



# Rockledge Cambridge Program NEWSLETTER

March 2023

## Important Upcoming Dates

- **ACT Test** - April 15, June 10
- **SAT Test** - March 11, May 6, June 3
- **SAT scores on student collegeboard.com accounts available for juniors who took March 1 test - March 23**
- **Grad Bash** - April 22, 2023
- **RHS Graduation** - May 25, 2023 at 6 p.m.



Cambridge University Botanic Garden

## Spring Break... Senioritis... And Staying Focused?

Spending time on the beach, surfing and tanning. Sleeping in until 2 p.m. Hanging out with friends and playing video games late into the night.

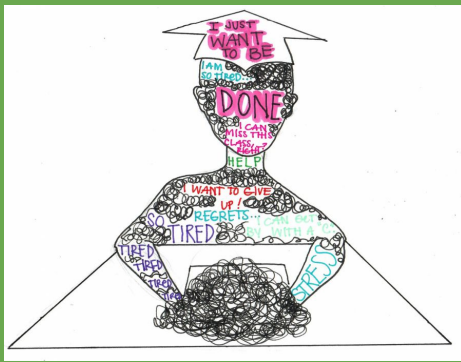
College acceptance letters are in. Prom preparations are underway. Grad Bash tickets have been purchased. Images of walking across the graduation stage with your diploma are all you can think about.

Anticipation for Spring Break, visions of graduation and daydreams of the approaching summer quickly consume the thoughts of students as the month of March arrives, at times distracting you from the work you need to focus on. And while the term “senioritis” has traditionally

been used to refer to the distracted state of seniors in their final semester of high school, the decreased motivation that comes during the spring semester often affects students of all grade levels.

Distraction, lack of motivation, and a shifting of priorities can be detrimental to your academic success and can lead to lasting impacts for your future. That is why it is so important for you to stay focused on your goals as the end of the school year approaches. You don't want a few weeks or months of lost momentum to cost you the careful plans you've been working towards.

Many students think that staying focused means you can't enjoy your free time outside of school. But this is just a myth. You can still have fun, and you can take breaks from your academics...you just can't neglect your responsibilities entirely. Your goal right now is to find a balance you can maintain between your academics and the urge to just “not.”



# Defeating Senioritis, Apathy, and an Overall Lack of Motivation

No matter our age, most of us have struggled at some point with the desire to simply do nothing. We don't want to do the chores we know we should be doing...we don't want to complete the assignment that is due in just a few days...we don't want to go to school (or work)...we just don't want to do anything that requires effort. Many students, in particular, experience these feelings during the spring semester of high school. And while it can be easy to say "I'll just do it tomorrow," the aftermath of avoiding our responsibilities and obligations can quickly become a hole from which we can't dig ourselves out.

So how do we combat that lack of motivation that plagues us? How do we keep senioritis (no matter which grade level you're in) from overwhelming us? The answer is simple: do something productive...right now.

Senioritis, apathy, and a lack of motivation all stem from us being inactive, from us staying stagnant and being okay with that. To stay on track, we have to make sure we are active - doing something to help us stay engaged with the people and the world around us.

And I know what you're thinking right now...*Okay, that is easy to say, but how do I actually make myself do something?* It's easy: start small. Right now, set a goal for today. What are you going to accomplish before you go to bed tonight? And don't just put your everyday actions on there (like brushing your teeth) - challenge yourself. Try something new. Break out of your routine in order to keep yourself stimulated and excited about the day.

Next, evaluate your goals for the rest of the semester. Have you already achieved them? Set new ones. If you haven't, determine if your goals are feasible. Be realistic. Goals should make us reach, but goals that are too difficult will lead to stress and a possible burn-out. Adjust your goals, as needed, and start taking steps to accomplish them. It doesn't matter how big (or small) the steps are. What matters is that you're actually doing something. Each day, you should come a little closer to reaching at least one of your goals.

But remember, you want to enjoy your life right now, at this moment. If you can't name anything that brings you joy on a daily basis, it's time to shake things up and spend a little time doing something you like to do. It's okay to take breaks and spend time with friends, and, dare I say it, have fun. A lot of our lack of motivation comes from us dreading what we have scheduled for tomorrow or next week or next month. Focus on the present instead and know that being productive doesn't always mean checking an item off your to-do list. Taking a walk, hanging out with friends, and playing video games can be productive too...as long as they don't become the only things you're doing.



Now, stop making excuses for why you can't (or don't want to), get up, and go do something!

# Engaging Both Your Mind & Body in Staying Motivated: Active Strategies You Can Use Today

## Build A Motivation Board

Create a bulletin board with photos and quotes that motivate you to wake up each morning to do your best.

- Create a collage of images and quotes that encourage you to work towards your goals
- Put these somewhere you'll see them regularly - on your bathroom mirror, on your phone's lock screen, on your bedroom door

## Practice Positive Self-Talk

Say positive and encouraging things to yourself to help motivate you.

- Flip those negative thoughts and focus on the bright side of the situations you are in
- Start your day with "I'm going to have a good day today!"

## Try New Study Methods

Trying new ways of studying can help improve your retention of information and your productivity.

- Create a study group that meets at a local coffee shop
- Color code your notes by topic
- Have a parent or friend quiz you on information using your notes
- Create a mind map with a mix of images and short notes
- Exercise before studying
  - Take a walk
  - Work out for 20-minutes
  - Play a quick game of basketball

## Create A Reward System

Each time you achieve one of your goals or complete an assignment, reward yourself.

- A study break
- One video game
- Hanging out with friends

\*\*The key, though, is that you must complete an item on your to-do list to earn the reward

# Sending Cambridge AICE Test Scores to Colleges - What Seniors Need to Know



As college acceptances come in, those who are seniors have to begin the process of preparing for the next phase of your academic career. First, you must make a decision on which college you will attend. Once you have made that decision, you will want to pay careful attention to all the emails and paperwork you receive from that college. Missing due dates can put you at risk of losing your place - for financial aid, housing, and orientation date selection.

Once you have been admitted to a college and you've accepted their invitation to attend, you are ready to send your Cambridge test scores to that college. If you took any AICE exams and passed them, you will need to complete the process outlined below in order to have the college credits you've earned through AICE exams added to your college transcript. Completing the Cambridge Transcript Request Form is the **ONLY** way to have your AICE scores sent to the college you're attending.

