



Weekly NEWSLETTER

Conchs Issue #9

Principal Mrs. Rebecca Palomino

October 18, 2024

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.



Alamy Stock 1423245586



CONCH OF THE MONTH Rebecca Palomino

National Principal's Month

Principals play a vital role in shaping students' educational experiences. They lead with vision, foster a positive school culture, and support both teachers and students. Their leadership helps create an environment where learning can thrive and where every student feels valued and encouraged to succeed.

Thank you for being our principal!



UPCOMING EVENTS **OCT 2024**

- ◆ **October 28th**— Homecoming Parade
- ◆ **October 29th**— Student Council Trunk or Treat in the KWHs parking lot 6:00pm
- ◆ **October 30th**— Homecoming speeches in the auditorium
- ◆ **October 31st**— Homecoming voting in the auditorium



KWHs celebrated **Unity Day!!!**

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
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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



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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.



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TELECHAJE
KOUNYE A



**Congratulations to our
TEACHER OF THE YEAR,
Mrs. Joanna Gray!!!**

**We are so blessed to have Mrs.
Gray as a teacher and a KWH
family member!**

**Her work in the classroom and
building relationships with the
students is phenomenal!!**

**Thank you, Mrs. Gray for
making a difference at Key
West High School!!**

GO CONCHS!!!

**KEY WEST HIGH SCHOOL
GIRLS BASKETBALL TRY-OUTS**

DATES:
NOVEMBER 4-6 2024

TIME:
6p.m. - 8p.m.

**For more information
please contact:**
Shonta McLeod
@305-923-5655 or
laraymcleod@outlook.com

LOCATION: KEY WEST HIGH SCHOOL
PLEASE NOTE BEFORE YOU CAN TRY-OUT YOU MUST HAVE THE
FOLLOWING PAPER WORK TURNED IN ON THE ATHLETIC CLEARANCE
WEBSITE:

- Athletic Packet
- Physical
- Concussion Sudden Cardiac Arrest & Heat Illness prevention course
- Copy of Insurance card

**Lady Conchs
Basketball**

**Conditioning started on
Tuesday, October 15th
at 6:00pm. Tryouts will
start November 4th at
6:00pm. Please reach
out if you
have any
questions.**



**KEY WEST HIGH GIRLS BASKETBALL
OPEN GYM**

**Monday's and
Wednesday's**

Open gym
6:45 to 8:00pm

**Tuesday's and
Thursday's**

Weight room and Track
6:00 to 7:30pm

For more information please contact:

Shonta McLeod
@305-923-5655 or
laraymcleod@gmail.com



**The Freshmen Class of 2028 had a very successful fundraiser at Island
Dogs restaurant! A huge Thank You to Island Dogs and
the Freshmen sponsor, Miranda Acevedo!!**



**KWS BETA Club collected
diapers and formula for the
Wesley House Diaper and
Formula Drive! This club is
so dedicated to helping our
community! Thank you,
BETA club!!**

**BETA members pictured left
to right: Haylee Brogli,
Vice-President of BETA;
Jada Franco, President of
BETA; Shyla Waldon,
Victoria Gray, Maya Gray,
and Kylie Francis**



SAT Test Dates and Registration Deadlines



<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration</u>	<u>Format</u>
November 2, 2024	October 18, 2024	October 22, 2024	Digital
December 7, 2024	November 22, 2024	November 26, 2024	Digital
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

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



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



TUNNEL TO TOWERS
NATIONAL RUN, WALK & CLIMB SERIES

TUNNEL TO TOWERS

5K

RUN & WALK



BIG PINE KEY, FL

RUN. WALK. HONOR.

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 2

RACE STARTS AT 8:30AM

BIG PINE PARK

31009 Atlantis Drive
Big Pine Key, FL 33043

BigPineKeyRun@t2t.org



FOR MORE INFO & REGISTRATION,
VISIT US AT T2T.ORG



@TUNNEL2TOWERS #T2TRUN

Donate New Diapers & Formula to Help those in Need.

