



DECEMBER 2024

VOLUME 25  
ISSUE 4

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

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Eagle Family,

As we conclude this first half of the 2024-25 school year and prepare for the start of the second semester, I want to thank our SLHS faculty and staff for their continued perseverance and dedication to meeting the needs of our students, as well as serving you and our school community. It has been a banner year so far, as our students have excelled in the performing arts, NJROTC competitions, Career & Technical Education competitions, athletics, and much more. We are so incredibly excited that SLHS earned a school grade of "B" from the Florida Department of Education for the 2023-24 school year. This is a direct result of teachers, staff, administrators, students, parents, and our community coming together to unite and support better outcomes and opportunities for our students.

In case you are not aware, one of the systems that we have in place to help students be successful academically is an intervention and acceleration period we call SOAR time. During most weeks, students attend SOAR every day except Wednesday, as an extra period within the school day to receive additional instruction and practice, redos of assignments, makeup of labs/quizzes/tests, etc. In most cases, students have the daily opportunity to make their own selection of the academic course that they attend for SOAR time. In the case of students who are struggling or showing significant academic deficiencies, their teacher can assign them to a particular class for SOAR time. Students who currently have all A's and B's can select the cafeteria as their SOAR time location to have a place to work independently as a reward for demonstrating academic success. I encourage you to check in with your child to find out which classes they are selecting for SOAR time and to remind them to use it to their advantage to get help in those areas they need it the most.

As we return from winter break, we will begin preparations for the upcoming 2025-26 school year and the process for soliciting student course selections and academic scheduling opportunities. Please have a conversation with your student as you collaboratively develop the academic course plan that will best meet their needs and future goals. Our guidance counselors will be making presentations to current SLHS students in their classes over the next few months, visiting our feeder middle schools to speak with 8th grade students, and working with you to accommodate course requests as best as possible. Please be on the lookout for course request and scheduling information as it becomes available. Over the last few years, we have worked diligently to increase academic opportunities and post-secondary options for students to prepare them for a variety of career paths. Students have the opportunity to choose courses among a variety of interest areas, including Fine & Performing Arts, Career and Technical Education, Advanced Placement, AICE (Advanced International Certificate of Education), NJROTC and Aeronautics dual enrollment, on/off campus dual enrollment through Lake Sumter State College, and the Health Science Collegiate Academy among many other elective offerings. We are also in our second year of a partnership with Beacon College in Leesburg to provide on-campus dual enrollment opportunities for students with disabilities. We firmly believe in and support our district's mission to provide every student with individual opportunities to excel.

Student attendance at school is critical to their success and achievement. There are still far too many students who are excessively absent from school, or who are earning Ds and Fs each grading period. Please continue to have conversations with your student about what they are learning, check FOCUS for real time grade information and attendance, check in on their SOAR time choices, and encourage them to be at school each day and in class on time. Together, we can continue to see our students grow and improve as they prepare for graduation and beyond!

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  
gogem@lake.k12.fl.us

**Nicole Liljegen** -

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

**Angela Ratter** -

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

Please visit South Lake High School's website: [www.https://slh.lake.k12.fl.us/](https://slh.lake.k12.fl.us/)

To download a PDF version of this newsletter, go to <http://academypublishing.com/schools/southlake/southlake.php>

## TESTING

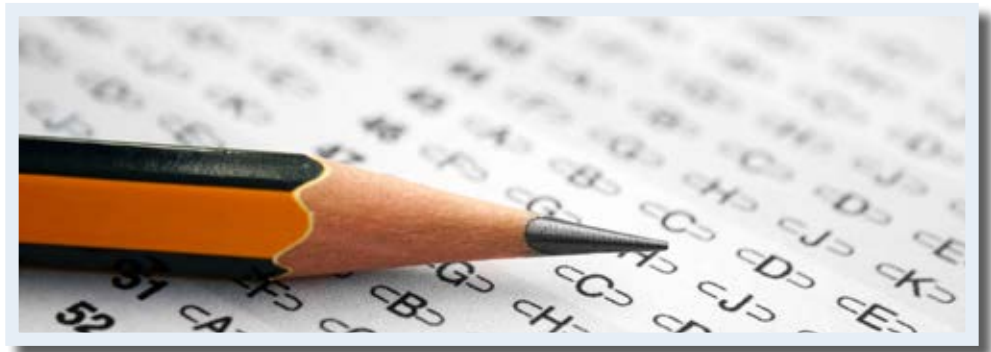
Some important testing information:

