



APRIL 24, 2024

## > Pinder named interim superintendent ASSUMES ROLE UPON STRATTON'S RETIREMENT

Last night, the Board named Assistant Superintendent of Business and Support Services Ray Pinder as interim superintendent, following John Stratton's retirement in June. The Board further voted to allow the Board Chair to begin negotiations on a 1-year contract as interim. Pinder is "home-grown" - he is a Hernando High School alumni (Class of 1987), and has worked in Hernando Schools for more than 30 years as a teacher, administrator, director of human resources, and his current position as assistant superintendent.



## > April's Veteran of the Month honored MARVIN WETHINGTON FROM SUNCOAST

The Hernando School Board recognized Marvin Wethington, 2nd grade teacher at Suncoast Elementary, as the Veteran of the Month for April. Mr. Wethington served with the US Army for 20 years, retiring in 2003 at the rank of Sergeant First Class/E-7. In the Army, Mr. Wethington served as a tank commander, a small group instructor at leadership academies at both Fort Benning and Fort Knox, and his final assignment as an active-duty military advisor to an Army Reserve Drill Sergeant School. Also, in 1998, he was deployed to Kuwait as part of the 11-country Coalition Task Force, Operation Desert Thunder. Upon retiring from the military, Mr. Wethington returned to Florida and began substituting at Westside Elementary. He became a 1st grade teacher there during the 2004-05 school year. He also taught 3rd and 5th grades at Explorer K-8 before moving to SES in 2022. Said SES Principal Scott Piesik, "He spent a lifetime serving others - first the citizens of the United States and around the world, and now the students and families of Hernando County. I am honored to work with such a dedicated individual, and I am so proud to be a small part of (Wethington's) story."



Please take a moment to watch this touching tribute [here](#) and see why he is most deserving of this recognition!

## > Central breaks ground for NJROTC field house THE FACILITY WILL INCLUDE AN AIR RIFLE RANGE

A groundbreaking for the Central High School NJROTC's state-of-the-art field house was held yesterday on the school grounds. The 4,000-square-foot facility, which will also house an air rifle range, is made possible by a \$1 million donation by Gene and Christina Tomashosky, in memory of their daughter, Valentina, who was killed in a tragic accident in 2021. For those who missed it, please watch video and article from Fox 13 News [here](#).



## > District hosts 25th Art Gallery ART EXCELLENCE ON DISPLAY

Last week, Hernando School District hosted its 25th annual Art Gallery Recognition Night at Central High School. The event featured more than 100 pieces of original artwork created by students of all ages throughout the school district. For winners, more photos and details, [click here](#).



The 2024 Parent Survey Closes Friday!

