THE MARITIME ANCHOR

The Quarterly Newsletter of
The Maritime Academy Charter School

FALL 2025

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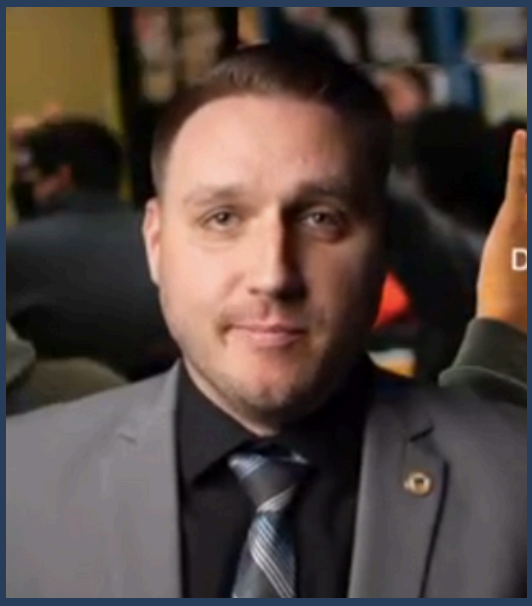
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Senior Cadets visited the A.J. Meerwald on her tour through Philadelphia

Maritime Academy Charter ES ▪ 2275 Bridge St. Philadelphia, PA 19137 ▪ Phone: 215.535.4555 I Maritime Academy Charter HS ▪ 2700 E Huntingdon St. Philadelphia, PA 19125 ▪ Phone: 215.427.3090 I Maritime Academy is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. All donations are tax exempt.

Greetings from the Chief Executive Officer



Greetings! My name is Matt Wilson, and it is my honor and privilege to introduce myself as Maritime Academy Charter School's new Chief Executive Officer.

I began my career at Maritime as a teacher. After 8 amazing years in the classroom and the successful completion of my Master's Degree in Educational Administration with a Principal's License, I served as our High School's Vice Principal for 5 years. From there, I went on to be Principal of our high school for 3 years. Entering my 17th year at Maritime as our new CEO, I remain committed to serving our community and enhancing our academic programming to support our mission and vision.

We continue to use maritime content as a vehicle to promote our academic growth schoolwide. Among many other initiatives, we strive to pursue and implement the most effective early literacy techniques and programs to ensure that our Cadets can easily transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn." Our middle and high school teams collaborate to make the transition to our high school is seamless for Cadets and families.

I couldn't be happier with our teachers, staff, and administrative teams, and have full confidence that they will provide the top-notched educational experience that your Cadet deserves. I genuinely look forward to working with you.

A message for Cadets

You will be ready. The world is waiting for you and you will be ready. At Maritime Academy Charter School, we have three primary goals:

- To instill in each of you an appreciation of our nation's Maritime Heritage via hands-on access to the global transportation industry,
- To master your respective standards based curricula for graduation, post-secondary education, career and opportunities within the maritime industry.
- To provide a safe nurturing school environment to develop a strong sense of community, individual self-confidence, and a recognition of the strength of differences across people and all cultures.

You will build confidence and see the strength and productivity that occurs when people of all backgrounds and cultures work together. I've enjoyed watching you grow as individuals and I look forward to celebrating accomplishments that have yet to come.

Continue to set and maintain high standards for yourself and those around you. Be confident and lead by example. You're going to face many challenges, and you should use those challenges to fuel your determination to learn, adapt, and overcome.

The Principal's Message



The first quarter of this school year saw Mr. Saunders' role change to be Principal of both the High School and Elementary schools. Mr. Saunders stressed uniform and cohesive management of the lower and upper schools as part of his overall plan, as he spends time at both locations. "I want to bring the schools together and continue to strengthen the expectations in the educational pipeline from elementary, to middle, to high school," Mr. Saunders stated.

Using IXL data to inform math and ELA curriculum is a priority for Saunders. "We've noticed improvement in student screening over the past year," Saunders said, "and a general improvement overall in their IXL scores." Mr. Saunders, Ms. Brennan (Elementary school) & Mr. Wallis (High school) review math data periodically to adjust MTSS tasks and learning arrangements.

