



2023
2024

For The Parents, Staff, Students & Community Of Seminole High School

WarHawk News

Mission Statement

An organization where the faculty and staff work to build meaningful relationships through relevant academic and extracurricular activities. A place where students grow intellectually and lead successful, fulfilling lives through rigorous training and modeling.

Vision

All students are able to learn and experience success leading to post-secondary and career readiness.

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'Warhawk News'
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Issue #1

A Message from the Principal

Hello Warhawk Families!

Congratulations to the Class of 2024, our entire student body, and the Faculty & Staff of Seminole High School for an incredible school year! Our Graduation Ceremony at Tropicana Field, as well as the myriads of award ceremonies are a testament to the greatness of the Warhawk Nation! Here are some of the wonderful highlights from Quarter 4 to usher us into the Summer!



- Congratulations to the Warhawk Track & Field Team and Coaches Rasmussen and Sanchez! SHS Seniors Waylon Kreutz, Colin Cirvoni, and Devon Swartz made it to the State Finals!
- We are so proud of ESE Support Professional of the Year for Pinellas County, our very own Stefanie Davis!
- We had a Top 3 finalist for School Social Worker of the year, Jo Espinal
- Gold Key Scholastic Art honorees Antonella Morino-Moranti, Ella Thornsberry, Emily Vogelsang, and Milla Wrzesniewski, along with Rissa Schmader's "Best of Show" honor at the Word and Image installation placed our artists in an elite echelon.
- Walker's Rising Stars Finalists Mason Derks and McKenna Koehler, and Cole Kontoupis WOWED everyone on The Mahaffey Theatre stage!
- The SHS Wind Ensemble has 34 years of Superior Rated performances at MPA, the longest streak in Tampa Bay history! Musicians garnered over 100 Superior Medals this year at State! Our Orchestras and Jazz Bands blew everyone away at Districts and then went on to dominate with the highest ratings possible of Straight Superiors at State! A new school record!
- Congratulations to PCS Secondary Music Educator of the Year, Steve Harris!
- Cheers to Public Service PCS Honoree, CEL Director, Deanna Russo!
- Globally, Seminole High School is 1 of only 3 schools in the WORLD to partner with Harvard University this summer on a Leadership Consultancy for student achievement.
- ALL of our AVID seniors are headed to college, or the military, and have logged nearly 1,000 volunteer hours!
- Seminole High School and The Center for Education & Leadership Academy were just celebrated as a National Merit School of Distinction last month in New York City!
- The Sustainable Engineering Academy (SEA) (GO Mr. Cantrell!) was recently designated by CTAE as an Academy of Distinction with Distinguished Honors!

Summer Bridge is in full swing! Please reach out to me, or the Leadership Team, for any assistance, as we prepare for the 2024-2025 school year. And stay tuned for information about wonderful kick-off events for each Class of Seminole High School, the week of July 29th!

Seminole High School continues to demonstrate unparalleled success. To live your life with purpose, respect, and grit is the "Warhawk Way." We, as the Warhawk nation, claim this vision with a relentless team spirit! Thank you for your support, and as always: "GO WARHAWKS!!!!"

Dr. M. Jane Lucas
Principal

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727-547-7536

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Mrs. Lisa Sinatra

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Psychologist

Mrs. Paula Thomas ext. 2027

Behavior Specialist

Ms. Terry Marlett ext. 2057

VE Specialist (ESE Services)

Ms. Dawn Gentry ext. 2315

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Congratulations Class of 2024

It has been a wild ride, but the time has come where all your hard work, effort, and dedication has paid off. Congratulations to the graduating class of 2024! We are so excited to see the great things you go on to do throughout your lives. We wish nothing but the best for you.



ELA UP

Congratulations to our 9th and 10th grade ELA staff and students for dominating during the High School Spring Break Challenge and winning \$2000 to help improve literacy learning.



STEM FEST 2024

MacDill Air Force Base held their STEM FEST where our staff and students enjoyed themselves on a field trip.



