


**The White Family Foundation  
Grant Request #780  
Pinellas County Schools – Boca Ciega Wrestling Team  
March 30, 2023**

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<b>Date of grant proposal submission</b>	Thursday, March 30, 2023
<b>Are you an IRS compliant 501(c)3 public charity/nonprofit?</b>	Yes
<b>Legal name of organization</b>	Pinellas County Schools
<b>DBA Name if Applicable</b>	Boca Ciega High School
<b>Address</b>	 924 58th St S Gulfport, Florida 33707 United States
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.pcsb.org/bocaciega-hs">https://www.pcsb.org/bocaciega-hs</a>
<b>Telephone</b>	727-420-8186
<b>Organization Director/Title</b>	Jennifer Gil-Principal
<b>Contact Person/Title</b>	Tobey Alvarez-Head Wrestling Coach
<b>Contact Person's Telephone</b>	727-420-8186
<b>Contact Person's Email</b>	<a href="mailto:alvarezt@pcsb.org">alvarezt@pcsb.org</a>
<b>Grant Request Amount</b>	\$10,000.00
<b>Please provide us with a brief description of your organization (no more than 500 words).</b>	We are a high school wrestling team that serves many underprivileged youth. We serve both male a female student athletes- We have a boys team and a girls team. They work hard in the classroom and in the wrestling room. For many this is one of their only opportunities to make it to the next level to continue their education. We teach many skills that will follow each student athlete throughout their life, such as teamwork, perseverance, self confidence and self control.

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**Grant Purpose (one paragraph)**

Boca Ciega High School is a public title 1 school in the Pinellas County School System. A designated Title I school serves economically disadvantaged students. Many of the students are from single-parent homes. We are seeking support for our Girl's and boys' wrestling teams. The BCCHS wrestling program unites all student-athletes, regardless of skill level and background. BCCHS's primary focus is ensuring every athlete receives an adequate education. Our focus is placed on developing many life lessons: sportsmanship, overcoming adversity, positive problem-solving, and teamwork. The wrestling program is not a revenue-making program. We are provided minimal financial support for the program; Therefore, the financial need superseded the monies provided to the individual students and the wrestling program. Students find themselves fundraising to meet their needs but still find us coming up short. I prefer that student-athlete focus on education and their commitment to the wrestling team. Students need the proper protective gear, and uniforms/garments/ warm-up and shoes; many cannot afford it. We never want to turn any away or not allow them to participate due to not having all the required equipment. Nor do we want to impose another financial burden on families. We are seeking financial assistance to purchase Uniforms (singlets), shoes, warm-up sets, and funding for the entry fees paid to enter wrestling tournaments and showcases, which increases the visibility of our athletes by colleges and universities. At this point in time, we are unable to outfit all the student-athletes and some are forced to sit out at no fault of their own. Because we are two separate teams, the monetary amount requested would be divided equally between both the girls and boys teams to adequately support the needs of each student athlete on each team.

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<b>Annual Project/Program Budget (if request is for a specific project)</b>	\$10,000.00
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<b>Annual Organization Budget</b>	\$1,200.00
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# Boca Ciega High School



**Wrestling Team**  
**Home of the Pirates**

# Contact Information

**Boca Ciega High School**

924 58th St S,  
Gulfport, FL 33707

**Wrestling Coach: Tobey Alvarez**

**Email: [Alvarezt@pcsb.org](mailto:Alvarezt@pcsb.org)**

**Phone: (727) 420-8186**

**Principal: Jennifer Gil**



# Table of Contents

1. Case Statement
2. Financials/Exempt Status
3. Budgetary Breakdown/Proposals
4. Pinellas County School Board Members
5. Current News/Publications
6. Letters of Support
7. Photos



# Case Statement

The Boca Ciega High School (BCHS), colloquially referred to as Bogie, home of the Pirates, is located in Gulfport, Florida. Boca Ciega High School (BCHS) is a public Title 1 school in the Pinellas County School System. A designated Title I school that serves economically disadvantaged students. Many of the students are from low to moderate-income single-parent homes.

