

# The Bulletin

May 2023

A Parrish Community High School Student Publication

## Going big before going home

The PCHS Class of 2023 graduated on May 19 at LECOM Park.



Olga Peña/BULLETIN PHOTOS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PCHS PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS PHOTOS



These 2022-23 seniors make up the first 4-year PCHS Graduating Class, with a slew of firsts and major accomplishments in academia, sports, the arts, service organizations, and much more. From state championships and premieres to top honors and trophies galore in all areas of high school competitions, this class of Bulls is in a league of their own.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Graduates look back at high school wins, goals ahead

By Emma Harlow

The Bulletin Reporter

High school is about making new friends and long-lasting memories that will be talked about over the years. So, it can be a mournful experience for students when they make it to their last year; they try their hardest to soak up the last of their high school experience before it ends. With the school year coming to an end, most of the Parrish Community High School seniors graduates are excited to take their place in the world.

Erin Osborne, a thespian, has been at PCHS all four years and has been part of the beginning of many traditions.

Osborne said her workload this year has been light and that it feels like a break before she heads off to college.

Due to her light workload, Osborne has had time for other activities. For example, she holds a strong place in the PCHS Bulls Theatre Company, earning her the inaugural Art & Heart Legacy Award, and over her four years, she has played several roles.

Osborne says her favorite role was Lady Macbeth. "It was my first ever lead role and it was an amazing experience to explore my skills as an actress," Osborne said. "I'm proud of that performance."

Growing as an actress isn't the only thing Osborne has gained from the Drama Club, Thespian Troupe and Theatre classes. She has made several strong bonds with her fellow thespians, many of whom will not be graduating with her.

"Something I am going to miss most about this school is my friends who are all mostly underclassmen, and I am sad to leave them behind," Osborne said.

Like most seniors who will miss their underclassmen friends, Osborne plans to continue to keep up high school friendships.

High school prepares students for life and for Osborne, "High school has taught me that things that once seemed like major issues aren't really as significant as I thought and that I just have to push through."

Another graduating se-

nior is Isa Vega who is a varsity softball player for the Bull's softball team.

Like Osborne, Vega has been at PCHS for all four years of high school and when asked how her last year was going thus far Vega responded, "My last year has been a blast so far and I have even met some new people." Vega holds her friends close to her heart and she is going to miss them dearly once she graduates.

She hopes to continue to make new bonds at UCF, which is the college she is going to attend to further her softball career. Her softball career at PCHS is what Vega has loved most while attending the school. The team and coaches have all made her feel welcome and cherished as if she belonged to something great while in high school.

Becoming state champions with the team has been Vega's biggest accomplishment alongside her academic accomplishments.

"The most valuable lesson that the softball team and high school have taught me is to acquire things I want in life I must work hard to get them," Vega said.

Vega will continue to apply this lesson throughout the rest of her life, and she is excited to see what she can achieve once she graduates.

Osborne and Vega have both left valuable marks on PCHS and gained wisdom in return that will help them make their marks on the world.



Olga Peña/BULLETIN PHOTO



**The Bulletin**



News Editor - Grace Crestani  
Sports & Bullpen Editor - Kaylani Pusateri  
Bullpen/Features - Hannah Mayhew  
Features Editor - Kaitlyn Hoyer  
Bullpen Admin - Madyson Greeman  
General Manager/Journalism Teacher:  
Ms. Olga Peña

Follow us!  [pchs\\_bullpen](https://www.instagram.com/pchs_bullpen)



In this Issue:

Senior Features ..... Pg.3  
FFA ..... Pg.4  
Cafeteria ..... Pgs.5  
National Honor..... Pg.6  
Music Awards ..... Pg. 7  
State Champs..... Pg.8

# Seniors ready for collegiate futures

By Aliana Ontaneda

The Bulletin Reporter

The year went fast, as seniors prepared to leave behind high school memories and continue on with their life journeys.

