

# Principal's Newsletter

September 2, 2023

## Message from the Principal

Dear Panther Families,

How about this start to the school year!? We feel so blessed to have been spared by Idalia, and our thoughts go out to those in and near Florida's Gulf Coast. Your SMS administrators worked at the Riverview High School and Southside shelters during the storm. Luckily it was one short shift due to the path the storm took. At Sarasota Middle we returned to a few leaky roofs and one small downed tree in the courtyard, but otherwise, we fared well.

We also had a great second week of testing despite the two-day hiatus due to Idalia. Our sixth graders finished their ELA FAST testing and we started Math. Next week we'll finish Math and complete any necessary make-ups. You can see the updated testing calendar further below in the newsletter.

Finally, we are excited to see our Lady Panthers volleyball team and our Tennis teams compete this coming week. We know their coaches have prepared them and they are ready! We would love for our students to come and cheer on their peers, but parents, please do not send your child/children without also attending yourselves. Students must be accompanied by an adult at every sports event. Please also remember that no large purses, back packs, or bags are allowed, and NO food or drinks - other than water - is allowed in the gym.

Have a wonderful, long weekend!

Best,  
Mrs. Nzeza

## Important Dates

9/4 - Labor Day - No School

9/6 - Boys' and Girls' Tennis/Girls' Volleyball @ SMS - 5:30/6:00 PM start time

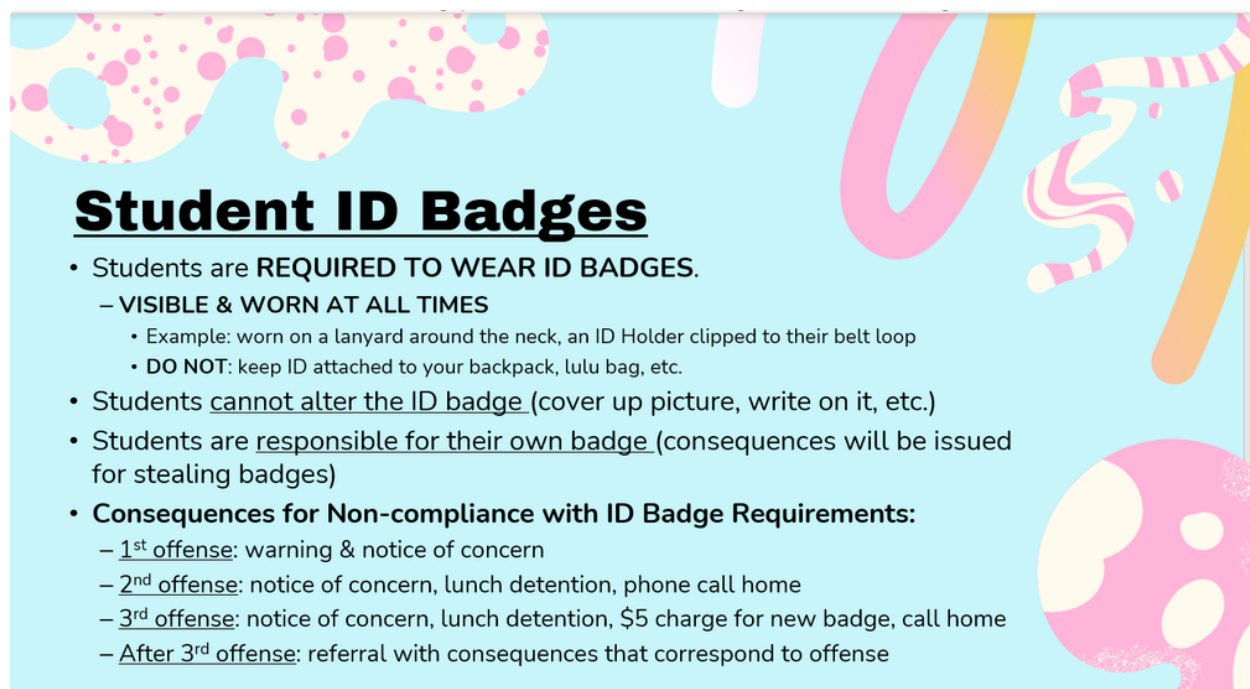
9/7 - PTSO Meeting - 9:30 AM in the Media Center - check in at the front office  
9/7 - Open House - **5:45 - 7:10 PM** - See information below \*Please note change in time  
9/8 - SAC Meeting - 8:15 AM in room 411 - check in at the front office  
9/11 - Tennis/Volleyball @ SMS - 5:30/6:00 PM  
9/20 - Tennis/Volleyball @ SMS - 5:30/6:00 PM  
9/29 - Go Gold Day - See information below  
10/6 - Picture Day

## Message from our Behavior Specialist - Ms. Zoppo

Dear SMS Families,

So many students are doing a GREAT job of wearing their badges on lanyards each day! We are so proud of them. PLEASE HELP US ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK AND WEAR THEIR ID BADGES TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY! Students wearing their badges every day are being awarded panther paws, which they can use to enter weekly raffles during lunches for various rewards like gift cards, donuts, candy, etc.

