

# The Ram News

Eastside High School  
1201 SE 43rd Street  
Gainesville, FL 32641

Winter 2014



## EHS Teacher of the Year

Tammy Meyers has been living her dream as a teacher for 22 years. Having graduated Proteach at The University of Florida while 9 months pregnant, her career waited a year for baby Jeremiah. Green Cove Springs and Clay High School were her first stomping grounds. She taught 8th grade drama and English for three years before accepting a position at Fort Clarke Middle School in Alachua County. She founded a Junior Thespian Society and won many state awards while her daughter Calypso worked hard as an actress and dancer. In 2001, Ms. Meyers transferred to Eastside High School at the request of her recent middle school graduates! Her program has grown in numbers and awards each year as she strives to provide a supporting and nurturing environment where ALL of the EHS kids appreciate each others' gifts.

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## Administration

### Principal

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## Volunteer of the Year



The faculty and staff at Eastside High School owe a debt of gratitude to Sue Berg. As the School, District and State Volunteer of the Year, Ms. Berg has been tireless in her efforts to support all aspects of our school community. Staff members and students, alike, have been the recipients of Ms. Berg's kindness, generosity, and never-ending supply of energy. Ms. Berg's many activities include organizing breakfasts and luncheons during teacher appreciation week for the past several years. She also helped our 9th grade major program team reward a group of students by arranging for the students and their chaperones to be picked up at school in a limousine and taken to Olive Garden restaurant for lunch. Ms. Berg was instrumental in getting our fledgling lacrosse program started at Eastside for both boys and girls. She raised funds, helped students get the equipment they needed, sold tickets at games, and started the booster club. Due to her initiative, we are developing a strong program and have already had one student sign a college scholarship for lacrosse. She organized and established the Sarah Landauer Invitational Tournament which raised funds to support an endowment at UF named for an Eastside student-athlete who died at the age of 17. This past year the tournament raised about \$4000. This invitational has become a part of our lacrosse program, and it is important in helping us honor a girl who had so much promise and meant so much to the Eastside community. Sue Berg is an integral part of our school and community, and we truly appreciate all she has done for us.

## EHS Employee of the Year



Congratulations Lori Stevens for Eastside's Employee of the Year. Mrs. Stevens has been with Eastside for the last 4 years as our Guidance Secretary. She keeps the school organized and is the contact for parents wanting to meet with teachers. She is dedicated to her job and is always friendly and knowledgeable.

## Drama

### **EASTSIDE SWEEPS DISTRICTS FOR INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN SOCIETY.**

Mrs. Tammy Meyers, Eastside High School Drama Teacher and Teacher of the Year, was at a loss for words as she went through her Critique Sheets and counted 18 Superiors, as many Excellents and Seven Critic's Choices. Of particular note was Chris Shaw winning all three of the categories he entered! The winners included:

- Pantomime (Smith-Williams and Co)
- Duet Acting (Ben Brandt and Prescott Cowles)
- Small Group Music (Aslanian and Co)
- Duet Musical (Chris Shaw and Terrence Williams)
- Solo Musical (Chris Shaw)
- Monologue (Bridget Whiting)
- Sound Design (Chris Shaw)

For more information on the Eastside Thespians visit their website: [ehsdramagvfl.org](http://ehsdramagvfl.org).

## Chamber Singers News

### **All State Chorus Participants**

- Chris Shaw – Sight Reading Chorus
- Patrick Rao – Men's Chorus

The Chamber Singers had a very busy fall and winter, and spring looks to be just as busy. They performed for the "Night in the Big Apple" benefit concert on January 24 and will participate in District Music Performance Assessment in late February. Auditions for the 2014-2015 Chamber Singers will be held in March. Please see Ms. Rollo to schedule an audition.

## Gospel Choir

The Eastside High School Gospel Choir has performed several times around the community, the most recent being the MLK celebration on Jan. 20, 2014. They received a standing ovation from the crowd, and as Mr. Rodney Long was giving his closing remarks, he noted that he will have the Gospel Choir perform in his program from then forward.