Senior Jenna Castonguay plans to go to college for nursing, following in her mother's footsteps. Castonguay plans to work her way "from the bottom up" starting out as a registered nurse and making her way up to being a trauma surgeon, specialising in either neurosurgery or cardiothoracics.

When asked if having a plan for after highschool makes her less stressed, she answered, "I still feel equally stressed since I need to figure out what do with colleges and where I want to commit."

Senior Taylor Wells has been accepted to and plans to attend the University of Central Florida, where she can work towards her Bachelors degree. Knowing that she wanted to be involved in the forensic field from a young age, Wells is committed to being a crime scene analyst. Though Wells has committed to a college and knows what her plan is, there are things she is still unsure about. "Having a plan doesn't make me feel less stressed because things don't always go as planned," Wells said.

Another senior, Sara Dornelas, has committed to University of Tampa and plans to major in Actuarial Science to become an Enterprise Risk Management actuary. When asked if she's less stressed because of her plan, Dornelas responded confidently. "I am definitely less stressed out for my future because I have read a couple of books and different types of career paths for actuaries to figure out mine." Dornelas said.



By Kaitlyn Hoyer

The Bulletin Reporter

As the school year comes to a close, seniors at PCHS are anxious to see their college acceptance letters. They have worked hard applying for college, keeping up their grades, filling out financial aid, and applying to scholarships.

One senior, Katelyn Powe, applied to five schools, and has been accepted to four so far. She was accepted to the University of Tampa, the University of Central Florida, Florida Gulf Coast University, and the University of South Florida. Her top school is USF. "I like the campus; it has a good feel to it," Powe said. She loved the school's welcoming atmosphere and the small community feel despite its large campus in Tampa. Powe explained that she wants to major in business marketing, but is considering business management or data analytics.

She said that she was most excited about her new freedom and "learning how to provide for myself, and do things on my own." Powe is most proud of her accomplishments in high school. "I'm proud that I've been able to keep up my grades and be involved in clubs to stay well rounded," she said.

Senior Brianna Ngo applied to two schools of her own, and was accepted to both. She applied to Florida Atlantic University and the University of South Florida. Her top choice is USF; she loved the Sarasota campus. Ngo explained that she loved the "homey" feel of the campus as well as the recreation and location of the school. She added that she

wanted to major in language speech pathology, but is considering occupational therapy as a second option.

Ngo said that she is excited to learn and experience new things. "I'm excited to meet new people and see what college life is like," she said. Ngo said that she was most worried about time management, but "the most special thing about college is... becoming more responsible, more independent through school."

Even though her high school experience will soon come to an end, Ngo is proud of all her hard work.

"I'm most proud that all my hard work paid off... all those nights studying for the ACT and the SAT, and taking all the Dual Enrollment/AP in high school, and all the fun activities I got to do all helped me get into the college I wanted to," she said.

Aiden Wix is another senior with a bright future. Wix applied to three schools and has been accepted to two so far. He was accepted to the Universal Technical Institute and Manatee Technical College.

Wix explained that UTI was his first choice of schools, "UTI is where I want to go because it's the real deal when it comes to auto maintenance." He plans on going into auto maintenance, but said that he might pursue welding or something in the medical field as alternate options.

Wix said that he is most worried about balancing school, work, and family when he goes off to college, but is excited for a new start. "New experience on your own; that's what I'm looking forward to," Wix said.



# FFA shows out at Fair

By Grace Crestani

The Bulletin Reporter

**T**he Manatee County Fair is a staple event for FFA chapters all throughout the county. This year, Parrish Community High School sent over 80 students to participate in livestock and horticulture showings. Students had the opportunity to enter beef and dairy heifers, steers, goats, swine, rabbits, chickens, and plants all while representing PCHS.