This form must be completed online at <https://gradetranscripts.cambridgeinternational.org/>

When you are ready to fill out this form, you will need the following information:

- The RHS Centre Number: US091
- Your 4-digit candidate number (if you don't remember this, email Mrs. Matthews)
- The months (June or November) and years when you took and passed AICE exams (For example, you may have taken and passed AICE exams in June 2021, June 2022, and November 2022). **\*\*Make sure you include June 2023 if you are currently enrolled in an AICE course so that Cambridge can send those scores to your college when they are released in August.**
- A picture of your driver's license, birth certificate, or photo page of your passport to upload for verifying your identity.
- The name, address, and contact person (as applicable) for the college you want the scores sent to

Once you submit your request, make sure you keep any correspondence you get from Cambridge, especially if you get an acknowledgement email. Your transcript should be received by the college you submit the request for within 14 days.

Please remember that any time you switch colleges, for any reason, even after earning a degree from that college, you will have to submit a new transcript from Cambridge to your new college.

**NOTE:** If you are taking classes at EFSC and want your credits added to your transcript there, you can instead take your official AICE certificates to the registrar's office and let them make a copy of that certificate to have your credits added. EFSC is the only college that will accept the official certificates as a means of verifying your AICE test scores.

# RHS 2023 Valedictorian and Salutatorian Announced



On February 3, 2023 at the senior class meeting, RHS announced the Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the class of 2023. Congratulations to Brielle Perini for being named as the Valedictorian and Jasmine Bohannon for being named as the Salutatorian. We'd like to dedicate this article to introducing you to these amazing young women.

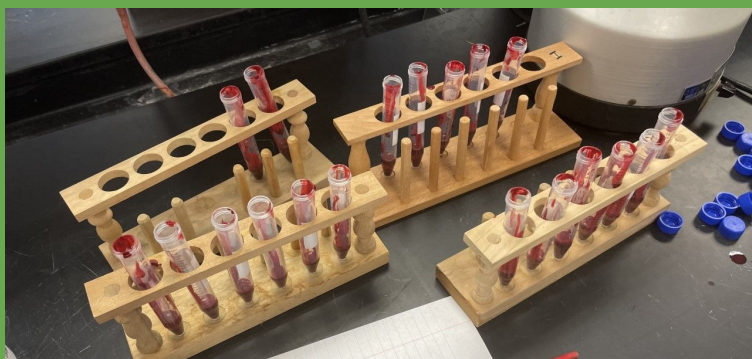
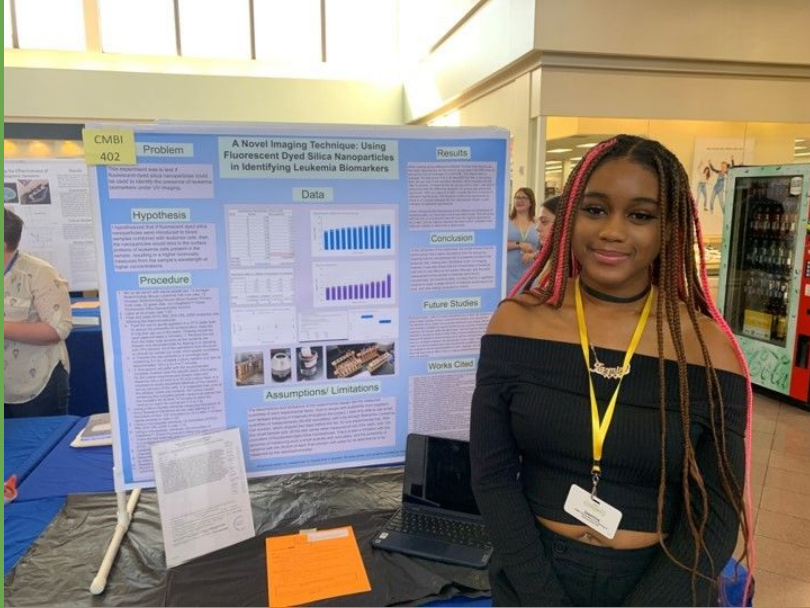
## *Valedictorian: Brielle Perini*

Valedictorian Brielle Perini has already earned 36 college credits through her AICE classes and was one of only two sophomores to earn her AICE Diploma in 2021. In addition to her academic success at RHS, Brielle has also been an active participant in numerous activities, both on campus and in the community. Brielle has played on the RHS tennis team for 4 years and is the line one singles and doubles player this year. She also plays volleyball for the Brevard County Starlings club based in Cocoa, and has traveled with the team for international tournaments.

When not on the courts, Brielle can likely be found playing cello for the RHS chamber orchestra, working with the Spanish Honor Society Chapolera chapter where she serves as president, or with her youth group from Church of Our Saviour's in Cocoa Beach. In her free time, she also enjoys baking and hiking with her family.

Brielle plans to attend the University of Florida to earn her doctorate degree in kinesiology. Then, she hopes to open her own physical therapy practice in the future. Congratulations Brielle!





# *Salutatorian: Jasmine Bohannon*

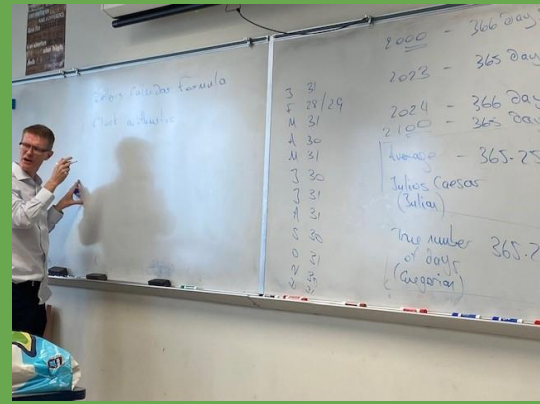
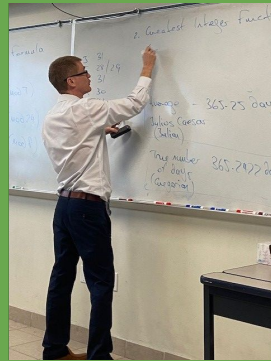
Salutatorian Jasmine Bohannon is a dedicated student who plans to graduate with not only her high school diploma but also her AA when she walks across the stage at graduation. Jasmine using both credits from AICE courses she has taken and passed as well as classes at EFSC to accomplish this goal.

Jasmine is a member of the RHS National Honor Society and a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success. She also dedicates a portion of her time to volunteering for the Summit of Seven Foundation, a nonprofit organization that aims to enhance the professional and personal relationships among the male gender. In her service time, Jasmine has helped to organize food and supply drives as well as helped with their summer programs.

Over the last few years, particularly through her participation in our science research class and the annual science fair, Jasmine has developed a passion for environmental science and biomedicine. That passion (as you will read in a later article) recently led Jasmine to a best-in-show finish at the Brevard County Mainland Regional Science and Engineering Fair held just a few weeks ago. Her additional interests in ecological restoration and biotechnology drove Jasmine's decision to attend the University of Miami in the fall to study Marine Science and Microbiology and Immunology.

