

THE POINT

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30 Years of Poinciana High School

By Cheyenne Pero

In 1991, Poinciana High School opened its gates and welcomed the first generation of PHS students; a small cohort of freshman who'd pave the legacy we'd all strive to follow for thirty years to come. Since then, the school has changed in a multitude of ways ranging from its architectural format to the abundance of clubs and opportunities it would offer for students. PHS has also grown a more diverse population throughout the years as students from all backgrounds choose here to fulfill their educational aspirations.



The semblance of the school has endured multiple changes with age. For instance, the sidewalks tell the stories of the thousands of students who have walked these halls before us, and both Building 12 and 14 reveal a new modernized aspect to PHS.

Opportunities have also sprouted within this school, improving the educational circumstances many students have. Poinciana High School is a proud National Demonstration school for the AVID program, a way to prepare students for their path beyond high school. A select group of our PHS Eagles are also involved in the National Honor Society, striving for higher educational demands. PHS not only encompasses opportunities for students interested in university options, but also leads various CTE clubs, such as Construction, Automotive, Digital Design, Video Production, Journalism, and many more! Students involved in these electives have the chance to become certified, granting them the ability to pursue these fields and join apprenticeships, thus solidifying a long term career.

In Poinciana High School, we represent various cultures. Over the decades, the demographics have changed, incorporating students and teachers from an array of different backgrounds. Clubs and organizations like Latinas in Action and the Black Student Alliance aspire to encourage acceptance and eliminate any prejudices that could be either internalized or vocalized within classrooms. Poinciana High School has cultivated an environment that any student from any background could amalgamate into without experiencing feelings of remoteness. As the years go on, more clubs directed towards a plethora of various departments enable students the chance to explore self-advocacy and peer collaboration.

While there have been many worldly issues occurring throughout Poinciana High School's legacy, the most impactful and ongoing situation was brought upon us by COVID-19. Students and teachers had to adjust to a more technological basis of learning, putting a dent in student-teacher relationships, and socialization in its entirety. However, the pandemic didn't deconstruct the atmosphere PHS has worked diligently to create.

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“Following COVID, there has been more inclusiveness. Students seem to care more about each other than before,” says Mrs. Robinson, former AP Psychology teacher who currently teaches U.S. Government and Economics. “We are having conversations during Summits and SEL that were never initiated before, and they are helping us open up and communicate with each other.”

In three decades, from 1991 to 2021, Poinciana High School has been resilient, though compromising. The school has embraced the consistently changing circumstances of the world, and welcomed students with an openness towards their backgrounds and educational aspirations. Amid the 30th year of PHS, students and staff are striving to make the best out of the situations we’re exposed to, deeming this a relentlessly hopeful year.

AVAILABLE SOON

**2021-2022 Yearbooks will
be selling for \$60**

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**Bundles (2020-2021 and
2021-2022 yearbooks) will
be selling for \$90**

ATHLETICS

First Football Game of the Season

By Janaya Barrett



The smell of hot dogs, hamburgers, and freshly cut grass filled the air as fans, parents, and students gathered for Poinciana High School's first home game of the season, where they faced Celebration.

That was, until a severe lightning warning caused a delay, sending everyone looking for shelter in various places throughout campus. The delay went on for 90 tedious minutes.

"We were all cheering and getting hyped once we got the all clear to go outside" says Isabella Garcia, a member of PHS's cheer squad.

As the game kicked off, the sounds of the band playing 90's R&B hits by Destiny's Child "Jumpin-Jumpin" filled the stadium. Principal Schwartz kept the crowd engaged with PHS Trivia questions for a chance to win free merchandise. His questions ranged from the year PHS was established (1991) what hurricane (Charlie) did damage to PHS, as well as what famous rapper performed right here in our school— Ludacris!

The game proved to be a hard fought battle against our opponents, Celebration High School. We went down early 14-0. Fumbles, turnovers, and penalties made it an uphill climb with our first touchdown coming from #3 - Deshawn Wimberly with 3:14 remaining in the 2nd quarter. Followed by a successful 2 point conversion bringing us within striking distance 14-8. With 2 minutes left and control of the ball, we made a push to tie up the game before halftime. Unfortunately, wet fields and poor ball control led to another missed opportunity.

We returned from the halftime break, executed by our school band's Marching Regiment, and got our second touchdown of the game in the 3rd quarter, bringing us to 14 point total. But it wasn't enough to overcome the Celebration Storm with a final score of 22-55.

ELECTIVES

Video Production: PHS News

By Cheyenne Pero



In Poinciana High School, pride is an important facet to our educational atmosphere. Emphasizing just that is our Digital Video Production team's new show that will broadcast every week during Summit!