## Band News

### **Congratulations to all of Eastside High School's All-District Honor Band Members!**

Bethany Webster, Sophia Eikenberry, Olivia Jaeger, Oheneba Asare, Cade Gouin, Cindy Ai, Sangki Jun, Elena Newman, George Zurma, Angela Gensoli, Jordi Vasquez, Kate Warren, Jack Burns, Noah Hagen, Hyun-Jun Lee, Noah Keiffer-Ashby

# Athletics

## Boys Soccer

Behind the leadership of Alex Fethiere, Cody Peterson, and Kim Mueller the Eastside Boys soccer team won their fourth consecutive district championship. The team lost twice to Keystone in the regular season but when it mattered most the EHS boys brought it home. Tyler Miller-Jones, the team's leading scorer, has been the most dangerous weapon but has a tremendous supporting cast, in Joseph Malu, David Lopez, and the aforementioned Fethiere. Defensively the team has played rock solid behind Cody Peterson, Kim Mueller, Rapheal Bichier, Chris Fregly and Jack Hughes just to name a few. Fresh off a regional win against Trinity Catholic 9-1, EHS faces a familiar foe in Keystone in order to advance to the final 8 for the third straight year.



## Cross Country

Congratulations to the girls and boys cross country teams! They both won their third consecutive District Championships this fall. The girls were led by Hannah Hutchison and Lucinda Peng, followed by Kenni Berg, Christine Pu, Ria Someshwar, Alex Hanlon, and Mia Varner. All seven girls were on the All-District team. The girls went on to finish third in the region, and had their second top ten finish at the State Championships, finishing ninth.

The boys were led by Rico Mirti, who was district champion. He was followed by Hunter Hintenlang, Peter Van Susteren, Will Burger, Robert Booker, Micah Rae, and Sebastian Seubert. All seven boys were on the All-District team. They went on to finish seventh in the region, just missing a third consecutive trip to the State championship. It was a fantastic season for both teams. We applaud the leadership of our senior class, as they will graduate as the most successful girls and boys cross country teams in Eastside history.



## State Champions



Wesley  
Olmstead



Shadazha  
Bullock

Two Eastside student-athletes recently joined the ranks of state champions. Sophomore Shadazha Bullock won the shot put championship with a throw of 42 feet, 10 inches. Her goal for this year is to surpass 50 feet. Shadazha was also named to the all-area track and field team. In addition to track, Shadazha plays on the Eastside girls basketball team. She hopes to attend the University of Miami and study nursing.

Senior Wesley Olmsted is a three-time swimming state champion. He added top finishes at this year's state meet in the 100 free and 100 back to the 50 free championship he earned last year. Wesley has twice been named the Gainesville Sun's all-area swimmer of the year. He is a seven-time All American. Wesley has signed a scholarship to swim for Stanford University.

## Swim Team



## Academics

### National Merit



Nineteen Eastside students have been named semifinalists in the prestigious National Merit Scholar Program. Semifinalist status has long been recognized as a marker of academic excellence. To achieve semifinalist status, the students had to earn among the nation's highest scores on the Preliminary SAT/National Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). This year more than 1.5 million students took the college entrance exam, with only 16,000 earned semifinalist status, which places them among the top one percent of high school seniors in the nation who took the exam. National Merit semifinalists are highly recruited by the nation's colleges and universities.

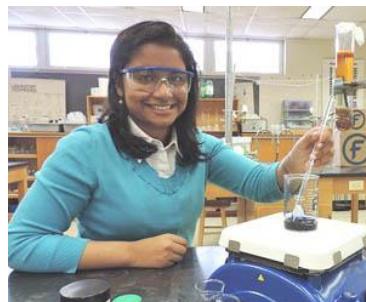
This year's semifinalists are: Apara Agarwal, Grant Berg, Can Cao, Prescott Cowles, Victoria Deal, Evon Debose-Scarlett, Abigail Eisenstadt, Alicia Fan, Samuel Hagen, Alexis Hanlon, Xingchen Li, Emma Nolan, Wesley Olmsted, Hope Pan, Christine Pu, Alexandra Sourakov, Alvara Valle, Yuxin Zhang and Wenli Zhao.

