

Families and Guardians,

As we reach the midpoint of the year, you can help support the high school classrooms in many ways. Please see the **Teacher WHOA List** section below for links and more information.

Students will be dismissed at **11:10 AM** during midterms. After-school Care is **not** available. Please plan accordingly **now** for December.

Our best,

THE MSHS TEAM

#### High School Department Contacts:

Teacher	Subject(s)	Email
Mrs. Erica Carter	HS Coordinator, Math	<a href="mailto:ECarter@morningstar-jax.org">ECarter@morningstar-jax.org</a>
Ms. Laura Brock	ELA & Reading	<a href="mailto:LBrock@morningstar-jax.org">LBrock@morningstar-jax.org</a>
Mrs. Jessica Koci	Science, LS	<a href="mailto:JKoci@morningstar-jax.org">JKoci@morningstar-jax.org</a>
Dr. Adriana Giles	Religion, Spanish	<a href="mailto:AGiles@morningstar-jax.org">AGiles@morningstar-jax.org</a>
Coach Angela Whitson	Social Studies, PE, Health	<a href="mailto:AWhitson@morningstar-jax.org">AWhitson@morningstar-jax.org</a>
Mrs. Rebecca Militante	Music, Fine Arts	<a href="mailto:RMilitante@morningstar-jax.org">RMilitante@morningstar-jax.org</a>
Ms. McKayla Whiteside	Paraprofessional, Theatre & Fine Arts	<a href="mailto:MWhiteside@morningstar-jax.org">MWhiteside@morningstar-jax.org</a>

**\*\*For schoolwide announcements, please check the weekly newsletter sent out by email.\*\***

# HOUSEKEEPING



- We do our best to respond to emails, Dojo messages, etc., as quickly as possible during the school day. Please allow us 24 hours to reply to you. If you have a pressing matter requiring immediate attention, please contact the school at (904) 721-2144 and ask to speak to a member of our administration.
- We respect and value your time with your families and ask you to do the same for us teachers. Our contract/contact hours are Monday-Friday, 7:15 A.M. - 3:15 P.M.
- **An excuse note (written or emailed) from a parent or doctor is required whenever a student is absent from class.** Notes are required to receive makeup assignments, including tests and quizzes. Students will receive zeroes for any missing work. (See the [Parent/Student Handbook](#) for additional information.)
- The student dress code, including personal grooming, is required. Details are on p. 23 of the [Parent/Student Handbook](#).
- **Student Service Hours** are due in March. Juniors and Seniors who do not have their hours completed by the due date may not participate in any Junior/Senior activities. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Carter, HS Coordinator, or Mrs. Giles, MSHS religion teacher.
- **Family Volunteer Hours** for the 2023-2024 school year are due to Sr. Elise in May. One-quarter of your hours should be completed by this point in the school year. Please reach out to Sister with any questions or concerns.
- **Moana Rehearsals are Thursdays from 3:15 P.M. to 4:40 P.M.** Please check your emails for updates from Ms. Whiteside. Attendance and participation in the annual MSHS production is part of each student's Fine Arts grade.

# WEEKLY HAPPENINGS



<b>Mondays</b>	<b>Math Tutoring</b> with Mrs. Carter 2:45-3:45 PM, free in classroom	<b>Drumline</b> with Mrs. Militante & UNF 3:30-4:15 PM, in the music room HS students go to ASC until 3:30 (no charge)
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>Writers' Lab</b> with Ms. Brock 2:45-3:45 PM, in classroom <a href="#">Registration</a> for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter is open!	
<b>Wednesdays</b>		
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>Moana Rehearsal</b> with Ms. Whiteside 3:15-4:30 PM, Media Center	<b>Student Government</b> with Mrs. Koci (every other Thursday; see calendar below) 2:45-3:30 PM, in classroom
<b>Fridays</b>		


