

## **The Shark Encounter**

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## **Introducing Our New Teachers**



**Breanna Wright** What colleges did you attend? What degrees have you obtained? **Degree in English** education and a minor in psychology from **Abilene Christian** University. How long have you been teaching? **Two years** What is your job (title)? What does your job consist of? **Teaches freshman English**. What are some things you like to do in your spare time? Used to play division one basketball in college. Enjoys reading, playing video games, and spending time outside walking her dogs, hiking, and kayaking. **By: Paige Swanson** 



**Michelle Gracie** What colleges did you attend? What degrees have you gained? USF, degree in history with a minor in literary studies. How long have you been teaching? 6 years. What is your job (title)? What do you do? A english 2 and english 3 teacher. What do you like to do in your free time? Reading, watching historical fiction stuff, hanging out with her kids.

**By: Ashlyn Phillips** 



Alexeus Jasinowski What college(s) did they attend? Started at HCC, then transferred to USF

What degree(s) did they obtain? Bachelor's in Secondary Education with a minor in British and American Literature

How long have they been teaching? A total of 9 years

What is their job title and what do they do? English 1 and 4 teacher, claims she gets Freshmen ready for high school and Seniors ready for life

What do they do in their spare time? Hikes and listens to audio books By: Lily Bunten Page 1

## Ballot Issue to be Decided Tuesday

Superintendent Addison Davis and the Hillsborough County School Board have proposed a one mil increase in ad valorem taxes. A community meeting was held in the Riverview High School auditorium on Wed., July 27, where Davis presented the purpose of the tax and what

it ensues for Hillsborough Schools. The tax will allow additional money to be brought into the district at an estimated rate of \$146 million a year.

This tax will be on the ballot on voting day, this Tuesday. If the tax is approved by voters, it will be in place for four years unless renewed to keep it in place for a longer duration.

\$ Eight million would be put towards recruiting effective and impactful instructors. \$23 million would be shared with charter school under requirement by law. Eighty-four percent of the money will go to public schools and the other 16% goes to charter schools. Hillsborough has a population of roughly 218,997 students, yet 1,000 positions remain unfilled as the school year begins. The School Board intends for this tax to alleviate ongoing setbacks throughout the county. 2022-23 Varsity Football Schedule 8/19- @Spoto 8/26- @Brandon 9/2- Freedom 9/9- Chamberlain 9/16- @East Bay 9/30- Newsome 10/7- Alonso 10/14- Sumner 10/21- @Straw. Crest 10/28- @Durant 11/4- @Steinbrenner ALL GAMES @ 7:30

The money will go towards teacher compensation, preparing students through workforce education, and expanding art, music, and physical education.

At the meeting, it was explained that 21 Florida counties have successfully implemented a millage referendum and select counties are considering a referendum in 2022, including Brevard, Duval,

Pasco, Sarasota and Palm Beach, which are considering renewing their referendums. It was explained at the meeting that, aside from more compensation for teachers, this referendum will push for more access to art, music, and physical education for students. Elementary schools around the county are forced to use broken and rundown instruments due to lack of money in the school system. An annual \$11 million will be put towards adding 45 art teachers, 67 music teachers, and 37 P.E. teachers. An additional \$6 million will allow supplies, equipment, uniforms, and instruments to be repaired and replaced.

As gas prices, insurance, healthcare, and housing all continue to rise there are mixed reactions about this tax throughout the community. Many members aren't sold on the idea that taxing everyone is going to magically solve the plethora of financial burdens. Others also believe there are other creative ways to bring more money into schools other than adding a tax to homeowners' plates. Many doubts have been presented about the tax with claims that it isn't the solution to all problems within schools. Davis reassured attendees of the community meeting that this tax is important to take a big step towards bettering schools. He explained that although inflation is sky rocketing, the time to start pushing for financial relief is now. He believes this will benefit teachers, parents and in turn, the students.

## By: Jailyn Spady