Congratulations Jasmine!

# UCF Senior Instructor Visits AICE Math Classes



On Friday, February 3, Dr. Barry Griffiths, a senior instructor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Central Florida and a visiting professor at John Cabot University in Rome, was a guest speaker in Mrs. Krajewski's AS & A-Level Cambridge AICE Math classes. Dr. Griffiths' research interests include Mathematics Education, International Education, and Higher Education and his most recent studies have focused on how to mitigate cheating during online proctored exams in the wake of the COVID pandemic.

Dr. Griffiths visits RHS yearly to speak to Mrs. Krajewski's classes about the benefits of and jobs that are available with a degree in math. It is often difficult to convince a group of teenagers to major in math, but Dr. Griffiths is always able to pique the interests of our AICE Math students by showing them the benefits of earning at least a minor in mathematics at the collegiate level. He explains the number of courses it would take and what types of jobs one could pursue with this minor.

During this year's visit, Dr. Griffiths lectured on the Zeller's Calendar Formula. This is an algorithm discovered by Christian Zeller in the 19th century to calculate any day of the week after the year 1658. He taught this theory as he does to his Number Theory classes at UCF. Students left the visit excited about math and the possible future options a math major could hold for them. As Mrs. Krajewski says, "Any day our students have fun learning math is a win!"

## Pre-AICE Physics Students Learning Electronics



Students worked with electronic circuits including ultrasonic distance sensors and learned how to control RGB-LED with a Arduino UNO R3. To view videos of the electronics in action and see other pre-AICE and AICE Physics content, visit <https://www.youtube.com/@physicsrock6938>

# 15 Exciting Jobs for Students Who Love Math

In last month's newsletter, we encouraged students to begin thinking about and researching careers they might be interested in pursuing after high school. Recently [weareteachers.com](https://www.weareteachers.com) published the following article about exciting jobs for students who love math, so we wanted to share it with those of you who think you might want a career in math but aren't sure what that career will be.

By Phoebe Rusack on January 4, 2023

There are countless jobs to explore for students who love math. In fact, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that employment in math occupations will grow 29% between now and 2031. There are even plenty of unique math jobs that may surprise you. And when you discover new career paths, it can change your outlook on school and your future. Check out this list of 15 jobs that are available for those of you who love math.



**Computer Programmer.** If you love computers and learning new “languages,” computer programming may be the career for you. Programmers write and test code for software programs, apps, or even company websites. There are several code languages that you can begin to learn even now, including Java, Python, and C++. The possibilities are endless, and the job market is booming! Salary range: \$46,000 to \$120,000.

**Financial Analyst.** A financial analyst is one of the great careers for students who love math and are particularly interested in money and how to spend it wisely. Analysts advise businesses and individuals on how to smartly and effectively invest their money. Salary range: \$59,000 to \$100,000.



**Pharmacy Technician.** Going into a career as a pharmacy technician is a smart and accessible choice. Pharm techs assist pharmacists with measuring and dispensing medications for customers. They also collect information and organize inventory in the pharmacy. For those who love math and are interested in a career in the healthcare industry, a pharmacy technician may be a great career choice. Salary range: \$38,000 to \$50,000.

**Supply Chain Manager.** Supply chain manager jobs are perfect if you are interested in all things commerce. This highly sought-after career combines math with a complex chain that ensures packages are going from point A to point B effectively and efficiently. Supply chain managers ensure that the chain between products, consumers, and companies operates smoothly and in a cost-effective way. Salary range: \$58,000 – \$140,000.







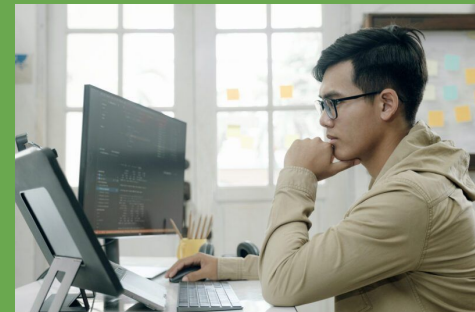
**Epidemiologist.** Another career in the healthcare industry, epidemiologists collect and analyze data on disease and injury to improve the general health and well-being of the population. With the recent pandemic causing a big shock to public health, this career is on the rise. If you like to analyze data and are interested in bettering the lives of others, consider a career in epidemiology. Salary range: \$50,000 to \$130,000.

**Cost estimator.** Cost estimators determine how much products or services will cost, as well as how they will be manufactured and constructed. They collect and analyze data to determine what resources and labor will be needed to produce the product or service. This is a good choice if you are good at figuring out detailed word problems and equations. Salary range: \$60,000 to \$97,000.



**Market Researcher.** Market researchers collect and analyze data about target audiences for brands and companies. With this information, they are able to determine if a new product is being perceived well, or if an unreleased product will do well in the market. If you are interested in brands of any kind, you will be particularly interested in the way market researchers use data and math to determine what the next trends will be. Salary range: \$54,000 – \$81,000.

**Software Testers.** Software testers assess computer applications to make sure they meet all requirements. They look for any bugs or user interface issues so they can be resolved before future users are affected. If you are detail-oriented and are interested in a career involving code, learn all about software testing. Salary range: \$45,993 to \$74,935.



**Meteorologist.** Meteorologists do more than just report on the weather! They study processes in the Earth's atmosphere and the way it affects the weather. Meteorologists measure things such as temperature, humidity, wind speed, and much more. Salary range: \$81,054 to \$130,253.

**Accountant.** Accountants are always in demand and this is a consistent and good-paying job. Accountants can work for individual clients or for large firms and businesses. They interpret financial records and ensure their accuracy. Accounting as one of the best careers for those who love math and want a stable career. Salary range: \$40,000 to \$120,000.





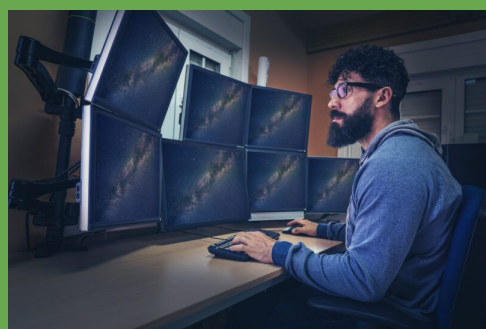
**Budget Analyst.** A budget analyst can work for a variety of organizations analyzing a company's spending and funding requests. They will make informed decisions for the company about all things budget and funding. Budget analysts are an important part of a business and will be a great career match if you love to crunch numbers. Salary range: \$52,000 to \$110,000.

