

# THE SARASOTAN

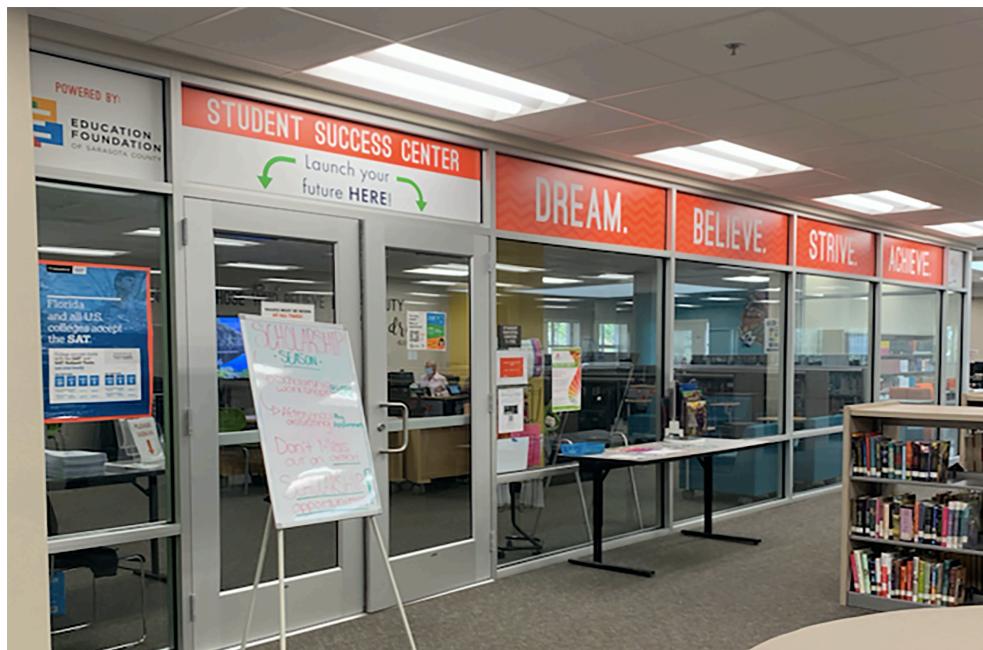
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## Reach Your Goals at the Student Success Center



*Pictures by Kinzy Marx. (Above) Mrs. Haller; (left) the GLC; (below left) Mr. Spires; (below right) Mr. Groene.*

By Alana Evans

The Student Success Center is an often-overlooked resource that provides valuable tools for success here at Sarasota High School. A pivotal piece of planning for the future, the Student Success Center offers guidance and support as you begin to think about life after graduation. There are many helpful materials available to assist you in reaching the best decision for your career, college, or passion. With a new team of dedicated and caring staff members, the Student Success Center is developing into a treasure trove of innovative resources for students.

Ms. Haller recently took over as the director of college advising in the center, along with coordinators Mr. Spires and Mr. Groene. Haller has a teaching certificate in Language Arts and a degree in Communications, as well as experience in marketing and teaching language arts. She previously worked in Ann Arbor, Michigan. "I oversee all aspects of the SSC, with a focus on presentations, consultations with families, and helping students strategically market themselves. I do



ACT and SAT prep as well," says Haller.

She describes the depth of detail and research that goes into assisting students, recalling a recent appointment with a visitor. "She [the student] wants to go into something in the medical field like nursing... we found a program called the Reserves. The Army Reserves will allow her to serve in the military, which is something she likes to do because she's a JROTC person, and at the same time it also helps support and pay for her college education we're looking at Florida military bases, but we have to find the one that's specific for her Army Reserves, and then we'll pick a college



that's reasonably close to where her training is going to be too. It's interesting, isn't it? Just to give you an idea of how in depth we can be with students." Haller is a kind and uplifting member of the team prepared to go above and beyond for young adults at SHS.

Another new addition to the Student Success Center is Mr. Spires. Spires is a college adviser finishing a degree in educational leadership. He further plans to pursue a degree in administration. At the high school, Spires handles testing waivers, scholarships, military, and communications and marketing incentives. He is a friendly and

welcoming advisor to any new face in the GLC. "Students can come in and get a fee waiver, or they could sit down with Mr. Spires... to help them fill out their FAFSA form, their financial aid form. There are just so many things that we do to consult with all of you." Haller elaborates.

