



# Hawks Newsletter

February-April 2022

## *From the Administration*

Dear Hawk Families,

It's hard to believe that April is already here! This has been an amazing year in Hawkland where every day, we work to engage our students in rigorous lessons that captivate and motivate them to learn. McNicol continues to have activities that celebrate our students both culturally and academically! In February, we celebrated Black History month with such things as daily morning video announcements and our Social Studies Family Night. In March, we celebrated Women's History Month, closed the 3rd QTR, and ushered in a much-needed Spring Break. We hope everyone had the chance to rest and enjoy some quality time together.

Here we are in the 4th quarter—ready to tackle the state tests! We offer many tutoring programs to help every child succeed.

On Mondays and Wednesdays, we have ELA tutoring, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays, we have Math tutoring. These programs run from 3-4 p.m. We also have Saturday School from 9-12.

Please visit our school website to register online or call our front office if you would like your child to be a part of these learning opportunities! Our school's testing schedule is published in this newsletter and on our website. We will also send out Parent Links so you are aware of when your child will test for each subject area. The FSA and End of Course exams (EOC) provide valuable data that we utilize to evaluate programs and provide targeted instruction to students in the classroom.

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter (@McNicolHawkLife) to see many more exciting things going on this school year. We are planning end of year field trips for each grade level and special incentive programs to reward our students for positive behavior. Our next PBIS event is a Spring Bling dance party on April 14th. We know that our Hawk families are a crucial part of our students' success. Thank you for being a part of our team to help your child reach their highest potential!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ryser, 7th grade Assistant Principal

## Calendar of Events

### April-May 2022

Date	
4/5	6 <sup>th</sup> gr Writing
4/6	7 <sup>th</sup> gr Writing
4/7	8 <sup>th</sup> gr Writing
4/9, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14	Saturday School (9-12:00)
4/13, 5/21	Speech and Debate Tournament
4/14	PBIS Day/Early Release Day at 12:15 pm
4/15	No School
4/21	SAC (6:00 pm) and Science Family Night (6:30 pm)
4/29	Honor Roll Assembly (8:30 am)
5/4 & 5/5	6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> gr Reading
5/9	Vaccinations (2:15-6:15)
5/10 & 5/11	6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> grade FSA Math test
5/12 & 5/13	8 <sup>th</sup> gr Reading FSA test
5/17	8 <sup>th</sup> gr Science & GEARS
5/17	Biology EOC
5/18 & 5/19	8 <sup>th</sup> gr Math FSA test
5/18 & 5/19	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> gr Algebra EOC
5/18 & 5/19	8 <sup>th</sup> gr Geometry EOC
5/19	SAC meeting (6:00 pm)
5/23	7 <sup>th</sup> gr Civics EOC
5/30	No School: Memorial Day



Proud to be a Title I School

Title I is a federally funded program for economically disadvantaged children who reside in school attendance areas with a high concentration of children from low-income families. Since a high incidence of poverty in a school has a direct correlation with low academic student achievement, the goal of the Title I Program is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and the skills to master the Florida Standards.



### Honor Roll Assembly

Please join us in the school cafeteria for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Honor Roll Assembly!

Date: April 29<sup>th</sup>

Time: 8:30-9:30 a.m.

### MCNICOL MAGNET MIDDLE SAC Meeting Dates

April 21<sup>st</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 p.m.





# The Mighty **HAWKS**



## **BE RESPECTFUL**

- Use a respectful tone of voice
- Respect the ideas, beliefs and opinions of others
- Never make excuses for your behavior

## **BE RESPONSIBLE**

- Set goals
- Plan your time wisely
- Prepare nightly for the next day

## **BE SAFE**

- Know and follow the school's safety policies
- Practice healthy habits
- If you see something, say something

## **BE A LEARNER**

- Pay attention in class and take notes
- Get all assignments done in a timely manner
- Ask for help when needed

## **MOST OF ALL...BE KIND**

- Ask, "How can I help you?"
- Try to see things from another person's point of view.
- Use positive language with everyone.