Eastside's Andre Olutosin Adesogan, Evon Debose-Scarlett and Breanna Dede have also been named semifinalists in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. The program recognizes the top-scoring African-American high school students on the PSAT/NMSQT exam. Only 1600 students nationwide reach semifinalist status in that program.

### Eastside Student Recognized for Outstanding Achievement in STEM

Meenakshi Bose, an 11th-grader in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, has been named Alachua County's 2014 Sunshine State Scholar. She will be recognized in February by the Florida Department of Education along with other Scholars from around the state. The Sunshine State Scholar Program, established in 1997, honors the state's top eleventh-graders in STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and math). Bose was selected for the program based on a variety of factors, including high grades, a rigorous course schedule and many extracurricular activities, particularly those related to STEM subjects.

When she's not in school, where she takes advanced courses in subjects ranging from computer science to calculus to chemistry, Bose is often conducting independent research. She spends many weekends and holidays working at a research center in Georgia, where she's currently studying Alzheimer's Disease and other neurological-disorders. She's even co-authored published journal articles and made presentations at scientific meetings on the subject. Bose has also been an enthusiastic participant in science competitions for many years, and has won many regional, state and international awards for her work.



## Academics



### Eastside Student Earns Perfect Score on ACT

For the second straight year, an Eastside High School student has earned a perfect score on the ACT, earning him a spot among the nation's academic elite.

Alvaro Valle, a senior in Eastside's rigorous International Baccalaureate (IB) program, earned the highest possible composite score of 36 on the college entrance exam.

"Your achievement on the ACT is significant and rare," said Jon Whitmore, CEO of ACT in a congratulatory letter to Valle. "On average, less than one-tenth of one percent of all test takers earn the top score."

Valle has spent three years in the IB program; he spent his junior year in Spain, where he studied on his own to keep up with his coursework. He maintains a 4.8 weighted GPA in his IB classes at Eastside and takes a multivariable calculus course at the University of Florida. He's also active in extracurricular activities like the French Honor Society and the Congres competition group and serves as captain of the school's Oceanography team.

"It's a pretty heavy workload," he acknowledges. "But I'm pretty efficient with my time, and that's key." Valle has applied for early admission to Harvard.

"I think I want to do graduate work in material science, become a professor and do research in solar panels," said Valle.

"I think solar panels can be an effective solution to a lot of our energy problems."

"I think whatever Alvaro puts his mind to, he will accomplish," said Eastside principal Jeff Charbonnet. "He's got both the talent and the motivation to succeed in anything he does"

### Graduation Rate Up, Eastside Leads the District

Alachua County high schools graduated a higher percentage of students in 2013. Eastside High School again had the highest graduation rate in the district, up from 85% to 87%. Eastside also had the highest rates for African American students at 78%, and 80% for free and reduced price lunch students. Principal Jeff Charbonnet attributed the increase to the efforts of teachers and staff. "Eastside teachers have worked tirelessly to create a college-going school culture built on high expectations for all students." While pleased by the positive trend in the graduation rate, Charbonnet was not satisfied. "Just 8 years ago the rate for African Americans was 40%. We are proud to have nearly doubled the rate. But an overall rate of 87% is still too low. Our goal is to top 90% next year, and to keep climbing. In today's society and economy, a high school diploma is just the beginning if students are to prepare for a good career. We want every Ram to be a graduate."

### Eastside High again makes Hospitality 100 list

For the second year in a row, Eastside High School was named to the Hospitality 100 — an annual list of the best secondary school culinary programs in the United States. The list is compiled by a team from the National Center for Hospitality Studies at Sullivan University in Louisville, Ky. Eastside is one of only three high schools in Florida to make the list.

