



Mr. Daniel Serfass, Principal



ROTA MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ADMIRALS



Ms. Cheryl Aeillo, Vice Principal

DoDEA

Rota, Spain

January 2013

Mission Statement:

We empower all students at Rota Middle/High School to learn to their maximum potential and to become productive, responsible members of a dynamic, global society. All stakeholders are committed to providing a rigorous, standards-based curriculum in a nurturing and safe environment.

Target Goals

Student Performance Goal 1: All students will improve effective communication skills.

Student Performance Goal 2: All students will improve mathematical problem solving skills.

Principal's Page



Inside this issue:

Principal's Page	1
From the Guidance Counselor	2-3
A note from the librarian	4
ASACS corner	4-5
Admirals in Action	5-8
Announcements	9
School Complex Calendar	9
Contact Us	10

Dear Parents,

The end of semester and associated final exams are upon us. The Student Support Teams (MS and HS SST's) and balance of the faculty have placed much effort this semester into academic student support. These take the form of Lunch Bunch, after school Kitchen Table, and other teacher assigned academic interventions. Our desire is for every one of our students to succeed. These interventions are not disciplinary in nature and are designed to provide structured time and motivation for your student to complete assigned work and prepare for exams. Your encouragement and support of your student's academic success is critical.

Further, the building principals met with base safety and security leaders recently to discuss our security posture and collaboratively determine our next steps to enhance our school safety program. I will elaborate in my weekly school update email in the near future.

Thank you all for your support as we continue to bring our school's mission statement to life.

Dan Serfass
Principal

FROM THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Happy New Year! I know it is hard to believe 2012 is over and even harder to believe Semester 1 is just about finished! Below you will find some information from me about recent and ongoing happenings.

PSAT Information:

If your student took the PSATs, the scores are in! Your student should have brought home the Score Report before Winter Break. Please notify me if you have any questions. I highly recommend that you take the time to review your students PSAT scores as well as utilize the QuickStart kit.

My College QuickStart is an online college and career planning kit available free of charge to all students who take the PSAT/NMSQT. It is powered by their responses to the test and provides personalized information that helps students take their next steps toward college:

My Online Score Report—an enhanced score report that allows students to review each test question, their answers, and the correct answers with answer explanations

My SAT Study Plan—a customized SAT study plan based on students' PSAT/NMSQT test performance, highlighting skills for review and practice

My Personality—a detailed personality test that helps students learn about themselves and discover majors and careers that fit their strengths and interests

My Major & Career Matches—extensive information about majors and careers, including insights about what to expect and what courses to take now

My College Matches—a starter list of colleges based on students' home state and indicated choice of Major

Students will need their access code, which is printed on the paper score report, and the tool can be utilized throughout high school. Using My College QuickStart together with your child is a great way to introduce and guide your child through important aspects of the college-going process.

Visit www.collegeboard.com/quickstart .

SAT information:

The registration deadline for the January 28th SAT was on December 28th . The next SAT will not be until May 4th . The registration deadline is April 5th. I will be sending out a reminder with registration deadline in late March. Those taking the January test should report to the school no later than 7:45. We begin testing promptly at 8:00. Please bring a calculator, a few number 2 pencils, your registration slip, and a drink/snack.

ACT Information:

We will not have another ACT test until April 13th. The deadline to register for the that ACT will be on March 8th.

Please remember to stop by for an international waiver form. This will save you the \$26.00 International Student Fee.

SAT and ACT Prep Courseware:

FREE For DoDDS students!!!

The core of the PowerPrep™ v6.0 is the 120 interactive, multimedia video lessons. The Student-Centered Learning Model lets you group your test preparation into logically organized, short study periods that maximize your study time giving you the Freedom to Learn... Your Way!

The Student-Centered Learning Model creates and builds confidence! For more information go to: www.eKnowledge.com/DoDEA

Schedule Changes:

If students are anticipating a potential schedule change for semester 2, they need to see me before the end of the semester. It is my hope that we can finalize all schedule changes by January 24th, if not sooner! Students can see me during lunch, before, or after school, or by appointment. You can also, as always, send me an email with any requests, questions, concerns, etc. Students will ONLY be able to make schedule changes the first 10 days of semester 2. After that time, no schedule changes will be permitted and students will remain in the courses through quarter 4.

