



Weekly NEWSLETTER

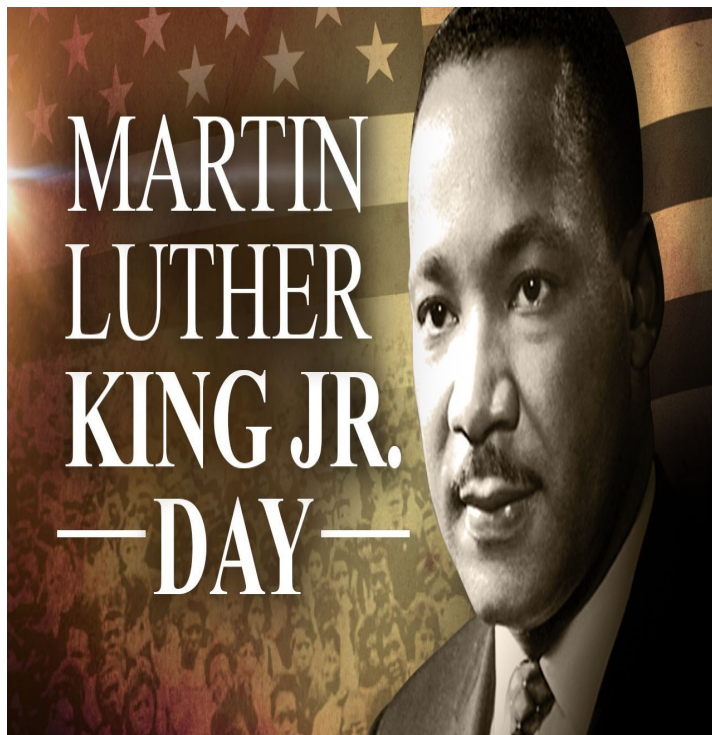
Conchs Issue #19

Principal Mrs. Rebecca Palomino

January 17, 2025

Key West High School Mission Statement

To empower all students to maximize their potential and prepare them with the skills and experiences necessary to be college or career ready and to develop those character traits that will enable them to be productive members of society.



UPCOMING EVENTS JAN 2025

- ♦ January 17th— Pep Rally in the gym starting at 2:00pm
- ♦ January 20th— No School-Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday

KWHS SOCIAL MEDIA:

Instagram— [kwhs_news](#)

Facebook-Key West High School Athletics & Student Activities

Twitter- [@kwhsnews](#)

Website— www.keysschools.com/kwhs



Students must show their KWHS ID when entering the campus and when a staff member asks to see it.

Thank you for your support and effort in keeping our school safe! Please see the next 3 pages for our Fortify Florida information.



FORTIFYFL

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.



#FORTIFYFL
GETFORTIFYFL.COM



DOWNLOAD
NOW



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION



FORTIFYFL

APLICACIÓN DE INFORMES DE ACTIVIDAD SOSPECHOSA

FortifyFL es una herramienta para reportar actividades sospechosas que te permite enviar información a las agencias del cumplimiento de la ley apropiadas y a oficiales escolares.



#FORTIFYFL
GETFORTIFYFL.COM



DESCARGAR
AHORA



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org



FORTIFYFL

APLIKASYON POU RAPÒTE AKTIVITE SISPÈK

Fortify FL se yon zouti pou rapòte aktivite sispèk ki pèmèt ou transmèt enfòmasyon soulechan bay ajans fòsdelòd apwopriye yo ak responsab lekòl yo.



#FORTIFYFL
GETFORTIFYFL.COM



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

TELECHAJE
KOUNYE A

Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition DIAPER DRIVE

Help us collect
15,000
diapers for families in
need in the Florida Keys.

**Current Need: Over 120,000
diapers annually!**

**To make a difference in a Keys
baby's life, scan the QR codes below!**

Donate diapers through
our Amazon wish list!




Donate through Zeffy



Learn how you can
support our programs



Visit our website
www.keyshealthystart.org or contact us at
305-293-8424 for more information and
donation drop off locations!

 : @flkeyshealthystart

 : Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition



The SNAPPER is the school newspaper. It has been around for over 100 years. We have gone digital due to print costs. The link to the SNAPPER is kwhsthesnapper.org.



