

# Seminole County Public Schools: Where Citizenship Shines

by Walt Griffin, Ed.D.

*"No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts off from its youth severs its lifeline."*

– former United Nations secretary-general Kofi Annan

Seminole County Public Schools (SCPS) recently concluded another successful school year. As our graduating seniors move on to the next chapter of their lives, we strive to ensure that all of our students are prepared for college, career, and citizenship.

I'd like to focus on citizenship for a moment and what that actually entails. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, citizenship is defined as the character of an individual viewed as a member of society; behavior in terms of the duties, obligations, and functions of a citizen.

Our schools are a place for children to learn. But SCPS also provides a place for our students to interact with others, learn about the world they live in, and learn to make good decisions that will impact their future. At SCPS, we understand that there are many paths a student can take to achieve success. For some, that path is serving our country and protecting the many freedoms we enjoy today.

I am delighted to announce that this year we have a number of students who have decided to join our nation's Armed Forces after graduation. There, they are sure to

learn valuable leadership and life skills. Aside from the honor of protecting our freedom, there are many great reasons students choose this route, including the opportunity to attain higher education, build character, travel the world, and more. I wish these young men and women to be safe and vigilant throughout the duration of their military service, and I thank them for their tremendous courage!

Listed below are the names of the SCPS Class of 2017 graduates enlisting from your community:

## Seminole High School

**Giovanni Alvelo** – Marines  
**Dalton Baker** – Air Force  
**Ivory Barret** – Navy  
**Jonathan Berner** – Army  
**Matthew Bukur** – Navy  
**Darius Burns** – Army  
**Alex Capko** – Air Force  
**Charles Carroll** – Army  
**Dominick Cavanallo** – Army  
**Julia Curtin** – Army  
**Nereida Ferrer** – Army  
**Ras-nyah Fletcher** – Navy  
**Blake Hallam** – Army  
**Sara Husselman** – Air Force

**Jeff Mathis** – Marines  
**Josh Mathis** – Army  
**Gleniqua Ralph** – Army  
**Benjamin Roth** – West Point, U.S. Military Academy, Army  
**Tea' Smith** – Marines  
**Matthew Stallings** – Marines  
**Kaylonie Thomas** – Army  
**Morgan Thorla** – Marines ROTC  
**Tonya Ward** – Army  
**Shawn Wileman** – Marines  
**Grant Williams** – West Point, U.S. Military Academy, Army

## Lake Mary High School

**Chase Feola** – Navy  
**Isabella Hesse** – Marines  
**Mcklaine Johnson** – Navy

**Alexandra King** – U.S. Air Force Academy  
**Michael Knight** – Army  
**Brandon Ramin** – Army

## Lyman High School

**Nathaniel Barkley** – Air Force ROTC  
**Masen Calhoun** – Air Force  
**Elvis Collado-Rodriguez** – Marines  
**Raymond Concepcion** – Navy  
**Cesar Cortez-Rodriguez** – Navy  
**Anthony Delpalazzo** – Navy ROTC

**Malcolm Howard** – Marines  
**Brianna Martin** – Army  
**Tanner Nelson** – Air Force  
**Randiel Rodriguez** – Marines  
**Jacob Walsh** – Army  
**Zachary Williams** – Navy

## Crooms Academy of Information Technology

**Kevin Agudelo Usuga** – Marines  
**Taryn Perkins** – Air Force  
**Cypris Kelley** – Marines  
**Zachary Wargo** – Air Force



**DR. WALT GRIFFIN**  
is the superintendent  
of Seminole County  
Public Schools.



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