Marcy B. Bond
Guidance Counselor, Rota Middle/High School

FROM THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR cont...

College Entrance Testing for SY 2012-2013

Most four (4) year colleges require that students submit the results of either the College Board Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Reasoning Test with or without the SAT Subject Tests, or the American College Test (ACT). Test dates and registration deadlines are as follows:

COLLEGE BOARD SAT/SAT Subject Tests

TEST DATES

October 6, 2012
November 3, 2012
December 1, 2012
January 26, 2013
May 4, 2013

Fees: SAT I \$50.00

SAT Subject Tests

- (1) Basic registration \$23.00
- (2) Language Test with Listening add \$23.00
- (3) All other subject tests add \$12.00

Register at: www.collegeboard.com

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

September 7, 2012
October 4, 2012
November 1, 2012
December 28, 2012
April 5, 2013

ETS CODE
NUMBER 578550

TEST CENTER
NUMBER 59-670

PSAT/NMSQT Register in the guidance office.

DoDDS requires all 10th and 11th graders to take this test. 10th and 11th graders are all automatically signed up to test. We recommend that 9th graders take this exam for practice.

TEST DATES

October 17, 2012 This is the **only** PSAT/NMSQT test date for the school year.

Fees: The fee for the 2012 PSAT/NMSQT is **\$14.00**.

DoDDS will pay the fee for all 10th and 11th graders this year.

AMERICAN COLLEGE TESTING (ACT) Register at: www.actstudent.org

High School Code 578550 Test Center 870600

Fee: **\$35** for the ACT. The optional writing test is an additional \$15.50*.

*Indicates ACT Plus Writing is offered

TEST DATES

October 27, 2012*
December 8, 2012*
April 13, 2013*

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

September 21, 2012
November 2, 2012
March 8, 2013

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAMINATIONS Information in the Guidance Office

Fee: Free to all students enrolled in an AP course at DGF.

All AP students are required to take the corresponding exam to obtain the weighted credit.

TEST DATES

May 6-10, 2013
May 13-17, 2013

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

March 15, 2013
March 15, 2013

A NOTE FROM THE LIBRARIAN



The new library operating system, Millennium, is nearly ready to go online. We will join a union catalog with the rest of Europe which will incorporate results from our databases (newspapers, magazines, reference books, images, and more) into the search results. I'd like to make the switch at the semester break and to do that I'm asking students and teachers to return all checked-out items to the library. Once they are checked in with the old system, they can then be rechecked out using the new system. Our card catalog will be on the Internet and no longer reside locally on our school server. Once I have the log in information for at-home use, I'll let you know how you can access the catalog from home. Since the databases are all subscription services, you will need some kind of password to get into the system from home. Some schools in Europe were test sites last year and are already using it, while others will begin to use it during the upcoming semester or choose to wait until next school year. I'd like to get us up and running at the semester break if possible.

On another note, the library still needs a parent volunteer during lunch on Mondays 11:10-11:50 and Tuesdays 11:35-12:20. If you are interested, please call me at 727-3882. If we cannot find a volunteer, the library will close during those lunch periods.

Mr. Wass
727-3882

ASACS CORNER



European Drinking Model

As teenagers mature into their senior year of high school, many parents begin to feel more comfortable about letting them drink alcohol. But new research from brain scientists and parenting experts suggests loosening the reins on drinking may not be a good idea in the long run. And, researchers say, parents' approach to addressing teen drinking does influence a teen's behavior. Brain researchers are finding that alcohol has a particularly toxic effect on the brain cells of adolescents. The regions of the brain important for judgment, critical thinking and memory do not fully mature until a person is in his or her mid-20s. Alcohol can damage the normal growth and development of a teenager's brain cells in these regions. "Adolescents who engage in binge drinking (that is, having five or more drinks on occasion for boys, or four or more drinks on occasion for females) tend to show some brain abnormalities in their brain's white matter. And if binge drinking continues, within two to three years it can result in subtle declines in a teen's thinking and memory. Tapert (2012) reports declines in attention and memory among the teens who had engaged in binge drinking. "Teenagers who initiate heavy drinking actually go downhill relative to kids who do not initiate heavy drinking during adolescence on several measures of cognitive function." (Tapert, 2012) For some teens there may be no safe level of alcohol use. Negative effects in thinking and memory in teens occur after just 12 drinks in a month, or two or three binge drinking episodes a month.

