



SICKLES UPDATE 08-23-2026

We're still beaming from the thrilling Friday Night Football win in our football home opener. It was a great night to be a Gryphon - congratulations to the team and thank you to everyone who kept the energy level high from the opening kickoff to the final whistle! Here's a look at the week ahead:

Monday, Aug. 24

- Early Release Schedule (2:25 pm dismissal)
- Theater "Ride The Cyclone" Auditions (2:30 pm, Room 312)
- Senior Parent College Meeting (6 pm, Auditorium, info below)

Tuesday, Aug. 25

- Short Homeroom First Bell Schedule
- Testing PM1 Grade 9 (info below)
- Volleyball at Bloomingdale (JV 6:30 pm, Varsity 7:30 pm)
- Golf vs. Steinbrenner (3:30 pm, Heritage Harbor)

Wednesday, Aug. 26

- Short Homeroom First Bell Schedule
- Testing PM1 Grade 10 (info below)
- Cross Country Western Hillsborough Invitational (5 pm, Tampa Bay Downs)

Thursday, Aug. 27

- Green Club Day
- Volleyball home vs. Strawberry Crest (JV 6:30 pm, Varsity 7:30 pm)

- Swim vs. Freedom and Plant (6 pm, Bobby Hicks Pool)
- Golf vs. Hillsborough (3:30 pm, The Eagles)
- JROTC Parent Meeting

Friday, Aug. 28

- Regular Bell Schedule
- Varsity Football at Steinbrenner (7:30 p.m.)

Saturday, Aug. 29

- Sophie's Closet (11 am to 3 pm, Cafeteria, info below)
- Swim City Relays (Bobby Hicks Pool)

Sunday, Aug. 30

- Senior Parking Spot Painting (info on Class of 2027 Canvas page)

EMPLOYEE OF THE WEEK: Hats off to cheerleading coach Ashley Chesser, who has taken the lead this season in coordinating a more unified spirit presence at our athletic events. We also want to congratulate her for an honor her team received this summer at UCA camp in St. Petersburg, where the Gryphons won the Leadership award, given to the squad the most campers said they would want to join. Thank you and congratulations, Coach Chesser!

SICKLES IN US NEWS BEST HIGH SCHOOLS: We're proud to once again be listed on US News & World Report's list of Best High Schools. We're No. 94 in Florida! Read more [AT THIS LINK](#) and [AT THIS VIDEO](#).

FIELD TRIP POLICIES: Students attending field trips will receive their field trip paperwork at least two weeks prior to the trip and must return it to the trip sponsor no later than one week (7 calendar days) prior to the trip. We have added an additional "School Business Concern Form" so we can track attendance, behavior and academic issues prior to granting permission for students to be excused from class. Students who fail to meet these deadlines will not be eligible for participation in field trips.

SENIOR COLLEGE PARENT NIGHT: There will be a meeting for all senior parents and seniors who are new to having a student apply for college. The meeting will be in the Auditorium at 6 pm Monday, Aug. 24. Lots of topics will be covered from community college to university to scholarships.

COLLEGE FAIR: Sickles High School is hosting a large college fair in the Gym on Wednesday, Sept. 9 from 6-8 pm. Juniors, seniors & their parents/guardians are encouraged to attend and meet with representatives from over 50 colleges, universities and

technical schools in Florida and other states. This is one of two fairs in the county and we are expecting a huge crowd - we hope to see you there!

PM1 TESTING: Students in Grades 9-10 will take their language arts PM1 testing this week. PM stands for progress monitoring - as students take the tests three times per year so we can evaluate areas for growth. All students will report to homeroom first on Tuesday and Wednesday so we can deliver testing passes.

NO HOODIES FOR TESTING: State testing guidelines prohibit students from wearing hoodies during testing. If your child is wearing a hoodie to school on their testing day, it is important that they are wearing appropriate attire underneath it for the testing time.

PICTURE DAY NEXT WEEK: Tuesday, Sept. 1 is school picture day for students in Grades 9-11. Students will attend through the English classes; if a student is not enrolled in an on-campus English class they should go during lunch or as their schedule allows. As a reminder, seniors should contact Cady Studios directly to make an appointment for their senior portraits.

PSAT AND SAT DATE CHANGE: We will offer the PSAT to all students Grades 9-11 on Thursday, Oct. 1. Seniors who still need to meet a graduation benchmark will also take the SAT that day.

SOPHIE'S CLOSET: Though Sophie is now in college, we are proud to still be home to Sophie's Closet, a free formal wear closet open to students at Sickles and other area schools. Our first event will be Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm - park on the bus ramp to access the event and spread the word to friends across the area.

ALL-PRO DADS: We're excited to launch an All-Pro Dads program at Sickles. The first event is scheduled for Sept. 9. Learn more and sign up [AT THIS LINK](#).

HELP US CELEBRATE OUR STUDENTS: We are seeking donations to support the Sickles Positive Referral Incentive Program! Your generosity helps us recognize and reward students for making positive choices and demonstrating the Gryphon spirit. Any donation is welcome and greatly appreciated! Please visit our [Amazon Wish List](#) and help if you can. Thank you for supporting our students and helping us make a positive impact at Sickles! A big THANK YOU to Miriam Humphrey, the Howard Family, the Wickstead Family and our anonymous gift card donor! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

PARKING: All vehicles parking on campus must display a valid hangtag. As a reminder, senior painted spots are not "reserved" until after painting day on Sunday, Aug. 30. Last week we were able to clear our parking wait list - students who would still like a hangtag may join a new waitlist in Student Affairs and we will release more based on space available.

CLASS BALANCING: Because actual enrollment does not always match projections, some schedules may need to be updated to allow for balanced classes. We may also need to add or subtract certain course offerings based on enrollment. The balancing process has started and will continue in the coming weeks. Because schedule changes are being made purposefully, we are unable to honor requests to revert schedules.

CLASS OF 2027 CANVAS PAGE: Seniors can find important updates about GradBash deposits, senior bundle payments and senior shirt payments on the Class of 2027 Canvas page. This is the go-to location for info for seniors ... so check with your student to make sure they have access. If they need to be added, they can email eric.shelton@hcps.net their name and student number to get added.

LOCKERS: Students who purchased lockers can report to Student Affairs to claim their locker combo.

ATHLETIC INFO: Visit our [Sickles Athletics Department](#) website for game schedules, athletic clearance instructions, coaches' contact info, ticket info and more. We definitely encourage you to join the Sickles Athletic Booster Club and visit their site!

REPORTING ABSENCES: To report your child's excused absence, send an email to sickles.high+attendance@hcps.net. Improving attendance, especially for chronically absent students, is a top priority of our team this year. Please help us by making sure students are present at school except for legitimate reasons.

GO GRYPHONS!