



ROYALS
HOLLINS HIGH SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

Managing Editor: Mia Pineda



HOLLINS

Happenings

Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Teachers, Staff, and Community Members of Hollins High School ,

We have overcome, persevered, and successfully navigated a school year unlike any other in the history of education as we prepare to embark on another school year with confidence in our ability to adapt, improvise, and overcome. I want to thank you for your sustained efforts and compliment you on your ability to teach, inspire, and navigate through the difficulty and myriad of challenges that came your way. You should be proud of your accomplishments individually, collectively in our ability to work and stay together and in your ability to deliver quality instruction under any and all circumstances.



As we embark on this upcoming school year, we are positioned to use what we learned from last year to help better inform our practice and utilize our increased technological skills and curriculum to enhance our pedagogy to assist all students in achieving their academic goals. We will build upon the momentum and inertia we established by never stopping and pushing forward to help propel our students and school to greater heights.

We will use the 2021 school year as a demarcation line. We are considering this a new beginning – as we met with over 25 teachers and staff in the spring and summer in our “Year One Project” – Year 1 A. D. (After Dixie) as we emerged anew as Royals and examined all processes and procedures with an eye to improve and maximize our effectiveness to help our students, staff, and community be better in all areas and aspects. As we return to full face to face instruction, we will not let the circumstances of last year be a crutch to lean on—or acceptance of regression—but an opportunity and realization that we have the ability and skill and we can and will reach our goals. That we possess the ability, skill, and expertise to positively impact student engagement and learning in an environment of care, concern, and commitment to excellence.

It is with continued sustained honor that I serve as Principal of our great school and work with you—students, staff, teachers, parents, and community—to push, pull, and persist in our goal of making Hollins High School the best public high school in the state of Florida. As we demonstrated over the past year, when individuals work together as a team with a belief that anything is possible, then the impossible is not an impediment to success just an opportunity for growth. We are going to have our best year yet. I'm excited to get started and have you along for the journey. I would not want to be anywhere else with anybody else on any other team.

Go! Go! Go!

See you at the top!

Robert C. Florio

An Ambitious Year for A.E.A

by Griffin Franzese

The Academy of Entertainment Arts (AEA) wants to shine, and the time is now.

The 2021-22 school year is shaping up to be one of the best yet. After a challenging past year of navigating online and in-person learning, things are starting to get back into motion. The AEA department, however, is setting its sights higher than ever before.

Among the host of lofty goals, producing mobile games, becoming the staple of entertainment arts in the county, and winning an Emmy award are only a few as put by Mr. Pineda, the head of animation within AEA.

When asked about what the goals of the AEA department were, Mr. Pineda said seriously, "I want to win an Emmy. No one has ever won an Emmy before in high school. I look, and I don't see anything that would stop us from winning an Emmy."

Optimism and communication are key within the academy. Mr. Pineda enforces the idea of collaboration when describing their up-and-coming projects called "THE GAME", "THE PROJECT", and "THE SHOW" (the very specific naming done by Dr. Stefanie and an inside joke so old no one understands it anymore). Pineda says, "Sometimes it's easy to get lost in your own island of teaching, but the magic happens when you bring all of these special kids together."

THE GAME is an example of this collaboration involving most aspects of the academy (gaming, animation, music production, and sound design), dozens of students, and headlined by

lead animator Mia Spataro. The kids hope it will one day be a downloadable 3D action-fighting game available in the app store. What makes Spataro exceptional for this project, says Mr. Pineda, is that "she's very versatile between gaming and animation."

THE PROJECT is another exciting group effort. The film and animation studios are working on making a *Space Jam/Who Framed Roger Rabbit*-esque short film, centered around the idea that Dungeons and Dragons characters play the game "Papers and Powerpoints" to escape from their hectic reality. Cierra Little, Isabella Calderon, Kali Campos, Lily Tucker, and Daria Green are the lead visionaries behind the project. Taylan Nightingale, a student currently working on the project, says, "We're excited. Things are moving forward and right now we are focused."

This is Nightingale's second year in AEA, and he's enthused by the current progress, saying "Collaboration is a key to our success."

No goal (not even winning an Emmy) is more important than being seen, says Pineda. "We, as the academy, have a problem. We do a lot of amazing things that don't get seen. My main goal is for the things we do inside of these walls to get out into the world. Not just in our county, but nationally."

As for Mr. Pineda himself and what he hopes to accomplish, he says, "Senior year moves very fast, and at the end it's easy to get lost in the weeds, and go 'What now?' My goal is for students to graduate and have something they intend to do. I want to set them up for success."

We welcome the following teachers to the Academy:

ErinJohn Sullivan is coming to us from Boca Ciega High School and Pinellas Virtual School, as our new Photography & Design teacher. With 14 years of public school teaching experience, including experience with AP (as both a teacher and an exam reader), he is well-prepared for taking our Photography & Image Design studio to the next level.

Juliana "Hoolie" Rowe is joining us from Dunedin High School, part of one of the most awarded art teams in the county, to take over and grow the Brand U studio. Check out her most recent work as an artist here: [Art & Illustration | St. Pete, FL | Art by Hoolie](#). She brings a super combination of artistic talent and demonstrated success as a teacher.

Jennifer Tuazon joins us from the BETA Program at Gibbs High School to sit at the helm of the Game Design studio. As department chair of the BETA Program, she developed the first Computer Science pathway in the county. With 10 years of experience in marketing in the tech industry, she now begins her 7th year in education, and we are lucky to have her.

