

# STEINBRENNER PTSA NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023  
VOLUME 11  
ISSUE 1

George Steinbrenner High School  
5575 W. Lutz Lake Fern Rd.  
Lutz, Florida 33558  
813.792.5131

*A Hillsborough County School*



Visit our website: [steinbrennerptsa.com](http://steinbrennerptsa.com)

## 2023-2024: WELCOME BACK

It feels like a whirlwind already and the school year has just begun. Teacher Breakfast, Open House, and Senior Sunrise are just a few of the events the PTSA team put together. The PTSA enjoys advocating for our students and serving our teachers, staff, and parents!

We are so grateful to each of you who joined our PTSA membership! If you have not completed your membership, we ask that you do so today. Join by filling out the brightly colored PTSA member sheet from your student's first day packet & returning to school or online by [CLICKING HERE](#). You can also purchase Senior Banners and donate to Steinbrenner Cares & Teacher Appreciation online as well.

When you become a PTSA member, you can be as involved as much or as little as you like. You are not required to attend meetings, but you are always invited, and will find them informative & somewhat entertaining. I joined a few years ago and had no intentions of doing anything beyond contributing a few dollars to support the school. However, our PTSA needed a treasurer, and I took the opportunity to get more involved. This gave me the chance to work with some of the most amazing people in the world who just happen to be PTSA members as well. This is a no-drama, help-your-school, and have-a-lot-of-fun group who work hard to advocate for the Steinbrenner Community.

You will be amazed at the return on your membership dues investment. This is what your PTSA was able to contribute last year:

- \$16,000+ - scholarships to seniors
- \$14,999 – school landscaping
- \$7,000+ - teacher & staff appreciation events
- \$1,500 – Steinbrenner Cares grants to students & families in need
- \$6,000+ - teacher grants for the items below:
  - Safety signage for Deputy Bennett
  - Smartboards for the library
  - Speakers for Teacher Training
  - Sound board for chorus department
  - Bulletin board to display ESE students' work
  - 64 TI calculators for Algebra 1
  - New website for Oracle and journalism program
  - Display case for Guidance Department
  - Equipment for robotics class and club

*(Welcome Back continued page 2)*

## Calendar

### September:

- 4 No School-Labor Day
- 5-8 Homecoming Spirit Week
- 6 **6:00pm: PTSA General Membership Meeting & Princeton Review SAT Discussion—Cuatro (pg. 4)**
- 7 **Steinbrenner Family Day – Three Brothers Pizza (pg. 2)**
- 8 Homecoming Pep Rally & Football Game
- 9 Homecoming Dance
- 13 7:00pm - SAT discussion for parents & students – online (pg. 4)
- 16 **9:00am-1:00pm: FREE SAT Virtual Practice Test (pg. 5)**
- 18 3:30pm: Conference Night
- 18 6:00pm: Senior Information Night
- 22 **Deadline for student newsletter article submission for volunteer hours (pgs. 5 & 6)**
- 18-22 Start with Hello Week

### October:

- 5 9-11 Grade Picture Retake Day
- 12 End of 1<sup>st</sup> Grading Period
- 16 No School – Non-Student Day
- 20 **Deadline to submit Reflections artwork (pg. 5)**
- 21 **9:00am-Noon: FREE Digital SAT Practice Test (pg. 5)**

\*\*Dates & times are subject to change

[PTSA Calendar](#)  
[Steinbrenner High School Calendar](#)  
[District Calendar](#)

