



# THE SHOOTING STAR



Sarasota Academy of the Arts

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## Principal's Corner

Welcome to SAA for the 2017-18 school year to all of our students and families - those returning and those new to us.. We are looking forward to the new year as we get started again tomorrow morning. (If it seemed like a short summer, you're right! It was! But with first semester ending before Winter Break and the whole year ending before Memorial Day, I can promise you next summer vacation will be longer.) It was wonderful to see so many of our families at the "Meet the Teacher" nights last Wednesday and Thursday. Kelly Marsh, our Volunteer Coordinator, is delighted with the number of parents who reactivated their accounts in the system which will make it so much easier for anyone who wants to chaperone the field trips this year. Thank you to all of the staff and parents who volunteered to make the evenings run smoothly.

We have a few new faces and programs on campus this year. **Dr. Sharon Owens** will be returning as ESE Liaison, replacing Mr. Anderson who is returning to the classroom at Laurel -Nokomis School. **Mr. Justin Niemann** is the ESE Resource teacher, replacing Mrs. Boritz. **Mrs. Graddy** will continue as Reading Resource and is adding ESE to her schedule. Also joining the staff is **Dr. Ann Tilman** who is a National Certified Counselor, assistant professor at FGCU and holds a Florida Professional Certificate for School Counselors. Dr. Tilman will provide counseling services for our students two days each week. **Dr. Kopacz**, assistant principal, will be coordinating a new program, "A Community of Kindness". You'll be hearing more about this exciting program directly from her. Also new are the afternoon clubs and classes offered during the after-school care program. **Mr. Bryan Egan** has put together a variety of programs ranging from service clubs to music lessons to activities. Watch for more information from him.

I'm sure you have all heard that SAA received an "A" rating for 2016-17. I am very proud of the teachers, the students, and the parents who worked together to make this happen. I saw a poster with the quote, "We didn't get this far to get this far..." That's true for SAA. With hard work again this year we will keep our high ratings in math and improve in the reading and science to earn a second "A" making us becoming a high performing school - a lofty goal that we are certainly capable of achieving. Thank you all for entrusting your children to us for their education. Every child deserves an excellent teacher and an excellent school experience. That's what SAA strives to deliver.

A few "housekeeping" reminders before I close.

1. Classes start at 8:00 AM. Please have students here no later than 7:50 AM so they can get settled in on the first day.
2. Breakfast will NOT be served the first day. We receive all our meals from McIntosh Middle and we have no way of knowing how much food we will need. Remember to activate your lunch money accounts and sign up or renew your application for free/reduced

## Upcoming Dates:

Be sure to check the SAA Calendar on the school website frequently as that has the most current information!

Monday - 8/14/17

- First Day of School

Tuesday - 8/15/17

- Volleyball tryouts @ 4:15pm

Wednesday - 8/16/17

- Volleyball practice 4:15pm - 5:30pm

Thursday - 8/17/17

- Volleyball practice 4:15pm - 5:30pm

Friday—8/18/17

- White Pony Ice Cream Award for Summer Reading Projects

Monday - 8/21/17

- Volleyball Practice @ 4:15pm

Wednesday - 8/23/17

- Volleyball Practice @ 4:15pm

Thursday - 8/24/17

- Volleyball team leaves at 3:45pm

- Volleyball Jamboree @ 5:00pm (701 Center Rd, Venice, FL 34285)



meals. Lunch will be served Monday and breakfast will begin Tuesday.

3. Please read and follow the instructions regarding carline and dismissal. We are asking the staff to park in the field so there will be a few more spaces available for parents this week.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you suggestions, questions, or concerns. I am generally on campus from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Again, welcome to SAA - I'm so glad you are here!

Sincerely,  
Cecilia Blankenship  
Principal

## Volunteer Registration and Information

If you didn't get a chance to reactivate, or register your Volunteer account, please come into the office this week. Remember, that in order to volunteer at SAA, you must be an approved member of Volunteers Count (formerly known as PALS). If you were an SAA volunteer last year, all you have to do is come into the office and reactivate your account in the main office or at any district school. If you are new to SAA or Sarasota county, and you have never registered through the system, you will need to register as a new volunteer.

If you are reactivating, approval should be fairly quick, however if you are a new volunteer, it could take up to two weeks to get approval.

Also, please note that if you intend to go on any out of county field trips, you will not only need your Level I approval, but you will also need to obtain your Level 2 approval and that requires fingerprinting. It could take up to a month to obtain the Level II approval so don't delay. All of this information and more can be located in your student's packet. To sign up to get posts on volunteer opportunities, Text 81010 with the following message @saavol and you'll get updates right to your phone! This is part of the app called REMIND that you can download, but you don't have to have the app, you can just receive text messages. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Marsh at [kmarsh@sarasotaacademyofhearts.com](mailto:kmarsh@sarasotaacademyofhearts.com).

### Need Information?

Do you have questions about where to go to get information? Most of the important information is available on the school website, but if you need more information, please contact Donna Scofield, SAA's Parent Liaison. She is more than happy to direct you to the right place/person.

She can be reached in the main office at 941-377-2278.

### SAA Facebook Page

If you are on Facebook and you want to stay up to date with what's happening at school, then please check out Sarasota Academy of the Arts Facebook Page and "Like" us on Facebook!

Also, we have a Facebook group for all things related to volunteering. It's called SAA Volunteers so be sure to join that group.