

ELEVATE & EXCEL

Reaching New Heights at Cypress Bay



ISSUE: FOURTH QUARTER

PRINCIPAL'S RECAP

Dr. Cassandra Fried

Dear Cypress Bay High School Community,

As we approach the final stretch of this academic year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the remarkable accomplishments of our students, the tireless efforts of our staff, and the continued support of our families. The fourth quarter is a time to reflect, refocus, and rally together as we finish strong; continuing to elevate and excel in all that we do. Over the past few months, our Lightning family has truly shined:

Academic Growth: We've celebrated outstanding student success across academic competitions, including our Debate Team's advancement to state finals and continued recognition of our top-performing Cambridge and AP students. Our commitment to academic excellence remains evident across every department.

Fine Arts Recognition: Cypress Bay musicians and vocalists continue to represent us with pride, with several students earning spots in All-State Band and Chorus; a distinguished honor that places them among the most talented performers in Florida.

Athletics and Activities: From thrilling district wins by our soccer and volleyball teams to student-athletes earning All-County recognitions across sports like football, golf, swimming, and cross-country. Our Lightning spirit is alive and well on and off the field.

As we look ahead, our focus turns to ensuring every student finishes the year confident, prepared, and successful. Literacy remains a cornerstone of student success, and this quarter, we are implementing our "Crunch Time" literacy initiative, a targeted plan designed to strengthen reading comprehension and assessment skills across all grade levels. Students will participate in structured practice opportunities that reinforce critical thinking and test readiness strategies to help them shine on upcoming assessments. In addition, we are providing Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs) in each core content area to support all students in achieving and maintaining proficiency on End-of-Course (EOC) exams and state assessments. Whether through after-school sessions, tutoring, or content-specific review workshops, we are ensuring that every student has access to the tools they need to succeed.

Together, let's maintain our momentum and finish the year with purpose and pride. Thank you for your continued partnership in making Cypress Bay High School a place where students don't just succeed, they thrive.

Let's continue to elevate and excel, together.

With gratitude and optimism,

Dr. Cassandra Fried
Principal

LIGHTNING STRIKES SUCCESS!

CELEBRATING THE EXCELLENCE, CREATIVITY, AND COMMITMENT OF OUR LIGHTNING STUDENTS AND STAFF.

Visual & Performing Arts

Cypress Bay artists dominated several prestigious art competitions:

- **Scholastic Art Awards:** 1 Gold Key Portfolio, 1 Silver Key, 2 Honorable Mentions, plus 22 individual work awards including 3 Gold Keys.
- **Superintendent's AP Art Show:** 16 student works juried into the exhibit; **Mariana Perozo** won Best in Show and **Samantha Canini** earned a Wall of Excellence spot.
- **Broward All-Stars Art Show:** 35 works juried in. **Melic Cuevas Luy** won 1st in Photography and **Jackson Bissacot** won 1st in Digital Art.
- **NSU Teen Art Exhibition:** 36 students selected for the "Un-Natural Selection" exhibit at NSU Museum, showcasing alongside iconic artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude.
- **Kamila Figuera** placed 2nd in the NSU Holocaust Reflections Art Competition.
- **Amberly Roque and Ash Guillen** received honors for their outstanding 3D artwork at the Superintendent's Art Showcase.

National Art Honor Society's Art Festival featured over 50 student artists. The event raised \$1,500 for Camillus House, blending creativity and community service.

Chorus earned straight superiors from every judge at District MPA—CBHS was the only traditional secondary school to do so.



Cultural Impact & Service

- Latinos in Action shined at the FAU LIA Conference, earning Gold in Mastermind, top awards in visual art and writing, and **Ms. Mariana Rodriguez** Angulo was named LIA Teacher of the Year!
- ASL students welcomed a guest pediatric audiologist who inspired students with her journey from ASL learner to professional, diving into Deaf culture and audiology.
- Chinese New Year was celebrated with energy and tradition, thanks to the World Languages Department.
- Multicultural Club led International Night and participated in Weston World Fest, representing Cypress Bay at one of Weston's biggest cultural events.
- CBHS students engaged deeply in Holocaust education through field trips to NSU's Holocaust Museum and the Holocaust Documentation Center, a Living Theatre production, and Student Awareness Day where they had the privilege to hear from survivors firsthand.

STEM & Robotics

- SkillsUSA Mobile Robotics has advanced to the State Championship!

FIRST Tech Robotics Teams continue to impress:

- Team 5467 won 1st Place Connect and is headed to a national-level competition.
- Team 3888 won 2nd Place Design Award at States.
- Two CBHS teams qualified for the State Robotics Championship.