The Role Of Parents

"Parents who disapprove completely of underage alcohol use tend to have students who engaged in less drinking, less binge drinking, once in college," Abar 2012. And conversely, a parent's permissiveness about teenage drinking is a significant risk factor for later binge drinking. "The parents who are more accepting of teen drinking in high school were more likely to have children who engaged in risky drinking behaviors in college, compared to those children who had parents that were less accepting," Abar says. The researchers also asked the teens about their parents' drinking patterns and found that parents' own drinking behavior influenced a teen's later alcohol use.

ASACS CORNER cont...

Rules Matter

Parents' rules have the strongest effect on teen drinking (Abar, 2012). Complete disapproval of teen drinking by parents was the most protective, even more than when parents allowed a limited amount of alcohol consumption. Psychology professor Mark Wood from the University of Rhode Island says that parental monitoring — knowing where your teenagers are, who they're with, what they're doing — also pays off in terms of less drinking when they go off to college. Research studies by Wood, Abar and others challenge the common parenting practice in much of Europe where kids are socialized to drink at the family table, with the expectation that they'll learn to drink responsibly. Dutch researcher Haske van der Vorst has studied this "European drinking model." "A lot of parents have the idea," says van der Vorst, "that if I let my child drink at home with friends, then at least I can control it somehow. I can buy the alcohol myself. Then I am in control." Unfortunately, she says, based on her research, the European drinking model isn't working. "Not at all actually," she says. "The more teenagers drink at home, the more they will drink at other places, and the higher the risk for problematic alcohol use three years later." To underscore these findings, a recent survey of 15- and 16-year-olds throughout Europe finds that the majority of European countries have a higher rate of teen drunkenness than in this country.

"It really calls into question the strategy that parents are adopting of the European drinking model," she says. "The most protective strategy for parents is to make it really clear to their teens that they completely disapprove of underage alcohol use." (van der Vorst, 2012)

Adapted from "Parents, the Anti-drug".

An individual must be at least 18 years of age to drink legally in Spain.

ASACS services are confidential and free of charge.

Elizabeth Hill, LPC, CAS, NCC
727-6422

ADMIRALS IN ACTION

Rota Senior Accepted to Harvard



The 13th of December turned out to be a lucky date for Rota High School senior Luke Driscoll, as he discovered he had been accepted to Harvard next year. This news came shortly after his telephone interview at the beginning of December. "I felt that my telephone interview helped application" said Luke, "but I was still extremely surprised to hear the news." All of a sudden August 2013 seems a lot closer than it did, and Luke is busily preparing himself for this exciting transition.

"Rota HS could not be more proud of Luke!" exclaimed Rota Middle/High School counselor Marcy Bond. "He is an all-around great kid who works hard and deserves every accolade bestowed upon him. What an accomplishment!" Such sentiments are shared by students and faculty alike at Rota Middle/High School, where so many of our students go on to do great things.

ADMIRALS IN ACTION

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever' was an ambitious project coordinated by Rota Middle/High School drama teacher Matthew Lamb. A cast and crew of more than 40 included students and faculty members from the elementary, middle and high school who worked together for many weeks preparing for the performances on December 15th and 16th. The cast was complemented by Mr. Fox's choral group, whose close harmonies added heart-warming Christmas spirit.

The production presented many obstacles as it developed, however the team pulled together and dealt with all problems in due course. One big setback was the failure of the lighting console just days before the performances. Luckily, Mr. Fox was able to use an iPad app to enable the team to masterfully control the huge, complicated lighting system!

The production was a great success and the performances were well-attended. A testimony to the hard-work, determination and team-work at the Rota schools.