# THE 5 BS

*Always Remember*

## **READING DEPARTMENT**



# **READ180**



After taking our mid-year growth measure we are excited to share that most of our students have shown literacy gains. Even though this does not mean that all our students are reading at grade level, it does show that their hard work is paying off and we are moving in the right direction. This growth measure also helped teachers to make individualized intervention based on each student's current needs. It also allowed teachers to celebrate students for their accomplishment. Reading teachers and Language Arts teachers have worked collaboratively to enforce all writing skills to ensure student success on the Writing FSA on April 5th, 6th, and 7th.

# MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

It is already April! The Math Department is continuing to work hard to finish curriculum and start our FSA prep time review so we can ensure each student is prepared for the Math FSA and End of Course Exams in May. The Math Department is offering after school tutoring on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We also have tutoring on Saturdays in conjunction with the other tested subjects. These opportunities are available for all students.

At the beginning of April, our students will be participating in the iReady Diagnostic #3. The specific dates are: 6th grade (April 11th), 7th grade (April 12th), and 8th grade (April 13th).



EMBRACING NEW ADVENTURES

EMBRACING NEW ADVENTURES

## MCNICOL MIDDLE SCHOOL FSA/EOC PLAN 2021-2022



Test	Date
6 <sup>th</sup> gr Writing-PBT (120min) 1 session	Tues 4/5
7 <sup>th</sup> gr Writing-CBT (120 min) 1 session	Wed 4/6
8 <sup>th</sup> gr Writing-CBT (120 min) 1 session	Thurs 4/7
6 <sup>th</sup> gr Reading-PBT (85 min) 2 sessions	Wed 5/4 (session 1) & Thurs 5/5 (session 2)
7 <sup>th</sup> gr Reading-CBT (85 min) 2 sessions	Wed 5/4 (session 1) & Thurs 5/5 (session 2)
6 <sup>th</sup> gr Math-PBT (60 min) 3 sessions	Tues 5/10 (session 1) & Wed 5/11 (session 2&3)
7 <sup>th</sup> gr Math-CBT (60 min) 3 sessions	Tues 5/10 (session 1) & Wed 5/11 (session 2&3)
8 <sup>th</sup> gr Reading-CBT (85 min) 2 sessions	Thurs 5/12 (session1) & Fri 5/13 (session2)
8 <sup>th</sup> gr Science &GEARS (80 min) 2 sessions	Tues 5/17
Biology EOC (160+ min)	Tues 5/17
8 <sup>th</sup> gr Math-CBT (60 min) 3 sessions	Wed 5/18 (session 1) & Thurs 5/19 (session 2&3)
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Algebra EOC (90+ min) 2 sessions	Wed 5/18 (session 1) & Thurs 5/19 (session 2)
8 <sup>th</sup> gr Geometry EOC (90+ min) 2 sessions	Wed 5/18 (session 1) & Thurs 5/19 (session2)
7 <sup>th</sup> gr Civics EOC (160+ min) all day	Mon 5/23





# CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT

It is testing season! McNicol's ESE department is working closely with teachers, students, and the guidance department to ensure our students with disabilities are receiving their accommodations for our upcoming FSA or FSAA assessments. Students that have a disability or an eligibility will often test in smaller class sizes with teachers they are comfortable and familiar with. We are very lucky to have a strong and devoted ESE team to ensure our students with disabilities have everything they need to be successful and comfortable.

# TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



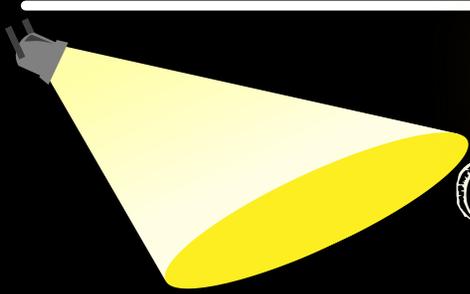
**CONGRATULATIONS MS. KRYSTLE FOR BEING ON THE SPOTLIGHT THIS MONTH. MS. KRYSTLE IS MCNICOL'S NEW SVE TEACHER FOR OUR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. HOWEVER, SHE IS NOT NEW TO MCNICOL, MS. KRYSTLE HAS BEEN OUR BEHAVIOR TECHNICIAN FOR YEARS HELPING OUR STUDENTS TRANSITION FROM ELEMENTARY TO MIDDLE SCHOOL. MS. KRYSTLE ALSO HAS OVER 10 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH STUDENTS AT CENTER SCHOOLS SUCH AS WHISPERING PINES. THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO! MCNICOL IS VERY LUCKY TO HAVE YOU!**