DONATE BLOOD



Key West High School
Thursday, January 23
7:30 AM - 3:00 PM

All donors will receive*:

- **Refreshments**
- **Long-sleeved T-shirt**
- **2 Slices of Pizza at Lunch!**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening.

*Get a Good Nights Sleep | Be Well Hydrated |
Eat a Good Breakfast*



Appointments are encouraged, please visit **oneblood.org/donate-now** and use **sponsor code 438**

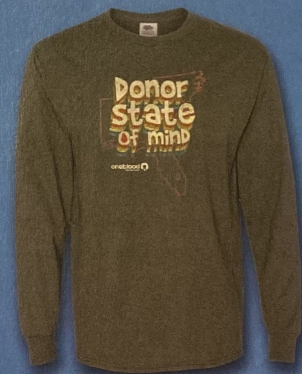
ID REQUIRED

*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not-transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit oneblood.org/details.

Donors
Receive



- PLUS -



- PLUS -



oneblood
Share your power.



We will always
remember her
smile, her laugh, her
ability to make you
laugh, but most of
all, her love for her
students and their
education!

Mrs. Gina Smith taught students in the
elementary and high school level for 47
years!! Her love for teaching went without
saying!

Beloved Daughter, Sister,
Wife, Mother, Aunt,
Educator, and Most Loving
Grandmother!

We will miss you,

♥ **GINA SMITH** ♥

Forever and Ever!!





KWHS Academic Challenge members traveled to Marathon for the Academic Challenge District Competition and took first place by a *very large* point margin. These Conchs crushed it and now they start preparing for the State Championship in April. Go Conchs!! We are so proud!!



Welcome back to the second half of our 24-25 school year, Team Monroe. Let's make this the best semester yet!

Please copy and paste the link below to view a new important safety message from Superintendent Axford, MCSO Sheriff Ramsay, and KWPD Chief Brandenburg. "School Safety: It Starts With All of Us."

https://youtu.be/pZk_QfDD7LY?si=A04rlf6M-O1cyj1i



Key West High School

SAC Meeting Dates—2024-2025

September 3rd
 October 1st
 November 5th
 December 3rd
 January 7th
 February 4th
 March 4th
 April 1st
 May 6th



All meetings are at 5:30 in the library and online.

Pep Rally Bell Schedule	
1 st	07:35—08:20
2 nd	08:24—09:08
3 rd	09:12—09:59
4 th	10:03—10:47
Lunch	10:47—11:31
5 th	11:35—12:19
6 th	12:23—01:07
7 th	01:11—01:55
Pep Rally	02:00—02:30

Standard Day	
1 st	07:35—08:25
2 nd	08:29—09:18
3 rd	09:22—10:14
4 th	10:18—11:07
Lunch	11:07—11:51
5 th	11:55—12:44
6 th	12:48—01:37
7 th	01:41—02:30

7th Period Exams	
7 th Exam	07:35—09:10
1 st	09:14—09:56
2 nd	10:00—10:42
3 rd	10:46—11:30
Lunch	11:30—12:16
4 th	12:20—12:58
5 th	01:02—01:44
6 th	01:48—02:30

Early Release	
1 st	07:35—08:00
2 nd	08:04—08:29
3 rd	08:33—08:58
4 th	09:02—09:27
5 th	09:31—09:56
6 th	10:00—10:25
7 th	10:29—10:54
Lunch	10:54—11:30



KWHS 2024-2025 Bell Schedule

Managed by Sebastian Dietrich

Updated 8/6/2024 8:31 AM

Early Release Exam	
Exam	07:35—09:10
Lunch	09:10—09:51
Exam	09:55—11:30



Scan for latest or visit
kwhs.mcscd.link/bell-schedule



Team Blu students at NHMI/ Seacamp this past weekend. Lessons included seine netting, shark biology, astronomy, and more! Kids did a snorkel skills workshop in the swim canal, and put those skills to use at Looe Key Reef. They saw a black tip shark, Goliath grouper, lots of parrotfish, yellow tail snapper, and so much more!!



Drum Captain, Juliana Strunk, who is a junior at KWHS earned a spot in the All State Honor Band. They rehearsed last Thursday and Friday, and performed their music on Saturday. WOW! We are so proud of this amazing accomplishment!



