



# THE SHOOTING STAR



Sarasota Academy of the Arts

September 25, 2017

2017 - 2018, Volume 5, Issue 5

## Principal's Corner

We are settling back into our routine here at school after the unexpected week off. I hope you all made it through with minimum damage and power restored. As you may have heard, Sarasota County Schools will not have to make up any days lost to Hurricane Irma. Because of referendum dollars, the district was able to add minutes daily to the required minimum giving them more than enough to make up for the time lost. At SAA, because of our extended day, we are far over the required amount of time. We have 1,350 instructional hours scheduled for the year and the minimum is 900. A special thank you to the staff and parents who helped clean up the playground and took down the plywood after Irma passed through.

We just received word that we attained 5-Star status again this year along with 16 other district schools. A special thank you goes to Kelly Marsh who puts together our book each year showing that we have achieved all 26 of the goals set for the year. The reason to strive for five-star is that it provides state-wide recognition for the school. It shows that the schools' community and the school itself are dedicated to their students' success through collaboration of all groups involved with the school. Thank you to all of the teachers, students, and parents who helped make this possible. The school will be recognized at the Oct. 3 School Board meeting.

Every year the SAC members and a teacher committee work together to write the annual goals for school improvement. Last year we concentrated on our math success rate as measured by the FSA. We had a community business partner who supported us financially, providing the funds to encourage students in developing math fluency and the math competition in May. We were very pleased to see that because of the students and teachers hard work supported by the parents, SAA raised its percentage of proficiency from 60% in 2016 to 72% in 2017. Our math gains (the percentage of students who improved) were even better - 61% in 2016 to 76% in 2017.

This year, we are looking for a community business partner to support our science program. We would like to see the same gains there. One way to encourage students in science is to provide more real life and hands-on activities. We have already started by incorporating the gardening into the weekly K-4 class schedules and forming an after-school gardening club. Speakers are scheduled to work with these students and tentative sponsors have been identified. We would also like to expand the robotics and coding classes for all of the elementary classes. At the middle school level, you will see the students engaged in more direct experiences as well. The sixth graders are working in modules combining print resources and investigation and have scheduled field trips supporting science topics. We have added high school physical science for the 8th graders, allowing them to earn a high school science credit upon successful

## Upcoming Dates:

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



### School Spirit Week:

**9/25/17 - 9/29/17**

#### Monday - 9/25/17

##### **Mismatch Day**

- 4:20pm Volleyball team leaves campus

- 5:00pm Volleyball Game: SAA @ [Sarasota Military Academy](#)

#### Tuesday - 9/26/17

##### **Sports/Jersey Day**

- 3:00pm Volleyball team leaves campus

- 4:00pm Volleyball Game: [SAA @ Sarasota School for Innovative Studies](#)

- 6:00pm Stardust Family Skate Night

#### Wednesday - 9/27/17

##### **Super Hero Day**

- 2:40pm Volleyball team leaves campus

- 3:30pm Volleyball Game [SKY Venice Varsity @ SAA](#)

- 4:15pm SAC Meeting

#### Thursday - 9/28/17

##### **Country/Western Day**

#### Friday - 9/29/17

##### **Decades Day**



completion of the course. A business partner (or partners) would be a wonderful source for revenue to support the programs, but we would also like to see scientists, engineers, and other related professionals (including gardeners) come to our school to talk to and work with the students. If you or anyone you know would be interested, please have them contact me or Kelly Marsh. We would be so delighted to have your help.

Please refer to the school calendar for new dates for canceled activities. We have rescheduled fall pictures, skating, and back to school nights. Don't forget -This coming week is Spirit Week! Also, this Wednesday, the SAC will meet from 4:15 - 5:00 in the administration building.

Have a great week!  
Cecilia Blankenship

## Back to School/Schedule Nights - October 3rd and 4th



Please come and learn about the exciting plans our teachers have in store for your students this year. Schedule Night is a very important evening as it gives you the opportunity to learn more about your student's school, teacher, and the curriculum.

- Teachers will go over . . . .
- Classroom Expectations
  - Curriculum
  - Homework Expectations
  - Classroom Policies and Procedures

You will follow your student's schedule on an abbreviated scale and will start promptly at 6:00pm so please arrive early.

You are strongly encouraged to attend these informative evenings!

- Tuesday, October 3rd for Kindergarten thru 5th Grade - 6:00pm
- Wednesday, October 4th for Middle School (6th - 8th Grade) - 6:00pm



## Spirit Week - September 25th - 29 is THIS WEEK!

During Spirit Week, students and staff are invited to dress up in their best, most spirited outfit. We are looking for out of the box thinkers, creativity and complete spirit from head to toe! Have fun everyone!

Monday, 9/25 - Mismatch Day - Get wild!

Tuesday, 9/26 - Sports/Jersey Day - Who's our biggest sports fan?

Wednesday, 9/27 - Super Hero Day - Show us your favorite super hero!

Thursday, 9/28 - Country/Western Day - Howdy y'all

Friday, 9/29 - Decades Day (20's - 90's) - What's your favorite decade? 50s? 80s? Go crazy!

Prizes will be given out to the student & staff member who shows the most spirit in each theme!!  
Winners will be announced every day on the home page of our website and on our Facebook page.