# THANK YOU Mrs. Ruddy



Meet our literacy coach. Ms. Ruddy has been part of the McNicol family for many moons. She is extremely passionate about helping students achieve literacy success. Ms. Ruddy goes above and beyond to assure that all students have the resources and tools necessary to enrich their literacy proficiency and/or close gaps. Ms. Ruddy also wears the coaching hat proudly. She always vows to make all literacy teachers feel supported and understood. She always finds a solution to any challenge while making each of our teachers feel valued. She works collaboratively with administration, teachers, and students to create a positive and promising learning experience. We can go on for pages and pages talking about all the amazing things that Ms. Ruddy does for our school. However, in this short summary we want to demonstrate our appreciation and gratitude for her!



## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT Get to know Mr. Leporte



Mr. LePorte attended Florida Atlantic University where he received a Bachelor of Education in Social Sciences. Mr. LePorte has been in education since 2008, teaching World History and Physical Science across Broward County schools. Mr. LePorte is a graduate of Stoneman Douglas High School and now resides in Ft. Lauderdale. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Farah, whom he has known for 20 years, his son Isaac, who is a junior at Stranahan High School, and his two cats. Some of Mr. Leporte's hobbies are watching sports such as basketball and football while enjoying some good food. He also enjoys watching movies-action, mystery, and true-life. Mr. LePorte says his purpose for teaching is to equip, empower, motivate, and encourage young people to maximize their potential and learn new things.



# GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

Ms. **Lee** has been part of our Hawk family for 8 years. She enjoys traveling in her free time.

Thank you, Ms. Lee, for exceling at showing students' support.

Some words of encouragement for her students are "feeling motivated does not always make you feel like you've got Superman's powers. Sometimes, motivation and determination are that quiet but clear voice that tells you tomorrow is another day to try, try and keep trying."

We are lucky to have Ms. **Gannon** as part of the McNicol family for the past 3 years. She enjoys going to the beach on her free time.

A few words of encouragement for her students are "Don't give up on yourself! Making the right choices isn't always easy, but with the right mindset and the ability to learn from your mistakes, it will set you up for a successful future."



Mrs. **Montrose** has been showing our students constant support for the past 3 years here at McNicol. On her free time, she enjoys video games, board games, and Dungeons and Dragons. She also enjoys crafting.

Some words of encouragement for her future high schoolers are "Find out who you are and follow your dreams with purpose. And, for my 8th graders heading to High School, get to know your school counselor and always know what your current GPA is. That will help you a lot when you're getting ready to graduate."



♥  
♥  
♥  
♥  
**A SPECIAL THANK YOU** ♥  
♥  
♥

Mental health is so important, especially in these hard times. When it comes to mental health these ladies know all the tricks and tips to help our students feel at ease. They have shown our students constant support to ensure they always have to someone to talk to and lean on. We are truly blessed to have such a passionate and dedicated group of counselors working constantly for our kiddos.



# Positive Community Norms



On Wednesday March 9, over 20 students from peer counseling (Agents of Change) and our very own student government representatives Derwin Roach Jr (President), Diamond Cooper (Vice President) and Angelo Guzman (Secretary) attended a terrific Broward County Schools initiative entitled "Positive Community Norms " in our newly remodeled media center. Students interacted virtually through zoom with the Montana Institute Learning Center about their "why's" and created a sense of community. Students also focused on life lessons and the seven principles of courageous leadership: be positive, be present, be perceptive, be purposeful, be perfected, be proactive and be passionate. At the culmination of the event, students were provided a celebration of their successes with a pizza lunch provided by Choose Peace/ Stop Violence (Broward United Way).

