

THE POINT

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Welcome Back, Poinciana Eagles!

By Paola Andujar

Welcome back, students of Poinciana High school! The school year has only just begun, and we know we're going to make it the best one yet. There are many new additions to our school, including new students, as well as new teachers and staff members.



It's safe to say we are excited for this new year. There are many things this school year has to offer.

To new students this year, there are countless clubs to join, such as the gaming, theater, chorus, art, culinary, and so much more.

When asked about this school year, Nayeli Rodriguez said, "This year I am looking forward to junior prom and being one step closer to accomplishing my goals."

I also asked a senior, Akaya Atkinson, how she felt being back at PHS this year,

"Happy that it is my last year here, and stressed because these next 9 months are going to be maybe the hardest and most stressful 9 months of my high school career."

This year, we will accomplish all of our goals and have a great year at Poinciana High School!

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MEET THE TEACHER

Ms. Kirkpatrick, Journalism and English Teacher

By Paola Andujar



Ms. Kirkpatrick is our new yearbook and newspaper advisor, as well as an English 4 teacher. She is a new addition to Poinciana High School. This is her first year as a teacher, although she has many ideas and goals for our students.

It's not an easy task, but we have faith in our new yearbook and newspaper teacher. We are working together

to make this year great, thanks to her. Our very own Ms. Kirkpatrick has big plans such as fundraising and ad sales. She has helped other schools with their yearbooks in the past.

When asked about her goals for this year, she responded with, "My goal is to help people learn - to help them graduate. I hope that any senior that walks in my door walks back out with their high school diploma."

In order to further get to know Ms. Kirkpatrick, I asked her some other questions.

"I graduated from Shepherd University, it's in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia."

I asked our new teacher what had made her get into teaching, her answer was inspiring and heartwarming. "My mom was a high school teacher and for a very long time, people were telling me about the impact she had on them. She passed away when I was in high school so all the way through college people were telling me about the impact she had and I loved that kind of lasting legacy that there was, and I kind of wanted to carry that on."

Mr. Ziegler, Chorus Director

By Cheyenne Pero

Poinciana High School is kicking the 2019-2020 school year off with a new chorus director, Mr. Ziegler. Starting his first year in PHS teaching chorus, Ziegler revealed his aspirations this year, which diverge from the past.



“I want to bring the choral program to the next level and show that anyone can sing,” Ziegler states when asked of what he hopes to shed light on in our school. His passion and ambitions for teaching shine through, especially when questioned on what he anticipates for this year’s choirs, which is to achieve the highest possible rating at MPA (Music Performance Assessment). Ziegler enlightened us that he has been working with choirs for six years, and what transcends PHS from what he’s used to is the prominent dedication of students here.

Now, what do choir students expect with the new choral director in contrast to previous years?

Venez Maldonado, a sophomore, states, “I feel like things will be a bit more put together, much to the idea that we’re not as acquainted with him. I know for sure there will be more rehearsals!”

Sofia Rivero, a member of PHS’s Bells Choir, expresses her anticipations with the prospect, “The way we do vocal warmups will be different, and he’s not used to our voices. But I think that over time, he’ll get to know us more and things will be easier.”

We are looking forward to spreading school spirit and supporting our new choral director!

MEET THE TEACHER

Ms. Quinones, Chemistry Teacher

By: Doel Montes

There are many new teachers in Poinciana High School, and Ms. Quinones is one of them. Ms. Quinones is teaching chemistry to all grades, and was antecedently working at Valencia College as a peer tutor and a curriculum assistant. There, she assisted students with all of their science courses including chemistry, organic chemistry, biology, and physics.



With her love for science and education, she wanted a role where she could thoroughly help students achieve their science goals, which led her to pursue her career in teaching.

“It has been a learning curve getting used to a new role where I am in charge of guiding these young people academically. I have had a lot of fun getting to know all of my students, and I’m eager to try and make my class as interesting for them as possible.”

She hopes to inspire them and influence the next generation.



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AVID TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

By: Haley Dornberger

AVID is one of the many amazing programs we have at Poinciana High School. AVID can teach you work ethics and things you need to know for college. Though this is a great program, we wouldn't have it without these three amazing teachers: Teresa Haderle, Kimberly Holt, and Aubrey Lowe.

You may be asking what the abbreviation AVID stands for. Well, for those of you who don't know, it's Advancement Via Individual Determination.