For students looking to file volunteer hours, Mr. Groene is the perfect person to consult. Groene is a college coordinator and adviser in charge of community service hours, and he is knowledgeable about academic scholarships such as Florida Bright Futures. He has an MBA in business and tracks most of the data for the Student Success Center. Groene explains that each student in the school has a personal file in which they can keep important documents and volunteer papers. These files can be consulted at anytime when in the GLC; this simplifies tracking service hours, college options, test scores, and other necessary information.

Other resources in the Student Success Center include the insightful Book of Majors, a resourceful guide as to what each college major entails. Subjects are categorized alphabetically, and each includes a detailed list of which colleges in the country are best for each major. New tools such as Naviance and the Band App make finding information easy and convenient, and they provide full access to announcements about test prep, financial forms, and scholarship opportunities.

For students looking to get a head start on their plans for the future, visit the Student Success Center, which is open Monday through Friday, from 7am to 3pm. Haller and staff are always available and welcoming to students at Sarasota High School.



# The SHS Menagerie



By Ah'Reyana Luckett and Courtney McClellan

Have any of the mysterious animals roaming the school caught your eye, like the ducks from the pond or the baby squirrel that keeps infiltrating Building 13? Well, they've sure caught ours, so we'll tell you all about these cool crawling creatures!

Everyone who crosses campus is familiar with the ducks in the pond next to the gym. They tend to come out and walk to the other pond throughout the day, so security officer Judge escorts them from pond to pond. Judge said the times the ducks begin their journey are never constant, so she must try to keep an eye on when they do since students could trample them while walking to class.

The number of ducks is also always different because some ducks stay behind and hawks swoop down and snatch the ducklings. "It's sad that happens, but, you know, it's a part of the food chain," said Judge. We appreciate Judge's help in protecting these ducks on their trek from pond to pond.

The other, more outrageous school pet is a baby squirrel that has been coming into Building 13. Mr. Sanders and Mr. Gibala are two staff members familiar with this squirrel, and some students have also been discussing it.

According to Mr. Gibala, the squirrel tends to show up in the morning, so keep an eye out if you have an early class in Building 13!

The baby squirrel has had no shortage of adventures in SHS; Mr. Gibala has removed it three times from the building because other people are scared to pick it up.

As for why it keeps returning, Mr. Sanders and some students speculate that perhaps someone is feeding it, and

another student said their friend will sometimes leave crackers for it. It's amazing how the squirrel keeps coming back into the building—it might as well be an honorary Sailor!

For human Sailors, if you have any suggestions for names for our squirrel friend, please email Melissa Dweck at [Melissa.Dweck@sarasotacountyschools.net](mailto:Melissa.Dweck@sarasotacountyschools.net).

We also can't forget the pufferfish that are collected from the Sarasota Bay by our Marine Students. They are always released, but, as you can see in the picture above, they have very puffy personalities and charming smiles!

While we love our school pets, please exercise caution with these animals and treat them with respect. SHS should be a safe place, not only for students, but for everyone, be they fur, feather, or scale.



## Magic brought to life on stage in "Puffs"

By Isabella Yoder

Are you a fan of Harry Potter? The SHS drama department is too! Many students and faculty who enjoy the popular series were pleased to see that the Drama production this March was Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic. The play was directed by the theatre teacher, Ms. Knispel, and had a great cast and crew.

The play follows the story of the original Harry Potter saga but is told from the point of view of the Puffs. The Puffs is the house of kids who "don't belong". Ms. Knispel chose this show mainly because it is heartwarming and very comedic, which is something everyone needs during the times of COVID.

Even though the theatre is at 25% capacity, a lot of people of all ages came to see the show. The audience found it very entertaining, judging from their laughter and applause. The show as a whole was very impressive, especially the tech: from the lighting to the sound effects to the quote on quote "magic", it was eye-catching throughout the show. Almost all the actors in the show played more than one role, which displays each actor's range and talent.