**Actuary.** Actuaries assess the risk of situations for companies and ensure that bad events are less likely to occur in the future. They use numbers to determine the likelihood of risky events for prevention purposes. Research becoming a risk management major in college in order to become an actuary in the future. Salary range: \$49,000 to \$180,000.

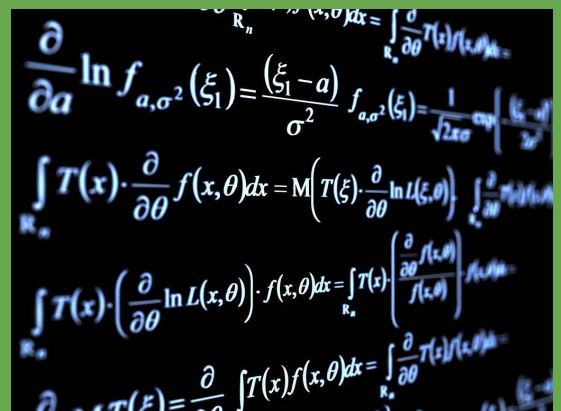
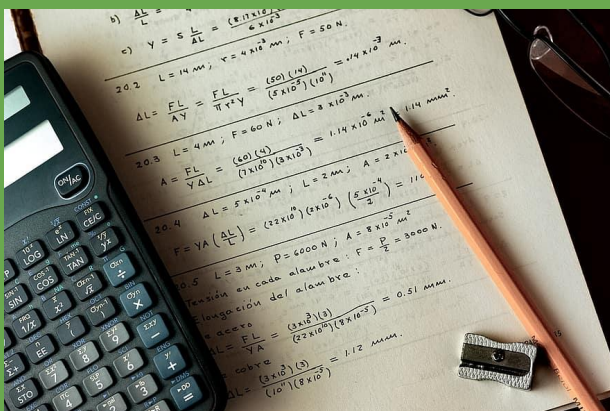


**Architect.** Architects plan and design building concepts and plans, which turn into homes, office buildings, and more! This is a perfect career if you like math and also have an artistic side. Salary range: \$67,000 to \$160,000.

**Game Programmer/Designer.** Ever wonder who creates video games? Game programmers create and design the software that drives all your favorite video games. This involves coding. Programmers also remove all bugs from the interface before users play the game. Salary range: \$58,000 to \$92,000



**Astronomer.** Astronomy is a fascinating field of study and will definitely interest those who love learning about the stars and planets. Although astronomy is a science, astronomers also use math and data to analyze the physics of space. Salary range: \$120,000 to \$160,000.



# RHS Students Shine at Regional Science Fair

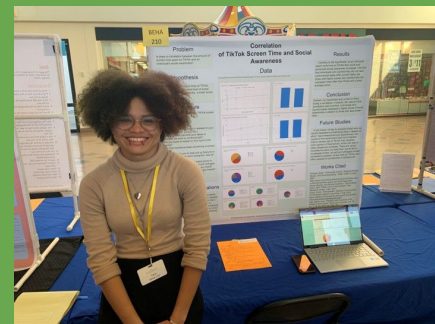
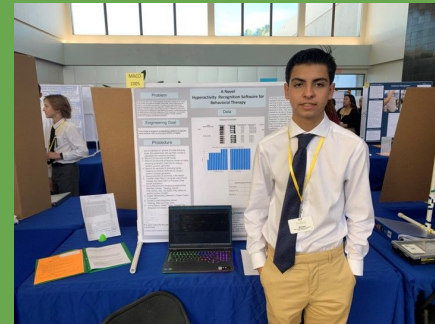
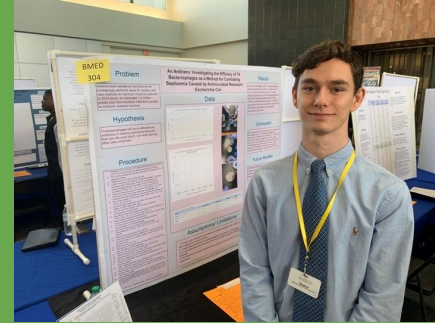
The Brevard County Mainland Regional Science and Engineering Fair was held on February 9-11, 2023 at the Merritt Square Mall. Students from 8 Brevard County high schools competed in this regional fair, and RHS took both the Best-in-Show and Runner-Up for Best-in-Show awards in addition to having 8 other students place or receive special recognition.

Senior Jasmine Bohannon took Best-in-Show as well as 1st place in the cellular/ microbiology category. She also earned a bid to the International Science and Engineering Fair that will be held in Dallas Texas in May, a bid to the Orlando Science Center Fair that will be held in March, a bid to the State Science and Engineering Fair that will be held in Lakeland, Florida in April, and over \$500 in cash prizes.

Senior Stephen Gentile took the Runner-Up for Best in Show Award as well as 1st place in the Biomedical category. Stephen, like Jasmine, earned bids to the Orlando Science Center Fair, the State Science and Engineering Fair, and over \$500 in cash prizes. Stephen will also compete in a run-off for an invitation to the International Science and Engineering Fair.

The bids to the International Science and Engineering Fair are particularly noteworthy as only 6 students from Brevard are awarded this honor, and this is the first time in more than 10 years that RHS will be sending a student to the event.

Several other students placed in the fair and earned bids to the State Science and Engineering Fair in April as well. Zaino Waldo earned her bid with a 1st place finish in the Chemistry category. Chloe Bolton earned her bid with a 2nd place finish in the Plant Science category. Zachary Kuta was a runner-up for a state bid with his 2nd place finish in the Behavioral Sciences category. In addition, Michael Roundtree, Michael Murtagh, Molly Rucker, and Angela Pickles earned 3rd place finishes in their respective categories. Tiana Sanderson earned a certificate of achievement from the American Psychiatric Association for Exceptional Behavioral Project.





CAMBRIDGE  
DEDICATED  
TEACHER  
AWARDS

Who is **your** dedicated teacher?

Has a teacher **inspired you?**

Perhaps they have brought a  
**subject to life** or given you an  
**encouraging word** at a  
difficult time?

Give them the best thank you  
with the **Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards**

To nominate, go to  
**[dedicatedteacher.cambridge.org](https://dedicatedteacher.cambridge.org)**

Deadline for nominations: March 16, 2023



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Brighter Thinking  
Better Learning  
Building Brighter Futures Together

The Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards are a global competition in which you can nominate a current teacher for something wonderful they have done.

Anyone can nominate a current teacher - whether you are a student, parent, or even another teacher.

Please tell us about a specific time your teacher did something that you really appreciated - it can be as big or small as you like, just make sure to tell us why it meant so much to you.