All diaper sizes needed, especially sizes 4, 5, & 6 needed the most.
Make sure the formula won't expire within 6 months.

Drop-off Locations:

Wesley House Family Services
1304 Truman Ave., Key West
- and -

Key West Woman's Club
319 Duval St., Key West

Collection Dates:
Now thru October 9th

Let's make a difference
for our community.

**Diaper
& Formula
DRIVE**
for **Wesley House**



**Thank You for
Your Donation**

sponsored by the
Key West #41 Ambassador Class



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.





Congratulations to the Marching Conchs as they placed 3rd in their classification at the Falcon Sound Invitational Marching Band Competition in Pembroke Pines on October 5th. They performed their full marching band show, a medley of Jimmy Buffet songs. Wind players, Percussion, Color Guard and Drum Majors all scored well. Congratulations on all of your hard work! This weekend, the Marching Conchs head to Cypress Bay High School for the Marching Band Music Performance Assessment. Best of luck!

The KWHS DRAMA CLUB Presents

FALL SHOWCASE

- THROUGH THE DECADES -

SINGING, DANCING, SKITS,
POETRY, LIVE MUSIC & MORE

A FUNDRAISER FOR THE KWHS DRAMA CLUB

WILLIAMSHALL
729 Fleming Street, Key West, FL

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8 AND
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2024
AT 7:00PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM)**

TICKETS
WWW.KEYSTIX.COM
\$20 GENERAL ADMISSION
\$15 STUDENT/TEACHER
(WITH VALID SCHOOL ID)

Sponsored by:

WILLIAMSHALL
INSPIRE • EMPOWER • ENRICH



Conchs on

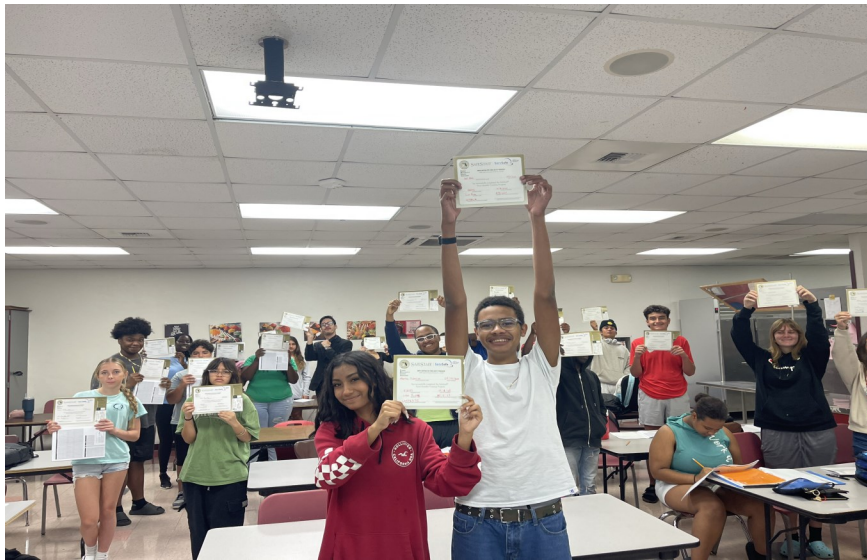
BROADWAY

Homecoming Spirit Week

OCTOBER 28- NOVEMBER 2

Monday	Twin Day/Tuesday
Senior Toga Day Homecoming Parade	Duo Day/ Twin Day Trunk or Treat 6-9pm
Wednesday	Thriller/Thursday
Wild West	Each class will dress in costumes Pep Rally @ 2:00
Friday	Saturday
No School Football Game @ 7pm	Homecoming Dance 7-10pm

@kwhsstuco



Mrs. Rivard's next round of SafeStaff Food handlers!!

Way to go, Culinary Conchs!!