# CALENDAR



November						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1 All Saints Mass - 10AM</b>	<b>2 Rehearsal</b> 3:15-4:30 pm  Student Gov't. 2:45-3:00	<b>3 Noon Dismissal-- REGULAR Uniform Day</b>  Class Pictures & Retake Day	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 11th ARC to JEA	<b>7 Writers' Lab</b> 2:45 - 3:45  UNF Music Performance	<b>8 Veterans' Day Celebration</b>	<b>9 Rehearsal</b> 3:15-4:30 pm	<b>10 Red, White &amp; Blue</b> Dress Down & Veteran's Day Celebration	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14 Writers' Lab</b> 2:45 - 3:45	<b>15</b>	<b>16 Rehearsal</b> 3:15-4:30 pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20 THANK</b>	<b>21 SGIVIN</b>	<b>22 G</b> 🦃🦃🦃	<b>23 BRE</b>	<b>24 AK</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28 Writers' Lab</b> 2:45 - 3:45	<b>29</b>	<b>30 Rehearsal</b> 3:15-4:30 pm		

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**Writers' Lab**

CREATIVITY - TEACHER & PEER REVIEWS -  
INSPIRATION - FUN - COMMUNITY

WITH MS. BROCK

**QUARTER 2 DATES**

10/24	10/31	11/7	11/14
11/28	12/5	12/12	

**MOST TUESDAYS AFTER SCHOOL**  
8TH GRADER STUDENTS WELCOME WITH A  
TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

**ROOM 205**  
**2:45 - 3:45**

**\$100 PER QUARTER | LBROCK@MORNINGSTAR-JAX.ORG**



*Join Us in Our Mission*

Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach

★ **December 16, 2023** ★

**National Wreaths Across America Day**

Help Diocese of St. Augustine Youth Office honor local heroes!

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a veteran's grave this December at Jacksonville Memory Gardens.

Scan the QR code to make a donation online or visit [www.wreathscrossamerica.org/FL1145P](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/FL1145P)

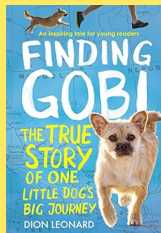
**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**

**#ServeAndSucceed**

# CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS



## Brock's Book Club



Purchase book here: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08K1145P)

Book Club for November and December will be combined since we have a limited number of school days. Books have arrived and will be handed out to the students who signed up with Ms. Brock. Any interested students may purchase their own book copy by going to [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08K1145P). We will meet for Book Club December

## Christian Service Opportunities



### OPERATION CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

Information for our annual drive will come home this week. Students interested in helping organize donations and pack shoeboxes for needy children are encouraged to sign up when Mrs. Carter opens registration. For ideas on what to donate, [CLICK HERE](#).

(Please note, donations to the Christmas Shoeboxes are not redeemable for family volunteer hours for the 2023-2024 school year. These donations are, however, an excellent opportunity to serve others as a family and are strongly encouraged.)

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## Feeding Northeast Florida Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> | 2:00 PM

[The Florida Theatre](#) presents the film *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993) to benefit **Feeding Northeast Florida**.

Admission is **FREE** for every adult and child with a gift of canned or nonperishable food.

*The Nightmare Before Christmas* begins at 2 p.m.  
Runtime is 1 hour and 16 min.



## Honoring Our Veterans

MSHS wrote collaborative poems to commemorate and honor America's Veterans. These poems were shared with visiting members of the Armed Forces last Wednesday, along with MSS families at our annual Veteran's Day parade.

### Poem #1:

Without your heroic sacrifice  
    We wouldn't be here today.  
You never backed down.  
    You flew and soared like Superman in battle.  
You never gave up.  
    You fought in the night for America like Batman  
    protected Gotham.

You fought for your country.  
Thank you for jumping out of helicopters  
    So we could be free.  
We salute you for your sacrifices and your  
    Families for letting you go.  
You dove into the sea of stress and the fires of anxiety,  
    But came out with honor and confidence.

### Poem #2:

O, Veterans --  
For the love you put into our country,  
    We are so grateful.  
The Freedom founded in the Stars and Stripes  
    Was continued through your service.

We are so thankful for your loyalty  
    And sacrifice.  
    Red, for the bloodshed.  
    Blue, for the losses you suffered.  
    White, for the courage that you gave us.  
Stars, for those who shine above, bring the light.  
    We respect and honor the passion  
    You hold for Our America.  
None of these words could ever excuse  
    The permanent wounds that linger.  
    Just know we will never forget  
    The wounds that set us free.