Last year, Cadets piloted the Firefly benchmark assessment for math and reading, which allowed cadets to take standardized tests that mirrored the PSSA and Keystones. In fact, the Firefly is published by the same company that produces both the PSSA and Keystones. The Goal is to use Firefly data to better prepare our cadets for state level testing.

One way Mr. Saunders can understand each classrooms' curriculum and progress is to have access to the teacher's weekly plans. Weekly planning ensures Cadets are being taught to the highest standards and teachers remain flexible and well-informed. Publishing weekly plans also strengthens academic rigor and cohesiveness for grade leaders.

"I will be spending more time in the classroom," Mr. Saunders said, "I want to get to know the teachers and students, and see how they are applying their lessons."

Mr. Saunders also wants to increase and stabilize Cadet attendance and is looking forward to more merit-based Cadet activities this year. Currently Mr. Saunders and Ms. Watts are reviewing options for the first round of merit-based field trips.

Elementary and Middle School Review

Elementary School completed their First Mystery Reader this quarter!



Elementary and Middle School Review

Winners of the Gertrude Hawk Fundraiser

Cadets were chosen based on the number of boxes they sold!



1st Place: Brayleigh Hopkins-Kane 4th Grade



2nd Place: Milaya Viruet- 6th Grade



3rd Place- Matthew Dougan- 3rd grade



3rd Place- Livyanie Green- 5th grade

Elementary and Middle School Review

Buddy Breakfast during Bully Prevention Month

Cadets were paired up with different advisories to enjoy some tasty treats and participate in a bullying prevention activity.



