

THE CHARGER UPDATE

January 18 - 22, 2021

Right-click to open hyperlinks

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday – Monday, January 18, 2021 School Closed

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we reflect on 2020, together, we worked through challenges and we also seized opportunities. The events of this past year have proven that our students and staff are remarkably resilient. The FY20 graduation rate, [released last week](#), indicates that 94.4% of students attending District-operated schools earned a diploma. This is a testament to the dedication of compassionate people, both in and outside of the classroom, who work tirelessly to elevate our students, even in times of great difficulty. The District-wide graduation rate increase, of more than 6% over the last five years, is directly connected to a belief structure across all grade levels that stresses we all play a vital role in a student's post-graduate success. While the overall rate is encouraging, much work remains to ensure that all students achieve this milestone. We ALL play a role in student success.

The start of a new year provides a natural reflection point and a clear opportunity to bring meaningful change for ourselves and the surrounding community. Appropriately, January is *National Mentoring Month*, which is a critical call for positive community engagement. Throughout the month, we find opportunities to safely and responsibly model, for our students, a truth that mentoring amplifies change, one relationship at a time. To find out how to become a mentor, or to simply share your story of how a mentor changed your life, visit mentoring.org

As we close out the first semester, whether in-person or through distance learning, we look forward to a safe, healthy, and positive start to a new year. **Parents and students** must continue to remain fully aware of the latest District updates regarding important information:

- [The Governor's Executive Order](#) will allow Florida school districts to continue to offer families a choice between in-person instruction and distance learning for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. ***Disclaimer:** *Per the new Governor's Executive Order, any student who is not making adequate academic progress in the distance learning platform will be transitioned to brick and mortar. Parents/Guardians will be provided with written notice if their child is not making adequate progress and any associated education risks. Schools will obtain written acknowledgment from the parent/guardian verifying the receipt of such notification, and if the parent/guardian chooses for his/her child to remain in distance learning.*

Make Your Choice 3.0 - Second Semester Action and Timeline:

- ***Tuesday, February 2, 2021** - Beginning of Make Your Choice 3.0 selection. Whether brick & mortar or distance learning, this selection remains in place for the remainder of the school year. No further changes for the second semester without a waiver. ***See Disclaimer above.**

January 11 - 29, 2021: Winter Diagnostic Assessment Window for Grades 3 - 10 - The results from these assessments provide teachers with the next steps for students and drive instruction for the rest of the school year. Students in distance learning should **follow the directions emailed from Ms. Rawson, Suncoast Testing Coordinator, regarding dates and times of testing.**

REMINDER- Parents, if you, your child, or anyone in your home is not feeling well, please consider keeping your child home until everyone feels better or tested with negative results.



SCHOOL BUSINESS

Get Ready to Graduate!

June 17, 2021, 12:00 pm

The Suncoast High School Commencement ceremony for the Class of 2021 will take place on June 17, 2021 at 12:00 pm. Although the District hopes to have students participate in graduation *ceremonies in-person*, the decision regarding the format for these ceremonies will be announced in the Spring of 2021. This decision will be based on the most recent CDC, local, and state health department guidelines and recommendations.

Senior Cap and Gown Orders Coming Your Way...

It is time! Time to purchase your cap and gown! Herff Jones will be on campus, on the following dates, for you to purchase your cap and gown: **February 25 and March 25, 2021**. All dates are from **5:00 pm - 7:00 pm on campus in the Gym**. To reserve your spot or if you have any questions, contact Ms. Winchester at anneliese.winchester@palmbeachschools.org.

Plan to Park at Suncoast?

If you plan to return to school campus next week or second semester, please purchase your parking decal in advance! Use the [SchoolCash Online](#) feature to pay now. Complete the [Suncoast parking permits](#) application located on the Suncoast High website (note the second page needs to be notarized) and use the Google Form to submit your documents. Or, you can bring hard copies of the application, your driver's license, car registration, and insurance card to the Main Office after school (no learner permits allowed). The **Main Office closes at 3:30 pm daily**. Parents can also pick up parking decals on their child's behalf during the school day.

Buy Your Yearbook Now!

Our national award-winning yearbooks are available to order now at <https://www.balfour.com/student-info?smi=16247>. **Order your yearbook before January 31, 2021** for the low price of \$75. After this date, the price goes up to \$90.

REbound Spirit Week

February 2 – 5, 2021

Our opportunity to celebrate the Spring sports season and to welcome a new school semester with some spirit and some style! Lunch activities are forthcoming!

Dress up days: Follow the dress code when designing your spirit outfits.