Showings began on January 10, with beef heifers and plants. Seven PCHS students brought home awards for their heifers, with Jace Gutshall winning supreme heifer and grand showmanship. On the same day, 18 different students earned an award or ribbon for showing off their plants. January 11 through 13 was dedicated to steers. Seven different students won either a ribbon or banner for their animal, one of them being Lauren Stortz and the

chapter steer Sparky.

This was not Lauren's first time showing a chapter animal as she showed the chapter swine "Pickle" in last year's fair. Sparky ultimately placed last in his class but still did a great job ending the fair with a blue ribbon and selling for \$5 a pound. "It was really fun and I had a great time with my friends and enjoyed watching everyone else from Parrish show," Stortz said.

The livestock showings continued with dairy cows and goats on January 17. This was Parrish's first year exhibiting goats, and it went extremely well. Madison Hensley, Bella Purdy, Kristine Krstevski, and Katherine Sheffer each placed in their classes and won decorations for their goats. The swine showings followed and spanned from January 18 to 20. Nineteen different students participated in the showings, one of which was Madison Dell and the chapter pig Cinnamon. Dell was chosen to show the chapter hog after applying and being



selected, based on her experience and efforts.

"It was fun but it also required a lot of patience," Dell said. "It was a lot of work but I didn't mind doing it. It was all worth it because I got to be with my friends and work with animals." Dell and Cinnamon placed 2nd in class and 3rd in division 5, bringing home a banner and blue ribbon.

In addition to these showings, numerous students showed off their rabbits and poultry, winning a combined 25 awards.

While this year's County fair has come to an end, the students in FFA are already planning and preparing for next year's livestock shows.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



## DePatie: Stellar English Teacher

By Trevor Carrell  
The Bulletin Reporter

There are many definitions of a “good” teacher, and Alison Depatie fulfills them all, providing knowledge and care, being involved with students an impact.

Depatie teaches English and is the sponsor of the debate club.

Depatie has taught at Parrish Community for four years and has been in the district for a total of nine. Before she started teaching, she was a speech therapist and provided care for a child with disabilities. She later said that she fell in love with him and his family.

Currently, Depatie is teaching two subjects, World Literature Honors and AP World History Modern. She expressed the difficulties of teaching two subjects are the prepping and the planning. “...You can’t mix anything from one subject to the other,” Depatie said.

However, Depatie said that the goods outweighed the bad. She loves history, so she loves to teach it. She also loves poetry and reading.

Zane Day, a junior at PCHS, had Depatie as a teacher for his sophomore year. He was in her world history class and said that she impacted his school year by supporting and making it easier through tough times that he went through, and obviously being an amazing teacher in general.

Depatie is also the debate club sponsor. In her own words, she defined debate as a class where students can work on many skills. They’re working on how to form an argument, also with speech they’re learning how to stand up in front of someone, deliver a speech, and how to make eye contact.

Anything that they’re doing in debate club helps them in their other academics, she added.

Debate club president, Abigail Ward, said they practice public speaking and argumentative skills that will be very beneficial to their future. She also said debate club has improved her leadership skills and made her more comfortable talking in front of crowds.



## Service with a Smile

By Hannah Mayhew  
The Bulletin Reporter

They may not be seen around the school in the hallways, but they are the undercover heroes who fill our stomachs as breakfast and lunch approaches. These people are known as the kitchen crew.

The incredible meal staff serve the students and try to add positivity to their stressful school day. Walking into the cafeteria, students are excited to find out what is awaiting them in the line.

Chicken, pasta, waffles, pizza, cheese bread, fruit, muffins, mac and cheese, hashbrowns, salads; the anticipation builds as the line moves closer and closer to the cafeteria doors.

All students are thinking about is grabbing a plate and satisfying their hunger during a long day of classes. However, the hours of hard work that went into each serving often go unacknowledged.

Cafeteria Manager Rendy Frances has been serving meals in the school district for 12 years and has been at PCHS for one. “My favorite part of my job is being able to provide meals for the students... we strive to make each day better than the last.” Frances said. The kitchen staff not only

provides wonderful meals, but they also bring a light of positivity to the students.