Athletics

- Girls Soccer finished as FHSAA 7A State Runner-Up!
- **Gabriela Kerber** placed 4th in the State for Girls Wrestling.
- Multiple athletes earned All-County Honors, including volleyball, football, cross-country, golf, and swimming.



Academic Excellence

Mu Alpha Theta Sets Records & Heads to State: On March 1st, Cypress Bay's Mu Alpha Theta chapter hosted the March Regional Competition, welcoming nearly 1,000 students—making it the largest regional, state, or national Mu Alpha Theta event in the past six years. The team will head to the State Convention in April, where they aim to achieve their third consecutive 1st place in the Community Service Competition.

21 National Merit Finalists: We proudly recognize 21 Cypress Bay students who have been named National Merit Finalists—a distinction that places them among the top academic performers nationwide. This achievement reflects exceptional PSAT performance, academic rigor, and a consistent record of excellence throughout their high school careers.

Cambridge Diploma Night: Cypress Bay celebrated the success of our Cambridge AICE Diploma recipients during a special recognition event. These students completed a rigorous program of study aligned with international standards and have shown dedication to academic depth, critical thinking, and global awareness.

Outstanding Senior Leaders: This year's Outstanding Senior Leaders were recognized for their leadership, service, and positive impact across our campus. These remarkable students have demonstrated what it means to lead with purpose and integrity, serving as role models for the Cypress Bay community and beyond.

U.S. Presidential Scholar Finalists: Three students have advanced as U.S. Presidential Scholar Finalists—one of the highest honors for high school seniors in the nation. This elite distinction recognizes outstanding academic achievement, leadership, and community service. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and all they represent.



We Want to Hear from You: Parent Survey Now Open

At Cypress Bay High School, your voice matters. As part of a districtwide effort to improve our schools and enhance the learning experience for all students, Broward County Public Schools is conducting a Parent Survey and we encourage every family to participate.

This important survey gives you an opportunity to share your thoughts on everything from school culture and communication to student support and academic rigor. Your feedback is completely anonymous and will be used to help guide school improvement efforts both here at Cypress Bay and across the district.

The survey is available online and offered in four languages, English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Portuguese making it accessible for all families. Your honest responses help us identify what's working well and where we can grow, so we can continue to provide the best possible education for your child.

We appreciate you taking a few moments to complete this important survey and be part of shaping the future of our school community. Thank you for your partnership and continued support.

Take the survey here: [Parent Survey Link](#)

PTSA

We kindly invite all parents, teachers, and students to become members of the Cypress Bay PTSA by contributing just \$15. Joining is quick and easy—simply scan the QR code to sign up!

What many don't realize is that the PTSA does far more than just organize events. It plays a vital role in directly supporting our students, staff, and school initiatives. In fact, last year alone, the PTSA awarded over \$30,000 in scholarships and grants to deserving Cypress Bay students and staff members. These scholarships help students pursue their post-secondary dreams and empower teachers to enrich their classrooms with innovative tools and resources.

Every membership counts, and your support—whether through membership, volunteerism, or donations—truly makes an impact. Thank you for investing in our school, our staff, and most importantly, our students.

Scan the QR code and join today, because together, we shine brighter!



BECOME A MEMBER

SAVE THE DATES

Graduation: The District has assigned us a **graduation date of June 2nd at 10:00 a.m.**, with the ceremony being held at **Hard Rock Live**. All families will receive four tickets and the possibility of an extra ticket by filling out the lottery form sent out to senior parents.

AMT “Descendants” Performances:

- Performances: April 10-25, 2025
- Location: Auditorium

AMT “Slice of Broadway”:

- Date: May 15, 2025
- Time: 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Location: Auditorium

Spring Chorus Concert:

- Date: April 29, 2025
- Time: 7:00 PM
- Location: Auditorium

Underclassmen Awards Ceremony :

- Date: April 30, 2025
- Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- Location: Auditorium

PTSA Excellence Awards

- Date: May 8, 2025
- Time: 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
- Location: Auditorium

Senior IMPORTANT Dates

MANDATORY Grad Bash meeting: April 2nd

Grad Bash: April 25th

MANDATORY Senior meeting: April 21st

(end of year, Graduation, Prom, etc.)

