



Hawks' Thoughts

We believe, achieve, succeed!

FYI:

- 3/1 – FCAT Writes (10th) / Hillsborough Writes (9th)
- 3/8 – FCAT Writing Retakes (11th/12th)
- 3/9 – Early Release
- 3/17 – End of the 3rd Grading Period
- 3/18 & 3/21 – Non-student/Non-teacher Day
- 3/30 – FCAT Reading Retakes (11th/12th)
- 3/31 – 4/6 – FCAT Math Retakes (11th/12th) (Computer-Based)
- 3/5, 3/12, & 3/26 – FCAT Prep School

Volume I, Issue II

Newsletter Date: March 2011

Note from the Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

Since our last newsletter we are nearing the end of the 3rd grading period. Staying involved with your student's education is the best way to ensure his or her academic success. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your student's teachers via email or phone. Their email address and phone extension can be found on the school's website. The end of the 3rd grading period will be March 17th.

This year all of the school district's high schools will hold their graduations at the Florida State Fairgrounds Expo Hall, due to renovations at the USF Sun Dome. Because of this our graduation and rehearsal time have been changed. We will have graduation rehearsal on June

1st at 9:00 A.M. and graduation will be on June 6th at 9:30 A.M. You will continue to get reminders of these dates and times in the coming months. If you have any questions please call the school at 744-8040.

On the evening of Friday, February 25th our PTSA sponsored a successful fundraising event. It is what they hope to be our first annual talent show called "Armwood's Got Talent". There were over 300 parents, friends, and teachers present to see the many talents our student body. Acts included singing, dancing, and showcasing of other musical talents. We are looking forward to this becoming an annual event!

Michael Ippolito
Principal



Did you know who was...

~ the first African-American woman from Florida to graduate from an accredited law school, Howard University?

~ considered an early 20th-century Renaissance woman who steadfastly held the values of hard work, religious morality, and judicial equality before the American consciousness?



Ms. Blanche Armwood

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The Importance of "Attending"

Where? When? To What? Why? How?

A look at the definition reveals multiple meanings. To attend (*a verb used with object*) can mean: **1. to be present at: to attend a lecture.** 2. to go with as a concomitant or result; accompany: *Fever may attend a cold. Success attended her hard work.* 3. to take care of; minister to; devote one's services to: *The nurse attended the patient daily.* 4. to wait upon; accompany as a companion or servant: *The retainers attended their lord.* 5. to take charge of; watch over; look after; tend; guard: *to attend one's health.* **6. to listen to; give heed to.**

At Armwood, student success depends on strict adherence to #1 and #6.

To begin with, students need to be present not only in school but in all their classes for the entire period from August to June (#1). Additionally, they need to listen to or give heed to (#6) the "lessons" taught not only by their teachers, but every Armwood adult. Finally, students "attend" by removing distractions such as cell phones or iPods. In conclusion, "attending" is key for student success!

Armwood High School

AOF
Academy of Finance

School District
Of
Hillsborough County



Ms. Dee Scionti, Program Director
Deeann.Scionti@sdhc.k12.fl.us

Under the expert guidance of Ms. Dee Scionti, students in the Academy of Finance program acquire skills and knowledge that better prepare them for college and careers in financial services. 100% of seniors who apply to college are accepted. They become accountants, international business consultants, financial advisors, entrepreneurs and/or financial managers. The program offers: honors points, scholarship opportunities, virtual business challenges, real-life opportunities to manage and run a financial service (in partnership with Suncoast Schools Federal CU), and college credit. Its board is comprised of distinguished business and community leaders who provide financial support and leadership, offer summer internships and job-shadowing experiences, and act as mentors to AOF students.

2011 ACADEMY OF FINANCE PROGRAM COMPLETERS



Summer Danet

Alethia DeVenecia

David Lopez

Nicolle Moreno

Mariela Perez

Kyle Wright



AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.

AHS Students AVID for Success

Raised Expectations + AVID support system = High School Graduation, College, and Career. This is the simple formula to which AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) students like Freddie Martin and Ann-Marie Parris subscribe. Mr. Ryan Walker, program coordinator and instructor of 9th grade students, and Mr. Mike Dotson, instructor of 10th and 11th grade students, ensure that the AVID program accelerates student learning, uses research-based methods of effective instruction, provides meaningful and motivational professional development, and acts as a catalyst for systemic reform and change.



