



ROYALS
HOLLINS HIGH SCHOOL

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St. Petersburg, FL 33709

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FEBRUARY 2021

NEWSLETTER

Managing Editor: Kylie Vetter



Principal's Message



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

Just like that, we are more than half way through the school year and progressing expeditiously toward Spring Break. This year has been filled with obstacles, challenges, and circumstances beyond our control as they are unprecedented. However, as we work through those challenges, we have discovered the importance of team work, comradery, community, and the unique space a school serves for all stakeholders. We realize now more than ever, we offer services and support beyond curriculum and instruction. As a community of 1,800 students and nearly 200 staff, we come together—every day, five days a week, for 40 weeks and 9 months—to our home away from home and depend on each other for education, love, support, care, concern, motivation and inspire one another to continue on the journey, to move forward, get one day better and accomplish all of our goals. We realize that “Together We Rise” is not just an empty platitude—that given the conditions and circumstances we are operating under we need each other now more than ever. And with care, concern, and commitment we will accomplish all our goals and aspirations.

As our students, teachers, and staff work hard on preparing our students for state and college assessments we are committed to preparing our students for those examinations and ensuring that they strive, learn, and grow. We understand that this is their moment—pandemic or not. They are in school now and dependent on the best instruction in the best environment so they can do and reach their goals and aspirations. We are committed to prepare our students and help them succeed by any means necessary. No obstacle is too big, and no positive action or intervention is too small when it comes to their success and well-being.

We are continuing to be cognizant about the safety, health, and well-being of our teachers, staff, and students. We are working hard to accommodate and differentiate our instruction and develop processes to accomplish creating a safe and welcoming environment where everyone can strive and thrive.

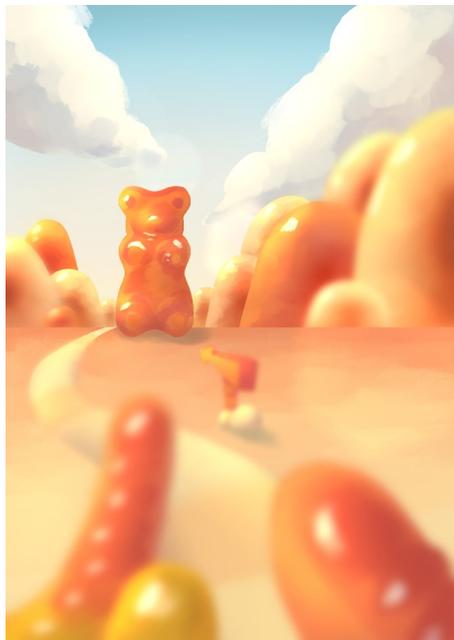
It is, and continues to be, a great honor to be Principal of this great school and community. There is no better place that I would rather be and there is no better time than right here and right now. Thank you for your continued and sustained support of our goals and aspirations. Together we will accomplish all our goals! Together we will rise!

See you at the top!

Stay Frosty!

Robert C. Florio

Hong Anh Ho



Midday Mirage



Late Night Snack



Inspection

by Kylie Vetter

The Academy of Entertainment Arts program provides students a chance to explore their creativity and develop their own style. Offering courses in animation, art, photography, design, gaming, music, and film, the academy has many pathways and options to choose from. It allows students opportunities to master skills so they can design their own unique fine art portfolio.

According to Hong Anh, Gold Key recipient in Scholastics and Academy of Entertainment Arts student, “AEA teaches students not just the technical skills of their respective creative field, but also how to be creative.” She mentions for other students as well as herself, that the nurturing of the skills taught by class instructors have been helpful throughout many of her classes, especially the ones that require thinking outside of the box. In classes such as Animation with Mr. Pineda, they offer time for examination behind the deeper meaning of film and production. Hong states the program taught her to examine her everyday life through a more artistic lens, ultimately changing her perspective to “perceive a more colorful and soulful outlook of the world.”

