

ASST. PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings, NFMHS Red Knight Nation,

Hello there, my name is Dwayne Mack, and I have been a teacher and coach in Lee County for the past 22 years. For the last six years, I have been teaching at North Ft. Myers High School. However, this year, my role has changed, and I have been named as an Assistant Principal by Mrs. Diggs. My main duties at North include handling transportation and discipline. With the start of this new school year, there have been several new policies introduced by both the School District of Lee County and the State of Florida.



Parents, it is crucial that you read and fully comprehend Florida HB 379. This bill allows students to carry a wireless communications device while they are on school premises or attending any school-related event. However, it prohibits the use of these devices during instructional time, except when a teacher specifically directs the students to use them for educational purposes. During instructional time, a designated area for wireless communication devices will be assigned by the teacher. At North Ft. Myers High School, all teachers have signs (Fig 1) detailing the Electronic and Backpack Procedures. Please ensure that your child follows the procedures mandated by the State of Florida and the School District of Lee County.

Maintaining a safe student environment is a top priority for Mrs. Diggs and the School District of Lee County. To achieve this, the district has implemented a new policy that requires all students to wear ID badges issued by the district during school hours. By doing so, faculty and staff can easily identify students and ensure that campus security is upheld. These ID badges are mandatory and must be worn at all times. They are also

Principal Debbie Diggs

Assistant Principals Ronda Amaya Kim Conn Samantha Hutchinson Dwayne Mack

The School Board of Lee County, Florida
District 1 - Samuel Fisher, Board Vice Chair

District 1 - Samuel Fisher, Board Vice District 2 - Melisa W. Giovannelli

District 2 - Melisa W. Glovanne District 3 - Chris N. Patricca

District 4 - Debbie Jordan

District 5 - Armor Persons, Board Chair

District 6 - Jada Langford-Fleming

District 7 - Cathleen O'Daniel Morgan

Superintendent Christopher S. Bernier, Ed.D www.LeeSchools.net

School Board Attorney: Kathy Dupuy-Bruno, Esq.



2023 WINTER

Vision

To prepare every student for success

Mission

To guide
students in a
purposeful and
challenging
direction and to
inspire mastery
of skills for
lifelong success

Motto

Where pride and tradition become success.



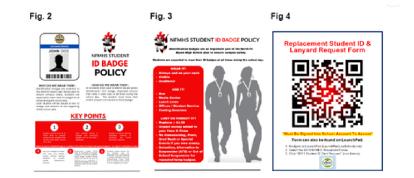
ASST. PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Electronics & Backpack Procedures

1 Get class materials out of your backpack
2 Place electronic devices (cell phones, air pods, etc.) in your backpack
3 Place backpack in the designated area of the classroom

required for various school activities, including bus rides, lunch lines, library visits, office and student service access, and testing sessions (as shown in Figures 2 and 3).

If students misplace their ID badge, they can order a new one and a lanyard using the QR codes in Figure 4. The new ID badge will be available for pickup at the Guidance Office within 24 hours of placing the order.



Attendance is a critical factor in a student's academic success. Arriving on time for school is particularly essential. To be considered present and on time for their first period, students must be in the classroom by 7:05 a.m. and ready to begin instruction. If a student is not present in class by 7:05 a.m., they should go to Student Services to obtain a tardy pass. If a student accumulates three (3) or more tardies in a quarter, they will face consequences. Please refer to the chart below for more information regarding the escalating consequences:

Offense	Consequence
1st tardy to school	Tardy pass and warning
2nd tardy to school	Tardy pass and warning
3rd tardy to school	Phone call home
4th tardy to school	After School Detention (1:45 p.m2:45 p.m. Tuesday or Thursday)
5th tardy to school	After School Detention (1:45 pm-2:45 p.m. Tuesday or Thursday)
6th tardy to school	All day time-out in Center for Corrective Action
Additional tardies beyond six (6)	All day time-out in Center for Corrective Action

^{*}Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct for 6-12 Grade for more information. Tardies reset each quarter.