## 2023-2024 Board Members

President:	<u>Natasha Sherwood</u>
Treasurer:	<u>Shadia Aouadi</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> VP Membership:	<u>Maurine Wheeler</u>
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP Strategic Planning:	<u>Hanna Curry</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> VP Development:	<u>Melissa Siebels</u>
4 <sup>th</sup> VP Volunteers:	<u>Jonilyn Maglott</u> <u>Kolsen</u>
Recording/Corresponding Secretary:	<u>Jessica Graham</u>
Immediate Past President:	<u>Alison Newman</u>
Paver Fundraiser:	<u>Bridgette Coble</u> <u>Shelly Saunders</u>
ACT/SAT Prep and College Readiness Programs:	<u>Debra Casey</u>
Hospitality:	<u>Laurie Grantham</u>
PE/Hope Uniforms and Spirit Wear:	<u>Portia Engman</u> <u>Jessica Graham</u>
Senior Banners:	<u>Natalie Lima</u>
Senior Events:	<u>Marty Sheehan</u> <u>Lisa Aiken</u> <u>Hanna Curry</u>
Steinbrenner Cares:	<u>Erica Rude</u> <u>Amy Pardo</u> <u>Catherine Paladino</u>
Teacher Appreciation Week:	<u>Krystal Feliciano</u> <u>Veronica Jiminez</u>
Teacher Grants and School Improvements:	<u>Jennifer Harbour</u>
Website and Social Media:	<u>Michelle St. John</u> <u>Dawn Hoskins</u>
World of a Teen:	<u>Francine Phillips</u> <u>Jennifer Labadie-Waldhauser</u>
Awards:	<u>Cheryl Michel</u>
Newsletter:	<u>Leslie Nixon</u>
Reflections:	<u>Tamara Ponce</u> <u>Monica Young</u>
Senior Scholarships:	<u>Bethany Mis</u> <u>Catherine Paladino</u>
Sign Up Genius Chair:	Kristen Miller
Faculty Representative:	<u>Heather Prokop</u>
Member at Large:	Tammy Sumiantoro Brandy Hylton
Principal:	<u>Tiffany Ewell</u>

## Welcome Back continued...

In addition to the donations above, PTSA hosted Senior Sunrise, Senior Sunset, two Senior Award ceremonies, Open House, Teacher's Back to School Breakfast, two conference night meals, Senior Banners & Signs, SAT & ACT prep courses, and Reflections art contest. We also presented the award-winning World of a Teen online interactive event featuring a panel of experts on topics such as mental health, social media, legal issues, substance abuse, and much more. On top of all that, we delivered more than 1300 PE uniforms!

Last year, the PTSA Student Leadership Advisory Council was created. This group of students helps us make informed decisions on what our students need and want. The group focused on thanking the teachers and improving student mental health by reducing stress. Handwritten Valentines and treats were handed out to all staff, and they hosted a de-stress day with the agriculture class goats during exams. We are excited to see what the group initiates this year.

As you can see, your PTSA membership dues is an investment in our students and school community. We hope you choose to join us again this year!

Additionally, we are always looking for business and family sponsors. If your family or business would like to support our PTSA in any way, please reach out to [gshsptsapresident@gmail.com](mailto:gshsptsapresident@gmail.com).

We are looking forward to a great year with everyone back in school. **We hope to see all of you at the General Member Meeting on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm at Cuatro.**

If you have any questions regarding our PTSA, please feel free to reach out to me at [gshsptsapresident@gmail.com](mailto:gshsptsapresident@gmail.com).

Thank you for your continued support and GO WARRIORS!  
Natasha Sherwood  
2023-2024 Steinbrenner PTSA President



**PIZZA** **THREE BROTHERS**  
★ NEW YORK PIZZA ★

**AND**  
**STEINBRENNER PTSA**

INVITE YOU TO OUR FIRST FAMILY  
FUNDRAISING EVENT OF THE YEAR!  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH  
THE ODESSA LOCATION AT  
17773 GUNN HWY  
WILL DONATE 15% OF THE DAY'S  
PROCEEDS TO  
STEINBRENNER PTSA!  
DINE IN, TAKE-OUT AND DELIVERY!

SEPTEMBER 7TH  
ALL DAY!  
813-920-0007



## PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We are all excited for you to be a part of what makes Steinbrenner such a great place.

Our school consistently ranks as one of the highest achieving high schools in our district and has maintained our status as an A school for the past 11 years!

Not only does our school remain a top-rated school but we continue to get better each year. Last year we made gains in the state assessed English Language Arts, Math, and Science assessments. We also saw gains in the number of students earning college credit in Advanced Placement exams and Dual Enrollment courses. In our Advanced Placement classes, 22 of the AP subjects we offer on our campus saw improvements in student performance and 25 of our AP subjects exceeded the State average. Our overall AP pass rate was the highest in the district!

Congratulations to all the students and staff who made these achievements possible. I am very proud of everyone's efforts and look forward to all we will achieve together this year!