Trevor Anderson joined our team last year as a brand new teacher at the beginning of quite possibly the most challenging year for education ever, and he absolutely shined. He is incredibly dependable, efficient, and professional, but also a genuinely good person. He will be taking over film and tv production. Outside of school hours, he is co-owner of a local production studio, and executive producer of [TechnoTrain](#). He is also a Hollins High School alum.

CambridgeSpotlight

by Jordan Jacobs

The Cambridge program has been excelling for almost a decade now. AICE General Paper and AICE Math, just two of the courses offered, had above average state scores this past year, which goes to show the work students and teachers are putting into the program. Over the years, new classes have been added to the plethora of options available. For example, Hollins has presented a new AICE class titled AICE Media Studies, which is taught by Mrs. Zemaitis. She uses her years of experience as a journalist and as yearbook adviser to guide this print-focus class. There is also a film-focus alternative that is offered.

The objective of AICE Media Studies is to learn a variety of new production skills and understand the elements of production and how they are used to target a specific audience. Students taking this course will go through the process of researching for understanding and inspiration, analyzing media to understand how the qualities of their inspiration work to target the selected audience, and create their own product while blogging to show the process behind it.

The student portfolio (which is half of the exam grade) is a small magazine consisting of a cover page, a table of contents, and one spread that are all student-designed and based off of a topic of choice. It is a great class that offers a less traditional approach. It's different from many other AICE classes because the grades for this class are determined by the website you maintain, the magazine you create, and a two-question exam at the end of the year. It also allows students to express themselves while learning the various aspects of media and how they affect the way people perceive it.

In addition, Mrs. Zemaitis combines her AICE Media class with yearbook. While they are in the process of creating their magazine and website, their ideas can also be used as a spread in the yearbook. This can help make the process more efficient and create more coverage of stories that the yearbook has not had the opportunity to capture previously.

Many students look forward to having the opportunity to create something from scratch while also contributing to the production of *Legend*, the DHHS' yearbook.

Virtual Parent Meetings: 9/14, 11/9, 1/11, 3/8



Design Editor Kaitlynn Touchton and Managing Photo Editor Mia Pineda work with the yearbook's management team to get the yearbook off to an organized start.



The Legend staff is excited for Underclass Picture Day while Madison Hamilton and Marketing Manager Maya Patanow get busy hanging signage to promote the yearbook.



Culinary Spotlight

by Alex Nguyen

The Culinary Academy is back in full swing and ready to make this year great! Recently, a few selected students were able to participate in the Great St. Pete Cupcake Contest. Unfortunately, there were no categories for the girls to qualify for, but Ali Depaolo & Kylie Niska were able to make apple pie cupcakes, while Afeyiah Kmall & Hailee Hunter made pina colada cupcakes. In total, they made 210 cupcakes.

Now, with Culinary cooking again, the program has already gone to its first fundraiser. Approximately ten students went to the Sheraton Key Resort for the Ryan Wells Foundation fundraiser. This is a yearly fundraiser where the students, working with local professionals and six other culinary programs, cook and serve appetizers to local donors and patrons. This raises money to award student scholarships while providing real world experience and networking with people in the culinary industry. The Ryan Wells

Foundation donates approximately \$5,000 to our program every year.

As of right now, sophomores are starting to review their knife skills and are learning to fabricate chicken. They would then go into soups and sauces. Juniors are starting to work on their ServSafe Certification Course, while seniors are in the dual enrollment classes with Pinellas Technical College. Freshmen are learning the basics in safety and sanitation, and should be starting in the kitchen in October!



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Before students can tryout and participate in a sport, parents/guardians must complete an Athletic Participation Packet, Assumption of Risk Waiver, and purchase School Insurance. You can find this packet at the school website. From there, go to the Athletic tab, scroll down to Athletic Participation, the packet & waiver are below the paragraph. Printed copies are also available in the Assistant Principal's Office or Coach Rivera's classroom. School insurance can only be purchased online at www.pcsb.org. Click on School Insurance and follow the prompts.

THAT

LET'S GO!

A listing of *home* games so you can come show your **ROYALS** support

Varsity Football

Oct. 1 Homecoming Game vs. Seminole
Oct. 15 v. Pinellas Park
Nov. 4 v. Tarpon

All Varsity games start at 7:00 pm

JV Football

Sept. 29 v Northeast
Oct. 13 v. Gibbs
Oct. 20 v. Pinellas Park

All JV games start at 6:30 pm

Swim & Dive

Sept. 28 v. Dunedin 6:30

Home meets at Skyview Pool

JV/V Volleyball

Sept 23 v. Keswick 6:30/7:00
Sept 30 v. Seminole 6:30/7:00
Oct. 4 v. Lakewood 7:00

Girls Golf

Sept 23 @ Tarpon Municipal 3:00
Sept. 30 @ Bardmoor 3:00

Cross Country

Sept 23 @ Walter Fuller Girls 4:30; Boys 5:00
Oct. 6 @ Crescent Girls 4:30; boys 5:00
Oct. 14th @ Hammock Park TBD

Boys Golf

Sept. 27 @ Bardmoor 3:00

Did you know...

All tickets for athletic events must be purchased online at gofan.co

Type "Hollins" in the search box to bring up Hollins High School.

Scroll down to find the event you want and purchase tickets.

You will receive a QR code to show at the gate.