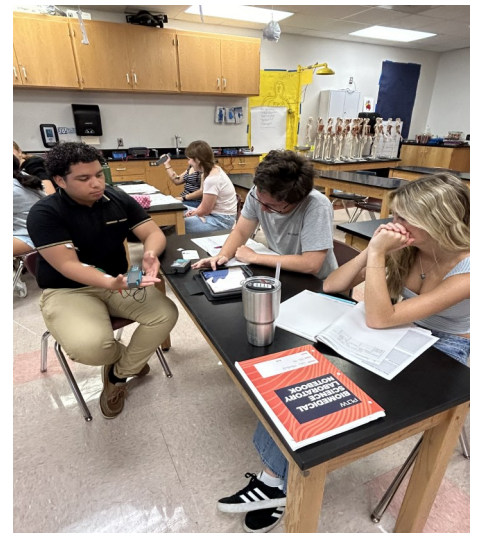
The SNAPPER is the school newspaper. It has been around for over 100 years. We have gone digital due to print costs. The link to the SNAPPER is kwhsthesnapper.org.



Mrs. Tara Jackson's Principles of Biomedical Science students have been achieving excellent pipetting skills, all culminating in a DNA analysis by gel electrophoresis to determine who the "blood" found at the scene belongs to.



Mrs. Tara Jackson's Human Body Systems students earned about muscle fatigue by observing changes in electrical impulses produced by muscles compared to grip strength.





Progress Reports

will go **LIVE** on

Friday, October 18, 2024

How can you view your child's grades?

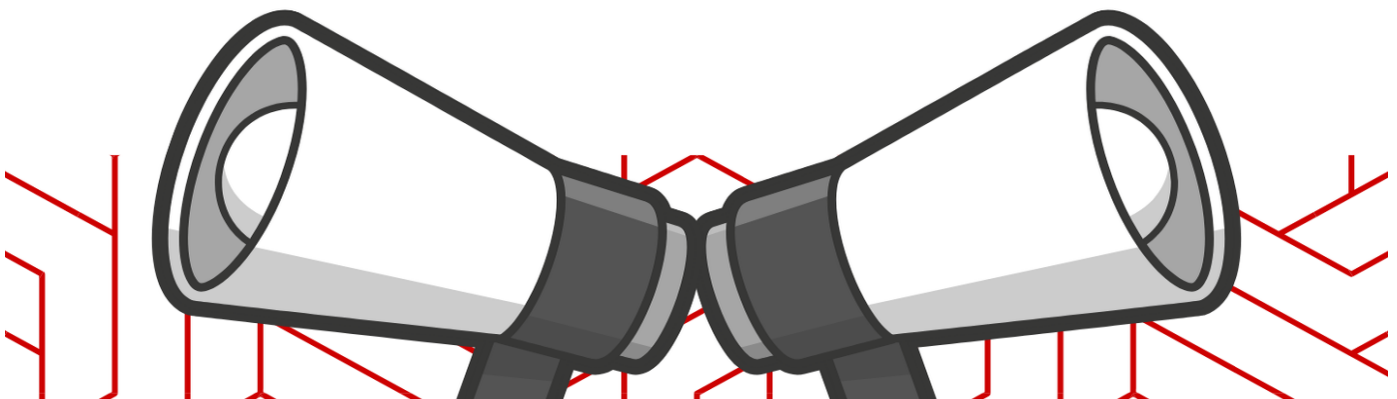
Log into your FOCUS Parent Portal.

**Once logged in, update your contact information.*

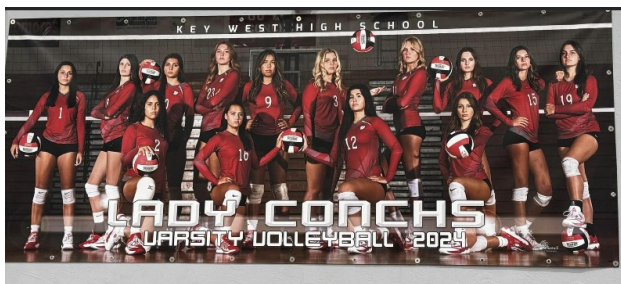
**Link to Register
or Add a Child**



**Link to FOCUS
Sign-in Page**



Athletics



KWHS Volleyball played Ronald Reagan on Tuesday and they play away on Thursday! Good Luck Girls!!