Beyond academics, we hope all students will find a way to get involved in their high school. Our campus offers a vast array of clubs and sports that meet a wide variety of interests. We believe these activities play a significant role in enhancing our students' high school experience. Thank you to all the adults who volunteer their time to make these opportunities available to our students, including our award-winning PTSA.

Finally, we would like you to mark your calendar. Our **first conference night of the year will be September 18, 3:30pm** and we hope you will be able to attend. Online grades can be monitored through [Canvas](#). We also encourage you to check X (formerly Twitter) regularly for updates on important information happening in our school.

We hope everyone has a fantastic year! Go Warriors!

Tiffany Ewell  
Principal  
Steinbrenner High School

## STAY IN THE KNOW

### Steinbrenner PTSA Website:

[www.steinbrennerptsa.org](http://www.steinbrennerptsa.org)

The PTSA website can be translated into a variety of languages. Scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on "Select Language." From there, choose your preferred language.

### Steinbrenner PTSA online store:

<https://gshsptsa.memberhub.store/>

**PTSA Newsletter:** The Steinbrenner PTSA newsletter will be sent monthly to all registered families.

[shsptsanews@gmail.com](mailto:shsptsanews@gmail.com)

**Steinbrenner PTSA Facebook:** Join the Steinbrenner PTSA Facebook page for the latest school news.

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

### PTSA X (Twitter):

<https://twitter.com/SteinbrennerPTA>

**School News:** Steinbrenner High School website

<http://steinbrenner.mysdhc.org/>

**District News:** Hillsborough County School District Website <https://www.hillsboroughschools.org>

[Hillsborough County PTA](#)

[Florida PTA](#)

[National PTA](#)

[Canvas](#)

## Volunteer Opportunities

If you want to volunteer at Steinbrenner, Hillsborough County School District mandates that you submit a volunteer application. [CLICK HERE](#) for the application.

Next, submit your contact information and volunteer preferences to the Steinbrenner PTSA Volunteer Coordinator by [CLICKING HERE](#). You will be contacted when a volunteer opportunity arises.

### Helpful tips when volunteering:

1. Park in the designated visitor parking lot at the front of the school.
2. Check in with your identification at the front office. A badge will be provided.
3. Your badge must be worn and visible while you are at the school.
4. When finished, return your badge to the front office staff, and sign out.

## Help Us Reach Our Goal of 1500 PTSA Members!

Thank you to all who have already joined Steinbrenner PTSA for the 2023-2024 school year! Your membership is what enables us to provide so many amazing programs for our students and teachers.

PTSA funds numerous programs, such as:

- Senior Scholarships (over \$16,000 awarded last year)
- Safety and school improvements (over \$14,900 donated last year)
- Steinbrenner Cares (helping students in need)
- SAT and ACT Preparation
- Teacher Grants (\$5,000 budgeted and available)
- Teacher Appreciation Week/Bus Driver Appreciation
- Senior Events
- "The World of a Teen" Program
- .....and so much more

If you have not joined yet, we hope you will consider joining today. By joining the PTSA, you are not obligating yourself to any time commitment whatsoever. You are simply supporting the PTSA programs and initiatives for our students and teachers here at Steinbrenner. **Your investment in our school community through PTSA membership is greatly appreciated.**

### 3 Easy Ways to JOIN:

1. [CLICK HERE](#) to join online at our PTSA store.
2. Print the [PTSA Membership Form](#) and drop it off with your payment at the school office.
3. Print the [PTSA Membership Form](#) and mail it along with your payment to: Steinbrenner High School PTSA, 5575 W. Lutz Lake Fern Rd, Lutz, FL 33558, Attn: Maurine Wheeler, GSHS, VP of Membership

*\*\*Make checks payable to Steinbrenner PTSA\*\**

### ATTENTION SENIORS:

To be eligible for the PTSA Scholarship, you must join the PTSA by December 31, 2023.

Questions about Steinbrenner PTSA membership?  
Email [gshsptsamembership@gmail.com](mailto:gshsptsamembership@gmail.com)

## Student Volunteers

Student volunteer opportunities will be posted in the Steinbrenner PTSA Newsletter, [website](#), X (Twitter), and/or Facebook.