Senior Awards & Top 5% Dinner:

- Date: May 13, 2025
- Time: 5% Dinner (5:00 PM – 6:00 PM)
- Time: Awards (6:00 PM - 9:00 PM)
- Location: Café & Auditorium

PROM : May 17th

Diplomat Beach Hotel

Senior Week & Finals :

May 19-23rd

Cap and Gown distribution

May 29th

School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Dates

The School Advisory Council (SAC) is a team of parents, teachers, students, administrators, and community members who work together to support school improvement and student achievement. SAC plays a vital role in providing input on important school decisions, including the development and evaluation of the School Improvement Plan (SIP), use of school improvement funds, and other key initiatives that impact the school community. SAC is a great way for stakeholders to stay informed, share their voices, and collaborate on making a positive difference in the school environment.

All SAC meetings are open to the school community, and your participation is encouraged!

Meeting Time: 3:00 – 4:15 PM

Location: College & Career Center

April 30, 2025

May 28, 2025

ASSESSMENTS

April 3rd Testing Day Information

On Thursday, April 3rd, important exams will be administered:

BEST Writing – All 9th & 10th grade students

SAT School Day – All 11th grade students (must bring a College Board-approved calculator)

Florida Civics Literacy Exam – Seniors enrolled in Government Honors or Government

All exams are digital and will be taken on school-issued devices. We will follow a modified bell schedule with no junior privilege. Students must report directly to Period 2. No early dismissals will be allowed during the testing block. Parents, April 3rd is a regular school day. Expect long lines for early sign-out, your patience is appreciated. For questions, contact our Student Assessment Specialist, Tara Jordan, at tara.jordan@browardschools.com.

APRIL 3RD TESTING DAY

WRITING BEST
All 9th and 10th grade students will take the Writing BEST

SAT SCHOOL DAY
All 11th grade students will take the SAT

- Bring a College Board approved calculator
- Students will test on school provided devices
- See Cypress Bay High School Assessment Canvas page for Digital SAT resources

FLORIDA CIVICS LITERACY EXAM
All seniors enrolled in Gov Honors / Gov will take the FCLE

TEST DAY TIPS

- Get a good nights rest
- Bring a snack
- Arrive to school early
- Bring a sweater

LIGHTNING LEARNING
Non testers will take part in Lightning Learning sessions

MODIFIED BELL SCHEDULE

PERIOD 2 7:40 - 8:00
ATTENDANCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATED PASSPORTS

TESTING BLOCK 8:10 - 12:15
* SENIOR LUNCH FCLE TESTERS 11:40 - 12:15
* EXTENDED TIME ROOMS RELEASE AT 12:45
ALL 9TH, ALL 10TH, ALL 11TH, & SENIORS ENROLLED IN GOVERNMENT HONORS AND GOVERNMENT

LIGHTNING LEARNING
NON TESTERS REPORT TO THE AUDITORIUM

PERIOD 3

BUILDINGS: 100, 200, 400, & ART	BUILDINGS: 300, 800, & MODS	BUILDINGS: 900 & GYM
P 3 A 12:20 - 12:50	P 3 B *12:25 - 12:50	P 3 C *12:25 - 1:20
LUNCH A 12:52 - 1:50	LUNCH B 12:50 - 1:20	LUNCH C 1:20 - 1:50
	P 3 B 1:22 - 1:50	

PERIOD 4 1:55 - 2:45
THIS IS A REGULAR SCHOOL DAY, REGULAR EARLY RELEASE POLICIES APPLY

State Testing

State testing begins soon, and it's important that all students are prepared and present on their scheduled testing days. On **May 7**, all **9th and 10th grade** students will take the **Florida FAST Reading** assessment. On **May 8**, students enrolled in **U.S. History and Biology** will take their respective End-of-Course (EOC) exams. On **May 14**, students currently enrolled in **Algebra 1 or Geometry** will take their EOC exams.

These assessments are critical for student progress and graduation requirements. More information will be shared soon, and we encourage families to review the testing calendar posted on our school website for all upcoming dates, including AP and Cambridge exams.

Testing Calendar Link: [Please Click Here](#)

SCHOOL COUNSELING

Counselors are assigned by the students' last name unless they are AICE diploma track or FBI Cyber STEM students. Counselors can be contacted via email which can be found on our school's website.

Social Workers

Grace Carreto-Nagales
Victoria Skiba

School Psychologist

Ilisa Bianco

Family Therapist

Annie Vargas



The graphic is titled "2024-2025 Counselor Breakdown" and features the "ELEVATE & EXCEL" logo on both sides. It lists seven counselors with their names, phone numbers, and assigned student groups in alternating blue and gold rounded rectangular boxes.