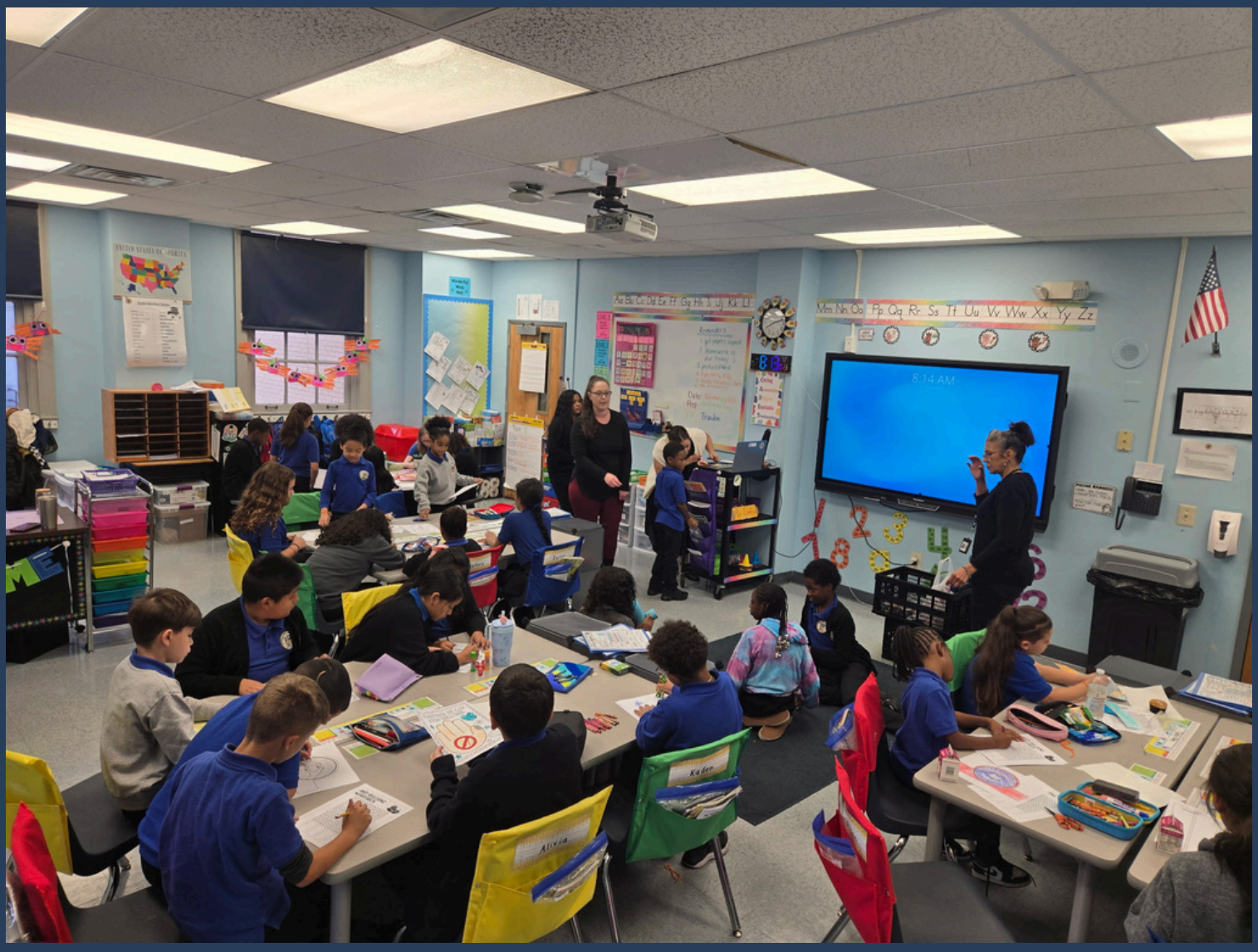




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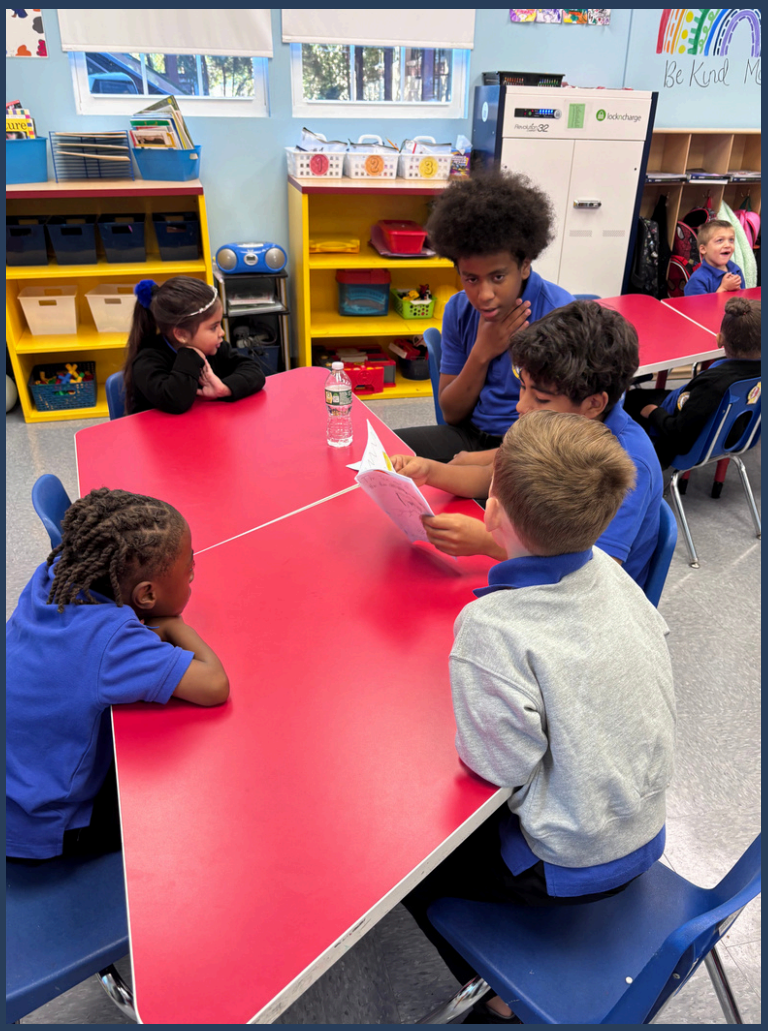


Elementary and Middle School Review



8th Grade Retold Fairy Tales

8th Grade cadets created fairy tales and read them to our younger cadets!



Elementary and Middle School Review



8th Grade Retold Fairy Tales

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Welcome New Teachers and Roles

Mrs. Ebron



I am Mrs. Ebron and I teach 9th grade Life Science and AP Environmental Science. I am originally from Colorado and Minnesota.

I spent a few years right after college teaching outdoor education and traveling around for seasonal work and field research opportunities. Then I taught middle school and high school science. I really enjoy how each day it is something new and there is always something you can learn from fellow teachers and students no matter how many times you may have taught a lesson.