KWHS Golf had a meet on Wednesday! Great job, Conchs!!



KWHS Cross Country have a meet against Marathon on Wednesday!! Get em, Conchs!!



KWHS Swim Team have their Doral meet on Thursday! Good Luck, Conchs!



The KWHS Fighting Conchs play away against Coral Shores!! Get em, Boys!!! Kick off is at 5:00pm!!



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— Jorge Sanchez
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:

TIES Program First Quarter 2024-2025

A very special thank you to the **Keys Open Doors Foundation** for sponsoring our class again this year. Their kindness helps supply our healthy, organic fruit and vegetable boxes from MoxieBerries, non-traditional classroom supplies, health and fitness activities, cultural and art experiences, and community dining adventures!

Grateful.



Day two of TIES – already making roasted garlic hummus starting with dry beans. This was a new taste sensation for the new TIES students. They loved it - even more than Funyuns and Cheetos!



Glad Tidings Church sponsored our class meal one day and we cooked chicken breast with lemon and capers, mashed potatoes with paprika, and good old-fashioned green beans! **Thank you, Glad Tidings.**



Our ESE Graduation Coach, Heather Obartuck, delighted our students with Kennedy Café Pepperoni and Mushroom and Gyro pizzas as a special lunch treat. She and our job coach, Christopher Day, come over often to have conversations with the TIES group. It's a sweet "family" atmosphere we maintain.





We spend every Friday morning picking up litter on Sigsbee, but we miss our local Team *“Litterati.”*



Ruth Coleman, Special Olympics Florida, talked to the class about participating in Special Olympics, helped Vincent prepare for his speech to the Autism Society, and awarded Vincent his medal for Stand-Up Paddle! Vincent also participates in flag football, bocce, swimming, and bowling. What an athlete.



Food fun with home-grown oregano, MoxieBerries’ rambutan, candy-striped figs, and organic oranges.



Organic super greens with spaghetti squash and roasted cauliflower to create this delicious delight!



Typical mid-morning snacks always involve fresh fruits and vegetables – rarely with cheese and bread. We sit together for snack time and lunch time. **No phones.** Only eating, conversing, and enjoying. Yes, we use linen napkins and do our laundry. I didn't say a word, but since I've introduced fruits and vegetables, no one has brought in junk food. That is a joy all on its own. Healthy food wins, all day!



Our walking field trip to the Sigsbee Fire Station. Yup.... That's a pink fire hat! I love it so much!





Andrez is a talented artist and drew the thank you card of “Sparky” to deliver to the crew at the station.



Everyone opted for salad for lunch, so we massaged our kale, chopped and grated our veggies, whipped up some garlic bread with a little mozzarella for fun, and ate healthily and happily!

