



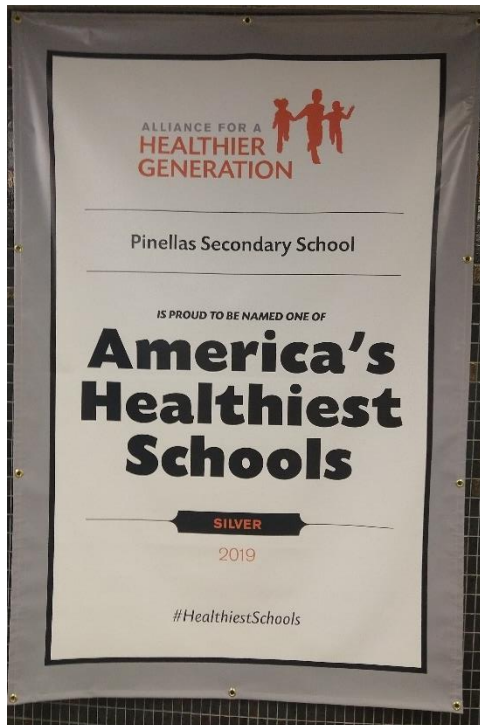
Pinellas Secondary School

October 2019 Newsletter

OCTOBER 2019

IN THIS ISSUE:

PSS Wins Silver Medal



- 355 – Number of schools that were awarded Medal status (7.1 Per State)
- 28 Schools in Pinellas County
- PSS – Only High School in Pinellas County to be awarded Silver/Gold Status
- PSS - One of Two Middle Schools to be awarded Silver/Gold Status

PSS Wins Silver.....	1
Essay Contest Winners.....	2
Roaring Towards Success Award...	3
Volunteers Needed for The Great American Teach-In.....	4
ESE Fair.....	5
National Aviation Fieldtrip.....	6
Art Exhibition.....	7
Honor Roll & Teachers' Nomination Field Trip.....	9
Inspire Project.....	10
Ice Cream Science.....	16
Hustle 101.....	18
Halloween Safety.....	19
Calendar.....	19

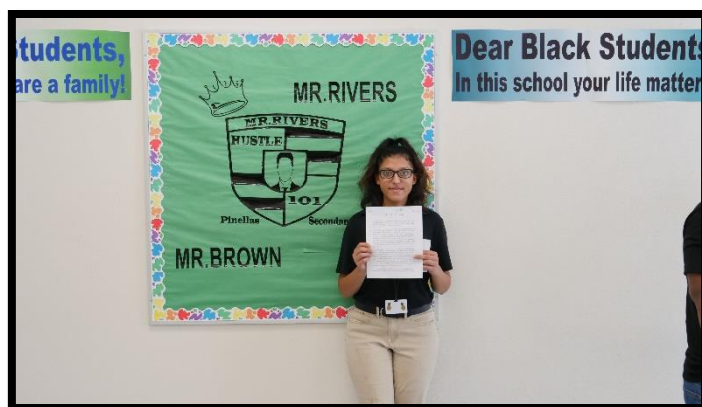
Make a Commitment to Change Essay Contest

In September, students entered into an essay writing contest where they wrote about making a commitment to make positive changes in their lives.

Congratulations to the winners!



1st Place Winner Karl Burnet



2nd Place Winner Elena Morales



3rd Place Winner Shakira Boatwright

This Month's Roaring Towards Success Award Goes to Mr. Rivers.



Volunteers Needed for the PSS Great American Teach-In!

Wednesday, November 13th, 2019

Guest Speakers Needed

We are looking for speakers who are in industries that our students may one day be working in, or those of interest to them.

Please contact Ms. Rave to volunteer ravek@pcsb.org



ESE College, Career & LIFE Fair

Explore Your Options!



**PINELLAS PARK
HIGH SCHOOL
6305 118TH AVE. N.**

**Join us for a special event
for PCS high school
students with disabilities
and their families**

**Talk with district staff.
Meet representatives from
organizations and
educational institutions.**

**THURSDAY, OCT. 17, 2019
6-7:30 P.M.**

**Get info about:
Financial Aid, College,
Career Training, Job Skills,
Military Service, Supported
Living and More!**

**Questions?
Call 727-588-5079**

www.pcsb.org/ESEFair

Field Trip to National Aviation

Sept 27th – Students that thought that they might have an interest in working as airplane mechanics got to go and tour National Aviation School.