Hong has placed in the top category with 3 Gold Keys from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards throughout her years at Hollins high. This is an honor to her as it has always been a hobby since she was young, and she never knew she was capable of winning such distinguished awards. The biggest projects she has done consist of 2 animations from last year: "Cornelian Dilemma" and "Party Time", as well as multiple artworks, including "Late Night Snack" and "Midday Mirage", that she has created her senior year in AICE art.

Hong Anh’s advice to any students who wish to pursue art in the future would be to continually practice and learn from others. Her personal experience has taught her that practice helps improve her skills and

gave her the potential to win awards and receive recognition for her hard work. When asked what it took to develop an award-winning piece, Hong mentioned that learning from other artists and their artwork was a good source for inspiration overall. However, she followed up by saying “I would stress that having a good relationship with your art is important, too. I have learned to not compare my work to others and focus on my own improvement.”

AEA helps you establish a sense of meaning through your art and acts as a creative outlook for students such as Hong who have found their dynamic collaborative courses were rewarding and offered huge benefits.

Congratulations to all of our 2021 Award Winning Artwork In Pinellas County Art Region of the Scholastic Art Awards

Luis Hernandez, Brooke Jurczak , Megan Morelli, Malachi Alvarez, Isabella Calderon, Kali Campos, Blu Caruthers, Kelsey Deal, Kaitlyn Havens, Hong Anh Ho, Layla Pickett, Victoria Thompson, Kaitlynn Touchton, Lily Tucker, Rowan Van Alsborg, Nathan Way

CAMBRIDGE *Spotlight*

Nicole Hill

By Riley Green

Nicole Hill is currently a senior in the Cambridge program here at Hollins High. She says that being in the program is a moderate challenge for her, but staying focused and keeping your eye on the prize helps with the work load.

Nicole is also an NHS member and has earned an outstanding weighted GPA of a 4.5797.

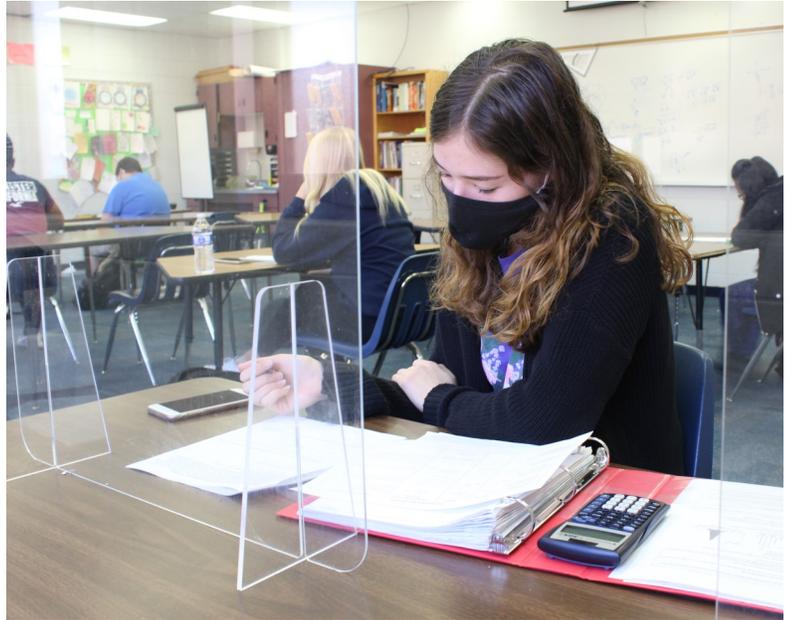
When it comes to her future, specifically college, she is still unsure which she will attend. FSU and UCF are at the top of her list along with Flagler, which she has already been accepted to.

One thing she is sure about, is what she wants to do, Nicole plans to major in psychology, and then further take her studies to earn her Masters in neuropsychology.

"Nicole is a kind, quiet- hardworking student who let her intelligence and dedication do all her talking. She brought the juice every day and I respect that more than anything. She's a great kid and a terrific student."

Mr. Miccichi

Outside of school, Nicole works at Plato's Closet and has since October, but she doesn't let it get in the way of school. She's able to make money and continue to grow her outside world experiences while also keeping up with her grades. This year, Nicole is taking two AP and AICE classes, while also taking a dual enrollment class. Her advice to young students in the Cambridge program is that the key to success, is to be self-motivated. "Nothing else will help you besides yourself."



