

THE POINT

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The Osceola Business Academy

By Amir Cherrou

Poinciana High School has introduced a new building, the Osceola Business Academy! Better known as Building 14 for students navigating their way over -- this new edition has been in construction since the 2019-2020 school year and is now up and running.

Decorated in a plethora of colors, classes being taught inside this building range from linguistics and English, to math and even history classes! The academy is located just beside the 900 building, which deems it a lengthy walk from other classes, however learning in any of these classrooms is not something you want to miss out on!

With rolling chairs, modernized smartboards, and plenty of room to maintain social distancing practices, the Osceola Business Academy provides a grandiose environment for students to be educated in.

“I’m really enjoying the technology that’s available,” says Mr. Parrella, who is teaching AP World History in the new building. “There’s good quality equipment, clean stereos, and it’s all just better in general.”

With these innovations, students are enlightened by a more resourceful learning space, and according to Parrella, teaching is relishing the positive impacts too. “It’s definitely made teaching more efficient with multiple screens, available Wi-Fi, and everything beneficial.”

There’s no doubt that the Osceola Business Academy will help improve education for both students and teachers amidst this already complex year!



HVAC Filter Installation

By Justin Kant

Schools in the district of Osceola County have been open for some time now with the responsibility of taking precautions and prioritizing the safety of face-to-face learners. Gathering plenty of people back into a general area requires an immense enforcement of precautions in order to keep students and staff safe.

On top of social distancing efforts and face coverings that every student, staff member, and teacher is required to wear, our district has also joined the process of canceling out the chances of Covid-19 spreading through the air, which is why Osceola County has installed HVAC Filters.

These filters reduce the amount of air pollutants, pollen, and airborne contaminants that travel through the air passing through. This will not cancel out, but instead decrease the chances of Covid-19 spreading in school. Along with increased safety, HVAC filters will be beneficial for students with dust and pollen allergies.

Breaking Ties With Quest Diagnostics

By Paola Andujar

As of Tuesday, September 1st, the state of Florida has cut ties with the organization, Quest Diagnostics. The first week of September brought many things into the light. Florida had trusted Quest Diagnostics for Coronavirus testing and reporting of cases, however, as new data suggests, the organization has failed to report over 75,000 cases of the virus dating all the way back to the beginning of April. This was clearly a violation of state law as it put the lives of thousands of people at risk.

The company has stated that the failure to report these cases were because of a technical issue in their labs. Company officials have stated that they are still more than capable of continuing to report tests to the state as they have now resolved the issue. Although, Florida officials disagree with this proposition. They see that there are many other labs that can safely report cases other than Quest Diagnostics. Even though Quest Diagnostics reported most cases, there are other laboratories, such as Laboratory Corporation of America, that can easily fulfill the top spot.

The amount of cases in Florida is only increasing, therefore failure to report cases is extremely irresponsible and even deadly. Even though Florida officials have decided to no longer work with Quest Diagnostics, many choose to disagree in the sense that the company had reported more cases than any other organization and should therefore be allowed to continue their testing.

Learning in 2020

By Shanece Griffiths

Welcome Poinciana High School students! Entering the halls of the school may look a little different this year as these past couple of months have been difficult for millions of people, but with this new innovative year comes a lot of changes as well.



From masks to health rules, Poinciana High is exercising all precautions in order to keep everyone safe from Covid-19. For the students who are attending face-to-face classes, they are always required to wear a face mask and maintain social distancing in the hallways and classrooms. Desks and chairs are being sanitized consistently throughout the school day by staff, and eating is prohibited in classrooms.

When asked how she feels about the health rules the school is enforcing, Cheyenne Pero, a junior, said, “I feel we are more secure and safe. I am glad to know that they are taking precautions. They are very mindful of the situation going on, making us feel safer when it comes to attending school.”

The energy of the halls and classrooms of the school are very different this year, with the normal chatting and noise from a bunch of students being replaced with silence of the scarce amount of them. Students are still weighing the options of digital learning and face-to-face learning.

Pero had this to say when asked if she had any words for students who are considering switching from digital learning to face-to-face learning.