- **FCLE** – November 19 for 11/12 grade students currently in Government Classes
- **FAST Reading PM2** – December 5 for 9/10 grade students
- **Retakes for Reading and BEST EOCs** – December 10 for students who need to pass the Testing Graduation Requirements
- **CLT** – January 9 for 12 grade students still needing to pass a Math or Reading testing graduation requirements
- **PERT** for dual Enrollment – February 24

For those testing, make sure you bring your Chromebooks fully charged along with your charger the day of the test. For more testing information check out SLH testing hub in Classlinks.



"Flight Patterns"  
December 2024  
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Issue #4



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We had 6 cadets in all who were pinned. The 4 in the group picture from 6th period are, from photo left to right:

- Lukas Hill
- Thomas Anderson
- Jasmin Premchand
- Jaden Crockwell



Wings proudly on their chest, thank you for pinning these on today - very memorable. These aviators are the perfect combination of intelligent, ambitious, and humble - on their way to great things.



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## BAND

On Saturday, October 19, 2024, the South Lake High School Screaming Eagle Regiment travelled to West Port High School in Ocala, to participate in the 20th Annual Ocala Marching Band Festival. Our band performed brilliantly once again. The band placed first in their class, while also placing first in their class in Music, Visual, General Effect, Percussion, and Guard. They also placed 2nd overall out of 16 bands, while placing 1st overall in Percussion and Guard. They received Superior Ratings in Music, Visual, General Effect, Guard, and Drum Major captions, while earning a Distinguished Superior Rating in Percussion Performance. It was a great day for our very young band, and they showcased at the highest level the hard work and dedication they have notably put into this show, but also into becoming great musicians and great ambassadors for our school. All of that after a very long Friday that also included them being featured on the Fox35 broadcast, and the Football Game at ERHS (way to go Football team on the win as well)! It was a very busy and exciting weekend. Please help me in congratulating our awesome band students!

May the road rise up to meet you,  
Mr. Ryan Wright



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# WINNER OF THE SPOOKY STORY WRITING PROJECT

Ja'Barian and Raymond won the Spooky story writing project that their class conducted. The story was called The Cave and they were assisted by Amari Carrion and Natalie Hill. The story was about a hiker who encountered much more than a pleasant hike.

2025

## SENIORS UPCOMING DUE DATES:

- Senior Pictures must be taken **before January 30th** to be in the yearbook. Sign up at [Cadystudios.com](http://Cadystudios.com) to schedule your pictures.
- Senior Ads are on sale until January 4th! Go to [yearbookforever.com](http://yearbookforever.com) to order it.
- Honors Stoles will be on sale in February. Only students with a weighted GPA of 3.5 or higher will be qualified to order them.
- Gradbash Tickets will be on sale late January to February. They will be on Revtrac for \$180 and there will be a payment plan option available.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Fisher at [fisherc1@lake.k12.fl.us](mailto:fisherc1@lake.k12.fl.us)

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On Thursday, October 24th, our very own NHS chapter inducted 23 new members! Please join me in congratulating them!



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## 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!

## 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

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

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



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## ALL SPORTS BOOSTER

South Lake All Sports Boosters is off to another great start. We have been selling our booster passes and merchandise at our home games. We have already sold over \$11,000. We have added a few new items this year that include key chains, rubber bracelets, tattoos and pom poms. All of these items are great ways to show your South Lake spirit.

It is time to get ready for our 2nd Annual Gala, "Suit Up and Throw Down" which will be held at Southern Hill Farm February 22nd. Early bird table pricing begins now and ends December 31st. Don't delay, purchase your table today and get ready for a great evening.

If you are interested in helping out with this event or know someone who would, please reach out to our booster email. We are seeking donations and sponsors to help make it a huge success. All money raised goes back to our athletic programs benefiting our student athletes.

To purchase  
a table,  
please scan the  
QR code.



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