Cambridge students, don't forget...

- Join the weekly College & Career Help through Teams on Wednesday (2-3pm)
- Review course options with guidance and/or your teachers for 2021-22 that will help reach AICE Diploma

CULINARY *spotlight*

Aidan Gibbs



by Camila Hall

In the kitchen, the possibilities are endless, especially in Hollins High School's Culinary program where the resources are right at your fingertips. Although, with the pandemic still around, many students haven't had the on-campus experience that most of us are used to. Being an online student has its ups and downs, but it has proven to be achievable. We spoke to level 1 Culinary student Aidan Gibbs, just one of the many examples of this.

In the Culinary program, students of all different levels learn a variety of cooking concepts. This can range from breakfast to desserts to different kinds of pasta and grains. For the online students, the cooking is done in their own kitchen with their own ingredients.

"I've love the culinary freedom that comes of it," Gibbs commented when asked about the benefits that come along with being an online student in the program. Level 1 students, like himself, have been working on breakfast dishes which he has expressed great enjoyment for. "I had a mini waffle iron at the time, and it was taking so long-- 2.5 hours or so--I decided to experiment. I won't go into too many details, but I have a tip: don't mix chocolate milk, honey, and ginger together."

Although the online students must use their own resources for the course, students are offered help depending on their financial situation.

"...if a student is unable, they can write a paper-- normally 1-2 pages long. I wouldn't want to end up doing one, but I am glad they offer it, in fact, that was one of my teacher's own initiatives."

Due to the virtual barrier caused by COVID-19's spread, there have been many aspects that can be hard to adjust to when it comes to being an online student, especially in the Culinary program. It teaches the importance of responsibility and initiative, although recipes and instructions are published on Canvas accordingly.

Aidan spoke about the struggle for teachers to manage online, brick, and mortar students simultaneously, saying, "Aside from the shift of focus they do try really hard." Despite these new challenges, the Culinary program offers a lot to students, both virtually and in person. When asked about the activities done for the course other than the hands-on experience, Gibbs stated, "Just notes, and safe staff certification. Both are required to enter the kitchen, but they are pretty fun."

As we learn more and more about dealing with the obstacles that have arisen throughout the school year, it is important to stay optimistic, which student Aidan Gibbs has shown through his hard work and a positive mindset. While accessibility in the kitchen for online and physical learning has been a prominent obstacle, the Culinary program will not allow it to hold you back from doing your best.



JROTC Spotlight



Royal Battalion News

- As the First Semester came to an end, the Royal Battalion participated in Toys For Tots on Saturday, 19 Dec 2020 to help families in need during the holiday season.
- Our drill season started on 16 Jan 2021 at Brandon HS. We participated in the BMW/VFW Drill Meet. There were 17 schools participating. Out of 7 events, Hollins HS JROTC placed in 6 events and took home 2nd Place overall.
- We plan to visit Middle Schools in February for JROTC recruitment. We will pass out a parent letter, informational brochure and put on an armed squad and exhibition demonstrations.

LET'S GO!

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

Wrestling

Feb. 12-13 PCAC/Bidwell Memorial Tournament
Feb. 16-20 District Tournament
Feb. 26-27 Regional Tournament
Mar. 5-6 State Tournament

Track

Feb. 17 @ Bogie
Feb. 26 @ Pi. Park
Mar. 5 @ Seminole
Mar. 10 @ P. Park Sprint Inv.
Mar. 27 @ St. Pete

Tennis

Feb. 9 Osceola 3:00
Feb. 16 St. Pete 3:00
Feb. 25 East Lake 3:00
Mar. 4 Northeast 3:00
Mar. 9 Seminole 3:00
Mar. 23 Countryside 3:00
Mar. 30 Gibbs 3:00