“I assure them that everyone is being very mature about the situation here, and safety and health is a huge priority that everyone is taking seriously.”

Whether you are learning face-to-face or online, one thing is for certain: this year is going to be like no other!

POINCIANA ATHLETICS

Back at it Again... Poinciana Football!

By Johvan Merilus

This year has been nothing but constant controversy due to back to back challenges spurring from the COVID-19 pandemic. Life has been turned upside down, leaving people to adapt to new customs, and follow procedures enforced to keep everyone safe. Though nothing is how it quite was from the last year school, one thing we can expect to bring back a sense of normality is sports, specifically football.

The Poinciana Eagles are looking forward to this season due to all the commotion about whether or not a football season would be present for the upcoming school year, which has only sparked ambition and a desire to hit the field running. This year will be an interesting one for the team as they set their goals on building up to a better record and making big moves for the season. Returning members of the team are set to have a big impact on games, especially the 2021 seniors who want to surpass their previous predecessors in both individual success and overall *team* success.

All the players are coming into this season with a mindset which seems to have given something that hasn't been seen in a while, which is being driven to be nothing but better than they've been in recent years.

Returning player John Ramos, who has been essential to the defense, is looking forward to being a leader on the field for his senior year. "I'm feeling good that we even having a chance to have a season, because before we started opening back up, we couldn't practice in January or February at all. Senior season is what I'm looking forward to when it comes to improving my football skills, and having a chance to beat Liberty this year."

"As a team, it's my last year to play with everyone and just have fun all together. I'm not going to spoil anything, but let my game talk, I will tell you this: look out for number 21!"

The humbleness of the seniors is to be admired, but it's nothing compared to the ambitions of the young ones who've already solidified their spots on the team.

Andrew Peters another returning player for the team is coming into his junior year with a mindset to elevate the team in order to certify the greatness it can achieve. "For the upcoming season, I'm coming with a purpose to beat not only Liberty, but Winter Haven as well. As an individual, the goals I've set for myself is to just physically and mentally improve myself in order to apply my game onto the field while making noise to gain colleges' attention this year. This season, be aware because we're coming at everybody with a headhunter mentality!"



With confidence like this, it's only common it spreads to other members on the squad, such as Matt Amboise, who may be a sophomore, but is as real as it gets. "This is a season where I'm looking to be the team's leading tackler, but also be a leader on the team encouraging all my teammates to go in for the win. I want to do everything we can and execute anything that can factor into us raising our chances of wanting to go 10-0 this season."

The pride for this team is set to push this team towards nothing but success this season, and even the new number one wide-receiver, Deshawn Wimberly, sees that himself. "I'm looking for improvement from all my teammates. My individual goal is to come up with 10+ touchdowns with 1,000 receiving yards. I just want us all to cooperate together and go as far as we can, and

prove myself to my teammates so they'll have faith in my abilities and put the ball in my hands so I can take it to the end zone."

This team is giving their all. Just ask Jacobi Rice, a returning junior. "For the season, I'm looking forward to taking everybody down who's coming at us and hitting right with the new helmets. I want to be able to stack up my stats with as much tackles and sacks presented to me. What I want for everyone on the team is to get to know each other.

"Being friends isn't enough, we need to become brothers so in that sense we are all bonded to come together and collect as much wins as we can."

You heard it from your very own this season, expect great things from Poinciana High School's Football Team!

Digital Learning: “One for all and all for one”

By Arelise Vasquez

Students eager to begin the new school year, while unaware of one drastic form of learning that awaits them. You have heard the rumors; you have seen the news! Behold! The newly, (in process) experience of Digital Learning. The students and staff of Poinciana High School began their new journey

on Aug 24, of 2020. Where many, were confronted to choose which battle they would fight this year. Face to Face or our dear beloved Digital Experience (or so you may think) .



Week 1

As expected, the first week of the school year is ALWAYS hectic. This year for online learners, it was much more distinct. When you are told to take a different route on your GPS other than the route you normally take, it is a bit uncomfortable and a bit frightening. Well, our GPS was all over the map (imagine that). The usual, Ice breakers, syllabus and procedure start of the year was over by DAY 2 for most of us. The week took an unusual turn for us online(ers), ice breakers are a bit challenging when you cannot see anyone in person, especially when everyone's camera's and mics are off. Yippy, the start of great new friendships.