National Aviation
COMPANIES



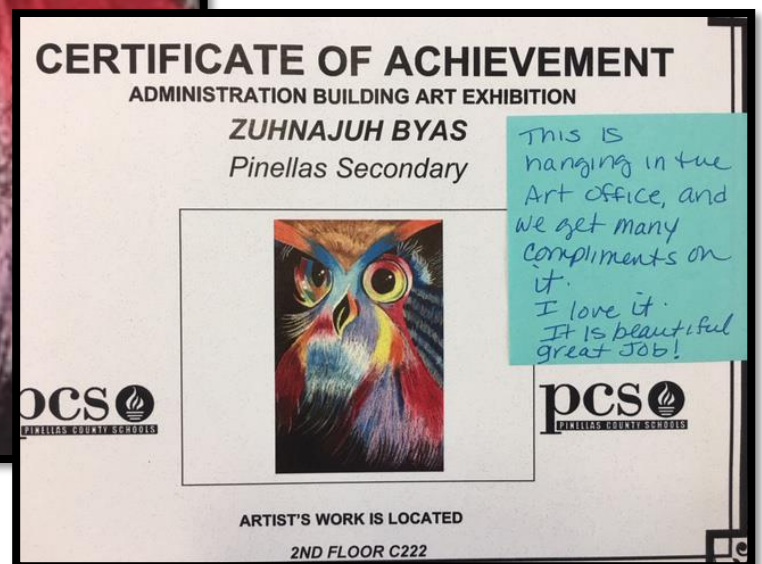
Art Exhibition

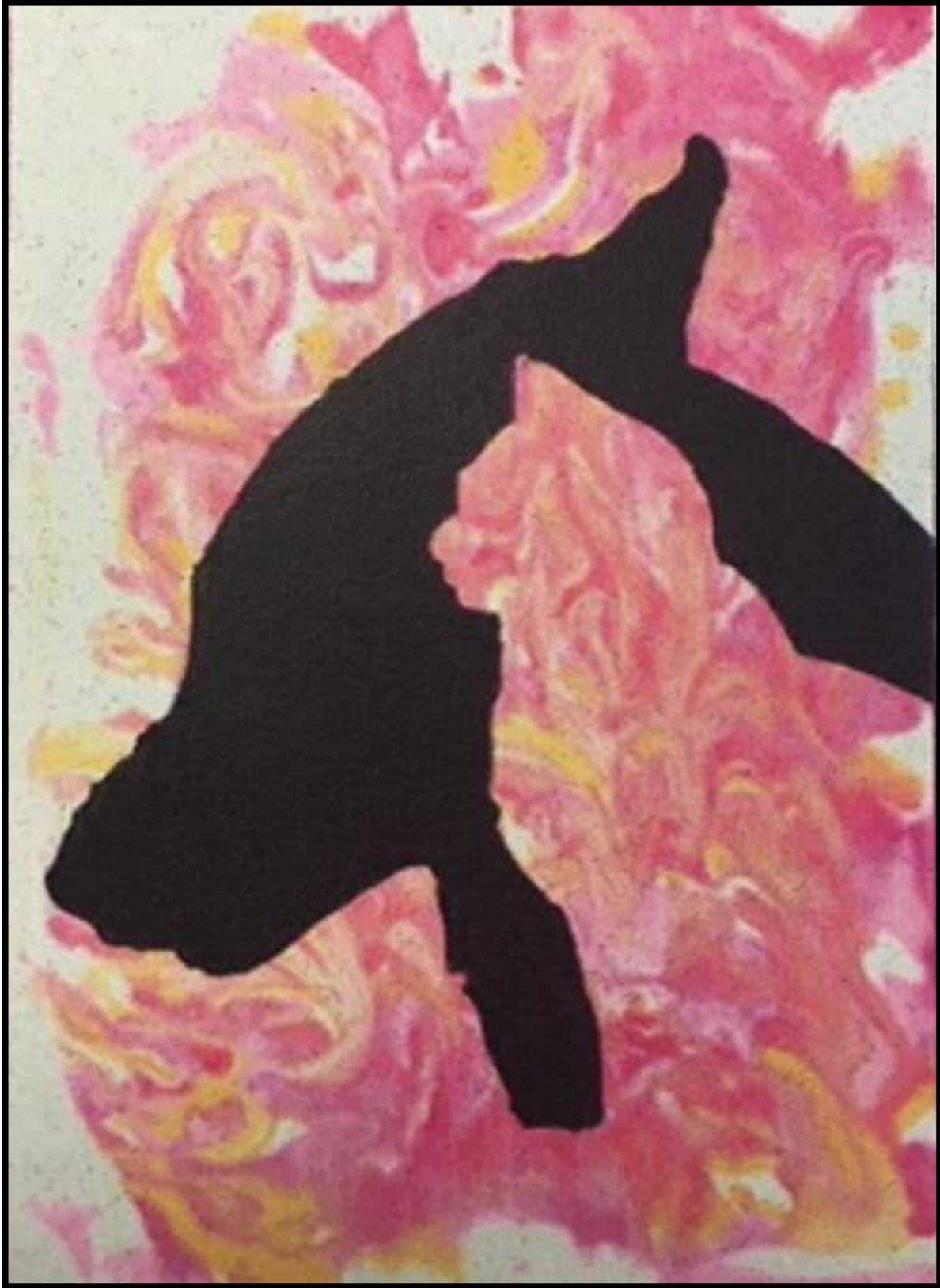
Two of our previous students Zuhnajuh Byas and Bandon McCabe have artwork in the Administration Building Art Exhibition. Both received letters from Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School inviting them to join their Arts' Magnet program.

