

# Welcome

PARENTS-AS-PARTNERS GUIDE

2023-2024



SEACREST  
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL



“ Imagine a school in which children would explore, experiment, create, and discover; where children would learn to respect and help each other; where minds would be stretched and strengthened; where information would be experienced and practiced. ”

**DR. JANE KERN**  
SEACREST FOUNDER

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## **Dear Parents,**

Welcome to Seacrest!

Just as your child has found a place here, so will you.

A Seacrest education is a true partnership among teachers, administrators, and families which provides a strong and transparent relationship between school and home.

Once your child is enrolled at Seacrest, you become family—a member of a community of parents who have made an investment in their child's education. Together with parents, Seacrest shares a commitment to raising empowered, self-aware children.

Our next job is to help you find your place in our community. What story will you write?

In this booklet you will find ways to get involved through events and volunteering. You will find ways to give through time, monetary, and in-kind donations.

If you aren't sure how you want to be involved yet, reach out to one of the parent organizations in this booklet, the advancement office, your teacher, division head or Mr. Caruso. We are all here to help you find your story in our community.

Sincerely,

The Seacrest Team

# 01

## SEACREST 101

Building an Extraordinary Education



### **Our Central Vision**

Seacrest was founded in 1983 with the belief that within every child is an unlimited potential for learning. We balance a nationally-aligned curriculum with hands-on, project-based, and place-based learning. At Seacrest, our class sizes are small so that every child is known and understood. This child-centered approach to education, creates an environment where students are challenged not only to be the best that they can be, but to expand their boundaries of learning and exploration.

### **Seacrest Puts Students First**

As a non-profit, Independent school, we do not receive State or Federal Funding. This means we have the freedom to create and deliver our curriculum and programs.

Seacrest's inclusive and supportive environment values students for who they are as individuals. Artists, scholars, musicians, and future engineers are empowered to pursue their interests further, develop courses and independent studies, start clubs, and secure internships. Our small community ensures that every student is known by faculty and community members who want every student to do well.



## Core Values

**Curiosity** - We think deeply and find solutions where obstacles once existed. We employ curiosity as the fuel for innovation and discovery.

**Integrity** - We are honest and dependable in our actions and words.

**Kindness** - We treat everyone we meet with kindness and compassion. Before we speak or act, we consider its impact on others.

**Perseverance** - We are steadfast in meeting our obligations and reaching our goals.

**Respect** - We treat everyone we interact with respect and dignity. We seek to understand alternative viewpoints, and perspectives.

**Responsibility** - We are accountable for our words, actions, and our futures. We consider how our actions will affect others.

## Our Mission

Seacrest Country Day School is committed to fueling intellectual engagement, teaching ownership of the educational experience, cultivating quality of character, and inspiring students to lead lives of significance.

# 02




## BY THE NUMBERS



**DONATED TO SEACREST IN  
2022-2023**

**\$1,899,243**

**117** PARENT  
VOLUNTEERS




**454**


2023-24 STARTING  
ENROLLMENT PS-12

**8**

AVERAGE  
HOURS  
PER WEEK  
LOWER  
SCHOOL STUDENTS  
PARTICIPATE IN THE  
ARTS



**17** BABY RAYS



**PS-12**

GRADES THAT  
PARTICIPATE  
IN SCHOOL  
MUSICALS

**33**

ATHLETICS TEAMS



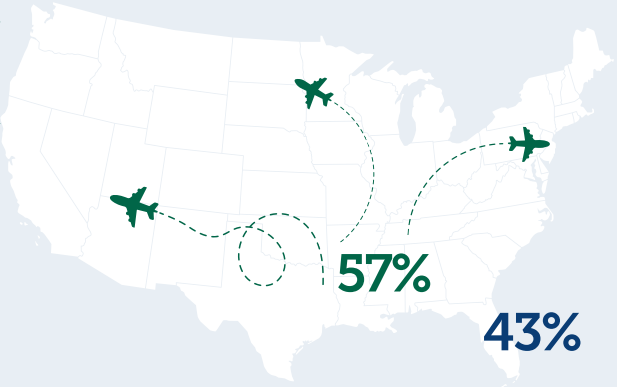
2A VOLLEYBALL STATE CHAMPIONS  
SWFL TEAM OF THE YEAR



28

MEMBERS OF THE  
CLASS OF 2023

OH, THE PLACES THEY WILL GO!