SAT Test Dates and Registration Deadlines



<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration</u>	<u>Format</u>
March 8, 2025	February 21, 2025	February 25, 2025	Digital
May 3, 2025	April 18, 2025	April 22, 2025	Digital
June 7, 2025	May 22, 2025	May 27, 2025	Digital



Key West High School Band Students Ryan Ganton, Matteui Bastillada, and Jesse Watland represented KWHS during the annual Festival of Winds Honor Band held at the University of South Florida.

STARTING SPRING SEMESTER 2025 @ KWHS

FUTURE EDUCATOR COURSES

Dual Enrollment Opportunity through Miami- Dade College

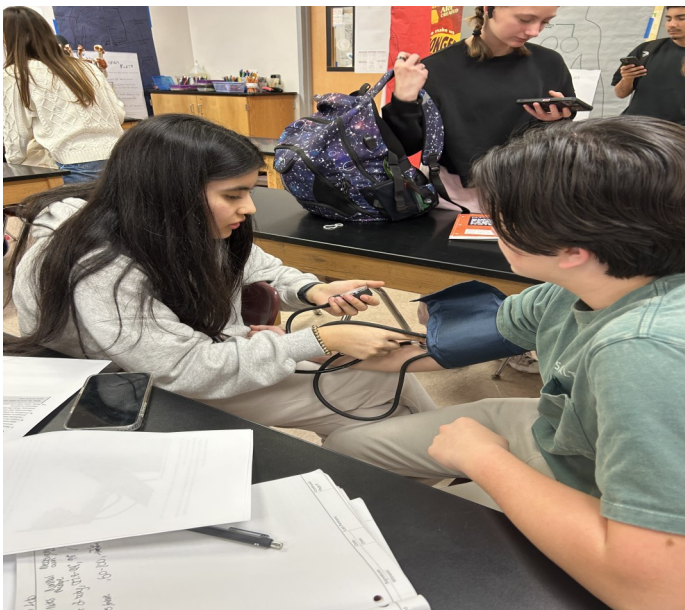
- 2.5 GPA Needed
- No PERT Scores necessary
- Online Course
- Not just for those interested in becoming a teacher.

Contact Us:
Mrs. Nicklaus or Mrs. Bassett



Key West High School has a special opportunity to offer students a dual enrollment course that focuses on an introduction to the teaching profession. The course is online, but taught by our very own, Mrs. Shannon Perkins. Students will earn high school and college credit for completion of this course.

Local representatives from Publix visited KWSH to inspire all of our AVID classes with insights into future career opportunities. Students were fully engaged, learning about the many career paths, tuition reimbursement programs, profit sharing plans, 401k benefits, internships and so much. AVID is dedicated to empowering students for success, and Publix offers promising pathways to achieve their goals and build a bright future.



Mrs. Tara Jackson's Principles of Biomedical Science classes began the next unit of study, Clinical Care, last week as they work through caring for various fictitious patients in the Total Care Clinic. This past week, they learned theory behind and procedure for taking vital signs. They were able to put those skills to practice taking each others' blood pressure, temperature, heart and respiration rates and oxygen saturation.



Seniors in Mrs. Tara Jackson's Medical Laboratory Science have been working through a microbiology case study investigating a post-operative infection in a patient.

They grew bacteria, tested for antimicrobial sensitivity and explored antibiotic resistance in bacteria, and then created a treatment plan for their patient.



Monroe County School District 2024-2025 Calendar

August 5-6	New Teachers Report - BLPT Reports
August 7-9	All Teachers Report (Professional Days)
August 12-13	All Teachers Report (Professional Days)
August 14	Students Report
September 2	Labor Day Holiday (No School)
October 11	End of First Marking Period (42 Days)
October 14	Professional Day (No Students) = <i>Priority #2 Hurricane Makeup</i>
November 1	Professional Day (No Students) = <i>Priority #3 Hurricane Makeup</i>
November 11	Veteran's Day Holiday - No School
November 25-27	Non-work / Non-Paid Days (No School)
November 28	Thanksgiving Holiday - No School
November 29	Non-work / Non-Paid Day (No School)
December 20	End of 1st Semester (84 days) - Early Dismissal Day
December 23- January 6	Winter Break - No School
January 6	Professional Day (No Students) - Full Day for Grading
January 7	Classes Reconvene
January 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday - No School
February 14	Professional Day (No Students) = <i>Priority #4 Hurricane Makeup</i>
February 17	President's Day Holiday - No School
March 13	End of the 3rd Marking Period (45 Days)
March 14	Professional Day (No Students) = <i>Priority #1 Hurricane Makeup</i>
March 17-21	Spring Break - No School
March 24	Classes Reconvene
April 18	Professional Day (No Students) = <i>Priority #5 Hurricane Makeup</i>
May 26	Memorial Day Holiday (No School)
May 30	End of Second Semester (93 Days) - Early Dismissal Day
June 2	Professional Day (No Students) - Full Day for Grading
June 3	Professional Day (No Students) - School Based PD