Zuhnajuh also, had a nice note on her certificate "This is hanging in the Art Office and we get many compliments on it. (her Owl pastel artwork) I love it. It is a beautiful great job!"



By Zuhnajuh Byas



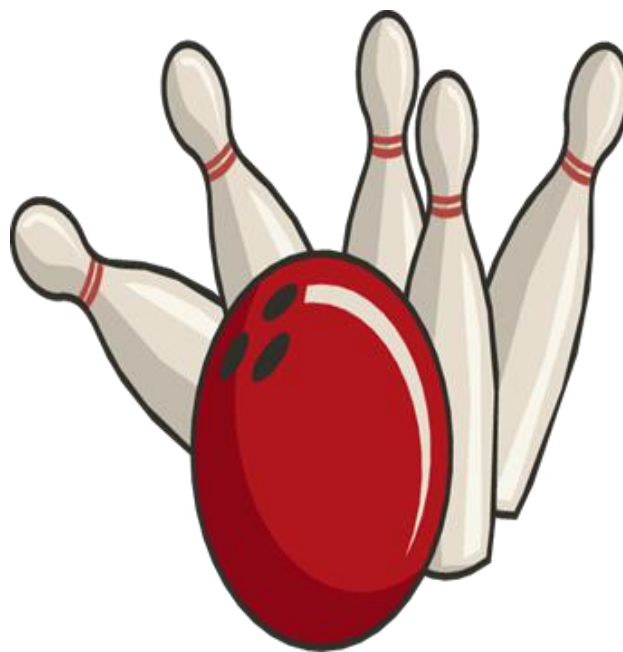


By Brandon McCabe

Honor Roll & Teachers' Nomination Field Trip

In **December**, we will be taking students who have achieved **Honor Roll (3.0) or Higher** on a field trip. We will also be taking a group of students nominated by Teachers & voted on by Behavior Specialists to attend the field trip as well.

We will be awarding those students who has achieved success in following the 4 A's of *Pinellas Secondary*...



Will You Make the List???

Inspire Project

At Pinellas Secondary, we created a project that allows our students the opportunity to get to know our staff. We feel that at times there is a disconnect between the students' perceptions of why as staff members decided to work with kids/young adults as a profession and why we actually chose to.

We hope that this project will be a step in closing the gap between what they think that they know about us and who we really are as mentors, teachers, parents & loving adults. We want our stories and testimonies to be the hope that the hopeless feel is necessary to put forth the effort to keep pushing forward.

We want our students to know that the word **F.A.I.L.** is only an acronym for:
First, **A**ttempt, **I**n, **L**earning... Therefore I will never quit...

This month we introduce Mr. Cromartie, Dr. Mills, Dr. Adams, Mr. Rivers, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Simmons, & Ms. Newman.