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SHS Interact Club

SHS Interact for 2023-2024 has come to a close. Thanks to all the members of the SHS Interact Club who continued to make our school and community better with care, especially our officers: Maddie Russo (President), Anna LaDrig (VP – Pres for 2024!), Becca Bernard (sec/treas – VP for 2024!), Vanessa French (historian), and Ella Kunish (Parliamentarian). We contributed to: The Good Shepherd Church’s Pumpkin Patch, Interactmas, Warm Hearts (blankets for homeless shelters), soda tabs for Ronald McDonald house, shopping for the kids at Walmart, Valentines for Veterans, Military Matters (toothbrush drive), Hearts 4 Healing and Hope, and campus and beach cleanups. A new era has come as we say goodbye to our sponsor, Laurie Vaughn, but she says she will be around to help as we welcome our new Interact sponsor Ms. Grace Chambers. We invite all students to join this interactive, worthwhile community service organization next year!



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Michael Martinez - "Michael is such a great Night Foreman; he goes above and beyond to make sure that the school is ready for the next day for the students to come and learn. He goes around and makes sure that his teammates have everything that they need and if they need help, he does not hesitate to help. If time runs out and things aren't finished, he'll stay afterwards to make sure everything is done and ready to go for the next day. He's a great employee and the school is lucky to have him around." – Acknowledged by Ruth Martinez

Sarah Wood - "Sarah is the lead counselor at Seminole High School. There are 3 new counselors at Seminole with varying amounts of experience and Sarah took the lead immediately. She builds relationships and makes others a priority. She is always thinking forward and planning for better processes to make the counseling department soar. Sarah is infinitely patient, knowledgeable, and efficient. Seminole High is fortunate to have her, but the counseling team would not have made it without her. Sarah is a gem!" – Acknowledged by Cheryl Plummer

Jerry Cantrell - "I would like to recognize Jerry Cantrell for personally sponsoring and finding sponsors to support all student's innovation and creativity as they prepared and executed their designs for Pinellas County Schools inaugural Trashion Show during the STEM Explorer Festival at Largo Central Park on Saturday, January 20th, 2024. Thank you so much! STEM in PCS is amazing because of you!" – Acknowledged by Charmaine Rushing

Jerry Cantrell - "Jerry served as a volunteer at our second annual STEM Explorer Fest this past weekend and was amazingly helpful! He monitored field access at the beginning of the day to ensure that our exhibitors were able to get on and off the field to set up their exhibits in a timely manner. Later, he assisted with our first ever Trashion Show in which students showed off their fashion made of trash. Jerry was a fantastic photographer, documenting this event with several amazing pictures. Jerry truly exemplifies the PCS Core Values by consistently going above and beyond as an educator and we truly appreciate his efforts!" – Acknowledged by Catherine Mullins

Laurie Vaughn - "I would like to recognize Laurie Vaughn for mentoring, supporting your student's innovation and creativity as they prepared and executed their designs for Pinellas County Schools inaugural Trashion Show during the STEM Explorer Festival at Largo Central Park on Saturday, January 20th, 2024. Thank you so much! STEM in PCS is amazing because of you!" Acknowledged by Charmaine Rushing

Laurie Vaughn - "Laurie volunteered at our STEM Explorer Fest last weekend and was very helpful in ensuring that several small details were dealt with efficiently. She helped with our student volunteers and made sure that our exhibitors had a quality experience. Laurie is an excellent mentor to her students. She started a Women's Leadership in STEM program at her school and is helping her students develop their capacity as strong leaders. She also watches over the new teachers at her school to ensure that they have what they need to be successful. Laurie consistently exemplifies the PCS Core Values by ensuring that those she works with are valued and supported in what they do." Acknowledged by Catherine Mullins