KWHS AFTERSCHOOL TUTORING

Late Bus departs at 4:45- Must have a late bus pass
AFTERNOONS (SEE BELOW)– 2:45 TO 3:45
(REPORT TO THE CLASSROOM DIRECTLY)

Science	Cerkleski 4-225	Thurs
Science STEM	E. Smith 2-102 J. Smith 4-109	Tue/Thur Tue/Thur
ELA /SAT Prep	Estenoz 1-115	Tue/Thur
ELA Recovery/ FAST Prep	Kinnune 4-209	Tue/Thur
Math/Chemistry & AP Chem/Physics	Nelson 1-208	Mon/Thur
AP Writing	Laubenstein 4-201	Mon/Thur
Math	Castro 4-118 (ELL) Hutman 4-234 (Alg 1 & Geo) Blackwell 4-204 (Alg 1 & Alg 2)	Thurs Tue Tue/ Thur
ESE/ Career Support	Berenz 4-106	Mon/Thur
Essay Writing	Rein Media Center	Mon/Tue/ Thur
Cosmetology Students only	Oropeza 1-133B	Mon (2:45-4:45)

Show your Conch Pride!



What are Conch Pride Accounts?

They are free checking accounts with Conch debit cards help raise money up to \$1,000 per month for Key West High School. Keys FCU donates:

\$5 to [KWHS for each account opened](#).

- \$2 to KWHS for each box of checks ordered.
- 1% of each account holder's debit card transactions, up to \$15 per month to KWHS during specific promotional periods like Back to School, Spring Break and Christmas season.

Conch Pride accounts include free adult and teen online & mobile financial education programs that teach them how to save and manage their checking account and credit history and more.

Who can get a Conch Pride Checking Account?

Conch Pride Checking Accounts and Debit Cards are perfect for KWHS students- 14 years and older, parents, teachers, staff, alumni, and fans-that live or work in the Florida Keys.

Where can you open a Conch Pride account?

In Keys Federal Credit Union at 3022 N. Roosevelt Blvd. in Key Plaza, 514 Southard St., and 5300 Overseas Hwy. in Stock Island.

How can KWHS raise more money?

Create awareness of, and encourage students, staff, parents, and fans to open a Conch Pride checking account by:

- Announce/socialize account at staff meetings, school assemblies, pep rallies, sporting events, parent encounters and in classrooms
- Send flyer out in weekly newsletter and Peach jar email service
- Hang posters and banners in school/visible areas

Partner with Keys FCU to promote account openings at school events like open house, [orientation](#), [college](#) fairs, graduation, sports events, meet the teacher

- Identify promotional/sponsorship opportunities on school materials/areas
- Circulate donation photos and information

Who creates and provides the Conch Pride marketing materials?

Keys FCU will create and provide all Conch Pride marketing materials. KWHS must distribute, hang, communicate, and publish them.



Athletics



KWHS Girls Soccer played Coral Shores on Tuesday, Marathon on Thursday, and Lemon Bay on Saturday! Go, Lady Conchs!!



KWHS Boys Soccer played American Heritage on Monday, and Marathon on Thursday! Go, Conchs!

KWHS Girls Basketball played Mater Lakes on Tuesday, Coral Shores on Wednesday, Westminster on Friday and Archbishop on Saturday! Go, Lady Conchs!!



KWHS Girls Weightlifting had a meet on Wednesday against Coral Shores!!

Girl Power!!