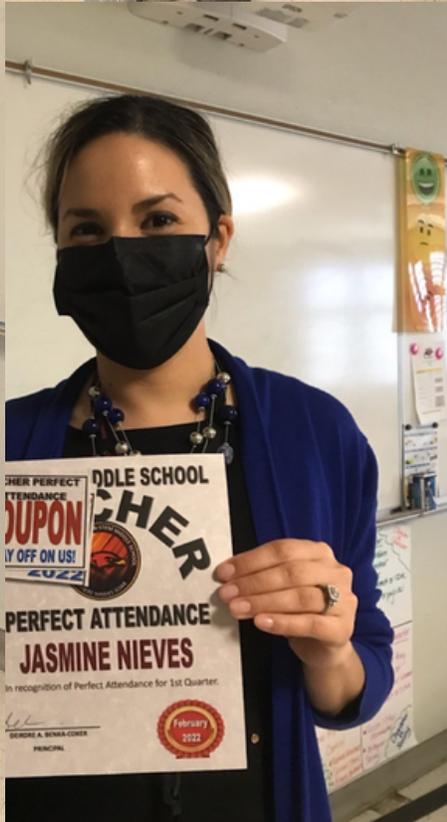
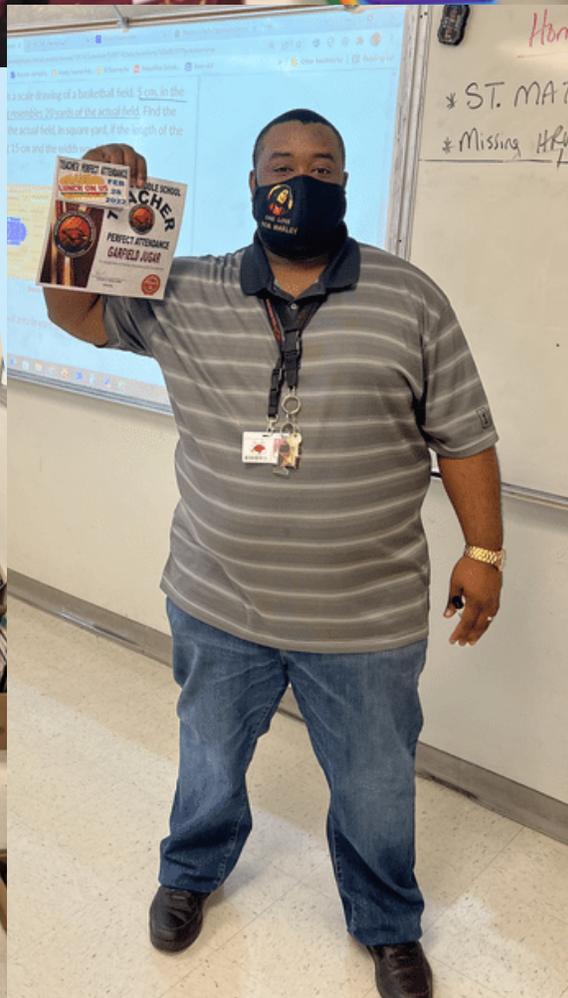
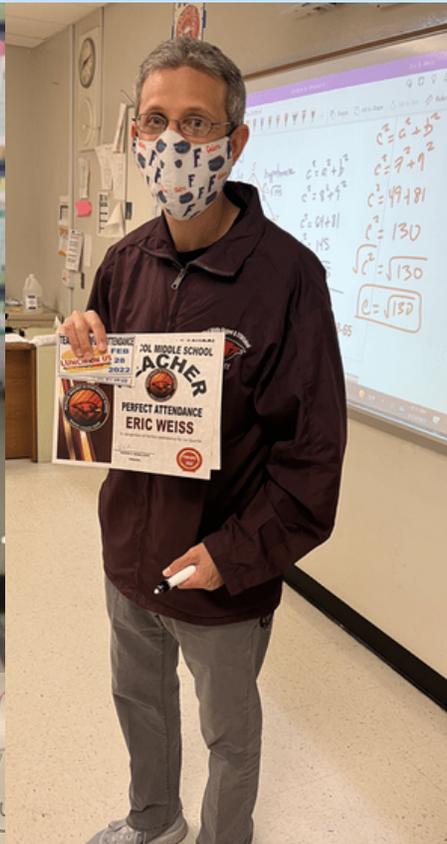
