



FIREBIRD GAZETTE

JAN 2024

STEPPING INTO 2024

BY: MELISSA RUIZ

As the clock strikes midnight, marking the dawn of a new year, we find ourselves standing at the threshold of a fresh chapter in our academic journey at Doral Academy Charter High School. Stepping into the familiar halls, there's a palpable sense of excitement and anticipation, a feeling that this year holds the promise of personal and collective growth.

Within these revered walls, the arrival of the new year encourages us to ponder our past accomplishments. Whether it's overcoming challenging assignments, excelling in extracurricular endeavors, or surmounting obstacles, each triumph adds to the rich fabric of our shared achievements.

Doral Academy thrives on ambition. As the new year unfolds, we paint our aspirations - raising academic standards, taking on leadership roles, and engaging in community service projects. The unwavering support from teachers and mentors encourages us to dream big, fostering an environment where aspirations are actively pursued.

Doral is a family, not just a place of learning. As the new year begins, we actively foster a positive, inclusive atmosphere. Acts of kindness and understanding strengthen the bonds within the Doral family, creating a culture where everyone feels valued and supported.

Change is constant at Doral Academy, and each year brings new faces, challenges, and opportunities. Embracing these changes with an open heart is a hallmark of the Doral spirit, turning challenges into stepping stones for personal and academic growth.

CALENDAR

January 1st

New Year Begins!

January 8th

Return to School from Winter Break

January 17th

Boys Basketball v. Miami High

January 19th

First Day of Performing Arts Auditions

January 19th

First Day of Performing Arts Auditions

January 27th

2024 Curriculum Fair

January 30th

Middle School TV Production Meeting

January 30th

Boys Varsity soccer District Championships

STEPPING INTO 2024 CONTINUED & MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

BY: MELISSA RUIZ & ALEXANDRA CRUZ

Doral Academy prioritizes well-being. As the new year unfolds, there's a renewed emphasis on cultivating healthy habits - from physical well-being through sports to mental health awareness through mindfulness techniques.

Embarking on a new year at Doral Academy Charter High School is not just a routine; it's our transformative journey. The blend of reflection, goal-setting, and community support empowers us to shape our destinies. As the doors open to another year of learning, growth, and shared experiences, we contribute to the vibrant tapestry that makes Doral Academy not just a school but our home.



In it he outlined his vision of a nation where people are looked at on the content of their character rather than the color of their skin. King encouraged peaceful protests as a successful means of bringing about social change throughout his life.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, one of the most significant figures in American history. Many generations around the world are still motivated by his dedication to social justice and civil rights. Every year, as we pay tribute to him, we are reminded not only of his incredible accomplishments but also of the ongoing dedication necessary to achieve his goal for society.

Martin Luther King Jr. devoted his life to achieving equality and civil rights for all citizens of the United States. During the Birmingham Campaign, the Selma to Montgomery Marches, and the Montgomery Bus Boycott, he was a key figure in the civil rights movement. King's rise to fame as a national leader was highlighted by the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which was brought on by Rosa Parks' arrest for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger. His leadership of the 381-day boycott ultimately resulted in Montgomery's desegregation of public transportation and

Born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia, Martin Luther King Jr. emerged as an important leader in the civil rights movement during the 1950s-1960s. Millions of people were inspired to join the fight against racial discrimination and segregation by his inspiring speeches and commitment to peaceful protest.

King's most famous speech, "I Have a Dream," which he gave at the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963, is still seen as a testament to aspiration and hope today.



Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a historic day for reflection and commemoration rather than just a date on the calendar. This national holiday is observed every year on the third Monday of January, and honors the life and legacy of

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY CONTINUED & 2023 CURRICULUM FAIR

BY: ALEXANDRA CRUZ & VALERIA VELARDE

attracted national attention to the civil rights movement.

Every year on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we are reminded that there is still a long way to go in the fight for social justice and civil rights. Even though there has been a lot of progress since King's time, systematic discrimination, injustice, and inequality still exist in many forms. The necessity of addressing racial injustice and police brutality has been highlighted by recent events, such as large-scale protests against these problems. We need to be motivated by Martin Luther King Jr.'s example as we take on the problems of our day and keep pushing for substantive change.

King envisioned a beloved community where everyone is valued and welcomed. We can carry on his work and get closer to realizing his vision through acts of service, advocacy, and cooperation.