Mr. Petrangeli, the Video Production teacher, and his Video 4 students will be the force behind PHS's advanced source of news and entertainment. Together, they aspire to cover our athletic and school events, admin and teachers, critical educational information, and even interview students and staff around campus. The show will also integrate comical segments, such as sitcoms, and seasonal episodes to spread holiday cheer!

The most vital asset to an excellent show is the team behind it. Working diligently behind the scenes is Mr. Petrengeli's Video 4 students who have been certified in Adobe Premiere Pro and are utilizing their skills each day to provide quality content. Each member has a huge role to play, whether it be the technicalities, or the on-screen performances.

"Our entire team knows what they're doing, they're the closest we have to professionals," assures Justin Diaz, who will be doing most of the camerawork. Working with him is Art Dorado who assists with lighting, cameras, and interviews.

Jarlenys Mathias, a production manager, states "I am one of the scriptwriters for PHS News. My role generally consists of organizing and keeping track of what we'll display, along with making sure everyone knows what they need to do in order to have every component of the show produced efficiently."

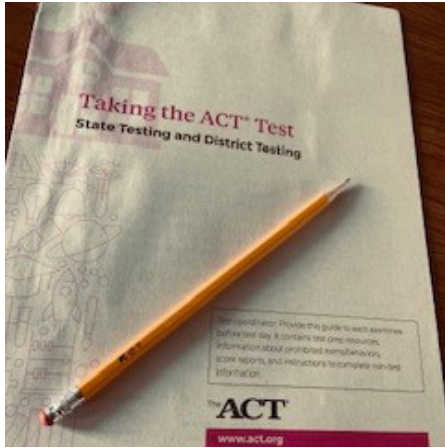
Jacob Morrison (also a production manager) along with Alanis Guzman and Richard Rodriguez will be the editors of the show, each refining single shows each week to ensure that the news is produced in a timely manner. Anchors for the show will be focusing on sports segments, weather segments, and plenty more! \

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SENIOR SECTION

Seniors x Graduation Requirements

By Arelise Vasquez



Poinciana High School's senior class of 2022 start off their year winded with emotion. This is a year every student anticipates since the start of their educational career. With high school being a critical step towards college, the atmosphere is highly rigorous as students race to ensure their graduation requirements are met.

Every year students are presented with state wide assessments. These assessments are enforced to monitor what a person has learned throughout the year, dictating whether a student is skilled in a select area; read-

ing, math, writing, etc.. Consistently, each year students are mandated to take them, though there is a recurring debate as to why it is mandated and how it burdens each student. It is almost as if the tests scream, "No grad req, no diploma." Students exclaim every year that these standardized tests limit creative learning and thinking. Everyone is required to learn accordingly, but expecting for students to pass each of the many tests given could be daunting .

It's a legitimate struggle not everyone is open about. You can be one of the brightest in your class, but without that check proving you have passed that test, you are unable to move to the next level. You are not permitted to take that reading class you so desire to be in because a test has determined on the outside what your capabilities are .

A few of our senior eagles were interviewed to give their input on graduation requirements. Students were asked on how they felt about these statewide assessments, how long they have been retaking them and what requirements still need to be met by the end of this year. Many stated in agreement that these tests "Force students to strictly think accordingly to a standard," disrupting a creative thought process that "expands horizon, leaving students and teachers unhappy". -Victor Hugo Ian Gomez, 12th grade .

More than half the students in our senior class have found themselves retaking one or more of standardized tests since freshman year. Most of the students interviewed exclaimed they struggled with passing their Algebra 1 requirement. Senior Shaneece Griffiths states, "I've retaken Algebra 1 multiple times when I am no longer in that class. "

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This collaborative project will be “a good way for students to learn more about the school, their admin and teachers, and the people around them,” according to Petrangeli. “We want to make something fun and entertaining that gets people out of their daily routine, especially now.”

PHS News will be a thrilling edition to Summit periods and a way for students and staff to feel more knowledgeable and understanding of the school and their peers. Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, we will also encounter an exciting new collaboration between PHS News and our school newspaper, The Point. Together, the teams will work efficiently to promote school events and extracurricular activities, along with all the necessary information you’ll need to stay up to date with your school.

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Not only are there class schedule related factors that play a role in not being able to pass those tests, it must be taken into consideration that there are medical factors as well, such as dysfunctions and disorders, that deem assessments a burden to many students. For example, ADHD, an attention deficit disorder, makes it difficult for students to remain focused in the short interval of time they have to test.

Graduation requirements spur many of the tribulations students face during their high school careers, raising the question: Should some of them even be necessary?