

Good evening, parents and guardians of our exceptional SMA cadets!

I am SMA-COL Christina Bowman, and welcome to your weekly SMA Briefing.

I hope your Thanksgiving was filled with family, fellowship and lots of food, football and laughter. In terms of highlights, the High School is kicking off the basketball, wrestling and soccer season. Please check our website for the [Athletics Schedule](#) and come out and support our teams! We are also looking forward to the SMA Annual Military Ball on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Cadets in grades 10-12 may purchase tickets on the [SMA website](#).

The Middle School will host the annual Hour of Code event on December 9<sup>th</sup> with the theme “Celebrate computer science everywhere!” The goal is to help students become aware that computer science is used in every industry and field of study to help solve problems, advance research, create art, keep our infrastructure safe and healthy, and more. The event will kick off with a guest speaker, Mark Munsell, Deputy Director, Data and Digital Innovation at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. The day will provide every student an opportunity to write their own code and be inspired to learn more about using computer science to make a difference.

Our Toys for Tots campaign is well under way and the Toys for Tots boxes are beginning to fill. Please consider donating a new unwrapped toy or other item that will make a special morning for a child in our Sarasota community. Each year, we donate hundreds of toys through your support and last year we averaged 25 bikes and helmets to Toys for Tots. Let’s top that this year!

I would like to thank the High School cadets who signed up to “Ring the Bell” at Morton’s Market in partnership with the Salvation Army and Sarasota Southside Rotary. What a great way to volunteer and give back to the community! A few dates still available and cadets interested in this opportunity may check with the High School front office.

An important survey will be sent to you through a separate EAGLE News as well as available on our [website under the “Academics”](#) tab. The survey focuses on how grant funds from the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund should be used for both campuses. The survey is brief and we appreciate both you and your child’s participation. Your input is important to the Academy.

Thank you for allowing me into your home this evening, and I look forward to visiting with you every week. In the meantime, if you have any concerns, please feel free to reach out to me either by telephone or email.

I wish you and your family a wonderful weekend.

Stay safe, stay well and stay kind.