# Ready to Travel? A Summer 2025 EF Tour to Cambridge, London, and Bath Is Planned



In the Summer of 2025, Mrs. Matthews is very excited to be taking a group of students on an 8-day tour of England. The tour will include visiting London, Windsor, Stonehenge, Bath, Stratford-upon-Avon, and Cambridge.

This tour is a great opportunity for our Cambridge students to experience England and also see the colleges that make up the University of Cambridge. Students (and parents who are interested in going as well) will walk through London, seeing iconic sites such as Big Ben, St. Paul's Cathedral, and Buckingham Palace. They will also tour Windsor Castle, visit Stonehenge and the Roman Baths, and visit William Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon. Then, students will go to Cambridge where they will go sightseeing with a local guide, tour King's College, and go punting on the River Cam. On the last day of the tour, students will visit the Tower of London and attend a theater performance at one of the theaters in London's West End.

On March 23, 2023 at 6 p.m. on the RHS campus (exact location to be determined and sent out via email), Mrs. Matthews will be hosting an informational meeting about the tour. Those who are potentially interested in going on the tour should attend the meeting for more information about costs, the full itinerary of the trip, and details on how to sign up.

This tour is not school-affiliated and is organized by EF Tour company. It is truly a wonderful opportunity for students to see a part of the world they may not have visited before and to experience the British culture.





**That Might  
Be A Good  
Fit For You**

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## **Operation Thank An Officer & Darius Quimby Memorial Scholarships**

Operation Thank An Officer's goal is to simply thank law enforcement officers. The organization does this in a variety of ways including writing, collecting, and mass distributing thank you notes across the country.

The scholarships the organization offers are open to high school seniors. The Thank an Officer scholarship is for high school seniors who have a parent serving in law enforcement field, have a parent that has retired from the law enforcement field, or has a parent who passed away that served in the law enforcement field. The Darius Quimby Memorial Scholarship is for high school seniors pursuing a degree in the law enforcement field. The application deadline is March 17, 2023.

For more information visit <https://thankanofficer.org/scholarships/>

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## **Brevard Schools Foundation Scholarships**

Brevard Schools Foundation has awarded nearly 1,300 scholarships to graduating seniors valued at nearly \$1.3 million. Scholarships range in value from \$250 - \$5,000. Scholarships are for 2023 graduating Brevard Public School seniors.

The deadline for applications is March 20, 2023.

For more information visit <https://brevardschoolsfoundation.org/programs/scholarships>

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## **Great Southeast Flooring America**

The Great Southeast Flooring America scholarship gives out \$1,000 scholarships at 16 high schools in Brevard County, including Rockledge High. Students interested in the scholarship should be able to demonstrate traits such as high character, integrity, academic achievement, sportsmanship, citizenship, and leadership. Students must also be high school seniors and on track to graduate this year. A 500-word essay on "How I Would Use the \$1,000" is also required.

The deadline for applications is April 1, 2023. For more information, visit <https://www.southeastflooringamerica.com/custom/1138af/scholarships>

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## **Phoenix Foundation of Central Florida**

The mission of the Phoenix Foundation of Central Florida is to afford young people the opportunity to recreate themselves while pursuing their educational goals. There are 3 available scholarships - each with its own eligibility criteria.

The deadline for applications is March 24, 2023.

For more information visit <https://www.phoenixfoundationcfl.org/scholarships>

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Visit <https://tinyurl.com/2muv8x3r> to access a Google Doc of MANY other scholarship opportunities you might be interested in.



## *Writing Contests*

### **Religious Liberty Essay Scholarship Contest**

The Religious Liberty Essay Scholarship Contest engages high school students in church-state issues by directing them to express a point of view on a religious liberty topic. This year's topic asks you to write an essay in the form of a letter to a member of the House of Representatives about the importance of protecting sacred land. Contest is open to high school students graduating in 2023 or 2024. Grand prize is \$2,000 and a trip for two to Washington D.C. Deadline is March 17, 2023.

For more information visit <https://bjconline.org/contest/>

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### **AAGunV National High School Essay Contest**

For this essay contest, students must submit an original essay of 500 words or less in response to the following prompt: "Describe your thoughts about lockdown drills conducted in response to the threat of shootings on American school campuses." This contest is open to high school students in good standing.

Prizes are given out to the top 12 entries. Prizes range from \$250 - \$3,000.

Contest entries are due by April 15, 2023 For more information, visit <https://aagunv.org/high-school-essay-contest/>

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### **A Voice for Animals Essay Contest**

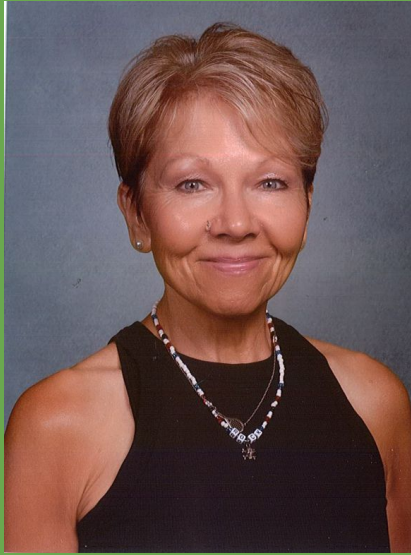
This contest is supported by a partnership between the Animal Welfare Institute and the Humane Education Network. The Voice for Animals competition has a contest category for 14-15 year old students and one for 16-18 year old students. You will write an essay that addresses either the mistreatment of one animal species or one cause of animal suffering, and present ideas to raise awareness of this species and what can be done to protect it. Deadline for submission is May 21, 2023.

For more information, visit <https://www.hennet.org/contest.php>

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# RHS Counselor Profiles

Guidance counselors are some of the most important people on a high school campus. The dedicated counselors here at RHS are no exception as they work tirelessly to support our students on a daily basis. Each of our counselors strives to promote the academic, career, and social/emotional development of the students under their care to help them realize their full academic potential as the future leaders of our community. As registration for next year's classes gets underway, we want to celebrate our counselors and all they do for our students.



## Class of 2026 Counselor: Gail Larson

Associate in Arts- Eastern Florida State College  
Bachelor of Arts Sociology - University of Central Florida  
Master of Arts Counseling - Webster University

While working on her degrees, Ms. Larson wanted to get her foot in the door of Brevard Public Schools, so she started working at the before/after care at Anderson Elementary School.

After working with that program, she wanted to expand her knowledge, so she accepted a position as a Behavior Tech, which placed her in many classrooms across Brevard County observing students at several local elementary and middle schools.