The Cast



Mr. Fox & the Choir

ADMIRALS IN ACTION



The Art Club Belén in El Puerto de Santa Maria was a great success with over 80 Spanish children and families passing through the doors to visit the display. RMHS students greeted the locals and shared treats while elaborating on the project. Special thank you to hard-working participants Adam Doerres, Alexis Quinones, Amber Rondina, and Kevin Easton! The cultural exchange spread goodwill to our Spanish neighbors and gave students a chance to see some real Beléns in town. A big thanks to all who came to see and share!



ASPIRE Students Collected Food and Toys for Local Families

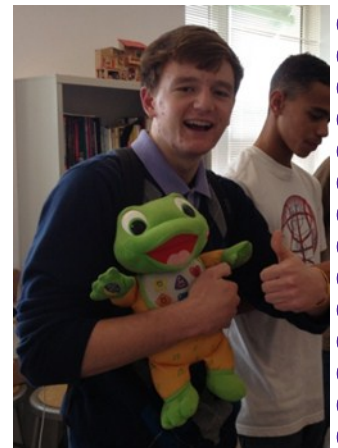
During the months of November and December ASPIRE students organized a toy and food drive at school to help needy families in the local area. The last week before the winter break, students collected the canned foods from the different seminars and cleaned and classified the donated used toys before giving them to the organization *Con Aires de Ilusión*.

The food was donated to *Cáritas* in *El Puerto de Santa María* and the toys were given to the children on January 5th in a small event at the *Hermanitas de las pobres* home for the poor.

NHS and ASPIRE members have fun cleaning the toys.



Daniel B. gives children candy as they descend from the stage where they got their present from the Three Kings.



Brooks F. went back to his childhood.



The Three Kings and their assistants give toys to the well-behaved children.

ADMIRALS IN ACTION

NJROTC Best of 2012

By Cadet Ensign Joy Hutcheson-Tipton
NJROTC Rota Spain PAO
Cadet Ensign Truemper
NJROTC Rota Spain PAO

As the New Year begins, we look back at the accomplishments of the NJROTC Rota Spain Cadets achievements in the year 2012. The NJROTC Cadets in Rota Spain have connected with their community through volunteering. Towards the end of October the cadets volunteered at the supply hunted house on base by providing help on running and creating a wonderful and scary experience for all ages. In November the cadets of Rota Spain went through BLT, which is basic leadership training in order to learn the necessary elements needed to become a leader as well as help the elementary school celebrate Veterans Day. Towards the end of 2012 the Cadets of Rota Spain took the time to give back to their community during the holidays, by volunteering at the polar express. This event was wonderful and allows are cadets to give back to their community by showing them we care that they have a wonderful and safe holiday with their family. The Cadets of Rota Spain have had a wonderful and well productive year in 2012 and are looking forward to make the best of 2013.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Yearbooks can now be ordered online! If you purchase before February, the price is only \$52! (The price will then go up to \$60) .

Go to: www.jostens.com . We are 'David G Farragut High School' when you look for us in the Yearbook section.

REMINDER TO PARENTS/SPONSORS:

- If you are PCSing or if your student is withdrawing soon and you have not yet informed the registrar kindly do so at your earliest convenience. Please contact 727-4181 or kat.tutty@eu.dodea.edu .
- If you are locked out of your MyData account or if your account has been disabled, please contact MyDataPassword@hq.dodea.edu for assistance .
- Please make sure to call the main office at 727-4183 or email the attendance clerk at manuel.sosa@eu.dodea.edu if your student is going to be absent, tardy or needs to leave school due to an appointment

ROTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND ROTA MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL 2012-2013 SCHOOL CALENDAR