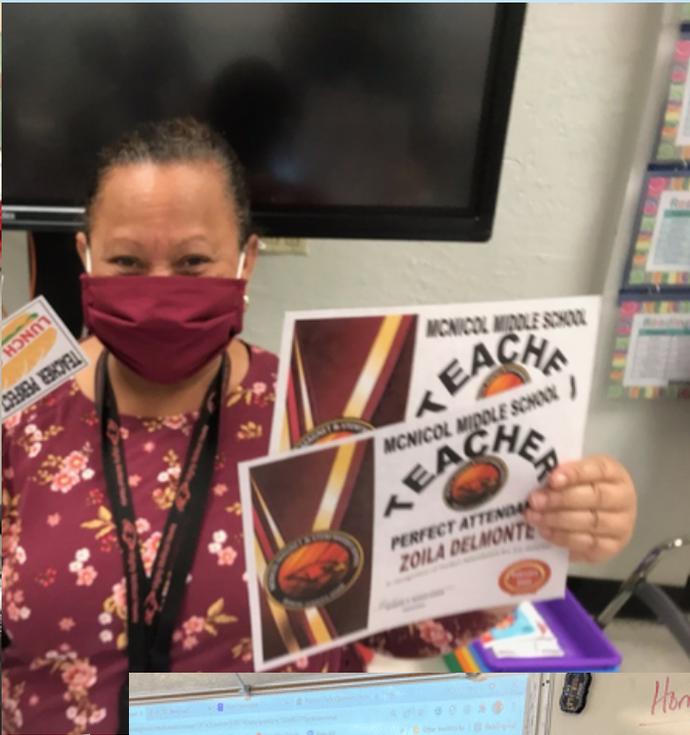
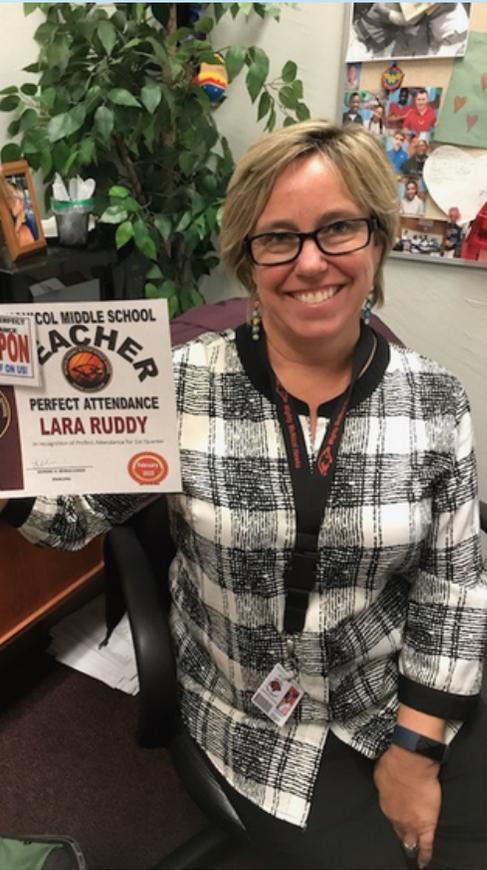