Oustside of the classroom, I enjoy spending time with my husband and our two dogs and 8 month old son. I also enjoy baking, running, photography and spending time outside.

Mr. Kennedy



I am Mr. Kennedy and I teach Deck Operations and Maritime Careers. I am from Bucks County.

I originally wanted to be a teacher and went into another occupation, but after twenty years decided to get back into education.

Outside of school I enjoy Pickleball, fishing, and camping; and I am an American Civil War enthusiast.

Welcome New Teachers and Roles

Mr. J. Saunders



I am Mr. James Saunders; Reverend, Musician, Teacher.

I am originally from Long Island New York (Suffolk County). I am one of the self-contained Special Education Teacher. Previously I was a High School Band director, Special Education co-teacher, and Behavioral Interventionist.

I had a great music teacher that motivated me during my early years. Ms. Terrana helped me to overcome obstacles due to a rough family life, leading me to my teaching career today. Outside of the classroom, I am interested in cars, cooking, music, cards, bowling, and billiards.



Mr. Smith

My name is Mr. Smith and I am the new U.S. History and Personal Finance teacher here at Maritime. I am entering my 7th year as a social studies teacher, previously teaching at schools in the Bay Area of California and Williamsburg, Virginia. Outside of school, I enjoy following sports, attending games, and spending time with my wife.

Welcome New Teachers and Roles

I am Rodrigo Nunez, “Mr. Rod,” and I teach Art Studio. As a native Argentinian raised in the United States, my experience is rooted in valuing diversity. In acknowledging students' unique cultural histories, intelligence, and expressions, we can support a learning process that provides visibility for the whole person and their communities.

As a creative teacher, one of my primary goals is to facilitate accessibility for students' diverse needs and to cultivate a collaborative learning ecosystem. We can empower our students to develop curiosity, humor, dynamic thinking skills, authenticity, resilience, and a sense of well-being, so that they may shine and positively influence others.

Outside of school I have been interested in the delivery process of creativity and thinking through creation. Once we have an understanding of our own creative process, we can also support the creative process for others. This process may include music, drawing, sculpture, painting and more.



"When we develop a deeper appreciation for the beauty of colors in the light spectrum, we may also open ourselves up to a greater appreciation of our spectrum of human experiences."

More new teacher/new role writeups next issue!

Welcome New Teachers and Roles



Mr. Drew Doudoukjian

My name is Drew Doudoukjian, I am the middle school counselor here at Maritime. I graduated from Burlington County Community College back in 2014 with an associates degree in Liberal arts.

From there graduated from Wilmington University with my Bachelors degree in Behavioral Science minored in Child Advocacy. I have a Master degree in K-12 Elementary and Secondary School Counseling from Wilmington University.

Every Sunday I go to the coffee shop to read my book. I am known for being a Renaissance Man. I also enjoy collecting Pokemon cards.



Ms. Sharon Kulik

My name is Sharon Kulik and I am the fourth grade long term sub here at Maritime. I have a B.A. in Art Studio, a B.S. in Communication Sciences and I am working towards my M.A.Ed in Art Education.

Clearly, I love being in school. I have a cat named Pumpkin who is turning 8 years old this year. Outside of school I own and operate a paint party business and have been in that industry for a few years.

Welcome New Teachers and Roles

Mariah Sturdivant Ellis, M.Ed.

I am Mrs. Ellis, the Special Education Teacher and Case Manager here at Maritime. I hold a master's degree in Early Childhood Education Leadership and am currently pursuing my doctorate in Educational Leadership at Xavier University of Louisiana. Before entering education, I proudly served for nearly a decade in the U.S. Navy.

A fun fact about me I love to cook and enjoy curating charcuterie boards in my free time!



More new teacher/new role writeups next issue!

Fall Sports Review

Coaches' Corner

🏐 Girls' Varsity Volleyball Update

The Girls' Varsity Volleyball team wrapped up an exciting regular season with a record of 6 wins and 5 losses.

Last Thursday, the team honored their seniors — Jaycie Clark, Taliyah Holmes-Lyles, and Amber Pickels — during a spirited match against Bodine. It was a thrilling contest that went the distance, with the Seadogs falling just short in a 3–2 finish.