Haderle says, "Avid is a college preparatory program. We want students to succeed with their attendance, GPA, test scores and all those things."

Passionate teachers with genuinely high expectations are creating lifelong connections, and positively impacting the trajectory of their students' lives every day because of AVID. As an AVID student, AVID means family and success for your future goals.

Holt states, "AVID represents success, family, and determination because all of our students are working towards a goal, and finding they can reach those goals with discipline."



AVID teaches children organization and independence, and gets you ready for the real world. I believe everyone can succeed, and so do the AVID teachers!

Lowe said, "The reason I joined AVID was to show that all students can succeed. I used to work at an Indian reservation every summer, and those kids thought that this was the level they needed to be at because that's all their parents ever amounted to, and I wanted all those kids to understand they could achieve any level they could. That's why I became a teacher."

AVID welcomes everyone but we do have requirements. Thinking of joining? Sign up, and we'll get you settled!

AVID teachers ready for a successful day of learning!

POINCIANA ATHLETICS

Poinciana Hooping Season

By Johvan Merilus



Basketball season is right around the corner and it's becoming more and more invested in as the season is approaching. Conditioning for the team is already in full affect and beginning to show what the team could be and how they're coming into the following season. The team will be picking up from where they last left off after being eliminated into the second round of the playoffs. This year the question is a new one”How far can the team go this year with a whole new squad”?

FRESHMAN TEAM

This year the freshman team will be another set of new faces wishing to make and leave it all on the court of Poinciana itself. Any young baller who thinks they got what it takes to earn a jersey will show up and ball out displaying their talent and diverse skillset. Though many raised critiques of the team last year spoke of the team not having enough to be successful but will be ready by preparation from the coaches and fellow peers on the floor.

JUNIOR VARSITY

The team is nearly set with key players from the freshman last year moving up. Much of the team could possibly resemble the freshman team from last year hoping to still be relevant in the jersey and show they have what it takes to be able to continue the name of Poinciana on their chest. This season will be crucial for the players to make junior varsity deciding who will remain for another year or move up to varsity with the top shots of the school.

VARSITY

As the tryout dates begin to clock down the members returning along with the school await to see who will be placed on varsity to represent the school in going head to head with the whole county. This year the team will be different specifically in the starting five to be the forefront

of the team. Expectations are raised as well the questions of whether or not this team can surpass the success from those who came before them. Only time can tell but all is hoped that the mistakes from the past are used in a beneficial way to aid those for the future.

Homecoming Game

By Johvan Merilus

Homecoming is the time in high school where everything seems to come into play, and make sense in the perfect way. The entire week, there was a theme for each day in which students participated, and were representing school spirit in a variety of ways.

As the season began, the Poinciana Eagles were 1-2, which wasn't exactly where they wanted to be, but had their minds set on fixing that all at the game. The team was matched up against Tenoroc high school, which is an opponent that was struggling with a season of their own. This was a game that easily pleased the Eagles, for they had an opportunity to level the playing field and bettering the record of the first half of the season.



Friday night came around slower than what was anticipated, but it benefited into making the players hungrier to go out and start taking out defensive backs, and locking down receivers. The team was confident on their side, as they were one of the main things people were cheering for at the pep rally. Much of the rally helped to get the team in good spirits. As school ended, the team was huddled up and resting, and getting mentally prepared for the task given to them that night.

The team came through and were hyped as they came running through the banner and hitting the sideline with nothing but adrenaline and excitement coursing through their bodies. This night was an opportunity to put them in a better position before the first half of the season. In the locker room, the message was clear; nothing was going to be given, so they had no choice but to take it the best they could, and that was only way to ball out.

Some of the primetime leaders and players on the team saw the vision of what was, so they made up their mind to not only preach of the need to win, but go out and show they can win. One of the young and rising players on the team is Matt Amboise, a freshman on varsity who doesn't waste an opportunity presented in front of him, especially when it's his first season. "I was feeling a lot of butterflies as usual but to be honest I got my team behind my back."

With this sense of brothers coming together for one purpose, they showed this was bigger than any moment or any one man. "This game was important to the team because of our record and mostly the fans". Words like these only do one thing and that's standards of efficiency. "The team proved a lot of respect, but there's a lot of work we need to do". With this being told it shows how the team is aiming upwards for success. "I see the team getting closer on and off the field".