# BEST BUDDIES!

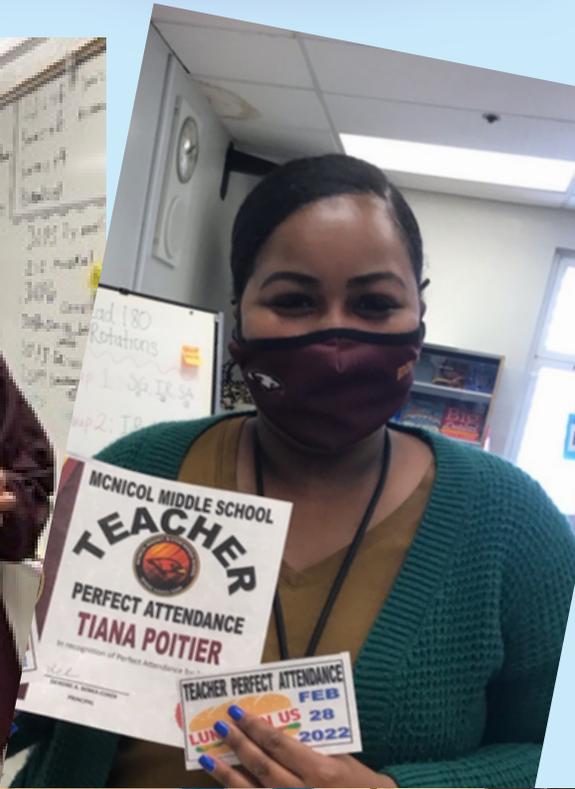
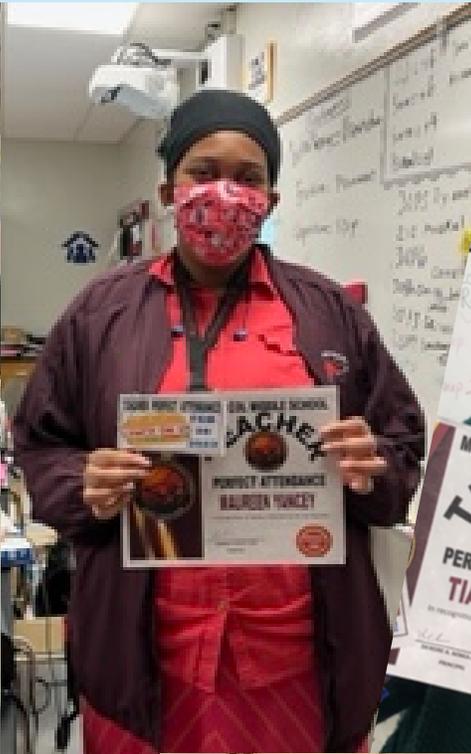
Builds friendships between people with and without IDD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities), offering social mentoring while improving the quality of life and level of inclusion for a population that is often isolated and excluded. Our McNicol Middle School Best Buddies program creates an inclusive community for students with IDD, helping them become socially integrated with their peers at every age.



# PERFECT ATTENDANCE CELEBRATION



# PERFECT ATTENDANCE CELEBRATION



DEDICATION,  
HARD WORK  
AND BEAST MODE.

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thank you

# CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY



**"Every great dream begins with a dreamer."**



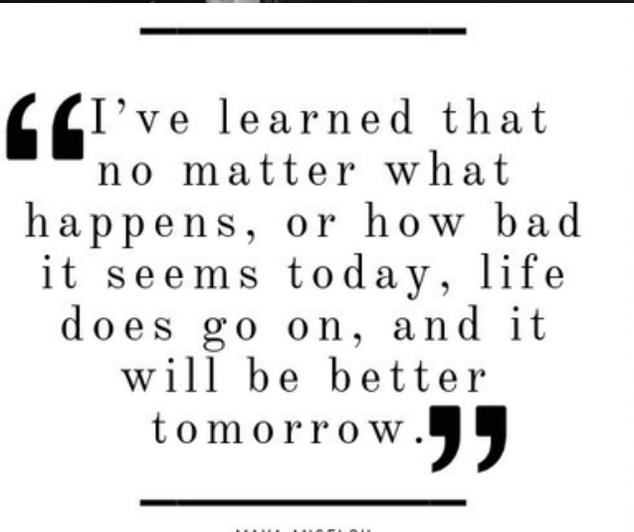
I BELIEVE IN *HUMAN BEINGS*, AND THAT ALL HUMAN BEINGS SHOULD BE RESPECTED AS SUCH, *REGARDLESS OF THEIR COLOR.*

- Malcolm X *YourTango*



*"Humor is laughing at what you haven't got when you ought to have it."*

Langston Hughes



“I’ve learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.”



# Celebrating 🙌🏻🙌🏿 Women

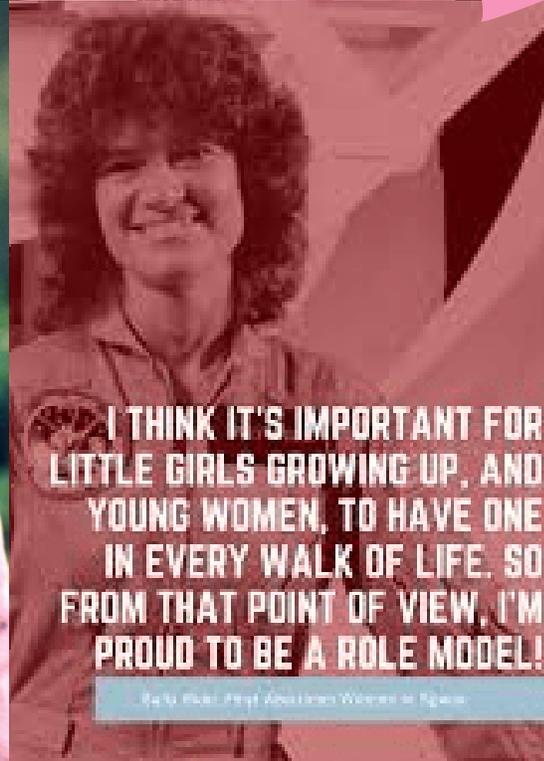
Empowered  
Women  
Empower  
Women



THERE IS  
NO FORCE  
EQUAL  
TO A  
WOMAN  
DETERMINED  
TO RISE.