Mr. Cory Cromartie

Who am I? I am the Five Time, let me repeat myself, the Five Time WCW champion...Now can you dig that? Okay be real. I am a role model, a father, a brother, a husband, an educator, a mentor, and a friend. I am someone who appreciates hard work and is happy and satisfied when the job is done correctly. I am someone who values the students I get to see each day. I have faith that each one of them have the potential to become something amazing.

Born and raised in St. Petersburg Florida. I enjoy helping others and have always connected to people. I chose this environment because it chose me. My mother use to work for PSS and she invited me to join the family, and they said yes.

I'm sure like many of the teachers here, this was not the path we chose, but the path we ended up taking for one reason or another. My passion is technology and my goal are too own a kid's bouncy house, or clubhouse, or game room...You know, stuff like that.

That in all honesty, I care about so many of them. I want them to succeed because I know they can.

Inspire Project

Teacher/ Staff member:

1) Who are you?

Dr. Keturah N. Mills

2) Where are you from?

St. Petersburg, FL

3) Was there an event in your life that lead you to teaching? Working in a school setting? In this particular environment?

My high school teacher said I would not amount to anything because I was Black. It did not matter to her that I was intelligent and athletic. She had preconceived racist ideas and she was in a position to pass on those ideas. I knew I would never have or exhibit such demeaning and racist ideas toward students. I am determined and dedicated to help students see that they can succeed, regardless of circumstance or people. I did and they can too!

4) When did you decide on this career path? Was this what you started doing or have you had other careers?

I've always been good at English and found out early that I could help others. My teachers asked me to explain to my classmates how to do various assignments. I enjoy learning and passing my knowledge on to others

5) What is the one thing you want students to know about you?

I care about ALL my students. I'm hard on them because I believe in them. They can be successful. They just need to believe they can and take the help of those trying to help them succeed.

Inspire Project

Teacher/ Staff member:

Santiago Rivers - Behavior Specialist

Hustle 101 Mentor Group Leader

Pinellas Secondary School

I am a Survivor / Testimony to others. I was born in St. Petersburg, Florida. I started off in the school system as a teacher aide. I was highly disappointed in the lack of teaching that came from educators who was doing a dis-service to their students. They were giving passing grades to students who could barely read or write on an elementary grade level and they were in High School. After being black-balled for speaking-out against this injustice, I decided to go back to school and get my degree, so that I could be the change that I wanted to see in the education system. The Education System was / is putting School grades above the education of their students which should be a crime. I became an "Highly- Effective" Teacher and I am still speaking out against any injustice towards children. "Be the change that you want to see in this world"

I have had other successful careers before I finally became a teacher, but I knew that there was something missing in my life that money could not satisfy. I decide to be a teacher when I found out that I could become a teacher through their "transition-to- teaching program". I always wanted to be a teacher because of my love for learning, but I also wanted to become a lawyer which is why I got my degree in Criminal Justice. I put my love for teaching over the money in the corporate world.

I have been a victim of sexual, physical & mental abuse but I am still standing. I have struggled with depression & suicidal thoughts, but my prayers keep me centered. I have been homeless and slept in my car in my pursuit of becoming a teacher, but I never lost focus of my mission. Time has taught me that we are the only person who can decide the fate of our future regardless of our current situation. My life is a blessing which is why I want it to be a testimony for anyone who needs to know the greatness of the Most High. I will forever be a work in progress.

Inspire Project

Mrs. Williams, Behavior Specialist

I am a phenomenal woman that God has made to be a gift for those who are in need or less fortunate than I am. I am a caring, lovable, and heartfelt person who wants to see everyone succeed in school and beyond.

I am from Pahokee, Florida (**Palm Beach County**) When I attended college, I wasn't sure what major I wanted to pursue. However, I remember the time when I was a senior in High school and we had senior teacher takeover day, I can recall enjoying being the teacher for the day. Based on my knowledge, skills, organization, communication, in depth explanations, etc.,

Ms. Hooks, the math teacher who class I took over for that day said that I would be a great teacher. From that moment, I decided to major in education. I am so glad I did; I discovered that this was a gift from God.