The team now looks ahead to an upcoming District XII playoff matchup, with details to be announced soon. Congratulations to our seniors and the entire squad on a strong season!

🏀 Basketball Season Tip-Off

Both the Boys' and Girls' Varsity Basketball programs are gearing up for the start of their seasons!

The Boys' team opens play on December 2nd, while the Girls' team tips off on December 8th.

Coach Ercel Ballenger will lead the Girls' Varsity this year, and Coach Sam enters his third season as head coach of the Boys' Varsity team.

Good luck to both programs as they finalize rosters and prepare for another exciting season of Seadog basketball!

--Coach Schultz

Fall Sports Review

Volleyball 2025 Season











Fall Sports Review

Volleyball 2025 Season











Fall Sports Review

Volleyball 2025 Senior Game

Amber Pickels, Jaycie Clark, and Taliyah Holmes Lyles enjoyed their Senior Game in style Thursday, October 16. The Sea Dogs contested Bodine through 5 matches ending 3-2.

"It was a fun match, a good final game," said Amber, "it was great to see the younger players doing so well--we'll have a great team next year too."



Coach E and the Seniors



Seniors Jordan Kile, Amber Pickels, Taliyah Holmes Lyles, Jacycie Clark, and Kylee Padilla

Fall Sports Review

Volleyball 2025 Senior Game





Coach Elicia congratulates her Seniors!





For more pictures of the Volleyball season and the Senior Game, order your 2025-2026 Yearbook!

Fall Sports Review

Volleyball Wrap-up

Date	Opponent	Results
Tue Aug 26	Overbrook High School	W 3-2
Thu Aug 28	Hill Freedman World Academy	W 3-2
Tue Sep 2	Philadelphia High School for Girls	W 3-1
Tue Sep 9	Roxborough High School	W. 3-0
Thu Sep 11	Samuel Fels High School	L 1-3
Thu Sep 18	MaST Community Charter School II	L 0-3
Thu Sep 25	Jules E. Mastbaum CTE High School	L 1-3
Tue Sep 30	School Of The Future	W 3-0
Thu Oct 9	Parkway West High School	W 3-0
Tues Oct 14	South Philadelphia High School	L 0-3
Thurs Oct 16	William W. Bodine High School	L 2-3



Winter Sports Preview



Basketball Season Starts December 2

Introducing the 2025-26 Varsity Team: Jaimie Arroyo, Jeremy Gonzalez, Coach Sam Aviles, Mekhi Ford-Boulware, Andy Figueroa, John Weston, Dominic Lopez, Morrell Boone, Nathan Cruz, William Ortiz.

Check out all Maritime Winter Sports schedules and scores at Arbiterlive.com

https://arbiterlive.com/Teams?entityId=36484

Homecoming 250



MACHS helps welcome The Navy and Marine Corps home to Philadelphia for their 250th Anniversary

Maritime Academy participated in the US Navy and Marine Corps 250th Anniversary Celebration in October. Sea Cadets of the Dante Mattioni Chapter led by Lieutenant Gayot, Ms. Robey, and Mr. Lott braved the foul weather to march in the Anniversary Parade on Sunday, October 13. Sea Cadets included: Andres Chavez, Jeremiah Dones, Alex Elliot, Paige McDonough, AmyLynn Taylor, Miguelangel Ramirez Calderon, Kiani Colon, and Miguel Tejada-Gomez.

Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Smith, and Chief Pietsinovski brought classes to the riverfront to tour the U.S.S. Cooperstown.

Staff Attended the Wreath Memorial, a tactical demonstration on the Delaware, and the Innovation and Workforce Development Pavilion.



Cadets March in the Homecoming Parade

Homecoming 250



MACHS helps welcome The Navy and Marine Corps home to Philadelphia for their 250th Anniversary



Admiral Andrew Lennon, Executive Director of the US Navy Sea Cadets Corps, with the Dante Mattioni Division.
In attendance:
SN Miguel Tejada
SR AmyLynn Taylor
RC Kiani Colon
RC Miguelangel Ramirez
SA Paige McDonough
SA Andres Chavez
SA Alex Elliott
RC Jerimiah Dones

