha Swat, Shane Alba, Elyse Krueger, Miranda Yax, Colin Corbett, Eva Revelli di Beaumont, Alejandro Garcia, and Alana Ball. Eva Brock won 1st Place and 2nd Place in Acrylic Painting; Charlotte Pico won 2nd Place in Color Drawing and Summer Riley won 3rd Place in Watercolor Painting. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who participated this year!

Senior photographer, Shane Alba, was awarded 3rd Place for his images titled "Blue Heron Hunting For Dinner" in this year's Congressional Art Contest. His work will hang in Congressman Steube's Sarasota office for one year.

Griffin Shay was awarded 3rd Place in the Florida State Patriotic Youth 3D Art Contest for his "Layers of Youth" photo sculpture. He will be honored at an awards ceremony in Orlando on June 15.

A new award called "The Florida Seal of Fine Arts", will be another recognition for our incredible and passionate Art students. Stay tuned for more information about this new award coming up next school year.



1st Place  
Alejandro Garcia



1st Place  
Miranda Yax



2nd Place Acrylic  
Painting Eva Brock



Most Expressive  
Chase Jones  
"Youthful  
Resilience"

3rd Place Watercolor  
Painting Summer Riley



2nd Place  
Color Drawing  
Charlotte Pico



Shane Alba 3rd Place  
Congressional Art  
Award "Blue Heron  
Hunting For Dinner"



Earth Day People's  
Choice Award  
"Botanical Squirrel"  
by Colin Corbett



1st Place Acrylic  
Painting Eva Brock



1st Place Samantha Swat



Griffin Shay  
3rd Place FL  
State Patriotic  
Youth 3D  
Art Contest  
"Layers of  
Youth"

## CHECK OUT THESE SUMMER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**All Faiths Food Bank** - Set up, pack, and distribute groceries at outdoor mobile pantries.

**Suncoast Science Center Fab Lab** - Become a volunteer and mentor to aid with projects, camps, and more. (\*summer volunteering = waitlist).

**Library Volunteer** - Volunteer in libraries throughout Sarasota County as a book sheler or on the Teen Advisory Board (ages 13-17).

**Teen Court of Sarasota** - Gain legal knowledge and volunteer hours as a juror, attorney, or bailiff for teens in Sarasota with criminal charges.

**The Liberty Litter Clean-Up** - July 5 Litter Clean-Up throughout Sarasota County (\*registration opens in May)

**Art Center Sarasota (Summer Camp)** -

Volunteers age 15 and older who love art and enjoy working with kids can apply as a Teacher, or After-Care Assistant.

**Pines of Sarasota** - Assist with rehabilitation and senior care, engage with residents, and more.

**Mothers Helping Mothers** - Sort and organize donations and operate boutique store.



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# CONGRATULATIONS

## SARASOTA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024



### CLASS OF 2025

#### PAINT YOUR PARKING SPACE

Personalize your parking space for your senior year. Mark your calendars and start drafting a plan for your SENIOR PARKING SPOT next school year. As of now, prices are at their all-time low, which will only increase as time progresses. Painting days are scheduled for August 6, August 7 and October 18, from 8 AM to 2 PM. In addition, those who are interested in having their parking spot painted for them may pay an additional fee. For more information, see Mrs. Markley in 5-204.

### ONE WORD AT A TIME

With nearly 2,450 students on campus, our enrollment includes 559 students who list Spanish as the home language, 37 students who list Portuguese as the home language and 182 active ESOL students. An incredible team of four ESOL Paraprofessionals work together to support our Spanish speaking and Portuguese speaking students and serve as interpreters. This dedicated team of four women come from different backgrounds with rich and vast experiences. Their stories mirror resiliency, strength, courage, and honor. These attributes and a love for language prove to be a valuable resource.

One of the team, Marisabel Gomez-Abreu, was born and raised in Venezuela and came to the United States in 2014. She arrived in the U.S. not knowing any English. While working as a certified nursing assistant, a dear client helped her learn English. Her client would read the newspaper with her and word by word, article by article, she began to grasp and learn the English language.