**Poem #3:**

You answered the call to serve,  
Our fallen countrymen sacrificed  
    It all for us.  
America hangs yellow ribbons, while in their place  
    Hang yellow chords on empty boots.

From the sea to the clouds,  
    To the earth below,  
Black Birds, Dragon Ladies, Black Hawks,  
    And Raptors,  
Protect our skies.  
By tank or by foot, you were the front line.  
Boats above, subs below - you protected our waters  
    Around the globe.

For your service, our gratitude knows  
    No bounds.

### High School Choice Break a Leg with Ms. Whiteside

Under the direction of Ms. Whiteside, students are workshoping and flexing their dramatic muscles.  
Their current project is still under wraps, but it looks like they've got some bright ideas!



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## 🎵 Walk Like an Egyptian 🎵 with Coach Whitson

Students worked to build their Egyptian cities in Coach Whitson's history class.



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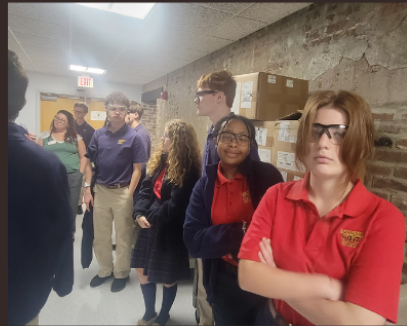
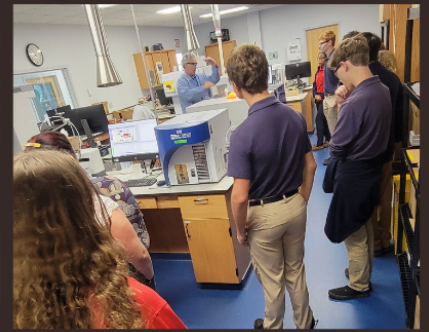


**STREAM with Mrs. Koci**

**JEA Water Lab tour with The ARC Jacksonville  
(Class of 2025)**



**Flying Turkeys STREAM  
(Class of 2026)**



**Junior students visited the JEA Water Lab with The Arc Jacksonville.**

**S.T.R.E.A.M. Monday brought an investigation with it an investigation to be thankful for.**

**UNF Concerts**

MSHS students were treated to a live, four-piece clarinet concert by music majors from UNF.

Visiting musicians played for students and used the breaks between songs to engage students in conversation ranging from how to pick the instrument that's "right" for you to how musicians forge their way professionally in the gaming world. Thank you, UNF!






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## Teacher WHOA Lists

The MSHS Department is constantly looking for new, exciting, and engaging ways to make each and every school day fun and exciting for students.

We know that you share your **greatest treasure - *your children*** - with us daily, and we are eternally grateful. Thank you!

If you are in a position to help us make our wild and crazy ideas come to life, here are some ways projects you can directly support that will immediately impact the MSHS students and make learning go from “why?” to “WHOA!” (To simplify, links are listed next to the items.)

Teacher/Class	Material	Link
<p>Mrs. Carter</p> <p>High School Choice (Sewing)</p>	<p>Sewing Machines are desperately needed to support this class offering. Students are currently working on two sewing machines brought in from teacher homes.</p> <p>Mrs. Carter is asking for a class set of scientific calculators for her classroom. <i>(Please note this does <u>not</u> mean one family must donate all 12. A donation of a single calculator can and will make a huge difference; 12 is simply the goal.)</i></p>	 <p><a href="#">Sewing Machine Link</a> - 3 Machines are needed.</p>  <p><a href="#">Scientific Calculators</a> - 12 Needed</p>
<p>Mrs. Koci</p> <p>S.T.R.E.A.M. (science, technology, religion, engineering, art) &amp; labs</p>	<p>All HS classes participate in S.T.R.E.A.M. Mondays, which include a variety of project-based learning opportunities and adventures. Labs also require lots of disposable materials, from tongue depressors to cotton balls, foil to rubber bands, and much more.</p>	 <p><a href="#">High School Science Amazing Wish List</a></p>



## Hi, my name is ...

Meet Leonard Brock, the newest student at MSHS.



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