

# The Wednesday Wire

KEEPING PARENTS PLUGGED IN TO THE  
HERNANDO SCHOOL DISTRICT

HERNANDO COUNTY VOTERS

**LOOK**  
**WHAT YOU DID**  
**for OUR schools!**



Marcos Santos, NCT  
School Guardian



Students in Powell Middle's Taekwondo  
class shows off their new safety equipment



Springstead's advanced  
chorus looking sharp in  
their choral ensembles



Challenger K8 band  
is ready to take the  
stage with their new  
instruments

Schools throughout HCSD are sharing the ways in which millage funds, approved by voters in 2020, are enhancing a wide variety of school programs, increasing student and staff safety and offering competitive salaries for recruitment across all positions. Millage funds have been used to add 9 school guardians to all middle schools, high schools as well as larger campuses. All schools with bands and music programs have received all new instruments and uniforms! Additional safety equipment for athletics and programs such as Powell's Taekwondo have also been provided to all schools.

**And, we're just getting started!**

**THANK YOU!**

## > Rezoning update

NO CHANGES FOR 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Last week, the Hernando School Board voted against making any changes to school zones for the 2024-25 school year. Current school attendance boundaries and magnet programs will remain unchanged. The district is working on a plan to build additional classrooms at schools that are currently overcrowded. Superintendent John Stratton applauded the efforts of the District Rezoning Committee in their months-long effort to develop a viable rezoning plan. "Each member accepted our invitation to be a part of this difficult work and we are grateful for their collaboration and care as they took on this challenge," said Superintendent Stratton.

## > Springstead recognized by College Board

SHS EARNS SILVER!

Springstead High School was named to College Board's National AP School Honor Roll as a Silver School with Access! This 4-year award draws upon the statistics of the four years of the school's 2023 graduating class. "This is a very big deal," John Morris, HCSD Director of Secondary Curriculum, told the school board. In fact, throughout the U.S., only 30% of eligible schools made it on the honor roll (4,500 schools), and only 21 percent receive Silver status or higher (3,175 schools). "This is a kudos to the staff, and a bigger kudos to the students," he said.

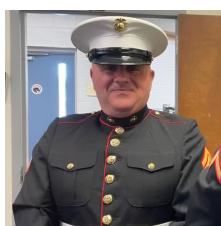


John Morris, SHS Principal  
Dana Pearce, Darla Croft and  
Bob Beach

## > December Staff Veteran recognized

August "Auggie" Bents is our Staff Veteran of the Month for December. Currently serving as an Environmental Service Technician at Spring Hill Elementary School, this veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps was also a NYPD police officer who worked that fateful day on Sept. 11, 2001. This veteran, first responder and colleague truly deserves the recognition, and we are so proud to have him as part of the Hernando School District! THANK YOU for your service! Please take time to watch Mr. Bents' [presentation here](#).

Auggie Bents  
was joined by  
Kristen Tormey,  
Principal of  
SHES, his wife  
and  
Superintendent  
Stratton



### Important Dates

- Dec. 20-22 - Early release days
- Dec. 22 - End of 2nd grading period
- Dec. 25-Jan. 5 - Winter Break
- Jan. 8 - Professional Day for teachers; **no school for students**
- Jan. 9 - Students return to school

*Wishing all of our families a happy and healthy holiday season!*