Marisabel has been at Sarasota High since 2020 and enjoys being able to support our ESOL students. She can identify with the students who don't yet understand or speak English and that feeling compels her to help each one as if they were her own. Seeing a student's expression when they grasp a word or complete a task brings her such joy. Working with our ESOL students also gives her the chance to give back what she received. When Marisabel's son was a student at Cranberry Elementary, she received valuable help and assistance navigating everything that was before her. It is her mission to help Sailor parents in the same way that someone reached out to her and her son and provided invaluable support and kindness.

Another member of the ESOL Paraprofessional team, Fernanda Kachny, is from Porto Alegre in southern Brazil. She first came to the United States in 1985 as an exchange student and began her journey of learning English in Monticello, Florida. After relocating to Los Angeles, she eventually moved back to Brazil to be with her parents after her son was born. During her time back in Brazil, she earned an ESOL degree to teach English as a second language. After her father passed away in 2015, Fernanda returned to Florida.

Fernanda began working at Sarasota High in September 2023 and absolutely loves her job. She has received deep appreciation for her work with our ESOL students and she enjoys being in the classroom with the teachers and students. Fernanda is trilingual, speaking Portuguese, Spanish and English. This trio of languages is unique and very much needed in our ESOL department.

Another ESOL Paraprofessional on campus is Daris Rodriguez Zurinaga. Daris is from Puerto Rico and came to the United States at age 16. She was a member of the Puerto Rico National Juvenile Volleyball Team and while playing, an American scout saw her and offered her a volleyball scholarship. Daris accepted the scholarship, said goodbye to her family and moved to Mattoon, Illinois to attend Lake Land College. At 16 years old, she was a freshman in college, away from her family and in a country where she couldn't speak the language. Those were the hardest years of her life, but her time at Lake Land College opened the door for more opportunities to play the game she loved, volleyball. She played Division I and Division II volleyball and was named All American, All Sunshine and All Regional.

After arriving at school in Illinois, the next challenge before her was to learn English. Lake Land College had strong support for international students and for three months, Daris attended English classes each weekday from 8 AM to 3 PM. With this background, Daris identifies closely with ESOL students because she knows firsthand what it's like not to be able to speak or communicate in English. She is thankful to also be able to impact students on the volleyball court coaching the game she loves. At Sarasota High, Daris is the Head Volleyball Coach and Head Beach Volleyball Coach.

The last ESOL Paraprofessional to join the Sailors is Claudia Herrera Pino. Claudia had vacationed in America with her family before moving here in June 2017 with her husband and two daughters. There was great turmoil in her native Venezuela and leaving everything behind, they came to Florida. As an immigrant, learning to adapt and respect another country has been vital for her and her family.

Claudia, like the other Sailor ESOL Paraprofessionals, enjoys connecting with the students, advocating for them, and supporting them. The ESOL students remind her of her own two daughters who once weren't able to communicate in English. With deep pride, Claudia will tell you her oldest daughter just graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Tampa with a degree in Criminal Law. Her father said, "Study and your mind will open the world to you. Study and it will give you more opportunities for the future." She took his words to heart and applied them in her own life.

Every step of their respective journeys was filled with new opportunities for growth, obstacles to be conquered and skills to be mastered. Today they're sharing their courage and strength, wisdom and experience with the students that cross their paths at Sarasota High.



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## CHANGING TIDES, FINISHING STRONG

The 2023-2024 school year began with changing tides and on September 25th, we welcomed our new principal, Mr. Chase. Mr. Chase had been a Sailor before, coming to Sarasota High in 2016 to be the Assistant Principal of Curriculum. He filled this role until May 2020 and then became principal at Brookside Middle School where he served until returning to the Sailor campus last fall.

With Mr. Chase at the helm of the SS Sarasota this year, much has been accomplished. This year has been filled with innumerable accomplishments, awards, achievements and shining moments. The Sailors were triumphant in athletics, victorious in academics, successful in performing arts, inspiring in visual arts, stellar in debate, unmatched in science, top in AICE, dauntless in Agri-Science, contagious in spirit, dedicated in service and resilient in adversity.