BCHS:

**Vision:** 100% Student Success

**Mission:** To open doors to success for our students

**Core Values:** Commitment to Children, Families, and Community; Respectful and Caring Relationships; Cultural Competence; Integrity; Responsibility; Connectedness

**Strategic Directions:**

- Student Achievement
- A culture that Promotes Learning in a Rewarding, Healthy, and Safe Environment
- Equity with Excellence for All
- Career- and College-Readiness
- Effective and Efficient Use of Resources
- Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

BCHS has identified sports as a vehicle to help the youths excel and promote the vital skills to be successful and productive in adulthood. Here at BCHS, we focus on using our intramural sports to remove barriers to participation, promoting personal, social, and community development. Sports can teach values such as **fairness, team building, equality, discipline, inclusion, perseverance, and respect**. Sport has the power to provide a universal framework for learning values, thus contributing to the development of soft skills needed for responsible citizenship.

We are requesting support for our wrestling program at BCHS. Our program includes both a young male and female team, with a Junior Varsity and Varsity program available. Currently, our wrestling program has over 80 young athletes on the team. We believe in bringing together all student-athletes, regardless of skill level or background, to focus on providing quality education and ensuring every athlete receives a diploma. For those student-athletes looking to continue their

education, playing a sport at the collegiate level can help lessen the financial burden placed upon their families. Thank you for considering supporting our wrestling program at BCHS.

High school wrestling is not new. Any young lady wishing to wrestle would have to wrestle other young males. Females found themselves at a disadvantage. In 2020 The Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) voted unanimously to recognize, embrace, and sanction having an all-female wrestling program starting in the 2021-22 season. Offering girls, a team can enhance their chances of joining a school activity, leading to more opportunities for them to connect and feel part of the school community. Studies have shown that when students feel more connected, they tend to have better attendance, engagement, and academic performance.

The female wrestling program is in its 2nd year of inception. BCHS currently has over thirty girls and counting in the program. It is not lost on the girls they are the pioneers of the sport for all-girls wrestling teams in Florida. During the inaugural, The BCHS lady pirates were crowned district champions. The lady pirates crowned back-to-back district champs. The lady Pirates have been crowned the 2023 Pinellas County All-Conference Champs, along with several other team and individual accomplishments. We had fourteen lady pirates and seven pirates advance to Regional. We had one lady pirate State Champion.

The wrestling program is not a revenue-making program. The wrestling program receives minimal financial support. Therefore, the financial need superseded the monies provided for the wrestling program. Students find themselves fundraising to meet their needs but still find us short. I prefer that student-athletes focus on education and their commitment to the wrestling team. Students need the proper protective gear, and many cannot afford it. We never turn away any student, nor not allow them to participate due to not having all the required equipment.

Unfortunately, we found ourselves having youths sharing wrestling shoes and headgear. We lack the appropriate equipment for all the students to participate. Heartbreaking to tell a student they are not allowed to complete it simply because no equipment is available at no fault of the student; nor do we want to impose another financial burden on families.

Financial assistance is requested to purchase Uniforms (singlets), shoes, warm-up sets, mouthguards, knee pads, and headgear. The donation we seek is \$10,000. It would split equally between the girls' and boys' Teams at \$5,000 each. The monies



will also help improve the visibility of colleges and universities, we seek entry fees paid to enter wrestling tournaments and showcases. Apart from creating chances for students to connect with the school within the classroom, offering additional opportunities outside the classroom can also enhance their sense of connectedness

**Problem:** The BCHS wrestling team is currently facing a uniform shortage, which is causing some students to share equipment or miss out on participating. This issue has been worsened by the recent introduction of a wrestling squad exclusively for female athletes. Nonetheless, both boys and girls are welcome on the team, which fosters a supportive and encouraging family dynamic both on and off the mat. Providing each student with their uniform, warm-up set, and proper gear would significantly boost their self-esteem and enhance their academic performance.

Despite operating on a budget of less than \$1000.00 per team, with no funding provided, the BCHS wrestling team is determined to make a difference. While we are grateful for donations from other organizations, they are not enough to cover uniforms and other necessary equipment. Nevertheless, we are committed to investing in additional equipment to ensure that every student receives the support they need.

At BCHS, we prioritize education and expect our wrestling team members to embody exceptional character. Our system effectively tracks and records the academic progress of high school students participating in intramural sports, providing personalized tutoring to those who require it. Furthermore, our students are actively involved in community service projects, and we measure their success based on academic achievement and engagement in extracurricular activities. With our unwavering commitment to excellence, we are confident that our wrestling team will overcome this challenge and emerge victorious.