2023 WINTER

The Knights would like to acknowledge the following businesses for their support of our ESE **Department during Pre-School Week:**









ASST. PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

If a student is not present in class when attendance is taken, their teacher will mark them as Absent Unexcused. However, if the student's absence needs to be excused, parents are required to send an email to NFMHSAttendance@LeeSchools.net. To know what reasons are accepted as excused, please refer to the Code of Conduct for Students, Board Policy 5200, and the NFMHS Student Handbook which are available on our school website.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS 1 or 2 days doesn't seem like much.. Over 13 years of if you miss: That Equals: Which is: schooling thats: 1 day every 2 Over 2.5 years of school 16 weeks per

80 days per year

Chronic and habitual tardiness, as well as poor attendance, can have serious consequences for vour child's education. In such cases, the school's social worker, counselors, and Mrs. Hutchinson will be contacted implement appropriate interventions. It is important to note that a lack of regular school attendance and seat time can result in loss of credit and driving privileges. If you have any questions about attendance, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teachers,

Their School Counselor, Ms. Ulino, Mrs. Rey-Gomez (School Social Worker), or Mrs. Hutchinson. They are available to support your student and family.

Over 5 years

Regarding Student Sign-Outs, please note that Ms. Ulino, our Student Services Secretary, is responsible for maintaining attendance records, assisting students with sign-in and sign-outs, and managing discipline records. If you need to sign out a student driver, walker, or bike rider out of school please complete the Google Form available at www.nfm.leeschools.net/signout. Parents/Guardians will be contacted to confirm the sign-out details. If you are driving to school to pick up a student, kindly visit the Main Office with your ID to sign out your child. If you have any further questions about the sign-out process, please contact the Main Office or Student Services.

As we move forward, please take a moment to browse our website and check our marquee for upcoming events and essential information. We have some exciting performances at the Center of the Arts in November and December that you won't want to miss. Additionally, the Winter Sports Season is starting soon, so contact our Athletics Department to purchase tickets through GoFan. Overall, North Ft. Myers High School is the place to be, and the Administration Team looks forward to seeing and meeting you at our events.

And as always... Once a Red Knight, Always a Red Knight.

Best Regards, **Dwayne Mack** Assistant Principal

2 days per week



2023 WINTER

North Fort Myers High School

















CLASS OF 2024

CLASS CODE: GCFAUXE

CLASS OF 2025

CLASS CODE: PO57FQZ

CLASS OF 2026

CLASS CODE: 6ZQOJT5

CLASS OF 2027

CLASS CODE: GXDI6CY





2023 WINTER



GET THE CLASS, GET INVOLVED

STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO JOIN THEIR CLASS GOOGLE CLASSROOMS. THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO STAY INFORMED, LEARN ABOUT EVENTS HAPPENING ON CAMPUS AND TO REMAIN ACTIVE WITH YOUR CLASS DURING YOUR TIME IN HIGH SCHOOL.

CLASS OF 2024

CLASS CODE: GCFAUXE

CLASS OF 2025

CLASS CODE: PO57FQZ

CLASS OF 2026

CLASS CODE: 6ZQOJT5

CLASS OF 2027

CLASS CODE: GXDI6CY

OUT OF FIELD TEACHERS

Florida State Statute 1012.42 recognizes that teachers at times must be assigned duties outside the field in which they are certified.

The following teachers are out of field in ESOL: Shawn Bambrey, Jennifer Ferraro, Michele Galluzzo, Nichol Masters, Kathleen Nitting, Jacilynn Peruski, Kathleen Prejna, Scott Wiley, Dallas Logan for Mathematics, and Jennifer Ferraro for Elementary Education.