Baseball

Feb. 23 Boca Ciega 7:00
Mar. 3 Largo 7:00
Mar. 95 Osceola 7:00
Mar. 25 St. Pete Catholic 7:00
Mar. 26 Pinellas Park 7:00
Mar. 31 Gibbs 7:00
Apr. 1 Seminole 7:00
Apr. 8 St. Pete 7:00
Apr. 20 Anclote (senior night) 7:00

Softball

Feb. 17 Osceola 7:00
Feb. 26 Gibbs 7:00
Mar. 1 Dunedin 7:00
Mar. 4 St. Pete 6:00
Mar. 9 Pinellas Park 5:00
Mar. 29 Countryside 7:00
Mar. 31 Tarpon 7:00
Apr. 6 Boca Ciega (senior night) 7:00
Apr. 13 Seminole 7:00

Flag Football

Mar. 10 Tarpon 7:00
Mar. 11 Northeast 7:00
Apr. 1 Lakewood 7:00
Apr. 6 Gibbs 7:00
Apr. 13 St. Pete 7:00

Did you know...

You can watch PCS Athletic Contests from your home or mobile device!

For unlimited access to live and on demand content from the NFHS Network, visit NFHSnetwork.com

Search for our school and subscribe.

There is a monthly pass for \$10.99 which can be cancelled at any time.

There is also a \$69.99 yearly pass that is billed for 12 months at \$5.83 monthly.

THIS

Hollins High literary magazine, *Revelations*, will be coming out in the next few weeks. Cost \$2 to read student poems and stories and view art by our amazing students. Stop by room 322 to purchase your copy!

Follow the link to join your PTSA:

<https://dixiehollinsptsa.new.memberhub.store/store>

Meetings are being held virtually on the second Thursday of each month. Please join us.
Zoom meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/4555848501#success>

Password: 0bCXmK

Deadline to order
your yearbook is **March 5th**.
Go to: balfour.com

STAY CONNECTED

Follow Dixie Hollins High on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/mydixiehollins>

Follow [@hollinshslegendyearbook](#) on Instagram

Watch RoyalVision!

Use this QR code to link to their channel
and follow them on Instagram

[@royalvisionhhs](#)



Cap & Gown photos— March 4th—teacher cafeteria. These will not be used in the yearbook. **Only students wishing to purchase the photo should make an appointment.** On campus students need to sign up outside room 322. Online students go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/hollinshighcapandgownpics>. Order forms are also available in the front office. They should be completed with payment and handed to the photographer on March 4th.

How do you get yourself in the yearbook?

1. Follow the yearbook's Instagram account [@hollinshslegendyearbook](#). They will announce when they are looking for photos and hosting surveys that will appear in the book.
2. Download the **ImageShare** app on your phone.
3. Submit your photo through the app using **project # 117783**. Be sure to give your full name and a caption!

THAT

THIS

NEW COVID-19 COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS EFFECTIVE FEB. 21

As you may know, the district maintains a dashboard on our website that lists all positive cases in our schools at www.pcsb.org/covid19cases. That dashboard is updated each work day and is searchable by location and date.

Additionally, in an effort to keep everyone overly-informed, principals have been sending out schoolwide messages every time a positive case is confirmed in their school. In many cases this is leading to families receiving multiple calls and emails per week and is causing confusion and message fatigue. We recognize that sending too many messages reduces their effectiveness. We have been asked to simplify the process to ensure families only receive the most essential communications, so we will be updating our protocols moving forward.

Beginning February 21, we will do the following:

- Notify by phone and email any student or staff member who is identified as a direct contact and must quarantine.*
- Update the district's COVID Public Dashboard every weekday at noon with cases confirmed the previous day.*

Add a link to the district's COVID Dashboard (www.pcsb.org/covid19cases) to the homepage of every school's website.

Beginning February 21, if you do not receive a call, then your student has not been deemed a close contact of a positive case and should attend school normally. If at any time you would like additional information about the number of cases at your student's school, or the safety protocols being followed, we encourage you to submit a question on the Dashboard webpage or reach out to the school principal.

As always, we ask everyone to monitor themselves for any sign of illness. If we all do our part, we can continue to keep our school family healthy and safe.

THAT