**Assistance from the foundation:** We respectfully request that the White Family Foundation extend donations to our BCHS girls' and boys' wrestling teams. The students' uniforms from previous years did not make them appear as a unified team. However, with a generous donation from the White Foundation, we will present ourselves as one cohesive team. Typically, a uniform's lifespan is around 2-3 years, depending on how often it is used and whether it sustains any damage during competitions. Uniforms and other gear are replaced items yearly. For 23 years, BCHS has successfully hosted the South Side Duals tournament, drawing in 15-25 teams from all over Florida. With the necessary funds, we plan to proudly



recognize the White Foundation as a major donor and rename the tournament to the White Family Foundation BCHS South Side Dual. This new title will be prominently displayed on all trophies and medals awarded during the tournament.

Your generous donation would significantly enhance our program, enabling us to reach new heights and foster an environment of inclusivity and equality. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

All funding will be specifically allocated and solely dedicated to supporting the BCHS Wrestling Program.

# FINANCIAL

08/05/22



## Consumer's Certificate of Exemption

Issued Pursuant to Chapter 212, Florida Statutes

DR-14 R.

01/18

FLORIDA

85-8012622299C-8	10/31/2022	10/31/2027	COUNTY GOVERNMENT
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Certificate Number    Effective Date    Expiration Date    Exemption Category

This certifies that **PINELLAS COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

301 4TH ST SW LARGO FL 33770-3536 is exempt from the payment of Florida sales and use tax on real property rented, transient rental property rented, tangible personal property purchased or rented, or services purchased. DR-14 R. 01/18 FLORIDA

### Important Information for Exempt Organizations

1. You must provide all vendors and suppliers with an exemption certificate before making tax-exempt purchases. See Rule 12A-1.038, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).
2. Your Consumer's Certificate of Exemption is to be used solely by your organization for your organization's customary nonprofit activities.
3. Purchases made by an individual on behalf of the organization are taxable, even if the individual will be reimbursed by the organization.
4. This exemption applies only to purchases your organization makes. The sale or lease to others of tangible personal property, sleeping accommodations, or other real property is taxable. Your organization must register, collect and remit sales and use tax on such taxable transactions. Note: Churches are exempt from this requirement except when they are the lessor of real property (Rule 12A-1.070, F.A.C.).
5. It is a criminal offense to fraudulently present this certificate to evade the payment of sales tax. Under no circumstances should this certificate be used for the personal benefit of any individual. Violators will be liable for payment of the sales tax plus a penalty of 200% of the tax, and may be subject to conviction of a third-degree felony. Any violation will require the revocation of this certificate.
6. If you have questions about your exemption certificate, please call Taxpayer Services at 850-488-6800. The mailing address is PO Box 6480, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6480.

PINELLAS COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 301 4TH ST SW  
 LARGO FL 33770-3536

05/22/23 PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS PAGE 1  
 12 :56:42 BOCA CIEGA HIGH SCHOOL #0431  
 G E N E R A L L E D G E R  
 Accounts from 1-7510.30 to 1-7510.30 and Periods from I to II

Account Code	Date	SC Reference	Offset	Description	Increase	Decrease
1 7510.30		WRESTLING GIRLS	<b>07/01/22</b>	<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>		<b>605.00</b>
0950	07/20/22	TR2722	1-7510.00	TRANSFERS	90.99	514.01
0700	11/08/22	CD 24951ST.	\$-1111.01	PETERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL-WRESTL	125.00	389.01
0700	11/11/22	CD 24959LAKE	\$-1111.01	GIBSON HIGH SCHOOL-WRESTLING	300.00	89.01
			\$-1111.01			0700
11/29/22	CD 24959LAKE	GIBSON	\$-1111.01	HIGH SCHOOL-WRESTLING	300.00)	389.01
			\$-1111.01			3400
12/01/22	CR		\$-1111.01			
			\$-1111.01			
60809	EDWARDS		\$-1111.01			
			\$-1111.01			
MOVING&DELIVERY	SERVIC-		\$-1111.01	DO	500.00	889.01
			\$-1111.01			0700
12/19/22	CD25002	HUDSON HIGH SCHOOL-WRESTLING TOUR			200.00	689.01
03/08/23	CD25115	NEARFALL LLC-GIRLS SINGLETS 18			389.01	300.00
03/08/23	CD	25115NEARFALL LLC-GIRLS SINGLETS 18			389.01)	689.01
03/08/23	CD	25116NEARFALL LLC-GIRLS SINGLETS 18			330.00	359.01
04/11/23	CD	25155HASTY AWARDS-RESIN-PSN PRO SPORT			7.75	351.26
04/11/23	CD	25155HASTY AWARDS-RESIN-TINF 8" TITAN			20.95	330.31
0500	04/11/23	CD25155HASTY AWARDS-VALK-61 6" VALKYRIE				
		9.75				320.56
		0500				
04/11/23	CD25155	HASTY AWARDS-SHIPPING			7.50	313.06
ACCOUNT ACTIVITY LESS TRANSFERS						
					500.00	791.94
					0.00	90.99
					500.00	700.95