3.2 MILLION  
OFFERED IN  
SCHOLARSHIPS

70%

EARNED  
**MERIT** and  
**ATHLETIC**  
SCHOLARSHIPS

3  
SEACREST  
"LIFERS"

16  
ATTENDING AN  
OUT-OF-STATE  
COLLEGE

5  
WILL PLAY  
ATHLETICS  
IN COLLEGE

2,199: **MILES TO THE FARTHEST COLLEGE:** ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY



WILL ATTEND A  
4-YEAR COLLEGE  
OR UNIVERSITY

MOST SELECTIVE COLLEGES ATTENDING:

- NYU (8% total admit rate)
- Emory University (Oxford College) (10% total admit rate)
- Boston College (15% total admit rate)

3,873  
HOURS OF  
SERVICE  
TO THEIR  
COMMUNITY

# 03

## SEACREST TRADITIONS

### Glossary of Seacrest Lingo

#### **Flag Ceremony**

Everyone is invited to attend Flag Ceremony!

Check the calendar in the Seacrest App for these Friday morning gatherings.

Our children present songs, poignant words, exciting projects, and good news

This is the best way to see our students in action, hear from teachers and administrators, and meet other parents. Bring your coffee and join us in the courtyard at 8:20 a.m.

#### **Holidays and Holiday Shows**

At Seacrest we celebrate all of our students' traditions.

During December our teachers will let you know of classroom celebrations. Our Lower and Middle / Upper School Holiday Shows showcase our students' musical talents.

#### **12 Days of Christmas**

This crazy all-school sing-a-long to the *Twelve Days of Christmas* happens on the last Friday before Holiday break. Our seniors take on 12 Drummers Drumming, and each grade level down to First Grade (Partridge in a Pear Tree). Our youngest students sing the Dreadal Song. You have to see this day to believe it.



## **YA-YA**

Young Authors' and Young Artists' Week.

## **Lifer**

A Seacrest Student who has been enrolled since First Grade. They receive a special cord at graduation and "Lifer" recognition.

## **Rowdy Rays**

These die-hard fans can be found at athletic events cheering on our teams. (Often in facepaint or theme).

## **Mentor/Buddy**

Pairing older and younger students is the best way to teach understanding between where you have been and where you are going. Our seniors mentor their 5th grade buddies. Our Upper School students mentor our middle school students. And our Lower School have buddies between several grade levels.

## **Seacrest Song**

Written in 1991, this song is sung at every Flag Ceremony. New students learn the song in music class.

## **Stingy (Sting-y)**

Our mascot is Stingy the Stingray. This beloved icon can often be found at school events, and traveling the world on social media.



# 04



## SEACREST HISTORY

### **The Country Day School Movement**

The Country Day School movement began in America during the late 1800s into the turn of the 1900s. Families in urban areas sought out a strong educational experience for their children as an option to a boarding school. The Country Day School concept was created as a holistic student learning environment that would foster learning and community.

There are many Country Day Schools throughout the U.S., but Seacrest remains the only Country Day School in Southwest Florida.

The originators of The Country Day School couldn't conceive of the changes that our world would go through during the 20th and 21st centuries, but they created a concept that is good for humanity; giving a child a supportive environment to learn, grow, and become a good global citizen.

### **1982**

Seacrest Founders Lloyd and Norma Sheehan meet with Jane Kern to discuss their dream for a school. They created the analytical framework of their new school and name it Seacrest. The Sheehans fund the school for 10 years.

## **1983 Seacrest Opens**

On a September day in 1983 Jane Kern, along with one teacher, Becky Herrman, holds Seacrest's first, first day of school with 18 three- and four-year-old students.

## **1984-87**

Seacrest adds one new grade per year

## **1987-88**

Lynne Powell comes to Seacrest to teach but instead becomes Academic Dean.

First Flag Ceremony

Dr. Jane Kern publishes her doctoral dissertation based on Seacrest and earns her PhD.

## **1989-90**

First Middle School class held at Unity

Global Studies Program Added

First Heritage Luncheon

## **1991-92**

Seacrest Song Written by Dr. Kern's daughter, Mary Jane Alm

First Grandparents Day

## **1992-93**

Dr. Kern becomes Head of School

## **1995-96**

Seacrest wins Outstanding Model School of America by Turning Point for Teachers

## **1997-98**

First trip to Marine Lab

## **1998-99**

State of the Art Library and Resource Center opens, becoming first of its kind in SWFL. (Current MacDonald STEAM Center.