Sophomore Brianne Bonzheim explains, “Every time I see the lunch ladies, they always have a smile on their face and say something to lighten up my day, no matter what.” Staff member, Selena Pearce, moved to the United States from the UK a year and half ago.

Pearce worked for 14 years serving meals in the UK, and this is her first year working at PCHS. “I really love the relationships I have formed here with both the team and the kids... I have gotten to know so many students, lots of them by name.” Our meal staff is truly incredible and their hard work each and every day is what allows the students to enjoy a delicious meal.





# Arts

## PCHS theatre wins state premiere of Broadway show, earns awards, fills aud

Parrish Community High School's production of Disney's Frozen made history in more ways than one.

Bulls Theatre Company was selected as the only high school in the state of Florida to premiere the full length Broadway musical, Disney's Frozen, as part of a nationwide competition where schools applied to pilot the show, one per state. The United States of Frozen was run by Disney Theatricals, Music Theatre International, and the Educational Theatre Association.

BTC and the PCHS Performing Arts Department produced the show April

13-16, with each performance selling out, following a media blitz that included the cast being featured in television appearances on ABC7, Fox13, and BayNews9.

Following such a successful run, the production received six awards and 10 nominations from the Broadway Star of the Future Program.

The wins also included PCHS Junior, Mars Woelfel, who played Elsa, being named a Top 10 performer and national Jimmy Award contender. An awards ceremony took place on May 21 at The Straz Center in Tampa, where Woelfel performed and won two scholarships.



**BROADWAY STAR OF THE FUTURE**

Parrish Community High School's Bulls Theatre Company

**Broadway Star of the Future Winners:**

- Mars Woelfel - Top Ten Outstanding Performer in a Leading Role & Jimmy Award Contender
- Jaxon Gaddis - Outstanding Performer in a Leading Role
- Thaddeus Aiken - Outstanding Performer in a Supporting Role
- Kendall Vondran - Outstanding Dancer
- Outstanding Orchestra - Kendall Carrier (Conductor)
- Outstanding Costume Design - Olga Peña

**Nominees:**

- Outstanding Musical
- Emily Mentzer - Outstanding Performer in a Leading Role
- Outstanding Lobby Display
- Outstanding Direction of a Musical - Olga Peña

in Disney's Frozen The Broadway Musical

National High School Musical Theatre Awards THE JIMMY AWARDS



PCHS PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS PHOTOS

## Drama & Laughs Fill Winter One Acts

By Mars Woelfel  
*The Bulletin Reporter*

Familiar-looking Princesses, a soldier doomed to a tragic end and a game of thrones all combined to take the stage in two glorious one-act plays,

for PCHS's Annual Winter One Acts on Jan. 19.

With many students involved, old and new faces took to the stage to perform two 15-minute plays: Booby Trap written by Ed Monk and Game of Tiaras written by Don Zolidis.

Jeffery Van Berkel, a senior and seasoned performer with the Bulls Theatre Company, performed as a principal lead in both shows. "So in Booby Trap I play the soldier trapped on the stump," VanBerkel said. "So there's no leaving the stage as you're kind

of trapped there on that."

Van Berkel explained that Booby Trap is a "somber piece" being that it is about "a soldier who unfortunately sits on a tree stump with a landmine, and he's kind of grappling with his death," he said, adding that the

*See One Acts, Page 7*



PCHS PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS PHOTOS





# Arts

## Music program boasts months of awards, wins

Choir, Band and Orchestra groups earn top scores and placement at MPA and Music at the Park Festival



On May 13, several PCHS music program groups competed in the Music in the Parks festival at Universal Studios. The results were as follows.