Billie DeNunzio, director of Eastside's Institute of Culinary Arts, said she was thrilled when she found out. For example, because of Eastside's accreditation with the American Culinary Federation — both culinary arts instructors and the facility are certified — Johnson & Wales University in Miami allows Eastside students to enter its program with 20 credit hours in the bag.

Making the list also means top chefs and culinary arts colleges will be more inclined to visit Eastside.

Chefs from Kendall College, Johnson & Wales and the Culinary Institute of America already are planning to visit Eastside's culinary institute this year, DeNunzio said.

Currently, there are 80 students in the culinary institute at Eastside High. Among other things, students learn how to carve food and ice, and they learn molecular gastronomy.

Making the top 100 list, DeNunzio said, "gives kids something to be proud of."

## Academics



Charles Jones, a freshman at Eastside High School, was one of five Alachua County residents honored by the Rosa Parks committee with the Quiet Courage Award. Charles was presented with the 2013 Legacy Bearer Award for an essay he wrote about what Parks' legacy means to him. Charles read his essay in front of the crowd of about 100 people attending the ceremony.

The awards are given annually to recognize community members who support civil rights and social justice and who exhibit some of the personal qualities of the civil rights activist who famously refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus in 1955.

Dr. Karen Cole-Smith, a member of the awards committee, said that Charles's essay was selected because it clearly outlined what he would do to help carry out Rosa Parks' legacy, as evidenced by his current activities in school, church and the community.

"He said that he would keep her legacy alive by standing his ground for what is right, excelling in school, being a positive role model, taking on leadership roles and helping those in need," Cole-Smith wrote in an email. "While he believed that it was everyone's job to take care of the needy and stand up for what is right, he realized that it begins with him."

## Guidance

### **Are you sure you earned your credits?**

Since semester report cards came out on January 30<sup>th</sup>, parents and students should look closely at the credit columns. Many students see a grade and assume there is credit. There are a number of reasons why credit might be removed.

1. Too many absences. Students are only allowed 6 unexcused absences per class period per semester. One over and credit is removed if the student does not pass the semester exam AND the semester. Students will also lose their Driver's License or the ability to get one. Usually on the report card it is denoted with "N" in the column to show attendance was the reason for losing credit.
2. Took but did not pass the course or EOC for Algebra I. All grades MUST pass the course and the Algebra I End of Course Exam.
3. May be taking Geometry or Biology and until the EOC is taken, credit is not awarded.

**Attendance issues can usually be taken care of by providing notes for absences. Do not wait to turn these in. If you need to make up credits lost, there are 3 ways to do so.**

1. CROP—an afterschool program on the computer and work at your own pace. Meets Monday thru Thursday from 3pm – 4:15pm. Can only miss one time. Must see Ms. Estes, Assistant Principal to sign up.
2. Adult Ed for Math or Science classes. Must be 16 years old to do so and can only do up to 3 credits in Adult Ed your entire time in High School. This is paper and pencil. Meets Monday thru Thursday from 3pm – 5pm. See your counselor to sign up.
3. FLVS—Sign up at [www.flvs.net](http://www.flvs.net). Choose your class and then it will be approved. Once approved you wait until they put you in the course and give you a call. Takes on average 18 weeks to complete a half credit.

### **Juniors and ACT:**

All major program Juniors pursuing a Standard Diploma will be given a free ACT on March 18<sup>th</sup> at school. The school board is paying for the test. This will be the full ACT without writing. There is no make-up if missed. The ACT is a college entrance exam that can be used for college, Dual Enrollment, and to replace the required FCAT Reading score of a 245 with a 19 on the Reading portion. This is a great opportunity to take this test and have it count.