& Classwork Support on
Microsoft Teams with a
Live Educational Expert

Monday - Thursday on School Days Elementary 3:30 pm - 7:30 pm Middle School 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm High School 3:30 pm - 7:30 pm



Look for Connect with Lee on Your Student LaunchPad

TUTORS AVAILABLE FOR:

ELEMENTARY K & 1st Grade

2nd & 3rd Grade 4th Grade ELA 4th Gr Math & Science 5th Grade ELA 5th Gr Math & Science

⊘MIDDLE

ELA Grades 6-8 Math Grades 6-7 Pre-Algebra Algebra Science Social Studies

⊘HIGH SCHOOL

Advanced Science Advanced Social Studies Biology/Environmental Chemistry/Physics ELA Grades 9-12 Geometry Reading ACT/SAT US & World History



2023 WINTER

KNIGHT CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

THE BEST WAY TO GET INVOLVED INTO FIND A CLUB THAT FITS WHAT YOU LIKE TO DO. FIND YOUR VOICE AND BE PART OF WHAT MAKES THIS SCHOOL GREAT. CHECK OUT
OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE TO CONTACT EACH CLUBS' DIRECTOR TO GET INVOLVED.

Clay Club

Open studio environment that allows current class student and former students as well as peers to work in a collaborative studio environment. Students can work on independent project or studio class projects. Technique workshops can be requested but not always guaranteed. One time fee of \$25.00 for any participant not currently enrolled in the courses; fee covers all material used and firing costs.

Creativity for a Cause

Creativity for a Cause, or 'CFAC', is a club of creative students who are dedicated to making a change. We, using art and expression, work to raise money for Golisano Children's Hospital! The club meets on the third Tuesday of every month, in room E-105. Sometimes we will have additional work days to create items for fundraising. If interested in joining, please fill out a club participation form before the first meeting you plan to attend and bring it to the athletic secretary to process.

Environmental Club

Environmental Club is focused on encouraging awareness and an open conversation surrounding the impending effects of Climate Change, and how we as a student population can work to avoid them. We combat environmental struggles in our local community by hosting beach and road cleanups, and holding fundraisers for local environmental charities.

Future Educators of America

This program provides a forum for students to become aware of career opportunities in education and nurtures their interest in teaching as a career.

HOSA - Future Health Professionals

HOSA's mission is to empower HOSA-Future Health Professionals to become leaders in the global health community, through education, collaboration, and experience. HOSA actively promotes career opportunities in the health industry and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people.

JROTC Drill Team

Drill Team is a marching unit that performs routines based on military drill that competes at drill competitions throughout the course of the school year. All drill teams must exhibit skills of discipline, bearing, snap, command, and control in order to be competitive within each event. The drill team program for the cadet battalion participates in competitive events, parades and other activities demonstrating the talent, skill, organization and pride of the JROTC.

JROTC Raiders

The JROTC Raider team are cadets who wish to challenge their physical endurance, mental strength, and their leadership. Some of the Competition events include the following: Cross Country Rescue (team carries a simulated patient on a medical litter over a 1 mile course while carrying weighted backpacks, The Gauntlet (a one mile team run with weighted backpacks while negotiating obstacles as a team), The One-Rope Bridge (the team constructs a rope bridge following detailed rules and cross an obstacle (stream crossing or ravine) spanning approximately 40 to 100 feet. 5 KM run (a team run where members must start and finish together), and the Raider Physical Challenge (a team sprint through an obstacle course with lifts, jumps, carries, and crawls throughout).

Key Club

Key club is the high school version of Kiwanis.
Key Club is an international, student-led organization that provides its members with opportunities to provide service, build character, and develop leadership. High school student members of Key Club perform acts of service in their communities, such as cleaning up parks, collecting clothing and organizing food drives. They also learn leadership skills by running meetings, planning projects, and holding elected leadership positions at the club, district and international levels.

Lead Like a Woman

Club is set up to encourage young women to take more significant leadership roles in their community/school, etc.



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Math Team

Math Team trains for and competes in different math competitions around the state. Mu Alpha Theta tutors other students for their math classes, ranging from Algebra 1 to Calculus, serving their school while also training their own math skills.

Mock Trial

Students take on the roles of attorneys and witnesses in mock civil and criminal legal issues. Participants gain experience and knowledge in areas including the stages of a trial, how to argue objections, and how to direct and cross examine a witness.