## **1999-2000**

Dr. Kern publishes *Inventing a School; Expanding the Boundaries of Learning*

## **2000-01**

Student Services Center (Front Office) built and dedicated to Dr. Lynne Marz Powell

## **2003-04**

First swim team

## **2004-05**

First Year of Upper School

First Upper School Dance "Snowball"

## **2005-06**

First Robotics Program

## **2006-07**

The First Drama production in the Arts Center  
"She Stoops To Conquer"

First Jazz Band

## **2007-08**

First Graduating Class

First Peer Mentoring Club

## **2008-09**

Seacrest reaches 25 years of creative and joyful learning.

## **2009-10**

Upper School Gym and Science Center Built

First Mock Trial Team

## **2010-11**

Gala raises over \$1 Million

## **2011-12**

New Upper School Building Opens

Dr. Powell retires.

## **2012-13**

Dr. Watson becomes Head of School

Stingy is born as the Seacrest Mascot

## **2013-14**

Seacrest Varsity Volleyball wins State Championship for the first time.

Marine Biology program added to Upper School

## **2014-15**

Seacrest launches "Sprint to the Finish" Annual Fund drive with Stingy as the star.

## **2015-16**

Seacrest adds the inaugural Jeffrey Ortiz '12 Memorial softball game and scholarship.

## **2016-17**

Seacrest builds a chicken coop and adds a poultry project.

## **2017-18**

Erin Duffy becomes Head of School

Sylvia Earle visits Seacrest aquaculture program

## **2018-19**

New Playground Built

## **2019-20**

Seacrest goes online due to COVID. One of only two schools to hold in-person graduation for seniors. Open air in an airplane hanger.

## **2020-21**

Seacrest upgrades all labs to Apple technology

## **2021-22**

Steven E. Caruso becomes Head of School

Remodeled MacDonald STEAM Center Opens

## **2022-23**

Seacrest Volleyball State Champs and SWFL Team of the Year

## **2023-24**

Seacrest celebrates 40 years

## Become a part of our story...

Our 40-year story is like a tapestry created with many threads. Think of your Seacrest journey as if it were one thread in the tapestry. Each of us is a unique thread, working together to weave a beautiful story. As we work with your child to find their true authentic self and become a part of the story, what path will you weave? What mark will you leave?

Will you show up for every arts performance and cheer the loudest? Will you help fund a program to inspire brilliant young minds? Will you build a stage or a building for genius to blossom? Will you help create a new tradition?

Each of our threads is weaving this story with our children. As adults, it is our job to learn to work together to create the most beautiful tapestry possible for our children and future generations.



# What story will you write?

## Your Talent and Generosity Make All the Difference

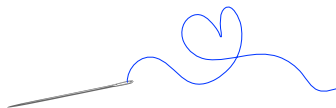
**Time** - Join a parent volunteer opportunity on campus. We welcome parents to join areas they are excited about. Have an interest in the arts? Join the theatre groups! Love our Seacrest Stingrays? Join our fundraising efforts so our teams can access upgraded facilities. Check the App and Ewave Newsletter for weekly opportunities.

**Expertise** - Many of our families are entrepreneurs and philanthropists. We welcome you to share your knowledge with our students in their classes.

**Resources** - As a non-profit, Seacrest welcomes donated resources and materials. The less the school spends on supplies, the more money can go into improvements for programs on campus.

**Monetary** - Your monetary donations are what keep our school operational and we value that contribution just as much as any other.

## More Information on the Following Pages



# 06



## Parent Organizations



**The Seacrest Parent Association (S.P.A.)** is dedicated to the healthy growth, development and well-being of Seacrest Country Day School through building community, fostering education and nurturing the spirit of the school's social life.

There are no applications or dues to be a member of the S.P.A. Each family is automatically a member. Your involvement is valued and encouraged. Check the calendar in the Seacrest App for SPA meetings, which typically follow Flag Ceremony once per month.

Scan the QR code to find some of the many ways you can get involved at Seacrest and to receive more information from SPA, other Parent Organizations, and Seacrest departments.

Or contact us at: [parentsassociation@seacrest.org](mailto:parentsassociation@seacrest.org)

**Ways to Get Involved:**

[www.seacrest.org/community/parent](http://www.seacrest.org/community/parent)

**Or, scan the QR code for  
volunteer opportunities.**







**The Rowdy Rays Athletic Booster Club** cheers on students in the 10 sports and 32 teams at Seacrest. Most sports are true, cross-divisional programs that begin in middle school with the fundamentals of team play to the more advanced competition of varsity athletics. Students are encouraged to take risks and play multiple sports, and we are proud that more than 75 percent of our middle and upper school students play on at least one school-sponsored athletic team. The Boosters support the Athletics Director and Program with fundraising and community-building events. Come join our team! Everyone welcome.