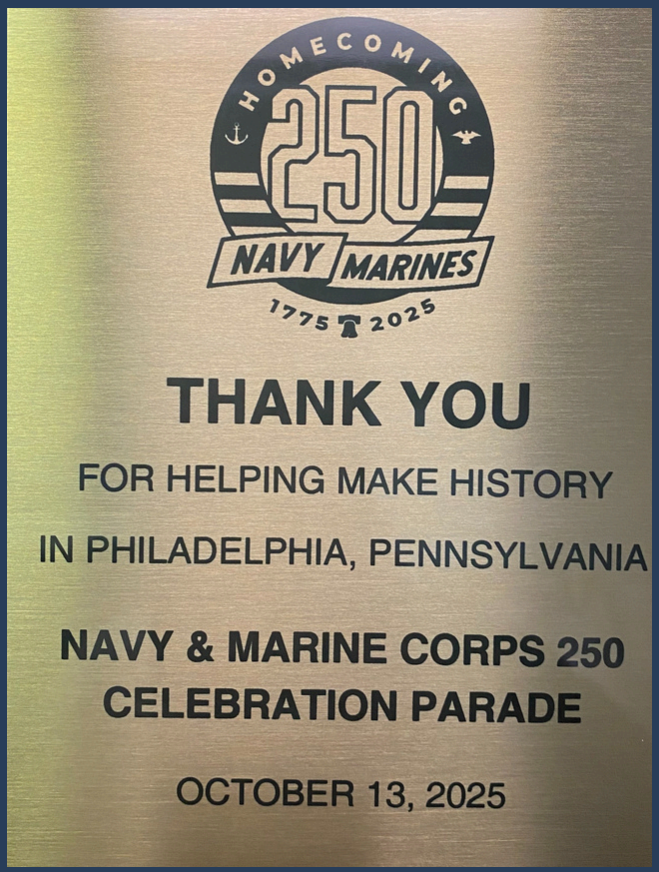




Homecoming 250



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Cadets braved foul weather to honor the Navy and Marine Corps Celebration Parade

Homecoming 250



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Mr. Kennedy's Class visits the U.S.S. Cooperstown at the Philadelphia waterfront.





Chief Peitsinovski's AP U.S. History Class visits the U.S.S. Cooperstown.

Homecoming 250



Honor Guard at the Homecoming 250th Luncheon





Coast Guard Boot Camp Graduation

On October 3rd the Sea Cadets went to The US Coast Guard Training Base in Cape May, NJ. They saw the graduation of Recruit Company ROMEO-207.

High School Happenings

9th Grade Field Trip to College Settlement

Ninth Grade Cadets spent a beautiful fall day at the College Settlement Day Camp in Horsham, PA this September.

Organized by Ms. Watts, the trip focused on teamwork, communication, and creative problem-solving.

Cadets participated in a variety of challenges, including team balance, wall climbing, tug-of-war, rope crossing, and various board crossing activities, which were all designed to strengthen trust and teamwork.

In the afternoon, cadets got to choose their own adventure, including a wagon ride, fishing, farm animal feeding and handling, or learning about reptiles and amphibians. “Cadets had a great time, and this taught us about communication and working together to solve problems,” said Ms. Watts. Cadets are looking forward to their next trip!







High School Happenings

9th Grade Field Trip to College Settlement









High School Happenings

9th Grade Field Trip to College Settlement









High School Happenings

Seniors Board the A.J. Meerwald

Seniors took a field trip to the A.J. Meerwald, New Jersey's tall ship. They relate their experiences below:



"Seniors went on the boat the A.J Meerwald and it was a pretty amazing experience.

I liked going inside the engine room because it was pretty interesting and I learned a lot. Despite the heat and not being able to get out onto the river, I still learned a lot.

I also liked raising the sails because it taught me more about mechanical advantage.

My favorite part of the trip was when Mr.Wilson took us to McDonalds. I will remember for a while how amazing the trip was."

--James Jackson

"I learned how the crew spends their days and also how the crew sleeps. They sleep in little cabins in the Officers cabin/ captains cabin.

I thought it was interesting that they study germs and bacteria. The main way they showed us was by taking a miniature net and running it through the water. All of the water got held in a little glass area at the bottom of the net, which got placed in a petri dish for studying.

Once we got to the mechanical advantage section everybody had a blast; it was a hands-on learning experience that allowed us to see in real time how much work a slight mechanical advantage offered.

