



AUGUST 2024  
VOLUME 25  
ISSUE 2

For Parents, Students, Staff  
and Community of  
South Lake  
High School

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Eagle Family,

It is with great pride and excitement that I welcome you to South Lake High School for this 2024-25 school year! It is an honor and privilege to serve you once again as principal. I am excited to welcome all of our incoming 9th grade students and families, along with all other students who may be new to our school community. I am thrilled to share the great news that South Lake High School recently earned a school grade of "B" from the Florida Department of Education for the academic improvement shown by our students last year. This is a major accomplishment, as it is just the fourth grade of "B" at SLHS in the twenty-five years that schools have received letter grades from the state. I applaud our students, teachers and staff, parents and guardians, and community partners for all of the effort and hard work that has led to this accomplishment. Now we set our sights on an "A", which will require greater focus, determination, and commitment from all as we work together to make SLHS an even better school.

I am also proud to share with you that South Lake High School has exceeded the Superintendent's goal for high schools to graduate at least 90% of students on time, which we have now accomplished for the fifth year in a row! SLHS has also once again led all Lake County School District high schools in the number of Career & Technical Education industry certifications earned by students, taking the top spot for the third year in a row with 806 certifications earned in 2023-24! We continue to set the expectation for every student to graduate on time, along with meeting their college and career requirement to earn an industry certification, pass an Advanced Placement (AP) or AICE exam, or earn a dual-enrollment credit during their time at SLHS.

I ask that you continue joining me in our commitment to expect rich learning opportunities and engagement for all students, hold to high expectations for respect and conduct, demand nothing less than our best in performance (academics, athletics, performing arts, extra and co-curricular clubs and organizations, etc.), engage in a culture of open communication and involvement, and promote a safe and positive environment in which all students have individual opportunities to excel. I encourage you to engage with us, support and monitor your student's academic progress, and plug into opportunities to get involved in our school community through booster clubs, advisory groups, and volunteering.

Again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you this year as we work together to support the students of South Lake High School. There are many challenges and barriers in front of us that can inhibit success, but I am confident that we can turn every one of them into opportunities for our students to excel and thrive. I look forward to welcoming all students back for the first day of school on Monday, August 12.

Respectfully,  
Steven Benson, Principal

## WHO'S WHO AT SOUTH LAKE

Principal  
**Steve Benson**

### Assistant Principals

**Caitlin Flynn** -  
9-12th grade; Last names: A-C

**Rene James** -  
9-12th grade; Last names: D-I

**Donna Jesaitis** -  
9-12th grade; Last names: J-M

**Kevin Thompson** -  
9-12th grade; Last names: N-Sa

**Linda Nichols** -  
9-12th grade; Last names: Sb-Z

### Guidance Counselors

**Melanie Googe** -  
Grade 9-12; Last Names: A-C  
googem@lake.k12.fl.us

**Angela Ratter** -  
Grade 9-12; Last Names: D-I  
scheetzd@lake.k12.fl.us

**Betsy Bains** -  
Grade 9-12; Last Names: J-M  
bainse@lake.k12.fl.us

**Nicole Liljegren** -  
Grade 9-12; Last Names: N-Sb  
desirf@lake.k12.fl.us

**Juanita Stallings** -  
Grade 9-12; Last Names: Sc-Z  
stallingsj1@lake.k12.fl.us

Telephone: 352/394-2100  
Fax: 352/394-1972



"Flight Patterns"  
August 2024  
Published Four Times Per Year  
South Lake High School  
15600 Silver Eagle Rd.  
Groveland, FL 34736  
Issue #2

ROTC

Congratulations to Kayleigh Jackson for representing South Lake High School at Florida Girls State this summer. Selected from a competitive list of applicants, Kayleigh attended Girls State in Tallahassee in June. Kayleigh experienced a hands-on week-long educational workshop, focusing on Americanism and the political process, sponsored by the Florida American Legion Auxiliary. The goal of the program is to help students to better understand democratic ideals and the part we as individuals play in carrying out these ideals. This program, which has been accredited as a college program to teach high school junior girls about government, politics, and Americanism. Congratulations Kayleigh!



Pic \*941 – Cadets John Orama and Abigayle Snyder.  
Kudos to Cadets John Orama and Abigayle Snyder for graduation from NJROTC Leadership Academy. Each June, two exceptional cadets are selected from each unit to attend a grueling week-long training camp at Admiral Farragut Academy in Tampa. While there, John and Abi joined 150 other cadets from across Florida to learn advanced leadership, fitness, drill, academics, and NJROTC techniques that they will use to improve South Lake's NJROTC program. They return, educated and motivated, to assume command positions in the Eagle Battalion. Congratulations John and Abi.