Model UN

Model UN is a simulation of the UN General Assembly and its other multilateral bodies where students perform an ambassador role while debating topics such as gender equality, climate action, global health, and more. Students are able to compete against other students in conferences and in some circumstances win scholarships and other prizes.

Paw and Claws

Advocating and being the voices for animals in shelters and rescues.

Pride Club GSA (Gay Straight Alliance)

This vlub is dedicated to increasing community among LGBTQ+ students and supporting straight and cis gendered students and to improve communication and understanding among the student and staff with regard to gender and sexuality.

Student Government Association (SGA)

Student Government Association (SGA) is open to all students to join. The student leaders work collectively to plan and implement activities that not only serve but also enrich the student body, the staff, and the community. The club offers students the opportunity to foster a variety of essential skills such as: Being proficient at planning, organizing, executing, and evaluating a variety of student activities, Establishing and carrying out goals and objectives for the student body, Creating and preserving a united student body, infused with pride and spirit, Setting a positive example for all students of North Fort Myers High School.

Science Olympiad

Science Olympiad is a STEM-based competition that offers students an opportunity to explore the diverse areas of science and demonstrate their knowledge, creativity and critical thinking skills in various science-related tasks.

Competitions consist of a series of 23 science-based team events in areas including biology, environmental science, chemistry, anatomy and physiology, physical science, mechanical engineering and technology. The Science Olympiad fosters discovery, learning, teamwork and innovation.

































2023 WINTER

KNIGHT CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

On Oct 28 the NFMHS JROTC Red Knight Raiders competed at the Lee County District competition.
They placed 1st in the Raider Fitness Challenge (RFC), 2nd place in the Raider Item Relay (RIR), Combat Casualty Rescue (CCR), 1 Rope Bridge and Team Run. The team won 2nd place overall in the mixed division earning an invitation to compete at the Florida State Raider Competition. The State Competition will be held at the USF on December 2.















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NEW CLUB

North Fort Myers High School Chapter of National Technical Honor Society strives to bring well deserved recognition, scholarship opportunities, as well as volunteer and career opportunities to students who take and excel in one of the Career and Technical Educational fields.

To be considered for membership, you will need to have already taken and passed at least 2 Career and Technical Education courses (examples: DIT/Marketing Essentials, Digital Design, TV Production, Sports Broadcasting, Game & Simulation, etc.) at NFMHS, hold a 3.5 unweighted GPA or higher, no OSS or ISS referrals, have 2 letters of recommendation (one from a CTE teacher and one from a Core Teacher), and complete the 7 section NTHS application. Your coursework, grades, behavior, and attendance will be verified before you may become a member.

Our faculty council will review all applications to make sure you meet the national and local requirements. Once you are officially invited to be a member, you will need to pay annual membership dues of \$35 which includes a certificate, pin, honor cord, and scholarship entry for NTHS.

The club sponsor is Mrs. Simon in M101.







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Strive For Greatness

Strives for Greatness is an opportunity for every student athlete to be able to accomplish academic success.

Students Supporting Sports

The Students Supporting Sports Club allows students to have fun getting volunteer hours by redeeming tickets at different games and sporting events on our school's campus throughout the year.

Thespians

Competitive theatrical organization.

TSA

The <u>Technology Student Association (TSA)</u> is a national organization of students engaged in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). TSA chapter members work on competitive events, learn and apply leadership skills, and may attend conferences at the state, regional, and national levels. TSA chapters also are committed to a national service project.

U-Knighted Club

To give special education students and general education students the opportunity to socialize and develop friendship. To develop- social and life skills necessary to maintain a close friendship. To give the opportunity to students to partner and mentor a student with disabilities.

Youth Alive

Youth Alive is where young people choose to set their minds on things above (Colossian 3:1-2). They can spend time with fellow believers and serve the community. Everyone is welcome, so come find a family in Youth Alive!

Youth in Government

Youth in Government is a student-led model-government program that allows students to embody themselves in one of the three branches of government. The program's goals are to educate students on civic education and to inform students about different opportunities to serve.