Tuesday, February 2	RElax PJ Day	Wear your appropriate long pajama bottoms and a sleeved shirt – onesies approved!
Wednesday, February 3	REconnect Twins/Multiples Day	Reconnect with your friends and dress alike in pairs or groups. The more the merrier!
Thursday, February 4	REwind Decades Day	Dress according to your assigned decade: Freshmen – 70s Sophomores – 80s Juniors – 90s Seniors – 2000s
Friday, February 5	REpresent Class Color Day	Wear your class shirt or color: Freshmen – White Sophomores - Yellow Juniors - Black Seniors - Green

TESTING? TESTING! ONE, TWO...

PSAT/NMSQT

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

There are a few seats available for sophomores or juniors who DID NOT take the PSAT/NMSQT in October. Contact Ms. Rawson by **Tuesday, January 19th** for more information: mary.rawson@palmbeachschools.org. Test Day information will be emailed to students participating in the PSAT/NMSQT next week.

School-wide SAT

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

The **SAT** will be administered **ON CAMPUS** to **ALL Suncoast Juniors** at no cost, FREE, on **Wednesday, March 3, 2021**. Please check your student emails for confirmation information. It is vitally important that students submit their confirmation as soon as possible so we can prepare to administer this test according to proper CDC guidelines. Contact Ms. Rawson for more information: mary.rawson@palmbeachschools.org.

2 Using your *student account, please complete this [G-Form](#) by **8:00 am on Monday, February 15, 2021** to confirm your attendance and secure your seat. Test Day Information (including test room locations) will be sent to student emails a week prior to the test administration date.

TUTORIAL ROCKS !

The Suncoast Writing Lab is Open! [Suncoast Writing Lab Appointment](#).

The Suncoast Tutorial Schedule is on our website:

<https://suh.palmbeachschools.org/cms/one.aspx?portalId=1950398&pageId=11093787>

Need CAS Help? Join the CAS for 2022 Candidates Google Classroom (Code: **tb33zuq**) for a CAS Coach.

All Things IB is Back! Wednesdays, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm with Dr. Busse, Ms. Armbruster, and Ms. Edgar – Google Meet code <https://meet.google.com/fkh-uhmk-txz> or use nickname **atib**.

Mu Alpha Theta Offers Free Virtual Lunch-time Math Tutoring: Monday – Thursday
[MAO Lunch Tutoring Sign-Up](#) for All Math subjects.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR CORNER

Virtual College Fairs for 10th and 11th Graders

College Board will launch its inaugural *BigFuture Days*, a regional series of free virtual college fairs for high school sophomores and juniors to help connect them with hundreds of colleges, admissions officers, and current college students. *BigFuture Days* are designed to give students a tailored experience so that they can establish connections with colleges and take action on important college planning tasks, like building a college list and identifying scholarships to apply for.

Students and educators can **register for multiple events**, including the region they live in and/or the region(s) that represents the schools they are most interested in as well as learn more about the event(s) here: cb.org/bigfuturedays.

- BigFuture Day West + Southwest, Saturday, February 6, 2021, 4:00 – 8:00pm ET
- BigFuture Day Southeast, Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 5:00 – 9:00pm ET
- BigFuture Day Northeast, Sunday, March 7, 4:00 – 8:00pm ET
- BigFuture Day Midwest, Thursday, March 11, 5:00 – 9:00pm ET

If parents have questions about *BigFuture Days*, they can learn more about the event(s) here: [Parent Information](#)

#ALLINONHBCUs

The School District of Palm Beach County is collaborating with Broward County Public Schools, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the School District of Osceola County on the implementation of a college access event highlighting **Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)**. "All-In on HBCUs" is a two-week initiative with participation from **34 HBCUs** from across the country.

Each day, January 19 - January 28, representatives from participating institutions will be available for one-hour information sessions. All sessions are **virtual and free** and open to anyone who is interested in learning more about **HBCUs**. See the listing of participating universities and click the respective links for all sessions available on www.palmbeachschools.org/HBCU.

Scholarship Opportunities – It's a Live Link!

Students and Parents, check this site often for updates: [Apply for Scholarships](#)

VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Prepare with the SAT Experts

Saturday Virtual Sessions

The Suncoast Foundation and Score at the Top started a 7-week SAT test-taking strategy virtual workshop held on Saturdays, first day was **January 9, 2021**. Check out the [SAT Prep flyer](#) for more on this workshop and the website for more information on cost, dates and times: <https://www.scoreatthetop.com/suncoast-high-school-7-week-sat-test-taking-strategy-workshop>. Opportunities for fee reduction exist for eligible students. *Remember, Florida state universities are NOT test optional and Bright Futures requires a 1210 SAT score for Medallion Scholars and 1330 for Academic Scholars.* See the [Bright Futures Scholarship Guide Book](#) for more information.