Cameron Cabral, one of the actors in

Puffs, stated, "It was nice to be on stage; we all did a really good job, and I'm really proud of the whole cast and crew." This goes to show how positive the environment in SHS Theatre is and that students are building successful relationships with one another.

With COVID as a concern, SHS Theatre took many precautions for the performance: the performers and audience wore masks at all times, the auditorium was at 25% capacity, and seats were socially distanced. People that wished to stay home were able to purchase tickets to the online livestream of the show, courtesy of Sailor Vision Live, which has been filming all of Sarasota High's major events.

Overall, Puffs was a much-needed break from the craziness of COVID, and the performers had as much fun acting as the audience had watching. Great job to everyone involved, and we're excited to see what is in store for SHS Theatre next!



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## May 2021 Testing Calendar

Calendar  
Your source for

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	FSA Reading -9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Spanish Lang AS paper (pm) Marine Science AS/A Paper (pm)	FSA Reading -9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Psychology A paper (am) Chemistry A Paper (am) Math AS/Stats AS Paper (pm)	FSA Reading -9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> Biology A Paper (am) History AS paper (pm)	FSA Reading -9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> Global Perspectives AS Paper (pm) Math AS paper (pm) Statistics A Paper (pm)	FSA Reading -9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> English Lang AS paper (am) History AS paper (PM)	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	FSA Reading -9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> Chemistry AS Paper (am) Chemistry A Paper (am) Sociology AS (pm)	FSA Reading -10 <sup>th</sup> Physics A (am) Thinking Skills AS/A (pm)	FSA Reading -10 <sup>th</sup> Biology AS Paper (am) Biology A (am) Stats AS Paper (pm)	FSA Reading -10 <sup>th</sup>	FSA Reading -10 <sup>th</sup> Literature AS paper (am) Psychology A paper (am)	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Biology EOC Spanish Lang AS (pm)	Biology EOC Literature AS paper (am)	Biology EOC Thinking Skills AS/A (pm)	US History EOC Physics AS Paper (am) Physics A Paper (am) Sociology A paper (om)	US History EOC English Lang A (am) Media Studies AS (am) Thinking Skills AS/A (pm)	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	US History EOC And Make-up Testing	Algebra EOC Biology AS (Practical) (am) Travel and Tourism (pm)	Algebra EOC Geometry EOC Psychology A (am)	Algebra EOC Geometry EOC Physics AS practical (am) Sociology A (pm)	Geometry EOC	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
	Memorial Day					

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## Sailors Hit the Court

By Ryan Allison

The Sailor tennis season is officially underway! Their first game was February 3rd against Venice High; however, opening against the state champions of the prior season is a tough task to take on and, unfortunately, they came out with a 6-1 loss. But the future is bright: the Sailors are starting off with a fresh batch of new players and two new coaches. While this can be seen as an obstacle for a team to overcome, they still have time to find their groove as the season progresses, and improvement is on the horizon.

If you are familiar with Sarasota High, you may know that our school does not have any tennis courts. So, this begs the question, "where does the tennis team practice?" The boys practice at Brookside Middle School and the girls practice at McIntosh Middle School.

The boys' team consists of William

Blagden, Henry Blagden, Charles Edgeson, Darshan Gonzalez, Aydin Ureksoy, and Alejandro Peralta. The girls' consists of Krystal Tran, Lydia Graue, Alice Lotti, Julia Ryerson, and Julianna Famiglio.

At the beginning of this year's tennis season, these new teams lost a few matches, but they have made considerable progress with their win over North Port just before spring break. The Sailors look to make this a trend in their upcoming rematch against Venice High on 3/25, and improve their record to 3-3.

Coach Falgowski stated, "Our tennis team is comprised of ambitious fighters who can consistently be seen giving it their all out on the court." As coaches, they are proud to witness them improve.

For the Sailors, the sky is the limit and Wimbledon is the goal.

## Sprinting Through the Track Season

By Carter Miller

With the arrival of spring, SHS's boys and girls track teams have started to race through the season. Their first event was on January 25th, and they are now in the midst of their seasons, which run until Regionals on May 1st. If they make it to states, however, their year could be even longer and more exciting!