## Guidance

### **Seniors---Important things to do and know**

Seniors have many things going on during their senior year. Here are some pointers and important dates to remember:

1. Cap and Gowns can be purchased via Herff Jones Website only now at [www.herffjones.com](http://www.herffjones.com). Seniors have had 2 opportunities to purchase at school already.
2. Make sure you have all your required credits, GPA, and tests in order. Do not wait to find out later. Second Senior letters will be going home in February. These letters will only be going to seniors who are lacking something for Graduation or for those that may have gotten off track.
3. Financial Aid Help Night will be on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm to 7pm at EHS. We will be here to help you file your FAFSA for financial aid. It is important that parents get their taxes done by February. Most schools do financial aid packages in March. There will also be a help session on Sunday, with the date to be announced later.
4. If you are planning on attending Santa Fe College, do your application now so you can apply to the Santa Fe Scholarships. Deadline to apply for the scholarships is Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.sfcolllege.edu](http://www.sfcolllege.edu) to apply.
5. FCAT Retakes will be the week of April 7<sup>th</sup>.
6. Graduation Speech Try-outs will be April 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:45pm in the Auditorium. Speech can be no more than 3 minutes long.
7. Senior Exams are the May 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> with the 30<sup>th</sup> being their last day of attendance. If they do not have an exam, they do not need to attend on those days.
8. Senior Awards and Scholarship Night is May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. All are welcome to attend.
9. Cap and Gown pick up is June 5<sup>th</sup> from 2:30pm – 3:30pm. All books and debt must be taken care of before they can be picked up.
10. Graduation Practice is June 6<sup>th</sup> at 3pm – 4:30pm
11. Graduation is June 7<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Seniors must be there at 12:30pm. Doors open for the public at 1pm. Seating is open to first come, first served. No tickets are necessary.
12. Diploma pick-up is June 9<sup>th</sup> from 8am – 12pm on this first day. They can also be picked up anytime in the summer Monday thru Thursday from 8am – 4pm.

## Rams in the Community

Eastside students are passionate about making a difference in the local community. Through a variety of service organizations, our students feed the hungry, comfort the elderly, support health care, improve education, and fight cancer—among many other important projects.

Student Government Association, through a partnership with UF Dance Marathon, helps the Children's Miracle Network. This winter SGA members have organized a movie night, a talent show, a 5K run, and a mini-dance marathon at EHS. The Spanish Honor Society provided Christmas gifts for migrant farm workers in Alachua County. Interact Club members volunteered at Bread of the Mighty food bank. Besides the rewards associated with helping others, students involved in service gain valuable leadership skills.

Culinary arts students assist with fundraisers while garnering cooking and catering experience. Eastside culinary students cooked and carved over 400 pounds of turkey for the community Thanksgiving meal at Trinity Methodist Church. They made a splash at the Sea Food Spectacular to benefit Catholic Charities. Eastside students had a major presence at the Big Night in the Big Apple to benefit the Public Schools Foundation. "Our students develop lifelong habits of giving back," said Billie DeNunzio, director of the top-100 rated Institute of Culinary Arts. "Also, involvement in community events increases the students' exposure to a variety of different elements of the culinary arts. Each venue is unique and they learn something new at each one."

Senior Sierra Nesbit, a leader of the Eastside Striders, has been involved with the breast cancer awareness group since her freshman year. "I just thought it was a very cool cause," she said. Nesbit, who has four family members who experienced breast cancer, appreciates that the work her club does in Making Strides Against Breast Cancer benefits local patients and survivors. "It really gives us a connection to the community. Our Eastside group put on an amazing Survivors' Brunch that impacted so many people in Gainesville, and we did it ourselves. We provided the entertainment, the guest speakers—all the logistics. And, we raised over \$3,000 for research, and that's a great feeling."

Senior Bianca Rutledge is president of the Eastside Key Club, a high school affiliate of the Kiwanis. She oversees many projects, including tutoring at Lake Forest Elementary, cooking and serving meals at Ronald McDonald House, visiting the Signature Nursing Home, and fundraising for the Alachua County Council of the Blind. One of her favorite activities is supporting the parenting classes provided by the HIPPY program. "We help out with child care for the kids while their parents are in the classes," Bianca said. "Last month we helped them make family quilts. Next month we will be doing an international family project. It is really cool to be a part of building family unity."

## Yearbooks