PTSA volunteer hours can count toward the Bright Futures Scholarship.

**SENIORS!** 5 Steinbrenner PTSA volunteer hours are needed to be eligible for the Senior Scholarship.

**JUNIORS! DID YOU KNOW?** You can start earning PTSA volunteer hours toward the Senior Scholarship during the second semester of your junior year.

If you have any questions about volunteering, please email [gshsptsavolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:gshsptsavolunteers@gmail.com).



## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

### THE SAT IS CHANGING!

### JOIN STEINBRENNER PTSA & PRINCETON REVIEW FOR A DISCUSSION

@ the General Member Meeting  
September 6 at 6:00pm  
Cuatro

College Board has announced a significant change to the SAT. Soon, the exam will be entirely computer based. Princeton Review is joining us to discuss what is changing for the SAT and what is staying the same. They will also discuss what a digital SAT means for your student.

Can't attend? Use this QR code to join an online discussion:

**September 13**  
**7:00pm**  
**TPR Online Classroom**



## CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION

LOTS of mulch to place around the campus plants, shrubs, and trees.

The  
Princeton  
Review®

## FREE SAT Prep for ALL Steinbrenner Students

September

16th  
9a - 1p

### SAT Virtual Practice Test!

Find out where you stand and how you can improve your SAT score. Become familiar with question types and formatting in a real testing environment.



October

21st  
9a - 12p

### Digital SAT Virtual Practice Test!

Experience a true test-day simulation! Our practice test mirrors the exact format and question types found on the official the College Board's Bluebook App.



## Senior Scholarship

Steinbrenner PTSA will once again offer scholarship opportunities to our graduating seniors.

Requirements:

- The applying Senior must join the PTSA by **December 31, 2023**. [CLICK HERE](#) to join!
- Complete **5** volunteer hours with Steinbrenner PTSA. Active participation in SLAK club can earn those hours! And articles written for this newsletter earn students **2** volunteer hours per article! (Find more information on pg. 6)
- Completed application.
- Teacher recommendations.

**NEW!** This year the scholarship application and teacher recommendations will be completed **ENTIRELY ONLINE!**

Look in next month's newsletter or on the PTSA website in mid-September for the links & more information.



## SENIOR SUNRISE

The Graduating Class of 2024 kicked off the first week of school with their annual Senior Sunrise. In this tradition, seniors arrive before sunup to celebrate the first of many lasts as they enter their final year at Steinbrenner. After watching the sun come up with all their senior friends, they were treated to coffee and donuts before heading off to class.

## REFLECTIONS:



**ATTENTION ALL STEINBRENNER STUDENTS:** Do you enjoy art, music, dance, or have an interest in writing, producing films, or taking photos? Then join us and have fun unleashing your inner artist with National PTA Reflections! This Year's theme, "I am Hopeful Because..." calls for your own unique interpretation through the arts.

Submission guidelines and entry forms are coming soon! Updates will be posted on Steinbrenner PTSA social media pages and [website](#) as it becomes available.

**Deadline for completed entries is October 20!** Late entries will not be accepted.

### PARTICIPATION IS EASY, EXCITING, AND EMPOWERING

Our students are invited to participate and submit their original artwork in one of six areas:

- Dance Choreography
- Film Production
- Literature
- Music Composition
- Photography
- Visual Arts

If your student creates artwork for multiple categories, a separate entry form must be submitted along with each art piece.

Artworks submitted to Steinbrenner PTSA will be recognized, celebrated, and judged by grade level divisions. Select entries will then be forwarded for judging at the county, state, and national level.

Learn more about the prizes and scholarships at [PTA.org/Reflections/Awards](https://www.pta.org/Reflections/Awards). To receive Reflections updates and information, email [gshsptsareflectionsart@gmail.com](mailto:gshsptsareflectionsart@gmail.com)



## Welcome Back Teachers

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the faculty and staff enjoyed a delicious welcome back breakfast provided by the PTSA and catered by **Brunchies**.

A special thank you goes out to the parent and student volunteers for waking up extra early to make this event a tremendous success.