05/22/23 PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

12 :56:42 BOCA CIEGA HIGH SCHOOL #0431

GENERAL LEDGER

Accounts from 1-7510.00 to 1-7510.00 and Periods from 1 to 11

Account Code	Date	SC Reference	Offset	Description	Increase	Decrease	Balance
1 7510.00 WRESTLING							
	07/01/22			BEGINNING BALANCE			53.21
0950	07/20/22	2722	1-7510.30	REIMB CENT ATHL NOT APPVD		53.21	0.00
				TR			
3400	11/17/22	CR	\$-1111.01	60774SARTANO SCHOEB LAW GROUP-CK DONAT	500.00		
500.00	0700	11/29/22	\$-1111.01	CD 24972 OSCEOLA HIGH SCHOOL-WRESTLING TOU	312.00		
188.00	3400	11/29/22	\$-1111.01	CR 60795ST . PETERSBURG MOOSE LODGE-DONATIO	1,000.00		
1,188.00	0500		\$-1111.01				
	02/07/23	CD	\$-1111.01	25055NEARFALL LLC-CUSTOM SINGLETS VARS	1,188.00	0.00	
3400	02/17/23	61080	\$-1111.01	ST. PETE MOOSE LODGE 1145-BOYS WRE	1,000.00	1,000.00	
		0500					
	04/11/23	CD		25155HASTY AWARDS-RESIN-TIN 8" TITAN D	41.90	958.10	
		0500					
	04/11/23	CD		25155HASTY AWARDS-RESIN-BON 6" BUST OU	8.25	949.85	
		0500					
	04/11/23	CD		25155HASTY AWARDS-RESIN-PSNF PROSPORT	7.75	942.10	
		0500					
	0500	04/11/23	CD	25155HASTY AWARDS-SHIPPING	7.50	934.60	
				ACCOUNT			
				ACTIVITY700 60	==>	2,500.00	1,618.61
				LESS TRANSFERS	==>	0.00	53.21
				NET ACTIVITY	==>	2,500.00	1,565.40

# Wrestling Needs/Cost Analysis

## Boys

Triforce Headgear- \$45.97 X 40 = \$1930.74

Gel Super Sleeve knee pad- \$22.00 X 40 = \$880.00

Deluxe Spirit Pack- \$39.99 X 40 = \$1599.60

- Hoodie
- Sweats
- T-shirt
- Shorts

August Gear Bag (1 color Print) – \$26.99 X 40 = \$1079.60

Upper and lower Mouth Guard- \$24.99 X 15 = \$374.85

**Total: \$5864.79**

## GIRLS

Triforce Headgear- \$45.97 X 40 = \$1930.74

Gel Super Sleeve knee pad- \$22.00 X 40 = \$880.00

Deluxe Spirit Pack- \$39.99 X 40 = \$ 1599.60

- Hoodie
- Sweats
- T-shirt
- Shorts

August Gear Bag (1 color Print) – \$26.99 X 40 = \$1079.60

Upper and lower Mouth Guard- \$24.99 X 15 = \$374.85

**Total: \$5864.79**

**Grand Total \$11729.52**

**\*\* This is an estimate of the cost. Prices are subject to change**

# Members Pinellas County School Board

## Lisa N. Cane - Chairperson



- Lisa N. Cane is a Pinellas Native. She graduated from St. Petersburg College with an Associate in Arts degree and completed her Bachelor's Degree in creative writing from Eckerd College. Lisa is the founder and Creative Director of the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Academy where she has instructed over 800 students ages 5-18yrs in the past ten years. Lisa has been married for eleven years and is a proud mother of four children, three that currently attend Pinellas County Schools. Lisa is a 19-year voting member of The National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences (aka The Grammy Awards Association), and is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

