It is hard to believe that we are in the 2nd semester here at PAM and that all students have moved on to four new classes. Hopefully, all students earned a full 4 credits in the 1st semester and will finish this semester with another 4 credits. It is important to not only check report cards for grades, but also that credit has been awarded. Seniors and juniors, in particular, should be checking with the counselor to make sure they are on track for graduation. Freshmen and sophomores should continually monitor and be aware of their credit total and cumulative grade point average (GPA). If you have any questions regarding your child’s progress, please do not hesitate to contact our Student Services office. You can also visit our website for clarification on the varying graduation requirements for each grade level. It can get complicated.

I would like to remind all families that we are now in standardized testing season and they begin in February and March for those upperclassmen who need to retake and pass the 10th grade ELA (English/Language Arts) FSA or the Algebra 1 EOC, which are both required to receive a diploma. In April, all 9th and 10th grade students will take the writing portion of ELA FSA and then sit for the reading portion in May. Also in May are the End-of-Course (EOC) exams in Geometry, Biology and US History. Seniors who have not passed FSA will be signed up to take the ACT or SAT, which can be substituted as a passing score if applicable. You can find the entire testing schedule posted on our website.

PAM@LHS will be hosting a team from the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges for our 5-year accreditation review from March 10-12. During the visit the team will observe classes, review our data as well as school-wide policies and procedures. They also interview teachers, students, staff and other stakeholders. If you are interested in serving on the parent team to be interviewed, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 955-6839 or email me at mcelroywc@gm.sbac.edu.

Mrs. Allen and I would like to express our appreciation for all the support we
The Fire & EMS Academy alumni have begun making waves. 2014 graduate Chris Tatum is working full-time for Suwannee County Fire Rescue and part-time with High Springs Fire Department. He recently began school to earn his Paramedic license. This past year 2016 graduate Brandon Nobles finished his probationary period with Marion County Fire Rescue and received his permanent badge at a pinning ceremony. 2018 graduate Noah Boyle earned his EMT in December and just started Paramedic school at Santa Fe College. 2018 graduate Derek Schumpert has started EMT school at Santa Fe College. Derek also earned his Firefighter 1 state certification prior to graduating.

The Academy has four students in the class of 2019 who completed EMR and have or will be testing for the National Registry exam to earn National EMR Certification. Senior Elisia Crawford graduated early and has begun EMT school at Santa Fe College as part of the Dual Enrollment program. This means she is earning her EMT license at no cost to her!

Four years ago, a 3rd floor was added to the Fire Training Building. Two months ago Alachua County Fire Rescue received a grant to install exterior stairs, so that the building can be fully utilized. ACFR estimates the installation will be completed by the end of March 2019. ACFR has been an outstanding partner in so many ways and we are very appreciative.

With some remaining funds from our Perkins Grant, the Academy will receive new high tech adult and infant CPR manikins that will record the effectiveness of compressions and ventilations. The data from the manikins provides the students with immediate feedback. Additionally, we will also receive two thermal imagers that will enhance trainings in the areas of search and rescue and locating fires in poor visibility areas.

Our Academy is continuing to move in a positive direction. None of it would be possible without the guidance of our outstanding CTE support staff and our strong community partners.

Teacher Recognition:

Students of the Quarter (Oct. 16, 2018 – Jan. 11, 2019)

EAGLES MARK YOUR CALENDAR…

FAFSA:
If you need help filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) please contact Guidance Counselor Jami Lash. You could be missing out on free money for college!!

Spring Open House & Senior Night is Thursday, February 7th at 6:00 p.m.

PARENTS OF SENIORS:
Senior graduation status letters will be mailed out soon. Be on the lookout to see if your student is on track to graduate. Last year Loften had the second highest graduation rate in the count. Let's keep up the good work!

STUDENT ART EXHIBITION/YEARBOOKS:
The school wide student art exhibition will take place May 24th from 1:30-7:00 pm. Details for this event will be sent home with the Institute of Graphic Art and Design students. The 2018-19 Yearbook is now available for pre-sale $35. Please see Ms. Bennett or Mrs. Crenshaw for an order form. Cash only. Books will arrive in late May.

GRAD BASH 2019:
Friday, April 5th we will travel to Universal Orlando departing school at 3:00 p.m. and returning at approximately 5:00 a.m. Seniors will have private access to both Universal's Islands of Adventure & Universal Studios Florida through the event crossover path. NO bags larger than 8.5” x 5.5 (size of a half sheet of notebook paper) will be allowed. Please also note that high school name/logo shirts, jerseys of any kind, tank tops, undershirts, clothing with excessive holes or shredding, and basketball shorts are NOT ALLOWED!