KWHS Boys Basketball played South Dade on Tuesday, Westminster on Friday, and IMG on Saturday!! Go Conchs!!!



The KWHS Wrestling had a Boys Regionals meet on Thursday and Coral Shores on Saturday! Girls Wrestling have a meet on Saturday against Immokalee!! Lets go, Conchs!!!

Activities

STAY INVOLVED!!!

SENIORS

Class of 2025 Executive Board would like every Senior to join!!
Senior Class of 2025 shirts can be purchased at Ramona's.

President— Deanna Gumarova Mercier
Vice President— Skye Sterling
Secretary— Pablo Anaya
Treasurer— Jada Franco
Historian— Alexa Condella

Class Sponsor: Mrs. Kristen Condella

Student Council

Please join Student Council to get involved in the planning of our pep rallies, Homecoming, student government activities, Teacher Appreciation and so much more!!!

President— Skye Sterling
Vice President— Chloe Blackwell
Secretary— Maya Gray
Treasurer— Tamika Kelly
Historian— Prometheus Delacerda

Student Council sponsor: Miss Ayesha Osborne

#CONCHSTRONG!!

JUNIORS

Class of 2026 Executive Board would like every Junior to join! Class shirts can be purchased at Ramona's

President— Kieran Smith
Vice President— Emmy Jackson
Secretary— Tamika Kelly
Treasurer— Janelle Rodriguez
Historian— Prometheus Delacerda

Class sponsor: Mrs. Paula Mercer

SOPHOMORES

Class of 2027 Executive Board would like every Sophomore to join! Class shirts can be purchased at Ramona's

President— Jordan Greene
Vice President— Lily Smith
Secretary— Jillian Cullum
Treasurer— Ryleigh Harnish
Historian— Pilar Rivera

Class Sponsor: Ms. Melissa Thomas

FRESHMEN

Class of 2028 Executive Board would like every Freshmen to join! Class shirts can be purchased at Ramona's


President— Kaine Dickerson
Vice President— Ben Delostrinos
Secretary— Jalynn Morales
Treasurer— Kaleaya Dickerson
Historian— Hailey Morales

Class sponsor:

2024-2025 SENIOR DATES



<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
August 16, 2024	2:00pm	1st Pep Rally	Gym	Student Council
August 30, 2024	ALL DAY	College Color Day--wear college shirts or colors	Campus	n/a
September 3--September 9, 2024	ALL DAY	<u>Homecoming Nominations</u> --in order to be nominated, senior girls must have been in 3 clubs or performance group during her Junior AND Senior year	Nomination forms will be in the front office. Please submit the completed Nomination form back to the front office.	Mrs. Saunders
September 10, 2024	ALL DAY	Voting for your Homecoming Court	History Classes	Mrs. Saunders
October 16 & 17, 2024	ALL DAY	Senior Pictures	Auditorium	Herff Jones
October 18, 2024	ALL DAY	Underclassmen & Senior Pictures--Make ups and Retakes	Auditorium	Mrs. Saunders
October 28, 2024	6:00pm	Homecoming Parade	KWHS	Mrs. Saunders
October 31, 2024	ALL DAY	Homecoming Queen Voting	Auditorium	Mrs. Saunders
October 31, 2024	2:00pm	Homecoming Pep Rally	Gym	Student Council
November 1, 2024	7:00pm	Homecoming Game & Crowning of the Queen	Tommy Roberts Stadium	Mrs. Saunders
November 2, 2024	TBD	Homecoming Dance	TBD	Student Council
November 13th & 14th	lunch time & 5:30pm	Order Senior Announcements	Courtyard & Library	Herff Jones
November 21, 2024	ALL DAY	Club Pictures and Sports Pictures	Gym/Courtyard	Mrs. Saunders
February 4, 2025	8:30am	Senior Panoramic--please wear your red Senior shirt	Gym	Herff Jones
April 17, 2025	ALL DAY	Junior/Senior Field Day	Backyard	Mrs. Condella/Mrs. Mercer
May 1, 2025	7th period	National College/Military/Vocational Decision Day	Courtyard	Mrs. Estenoz
May 9, 2025	6:00pm-9:00pm	Junior/Senior Luau	Lagerheads	Mrs. Condella/Mrs. Mercer
May 22, 2025	ALL DAY	Last Day for Seniors	Campus	n/a
May 22, 2025	7th period	Ring of the Bell for Seniors	Courtyard (Bell)	KWHS
May 22, 2025	6:00pm	Senior Banquet	Cafeteria/Auditorium	Mrs. Condella /Mrs. Saunders
May 23, 2025	8:00am	Investiture Practice-- Cap & Gown Distribution	Auditorium	Mrs. Saunders
May 23, 2025	7:00pm	Investiture Ceremony-- Dress Code	Auditorium	Mrs. Saunders
May 25, 2025	10:30am	Baccalaureate-- Dress Code	St. Mary's Church	n/a
May 25, 2025	11:00am	Baccalaureate-- Dress Code	5th Street Baptist Church	n/a
May 25, 2025	12:30pm	Baccalaureate-- Dress Code	Trinity Presbyterian Church	n/a
May 27, 2025	TBD	Prom	Southernmost House	Mrs. Kristen Condella
May 28, 2025	6:00pm	Class Night-- Dress Code	Auditorium	Mrs. Estenoz
May 29, 2025	6:00pm	Graduation Practice	Tommy Roberts Stadium	Mrs. Saunders
May 30, 2025	8:00pm	Graduation-- Dress Code	Tommy Roberts Stadium	Mrs. Saunders
May 30, 2025	10:00pm	Operation Graduation	KWHS	Mrs. Brindisi

