



dePaul School News



Fall 2024



WELCOME BACK BULLDOGS!

This year promises to be full of new opportunities, exciting adventures, and plenty of Bulldog pride. Whether you're returning or joining us for the first time, we're thrilled to have you as part of our school community. Our dedicated teachers and staff have been hard at work preparing for a fantastic year ahead, and we're eager to embark on this journey with you.

Let's make this school year one to remember, filled with growth, learning, and lots of laughter. Here's to a wonderful start to the year—let's show off that Bulldog spirit and make it our best year yet!

NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHT

We're thrilled to introduce some wonderful new additions to our dePaul family this year!

At our Traditional Campus, we're excited to welcome Ms. O'Kelly, Ms. Janiak, and Ms. Sims. We're also pleased to have Mrs. Zeman joining us from the Delta Campus. Over at our Delta Campus, we're delighted to welcome Mr. Ash and Mrs. Hardesty. Additionally, we're welcoming Mrs. Baryza from the Traditional Campus to our Delta Campus.

But that's not all! We've also introducing two new Enrichment teachers: Mr. Jack and Mr. Will, who will be bringing their Drama expertise from Ruth Eckerd Hall to our students. We are excited to see what they create!

Upcoming Events!

- **November 25th-29th - Thanksgiving Break**
- **November 25th - Free Dyslexia Screening in St. Pete**
- **December 13th - Afternoon of the Arts**
- **December 19th - Candy Cane Lane**
- **December 23rd - January 3rd - Winter Break**
- **January 6th - No School - PD Day**
- **January 20th - No School - PD Day**
- **January 24th - Assembly - Goal Setting**



RUTH ECKERD HALL

We're thrilled to have our partnership with Ruth Eckerd Hall this year for our Drama enrichment program! Our students have loved working with the talented Mr. Jack and Mr. Will, who bring their expertise and passion for theater to our classrooms. Through their guidance, students have been diving into the world of drama, learning the fundamentals of acting, building confidence, and exploring their creativity on stage. It's been a wonderful experience, and we can't wait to see where the rest of the year takes us with this exciting collaboration!

ENROLLMENT

At dePaul, we have rolling admissions, which means we accept new students throughout the entire school year. Our goal is to support and empower as many kids as possible! Currently, we have limited enrollment space in grades 1st - 4th. We'd love your help in spreading the word about the fantastic opportunities at dePaul to your friends, neighbors, coworkers, and communities.

AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENTS

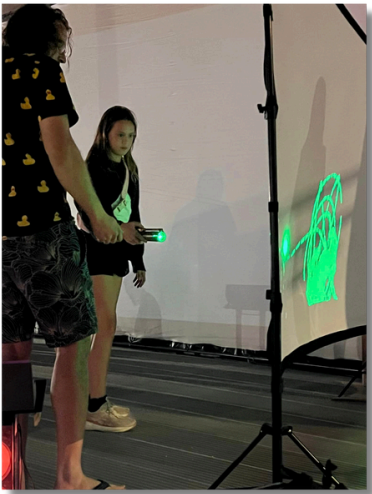
At dePaul, our after-school enrichment programs offer something for every student! Delta Basketball is officially kicking off with Mr. Ash leading the charge, and we couldn't be more excited! Our Delta students are already showing their enthusiasm, and we're looking forward to seeing them develop their skills, build teamwork, and, most importantly, have a lot of fun on the court. Art After School with Ms. Pam and Mr. Kenny has also begun this year! Art After School helps spark creativity, allowing students to explore various artistic techniques and express themselves. Additionally, our Aftercare program at the Traditional Campus provides a relaxed and supervised setting for students to finish homework, enjoy outdoor play, and unwind after a busy day.



ART WALK

Our students had the amazing opportunity to participate in the unveiling of a groundbreaking AI art tool at the Warehouse Arts District Art Walk on November 9th. The event was a huge success, and it was incredible to see our students interact with the cutting-edge technology.

They used an AI “wand” to create rough sketches, which the AI transformed into stunning digital masterpieces. This innovative program is one of the first of its kind, and our students were among the few invited to experience it firsthand. It was an unforgettable moment, and we’re so proud they were part of this pioneering event in art and technology!



ULELE PARTNERSHIP

Some of our talented students had the honor of having their artwork featured on a Ulele shirt, celebrating the restaurant’s 10th anniversary! This amazing opportunity is a true reflection of their creativity and dedication, and we couldn’t be prouder of their achievements.

Our ongoing partnership with Ulele and its founder, Richard Gonzmart, has been truly inspiring. We’re incredibly grateful for the support and collaboration we’ve received from Richard and his team, and for the chance to highlight our students' artwork in such a special way.

The anniversary shirt, featuring our students' designs, is a beautiful celebration of both Ulele’s legacy and the incredible talent within our community. We look forward to many more collaborations like this in the future!



PLAIN TALK CONVENTION

The dePaul School was proud to be a sponsor of the Center for Literacy and Learning’s inaugural Dyslexia Summit in Baton Rouge, LA in October. At this conference, we shared resources geared toward early literacy and attended sessions where we learned from the scholars and thought leaders of the Dyslexia community on a national level. It was an incredible networking opportunity, and it was a privilege to share the work we are doing at dePaul with the people who are shaping the future of dyslexia education.



COMMUNITY EVENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Team dePaul has enjoyed getting out into the community at several events this fall. We attended Countryside Mall’s Back to School Bash, we were guests of the Rowdies at their back to school supply drive and clinic, and we passed out candy and shared information about dePaul at Grand Central’s Halloween event in October. Additionally, by the end of this semester, we will have hosted 56 more pre-service teachers from University of Tampa who are seeing what excellence in dyslexia education looks like first-hand by learning from our staff and visiting our classrooms.



DYSLEXIA SCREENINGS

In July and August, we worked with nearly 25 students at our free dyslexia screening events in Safety Harbor and Pinellas Park. Of the students screened, about 80% of the children scored at a high risk for dyslexia. We shared resources for additional testing with those families (both for private testing and testing through the public school system). The parents we reached expressed gratitude for the opportunity to gather more information about their child’s reading skills. Our screenings have resulted in at least 2 children receiving a formal diagnosis so far, one of whom is enrolling at dePaul in December. The other is continuing at his current school, but now with the support of a 504 plan in place. They plan to attend our summer program. We will be reaching out to all the families who have been screened early in 2025 to check in and hear their stories. Our next event is in St. Petersburg on Monday, November 25.