Week 2:

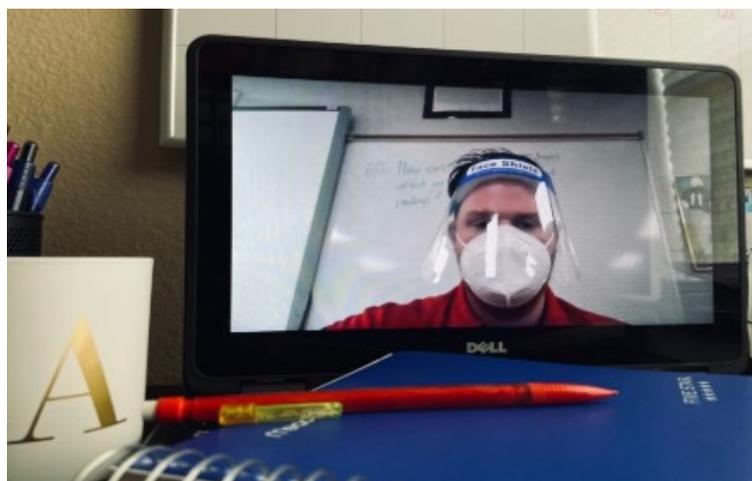
Second week? You are telling me the school year is not over? Right, it has just begun. For online learners, these two weeks have already felt like an eternity (an eternity is an exceedingly long time you know).

Apart of showing pride, us students and teachers keep it real here at Poinciana High School, all voices are heard. During the second week, I was given the opportunity to interview a teacher and student on their perspective in just these two weeks of Digital Learning. Technology can appear all handy and dandy, but there are many disadvantages. One being the biggest, communication.

As I interviewed AP Lang teacher, Mr. Malfara, my question to him was if he found it challenging to communicate and contact with his students online. His response was, “Very much so. There aren’t chances to have one-on-one talks with an underperforming student, students that need that extra push and more encouragement.”

Communication is KEY and time is PRECIOUS.

“Where did all the time go?” Is what the experience of our digital classroom’s has had our online learners exclaiming. Countless hours sitting and looking at a screen even after school ending at 2:20. Live meetings missed because of the responsibility of finishing one class first before moving onto another. It becomes a pile of leaves raked up on the side after a while. There is no escape from home and school, it is a 2 for 1 that has everyone demanding a REFUND. Now, of course, this is a predicament that online learners got themselves into (myself, included). But we cannot be judged based on that fact, we all can agree no one understood what they were getting into coming in this school year. Online students have experimented in creating a new form of balancing their school life and personal life away from the computer screen. It was recommended to “set a schedule for the week” - Joseph Malfara AP Lang. The only hint of excitement for Digital Learning is not knowing what you will be confronted with the next day or even the next week. (What am I saying, that’s not excitement. That is a recipe for anxiety.) EVERYDAY, classes are given differently (depending on your courses and teachers). Without a schedule for yourself, your year will look, "unorganized and unnecessarily chaotic"- Vanessa Victor 11th grade. As you should every day of the year, online has just made it a lot harder to manage.



A Deeper Look: Covid-19's Impacts on Mental Health

By Laurin Bacchiocchi

On March 13, 2020, students experienced a shift in their everyday lives that no one saw coming. School was postponed one week extra of spring break. No one paid much attention at first. As time went on, weeks turned into months and we still haven't gone back.

Being forced into quarantine could almost seem like a mental vacation at first. A much-needed break from school. But being confined to your house can get complicated, especially for kids living in toxic households.

My peers and I can all say we would rather be at school in person during this time. Days of being around many groups of people and feeling safe seem like a foreign concept now. As we move into a new school year, opinions differ as parents are split between two options. Do you send your child back to school with a new system in place, or do you keep them home? The decision might seem obvious, as we reach 7,500+ cases in Florida alone as of yesterday.

"It is one of the hardest decisions a parent has to make right now," says a concerned father, who is making ends meet with a pizza-delivery job.