[boosterclub@seacrest.org](mailto:boosterclub@seacrest.org)

**Scan QR to Join!**



**SEACREST**  
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

*Visual • Theater • Music • Digital*

**The Seacrest Arts Booster** support our robust visual and performing arts students in their on and off stage endeavors.

If you love the arts, come join this group that may help with everything from arts concessions to lighting, sound, sewing, set building, break down, trips, awards ceremonies, and more!

Come join us as we provide support through hands-on work, fundraising, and sometimes comic relief!

[artsbooster@seacrest.org](mailto:artsbooster@seacrest.org)

# 07



## Philanthropic Giving

### Philanthropy Makes the Extraordinary Happen

In a school known for its community values, it is not surprising that so many parents, grandparents and alumni generously support our mission through financial gifts. Through donations of all sizes to our Annual Fund and fundraising initiatives, Seacrest continues to grow and offer an innovative and inclusive education for our students.

As a non-profit school, Seacrest is independent of state and federal funding sources. Private non-profit schools set tuition rates to be as inclusive of socioeconomically diverse families as possible, ensuring a rich educational experience for our entire student body. Our annual fundraising activities and generous donations from our families and the broader community make up the difference that allows for our extraordinary curriculum and a diverse student body.

To learn more about giving including personal donations, trusts, corporate gifts, and endowments, contact [development@seacrest.org](mailto:development@seacrest.org), or stop by our offices located in the front office.

[www.seacrest.org/give](http://www.seacrest.org/give)

# THE ANNUAL FUND

An Initiative That Supports  
Excellence and Diversity



**YOUR GIFT** to the Seacrest Fund enables us to provide extraordinary academic programs, attract, and retain outstanding faculty, as well as a diverse and talented student body. **Our goal is 100% participation.**

## YOUR GENEROSITY SUPPORTS

**TECHNOLOGY  
& INNOVATION**



**OUTREACH &  
FIELD TRIPS**

**FACILITIES &  
MAINTENANCE**

**COLLEGE  
COUNSELLING**



**CURRICULUM  
ENHANCEMENTS**

**GUIDANCE & SUPPORT  
AND MORE!**



*A culture of giving is at the heart  
of a great educational institution.*



You can help us achieve our goal of



Community Participation

# 09

# Our Future is Now 2023-2028

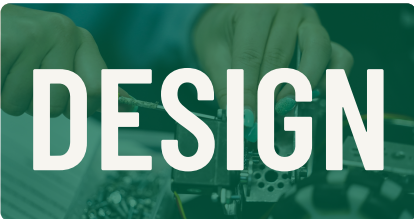
## Seacrest Country Day School Strategic Plan

Seacrest Country Day School's 2023-2028 Strategic Plan was developed by the Board of Trustees in consultation with a broad group of community members.

The plan is organized into four focus areas around which we will develop our planning & resources for the coming five years. These anchor points will allow us to remain focused on the priorities that will take us into the future.

We are committed to achieving the goals outlined in this plan and invite you to join us on our journey. We will share ways to be involved via email, web, and Seacrest App.

## 4 FOCUS AREAS





## **INVEST IN OUR FUTURE**

With a focus on fiscal sustainability and long-term stewardship, we will build a strong financial position, create a culture of philanthropy, and invest in our future. The students, faculty, staff, and community of tomorrow will benefit for decades from the strong financial foundation we continue to lay in order to deliver on our mission.



## **LEAD IN INDEPENDENT EDUCATION**

Students & faculty are engaged and inspired to explore their passions through robust program offerings in all learning experiences in the classroom, on stage, through athletics, and in extra-curricular activities. The Seacrest Educational Experience is consistent and aligned from infants through 12th grade and prioritizes interdisciplinary, hands-on & place-based learning, which exceeds national standards.



## **DESIGN AN ENDURING CAMPUS**

Seacrest's mission-fit campus aspires to be a leading-edge, indoor-outdoor educational environment driving curiosity, innovation, collaboration & sustainability while embracing each student's educational journey. It brings to life spaces for us to engage in authentic learning, appreciate performing & visual arts, celebrate athletic competition, and gather together as a community.



## **ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITY**

We will engage our Seacrest community through consistent, responsive, streamlined communications which cultivate and grow our collective commitment & passion for our school. We will build external partnerships & share our story in Naples, SWFL, and beyond in order to grow our programs & attract right-fit families.

WHAT STORY WILL YOU WRITE?



SEACREST  
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

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