Austin McGinnis - "Austin McGinnis exemplifies the core value of Commitment to Children, Families, and the Community. His willingness to go above and beyond by coming in on a weekend to assist with the Classic Learning Test speaks volumes about his work ethic and team spirit. Austin's dedication and commitment to the success of our students does not go unnoticed. The extra time and effort he invested had a positive impact on our testing environment which, in turn, had a positive impact on our students." – Acknowledged by Lisa Sinatra

Joshua Roberson - "Josh has been a part of the Pinellas History Day committee for many years and is an invaluable member. His role on the team includes communicating with teachers, recruiting judges, organizing our high school volunteers, and more! All of this and being there for his students as well. He is a problem-solver, an excellent communicator, dependable, and cheerful. He helps keep our committee organized and together. Thank you, Josh!" – Acknowledged by Michelle Anderson

Courtney Gicka - "AP Gicka not only exudes responsibility by taking on the role of PBIS Lead; She took it a step further by enhancing our program for students by adding innovative and motivating initiatives to celebrate and inspire scholars. Ms. Gicka added Movie Mondays with popcorn and relaxation during lunch. DJ Fridays with cotton candy and music requests. Pop up hot chocolate shops during our coldest days of the winter. All of these events were available to students who had earned Lucas Loot through academic achievement, or by exemplifying the Warhawk Way by SOAR-ing. Courtney's vision expanded to creating a brand-new strand of our PBIS efforts by piloting a "pin" program whereby faculty members are able to nominate a faculty or staff member who exemplifies our core values. The awardees are eligible to win lucrative gift cards at our faculty/staff gatherings every few weeks. The excitement and affirmation from this program has had a positive, rippling effect throughout our campus. AP Gicka's tireless work ethic to ensure the success of this program that honors our faculty, and students has been remarkable!" – Superintendent Spotlight



Joheisly Espinal-Gonzalez – Top Ten Finalist for Related Professional of the Year!



Stefanie Davis – Pinellas County's Support Professional of the Year!

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CEL seniors made extraordinary contributions to our school and community over their four years here at Seminole High School. Together they accumulated 15,000 volunteer hours working in our local feeder elementary and middle schools as well as supporting charitable organizations like Operation Military Matters run by CEL senior Graci Tubbs and Hearts4Hope & Healing run by CEL senior Maddie Russo.



We had a wonderful CELebration for our seniors on April 18th to recognize all of their hard work and dedication. Congratulations to our CEL award winners for the Class of 2024:

- Outstanding Educators - Wiktoria Kepka and Brooke Wythe
- Leader in Me Award - Ella Kunish
- CEL Academy Award - Brennan Mazzei and Maddie Russo



A special shout out and thank you to the CEL 3 students who donated all of the refreshments for the CELebration. The CEL 3 committee did an amazing job decorating and showing our seniors that the Adventure Awaits them just beyond graduation!! Thank you, CEL 3!!



Our HIP program is still going strong with new leadership lined up for next year.

- President - Hannah Sorenson
- Vice Presidents - Brody DuShane, Jesse Kittrell, Nevaeh Kampouris, Aubrey Murray and Kristen Williams
- Co-Secretaries - Madeleine Fishman and Emie Sekeres
- Social Media Officer - Maddy McRitchie

Mrs. Russo is excited to work with all of these amazing students next year as we continue to build the nationally recognized Health Information Project or HIP program here at Seminole High School. Thank you for your commitment and congratulations to all of you!

CEL is excited to be welcoming over 80 new students next year in the incoming Class of 2028! Please look forward to a special CEL orientation that will take place in late July or early August. More details will be emailed out over the summer. Volunteers will be needed from CEL 2-4 to help welcome our new CEL students as well.

If you have any questions or need information over the summer, please contact Deanna Russo at russode@pcsb.org.

Have a wonderful summer!



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Terrific Teacher Tribute

Educators Rising has awarded the Terrific Teacher Tribute each month to a Warhawk faculty member that students choose to receive the “Golden Podium” for their outstanding teaching efforts! Congratulations to Mrs. Debellis (February-March), and Mrs. Carpenter (April) for being some of our Terrific Teachers this year!