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I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT FOR  
LITTLE GIRLS GROWING UP, AND  
YOUNG WOMEN, TO HAVE ONE  
IN EVERY WALK OF LIFE. SO  
FROM THAT POINT OF VIEW, I'M  
PROUD TO BE A ROLE MODEL!

—Michelle Obama, First African American Woman in Office



# DISCIPLINE CORNER

## Promise Discipline Infractions

- Battery
- Hazing
- Physical Attack
- Threat/intimidation
- Bullying
- Fighting
- Harassment
- Sexual Offenses

Any of these infractions can result in automatic suspension and/or expulsion!



## DRUGS

- Possessing or using drugs

**CONSEQUENCE: Mandatory 6 day PROMISE PROGRAM, Possible ARREST, AND RECOMMENDATION FOR EXPULSION**

- Sale or attempted sale and/or transmittal of drugs during live teaching session

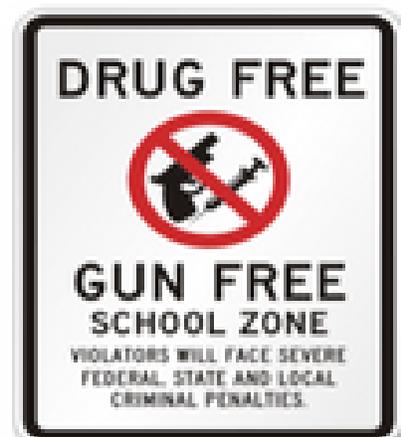
**CONSEQUENCE: 10 days external suspension, Possible ARREST, AND RECOMMENDATION FOR EXPULSION**

## EXPELLABLE OFFENSES

- Possession of a weapon or brandishing a weapon during live teaching session

**CONSEQUENCE: Mandatory 10 day external suspension & ARREST.**

**MANDATORY RECOMMENDATION FOR EXPULSION!!!!**



**SOUTH PLANTATION HIGH SCHOOL  
PRESENTS**

**nickelodeon.**  
**THE**  
**SPONGEBOB**  
**MUSICAL** 2022

**BY KYLE JARROW AND TINA LANDAU**

**APRIL 21ST, 22ND, 23RD,  
29TH, 30TH AT 7PM  
AND MAY 1ST AT 2PM**

**TICKETS:**

**\$10 IN ADVANCED  
\$15 AT THE DOOR**

**ALL SHOWS  
INTERPRETED IN ASL**

**PALADIN PLAYHOUSE, 1300 SW 54TH AVE,  
PLANTATION, FL**

**DIRECTED BY JASON ZEMBUCH YOUNG**

**FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFO CALL  
754-323-3033 OR VISIT [WWW.FOTT.ORG](http://WWW.FOTT.ORG)**

# HETERONORMATIVE THINKING

**What Is Heteronormativity?** Heteronormativity is the assumption that everyone is straight. It's the idea that romantic and sexual relationships are always between one man and one woman. Heteronormativity assumes heterosexuality is the default sexual orientation, and the only normal or natural way to express sexuality and attraction.

**History of Heteronormativity.** The word heteronormativity was coined in 1991 by queer literary critic and social theorist Michael Warner.<sup>1</sup> Some of the inspiration for the term was based on an essay by Adrienne Rich called "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence,"<sup>2</sup> in which Rich theorizes that heterosexuality isn't the natural instinct of all people, rather a cultural institution that makes women inferior to men.