With two subcategories of the event, track and field, there's a lot to watch! Field events include various heights and lengths of jumps and pole vaults,

along with shot put and the discus and javelin throws. In track, on the other hand, the team does sprints, runs, and hurdles.

Thankfully, the teams have not been affected very much by COVID, mostly because they do not use buses to travel to meets anymore. Hopefully that means this season can run as smoothly as ones have in years past!

We have two stellar coaches this year: John Stevenson, who heads the boys' track team along with the girls' cross-country team; and Ed Sera, who trains the girls' track team and the

boys' cross-country team.

Track and field requires a variety of physical skills, including running, jumping, and throwing. Agility and dexterity are also helpful to prospective athletes, and determination and a positive mindset make for a great teammate.

Track star Tyler Boyer says that his favorite part about being on the track team is making friendships while doing what he is passionate about. "Track is a once in a lifetime thing. You pour your heart out and try your best in all of your events."

If any of this sounds interesting to you, you should think about joining the track and field team next season—

## Wrestlers Pin Regionals

By Gehrig Contarino

Sarasota High School's burgeoning wrestling team has experienced new growth throughout this year.

As a young, full team of 14 individuals, they performed admirably. While none of the wrestlers went to states, 9 did make it to regionals, including Mickey Tafesse, Nathan Honhart, Luke Williams, Mark Serebryanskiy, and Joey Everly.

One key fundamental the wrestling team wants to work on is not hesitating as much. They are still a notably young team with plenty more years to work on their technique and improving their performance.

Even with their inexperience, they were clearly able to overcome the

obstacle of a new coaching staff, given their success.

As the seniors, juniors, and sophomores have discovered their potential, the team now believes that they will be able to win a state championship next year. Most veteran players have been competing for something much greater than just the sport of wrestling: they play for the late Coach Tracy.

Coach Tracy loved coaching, following his passion until the day he passed away. He is the reason most of the players still wrestle to this day, and why 9 of them went to regionals this year alone.

With a very bright and promising future ahead, the wrestling team looks to continue building a legacy for Coach Tracy.

## Making Shots With Lacrosse

By Logan Giasson

One of Sarasota High School's newest sports is lacrosse, which started last year but ended prematurely due to the coronavirus closures.

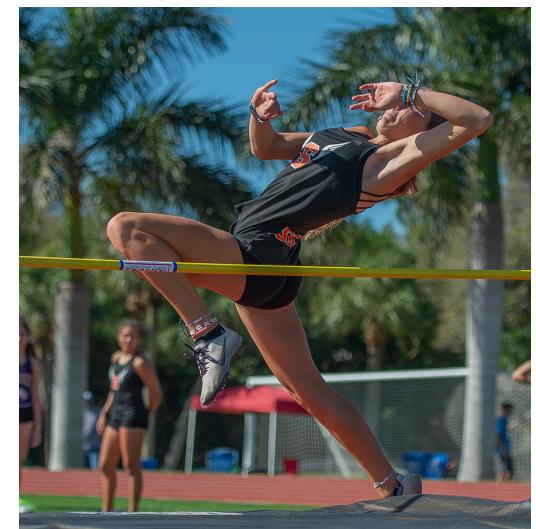
Although the coronavirus took a large effect on last year's season, Cassidy Saba, senior and girls' lacrosse captain, said with regard to this season, "Corona has had a few minor effects on this season. ... Girls have been in and out due to contract tracing, which has cost us some starting players for different games throughout the season."

As the captain, she believes that the loss of some starters has allowed other

players to step up and help the team, which undoubtedly helps build their dynamic and teamwork.

Additionally, she's taken her role as the captain and a senior seriously: Saba has helped those just starting the sport to make sure this team stays strong in the coming years.

For the rest of this season, the girls will focus on growing their own skills and continuing to make memories. Sadie Phillips, another member of girls' lacrosse, said, "My favorite part about playing the sport is by far my team. They have become my second family."



anyone can join the junior varsity team, while tryouts are necessary for the varsity team.

Let's cheer both the boys' and girls' team on as they cross this season's finish line!