This temporary separation can also cause disruptions in home life as well, such as arguing.

"I don't care how she feels. My daughter will not be going back to school," another parent decides.

How do students feel about this? Most young people find it saddening to be taken away from friends, not sharing moments of laughter in person, and not seeing familiar faces every day.

"The extroverts who tend to recharge with people are devastated by quarantine, and many of them will do everything they can — including participating in risk-taking behaviors or not socially distancing — to get around it, which can potentially put their families and loved ones at risk," says Dr. Rome.

Quarantine blues should not be ignored. As a parent, the best thing you can do for your child right now is be empathic with them. If they are missing out on celebrations, keep in mind that you can safely celebrate from home! Let them know that they are not alone and encourage keeping in contact with their friends over technology.

In this pressing time, it is important to keep a sense of community. We are all experiencing this together. If you are not surrounded by support, there are always hotlines ready to provide help such as: *Family Violence Prevention Center 1-800-313-1310* , *Youth Crisis Hotline 1-800-448-4663* , and *Teen Hope Line 1-800-394-HOPE*

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Ms. Ghezzi

By Michael Colon

Out of many of our new teachers at Poinciana High School, I got to interview Ms. Ghezzi!

Ghezzi recently moved back to Florida from Japan and loved the new cultural experiences that had to come with it. She had no time to waste and was ready to become a teacher here at Poinciana. Not only do we appreciate her teaching here, but we love the fact that she adores interacting with students and wants them to learn about multiculturalism, respect, and honesty.

Learning about how she went to Japan, taught there for four years, and came back home to start teaching again really says a lot about Ghezzi's character. She loves her interactions with students, telling us it's the best part about her job. She's a very interesting woman who seems to adapt easily when putting herself into a very different environment with separate cultures, values, social standards, and more.

We are so happy to have Ms. Ghezzi in our school! She has distinct virtues she wants to pass down to her students, and shows us that you can be your true self, no matter the occasion.

Thank you so much to our new teacher Ms. Ghezzi. We wish you a wonderful year full of fulfillment and Poinciana Love!



Chadwick Boseman, a Legend Gone at 43

By Doel Montes



A baseball player, a musician, and a king; Chadwick Boseman will forever be known for his work and dedication he gave on the big screen. Throughout the years, people haven't lost sight of the passion Boseman has fed to viewers.

On November 29, 1976, Boseman was born as the only child by African American parents, who urged him to seek after his passion for acting. Subsequent to finishing his investigations, he started his acting career by doing various TV programs.

With movies like 42 and Marshal being nominated for awards, Black Panther, one of Boseman's biggest movies, won the BET awards. Black Panther became the first comic book and superhero film to be nominated for Best Picture at the Academy Awards, as well as the first film in the MCU to win an Academy Award.

Boseman passed away on August 28th after a four-year battle against colon cancer, to which he'd been involved in many films throughout. His funeral was held on September 3rd.

The world will never forget the legend who became a role model for the unrepresented and many children, who was displayed before us upon a big screen multiple times throughout his life, never once losing his humbleness, respect, and devotion.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Within a year, Poinciana High School has overseen the binding of a small yet tenacious group of writers who've taken pride in reporting each and every event and matter occurring in our school. Our newspaper team has covered many things in the shortened 2019-2020 school year, from new teacher and college spotlights, athletic events, and CTE classes, to worldly matters such as politics, environmental issues, and of course, the Covid-19 pandemic.

What started in a small closet with only eight members all evidently different from one another, has evolved into a community full of friendship, consideration, and support. Each member of our team has devoted themselves to providing an informational resource for students and staff, and we hope to bring that into this new, complicated school year.

Why is it important we have a school newspaper?

Ms. Kirkpatrick, our newspaper advisor states, "It's really important to have students educating students, rather than always having that teacher-student dynamic. It usually ends up being more impactful hearing from your peers and taking in their different perspectives and ideas."

The dynamic has changed plenty with the schism between face-to-face and digital learning, however, our team is communicating heavily through technology and doing their best to relay information between home and school.

Our goal is to make this year's newspaper even greater than the last and become a staple for students yearning to learn more about Poinciana High School.