She earned her master's degree, passed all the exams and certifications she needed, and took her first Guidance Counseling position at Sunrise Elementary School in Palm Bay. Ms. Larson worked at Sunrise Elementary for 5 years. In year 3 of her time at Sunrise Elementary, she started coaching the girl's tennis team at Rockledge High School. She would start her day at the elementary school, work until noon, and then in the afternoon, she'd head to the high school to coach. During the 2012-13 school year, Ms. Larson worked part-time at Sunrise Elementary and part-time at Rockledge High School as the dual enrollment counselor before joining the RHS guidance staff as a full-time counselor in 2014.

Ms. Larson has graduated 2 cohorts, Classes of 2018 and 2022, and is currently working with her third, the class of 2026. Ms. Larson says, "I love being a guidance counselor because first and foremost, I love students!! I love the programs and classes we offer at Rockledge High School and supporting students in their endeavors to discover their passions and find the courses and programs that fit them as individuals. I love our Administration, teachers, and staff at Rockledge High School. It is fulfilling to work with other adults who invest themselves in our students. And lastly, it's a pleasure to work with the parents of our students. It's a difficult job to parent high school students; when I get an opportunity to offer some support and guidance to parents, it is a joy."



## Class of 2025 Counselor: Theresa Grant



BFA York University and BEd Queen's University in Canada (two bachelor's to become a teacher in Canada)

Master's in Counseling from Webster University

Ms. Grant is the RHS guidance department chair, a role she has held for 4 of the 6 years she has been at Rockledge. Ms. Grant brings a great variety of experience to her position as she has, in addition to serving as a guidance counselor, taught English, Social Studies, Humanities, ESOL, and Art in schools in Korea, Taiwan, and Canada, and served as an academic advisor and college recruiter at Webster University

After spending just a few minutes with Ms. Grant, you know she loves her job and truly cares about each student she works with. As she says, "I love being a counselor because I get to around incredible students and help them find and meet their goals for after high school. I like helping them imagine possibilities that they may not have thought about before. I also love the parents at RHS. I've worked at many schools and Raider parents are among the most supportive, involved and caring parents."

Ms. Grant enjoys seeing new places and has traveled throughout Asia, Australia, and Europe. She also loves to read, swim, ski, dance, and challenge herself by solving crossword and logic puzzles.

## Class of 2024 Counselor: Elyce Garceau



Ed.S., Mental Health Counseling, Seton Hall University

M.A., School Counseling, Seton Hall University

M.A., Administration and Leadership, SUNY Plattsburgh

B.S., Elementary Education, Special Education, SUNY Plattsburgh

Ms. Garceau, the newest counselor on the RHS guidance staff, was told more than once that she would never graduate high school because of the issues she faced with dyslexia. These assertions only strengthened Ms. Garceau's resolve to succeed and dedicate her life to helping others achieve their goals as she has. After graduating high school, Ms. Garceau earned several degrees in education and counseling before beginning her career as a special education teacher and basketball and softball coach in New York. After 12 years there, Ms. Garceau moved to Jacksonville and worked as a counselor with Duval County Schools.

Through the years, Ms. Garceau has worked with several community organizations including serving as a mental health counselor with Daniel, one of the oldest child-serving agencies in Florida that helps nearly 5,000 children and their families each year. As a counselor, Ms. Garceau is most satisfied when she is able to assist young adults in preparing for their future. She encourages her students to be adventurous, creative, and open-minded to new ideas. As she says, "Given the tools and strategies available today, there are never any limits except the ones we put on ourselves."

When she not at RHS, Ms. Gareau enjoys spending time with her daughter, traveling and going to Disney and the beach.



## **Class of 2023 Counselor: Juwana Dixon**

Bachelor of Science Exceptional Student Education, UCF  
Master of Arts in Counseling, Webster University

Ms. Dixon has worked with Brevard Public Schools for 17 years, joining the RHS guidance department staff 2 years ago. In her time at RHS, Ms. Dixon has shown her dedication to our students and is currently very busy as she works with all our seniors to prepare them for graduation.

If you ask Ms. Dixon why she loves being a counselor, she will tell you that she finds it fulfilling to assist students in their development and growth as young adults. She also believes that one of the most important parts of her job is to support and advocate for the well-being of students, providing them with the resources they need to be the best versions of themselves.

In her free time, Ms. Dixon enjoys watching sports and crafting.

## **College & Career Specialist (EFSC counselor): Courtney Reece**

Bachelor of Science Psychology, UCF  
Master of Arts in Education, focus on Counseling, Grand Canyon University



For the past two years, Ms. Reece has been completing her master's degree internship with the RHS guidance office. Now, she is our newest member of the RHS staff as she is our new College & Career Specialist, helping students who are interested in taking dual-enrollment classes through Eastern Florida State College.

Before completing her internship, Ms. Reece worked for 17 years as a cosmetologist. She also worked as a registered behavior technician working with children on the spectrum at the Florida Autism Center where she completed ABA therapy work for 3 years and worked for 2 years as the MTSS and title 1 coordinator at Fairglen Elementary School. Here at RHS, Ms. Reece's goal is to have a positive impact on student lives by showing them the options available so they can reach their full potential.

Ms. Reece has two children, and her family loves camping around Florida, particularly at Fort Wilderness.