The Sailors won a State Championship in Boys Swimming, making it a 4Peat State Championship. Sailor basketball were District Champions for the first time since 2005. They were also Academic State Champions with an unweighted team GPA of 3.646! Senior Mark Monchecourt won the 219 lb. Weightlifting State Championship.

Musically speaking, it's been an award-winning year. The Mighty Sailor Band received straight Superior ratings for the third year in a row at the Marching Music Performance Assessment in October. Jazz Band earned straight Superiors at MPA (Music Performance Assessment) and the Wind Ensemble earned straight Superiors for the second consecutive year. Our Mighty

Sailor Band won the State Championship at the Florida Federation of Color Guards Circuit (FFCC) Indoor Percussion Championship - First Place in the Novice Class. The Singing Sailors, Chamber Choir and Women's Chorale also earned top ratings at the Music Performance Assessment and senior James Mayer received a Superior rating for Solo.

Assistant Principal of Curriculum, Lindsay Gallof, was named Assistant Principal of the Year for Sarasota County Schools. Haydon Wilding and Nathaniel Gruhl were National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists.

Mr. Chase introduced a project called All Hands On Deck, a campus beautification initiative. This project included approximately 500 bags of mulch and over 200 students, parents and staff, representing 20 different Sailor teams and club. When all was said and done, a dumpster had to be rented to haul away all of the debris! All Hands On Deck depicted a beautiful picture of the Sailor family as students, parents and staff worked alongside one another to accomplish a common goal.

We have celebrated and marked moments. We have balanced accomplishments with disappointments, and throughout this year's changing tides, we have remained anchored in respect, reliability, responsibility, and resiliency.

We are the S-A-I-L-O-R-S!

So long 2023-2024, another year is almost in the books. Farewell for now, Happy Summer 2024!

## LENDING A HAND

The Key Club had a very busy year volunteering with many organizations including, Sarasota County Parks and Recreation, Blaze of Hope, Bridge-A-Life, The Pines Nursing Home, UNICEF, All-Star Children's Foundation and Mothers Helping Mothers. In addition to volunteering in the community and spearheading service projects, they were the recipients of the following awards—

Sarasota County High School Excellence Award (Keep Sarasota County Beautiful), Kiwanis Family Involvement Award, Early Bird Dues Recognition Award and Club Membership Growth Award. They also won 2nd Place for Single Service Award (Birthday Boxes for Foster Children) and 3rd Place for Digital Scrapbook. Additionally, President Bailey McVay, won 1st Place in the Oratory Contest and she will move on to compete at the International Key Club Convention.



A big shout-out to the following members for the most service hours completed this year.

- Nhi Huynh-12th grade
- Claudia Balbuena- 11th grade
- Rachel Jones- 10th grade,
- Sofia Monroy- 9th grade

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# FINISHING STRONG



All Hands On Deck



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 Celebrate w/ Students



State Science Winners



FCA Leaders  
 Welcome Students



FFA 4-H Winners



Seniors Celebrate at  
 AICE Banquet



Health Science

## FROM THE MaST LAB

Eight MaST students attended the State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida in April, and ALL were awarded for their amazing research projects.



- Anika Sackerlotzky & Katherine McCracken** – 3rd Place Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Annika Schnetker** – 3rd Place Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Curt Wheeler** – 4th Place Intelligent Machines, Robotics, and System Software
- Wyatt Wrigley** – 4th Place Chemistry
- Sarah Gutierrez** – Honorable Mention Microbiology
- Jack Vanden Heuvel** – Recognition Award in Chemistry
- Alexander Wertheim** – South Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair Special Award
- Jack Vanden Heuvel** – Florida Association of Science Supervisors Special Award
- Anika Sackerlotzky** – Link Foundation Scholarship

Our MaST program hosted its Annual Senior Symposium on May 1st. Seniors presented their advanced research in a thesis defense style format as a capstone requirement for the MaST program. In order to graduate as a MaST Research Scholar, a student must complete four credits in research, earn four credits each in honors or advanced mathematics and science, must maintain 3.5 weighted GPA, attend the regional science fair, and participate in the MaST Symposium all four years. Congratulations Class of 2024 MaST Research Scholars and MaST Symposium Award recipients!