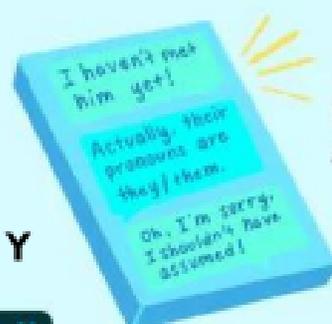
## How to Combat Heteronormativity



Ask for someone's pronouns



Share how you identify



Don't make assumptions



Use gender-neutral terms (i.e. "partner")

EQUITY  
CORNER

verywell

# HONESTY

## Family Newsletter

### Dear Parent:

Honesty is the character trait of the month of February. This newsletter offers you activities and ideas, which will assist you with helping your child to understand the importance of honesty. Honesty, is taking responsibility for one's conduct and obligations, and being loyal so people can trust you. People who are honest have integrity and the moral courage to do the right thing and to stand up for their beliefs even when it is difficult to do so. We ask that you continue to encourage honesty with you child.

- How can you tell if your teen is being dishonest with you? There are some key things to look for that are signs of being dishonest.
  - Defensiveness – Teens may become defensive when you ask them where they have been or where they are going. A teen with nothing to hide does not mind offering their parents a way to get in contact with them. Teens that get defensive when asked are most likely hiding something.
  - Eye Contact – If your teen makes constant eye contact without blinking this can be as alarming as the teen that won't make eye contact with you at all. Usually a teen will not look at you if they are lying to you unless they realize this. Then they over compensate by starting you in the eye and they end up not blinking. (Understand that some cultures however do not promote eye contact with adults.)
  - When people are making stories up they often look down. When someone is telling a story that is honest and true they look up like they are remembering it just as it happened.
  - The long pause – this is especially useful when you are having a phone conversation and you ask where your teen is or what is going on. There will often be a pause as they come up with a story to tell you.
  - Body Language – when someone is being dishonest, they are often nervous and have physical twitches or they will touch their face.



Diversity, Prevention & Intervention  
 Lauderdale Manors Early Learning &  
 Resource Center  
 1400 NW 14<sup>th</sup> Court  
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 (754) 321-1655  
 Fax: (754) 321-1691  
[www.browardprevention.org](http://www.browardprevention.org)  
 Email:  
[Kimberly.Young@browardschools.com](mailto:Kimberly.Young@browardschools.com)

### Character Check

Make sure your child is reflecting on these questions in order to keep itself in check.

- If I want to borrow something, do I ask the person who owns the property?
- Do I always do my own work and not cheat myself out of learning?
- Am I striving to earn my parent's and friend's trust?
- Is lying comfortable for me?
- Does my current social circle consist of people that I can be honest and true to myself with, that I can rely on and I feel can rely on me?

# SELF-CONTROL

## Family Newsletter

### Dear Parent:

Self-Control is the ability to be in control of your actions so that you can make positive choices that benefit you and others. To be successful, our children need to learn from their experiences and develop self-discipline, which will help them keep their impulses and feelings from controlling them. Self-Control is a practical skill that gives our children tangible benefits in their lives and in their relationships with others.

### Personal Thoughts for Parents

- In what ways do I show self-control?
- In what areas of my life is it hard for me to be self-controlled? Why?
- What can I do to be more self-controlled?

### *Modeling Moments*

**DISCUSS** with your child the areas of your life where you show self-control.

**ADMIT** to your child when you do not show self-control.

**CHALLENGE** yourself and your child to be more self-controlled in areas where it may be hard.

### Developing Self-Control through Service

- As a family, prepare and cook a meal together. Deliver the meal to a local homeless shelter or elderly facility. If you can, help serve the meal.
- As a family, learn how a local group helps people in your community. Have a family yard sale and donate the money to this group.



Character Education: Elementary

March



Diversity, Prevention & Intervention  
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[www.browardprevention.org](http://www.browardprevention.org)  
 Email:  
[Kimberly.Young@browardschools.com](mailto:Kimberly.Young@browardschools.com)

### Dinner/Car Discussions

- Have each family member explain ways that he/she has shown self-control that day.
- Have family members tell about how they have seen other family members show self-control.
- Have family members share about times when they did not show self-control.
- Have family members explain some of the benefits of showing self-control.

*"The experience of a sense of guilt for wrong-doing is necessary for the development of self-control. The guilt feelings will later serve as a warning signal which the child can produce himself when an impulse to repeat the naughty act comes over him."*  
 - Selma H. Fraiberg