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## BEST BUDDIES

We will be launching a new club this year called Best Buddies. Best Buddies operates as a student-run friendship club, which creates buddy pairs between students with and without disabilities. Best Buddies helps to create an inclusive school climate for students and a community culture of acceptance. Best Buddies fosters one-to-one friendships between high school students with and without disabilities. In this time of heightened social and emotional development that can be difficult even for teenagers without disabilities, the Best Buddies High Schools program helps break through social barriers at an important time in a young person's life.

Here is how it works: a participant with a disability is paired with a person without a disability based on age and/or grade as well as shared interest for at least one year of friendship. Matches typically start at the beginning of the school year. The buddies will participate in activities and spend quality in-person time together at least twice a month. The Best Buddies Club will plan events, host group activities, and support friendship matches. Buddy pairs will connect at least once a week in person or by email, phone call, texting, social media or written correspondence.

To sign up or for more information please contact Ms. K. Burgess or Mrs. Nacienceno at [burgessk@lake.k12.fl.us](mailto:burgessk@lake.k12.fl.us) or stop by room 10-001, or Mrs. Nacienceno [NaciencenoY@lake.k12.fl.us](mailto:NaciencenoY@lake.k12.fl.us) or stop by room 01-107.



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## SENIOR INFORMATION

Make sure to sign up for your senior pictures before Thanksgiving to assure that your picture makes it into the yearbook! Go to [Cadystudios.com](http://Cadystudios.com) to make a reservation today!

### Senior Year Possible Expense List

*Prices and Dates may vary*

This chart Created by Ms. Fisher [fisherc1@lake.k12.fl.us](mailto:fisherc1@lake.k12.fl.us)

Name of Expense	Estimated Month to Purchase (Not event date)	Estimated amount(s)	Where?
Homecoming	August-September	\$25-40	RevTrac
Senior Dues	Due in September to receive a senior shirt	\$20	RevTrac Senior Class Tab
Senior Pictures (Basic)	Before Thanksgiving	\$30 Sitting Fee	<a href="http://cadystudios.com">cadystudios.com</a>
Senior Pages in the yearbook	August-January	Full - \$200 1/2 - \$150 1/4 - \$100 1/8 - \$50	<a href="http://Yearbookforever.com">Yearbookforever.com</a>
Cap and Gown (Basic)	October (least expensive month)	\$70-100 (Prices will rise over time—the later you order, the more expensive the shipping and cap/gown will be)	<a href="http://Jostens.com">Jostens.com</a>
Yearbooks	Pre-order August-January Note: there is no guarantee that you will get a book if you do not pre-order (We completely sold out last year)	\$60-100 Price will go up over time.	<a href="http://Yearbookforever.com">Yearbookforever.com</a>
Club/Certain Class Cords	February-March Pre-Order only!	\$10-15	RevTrac Senior Class Tab or Tab of the club/class
Grad Bash	February-March	\$170-200 (Includes Charter bus and early Mix-In at Universal meaning we will be in the park from 4pm-2am)	RevTrac Senior Class Tab
Prom	February-April	\$80-130	RevTrac
Senior Yard Signs	March-April	\$10-20	RevTrac Senior Class Tab
Honors Stoles (3.5 GPA or higher as of December)	April-May	\$20	RevTrac Senior Class Tab

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During the FFA State competition several of our students placed in their different categories.



*Ella Naile won 1st place in the Social Science Division 3 in Agriscience Fair*



*Emma Pridgen won 4th place for Extemporeaneous Speaking*



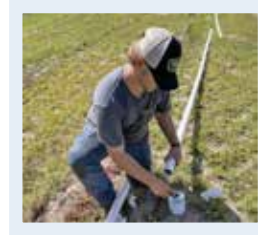
*Scott Reagan won 2nd place in the Social Science Division 3 in Agriscience Fair*



*Scott Reagan was also one of the top 4 state finalists in the Wildlife Management Division for the SAE Proficiency Award*



*Clarissa Miksa was one of the top 4 State finalists in the Specialty Animal Division for the SAE Proficiency Award*



*Timothy Dahl was the State winner for the Turfgrass Management Division of the SAE Proficiency Award*

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## ALL SPORTS BOOSTER

Welcome to the South Lake All Sports Boosters, where our passion for athletics meets unwavering support for South Lake High School's sports programs.

At South Lake, we believe in the power of sports to shape young lives, instill values of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance, and foster a sense of community pride. That's why the South Lake All Sports Boosters have dedicated ourselves to ensuring that every athlete, in every sport, has the resources and encouragement they need to thrive.

Our mission is clear: to support all sports at South Lake High School. Whether it's football, basketball, soccer, volleyball, tennis, swimming, track and field, or any other sport represented at our school, we're here to rally behind our athletes every step of the way.