SPORTS EVENTS

Spring Sports Tryouts

starts January 18

Spring Sports will begin tryouts for baseball, softball, tennis, water polo, and boys weightlifting the week of January 18th. Please see the chart below regarding important start dates for all spring sports, including the last possible dates set to join a team for spring. Please contact the head coach for more sport specific details regarding tryouts and season information: [Suncoast Athletics Head Coaches List](#).

- Students must be cleared prior to any participation.
- The **last day to turn in an Athletic Eligibility Packet for Spring is February 5, 2021.**

Spring Sports - Start and Try-Out Dates

Sport	Start Date / Try-Out Date	Last Date to Join
Water Polo	Jan. 19	Jan. 25
Boys Weightlifting	Jan. 19	Jan. 25
Baseball	Jan. 18	Jan. 25
Softball	Jan. 19	Jan. 25
Tennis	Jan. 18	Jan. 25
Track	Jan. 25	Feb. 1
Lacrosse	Jan. 25	Feb. 8
Flag Football	Feb. 8	Feb. 15
Boys Volleyball	Feb. 8	Feb. 15

Requirements for Athletic Participation for Spring 2021:

- Athletic Eligibility Packets - [2020-2021 Athletic Eligibility Packet](#)
- Forms **are not permitted** to be emailed, scanned, or copied. Original copy only.
- The following items must be attached to the completed eligibility packet for clearance. No same day clearance will be issued.
 - [Athletic Eligibility Packet](#) and [COVID Waiver](#)
 - Certificates:
 - Concussion - <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/concussion-in-sports-2>
 - Sudden Cardiac Arrest - <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/sudden-cardiac-arrest>
 - Heat Illness - <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/heat-illness-prevention-2>
- Receipt with proof of paid Athletic Insurance

After the completed packets are turned in and approved, a clearance form will be issued to the athlete. This form is your entry ticket for participation. Athletic Eligibility Packets will be collected during lunch, 12:15 pm -12:50 pm, and after school 2:40 pm - 3:30 pm, in the Main Office, on the following dates: **January 19 – 20; January 21, 25, and February 3 – 4, 2021.**

Athletic Event Procedures, Ticketing, Security and Health Screenings

Guests must pre-purchase tickets online using the cashless [GoFan](#) app. The School District has created a [Protocols Video](#) for clarification. Please use the following procedures if you plan to attend a school sports event:

GoFan Ticketing Directions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkZqTY5d6Bg>

GoFan Accessing and Ticket Sharing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0Xhso4QobA&authuser=0>

Permitted Items: There will NOT be any concessions at athletic events.

Fans are permitted to bring **one unopened, sealed, unfrozen bottle of water.**

Face masks must be worn by fans at all times. Neck gaiters are not an approved mask for Palm Beach County School District functions.

Health Screening and Mask Requirements:

All guests will answer [Health Screening Questions](#) and have a temperature check before entering the facility.

Date	Day	Sport	Start Time	Level	Location	Opponent/Title	Facility
1/15/2021	Friday	Wrestling	5:00 PM	Varsity	Away	TBA	Boca Raton
1/16/2021	Saturday	Competition Cheer	TBD	Varsity	Away	Coral Glades	Coral Glades
1/19/2021	Tuesday	Soccer, Girls	6:00 PM	Varsity	Away	Dwyer (Palm Beach Gardens)	Dwyer (Palm Beach Gardens)
1/19/2021	Tuesday	Basketball, Boys	7:30 PM	Varsity	Away	Lake Worth	Lake Worth
1/20/2021	Wednesday	Wrestling	5:00 PM	Varsity	Home	Fort Lauderdale, Okeechobee, Palm Beach Gardens	Suncoast (Riviera Beach)
1/21/2021	Thursday	Basketball, Girls	7:00 PM	Varsity	Away	Atlantic (Delray Beach)	Atlantic (Delray Beach)
1/21/2021	Thursday	Basketball, Boys	7:00 PM	Varsity	Away	Dwyer (Palm Beach Gardens)	Dwyer (Palm Beach Gardens)
1/22/2021	Friday	Wrestling	5:00 PM	Varsity	Away	TBA	Seminole Ridge High School
1/15/2021	Friday	Wrestling	5:00 PM	Varsity	Away	TBA	Boca Raton
1/16/2021	Saturday	Competition Cheer	TBD	Varsity	Away	Coral Glades	Coral Glades
1/19/2021	Tuesday	Soccer, Girls	6:00 PM	Varsity	Away	Dwyer (Palm Beach Gardens)	Dwyer (Palm Beach Gardens)
1/19/2021	Tuesday	Basketball, Boys	7:30 PM	Varsity	Away	Lake Worth	Lake Worth
1/20/2021	Wednesday	Wrestling	5:00 PM	Varsity	Home	Fort Lauderdale, Okeechobee, Palm Beach Gardens	Suncoast (Riviera Beach)
1/21/2021	Thursday	Basketball, Girls	7:00 PM	Varsity	Away	Atlantic (Delray Beach)	Atlantic (Delray Beach)