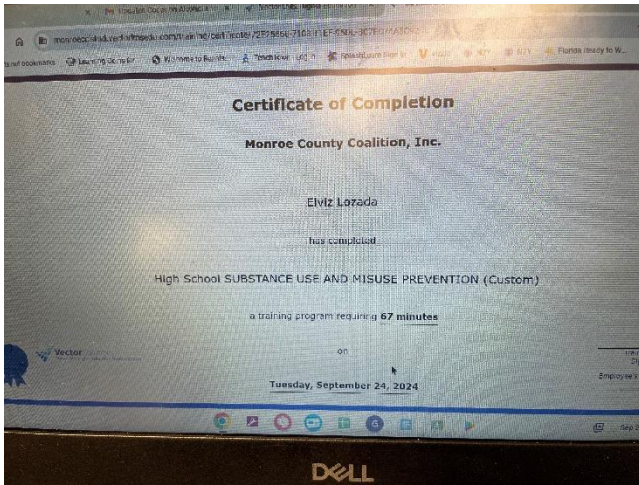


A walking field trip to Sigsbee Charter for healthy eyes and a driving trip to Ross! A special thank you to **Roxanne** and **Kids Come First** for the clothing and gift card donations so the TIES students could dress well for their upcoming, hopeful job interviews! I asked the boys to “strike a pose,” and got this! Andrez in his new black pants, and Elvis and Cris in their new plaid shirts. Shopping for men is easy.



If you haven’t had **Duetto Pizza & Gelato** in a while, this is your reminder to go. So many choices, but we chose La Margherita and Soppresata. **Thanks Paul and Dianne** for the pizzas and special delivery.

Tutto delizioso, grazie!



Let's take a break from all this deliciousness and see how we earned money! Every student has earned a minimum of \$45 in Amazon gift cards by completing Substance Abuse and Misuse and Alcohol Education courses. Students can spend the money as they wish.



Andrez cooking his grilled cheese and Cris loves oregano so we call these his "Greek eggs" with naan.



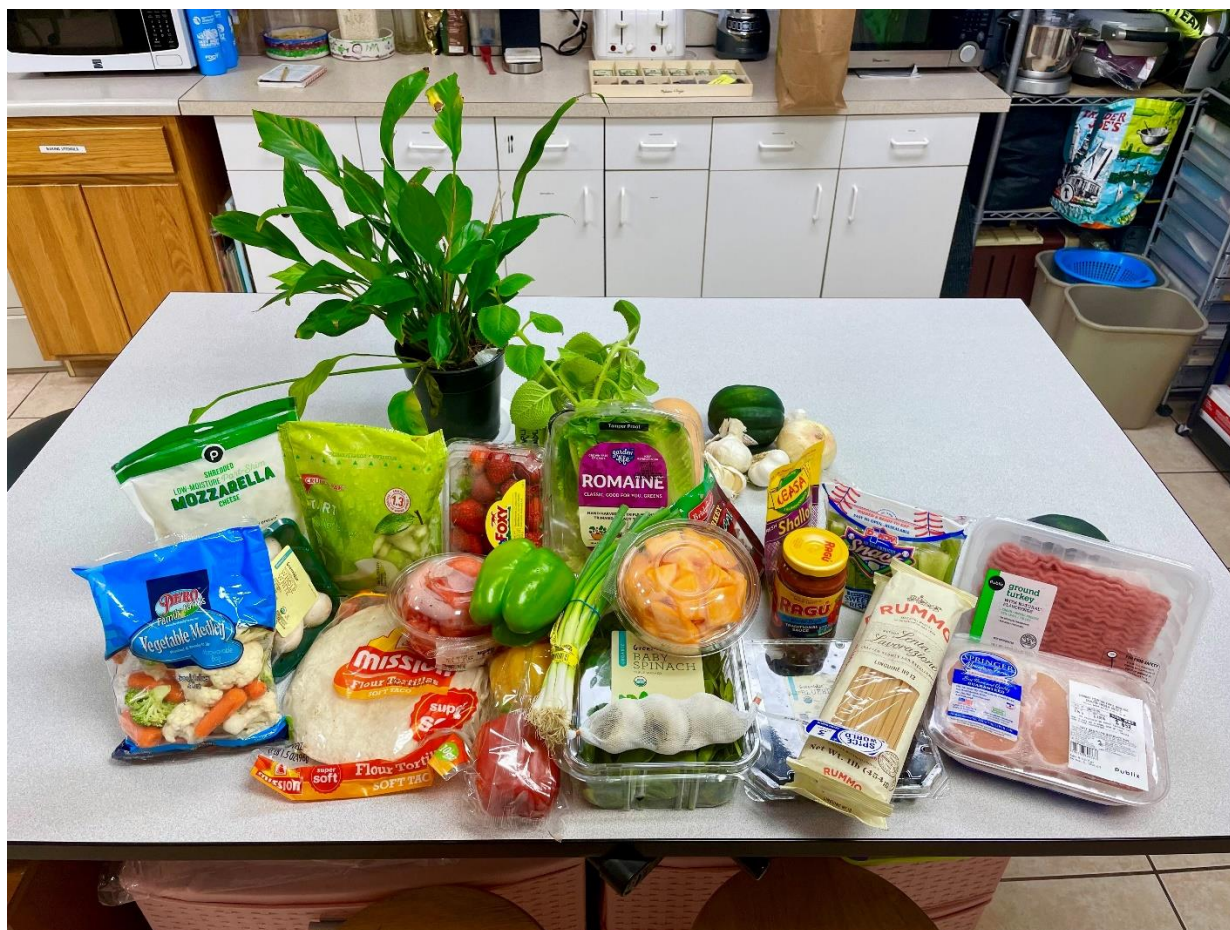
Elviz made us spaghetti and meatballs, Cris made us chicken and pasta, and everyone made BLTs!