I decided on this career path after being in college and this has what I have been doing since I graduated college. This has been my only career and I love it. I enjoy helping and making a difference in young teenage/ adult life; even if it's one student at a time. I think it's worth it.

I grew up in a small country town where there is farm work, such as sugar cane, snap peas, and corn fields. My parents and other family members retired in this field of work within the last five years.

I have seen the struggle and hard work that my parents' generation went through to make sure we had the necessary things we needed. I knew it had to be better than the long hours of work from 4am to 8p.m. in the hot, cold, and rainy days/ nights.

I knew deeply inside I did not want to do that type of work, so I was inspired and motivated to go to college to get a college degree and live in the city.

Inspire Project

Dionne Simmons - ELA Department Chair

1) Who are you?

I am the gift given to those in need. I am the beauty that you feel and the knowledge you earn from getting to know me. I am an educator extraordinaire.

2) Where are you from? Clearwater, Florida

3) Was there an event in your life that led you to teaching? Working in a school setting? In this particular environment?

There was not one significant event that led me into teaching but a series of life experiences such as: being a natural born leader; a skills inventory assessment; suggestions from family members, friends and previous educators from my past; the desire to give back to my community, or one like mine; and a genuine want to aid those less fortunate than myself. This environment chose me, or perhaps it was the universe...I have remained at Pinellas Secondary by choice. Our student population is like no other. The students of PSEC face many obstacles below the surface that some adults have yet to experience. All students have a strong personality and vibrantly tenacious characters that placed them in our school.

4) When did you decide on this career path? Was this what you started doing or have you had other careers?

I decided to become an educator after years of working in corporate America and trying to break through the "glass ceiling" only to be laid off multiple times in a short period of time. Blessed with solid communication and listening skills, along with being a quick study and empathy, I have thrived in the Education sector. I figured I could teach my way through graduate school and post graduate school and fulfill my wants as well as my needs in the interim.

5) What is the one thing you want students to know about you?

The struggle is REAL! I am a product of a single parent household. I took my education serious and used it as a means to advance academically and economically to surpass the limitations society (unspokenly) placed on me as a double minority. Even after giving birth as a Senior in college I still made it. I let the haters and naysayers become my motivation and created my own future. If I can do it, they can too! It's not about where you start, it's how you finish that makes the difference.

Inspire Project

Ms. Newman, school social worker

I was born and raised in St. Pete but love to travel! I've visited 30 states and 16 countries so far and hope to add a few more this summer.

There wasn't an event that led me to social work, it's more an overarching theme you might say. My childhood life was pretty unstable, and adolescence was particularly tough. I could have used some help back then. I remember the caring adults that were there for me and wanted to be there for someone else in the future.

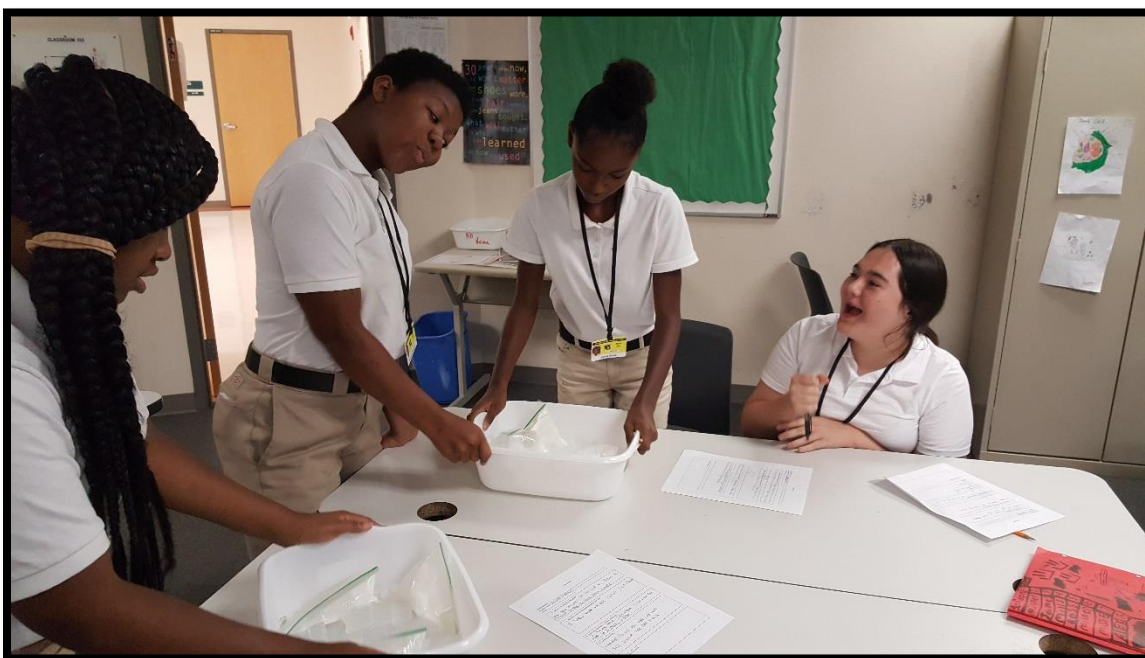
I was a hairdresser before becoming a social worker. You can ask me how the jobs are similar if you want to hear my take on that.