## Laura Hine - Vice Chairperson



- A native Floridian, Laura attended Florida's public schools for K-12, then studied aerospace engineering at the U.S. Naval Academy and served for six years as an officer in the Navy. She graduated from the Army Airborne school in Ft. Benning, Georgia; was one of the first two women integrating a U.S. warship; and at 23 years old qualified Officer of the Deck (OOD) of a \$1B warship. Her overseas deployments included executing two national taskings. Laura returned to Tampa and entered the building industry earning her General Contractors license and building 700,000sf, \$115M with The Beck Group while also earning her MBA at the University of South Florida, St Petersburg. As an independent consultant, Laura served as the project director for the \$65M development of Tom & Mary James'

new museum and associated real estate, a full city block in downtown St Petersburg. Tom James, museum co-founder and chairman emeritus of Raymond James, asked Laura to consider a career change and become a museum director. In September of 2019, Laura became the executive director of The James Museum. Laura's husband, Hank Hine, is the executive director of The Dali Museum.

With young children, Laura & Hank became actively aware of the education choices surrounding their and other families. Recognizing the great disparity, they decided to get to know their neighborhood Title 1, (then) D-graded school. Laura founded the support group Friends of North Shore Elementary in 2015, then with her children attending the school, served as president of the school's PTA 2017-2019. During this time their team worked collaboratively to identify the keys to improving education and experience for teachers, students and families, then planned and implemented: extended learning days with enrichments; teacher professional development funds, classroom support and encouraging teacher requests and ideas; helped implement a teacher request for preschool; and communicated to the surrounding community that public education is strong, and matters, and increased Kindergarten enrollment year over year.

Laura has also worked at the district and state levels around balancing oversight with autonomy, educators as ideators, school safety, school grading, education funding, and served on the Healthy School Start Times task force, as well as, as citizen representative for architecture and construction manager selections. She was elected to the Pinellas County School Board in November 2020.

## Carol J. Cook



- Carol J. Cook has served on the Pinellas County School Board since November of 2000. She is a graduate of the University of South Florida, and she previously served as a teacher in Pinellas County.

Prior to her election, Mrs. Cook served on the Florida PTA Board of Directors for nine years. Her service included Vice President for Regions and Councils and Vice President for Leadership. Mrs. Cook is a former President of the Pinellas County Council of PTAs.

Mrs. Cook has served on the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) Board of Directors in her role as Chairman of the Board Development Committee, Chairman of the Legislative Committee, Vice Chairman of the Advocacy

Committee and

Chairman of the Functions and Services Committee. In addition to her service to FSBA, Mrs. Cook has served on several task forces for the Florida Department of Education.

As the representative of FSBA, Mrs. Cook has served on the Florida School Music Association (FSMA) Board of Directors. She is a former President of the Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards. Mrs. Cook is Chairperson of the Florida School Labor Relations Services Committee and is a Leadership Development Consultant for Florida School Boards Association working with School Boards and district superintendents across the state.

The Florida School Boards Association has awarded Mrs. Cook the Certified Board Member recognition and the Advanced Boardmanship Certification (ABC), The ABC is a distinction awarded to a few exceptionally proactive school board members who demonstrate leadership skills, knowledge of boardmanship and are effective leaders at the local, regional, state, and national level. This distinction is currently held by four board members in the state. Carol was awarded the Maureen M. Flynn Children's Angel Award by the Pinellas County Council of PTAs for her advocacy work on behalf of children throughout the state. In 2017, the Council of the Great City Schools selected Mrs. Cook as a finalist for the Green-Garner Award, which recognizes district leaders for outstanding leadership. Her leadership was also recognized by the Florida Music Education Association, which named her the 2020-2021 School Board Member of the Year.

In addition to her Board responsibilities, she has served on the Partnerships for a Healthier Pinellas Board of Directors and Clothes To Kids Board of Directors. She has also volunteered as a tutor and a mentor. She represents Pinellas County on the Forward Pinellas School Transportation and Safety Committee and the Value Adjustment Board. Mrs. Cook is on the Board of Directors Pinellas Education Foundation is the chairman of the Grants Committee. Mrs.



Cook has also been active in several leadership positions in her church from serving on the Finance Committee to Chairman of the Church Council. Mrs. Cook and her husband, Ed, have lived in Clearwater for more than 40 years. They are proud of their two children and their daughter-in-law, who are all graduates of Pinellas County Schools.

## Caprice Edmond



- Caprice Edmond was elected to the school board in 2020. A lifelong resident of St. Petersburg, Mrs. Edmond is a proud graduate of Gibbs High School. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Master of Elementary Education with English for Speakers of Other Languages endorsement, Master of Educational Leadership, and Certification in Infant Family Mental Health from the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg. Mrs. Edmond served as a Guardian ad Litem for ten years.