Cont. on pg 10

COLLEGE WEEK

By Haley Dornberger

College week can be a fun week with the right people! It's filled with different events that get students excited about school. The latest college week consisted of Military Monday, Trade Tuesday, Show Me The Money Wednesday, Rush Thursday, and National College Colors Day. Here's what some kids are most excited about. Ampherny Colon says, "I'm most excited for camo day. I say this because I finally get to wear something that's not a boring polo."



His answer is similar to Alondra Rodriguez, who said "Camo day or neon colors. I say this because I want to be in the Marines when I'm older and to me wearing camo is honoring. Neon day because sometimes it's nice to wear bright colors." Now besides being able to dress down some of you may be wondering, what is the point of college week?

Well according to our amazing College and Career counselor Mrs.Cerda "The point of National college week is to promote and celebrate awareness of going into college and becoming college-ready, But to me, it also means that no matter what your post-secondary plans are that every student has a focused goal that they aspire to achieve." I hope college week is everything you hoped for and more! Until next time.

HOME COMING

By Cheyenne Pero

Poinciana High School's thrilling spirit week ended with a blast- the anticipated Homecoming Dance. A plethora of students from each grade joined to party and celebrate the new year with an extraordinary outer space theme. With the assistance of our staff and student volunteers, the dance was decorated with planetary lights, filled with a variety of concessions and scrumptious confections, and PHS exceeded expectations when bringing in a charismatic DJ.

"I love the music! My friends and I have literally been dancing since we got here, it's great," one sophomore mentioned as he enjoyed the night with his friends.

Another student, a senior, stated, "I liked the music. The food was good too!"

The gym was divided to which a broad area was closed off for students who wished to relax or savor a more serene talking environment.

Many elements of this year's dance differed from the past, plausibly with the income of the enthusiastic class of 2023. Not only did students relish the upbeat music and 'hype', but the unique theme of this year's dance was thoroughly enjoyed.

"I mean it's only my second Homecoming, but for me, it was better than last year's. I really liked last year's HOCO, but this one's my favorite," clarified one PHS student.

To increase the energy and thrill, PHS announced the Homecoming Queen, Yuliana Santiago, along with the Homecoming King, Michael Dargenson, and a cohort of students assembled to keep the spirit rising on the dance floor.



The dance was alive and brimming with excitement up until half-past ten, where the party ventured elsewhere. We are looking forward to the surprises PHS may have instore for next year's Homecoming Dance!

Cont, from pg 7

Many believe that football is only pure strength, but it involves a type of mindset that includes intelligence, poise, and above all, focus. A player who brings this element to the team would unanimously be John Ramos, a junior at PHS. "I mean, we always got to come out before the game focused on our jobs and roles, so the attitude is staying focused on our job". This mindset shows when in game time, the only thing that should be a prioritized is dominating those who roam across the field from you threatening. "We always watch film on the team, we're playing and adjusting to put us in the best spot for our offense/defense so there really wasn't a different way of how to setup a game plan."

With the adjustments made, it also provided room for the team to grow and see how we can utilize this lesser ability for not just this moment, but future ones to come. "I mean we always got something we can improve on with our team, but one thing was just the offense moving the ball down the field". A team is only as strong as the bonds linked between them.

As much as the defense has been carrying the team offensively, we've began to display that the issue on the other side of the ball was being dealt with. Anthony Hotham, better known as "Redd", is a senior who shows nothing but a fierce personality with vicious speed. "Well we knew they were slow and not really a great team with speed, so we ran the ball." This was a key factor in the game, for it was a way of attacking Tenoroc's defense off the edge of our offensive line or hitting it straight through the middle. "The advantage was running the ball by getting a lot of yards up field".

This game showed the team had the ability to win, and just needed to make sure that it was all put together properly. Treyvion Gunter is a highly used player on the offensive side of the ball and has provided a sense of competitiveness to the game plan when set in motion. "A game changing moment was when we got tied up at 7-7 during halftime. Starting off with a bad record, we all felt like we weren't working hard enough. Once evening out the record, we all started to work ten times harder because we see we can make this a good season". It's not unknown that Poinciana's record for the past several years has been two wins or below, but this year, all hearts are set on creating a winning school record for the first time in 20 years. "Somethings I did differently to help the team was keeping my focus on listening to the coaches, and making big time plays".

