

# Principal's Newsletter

September 16, 2023

## Message from the Principal

Dear Panther Families,

I want to start this week's newsletter by announcing our Sarasota Middle School Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Karla Sams! Instructional staff are nominated by their peers each year for having a track record of a positive impact on student learning. This is well deserved and we couldn't be more proud. Please see a few pictures and a short write up on Mrs. Sams further below. Other nominees for Teacher of the Year included: Anne Bertelsen, Dominique Bordley, Whitney Davis, Jillian Goldberg, Kerry Golumbeck, Deb Kaiser, Jackie Lundquist, David Schimek, Brooks Tracey, Michelle West, and Jackie Zoppo.

I also want to thank our thoughtful PTSO, who surprised our faculty yesterday with coffee and sweet treats from the "Coffee Cart". Clever Cup donated the coffee and our SMS families donated the treats. We are so grateful. (See picture below)

I wish you the best weekend!

Mrs. Nzeza



## Important Dates

9/18 - Tennis/Volleyball @ Woodland - 5:30/6:00 PM  
9/20 - Tennis/Volleyball @ SMS - 5:30/6:00 PM  
9/20 - KONA ICE - grades 6 and 8 - please see flier below  
9/27 - Tennis/Volleyball @ Brookside - 5:30/6:00 PM  
9/29 - Go Gold Day - See information below  
10/5 - PTSO meeting - 9:30 AM Media center  
10/6 - Picture Day  
10/11 - Volleyball Playoffs - more to come  
10/13 - SAC meeting - 8:15 AM Room 411

## What's Happening Around Campus?

**We Celebrate our Teacher of the Year - Mrs. Karla Sams!**





We are so proud to announce that Mrs. Sams was chosen as our SMS Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Sams teaches 8th grade social studies. In her classroom, students learn about history using document based questioning of historical documents. She is co-chair of the Go Gold Fundraising Event, a School Leadership Team Leader, the Social Studies Department Chair, and helps run a morning Book Club.

Mrs. Sams will move on to compete with other school-based Teachers of the Year at the district level. Please congratulate Mrs. Sams when you see her! Pictured below is Mrs. Sams with one of her classes who got to participate in the surprise announcement and the "Prize Patrol"!









## Thank you to our SMS Sponsors!

Sarasota Middle School would like to thank Freeman Orthodontics for keeping us smiling through the start of the school year. We appreciate your ongoing sponsorship contributions. We are grateful!



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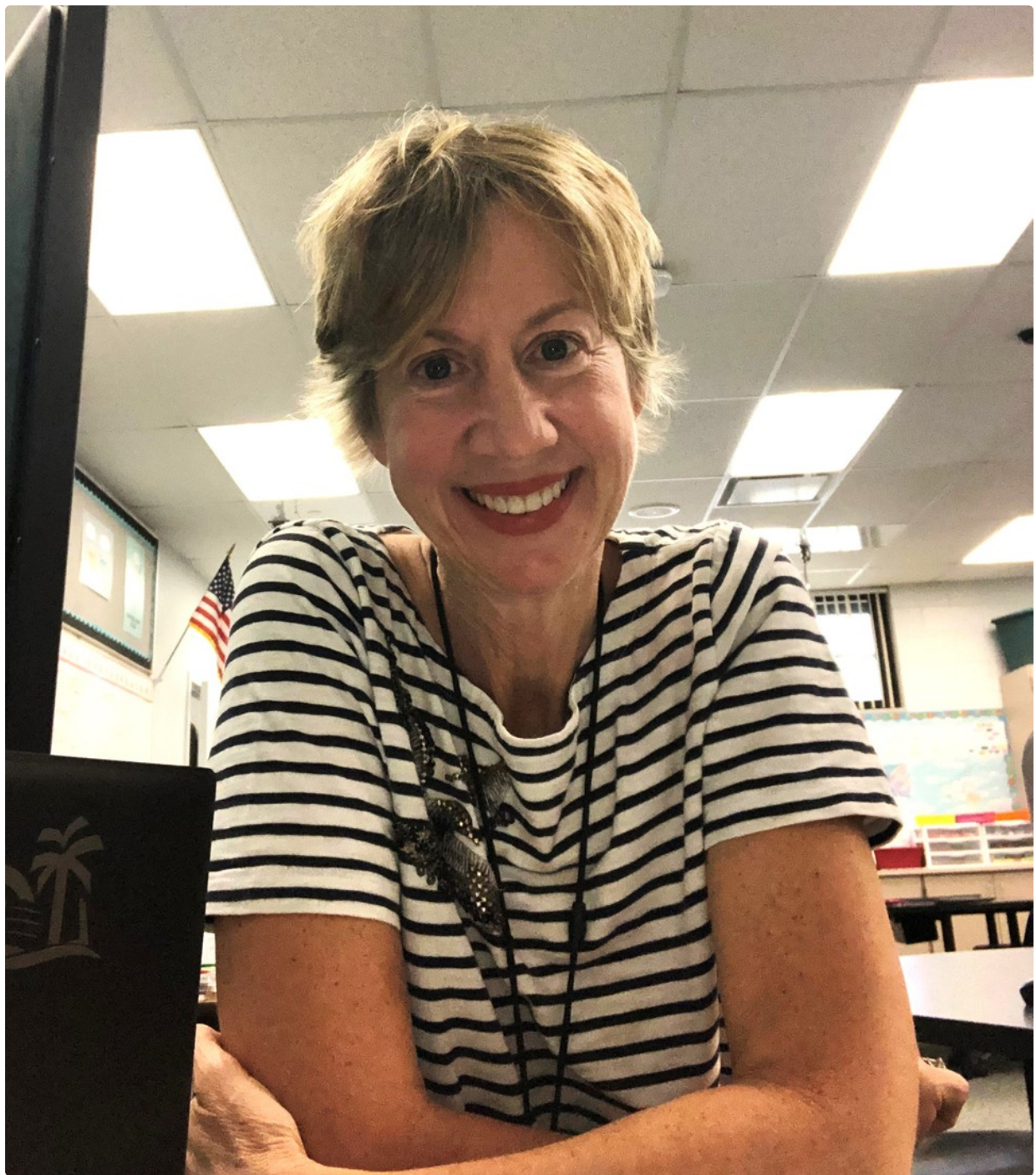