Soloist Awards: Hannah Bolton, Esteban Moret-Ramirez and Emily Mentzer, Top Jazz Band (Advanced Jazz), Top Concert Band (Wind Ensemble), Overall Top Band (Advanced Jazz Band), Top Women's Choir (Radiance), 2nd Place Women's Choir (Combined Girls), Top Mixed Choir (Men's + Radiance), Overall Top Choir (Radiance), and the Esprit de Corp Award, presented to the school that best exemplifies the spirit of the festival.

Earlier in the year, the Orchestra, Choir and Band programs also swept the annual District Music Performance Assessments (MPA), with each group earning SUPERIOR ratings -- the highest possible rating against a standard of excellence, evaluated by expert adjudicators.

Hundreds of PCHS students participated in these events, committing additional hours of independent practice when several rehearsals were missed in February, due to school emergency shut downs. The results were as follows.

Orchestra groups directed by Jessie Chiang: Prelude Orchestra - Overall Excellent Rating, Intermediate Orchestra - Overall Superior Rating, Advanced Orchestra - Overall Superior Rating

Jazz Bands directed by Kendall Carrier: Jazz Fundamentals - Overall Excellent Rating, Jazz Band - Overall Superior Rating, Advanced Jazz Band - Straight Superiors Rating

Choirs directed by Kerrie Carrier: Concert Choir - Overall Superior Rating, Combined Womens Choirs - Straight Superiors, Radiance (Honors Choir) - Overall Superior

Bands directed by Kendall Carrier: Concert Band - Overall Excellent Rating, Wind Ensemble - Straight Superiors Rating

There also were numerous Solo & Ensemble entries from PCHS that earned Superiors and qualified for state.

### One Acts *Continued*

show flashes back and forth between moments in his past and future, while the present danger unfolds.

For Game of Tiaras, VanBerkel plays the king. "He is kind of going through a midlife crisis," the thespian said. "And Ms. Peña let me do this high-pitched almost girly-esc voice for this 50 year old man...It's a lot of fun, that one."

In Van Berkel's words, the play centers on, "a mish mash of Game of Thrones, King Lear from Shakespeare, and Disney Princesses." It tells the story of a King dividing his kingdom between his two daughters but "since it's a Shakespeare tragedy by nature, with King Lear there's lots of death, but they kind of turn it into a comedy."

Haley Roberts, a junior and a frequent face on the PCHS stage, was ecstatic to be involved in the productions as Belle in Game of Tiaras. "It's my first lead role, actually, ever. And I was really excited about it. It's really fun, because she's kind of rude," Roberts said, "So it's fun I get to mock people. But I'm sweet other times. It's really interesting to play two different sides of her."



# Sports



The PCHS Softball team brought home the first sports state championship in the school's history, beating Deltona 5-0 in the Class 5A title game on May 25, on the eve of this publication.



Abby Eldredge/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

## Girls soccer coach, player reflect on great season

By Ailani Maximo-Beltran

The Bulletin Reporter

The girl's soccer team at Parrish Community High School had another great season ending with them being district champions.

The team, coached by Nicole Paternostro, had an incredible season, including a two-week winning streak and returning district champions.

There were a couple of challenges throughout their journey, but they overcame them and became stronger, leading them to achieve these results.

Varsity player Ana Martinez-Mon-

tanez responded that, in addition to putting in great effort, their pride in the school serves as one of their motivators, when asked how the team has managed to win so many games. "We put everything in."

Although they were able to win their games, one of their most significant challenges was facing higher-division teams. "It comes down to facing up against teams who are in stronger divisions and will help us be stronger," Paternostro said. The team didn't view the challenge as an obstacle but more of an opportunity, she said.

The team finished the season by win-

ning in the district final versus Braden River High School.

"My approach was to trust my players, and as long as they played to the best of their abilities and gave 100%, I knew we'd walk away with what was needed." Paternostro said.

As the defending champions, they intend to remain consistent, progress as individuals and as a team, and execute to the best of their abilities next season.



## A Great Year In Sports