CheekoutourRed Knightson SocialMedia



https://www.facebook.com/ nfmredknights/



https://twitter.com/northftmyershs



https://www.youtube.com/ c/NorthFortMyersHighScho ol-LeeSchools



2023 WINTER

Annual Notification of the Presence of Asbestos-Containing Materials in the School

To the Parents and Students of North Fort Myers High School,

This school has been recently inspected and certain asbestos-containing materials or assumed asbestos-containing materials such as: fire doors or roofing materials that are tested prior to repairs or removal as needed, have been located in the school buildings.

Please be aware that the School District of Lee County has an active management plan designed to ensure that the building is maintained safely for all occupants. These materials are being controlled in accordance with the Asbestos Management Program for the School and following the limitations and procedures of the policies and requirements of the Asbestos Operations and Maintenance Program of the School District of Lee County.

The report listing the location, quantities, and condition of all known materials and contains the details of the control procedures is available at the school office of the Assistant Principal for Operations for your inspection during normal school hours, via pre-arranged appointment. Copies of the whole or parts of the school's asbestos file can be supplied to you at a cost of \$0.15/page.

MEMO FROM... Dorn J. Beddow Fire Safety Inspector Fire, Safety, and Inspections PHONE: 239-479-4293 THROUGH A KNIGHT'S EYES

Everyone's experience as a Knight is different. We want to capture some of those by showing average school moments through the eyes of some of the non-average kids who make up our school. If you would like to contribute your view, please email Mr. Balzano at Christopheba@leeschools.net



As I enter into the gym I feel a sense of excitement at the prospect of my first pep rally as a freshman. Being a student in band myself I am quite thrilled to see the marching band, more particularly the flutists. I always love how they manage to stay in rhythm despite the commotion from the gym. As if I could somehow hone my own musical talents by merely watching them. I observe all the best seating, situated within the bleachers, occupied by upperclassmen and am forced to observe the festivities from the sidelines. Packed close together, me and several other freshmen are herded beneath the basketball hoops. I soon became self aware of my small stature as my view was blocked by several other students.

I managed to wedge my way through and was disheartened to see the band would not take the floor to perform but rather stayed on the opposite side of the gym to play throughout. This by no means made this experience any less exciting. I still enjoyed how well they managed to play.

Soon in walked the male cheerleaders providing me with much entertainment as they attempted their cheerleading routine with uncoordinated vigor. I was put off as other male freshmen near me made less than appropriate comments towards the dancers as they entered the gym ignoring the comments the dancers maintained their composure and performed flawlessly.

Preceding the dancers was the contest for the spirit stick which caused a deafening roar throughout the gymnasium. Apparently the seniors were the loudest though we tried our best. I've always envisioned what a high school pep rally would be like as I've heard many stories from my older sibling who attended this school. It met my expectations in every way and filled me with pride for my school. I cannot wait for the next one.

Savannah Richard Class of 2027





2023 WINTER

THROUGH A KNIGHT'S EYES

Color guard is a very rigorous sport, not to mention extremely demanding. I start my Saturday practices the night before, at the football games. Before the band changes into uniforms, we typically have about an hour of rehearsal to go over important information and details within the show, as well as a brief refresher. As soon as I get home, I shower and immediately go to bed, so I can wake up at 7 a.m. and get ready for our Saturday practice. In reality, the Friday night games are like a mini rehearsals, creating a foundation for our Saturday morning practice. Even though it is grueling, long, and exhausting, it's the perfect time for color guard and band to perfect the show. We are usually on the football field for the whole day, which helps us learn how to define our musicality as well as learn our drill spots on the field in comparison to the back parking lot. When we break for lunch, you will see people sleeping, eating, or watching a movie on their phone. However, it's during the second half of practice that we become 100% locked in and don't mess around anymore. Before we end our practices, we perform a full run of the show, and then we dismiss as a band, then dismiss as a section, and finally, practice is done for the day.