## ATTENTION! STUDENT OPPORTUNITY... WE NEED YOU!! STUDENT LEADERSHIP ADVISORY COUNCIL

Make a difference for our campus and community by working with PTSA! You are invited to join the Student Leadership Advisory Council. This group provides input from a student's perspective on what we think will be beneficial for our school.

Last year, we identified a need for campus improvements, staff appreciation, and student stress concerns as areas we thought were important. Our school entrance was beautified with new landscaping. We did a Valentine's Day project where we hand wrote and delivered Valentines & treats to the entire staff. We worked with the Agriculture Department to have goats out during exam time for a De-Stress Day. Goats make everything less stressful!

If you didn't sign up at Club Rush, you can register by [CLICKING HERE](#).

## OPEN HOUSE



## Seniors!

### Want Volunteer Hours Toward the PTSA Scholarship?

Submit an article to the Newsletter and start earning required PTSA volunteer hours toward the Senior Scholarship.

- Article can be about anything school/education related or a topic that is important to you and others your age.
- **Must include at least one picture.** Student is not required to be in the picture.

**Deadline to submit an article for the next newsletter is September 22.** Submitted articles must be well written, are subject to editing, and will be forwarded to Ms. Ewell for approval prior to publishing.

Submit your article, picture(s), and/or questions to [shsptsanews@gmail.com](mailto:shsptsanews@gmail.com).



## FORTIFYFL

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.



#FORTIFYFL  
[GETFORTIFYFL.COM](http://GETFORTIFYFL.COM)



DOWNLOAD NOW



## Senior Banners on Sale NOW!

This year we continue a tradition at Steinbrenner High School. **SENIOR BANNERS!**

Your high-quality vinyl banner will be a lifetime memento for you and your graduate. Use it for your private graduation party, college send-off party, or hang at your home to celebrate your Senior.

Toward the end of second semester 2024, volunteers hang the banners in the cafeteria and hallways after dismissal. The students, faculty and parents are surprised and excited when they walk in the next morning to all the banners hung around the school! The banners remain hung for approximately 3 weeks and then given to your student during Senior Send Off in May.

### BANNER SIZES

#### Small banners (2 x 3):

- **Cost: \$40.00**
- Includes student's name
- Customize with a short message. Example: "Love, Mom and Dad."
- No photo

#### Large banners (2 x 6):

- **Cost: \$75.00**
- Includes student's name
- Can include your student's picture. The picture must be a high-resolution digital photo and be submitted to the senior banner committee via email [gshsseniorbanners@gmail.com](mailto:gshsseniorbanners@gmail.com).
- Customize with a personalized message which can include the name of the University your student will be attending. Example: "We are very proud of you! Good luck at USF! Go Bulls!" No trademarks or logos.
- Can be printed without a photo

**\*\*Photo and quote are not required at the time of purchase so feel free to purchase NOW! The Senior Banner committee will reach out to you in 2024 for this information.**

### **All proceeds go directly to the senior class of 2024 for end of year activities!**

If you would like to buy a banner but do not want it hung in the school, please let the banner committee know and they will get it to you.

Purchase your banner from our online store by [CLICKING HERE](#). **Order NOW to guarantee the lowest price! Order by December 31 to pick the hallway your banner will be displayed in.** Prices are subject to increase.

If you have questions, please feel free to email [gshsseniorbanners@gmail.com](mailto:gshsseniorbanners@gmail.com).

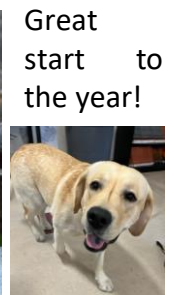


### **CONGRATULATIONS STEINBRENNER PTSA!**

Hillsborough County PTA has once again recognized our outstanding programs:

- Health & Safety Award – World of a Teen
- Communications Award – Newsletter, Website, & Social Media

### **VETERINARY ASSISTANT PROGRAM & AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT**



Great start to the year!

## BECOME A STEINBRENNER PTSA BUSINESS PARTNER TODAY!

Steinbrenner PTSA is excited to partner with our valued local businesses to provide programs including, but not limited to, Senior Awards, Student Recognition, Reflections Art Contest, World of a Teen, Student Leadership Advisory Council, Steinbrenner Cares, SAT & ACT practice sessions, campus improvements, teacher & staff appreciation events, and Teacher Grants. Teacher Grants are awarded for various classroom needs like ESE learning materials, educational subscriptions, classroom equipment, supplies, and much more. Our generous business partners help make these programs possible.