As an educational leader and advocate for children and families, Mrs. Edmond is active in the community and serves in leadership roles on numerous committees and organizations. She has a significant and consistent history of advocacy for children and families on a local, state and national level through her work with unions and Parent Teacher Associations.

As an instructional leader, she was a teacher and science coach in Pinellas County Schools, mainly in Title I and Transformation Zone Schools. Since her election in 2020, Mrs. Edmond has earned Certified School Board Member status through Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) and currently serves as an officer on FSBA's Board of Directors and as the Vice Chair of FSBA's Equity Committee.

## Eileen M. Long



- Eileen M. Long was elected to the School Board in 2016. Mrs. Long is a graduate of Seminole High School. She earned her degree in Special Education from the University of South Florida and has added Reading and ESOL to her teaching certificate. Prior to her election to the School Board, Mrs. Long's teaching career spanned 34 years. She began her career in Hillsborough County and has served as an educator in Pinellas County Schools for 32 years. She has spent her entire teaching career in middle schools, teaching students with special needs and in dropout prevention programs. She was a Varying Exceptionality Specialist for nine years. She taught at several schools in Pinellas, most recently teaching at Clearwater Intermediate.

Mrs. Long has served as PTSA secretary and Ways and Means co-chairperson for the International Baccalaureate Boosters at Palm Harbor University High School and is actively involved in the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas. Her husband, Robert, is a math teacher at Osceola Middle School. Mrs. Long and her husband have lived in Dunedin for 18 years. They have two children who attend Pinellas County Schools.

## Stephanie Meyer



- Stephanie Meyer was elected to the School Board in November 2022. She is a Pinellas native and former businesswoman. Mrs. Meyer's passion for education inspired her to leave a successful career working for a Fortune 100 company to become a local High School/Advanced Placement social studies teacher and college professor.

Her passion for education runs deep in her Pinellas roots. As a product of the Pinellas public school system and the daughter of a beloved 34-year veteran teacher, she has a unique perspective on the challenges and triumphs the public school system has experienced over the years.

She returned to college as an adult, earning an Associate of Arts from St. Petersburg College as well as a Bachelor of Science in Political Science/History and a Master of Arts in History from Liberty University.

Mrs. Meyer has worked with the Florida Legislature and stakeholders to pass legislation for curriculum transparency and parental rights. She is committed to reforming Pinellas public schools so that every child receives the education they need and deserve.

She lives in Pinellas County with her husband Steve, a local firefighter, and their three children.

# Dawn M. Peters



Dawn M. Peters was elected to the School Board in November 2022. She is a Florida native, a successful businesswoman and a devoted mother to two children.

Ms. Peters' strong desire to be involved in her children's education and her community motivated her to volunteer at her daughters' schools after a successful career in property management. Both her daughters attended neighborhood, fundamental, magnet and charter schools and are now using the Bright Futures scholarships at St. Petersburg College and the University of South Florida.

After serving as a certified substitute preschool teacher, an elementary school student mentor, and a PTA officer for many years, Ms. Peters acquired a unique perspective and understanding of the Pinellas County school system's strengths and challenges. Peters also worked as a volunteer and mentor coordinator at Thurgood Marshall Fundamental Middle School, where she gained insight into the struggles facing many students and families and the crucial role of parental and community involvement.

Because schools are the foundation of our community, state and nation, she believes it is critical to have the best education system for all children and families. She is committed to transparency and achieving real change in our schools that will provide equal opportunities for all students to receive the best education possible. She is a certified personal trainer and nutritionist and currently serves as president of a Pinellas County volunteer group serving veterans.

# Letters of Support



*Boca Ciega High School*

924 58 STREET SOUTH  
GULFPORT, FLORIDA 33707  
(727) 893-2780  
Fax (727) 893-1382  
[www.pcsb.org/bocaciega-hs](http://www.pcsb.org/bocaciega-hs)

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS**  
Shawn Sager  
Lamar Washington  
Angela Lewis  
Danielle Spurgeon  
**PRINCIPAL**

JENNIFER M. GIL

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to write this letter in support of Head Boys/Girls Wrestling Coach Tobey Alvarez. As principal of The Boca Ciega High School, I regret to share that we do not have a fixed budget for the wrestling teams.