Color guard has taught me so much about myself, life, and the art of emotion. Before joining guard, I wasn't sure if joining would benefit me, but now that I've gone through nearly an entire season, I now know that it was the best decision possible. I had multiple friends who had been in guard the previous season, and they all told me how much they loved it, which made me think that I might too. I was around music and dance all my life, but always felt scared to showcase what I know, but now I have the opportunity, or an "excuse" to be who I want to be. Knowing that you can bring someone to tears by just tossing a flag in the air and catching it perfectly, all while smiling and giving the performance of a lifetime is freeing. I've gotten out of my comfort zone in a major way since joining band and being a part of something bigger than myself. Many of my friends tell me that they want to be a part of a team that also helps them reach outside of themselves to be better.



Color guard is the perfect sport to join that gives you a sense of accomplishment and makes you feel like you are doing something for the bigger picture. I can personally say Color Guard can be really stressful, tiring and exhausting. But I knew that even if I didn't feel like I was doing my best, I would still have the opportunity to pick myself back up and march forward twice as strong and capable as I was before. People have told me they watch us during halftime, competitions, or practice after school, and are amazed at how we make it look and sound so effortless, like something that comes so naturally. Although I know that it's not something that comes to all of us naturally, I take it as a compliment because all of our hard work, sweat, tears, and injuries have paid off.

Joining guard and being a part of the band was honestly one of the best decisions I've made. I have found something that I can proudly show others, and I wouldn't trade it for the world.

River Collins
Class of 2026



NORTH FORT MYERS

High School - Red Knights

PHONE 239-995-2117 FAX 239-995-1243

2023 WINTER













NORTH FORT MYERS

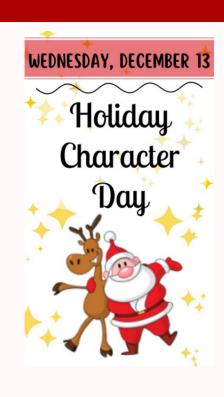
High School - Red Knights

PHONE 239-995-2117 FAX 239-995-1243

2023 WINTER













2023 WINTER

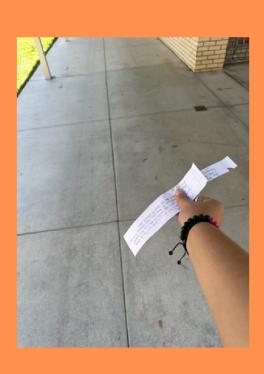




THE RED GO ORANGE IN SUPPORT OF SANDYHOOK









2023 WINTER







Ayden York (11) was honored and recognized by District CTE Representative, Mary Graham for his creative expression of the character trait: Commitment. Ayden submitted his design to the Lee county School District's 2023-24 Character Education Desktop Design Contest-January. His work will appear on all Lee County student Chromebook backgrounds during January's promotion of the character trait. His design will be entered in for submission for a larger overall competition for desktop design later on this school year. We are so proud of his work and dedication to the craft of Graphic Design and to the power that creativity brings to communication of ideas and messages that all students and adults need visual reminders of sometimes.

Congratulations Ayden!



2023 WINTER

Congrats to Dalilah and Brianna for winning 1st and 2nd place in the Fort Myers Federal Art Competition! Both were congratulated by the judges. Work will be hung in jury rooms and lobby.









Congrats to Adrian for being recognized by Lee County Sheriff's Office for Doing the Right Thing!



2023 WINTER

When Do Absences Become A Problem?













Make GREEN Your Goal!

Missing Just 2 Days A Month Means A Student Misses

10% Of The School Year!

Designativy
Noticelar Timelar
Ventors 201 2012/01/15 Share South



Nicholas Tardie Grade 10 Mrs. Gross's class

Designed the winning poster.





2023 WINTER

QUARTER TWO TESTING SCHEDULE

BEST ALG TESTS	DATE
BEST ALG Retakes (Select 10th/12th)	December 11
BEST ALG Retake MUs	December 12

STAR Math	DATE
Alg / Geo	December 6
Alg / Geo	December 7

US History	DATE
USH PM Q2	December 4
USH PM Q2	December 5

ELA FAST TESTS	DATE
FAST ELA PM2 9th/10th	December 14
FAST PM2 MUs	December 15
FAST Retakes (11th/12th)	December 7
All Retake MUs	December 8

BIOLOGY	DATE
BIO / ALG PM Q2	December 4
BIO / ALG PM Q2	December 5







2023 WINTER

FALLING FOR CHOIR MUSIC





















WIGHTS ON THE STAGE



2023 WINTER







ONE OF OUR
RED KNIGHT
CHOIRS
BROUGHT SO
MUCH CHEER
TO GOLISANO
AND
HEALTHPARK!