As a reminder, the following is a slide we shared with students regarding ID badge requirements during grade level forums held over the first week of school:



### **Student ID Badges**

- Students are **REQUIRED TO WEAR ID BADGES.**
  - **VISIBLE & WORN AT ALL TIMES**
    - Example: worn on a lanyard around the neck, an ID Holder clipped to their belt loop
    - **DO NOT:** keep ID attached to your backpack, lulu bag, etc.
- Students cannot alter the ID badge (cover up picture, write on it, etc.)
- Students are responsible for their own badge (consequences will be issued for stealing badges)
- **Consequences for Non-compliance with ID Badge Requirements:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> offense: warning & notice of concern
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: notice of concern, lunch detention, phone call home
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: notice of concern, lunch detention, \$5 charge for new badge, call home
  - After 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: referral with consequences that correspond to offense

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND CAMPUS?

### Go Gold Day! A Message from the Go Gold Chairs

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Friday, Sept. 29th is **GO GOLD DAY!** Everyone knows someone whose life has been impacted by cancer. Please encourage your children to show support by wearing GOLD (or yellow) to school on Friday, September 29th!

There will be many opportunities for participation, donation, and support this month. Starting Tuesday, September 5th students and families are encouraged to participate in **Be the "Change" for Cancer (see flier below)**. Each team will have a collection jar set up in a designated teacher's classroom where students can bring their change to donate. Change as well as bills will be welcomed! This runs through Friday, September 29th. In addition, we will be hosting the following fundraisers:

1. **Caps for Cancer Awareness** - students will purchase a wrist band to wear their favorite cap/hat - purchase from Sept. 6-Sept. 15th
2. **Cancer Awareness Ribbons** - purchase from Sept. 18-Sept. 29th and wear on Sept. 29th
3. **Childhood Cancer Awareness Art Contest** - students create Childhood Cancer Awareness themed art between now and Sept. 22nd. The top 8-10 pieces of artwork will be displayed in the cafeteria for voting/donating during the week of Sept. 25-29th
4. **GO GOLD Essay Contest** - student essay contest with the theme of MAGIC. ALL entries MUST be submitted on or before Wednesday, Sept. 20th.
5. **GO GOLD DAY:** We encourage ALL students and staff to come to school decked out in GOLD on Friday, September 29th in support of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Proceeds from all of the activities outlined above will be donated to the Benjamin Gilkey Fund for Innovative Pediatric Cancer Research. Thank you for your support!

-Michelle West and Karla Sams, Go Gold Chairs

Start here...



End here!



**WHEN:**  
Sept. 5th  
Sept. 29th



**WHERE:**

**Donate on your team--  
let's see which team can donate the most!**

All proceeds will benefit The Benjamin Gilkey Fund for Innovative Cancer Research

Every little bit helps!



...pennies, dollars or anything in between,  
all donations are appreciated!







## GO GOLD DAY at SMS



**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH**

**Wear your GOLD or YELLOW to  
support the awareness &  
prevention of**

**Childhood Cancer**



SEPTEMBER IS  
CHILDHOOD  
CANCER  
AWARENESS  
MONTH

SUPPORT • ADVOCATE • CURE

**every 2 minutes a child is  
being diagnosed with  
Cancer. Be grateful. Be kind.**



Benefiting  
JOHNS HOPKINS  
ALL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The Benjamin  
Gilkey Fund for  
Innovative  
Pediatric Cancer  
Research

## UPDATED TESTING CALENDAR

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
August 21-25	Plato 8 ELA (217 students)	Aristotle 8 ELA (250 students)	Darwin 7 ELA (206 students)	Galileo 7 ELA (256 students)	Make up testing
August 28-September 1	Cicero 6 ELA (219 students)	DaVinci 6 ELA (231 students) *Rescheduled to Friday, September 1 <sup>st</sup> *	Darwin 7 and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math (315 students) *Rescheduled to Thursday, September 7 <sup>th</sup> *	Galileo 7 Math (200 students)	Make up testing *DaVinci 6 ELA (231 students)*
September 4-8	LABOR DAY NO SCHOOL	Cicero 6 Math (219 students)	DaVinci 6 Math and all 6 <sup>th</sup> grade C2A (231 students)	Darwin 7 and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math (315 students)	Make up testing

# UPDATE TO OPEN HOUSE/MEET THE TEACHER



## September 7th from 5:45-7:10 PM

Please note that we had to add a few minutes to the schedule for Open House this coming Thursday. Your child's lunch period should be spent visiting the lunch room to get assistance with technology issues, such as Schoology, the Parent Portal, or Gradebook. You can also learn about school links from our College and Career Advisor.

By now you should have received a presentation from each of your child's teachers. The evening of Open House, you will follow your child's schedule and meet each teacher to say hello. This is not a time for conferencing regarding your child. If you need to set up a conference, please schedule that with your child's teacher for another time.

Finally, don't forget that if the parking lots get full you will be directed to Ashton's parking lot.

## COLLEGE COLORS DAY 2023

Our staff also enjoys Spirit Days!! Here are a few who made it to the courtyard on Friday for the picture wearing their favorite college attire to kickoff college football season!





## ABOUT US



Facebook



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