Dress Code for Graduation Ceremonies, Yearbooks and Graduation Fees:			
Boys-- white button up shirt (long or short sleeve), black pants, black socks, black shoes, black clip on tie	Girls-- white dress (no color on the dress), white shoes	Yearbooks are \$85.00. You can purchase a yearbook by going to www.yearbookordercenter.com and enter KWHS code #17196	<p>Graduation fees are \$80.00 and it includes the cap and gown, tassel, and diploma cover. Please see Mrs. Saunders to make your payment. You can pay with cash, check or credit card. Please use the QR code to the right to pay using a credit card.</p>  <p>SCAN ME</p>

TIES Program Second Quarter 2024-2025

We continue to be grateful for **Keys Open Doors Foundation** for sponsoring TIES. Due to their support, we eat two meals a day packed with wholesome, organic fruits and vegetables; engage in daily health and fitness activities; participate in cultural and art experiences; and show off our healthy palates and table etiquette during dining adventures!

Thank you for believing in us (and mailing holiday gifts)!



We continued to enjoy a month of nutrition and cooking classes with the SOS Foundation and the Vista Volunteers paired up with Executive Chef Juan from La Concha.



Lindsay from SOS, invited us to see them out on Stock Island to teach the students about the food pantry, either for students' own needs or for a place to volunteer to help our community.



We continued Friday morning Plogging on Sigsbee base to be a helpful part of our community.



Note how good the students are at taking selfies! It took D and V together to take the last photo! They caught Santa on the run though!

DUETTO Pizza and Gelato surprised us again with pies!

If you're looking for some good 'za, try the Biancave and Suprema! Oh, so good. A special thanks to the owner, Paul, for both delivering the pizzas and giving a mini lesson. Yeah – in Jersey, we fold our pizza!

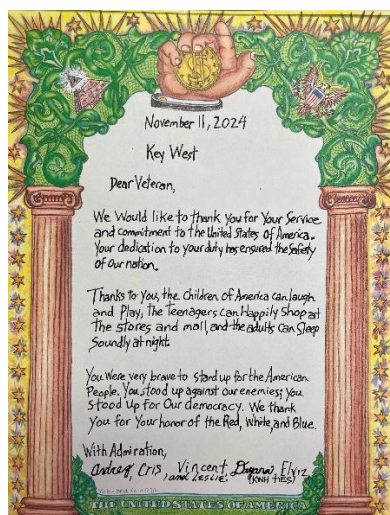
Questa è una pizza deliziosa.



We also tried to make our own pizza with all of the ingredients donated by Chef John and Judy Correa of Café Solé. We thank these special friends of TIES, too, for not only the ingredients, but also the holiday goodie bags. Such a thoughtful thing to do for students you've never even met - yet! Thank you J and J.



We spent time to honor our veterans and delivered letters to VFW Post 3911 to deliver at dinnertime.

