

CARTER CORPS NEWS

A Newsletter for Students, Parents, and Community Members Who Support Carter High School

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Science Students Take Field Trip of Lifetime

By: Blake McGee

In late February, Mrs. Chollman took her Marine Ecology class, as well as the school's science club, on a once-in-a-lifetime field trip to Pigeon Key, Florida. On this trip, students snorkeled at Sombrero Reef, tidepooled in the natural calcified coral shores, learned marine biology in hands-on classes, and interacted with native tropical wildlife on an island exclusive for the class, as well as visited conservation centers/wildlife hospitals. Pigeon Key is an island in southern Florida; the island acts as an overnight educational facility, teaching marine botany and zoology through fun, hands-on learning such as the exploration of a coral reef, the dissection of a shark, or vertebrate identification during low-tide. Pigeon Key is open to summer camps, field trips, daily tours, and even limited internships! This trip was not easy to pull off. Mrs. Chollman is a science teacher who has

been teaching for a total of 25 years. She and the school started planning the trip early in June 2022, visiting the facilities of Pigeon Key and beginning to think about scheduling prior to even informing students. When asked about the amount of thought that went into this trip she replied simply: "A lot: we've been planning this trip for quite some time." The school didn't do it alone, however; along the development of the field trip, there were multiple donors, assisting with the large expenses of the trip. One such donor, who wished to remain anonymous, donated a significant amount, shaving over a hundred dollars off of each student's overall cost, as well as providing meals for students on certain days. In the end, all of this hard work paid off. On the trip, students arrived in Florida after around a 2 hour plane ride, then hopped on a bus to take them across the 7 mile bridge into

the Florida Keys. Students were then welcomed by Pigeon key staff onto a 5 acre island, fit with two student dorms, a kitchen, a research pool, beautiful shorelines, a scenic pier, and a large outdoor classroom fitted with buoys of numerous shapes and sizes. The trip was a hit with the students, with many happy but sunburnt faces returning to Tennessee on the final day of the trip. When asked about her favorite part of the trip, junior Rylie Tarver explained, "My favorite part was definitely the tidepooling, the whole trip was great, but I liked the self-guided discovery aspect of the invertebrate identification." And with such a successful field trip, Mrs. Chollman has already begun planning a second trip to Florida soon, focused around the CDC classroom, and possibly giving them an opportunity to visit the Dolphin Research center in Grass Key, Florida.



Carter High School students and staff at Pigeon Key do a board walk.



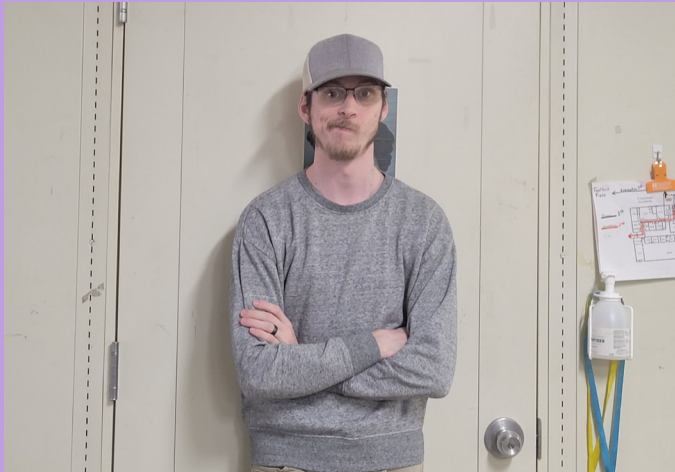
Juniors Rylie Tarver, Collin Abbott, and Emily Kirby snorkel at Sombrero Reef.

Educating, Motivating, and Producing Responsible Citizens of Tomorrow

Two English Teachers in Profile

Mr. Steinke Has Reasons Behind His Unusual Teaching Techniques

By: Zayden Vigue



Mr. Steinke walks across the classroom, unscrewing the cap of a water bottle, and holds it just above a student's head, water at the very edge of the bottle watching as the students react. "This shows tension - you don't know if I will just tip this over," he says. English and Creative Writing teacher Mr. Steinke has a unique style of teaching, using activities such as throwing chairs to show surprise in a story or pouring water on a student for tension. When asked why, he explains he uses it to keep students engaged in the same ways novels do. When asked what his favorite activity to do he said, "Whatever can get the student most engaged in the lesson." This shows how, even with these unique lessons, the classes are still personalized for who he is teaching. When asked what his favorite thing to teach is, he said it is constantly changing based on what he is hyper-fixating at that moment. He believes his purpose in teaching is to help students with who they are, whether that be as a person or a novelist, because he believes if you're not learning or improving that you are only getting worse. Many of his students also agree, such as the freshman Kit Coulson, who says, "He makes sure to capture your attention by doing things other teachers don't." She also believes his classes are easier to understand than any other class she has taken.

Coach Pait Shares His Journey from Soldier to English Teacher

By: Grace Kelley



Above: Coach Pait in the Army vs. Coach Pait now, as a CHS teacher.

Coach Pait is an English teacher at Carter High School, but this was not his first career. Initially, Coach Pait was a soldier for the U.S. Army. Pait was planning on going to law school around the time 9/11 happened; he explains, "When 9/11 happened, I felt like I needed to go do my part. I planned on going for 4 years and come back to finish my life but I got in and I really enjoyed it." What made him want to become an English teacher then? When Pait was asked this question he stated, "I originally got into it because I wanted to coach, and then I fell in love more with teaching. I felt like I have good interactions with kids and have a lot to offer in terms of being a role model, and that's something I take seriously." Pait's teaching philosophy since day one is: "I'm going to treat every kid like they're my own." Coach Pait shares his military memories in his classes while he teaches. One student who has taken his class, Adrianna Sileno, said, "I really liked it, and I enjoyed the stories he shares; every story goes with the lessons he teaches and he makes his class fun." When Pait was asked why he shares his memories and stories with his class, he explained, "Every story has a life lesson. They are not stories to tell to pass time; they are life lessons." Coach Pait is definitely not a sit down teacher; he teaches with enthusiasm and pride.