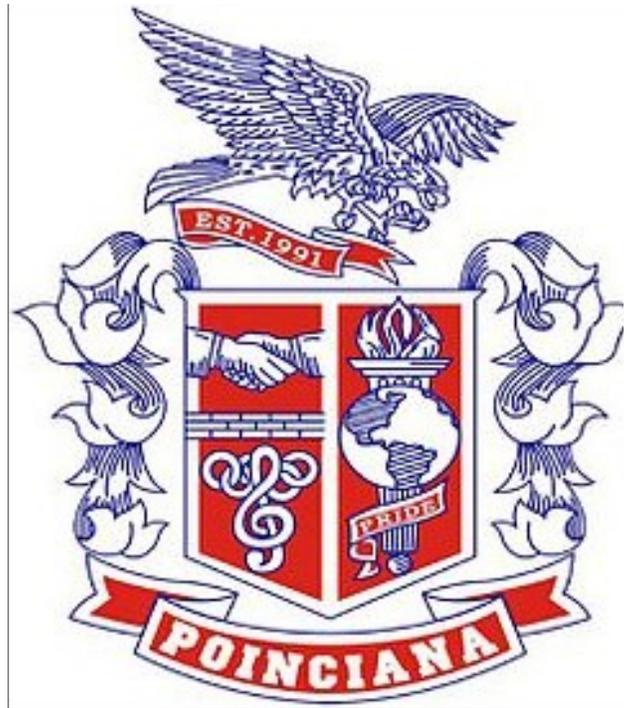
With this all the Eagles were able to pull off a win with the score totaling to our favor of 7-27. With ending that on a good note is curious to see how the team will perform here on out going against the toughest on their schedule. Only time and records will show.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT SPOTLIGHT

By Crystal Maldonado

Collectively as a whole this year, the Student Government Association is trying to achieve a certain goal where students are more involved with the school. They are discussing topics such as spirit weeks, homecoming, senior days, football games and much more. As for the future of this school year their mindset is trying to aspire in having more activities for the students to enjoy. They're more concerned about now and what's to come and what there are going to do for upcoming activities for the school to get a thrill out of. With the goal in having homecoming be better this year and having students more tangled in with the school in general, the group of "friends", as they like to call each other, still all have different

goals they want to achieve. Even though they have different goals, they can come together and agree on one goal they all aim to achieve which is giving students more school spirit and have more opportunities to kick back and have some fun. They ask that if you have any questions or simply want to suggest something you go to one of the representatives or your Poinciana High School Instagram page for your class. Those Instagram pages can be found below.



Seniors: @poinciana2020

Juniors: @poinciana2021

Freshmen and Sophomores: @poincaiana2k22

Want to be featured?

Send an email to **DEARINDIGO2020@YAHOO.COM** with the subject "feature me" and your name/ organization and event for a chance to see yourself in an upcoming issue.

GET TO KNOW THE JOURNALISM PROGRAM

By Ms. Kirkpatrick

Journalism is defined as “the production and distribution of reports on recent events.” While this definition seems to be on a large scale, affecting states and countries and the world, journalism is truly defined by the care and dedication put in by its reporters. Student reporters are often the most dedicated and enthusiastic reporters, simply because they care. This document is proof of just that: the care and dedication from our students about Poinciana High School.



Journalism 2, 3, and 4 students with Ms. Kirkpatrick and Bruce Wilson on Picture Day 2019

This year, the newspaper program is striving to bring MORE. Not only more editions, but more relevance. We want to cover you and your clubs and your classes and the things that truly matter to students of Poinciana High School. Our small but enthusiastic team is working tirelessly to make sure that each edition published is our best edition yet.

Beyond the newspaper team, the Poinciana Yearbook staff is enthusiastic about covering every second of every day this school year. This year’s yearbook theme is legacies, really offering the question of what legacy are you building and what legacy are you leaving behind at Poinciana High School?

As a journalism program, we are trying to embrace that theme, building a lasting legacy at Poinciana that will be remembered beyond this school year and beyond the four years that most students are in this school. We are working to build the legacy of pride in the school, and to have every student graduate wanting to scream to the world that they are a proud graduate of Poinciana High School.

No matter what your involvement level is, consider the legacy you are building. Consider the things about Poinciana High School that make you proud to attend each and every day and consider the things you are leaving behind. As a program, the journalism staff is proud to cover events and be a part of that legacy for our staff and students and can’t wait to see what will happen this year!