As a PTSA partner, we are committed to thanking and acknowledging your business via:

- social media
- direct emails
- monthly PTSA newsletter that is delivered to all registered Steinbrenner parents
- banners
- event signage

Steinbrenner PTSA is a non-profit, charitable organization, therefore, your donation of funds, product, and/or service, is tax deductible.

Email [gshsptsasponsors@gmail.com](mailto:gshsptsasponsors@gmail.com) for more information.

**Do Not miss this chance to support student success in our community and help all our children reach their full potential!**



### NATIONAL PTA

Healthy habits start with hydration! Make drinking water easy, and most importantly fun for your family with [Healthy Hydration Water Tracker](#).



## ORCHESTRA

The 2023-2024 Steinbrenner Warrior Orchestra is back! This year we have the largest orchestra in Steinbrenner history. And we are the third largest Hillsborough County orchestra behind Newsome and Plant High Schools!

Last Saturday we had our back-to-school camp and first concert. The students' performance was fantastic!



We are currently fundraising for clinicians, student sponsorship, masterclasses, purchase of music & new equipment, and care for existing equipment. Our goal is \$15,000. We are a 501-c3 organization which means your donation is tax deductible. To donate, scan the QR code.



Support our **Spirit Nights** this semester:

**September 12 – All day** – Panda Express, 17767 Harpers Run

**October 10 – 4-8pm** – Panera Bread, 16034 Preserve Market Plaza

**November 14 - 4-8pm** – Chipotle, 16618 Preserve Market Place

**December 13 – 4-8pm** – Tiquana Flats, 17475 N. Dale Mabry Hwy.

**Join us for a concert with Martinez Middle School. October 4 – 6pm** - Steinbrenner Auditorium





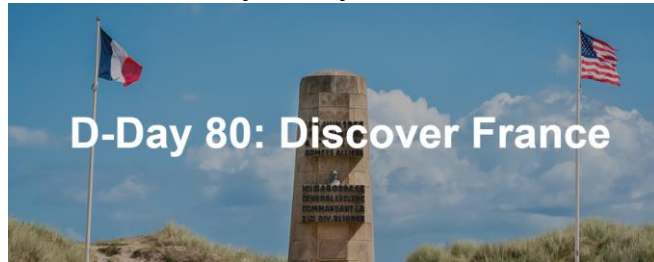
## STUDENT & FAMILY TRAVEL PROGRAM

Space is limited! Steinbrenner High School has partnered with EF Educational Tours. Visit the tour's website for full itinerary, pricing, enrollment, or to be put on our interest/contact list for future meetings. You may also contact the teacher for meeting dates and times.

- Pay in full now
- Make a deposit now, then pay in full later
- Easy monthly payment plan

Included in the package cost: roundtrip flight, accommodations, daily breakfast and dinner, full-time bilingual tour director, sightseeing tour guides, entrance fees, motorcoach transportation and/or cruise/ferry transportation.

### France: Normandy, D-Day Beaches, and Paris. June 2-11, 2024



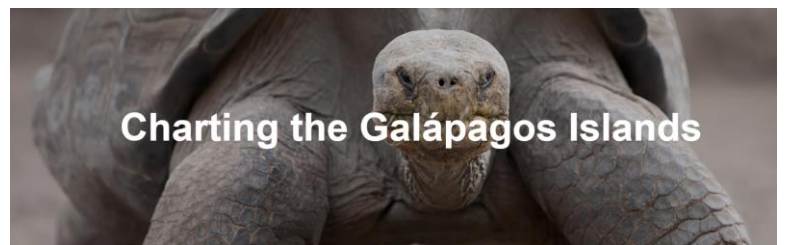
#### [France Tour Information](#)

Contact: [shelli.barton@hcps.net](mailto:shelli.barton@hcps.net)  
Room 316

### Galapagos Islands. June 5-13, 2024

#### [Galapagos Tour Information](#)

Contact: [kristina.schmidt@hcps.net](mailto:kristina.schmidt@hcps.net)  
Room 347