BEAUTIFUL CAROLING FOR THE PATIENTS AND STAFF

PLUS ... A VISIT WITH SANTA TOO!

2023 WINTER

JV CHEERLEADING

POWERING OUR LADY RED KNIGHT BASKETBALL TEAM TO A 56-30 WIN

OVER THE EAST LEE COUNTY JAGUARS









2023 WINTER

KNIGHTS IN ACTION!

PAYTON, HAILEY AND PRESLEIGH REPRESENTING NORTH AT THE ALL STAR VOLLEYBALL NIGHT!











NOS ILL NO SILION



2023 WINTER

FROM THE FORT MYERS NEWS PRESS...

Three high schools and one middle school have been selected as a 2023 Special Olympics National Banner Unified Champion School. North Fort Myers High School was awarded its second national banner, while Cape Coral High School, Lehigh Senior High School and Lehigh Acres Middle School are receiving their first.

"We are absolutely thrilled to have been honored as a Special Olympics National Banner School," says Cape Coral high School Unified Sports Coordinator Dr. Rob Gamache. "This achievement holds special significance for us, as it not only acknowledges the outstanding efforts of our Special Olympics athletes but also underscores the culture of inclusivity we have fostered here at Cape High. This accomplishment serves as a true testament to the dedication and unwavering commitment to inclusivity for all students that permeates our school's ethos."

A National Banner Unified Champion School is one that has demonstrated commitment to inclusion by meeting 10 standards of excellence. These standards were developed by a national panel of leaders from Special Olympics and the education community. The primary activities within these standards include: Special Olympics Unified Sports® (where students with and without disabilities train and compete as teammates), inclusive youth leadership and whole school engagement. Banner Unified Champion Schools should also be able to demonstrate they are self-sustainable or have a plan in place to sustain these activities into the future.

"The students and staff at Lehigh Senior have always been very loving and accepting of the diversity we have in our school," said Lehigh Senior High School Athletics and Activities Director Ernesto Adamo. "Our Best Buddies club achieved National Best Buddies Club of the year for 2021-2022. Since then we have added a Leadership buddies teams and increased our Unified Sports to 7 different sports. We are currently working on starting Lightning Lunch Buddies. Our buddies club, student leadership team and Unified Sports participants are always looking for new ways to better our school environment for all and honored we are being recognized for our efforts through achieving National Champion Banner School for 2023! It takes a team!"

The expectation of a National Banner Unified Champion School is that the 10 standards are continuously being met, year after year. To ensure this sustainability, schools reapply for banner status every 4 years. North Fort Myers High School was first honored in 2019.

"North Fort Myers High School is honored to receive recognition as being a Special Olympics National Unified Champion School," said North's Director of Athletics and Activities Joe Bowen. "Having been recognized in 2019 and again in 2023, it demonstrates the continued commitment to inclusive practices involving all students in our Red Knight student body. Students with and without disabilities train and compete as teammates and work together to participate in activities including Unified bowling, basketball, and track, along with the Un-Knighted Club and Student Government Association. We are proud of our students and staff."

Only 16 schools in Florida and 205 in the United States achieved this status. After applying, schools were reviewed first by program staff and then by a national Certifying Body of key educational leaders.

CONGRATULATIONS!!
2023 SPECIAL OLYMPICS
NATIONAL BANNER UNIFIED
CHAMPION SCHOOL

North Fort Myers School was awarded its second national banner!









2023 WINTER

AND THEN, AS THE WEATHER GOT COLDER, THE CAMPUS TURNED RED AND GREEN

















MIGHIS ON THE STAGE