The way the crew showed this to us was by a game of tug of war, they wrapped a rope around the pole attached to the ground and allowed us to pull all in the same direction.

The last and final station teaches everybody about the history of tall ships and how they made money. They made most of their money by harvesting oysters, which led to a near extinction event of the oyster species in the Bay."

--Aidan Zaremski

High School Happenings

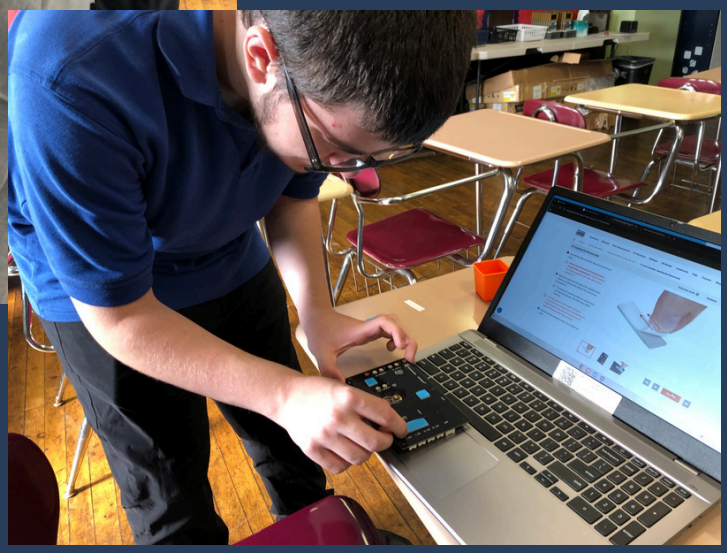
Robotics Club Begins!

Cadets assembled the Robotics Club computer tower, 3D printer, and workstations this quarter.

Cadets can send files to the 3D printer by contacting Mr. Wallis. Cadets can use the Robotics Lab computers for any applicable programming task. The lab supports AI-assist as well as traditional code development, and USB ports are available for 3D print tasks.







Boatbuilding Update

9th and 10th grade Cadets began their boatbuilding program in October. The Independence Seaport Museum, which hosts the program, is offering the program in 2 semesters this year to accommodate students with other commitments in the fall or spring. For example, if a Cadet wants to play baseball or softball in the spring can take boatbuilding in the fall.

Cadets have been trained in shop safety and basic tool use. They completed their first project, a toolbox, and learned key skills such as measuring with fractions, cutting, and joining boards.

Cadets journeyed on the Sigsbee, a Chesapeake Skipjack, in October. They were treated to perfect sailing weather, and learned about oystering history, fish diversity, and basic maritime concepts.







Boatbuilding Update

Sigsbee Day Cruise

Cadets from Maritime Academy Charter High School participating in an afterschool boatbuilding program at the Independence Seaport Museum experienced a living classroom on board the Skipjack Sigsbee.



A Skipjack is a traditional oyster dredge, built locally and operated in the Chesapeake Bay for nearly 200 years.

Cadets voyaged the Delaware river for 2 hours in ideal sailing conditions for the ship; 10+ knot winds allowed the ship to move easily over a 5-mile course on the river. Cadets helped lower and raise the sails, learned about sail handling and skipjack construction (such as, a large mainsail and a retractable centerboard), and knot-tying.



Cadets took part in hands-on experiments to demonstrate buoyancy, using constructed hulls and weights.

Cadets also learned about aquatic biodiversity in an estuarine environment, when Sigsbee Crew discussed biodiversity and displayed creatures captured for the morning's dredge net sampling. Cadets learned about and were able to hold Hogchokers, Perch, Black Bullhead Catfish, and juvenile Blue Crabs. Sigsbee Crew reviewed each creature's role in nature. Cadets had a great time!



Thank you

to all our photo contributors this month!

Mr. Mattioni
Ms. Harvey
Aidan Zaremski
Mr. Killian
Mr. Wilson
James Jackson
Mr. Gosse
Mr. Ballenger
Coach Schultz
Mrs. Lukasienski

Get Involved!

Please send photos, news briefs, articles, class activities, sports, or SeaDog shout-outs to:

theanchor@maritimecharter.org

THE ANCHOR Invites you to contribute to the next issue! Write about your sport, a club you belong to or a school event you attended. We would love to hear about it!