#### Charting the Galapagos Islands

### Northern Italy. June 19-30, 2024



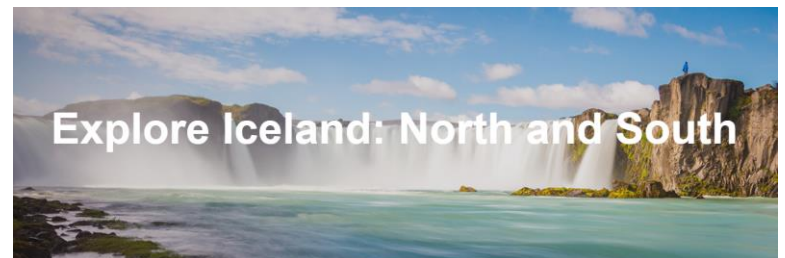
#### [Northern Italy Tour Information](#)

Contact: [joshua.goldstein@hcps.net](mailto:joshua.goldstein@hcps.net)  
Room 306 & 308

### Iceland. June 6-13, 2025

#### [Iceland Tour Information](#)

Contact: [kristina.schmidt@hcps.net](mailto:kristina.schmidt@hcps.net)  
Room 347



#### Explore Iceland: North and South

### Greece & Italy. July 3-12, 2025



#### [Greece & Italy Tour Information](#)

Contact: [courtney.nickel@hcps.net](mailto:courtney.nickel@hcps.net)  
Room 213

## STUDENT SERVICES UPDATES

The 2023-2024 school year has started, and the Guidance Services team has a lot going on. Continue to check the PTSA Newsletter monthly and Canvas for important information and updates from our department.

### **Guidance Services Page of Canvas**

The school counseling staff works hard to make sure that necessary and helpful information is available for students and families. Each tab on the [Canvas](#) Guidance Services page is filled with important information. We encourage students and families to regularly look at the guidance page for updates, deadlines, opportunities, and helpful information.

### **Volunteer/Paid Work Hours Update**

The Florida Legislature made changes to the 2023-2024 Bright Futures requirements that all students & families should be aware of. Last school year the state required students to *choose* either paid work hours or volunteer hour. **This year, students can combine their volunteer hours and paid work hours.**

Students and families should be aware of each Bright Future scholarships' requirements. Information is posted on the [district website](#) and in the [Bright Futures Handbook](#). Additional information is provided on the Guidance Services page of [Canvas](#).

### **NEW! How to Record Volunteer & Paid Work Hours**

With the legislative changes, Profferfish will no longer be used to record volunteer hours electronically. Two **NEW** paper forms have been created. One form is used to record volunteer hours, the other is to record paid work hours. Both forms are available on the [district website](#), the Guidance Services page of [Canvas](#), and printed in the Guidance Office. Old forms used in previous years will not be accepted.

Students must fill out the appropriate form for the hours earned, get the required signatures, and complete the reflection.

- The volunteer form requires the signature of a person who oversaw the project. This cannot be a parent.
- If your student is combining paid work and volunteer hours, they will use both forms to record their hours.

Submit completed forms to the guidance office using the provided bin.

### **Bright Futures Updates**

Bright Futures requirements have been revised for 2023-2024. The SAT score requirement for the Florida Academic Scholarship went up from 1330 to 1340. In addition, the Classic Learning Test has been added as an exam option for each scholarship. This test is offered online. Go to the [CLT website](#) to learn more or to register for the exam. Please refer to the [Bright Futures Handbook](#), or the Guidance Services page on [Canvas](#) for additional information.

### **Grade Point Average (GPA) Transition Beginning with Current 9<sup>th</sup> Graders**

Hillsborough County Public Schools is implementing a revised GPA weighting scale/calculation model that is recognized universally by colleges and universities. This will better prepare students for gaining admission to the post-secondary school of their choice. Current 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, with previously earned high school coursework, have been converted to the new weighting scale/calculation model. Please see the [district website](#) for more information.

### **College Fairs**

The district is hosting two college fairs:

October 5 – 5:30pm: University of South Florida

October 10 – 5:30pm: Alonzo High School

More information will be announced on [Canvas](#) as it becomes known.

Guidance Services continued...