AVID Wizards: Grisangely Lopez, Nicole Grimes, and Ny'Jarie King



Alfredo Merino, Alyssa Stairs, Autumn Gillen, Heather Patrick, Anne-Marie Parris, and Mr. Walker



9th Grade AVID class at USF

Honorably Mentioned at the Hillsborough Regional Science & Engineering Fair

Elyse Chinowth in the senior chemistry division for "Meltdown" (testing which surfaces melt faster).

Alyssa Stairs and Tommy Walker in team life science division for "Who Said Laundry Detergent Isn't Green?" (testing if "green" laundry detergent is environmentally friendly by comparing germination of radish seeds in solutions of detergent and water).

All Hawks did well in the day-long competition and should be congratulated for their efforts: Justin Walker- senior physics - "Which Bat is Better; Wood or Metal?"; Ashley Neff - senior environmental - "More Green, Less Gas?" Jimeria Brown and Shianne Edwards - senior team physical science division - "Is Real Tide Better Than Generic?"

Armwood's FBLA Very Strong in District

In the words of Mr. Frank Traina, advisor:

Our FBLA club did really well in the District competitions, going against schools in our district, some with 50+ and 100+ members. We took **first place in 3 out of 5 performance events** we entered in and also got one of our members elected to a district officer position.

Please congratulate these students:

Jose Vichot & Devin Mendez - 1st Place Digital Design & Promotion

Willie Wright - 1st Place - Website Design

Carolina Herrero - 1st Place - Business Presentation

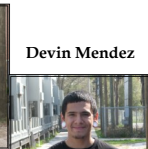
Marlana Ball - Elected District 9 Secretary

Some other close calls were **Tori Martin** (Public Speaking II) and **Marlana Ball** (Job Interview) who both wowed the judges with their performances.

Next up is states in May. Stay tuned...



Jose Vichot



Devin Mendez



Willie Wright



Marlana Ball



Carolina Herrero

Proudly Noted by Band Director, Mr. Andrew T. Krupski

Our band students participated in the Florida Bandmaster's Association Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessment. It is an individual assessment for students to get an accurate rating from an expert on their instrument of how they are doing, what they are doing well, and what they could do to improve. Each student receives a rating from 1-5 (1 being the highest). We had one of the highest levels of participation from high schools in Hillsborough County.

Students receiving "Superior" (1) were: Roarke Sykes (received 2), Crystal Eaken, Zackary Whitley, Alijah McCombs, Aaron Rupe, George Kamras (received 2), and Brandon Brooklyn.

Students receiving "Excellent" (2) were: Zachary Frye, Brandon Brooklyn (on a solo), AJ Martinez, Genesis Cortorreal, Rashauna Pryer-White, Faith Hines, Kent Stephenson, Corey Miles, Alexa Ponthieux.

Because the level of their music is considered "collegiate," and they received a "1" at the district level, we have three students who will travel to participate in this event at the state level in April. These students are: **Alijah McCombs, Zackary Whitley, and Christopher Rupe.**



Alijah McCombs, Zackary Whitley and Christopher Rupe

This is the HIGHEST participation Armwood has had at this event in 11 years. We are VERY excited about our students' progress, and look forward to seeing more from them!

Thank you all for your continued support of the music department as we reorganize and continue to grow. We appreciate all of you, and hope you will continue to support our students continuing a well-rounded, culturally diverse education at Armwood. THANK YOU!

Armwoods Got Talent!!! Yes, We Do!!!



Marcus Ramsay



Alex Eargood

February 25th, 2011 was the day that AHS Hawks showcased their unbelievable talent by singing, dancing, beat-boxing, playing guitar, playing the piano, playing in a band - to name a few. "Wowed" by the 14 acts performed by Mercedes Popham, Rachel Bruce, Stacey McNair, Marquis Lasing, Marcus Ramsay, Shelldon Lewinson, Cortnie Millan, Alex Eargood, Beth-Ann Burford, Ashley Lugo, Amaris Gillen, A J McCombs, George Kamras, Russell Martin, Rene Carraffa, Valeria Rivera, Jennifer Roule, and Destiny Woods, the audience exited Blanche Armwood's auditorium with a sense of wonderment and satisfaction. Many voiced that they look forward to another time. The big question they had was when. The judges, Mr. Krupski, Mr. Kelly, and Ms. Tanaka, had a "challenge" with picking the winners for all performances had merit. They ended up choosing...