2013

Friday, January 18	Dismissal at 1130 for the ES & 1330 for the HS
Monday, January 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Day- Federal Holiday-School Closed
Thursday, January 24	End of Second Quarter and First Semester
Friday, January 25	SCHOOL- Teacher Work Day (45 days of classroom instruction)
<i>Second Semester- 91 Instructional Days</i>	
Monday, January 28	Begin Third Quarter and Second Semester
Friday, February 1	NO SCHOOL - ES Parent/Teacher Conference; HS in session
Monday, February 4	School Improvement Workday - No School for students
Monday, February 18	President's Day – Federal Holiday
Friday, February 22	School Improvement- Early Release at 1330 for ES & HS
Friday, March 15	School Improvement- Early Release at 1330 for ES & HS
Thursday, April 4	End of Third Quarter (48 days of classroom instruction)
Friday, April 5	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS – Teacher Work Day
Monday, April 8	Begin Spring Recess
Monday, April 15	Instruction Resumes- Begin Fourth Quarter
Mon-Fri. April 15-19	ES Re-registration week for SY 2013-2014
Friday, April 19	NO SCHOOL ES & HS Parent/Teacher Conference
	HS Registration for SY 2013-2014
Friday, April 26	School Improvement -Early Release at 1330 for ES & HS
Thursday, May 16	Accelerated Withdrawal Date for the end of the school year
Monday, May 27	Memorial Day- Federal Holiday
Friday, May 31	School Improvement- Early Release at 1330 for ES & HS
Saturday, June 8	HS Graduation at 1500 in Los Caimanes, Rota
Thursday, June 13	End of 4th Quarter/2ndSemester (43 days of classroom instruction)
	Students dismissed at 1130
Friday, June 14	NO SCHOOL- Teacher Work Day

CONTACT US:**MAIN OFFICE: 727-4183**

Principal: Mr. Daniel Serfass
Daniel.Serfass@eu.dodea.edu

Assistant Principal: Ms. Cheryl Aeillo
Cheryl.Aeillo@eu.dodea.edu

Admin Asst: Manolo Sosa
Manuel.Sosa@eu.dodea.edu

REGISTRATION/GUIDANCE OFFICE : 727-4181/ 727-4580

Guidance Counselor: Marcy Bond
Marcy.Bond@eu.dodea.edu

Registrar/Guidance Secretary: Kat Tutty
Kat.Tutty@eu.dodea.edu

TEACHING STAFF:

Benjamin Anderson– Benjamin.Anderson@eu.dodea.edu
James Anderson (ET)– James.Anderson@eu.dodea.edu
Josephine Andrews– Josephine.Andrews@eu.dodea.edu
Maria Bastidas– Maria.Bastidas@eu.dodea.edu
Ruthanne Bloyd– Ruthanne.Bloyd@eu.dodea.edu
Melissa Boduch– Melissa.Boduch@eu.dodea.edu
Stephen Bond– Stephen.Bond@eu.dodea.edu
William Brogan– William.Brogan@eu.dodea.edu
Clarice Brown– Clarice.Brown@eu.dodea.edu
James Crowell– James.Crowell@eu.dodea.edu
Edward Demeritt– Edward.Demeritt@eu.dodea.edu
James Flynn– James.Flynn@eu.dodea.edu
Jason Fox– Jason.Fox@eu.dodea.edu
Joshua Garrison - Joshua.Garrison@eu.dodea.edu
Maureen Husum (nurse)- Maureen.Husum@eu.dodea.edu
Greg Jacobs– Greg.Jacobs@eu.dodea.edu
Christopher Kaldahl– Christopher.Kaldahl@eu.dodea.edu
Karen Kaldahl– Karen.Kaldahl@eu.dodea.edu
Matthew Lamb– Matthew.Lamb@eu.dodea.edu
Jamie Matteson– Jamie.Matteson@eu.dodea.edu
Alvera McMillan– Alvera.McMillan@eu.dodea.edu
Dale Nichols– Dale.Nichols@eu.dodea.edu
Acie Sabb– Acie.Sabb@eu.dodea.edu
Judith Scarbrough– Judith.Scarbrough@eu.dodea.edu
Timothy Streeter– Timothy.Streeter@eu.dodea.edu
Kym Thomas– Kym.Thomas@eu.dodea.edu
Kathleen Tierney– Kathleen.Tierney@eu.dodea.edu
Christopher Tutty– Christopher.Tutty@eu.dodea.edu
David Wass (librarian)- David.Wass@eu.dodea.edu
Linda White- Linda.White@eu.dodea.edu