### **Applying to College**

It is that time of year and students have begun applying for college.

Students should be:

- making a list of the schools they intend to submit applications to
- know how to apply
- know the PRIORITY deadlines
- know what supplemental information is required

Every college/university has their own admission application but may accept the [Common Application](#) or [Coalition Application](#) instead. No one application is better than another. Schools that have application options do so just to give students a choice.

November 1<sup>st</sup> is the priority deadline for most schools. Students are encouraged to apply by this date to have the highest consideration for admissions. Students who apply after priority deadlines dramatically reduce their chances for admission.

Many schools now require the SSAR (Student Self-Reported Academic Record). The SSAR is used in place of transcripts. If a school requires the SSAR, your application is not considered complete until the school receives this information.

Seniors need to send all SAT and ACT scores directly to the schools to which they are applying. To do this, your student will log into their College Board and ACT accounts and request the scores be sent. Steinbrenner High School cannot send test scores.

This and much more information can be found on the Guidance Services page of [Canvas](#).

### **Important Upcoming Dates**

**September 18 – 6:00pm:** Senior Information Night. Location: Steinbrenner Auditorium.

**October 1 –** The [Florida Financial Aid Application](#) (FFAA) for Bright Futures and all other state aid opens. Every senior should apply.

**October 5 – 5:30pm:** College Fair hosted by Hillsborough County Public Schools. Location: USF.

**October 10 – 5:30pm:** College Fair hosted by Hillsborough County Public Schools. Location: Alonzo High School.

**October 11 –** PSAT for all 9-11 grade students. Location: Steinbrenner during school hours.

**October 12 –** ASVAB for 10-12 grade students. Location: Steinbrenner. A signup will be posted on the Guidance Services page of [Canvas](#).

**October 15 –** FSU Early Action deadline for Florida students.

### **Scholarship Opportunity**

Hispanic Heritage Month Art & Essay Contest

- All students in grades 4-12 can participate.
- Each winner receives a 2-year Florida College Plan scholarship from the Florida Prepaid College Foundation.

For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).



### **National PTA**

As part of AT&T's commitment to help bridge the digital divide, it created [#TheAchievery](#), a free digital learning platform to engage all students in a better learning experience wherever they are – at home, in the community, or in the classroom. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.



## A WORD FROM OUR STUDENTS



### THE GOLDEN RULE By Josie Young



Treat others the way you want to be treated. This concept has been implemented into our minds one way or another at some point. We learned it in our early kindergarten years, or it is taught to us by our parents. Unfortunately, a portion of our society seems to have overlooked this principle; however, there is no need for this to define our current situation.

Bullying because of, what I can only imagine, a lack of empathy is an epidemic in our generation. As reported by ABC News, over 160,000 kids stay home every day from school to avoid torment and bullying. That means over 160,000 kids do not receive a proper education for fear of being verbally or physically abused by their peers. In relation to this statistic, according to Yale University, children who experience regular bullying are 2 to 9 times more likely to commit suicide. Hate and copious negativity is stealing the lives and futures of loved and priceless children.

This must stop. Our generation must start implementing the Golden Rule into our lives. I passionately believe that we can make a difference and it starts with us, as we are the future. Simply smiling at someone in the halls, holding the door open for someone, and uplifting our peers and classmates with words of affirmation are actions we can take. There is so much hope and such a bright future for us to fulfill. We must work together instead of apart. We can replace insults with elevating comments and embrace selflessness because we have the power to change the pattern.

Editor's note: Steinbrenner High School will host "Start with Hello" week September 18-22. The "Start with Hello" program empowers students to recognize loneliness and social isolation in their peers, offering effective strategies to reach out and help, and teaches ways they can grow an empathetic and inclusive community.



#### NATIONAL PTA

Improving your family's mental health starts with a conversation. If it seems overwhelming to know how to begin, visit our Healthy Lifestyles resources for tips and tools on engaging your family with mental, physical, social, and emotional well-being. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.



#### NATIONAL PTA

Our friends at Norton just launched Phictionary – a guide to phishing attacks with a dictionary twist that exposes real-life examples of frauds to help people proactively identify fraudulent communications. [CLICK HERE](#) to download Phictionary.



# WELCOME BACK! 2023-2024