Instead, through centralized athletics the school receives a small budget that must be shared with all programs (including football) to cover the cost of uniforms, equipment, travel, and officials. As a result, teams such as wrestling are left to fundraise and to seek coverage from expenses through other means.

I fully support the efforts of Coach Alvarez to secure additional funds for his teams. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me at 727-893-2780.

Kind Regards,

**Jennifer Gil**

Jennifer Gil

Principal

The Vision of Boca Ciega High School is 100% Student Success.



# Boca Ciega High School

924 58 STREET SOUTH  
GULFPORT, FLORIDA 33707  
(727) 893-2780  
Fax (727) 893-1382  
[www.pcsb.org/bocaciega-hs](http://www.pcsb.org/bocaciega-hs)

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Shawn Sager  
Lamar Washington  
Angela Lewis  
Danielle Spurgeon

**PRINCIPAL**  
**Jennifer Gil**

To The White Family Foundation,

My name is Tobey Alvarez, I am the Head Boys and Girls Wrestling coach at Boca Ciega High School. I am writing this letter on behalf of the student-athletes on my team. I am a Boca Ciega graduate and am fortunate enough to be able to give back to the school that saved my life. My goal is to do the same for the students on my team. My kids come from broken homes and an underwhelming socioeconomic status. Most of the student-athletes who participate have no experience in the sport; some have never heard of it. I have sent several student-athletes to college across the country, male and female.

Being an alumnus of the school, but a teacher there, I have seen the changing of student attitudes and behaviors over time. Through wrestling, I am able to teach respect, loyalty, commitment, honor, the ability to be humble, and most of all the ability to persevere.

I have been a coach at Boca Ciega for the past 23 years, 15 of those being the head coach. Last year was our inaugural season for sanctioned girls wrestling. We have built a strong team. We were back-to-back district champions and this year we were crowned the first-ever conference champions. We've had five state qualifiers, and out of those five two state placers. One young lady placed sixth and the other young lady won a state championship. We have a young team and are eager and hungry to continue their success.

The sport of wrestling, like any other sport, can become expensive when you have to provide equipment, entry fees to tournaments, and uniforms. As my principal stated in her letter of support, we do not have a fixed budget and football ends up eating most of what little budget we are afforded, so we are left to find financial assistance through other means, such as this grant, fundraising (which can be hit or miss), and donations.

I love what I do, I love the kids that come through my program and I will continue to coach and teach the student-athlete who come through my program the skills they need to not only be competitive on the mat but to be competitive in life.

Thank you for your consideration,

Coach Tobey Alvarez

## Letter of Support

I am a proud graduate of Boca Ciega High School and a strong advocate for their exceptional wrestling program.

I am pleased to share my profound admiration for the remarkable efforts and unwavering commitment of the young athletes on the team. Back in 1994, when I graduated from BCHS, I never envisioned a future beyond my local surroundings. Nevertheless, when I was invited to join the football and wrestling teams, I discovered my passion for sports after just one practice. High school sports allowed me to focus and overcome the challenges of my community's criminal environment.

During my high school years, I engaged in multiple sports, including football, wrestling, and track and field. Out of the three, wrestling proved to be the most challenging, but I pushed through and achieved success. Additionally, I held noteworthy roles such as student council president, drama club member, and member of the national honor society. Wrestling greatly contributed to the development of my self-assurance

Based on my personal experiences, I have developed a strong belief in the values of discipline, hard work, and perseverance when dealing with difficult situations. As a former member of the United States Navy and a Deputy Sheriff at Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, I have had to use some wrestling moves to apprehend individuals. It is an honor for me to contribute to the BCHS wrestling program and its students, who may encounter obstacles but have the potential to achieve remarkable accomplishments.

Your support is essential in helping numerous young individuals realize their potential and lead successful lives. By providing guidance and nurturing their growth, we can witness them evolve into exceptional community leaders. Let's sow the seeds of greatness together and make a positive difference in the lives of those who need it most.

I hold the esteemed position of President-Elect for the Rotary Club of Clearwater East, and we are actively seeking opportunities to enhance our contributions to the Wrestling program. Furthermore, I am deeply engaged in various community endeavors, such as serving on both the Juvenile Welfare Board Mid County Council and the High Point Neighborhood Family Center.

Sincerely,

**Cheko Carter**

President- Elect Rotary Club of Clearwater East.



# Current Newsletters/Recent Publications

## Moore Brings Home State Title for Pirates

March 13, 2023 by Monroe Roark



**Kinea Moore with her coach, Tobey Alvarez.  
*Monroe Roark***

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Kinea Moore is a soft-spoken and polite teenager whose friendly smile reveals a set of braces.