Every month students will be able to vote to have their favorite teachers recognized with this fun and exciting award! The Educators Rising club wants our Warhawk teachers to know that they are amazing, and students notice! Be sure to watch and see who will win the Golden Podium’s next year!



Senior Signing Day



Model UN is Back!

In April, Seminole High School sent 13 delegates to the Pinellas County Model United Nations conference at St. Petersburg College- Clearwater Campus. Students were assigned to represent nations spread among five different committees and tasked with working together to research, draft, and vote on resolutions to solve a variety of global problems. Prior to the conference, we had weekly club meetings at lunch where we discussed topics and students worked on their position papers which they brought to the conference. The committees and their topics were:

- UN General Assembly: Sustainable Tourism
- UN Security Council: The Situation in Sudan
- UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): Artificial Intelligence Responsibility
- World Food Programme: Food Security and Distribution
- UN Women: Women’s Leadership & Political Participation

Students from several different Pinellas County high schools were in attendance: Largo, Gibbs, Boca Ciega, Pinellas Park, Osceola, Palm Harbor University High, Dunedin, and East Lake, as well as public and private schools further afield. At the conclusion of the day awards are given for each committee. The following Seminole students were awarded for their work:

- UNESCO: *Honorable Mention*: **Asher Cicco and Connor O’Neil**
- UN Security Council: *Outstanding Delegation*: **Christian Moreno and Aaron Montchal**
- World Food Programme: *Best Delegation* (this is the top award given out at Model UN, with the winning students are awarded a ceremonial gavel): **Alana Hauser and Aubriana Ralph**
- Our Warhawks took home the award for **Best School** as well!

Special thanks to my co-sponsor Mrs. Murray, and to Mrs. Debellis for giving up her day (and Friday afternoon) to chaperone the field trip with me as Mrs. Murray is with the SHS students in Ohio. I would also very much like to recognize senior Ella Todd, the inaugural Warhawk Model UN club president, for pushing me to establish/reestablish this club- if SHS had Model UN in the past, it’s not been since I’ve been here. Ella exemplified leadership throughout our time in the club, every week keeping our club organized and on point, sending out meeting reminders, and helping to prepare her fellow delegates on what they could expect and how to get the most out of Model UN. I’m excited to continue growing it in future years. Lastly, regardless of the awards, all of our students worked very hard researching and representing their assigned nations as well as Seminole High School, and I could not be more proud of them.

- Mr. Josh Roberson



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Women In STEM



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Additionally, the district utilizes FortifyFL, a school-related suspicious activity reporting tool that allows Florida students and the community the ability to instantly relay information anonymously concerning unsafe, potentially harmful, dangerous, violent or criminal activities, or the threat of these activities, to the appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. FortifyFL was created and funded by the 2018 Florida Legislature as part of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act.



SEA News

- Sustainable Engineering Academy is pleased to announce that ten students obtained their pilot's license this year.
- Of the 100,000 students in Pinellas County Schools District, Seminole High School obtained 1st Place in Engineering, Chemistry, and Animal Sciences at the Pinellas Regional Science and Engineering Fair with an additional six students taking third place in these categories.
- Sustainable Engineering Academy succeeded in having 75 students one or more of the following three certifications: Florida Department of Environmental Protection Wastewater Plant Operator (Level C) License, drone certification through the Unmanned Safety Institute's Safety Level 1 tests, and certification through Florida Aquaculture Association's Aquaculture Technician test.



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For The Parents, Staff, Students & Community Of Seminole High School

WarHawk News

Florida History Day

Seminole HS Warhawks received Top Honors at the National History Day Competition in Tallahassee earlier this week. We extend our congratulations to Christian Moreno (12th), Aaron Montchal (11th) and Lucas Skyers (11th) for receiving 3rd Place, State Level, for their Senior Group Performance titled “Emmett Till”. This group also received a special recognition for the African American Heritage Award. Everyone in the Warhawk Nation is proud of your accomplishment!



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GO WARHAWKS!