PROM:
Prom 2019 will be held April 13th from 8:00-1100 pm at the Thelma Boltin Center, located at 516 NE 2nd Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601. The cost is $40.00. Tickets go on sale Friday, February 1st, with a deadline for payment on Friday, March 29th. See Ms. Jones in the front office to purchase tickets. Pictures are included in the cost and are provided by Califf Photography. Come ready to enjoy great music, lots of dancing, socializing, food and drinks! Guests are permitted with the clearance of our Dean of Students.

SENIORS IF YOU HAVE NOT ORDERED YOUR CAP & GOWN YOU NEED TO DO SO IMMEDIATELY!!! Go to www.rhodesgraduation.com. SENIOR MEETING, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, 2019 2:00 P.M. MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

EARLY DISMISSAL DATES: Wednesday, May 29th – Friday, May 31st

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL Friday, May 31st
How About Some History?...
Rachel Osborne, Teacher

African American History was offered as an elective course for the first time at P.A.M. in the fall term, making us one of only two high schools in the district that offer this course. Students learned about the history of African Americans beginning with the rich African cultures of their ancestors’ origins, in Africa, through slavery, Reconstruction, the Civil Rights Movement, all the way to current challenges and successes of the African American community.

The course was taught with an emphasis on local leaders and history, with students creating a "pop-up museum" with spotlights on Gainesville’s Cotton Club, A. Quinn Jones, The Newberry Six, and prominent politicians and leaders in the community. They also took a field trip to the Matheson History Museum to research the history of segregated sports in our county. Guest Speakers included the director of the Haile Plantation Historic Homestead, who spoke about the slave experience and the genealogy of Alachua County that can be traced back to slavery. Rev. Karl Smith of the Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church described the historical events that established the church as well as its long, rich history of political activism. Michael Gengler, author of "We Can Do It," who, with the help of staff and district audience members, enlightened the students on the challenges of desegregation in Alachua County and the lasting impacts integration had on our current city.

Students left the class with not only a more complete picture of the robust and vibrant history of African Americans, but also with a shared sentiment that the local history and the work of less prominent African American figures should be included in both Black History Month education topics and their daily curriculum.

Spain in June of 2020
Sign-up is currently open for an educational, international trip to Spain in June of 2020, through EF Tours. Last June, 10 of our students traveled to England and France with EF Tours under the guidance of Ms. Osborne, P.A.M.'s history teacher. Students enjoyed learning about other cultures, seeing the historical sites they learned about in class and in books, and gaining the self-confidence of navigating new situations far from home. Any parent interested in giving their child this experience on the upcoming 10-day trip to Spain should contact Ms. Osborne at osbornere@gm.sbac.edu. Please note, this is not a school-sponsored trip.
What's been going on in the Automotive Technology Academy? We currently have 33 students enrolled in the academy this year. The recruiting process has changed for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year with all applications going directly to the district office first. The district will select 25% of all interested incoming 9th grade applicants for career & technical academies, and the remaining 75% will be director's choice.

Automotive SKILLS USA had a fundraiser of washing cars to assist our underprivileged students here at Loften. Our club purchased food and other essentials to accommodate families during the winter holidays. Several of our auto students also participated in the Annual Tacachale Christmas Parade.

Seven students in the academy will take the Florida Automotive Dealer Association certification test. This Spring nine students will travel to the regional Skills USA competition on February 22, 2019.

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receive from the families of our students. We know that success at school begins at home with the expectations parents set for their children. Research indicates parents have the greatest impact on their children's learning by making sure they get to school, monitor their homework, reward their efforts, and talk up the idea of going to college. Thank you for sending us your wonderful children.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS
OF THE YEAR –2019

Youth – Jordan Marks
Adult – Marcia Brown
Senior – Doris Simpson
The graduation ceremony for the Professional Academies Magnet at Loften High School will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 1st, at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts on the University of Florida campus. Doors will open at 9:15 am for open seating.

All graduates are required to be at the Phillips Center at 8:00 am on June 1st for an on stage rehearsal and group pictures. A photographer will be available at the graduation ceremony to take individual and group photographs.

The final day of school for seniors is Friday, May 24th. May 28th is the last day that seniors can receive credit for coursework. All FLVS, Alachua E-School, and CROP courses must be completed no later than 5:00 pm on the 28th in order to be eligible for graduation.

Rehearsal/Cap and Gown

On Thursday, May 23rd, at 10:00 am (2nd period) there will be a mandatory rehearsal in the MPR on campus. Immediately after the rehearsal, students who have been cleared on the lost/overdue textbook, library book, and monies owed lists will receive their cap and gown for graduation.

Important Dates

May 22 – 2nd and 4th final exams
May 23 – 1st and 3rd final exams, C/G distribution
May 28 – all coursework must be completed by 5:00 pm

If you have any questions regarding graduation activities, call Ms. Jones at 955-6839 X241.

All questions regarding academic requirements should be directed to Ms. Jami Lash, Guidance Counselor or Mrs. C. Allen, Assistant Principal at 955-6839.