Jennifer Roule, 1st Place
Marcus Ramsay, 2nd Place
Shelldon Lewinson, 3rd Place

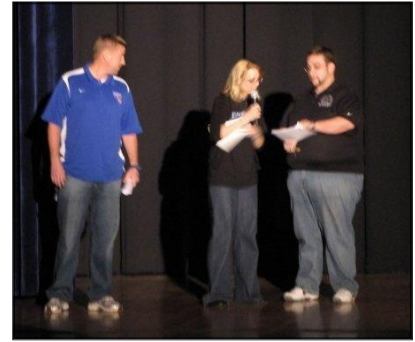
NOTE: Without the assistance of the backstage sound system crew, Mr. Ryan Walker, Joshua Leibfried, and Brandon Shinawongse or the help of NHS students, the show would not have gone on. The event was sponsored by PTSA whose president is Ms. Leibfried.



Beth-Ann Burford, Ashley Lugo, & Amaris Gillen



Valeria Rivera



Mr. Kelly, Ms. Lawrence, Mr. Krupski

February CBK Winners
 Senior: John Parris
 Junior: Brandon Duncan
 Sophomore: Amber Lyles
 Freshman: Austin Lane



To Access FCAT Explorer:

Your sign-in name is your LAST NAME followed by your FIRST INITIAL. (e.g. SmithJ)
 Your password is: 29 + the FIRST FOUR LETTERS of your LAST NAME followed by the BIRTH MONTH (2 digits) and the DAY (2 digits) (e.g. 29Smith0809)

FCAT Graduation Requirements

FCAT Reading: 300 SSS or 1926 DSS
 FCAT Math: 300 SSS or 1889 DSS
 FCAT Writes: 4.0

Criteria for Senior Exam Exemptions

Graduating seniors are awarded exam exemptions for all classes providing they meet the following criteria for 2nd semester:

- ◆ No more than FIVE absences (sign ins and sign outs count)
- ◆ No ISS/OSS/ATOSS or Suspended Pending Conference
- ◆ No debt to the school including media and cafeteria
- ◆ At least THREE quality points for 3rd and 4th quarters with at least ONE quality point in the 4th quarter.

Armwood Knows What “Ought To Be A Law”

Students from the “Ought To Be a Law” club presented their bill idea Saturday February 26, 2011 at the District School Board building in Tampa hosted by state legislators Representative Rich Glorioso and Senator Jack Latvala. The “Ought To Be a Law” bill drafting competition provides both public and private school students the opportunity to become more civic-minded. They are able to voice opinions on what high school students think should be law in Florida.

Armwood has successfully competed in the contest over the past four years having two bills selected to be sponsored and filed with the state. This year’s bill idea came from a current event activity completed in Mr. Tony Pirotta’s class by Emily Lake. The bill proposed that a state domestic registry be made to help protect the public from exposing themselves to potential danger. The database would only include those who are the most dangerous individuals who had felony convictions related to their domestic violence crime. Two seniors, Jennifer Einsmann and Ariel Bradley, presented the bill. The judges were impressed with the depth of the presentation and the innovation behind their idea.



Once all the schools completed their presentations, Armwood’s Domestic Violence bill was named the winner of the competition. The two girls were interviewed about their experience and appeared on local news programs and received congratulatory letters from the hosts. The “Ought To Be a Law” student delegation will now travel to Tallahassee to lobby their bill before members of the Florida Legislature and present their bill before its assigned committees. Mr. Tony Pirotta says, “It truly is a joy to watch our students succeed and bring such positive recognition home to Armwood.”

Senior membership has its privileges... For PASSING FCAT Science

ROYAL~LEVEL 3

- ◆ Front of the Line Lunch Pass (daily)
- ◆ 10% off Homecoming Ticket
- ◆ 10% off Prom or Gradbash Ticket
- ◆ Free Parking Pass
- ◆ Free Hallway Locker
- ◆ 10% off Yearbook
- ◆ 1 additional Exam Exemption
- ◆ 10% off Gap and Gown
- ◆ Entrance to 10 regular season home athletic events of your choice

PLATINUM ~ LEVEL 4

- ◆ Front of the Line Lunch Pass (daily)
- ◆ 20% off Homecoming Ticket
- ◆ 20% off Prom or Gradbash Ticket
- ◆ Free Parking Pass

- ◆ Free Hallway Locker
- ◆ 20% off Yearbook
- ◆ 1 additional Exam Exemption
- ◆ 10% off Gap and Gown
- ◆ Entrance to 20 regular season home athletic events of your choice