What else have we done? Well, we have 100% registered voters at TIES. We took a course on CPALMS to learn about the political system, completed a half-dozen Vizzle activities on government and democracy, took a survey on choosing a party, had class discussions, and have official full-sized sample ballots to complete this month. I would show you the registrations, but we don't discuss our party affiliations, right?

We have community-based learning at the Naval Exchange (NEX) twice a week stocking and organizing shelves and three students have started their Vocational Rehabilitation Work-based Learning Experiences at Fausto's on Fleming. The other two will have their placements soon.

We count money and learn to skip count. We learn about independent living skills. We cook, clean, do laundry, take out the trash and recycle bins. We push in our chairs and speak nicely. We practice fluency. We read. We have conversations. We learn self-advocacy skills. We learn patience and respect.

We are building independence.
That's the "I" in "TIES."



Thanks to all the TIES families and friends who have donated food so we can learn to be independent in the kitchen and eat in a healthy manner. This was a special delivery one day from Andrez' family. We made many masterful family meals with all these groceries.

And to think we started with Funyons and Cheetos.

We have come a long way in nine weeks.

A really long way.

What is Red Ribbon Week?

Red Ribbon Week is the largest annual drug prevention campaign in the nation!

Prevention Specialist Brooke Foley will have an educational table set up during lunch for KWHS students to have fun and learn about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs!

Dress up for the different theme days! Collect Prizes!



RED RIBBON WEEK® OCT. 23-31 • WWW.REDRIBBON.ORG

Take a Pledge Against Drugs!

25% of high school students engage in binge drinking.

20% have reported using illicit drugs such as cocaine or opioids.

30% of teens admit to using e-cigarettes, often leading to nicotine addiction.

Date: October 23-31, 2024

Time: 11:00-12:00

Location: Center Courtyard

Keep an eye out for the different theme day posters around school!

Red Ribbon Week

Wednesday Rally in Red

October 23



Dress up in red and join us at lunch to take a pledge against drugs!

Thursday

October 24

Peace Out to Drugs

Wear Tie-Dye and take a spin on the drug trivia wheel!



Friday

October 25

Life's a Movie, Film Drug Free

Got any favorite tv shows or movie shirts? Wear them! Today's lunch activity will show how impaired driving can severely impact the lives of many.



Monday

October 28

Sock it to Drugs

Put on your craziest socks and get ready to write positive messages for your fellow peers!

Tuesday

October 29

Don't Duo Drugs!

Twin out this Tuesday! Come learn about the dangers of performance drugs and the negative effects.



Wednesday Western Wednesday

October 30

Show up for lunch ready to wild west work-out! Complete fitness challenges for prizes!



Thursday

October 31

Drugs are Scary

Happy Halloween! Any school appropriate costume pieces encouraged! Get ready to learn about the dangers of party drugs.