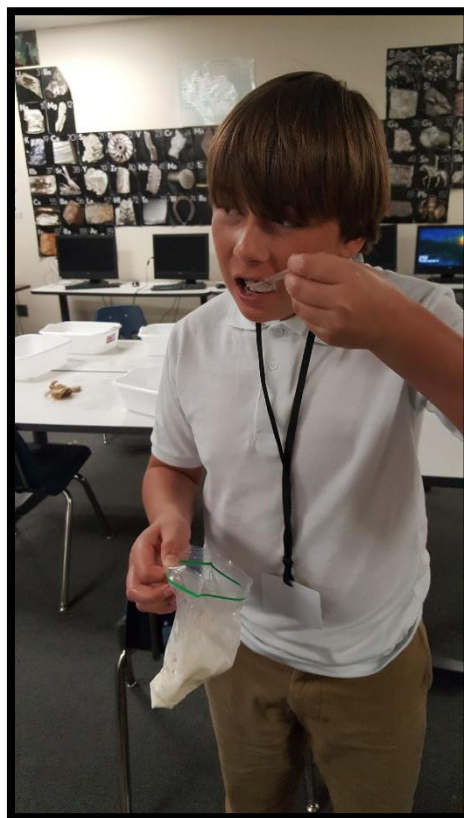
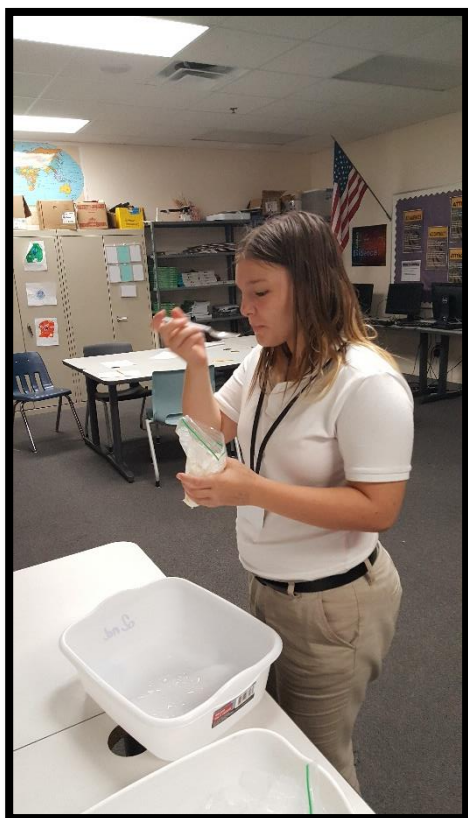
The one thing I would like students to know about me is that I'm here for y'all and I care.