PLATINUM PLUS ~ LEVEL 5

- ◆ Front of the Line Lunch Pass (daily)
- ◆ Free Homecoming Ticket
- ◆ 50% off Prom or Gradbash Ticket
- ◆ Free Parking Pass
- ◆ Free Hallway Locker
- ◆ 50% off Yearbook
- ◆ 1 additional Exam Exemption
- ◆ 10% off Gap and Gown
- ◆ Entrance to all regular season home athletic events of your choice
- ◆ 1 free pizza pie and smoothie per 9 weeks



College Bound Seniors.... Continued

College? To go ... or not to go? Not really a question, really. Today a college education is the next important step in the quest for success. As stated in Armwood's motto, students start with "believing," continue with "achieving," and end up "succeeding" ... that is, if they ALSO plan and implement. Shauntice Walkine did and now she heads for Bethune Cookman in the fall. Ask her, and the many other AHS seniors who realize dreams by taking all the necessary steps above, about college.

How to be an ACTIVE PARENT without volunteering, showing up at school, or spending money....

- ◆ Talk to your student to find out what he/she is learning in school.
- ◆ Recognize you are a partner in your student's education and share information with the teacher and be supportive when teachers share information with you.
- ◆ Praise good work; use those refrigerator magnets to hang up good work and report cards (Yes - even for high school students).
- ◆ Activate your Edline account and check on it often.
- ◆ Know important dates, such as dates for midterm reports and conference nights, FCAT Testing, and GRADUATION!
- ◆ Notify the school when you change your home address or emergency contacts.
- ◆ Make sure your student has few absences.
- ◆ Read the school's newsletter!

See! You're an ACTIVE PARENT already and you didn't even have to come to school! ...BUT volunteers are more than welcome!

Test Taking TIPS for Parents to Remember (from fcats.fldoe.org)

- ◆ Make sure your child attends school regularly. Remember that tests reflect the overall achievement of your child. The more often the child is in a learning situation, the more likely he/she will do well on tests.
- ◆ See that your child completes homework assignments. Homework supports classroom instruction and can help your child increase his/her comprehension of the classroom work.
- ◆ Make sure your child is well rested on school days. Children who are tired are less likely to pay attention in class or handle the demands of class work and tests.
- ◆ Make sure that your child arrives on time for school.
- ◆ Find out which tests your child will take and for what purposes. Below is the FCAT Testing schedule for 2010 -2011.
- ◆ Make sure your child receives any necessary test-taking accommodations.
- ◆ Remember, make sure that your child is well rested and has a healthy breakfast on the day of the tests.

FCAT TESTING SCHEDULE

- ◆ **Tuesday, March 8** – Grade 11 and 12 FCAT Writes Retakes
- ◆ **Wednesday, March 30** – Grade 11 and 12 FCAT Reading Retakes
- ◆ **Thursday, March 31** – Grade 11 and 12 FCAT Mathematics Retakes (Computer-based)
- ◆ **Monday, April 11** - Grade 9 and Grade 10 FCAT Reading - (Session 1, 70 minutes)
- ◆ **Tuesday, April 12** – Grade 9 and Grade 10 FCAT Reading (Session 2, 70 minutes) and Grade 9 and 10 NRT Reading – (30 minutes)
- ◆ **Tuesday, April 12** - Grade 11 FCAT Science - (130 minutes)
- ◆ **Wednesday – Friday, April 13 – 15** – Grade 10 FCAT Mathematics (Computer-based) (160 minutes)

Grade 9 and 10 FCAT Reading assesses:

- ◆ Context Clues
- ◆ Word/Text and Word Relationships
- ◆ Multiple Meanings of Words
- ◆ Author's Purpose and Point of View
- ◆ Main Idea and Relevant Details
- ◆ Conclusions and Inferences
- ◆ Cause and Effect
- ◆ Compare and Contrast
- ◆ Text Structures /Organizational Patterns
- ◆ Literary Elements: theme, character, setting, plot development, conflict, resolution
- ◆ Descriptive Language: tone, irony, mood, imagery, alliteration, onomatopoeia, allusion, satire
- ◆ Figurative Language: simile, metaphor, symbolism, personification, hyperbole, pun
- ◆ Text Features: titles, subtitles, headings, text boxes, charts, graphs, illustrations, maps, diagrams, stanzas, bold, italics
- ◆ Synthesis, Analysis and Evaluation, Validity and Reliability