Counselor Name	Phone Number	Assigned Student Groups
THORPE	323-0372	Director/ U-Z
MAISEL	323-0377	AICE Diploma/ FBI Cyber Stem
LONGHI	323-0432	A-CL
TAMAYO	323-0366	CM-GOR
WILSON	323-0373	GOS-MAN
MARTINEZ	323-0418	MAO-PRA
SMART	323-0376	PRB-T

Revised: October 15, 2024

CHECK-N-CONNECT: STUDENT VOICE IN ACTION

Check & Connect is a powerful opportunity for any Cypress Bay student to get involved and make a real impact. These monthly sessions are designed to give students a seat at the table, directly connecting with school leadership to share feedback, ideas, and concerns about their experience at The Bay. Recently, students came together in one of our most impactful sessions yet, discussing what's working and what needs to improve. This is where change happens. If you have something to say, sign up to be part of the next Check & Connect session. Your voice matters, and your ideas can help shape a better future for all Lightning students.



REVISED 10.25.24



Cypress Bay High School



24/25 GOLD (A) / BLUE (B) DAY CALENDAR

AUGUST				
M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30		

SEPTEMBER				
M	T	W	TH	F
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16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER				
M	T	W	TH	F
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15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29
30	31			

NOVEMBER				
M	T	W	TH	F
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12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	

DECEMBER				
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26	27	28	29	30
31				

JANUARY				
M	T	W	TH	F
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24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31		

FEBRUARY				
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MARCH				
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26	27	28	29	30
31				

APRIL				
M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
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20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29
30	31			

MAY				
M	T	W	TH	F
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18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30		

JUNE				
M	T	W	TH	F
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11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30

- # Early Release Day
- School Closed
- Exam Day
- A Day
- B Day
- Planning Day
- ★ Last Day of Quarter

See Something, Say Something

Be a Broward Buddy, Report a Tip!

In an emergency, call 911 immediately. To submit a safety or security concern that is not an emergency, please use one of the tip reporting methods provided below. Please remember you can choose to remain anonymous.



Anonymous Tip Submission Box

Submit a tip easily via our Anonymous Tip Submission Box (**no download required**). Provide as much detail as you can, including names of people involved, physical descriptions, school name, social media handles, etc.



[BrowardSchools.com/SecurityTips](https://www.browardschools.com/SecurityTips)



Call Us Anytime (Even on Holidays)

Call our District Security Operations Center (DSOC) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (including holidays). One of our friendly DSOC Specialists will take your tip over the phone and submit it immediately to our investigators. Please let the DSOC Specialist know if you wish to remain anonymous.

754-321-3500



Send Us an Email

Submit a tip using the email address below. Although your email address is displayed using this tip reporting method, you can choose to remain anonymous by simply requesting it in your message.

SecurityTips@BrowardSchools.com

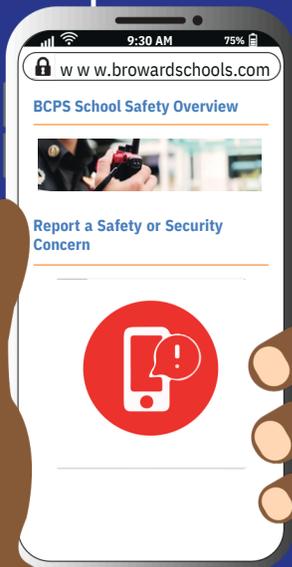


FortifyFL

Submit a tip via FortifyFL online (**no download required**) or download the app for easier use. Visit FortifyFL using the link below. Your tip will immediately reach law enforcement and Broward Schools investigators.



[GetFortifyFL.com](https://www.getfortifyfl.com)



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ALYSSA'S ALERT

Mobile Duress Alert App

Alyssa's Alert is a mobile duress alert application that empowers staff members to immediately notify first responders in the event of an emergency. Receive potentially life-saving aid with the push of a button.

Speed Crisis Response

Upon activation*, local first responders & District personnel receive an immediate notification of the emergency.

Easy to Use

Select one of the three buttons (shown right) to activate Alyssa's Alert. Assistance will immediately be dispatched to your location.**

Stay Connected

Administrators will be able to push important updates regarding an emergency situation to anyone who has downloaded Alyssa's Alert.

*Duress buttons can only be activated while physically on school property.
**ONLY first responders may access location information upon button activation. Under no other circumstances is location information accessible.

DOWNLOAD THE APP NOW

Scan this
Code



Look for
this icon

Search for "SaferWatch"



Visit [Learning Across Broward](#) and search for "Alyssa's Alert" under the "Courses" tab to learn more about using Alyssa's Alert in the event of an emergency.