For security reasons, please note the following rules before entering the stadium, gym, and fields:

- All persons, bags and vehicles may be subject to search.
- Only clear bags are permitted inside the stadium, gym, and fields– All other bags, wristlets or purses, with the exception of diaper bags for an infant or toddler, are prohibited.
- No re-entry – if you exit, you cannot return.
- No admittance after the second half kickoff, 3rd period, 3rd quarter, or 5th inning.
- No loitering outside of the stadium/school gates or in parking areas.
- Exit the stadium, immediately at the conclusion of the game.
- No outside food or beverages may be brought into the event.
- Unruly conduct, disruptive behavior, use of profane, obscene or abusive language of any type will result in immediate removal from the event.
- In the event of any emergency, follow all instructions provided by law enforcement.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSE

Here are a few reminders:

We continue to be diligent in dealing with all things COVID related for our on campus and off campus students, so PLEASE, if your student:

- develops symptoms of COVID-19
- has tested positive for COVID-19
- is exposed to someone in the home who has tested positive
- knows/believes he/she may have had close contact with someone who has tested positive
- or if you are unsure about a situation...

Please contact the school immediately for direction.

Also, for students who plan to return to campus next semester:

- Please contact me immediately if your student has diabetes, severe allergies, asthma, seizures, Lupus, a cardiac condition, or any condition that could require medical attention or medication/treatment at school on a daily or on an "as needed" basis. I will work with you on a plan of care by sending a Parent Questionnaire via email or meeting with you over the phone.

If your student plans to have medication available in the health room or carry medication with him/her (such as inhalers, EpiPens, over the counter meds for headaches, cramps, etc.), new physician's authorization forms are required. Each school year, forms must be on file with the school nurse before medication is brought to the school. Please review the information on this [Parent Guide for Medications at School](#).

I am available by phone at 561-882-3484 or email at colong@hcdpbc.org during the school day.

Thank you!
Nurse Colleen

CHARGER SHOUT-OUTS

Congratulations to the Suncoast High School Volunteer of the Year 2020-2021, Mrs. Joann Kapsos. For the past three years, Mrs. Kapsos has served as a Front Office Volunteer, 5-Star Coordinator, 2020 Athletic Department Holiday Fundraiser Coordinator, and has assisted the Wrestling team and Mu Alpha Theta in performing many tasks as needed with shining eyes and a pleasant smile behind her mask! *Mrs. Kapsos, we appreciate all you do for us at Suncoast!!*

December Chargers of the Month are Communicators: *(comments from their nominators)*

Matthew Lind

Matthew was nominated by Mrs. Cummings. she said, "Matthew communicates confidently and creatively in Spanish class. He also collaborates effectively during class discussions."

Anna Stengel

Mrs. Russo nominated Anna. She said, "For three years, Anna has been instrumental in helping run the school's social media accounts and keeping the Charger nation up-to-date on our accolades. This year, she helps create the Google Slides that are used for WRSN, seamlessly providing a means of communication to all our students."

December SuperCharger of the Month:

Elizabeth Pearson

Mrs. Pearson was nominated by Mrs. Bobay who said, "Beth has helped me tremendously with all of the new technology skills that I've had to learn since last March. We have also been working together this year teaching Precalculus. She has always been available for me if I have a question about our pacing and curriculum."

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 25 – 29, 2021

Heritage Week

February 2, 2021

Quarter 3 Begins

STAY CONNECTED

SUNCOAST HIGH SCHOOL WEBSITE: www.Suncoasthighschool.org

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Suncoast-Community-High-School/1444659332463268?fref=ts>

ON INSTAGRAM! [https://instagram.com/suncoasthighfl/
Suncoast Chargers Athletics](https://instagram.com/suncoasthighfl/Suncoast%20Chargers%20Athletics)

ON TWITTER! <https://twitter.com/SuncoastHighFL> Suncoast High School @SuncoastHighFL