Grade 10 FCAT Mathematics assesses:

- ◆ **Number Sense, Concepts, and Operations:** order of numbers, equivalent forms of numbers, extracting square roots, operational shortcuts, solving real-world problems, solving real-world problems involving fractions/decimals, solving real-world problems involving percent, area estimate
- ◆ **Measurement:** circumference, volume, area, rate, time, rate/distance/time, Pythagorean theorem, indirect measurement, rated measures
- ◆ **Geometry and Spatial Sense:** measurement of angles, parallel lines, similarity, transformations, angle relationships in geometric figures, plane/square pyramid, reflections, parabolic relations, distance
- ◆ **Algebraic Thinking:** functions, number sequences, graphic patterns, changing parameters, changing cost of parameters, equations, inequalities, solving systems of equations/inequalities
- ◆ **Data Analysis and Probability:** scatter plot, Venn diagrams, mean, single event probability, combinations, evaluating and formulating hypotheses

Grade 11 FCAT Science assesses:

- ◆ **Physical and Chemical Sciences:** electrical charge, bonding, phase changes, reaction rate, ions, periodic trends, energy conversions, electromagnetic waves, efficiency, basic forces, acceleration, force vectors, relative motion, gravitational force, strong force
- ◆ **Earth and Space Sciences:** weather patterns, divergent boundary, fossils, geological activity, traces of life, changes to habitat, seasons, solar eclipse, tides, stellar mass, astronomical distance
- ◆ **Life and Environmental Sciences:** cell membrane functions, enzymes, asexual reproduction, Punnett squares, DNA structure, structural adaptations-animals and plants, predator/prey relationships, photosynthesis, coal formation, ecological impact, population growth
- ◆ **Scientific Thinking:** designing experiments, drawing conclusions, role of controls, accepting theories, bias, replication, scientific reasoning, modeling, technological advances, advances in society, role of scientists

A Thought from Dr. Gallucci, APC



Dear Parents and Students,
Educational literature often suggests that teachers' actions affect student achievement. Although I do hold this to be true, I also know that students' actions affect student achievement in significant ways. In other words, students learn what teachers teach when they are "ready." A typical classroom here at Armwood is typified by academic diversity: students with identified learning problems sit by advanced learners who sit by students whose first language is not English who sit by students who are motivated or unmotivated who sit by students who

fit two or three of these categories. This academic diversity results in varying levels of learner readiness. To address this variance found in these mixed-ability classes, teachers differentiate instruction. Indeed, their teaching "attends" (#3 definition in 'The Importance of Attending') to the academic needs of their students. Our teachers are ready to teach, is your child or are you ready to learn?

Sincerely,
Dr. Gallucci



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We are on the web!
armwood.mysdhc.org/

Armwood's Creed

Positive Attitude
Respect
Involvement
Devotion
Equality

Armwood's Colors

BLUE for spirit!
GRAY for strength!
MAROON for pride!



**School District of
Hillsborough County**

At Armwood High School, we believe, achieve, succeed!

Our Vision

Through a cooperative effort of school, family and community, students, motivated by a sense of pride and a sense of responsibility, will attain their personal best.

Our Mission

We will provide all students with the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve their fullest potential. We will create a supportive and caring school environment for both students and staff. We will learn how best to meet the needs of all students. We will prepare all students to become contributing members of the community.

Dress Code Policy: Armwood's Students Have HAWK PRIDE!!

- ◆ NO skate tennis shoes and bedroom slippers.
- ◆ NO tube tops, spaghetti straps, or similar type of clothing unless worn with a blouse or shirt.
- ◆ NO clothing that exposes the torso or the midriff, either front, back, or sides.
- ◆ NO clothing that exposes the mid-chest area.
- ◆ NO underwear that is visible.
- ◆ NO clothing that is not properly fastened or clothing with tears that are indecent.
- ◆ NO clothing that is traditionally designed as sleepwear or undergarments to be worn as outer garments.
- ◆ NO pants and shorts that are not secured at the waist.
- ◆ NO boy's shirts without sleeves.
- ◆ NO head coverings in the building unless required for religious observance or health-related reasons.
- ◆ NO mini-skirts, mini-dresses, and short shorts. No hemlines shorter than fingertip length.
- ◆ NO garments and/or jewelry that display or suggest sexual, vulgar, drug, gang, weapons, or alcohol-related wording or graphics, or that provoke or may tend to provoke violence or disruption in the school.
- ◆ NO wallet chains.