All in all, Doral's annual curriculum fair was yet another success. So many students now have a greater knowledge of the courses and clubs our school has to offer.



Every year Doral Academy hosts a curriculum fair for students and parents. On January 27th, families had the opportunity to learn more about the courses and clubs our school has to offer. With club booths such as National Art Honor Society and Future Business Leaders of America, students got to see a variety of options. Especially now with subject selections, many students don't know of the endless programs that are available to them, so the curriculum fair was the perfect way to inform those who are interested.

Not only does the event promote clubs, but it also has booths for core classes. For example, advanced placement courses like Spanish or English are a hit every year. Hundreds of students sign up for them because it is a great way to gain college credit, while still being in high school.



BLUE BELL ICE CREAM

BY: MELISSA RUIZ

A heartfelt and resounding shoutout goes to Blue Bell Ice Cream for contributing to the unparalleled sweetness of the school's recent victory! The school is elated to share the exciting news that its dedicated team has once again secured the prestigious title of the 4th consecutive Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Such an accomplishment wouldn't be conceivable without the unwavering support of remarkable partners like Blue Bell Ice Cream!



upholding the highest standards of excellence. It is a celebration of the perfect blend of hard work, dedication, and the delectable sweetness that Blue Bell Ice Cream brings to the school's journey.

The school extends its deepest gratitude to Blue Bell Ice Cream for being an integral part of its triumphant journey and for sharing in the pride of its achievements. To express appreciation, all students, faculty, and staff will be treated to the delightful experience of free ice cream today. This is not just a celebration of success but a moment to savor the sweet rewards of collaboration, dedication, and the support of incredible partners like Blue Bell Ice Cream. Thank you for being a vital ingredient in the school's recipe for success!



Blue Bell Ice Cream's incredibly generous donation has not only added an extra scoop of joy to the school's jubilant celebration but has also served as a source of inspiration, fueling the school's commitment to



THE CALL FOR ARTISTS

BY: JENNIFER GIRALDO

Some people are surprised to find that Doral Academy isn't one school- it's three. The School of Technology and School of Performing Arts integrate to give Doral Academy students access to all the opportunities they need to succeed in a field they're passionate about. From coding to dance, you'd be surprised to find just how much the schools offer. Participating in competitions, tournaments, and events galore, it's a one stop shop to success in your field. The best part, however, is the people you'll meet along the way. The typically small class sizes let you really make close connections with others, and it helps to know you all have a passion in common already.

In the School of Performing Arts, over 400 students are mentored and specialize in 10 categories- theater, dance, art, keyboard, orchestra, band, guitar, chorus, TV production, and photography. These 10 disciplines open huge doors in terms of scholarships, media recognition, and career paths.

Over the last teacher planning day weekend, Doral hosted its annual auditions, inviting students

to be a part of this program. Several teachers, juniors and seniors volunteered as judges. "For auditions we asked students from all levels of experience a few questions and had them present their portfolio," says Priscilla Gocende, judge of the Photography Program. Gocende is a professional photographer who's been running her own business, Poised Photography, for the past two years. "Without being in performing arts, I wouldn't have been where I am now. I mean, the program taught me everything I needed to succeed." According to her, the Photography Program received 18 auditions this year, and candidates were encouraged to submit unique portfolios to illustrate their own photographic style.

Isabella Mineo, judge of the Theatre Program, described a very different audition process. "Each person was required to recite a monologue under 2 minutes long, and they can afterwards share any special talents they have (singing, dancing, etc.)" The theater community in our school is fiercely committed, and they make up a larger portion of students in comparison to the other

arts. Around 74 candidates were put to the test, and those that pass will go on to join an intense (but very fun) high school extracurricular.

One of the most highly regarded programs however, is the TV Production Program, more commonly known as FBTV. In charge of making morning announcements today, these students are the reporters and filmmakers of tomorrow. The award-winning program had Valentina Torres as a judge for the auditions, and she stated that "The auditionees had to prepare a demo reel demonstrating their work and pass a simple 3-question interview" to be considered.

All in all, if you have a passion, go for it! There's nothing to lose in the audition process, and you'll be surrounded by people who'll support you every step of the way. The key to succeeding? Being original, and being open-minded. These are traits that our Performing Arts programs will never stop rewarding you for. Let the show go on!