Together, with the support of our dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and passionate community members, the South Lake All Sports Boosters are committed to ensuring that every athlete has the opportunity to succeed and thrive in their athletic endeavors.

### Highlights of the 2023-2024 South Lake Boosters:

- \$8,632.84 raised at our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament in October.
  - Created and sold over \$6,000 in SLHS merchandise
  - Held our 1st Annual Gala, "Wranglers and Rhinestones" and made over \$7,000
- We need you to join us in our mission to empower and elevate South Lake High School's sports programs to new heights!

### How can you help?

- Come to one of our Booster meetings! We meet on the second Monday of every month at 6:00 PM in the media center.
- Do you know of a business that might like to be a sponsor? Send them our way!
- Support us with our fundraising events (golf tournament, gala, merchandise sales)

### All Sports Booster Board Members:

**Chairperson:** Leslie Kirkland

**Co-Vice Chairs:** Liz Plummer and Andrea Manning

**Secretary:** Jessica Darden

**Treasurer:** Kristina Hill

**Community Outreach:** Sherry McLees

**Membership Chair:** vacant

1st Booster meeting 2024-2025 - August 19th @ 6pm in the Media Center!!  
 \*\*\*\*SL Merchandise - Available to purchase at every home football game!!!\*\*\*\*\*

T-shirts, hoodies, cups, hats, visors, Pom Poms, face tattoos and more!!!!  
 Come find us and cheer our Eagles to VICTORY!!!

If you have any questions or would like more information, you can email [slsportsboosters@gmail.com](mailto:slsportsboosters@gmail.com) and follow us on Facebook: South Lake All-Sports Boosters, Inc.

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## SPORTS INFORMATION

### **DO YOU KNOW HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS START TWO WEEKS BEFORE CLASSES?**

If you are planning on playing a sport, trying out for a sport, or conditioning for a sport in the off season please complete your athletic clearance account now. The absolute best time to be cleared is over the summer. This ensures your physical will not expire during the school year and you can start working out with your sport right away. The instructions to creating an account and getting cleared are on the SLHS athletic website.

### **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT!**

Once you fill out everything and upload the necessary documents our athletic department reviews everything and notifies you if a mistake has been made. Mistakes happen about 25% of the time due to not reading the instructions and uploading incorrect forms. If you are not cleared you will have to sit out of tryouts. This is why it is vital to finish everything over the summer.

### **WHAT ARE THE TYPICAL MISTAKES MADE THAT PREVENT BEING CLEARED?**

1. Not uploading the correct FHSAA EL 2 physical form and we only need page 4 uploaded. Pages 1 – 3 are for you and your doctor to review. Page 4 is a summary of the examination.
2. Not completing the entire account. We can't view your account until the status says PENDING.
3. Not completing page 4. Please make sure your information on top is complete, the doctor signs the form and stamps it, and you and your guardian sign the bottom.
4. We can not accept a school entry physical form. It usually takes your doctor 72 hours to transfer the school entry physical information over to the correct form. Tryouts are only 2-3 days long and you would miss the entire tryout while waiting.
5. GPA is below a 2.0. Freshman's GPA's are checked for the first time after the first semester has finished.

### **I MISSED THE SCHOOL'S PHYSICAL NIGHT. WHERE CAN I GET ONE DONE?**

1. Your own primary physician.
2. Any urgent care.
3. Florida Sports Institute and mention you are an SLHS athlete.
4. CVS or Walgreens

### **HOW OFTEN DO I NEED TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT?**

Every school year you intend on playing sports you will need to create an account. If you log back into your same account the information rolls over from year to year. Your athletic physical is good for one calendar year. It is best to get the physical done on our school's physical night or over the summer. Having a physical expire in the middle of the school year jeopardizes playing an ineligible player. It also is more work on the student to upload twice a year.

## ALMA MATER

Dear alma mater,  
blue and silver shine,  
Now while we face  
our foes and  
mountains climb.  
We will never  
lose our way;  
your guidance  
shall endure.  
Among the hills,  
our South Lake High  
shall never  
stand obscure!

## FIGHT SONG

South Lake  
High School,  
Fly, Eagles, Fly,  
Silver and the Blue!  
Striving for Pride,  
To do it or die,  
And always  
see it through.  
South Lake High School,  
Always be true,  
Be the best,  
none can deny  
That the Eagles' flight  
Will rise out of sight,  
The Screaming Eagles  
of South Lake High!



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## SPIRIT WEAR STORE

Support your Junior Class by ordering SLHS spirit wear using the QR code between July 29th and September 6th. All orders will arrive at the school, and we will announce when they are ready to be picked up. This is an excellent opportunity for the whole family to get South Lake apparel and show your Eagle Pride!



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