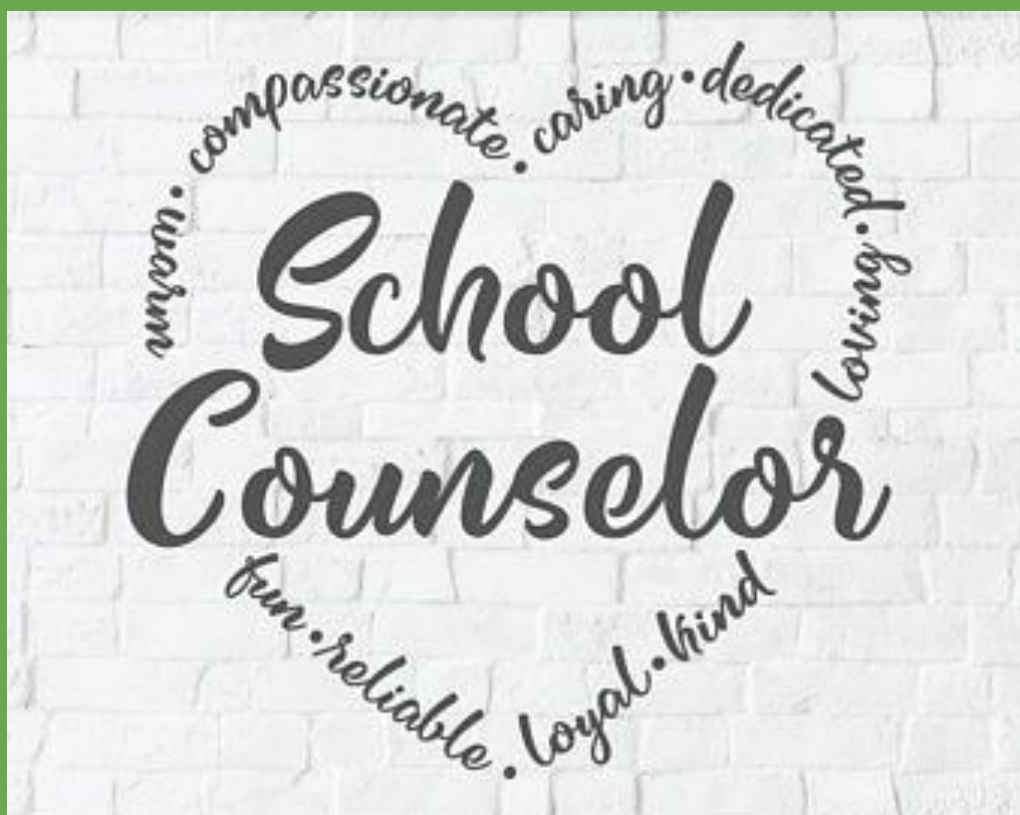
## ESE Counselor: Jennifer Gerry

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, UF (Go Gators!)  
Master of Arts in Counseling, Webster University

From 2002-2015, Ms. Gerry spent her time teaching a variety of subjects and grades ranging from pre-K to 8th grade. She started her teaching career in the Florida Keys, spent some time in inner city Chicago, and then moved back to Brevard County to raise her family. For over 10 years, Ms. Gerry has worked with ESE students, for as she says, "it is definitely my passion."

Even though she graduated from Merritt Island High School, Ms. Gerry is really proud to be a Raider and will tell everyone she talks to that she now bleeds Raider Blue. She loves this community and our small town feel. She enjoys watching our students grow up, go off to college, work, or the military, and then come home to tell us about their adventures. Ms. Gerry particularly likes how the RHS student population is so diverse yet still feels like a family, and she is grateful to have the opportunity to work here.

If you see Ms. Gerry outside the walls of RHS, then you are most likely outdoors. She loves everything water from boating and wakeboarding to swimming, surfing, and snorkeling. Having been raised in the Rocky Mountains, she also enjoys snow skiing and hiking as well.



# CAMBRIDGE STUDENT SHOWCASE

## 10TH GRADE STUDENT

### *Olivia Parks*



Hi! My name is Olivia Parks and I am currently a 10th grader attending Rockledge High School. I am working towards earning my Cambridge diploma and hopefully a Bright Futures scholarship as well. I have always had a drive for learning and I enjoy challenging myself, which is also why I've chosen to take higher level classes in the Cambridge program.

I only took one AICE class during freshman year, as I didn't want to be overwhelmed during my first year of high school. Now, as a sophomore, I am taking three, and I have been able to do well in these classes by managing my time

well and staying focused. I am on track for getting all my credits needed for the diploma by the end of Junior year.

I have been able to do well as a Cambridge student by surrounding myself with a stable and healthy group of friends rather than constantly being in a toxic environment. I am currently part of the rockledge golf team, and I also play piano and violin. These extra activities could lead to Cambridge classes being difficult to handle. I have been able to prevent getting overwhelmed by making sure to always schedule time for studying so it doesn't interfere with any extracurriculars. Studying and asking for help when you need it is a huge factor in excelling in class. Perhaps most importantly, I just try to have fun and enjoy myself while I'm still in high school. Enjoy it while you can! Raider Pride!

## 12TH GRADE STUDENT

### *Katherine Jones*



My name is Katherine Jones; I'm a senior at Rockledge High. When I started at the Rock, Cambridge classes had just become available for ninth-graders to take. With the advice of counselors, I opted for pre-AICE courses prior to taking five AICE classes during my sophomore year during the pandemic. I later received my AICE diploma after taking an additional three classes in my junior year. I feel that Cambridge courses are more practical than the AP or IB programs due to the critical thinking skills one develops and needs to analyze each question, generating appropriate responses while taking numerous perspectives and various methods of completing the given task into account. These skills became the backbone of my work as a tour guide at the Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science, as our guests are of various backgrounds and demographics, making it crucial to develop different ways to inform them of the content of our many exhibits that are memorable and understandable. The benefits are clear, especially when it comes to applying to and receiving scholarships or entry into advanced academic programs colleges have to offer. I would recommend this program due to the number of opportunities it provides and the experience one receives. Because of the diploma, I have been offered entry into honors programs at the universities to which I have applied in addition to academic-based scholarships. As someone who is not an athlete, and will therefore receive no athletic scholarships, this is advantageous for me. Even if an AICE diploma isn't ideal for everyone, taking just a few classes can acclimate students to a college environment because the content of the courses is challenging and engaging. Not many schools in Florida have made these courses available for others to take, so I can say that the rewards are too great to turn this one-of-a-kind program down.

## 9TH GRADE STUDENT *Brady Spencer*

Hello, my name is Brady Spencer and I am a freshman Cambridge student at Rockledge High School. I first joined Cambridge because of the many benefits that are possible to receive, but now that I am part of the program it feels like more than that. Cambridge offers a feeling of family to all of its students. The program strives for students to be the best versions of themselves in and out of the classroom. Cambridge teaches you time management, focus, and many other lessons that can't necessarily be taught somewhere else. At Rockledge, I play Baseball which can be very time consuming after school. For me, balancing education and sports isn't a challenge and that is partly due to the lessons Cambridge has taught me. Cambridge prepares you for college and the obstacles that may appear after. Due to the Rockledge High School and Cambridge program I can't wait to spend all of my high school years here.



## 11TH GRADE STUDENT

## *Patrick Hundley*



Hello! My name is Patrick Hundley, and I am currently a junior here at Rockledge High. I am currently on track to earn my AICE Diploma this coming fall. I would highly recommend the Cambridge Program to incoming students. I was originally zoned for Viera High, but I decided to attend Rockledge after learning about the AICE Program. I am incredibly glad that I made this decision. During COVID, my freshman year was entirely online, which was challenging. However, I found that my teachers for AICE Thinking Skills and

General Paper were more than capable of adapting to the circumstances and preparing me for my exams. Since then, my AICE teachers have not failed to uphold this precedent. I met Mrs. Krajewski, the AICE Math teacher and Cambridge Co-Coordinator, my sophomore year and she is by far the best teacher I have ever had. She is genuinely enthusiastic about education and encourages her students to work hard. Her dedication to us never wavers as she does nightly two hour tutoring sessions five days a week. She sets the standard for AICE teachers.