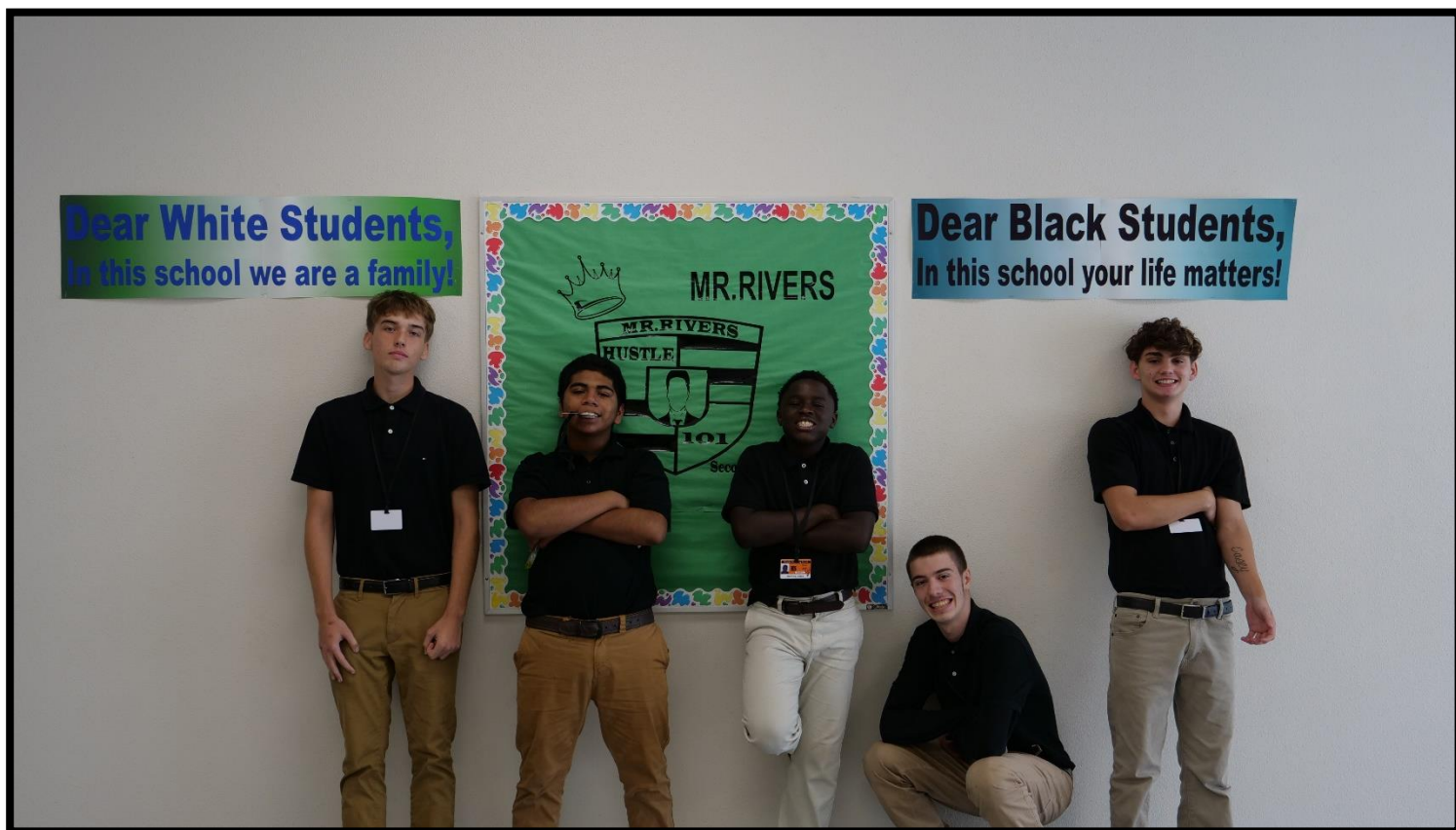


States of Matter, States of Change

Students were using the scientific method to see the change from a liquid to as solid as they made homemade ice cream.







The first members of the Hustle 101 mentor group: Nate Beadreau, Jorge Serrano, Ja'brea Jones, Chris Pelciq, and Dylan Hecker (left to right).





HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS!!!

Gauntlett / J. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you.
Always **WALK** and don't run from house to house.

Always test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent possible skin and eye irritation.

Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.

Lower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.

Only walk on sidewalks whenever possible, or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.

Wear well-fitting masks, costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls.

Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.

Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Only visit well-lit houses. Never accept rides from strangers.

Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.

BOO!



Together Against Violence

Upcoming Events:

October 7 to 11	FTE Survey
October 11	End of First Quarter
October 14	ProEd Day, no school for students
October 29	Report Period 1 Report cards go home
October 31	Halloween
November 13	Great American Teach-In (G.A.T.I.)
November 23 to 30	Thanksgiving Break
December 21 to January 5	Winter Holiday Break