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## Please Welcome Mrs. Lanier

Hi. I'm Shannon Lanier. This year I'm excited to join the SMS team as an ESE paraprofessional. Prior to coming to SMS, I taught elementary school for 3 years and middle/high school ESOL Intensive Reading for 8 years. I was born and raised in Sweet Home Alabama. My husband and I have two children (Hattie-13 and Henry-15). We also have two dogs (Dari-an Irish Doodle and Pixie-a Golden Doodle). We love CineBistro, Shake Shack and eating ANY kind of sour candy.



## KONA ICE Day Returns

Our next KONA ICE day is for our 6th and 8th grade students only. If you would like for your child to participate, please read the information below.





## SARASOTA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Wednesday, September 20

Grab your notebooks, pencils, and a Kona Ice-school is back in session! We're excited to bring our delicious Vita-Blend Konas to students, teachers, and staff. Our nutritious, low-calorie snacks are fortified with Vitamins C and D, and sweetened with Stevia to contain 40% less sugar. And with a variety of flavors to choose from, there is something everyone will love!



**KLASSIC**

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**KONA ICE OF N SARASOTA**

941.705.2680 | blwilliams@kona-ice.com | www.kona-ice.com

## Go Gold Fundraising Activities Continue

Please review the fliers below and if you can participate, please do!



Start here... End here!



**WHEN:**

Sept. 5th  
Sept. 29th

**Be the CHANGE  
for Cancer**



**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!



## Friendly Reminders

Parents, we've seen a lot of students out of dress code this last week - everything from pajama bottoms and Nike pro shorts, to the sides of t-shirts cut out and slippers. Please review the dress code infographic attached and remember, there are consequences for students who are reported for dress code violations.





# DRESS CODE GUIDE

2023-24

DRAFT

Individual schools are expected to use the District dress code guidelines as minimum standards and are encouraged to extend their own standards to meet the uniqueness of their school community. Minimum standard of dress code is expected. The principal's decision or principal designees on the appropriateness of dress will be final. Please check with your school for all additional dress code guidelines. **Principal or principal designee decisions are final.**

## SKIRTS, DRESSES & SHORTS



Must be worn above the hips

Rips are allowed below mid-thigh



No excessively short skirts, shorts, or dresses that at any time expose underwear or body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner

## SHIRTS & TOPS



Straps must be minimum of 1 inch

No low-cut tops

No see-through clothing

Gap below armpit must not be larger than 3 inches

Clothing must cover the mid-riff when standing naturally



## JEANS, PANTS, LEGGINGS & EXPOSED UNDERGARMENTS



No exposed undergarments

No pajamas or slippers

Rips are allowed below mid-thigh



Students are not to wear items or markings which are offensive, suggestive, indecent, or associated with gangs; as identified by the Florida Gang Intent Act of 1990 or as outlined or provided by Chapter 874, Florida Statutes. Students are also not to wear items that encourage the use of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, violence, weapons, or support discrimination.

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## ABOUT US



Facebook



@smspanthers



Sarasota Middle School, Ashto...



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941-361-6464



sarasotacountyschools.net/sc...