According to Tobey Alvarez, she is also a bully. He means it as a compliment. Alvarez is Moore's wrestling coach at Boca Ciega High School. He used the term to describe how the sophomore overpowered opponents to capture the Florida High School Athletic Association state championship.

While girls occasionally wrestled against boys in the past – with two BCHS girls earning college scholarships in the sport – this is only the second year that the



FHSAA has sanctioned girls-only wrestling, Alvarez said. All females compete together in a single classification.

Moore wrestled in the 235-pound category, the highest weight class. But she was about 40 pounds below that standard while many opponents were right on the border.

So she didn't have the typical struggle of many wrestlers to maintain a certain weight each week before a meet.

"I eat whatever I want," she said with a smile during an interview with The Gabber at school. Her coach confirmed that her weight situation gives him significant peace of mind going into each meet.

#### Giving the Mat a Try

Alvarez has coached wrestling for 23 years at Boca Ciega and Moore is his first state champion.

She went out for the team last year, the first year with official girls wrestling, as a freshman. She had zero experience. Moore's only previous athletic participation was swimming, she said.

But some family members convinced her to give the mat a try. "They said I should try it because I'm strong," she said.

Three dozen or so young women from around the state would likely agree. Moore compiled a 41-8 record this season.

As a freshman she qualified for the state tournament but missed the end of the season after dislocating her shoulder in a match. She needed rotator cuff surgery and the 2022-23 season was just starting by the time she recovered.

Moore had little to no indication of how well we would do when the state meet started.

"All of her opponents were new, which was a good thing," said Alvarez, who pointed out that all of her losses during the season were to two specific wrestlers.

"She went out with a blank slate."

#### Beating the Odds

Moore defeated an opponent from Orlando, who was one of the favorites to win the title, in less than two minutes. She then dominated another wrestler who was favored to reach the state semifinals.

The semifinal match was the toughest of the tournament, going into four overtimes against an opponent who was more than 30 pounds heavier and very near the weight limit. After winning that one, Moore pinned her opponent in the championship round in less than one minute.

“It was surreal in the moment,” Alvarez said of seeing Moore atop the medal platform. “It meant a lot. It was not only my first state champion, but the second in the history of the school.”

The girls’ program is still in its infancy but Alvarez is getting them to buy in at BCHS. He had 36 girls on the team this year along with just over 40 boys. They practice twice a week during the offseason and participate in some tournaments, although Moore’s injury prohibited her from doing that last year.

She is not the only elite athlete in her family, however. Moore noted that among her cousins are Shaquem Griffin, Shaquill Griffin, and Bernard Reedy – three Lakewood High alumni who have played in the NFL in the past few years.

Needless to say, she had no idea two years ago that she would be sitting for a newspaper interview with a half-dozen or so medals draped across her lap. But Moore says she enjoys the sport and is looking ahead at possibly being a collegiate wrestler.

As for how she is handling the extra time in her schedule now that the season is over, she shared her favorite pastime to stave off boredom: “I eat.”

### **Arthur Cloud, 132 pounds**



Arthur Cloud [ DOUGLAS R. CLIFFORD | Times ]

**Age: 14**

**School:** Boca Ciega High School (junior varsity)

**What makes you a successful wrestler? What holds you back?**

This is about hard work. I've had to practice, practice, practice, and I got better. That's what drives me to come back. I like how it feels inside, all the movement, all the competition. That's why I started wrestling in the first place, the competition. An absolute defeat can hold me back, but I have to get back up and do what I do.

**Maintaining weight and strength is key. What is your conditioning regimen?**

**How do you manage the responsibility — and pain?**

I usually run after school for conditioning, I have power weightlifting and I do lacrosse to keep in shape. With pain, I usually brush it off and keep going. Pain becomes an everyday thing, you get used to it.



Palm Harbor's Derek Nestelroad, left, struggles to keep his grip on Boca Ciega's Arthur Cloud. [ DOUGLAS R. CLIFFORD | Times ]

**It would be easy to mistake wrestling as a competition of brute force. What's going through your head on the mat? What's the mental side?**

I don't think of wrestling as a competition. It's more entertainment for me. It's something I enjoy. That's why I do the best I can, and it helps me win. I don't think too high or too low, I don't like to get caught up with thoughts distracting me. I just do what I do.

# BCHS Pirates in Action