Although the teachers are fantastic, the AICE Program also requires students to play their part. I have always been a 4.0 student, but Cambridge courses have seriously challenged me. In previous classes I was usually able to put minimal effort into earning A's, but I found out that this would not suffice for AICE courses. The Cambridge Program forces students to truly apply their knowledge. Simply being smart is not enough; it's knowing how to adjust and being willing to put forth the extra effort. I believe that Cambridge enables students to learn the skills required to prevail in college, as well as life. It also allows the financial burden of college to be lifted. Earning your AICE Diploma sets students up for achieving Bright Futures.

Finally, being a part of the AICE Program will not hinder your high school experience. I am a part of various clubs (Beta, Spanish, Chinese, and the Spanish Honors Society) and I have friends who are athletes, have jobs, and volunteer in their community and will be earning or have already earned their AICE Diploma. I believe that any student is capable of succeeding in the AICE Program as long as they are self-disciplined, hardworking, and eager to excel in life.

Cambridge is the path for ambitious students who want to get a step ahead in their academic career.



# TEST YOUR AICE KNOWLEDGE

The following question appeared on the AICE History Paper 1 exam in June 2022 for the American history option. Can you figure out the answer?

(b) Read all of the sources. "Lincoln was an able war leader." How far do the sources support this view?

## Source A

Mr Lincoln's critics, and he had many, argued that he had no plan of action and wasted opportunities which millions of dollars would not bring back. He worked hard to compensate for the lack of military experience so many of his commanders showed. Mr Lincoln may not have had the knowledge of military matters that Mr Davis had, but he had much political skill as well as strong support from most people in the North. It had been supposed that the Southern people, poor in manufactures, would find themselves ill-prepared to contend with an enemy rich in the means and munitions of war. In some parts of the South there were fears about the wisdom of secession which Mr Davis did little to calm.

However, throughout the South, the most patriotic devotion was exhibited. Transportation companies freely offered the use of their lines for transportation and supplies. It was safely estimated that the South entered upon the war with one hundred and fifty thousand small-arms of the best in the world; every village bristled with bayonets. President Davis was welcomed with genuine joy and enthusiasm, to which none of the military pageants of the North could furnish a parallel.

*From 'The First Year of the War', written by a Southern historian and published in Richmond, Virginia, 1862.*

## Source B

General Frémont has failed totally. On Sunday night the President ordered him to march from Franklin with his whole force to Harrisburg and intercept the Confederates under General Jackson. Two hours later a reply came. 'On the march, will be there tomorrow-Frémont.' Today the President and the War Department were thunderstruck to learn that Frémont was not at Franklin, but far to the North, so of course Jackson's army escaped. Lincoln is furious at this disobedience and cowardice, but I fear he is too indecisive and too much of a coward himself to properly punish Frémont. If Frémont had obeyed orders the whole rebel force under Jackson would have been destroyed.

*The Washington correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, in a private letter to his editor, 28 May 1862.*

## Source C

The poor President. He is to be pitied; surrounded by so much incompetence and trying with all his might to understand strategy, naval warfare, big guns, the movement of troops, bad military maps, interior and exterior lines and all the technical details in the art of killing. He runs from one house to another, armed with plans, papers, reports and recommendations. He is sometimes good humoured, never angry, occasionally disheartened but always determined to succeed. There have been many more courteous Presidents, but they would not, in such a crisis, have displayed the capacity, honesty, hard work and plain dealing of President Lincoln.

*A Union officer, writing to his wife, October 1862.*

## Source D

The population of the Northern states exceeds that of the seceding states by more than two to one. In manufacturing, commerce and shipping the advantages lie with the Union. Legality and legitimacy also are on the side of the Union.

The Confederates had the great advantage in the familiarity of their people in the use of guns and they had many army officers which had gained much experience in the Mexican Wars. The rebels had a decided advantage in that they had the active sympathy of a majority of the American people on the issue of slavery. The Southern press was unanimous in its support for secession and war, while the Northern press was severely divided in its support for the war. The rebels' leader was able and with much military experience. President Lincoln, an Illinois lawyer, was without military education or experience. No member of his Cabinet had any military ability or experience. However, he had determination and vision and also the ability to make use of the advantages the Union possessed.

*Horace Greeley, 'The American Conflict', published 1864. Greeley was a Northern journalist and historian.*

see next page for  
answer  
explanation

**(b) Read all of the sources. “Lincoln was an able war leader.” How far do the sources support this view?**

This question is worth 25 points so students are expected to write an essay response. Students should discuss each source and whether it supports or challenges the given statement. Then, students should evaluate the validity of the sources in supporting the given statement. Finally, students should reach a supported judgement about the extent to which the sources support the statement.

**Support**

- Source A mentions that Lincoln ‘worked hard to compensate for the lack of military experience so many of his commanders showed’ which suggests he was an able war leader.
- Source D, gives a picture of the obstacles that Lincoln had to overcome and mention Lincoln’s ‘determination and vision’ and the ‘ability to make use of the advantages that the Union possessed.’
- Source C praises Lincoln for his undoubted efforts and personal skills and stresses his ‘capacity, honesty, hard work and plain dealing.’

**Challenge**

- Source A claims that Lincoln lacked a plan of action and wasted opportunities. The source also that Lincoln had more advantages in terms of resources and this might suggest he was in a better position than his opponents rather than he was an able leader.
- Source B is the most critical source. It suggests that Lincoln is both irresolute and a coward for not properly punishing the actions of Frémont.
- Source C could be used as a challenge as it suggests that Lincoln tries ‘with all his might’ to understand strategy and naval warfare, but it does not indicate whether he was successful.

**Evaluation**

- Source A: The source grudgingly admits Lincoln’s political skill and strong support and it is not surprising that the source is very positive towards the south. Candidates could use their contextual knowledge of the economic power of the north which possessed raw materials and the ability to finance the war to challenge the rosy picture painted in the second paragraph.
- Source B: Contextual knowledge would suggest this source is largely accurate about Frémont, but the inferences that Lincoln was ‘indecisive’ and ‘too much a coward’ are personal opinions which the facts don’t necessarily support. However, the correspondent was present in Washington at the time.
- Source C: The picture of Lincoln portrayed here suggests Lincoln is in difficulties but has the character and determination to succeed. This is not surprising as it is written by a Union officer. Whether the officer had direct, or indirect knowledge of the events commented on is not known.
- Source D: written towards the end of the war, Source D attempts to provide a balanced account. However, by this time (especially after Lincoln’s reelection) it must have been becoming clear that the Confederacy was likely to be defeated.