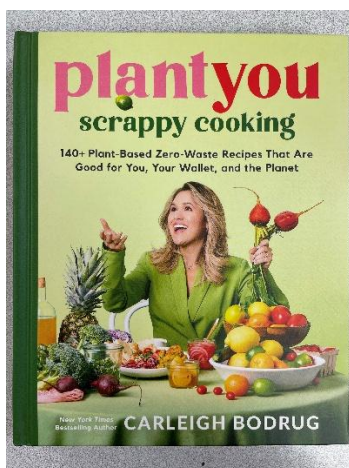




Andrez and Dayana completed the Alcohol Wise course and Andrez, Dayana, Cris, and Vincent all completed the certificate course for CPR/AED. Special thanks to Keith Harris from AHEC who carted over his adult an infant CPR manikins and AED devices to teach us!



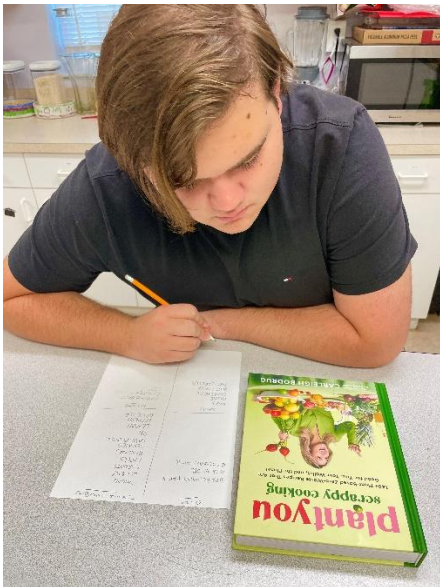
Andrez has been entering art contests through ImaginaShan and won *Most Aesthetic* and *Viewer's Vote* for his artistic food design of a Moxie Berries box. He is wonderfully creative.



[illegible]

Kitchen fun!

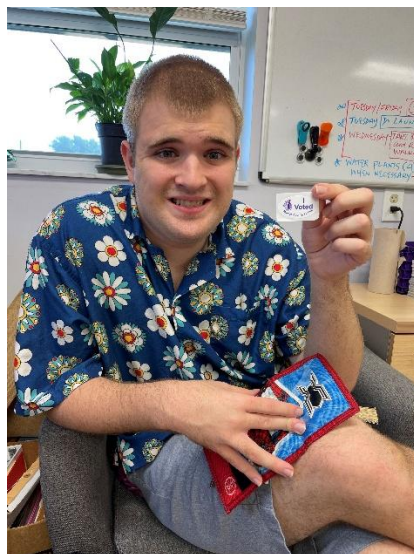




Samples of Andrez's art.



We have 100% registered voters at TIES! After hours of lessons and group discussions, two students felt ready to make their vote count! Props to Andrez and Vincent for exercising their right to vote.



Vincent participates in many Special Olympics sports throughout the year. We are so proud of him for his first place medal in flag football this quarter! He's becoming quite the traveler now, too.

We also have three students with NEW glasses, thanks to school nurses Jennifer Searcy (KWHs) and Guy Kenny (Sigsbee) who arranged our Heiken bus visit, twice, at Sigsbee school.



Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.

- SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES' OATH

We had a special guest chaperone at ***Four Marlins*** restaurant for our holiday meal and showing off the amazing manners we have developed over the semester. Montana Rose Busche, another fantastic supporter of the TIES program, not only joined us, but surprised everyone with a gift bag. Thank you, Montana, for your love of people and service to our community.



Thank you to fellow KWHs teacher, Tami Dannacker, for her heart, soul, and dedication to the happiness of so many students at KWHs, including the TIES students. Tami arranged for our students to receive holiday gifts from the U.S. Coast Guard gift givers! Everyone was excited and happy to be thought of.



Two final thanks to round out the second quarter....
Thanks to the parents of Andrez for the class food donation – again!



And thanks to our newest supporter of TIES, Nancy 3. Hoffman. Nancy has graciously donated her time to volunteer and teach our class music and rhythm once a week! Our first class was a blast and we look forward to starting off 2025 with music – glorious music. Thank you, Nancy 3.



May we all enjoy a healthy and happy 2025. Peace to all.



The magic at TIES.