COUGAR NEWS

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF CARDINAL MOONEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 11, 2026 | 2026-2027 | EDITION 07

Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School, a college preparatory institution rooted in Catholic faith, prepares students to serve and lead by nurturing spiritual growth, cultivating the talents of all students, and challenging them to pursue academic excellence.



CELEBRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE!

Congratulations to **Jack Fiskness** and **Jolie Pastorick** on being named National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalists!

WHAT'S INSIDE

- ACADEMIC SERVICES P. 2
- C.A.R.E COMMITTEE P. 2
- STUDENT LIFE P. 3
- ATHLETICS P. 3
- CAMPUS MINISTRY P. 4
- ADVANCEMENT P. 4

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14	TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15	WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16	THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17	FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18
• C.A.R.E. Committee General Meeting 8 AM • Softball Info Meeting 3 PM	• No events	• Underclassmen Picture Retakes • Sophomore Parent Night 6 PM	• County College Fair @ STC 6 PM	• House Points for Attendance at Volleyball vs Bishop Verot 7 PM • Football Bye Week

FEATURE STORY

Cougars Heading to Scotland

Four Cardinal Mooney golfers are making history as the **first high school athletes from the United States to compete in the World School Games,** traveling to Scotland to represent Team USA. The Cougars will compete September 14–17 against athletes from around the world, including the opportunity to play at the legendary St. Andrews, while representing both Cardinal Mooney and the United States on an international stage.



WATCH THE STORY HERE



Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.

HOSEA 10:12

STAY CONNECTED

ACADEMIC SERVICES & COUNSELING

SOPHOMORE PARENT NIGHT

Our Academic Services team will host an informational event for parents and families of sophomore students this **Wednesday, September 16th, at 6 PM** in the CMHS Music Hall.

COUNTY COLLEGE FAIR

The Sarasota County College Fair will be on **Thursday, September 17th from 6-8 PM** at Suncoast Technical College. More information can be found here.

UPCOMING COLLEGE VISITS

The following colleges and universities will be on campus in the coming weeks. Juniors and seniors are welcome to attend college visits, but they must preregister to attend on SCOIR. College visits are being added daily, so always check SCOIR for the most up-to-date schedule!

- Sept 14: Savannah College of Art and Design
- Sept 14: Grand Canyon University
- Sept 16: Suffolk Univ.
- Sept 16: Seton Hall Univ.
- Sept 16: Indiana Univ. (Bloomington)
- Sept 16: Univ. of Kentucky
- Sept 17: High Point Univ.
- Sept 17: Loyola Marymount Univ.
- Sept 18: Miami Univ.
- Sept 21: Franciscan Univeristy at Stubenville
- Sept 21: Washington Univ. in St. Louis
- Sept 25: Les Roches University (Spain)
- Oct 1: Clark University
- Oct 1: Bryant University

Students must register to attend a visit on SCOIR at least two days prior to the date of the visit!

LUNCH

NEXT WEEK'S MENU

Monday, Sept. 14
- Spicy Chicken Sand.
- Burger
- Cheeseburger

Tuesday, Sept. 15
- Chicken Tenders

Wednesday, Sept. 16
- Meatball Sub
- Pasta

Thursday, Sept. 17
- Chicken Sandwich
- Hot Italian Sub

Friday, Sept. 18
- Cheese Pizza
- Pepperoni Pizza

Always Available:
- Parfaits
- PB&J
- Noodle Soup
- Snacks & Drinks

C.A.R.E. COMMITTEE: COUGARS ARE REASON ENOUGH

UPCOMING MEETINGS

9/14: CARE Meeting
Learn more about CARE and how to get involved! (link)

MEET THE BOARD

Meet the members of the C.A.R.E. Committee executive board here.

CARDINAL MOONEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL · 1959 · C.A.R.E COMMITTEE

STUDENT LIFE

@CMHS.STUDENTLIFE

AUGUST GIFTS OF CHRIST RECIPIENTS

We are excited to announce our first-ever August Gifts of Christ recipients, recognizing students who have demonstrated the Gift of **Solidarity** in our Mooney community.
Solidarity calls us to recognize every person as our neighbor, choosing to stand with, serve, and support one another so that no one walks alone. We are grateful to recognize **Brady Kerewich** and **Colleen Putnam** for the ways they exemplify this gift through their kindness, support, and care for others.



PENNY WARS BEGINS MONDAY!

Save your coins!

- Our second annual Penny Wars competition between the six Houses kicks off on Monday and lasts until Friday, September 18th.
- Place COINS in YOUR House's jug at lunch to count as positive points, but place BILLS in OTHER Houses' jugs to count as negative against them.
- The House with the highest point total in their jug after the week earns 60 points!
- All proceeds are donated to a local charity.



FRIDAY DRESS CODE

On Fridays, students are permitted to wear their **school-provided 2026-27 House t-shirt** to school in place of a polo shirt! Students must still wear uniform bottoms and shoes.

ATHLETICS

@CMHS.ATHLETICS

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7	TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8	WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9	THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10	FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11	SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12

• **Softball**
  ◦ 3 PM: Info Meeting for interested players
	• **Volleyball** at Tampa Prep
	  ◦ 5 PM: JV
	  ◦ 6 PM: Varsity
		• No games	• **Volleyball** at Calvary Christian
			  ◦ 4 PM: Freshmen
			  ◦ 5 PM: JV
			  ◦ 6:30 PM: Varsity
			• **Football** at Carrolwood Day
			  ◦ 6 PM: JV
				• **Volleyball** vs Bishop Verot
				  ◦ 5 PM: Freshmen
				  ◦ 6 PM: JV
				  ◦ 7 PM: Varsity
					• **Cross Country** at North Port
					  ◦ 8 AM

CMHS CAMPUS MINISTRY

@CMHS.CAMPUSMINISTRY

OCIA: ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

There will be an informational meeting for students interested in joining the Catholic faith on **Tuesday, September 22, at 2:45 PM** in the Media Center.



PARENT ROSARY GROUP

Join us for our weekly **parent rosary group** in the CMHS Chapel every Friday morning at 7:45 AM!



CHAPERONES NEEDED FOR MARCH FOR LIFE

We are actively looking for Parent Chaperones to sign up for this year's annual **March for Life** in DC trip!

- This year, the March trip will be Wednesday, January 20th through Saturday January 23rd.
- Freshmen students are allowed to go on this school trip ONLY if they have an older sibling who attends Cardinal Mooney going up, or a parent chaperone.
- We ask all chaperones to have their official volunteer security clearance ahead of time. Contact your parish or the diocese to check your status.
- If you are interested in going up with our group please email Mr. Shipe here.



OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT

HOMECOMING FISH FRY

October 9th 5-7 pm
ALL Mooney families & friends are welcome to join a Mooney tradition, the annual Fish Fry, before the Cougars Homecoming game!
Adult tickets include meal and drinks (soda, water, beer, wine, seltzer, etc).
Click here for all ticket options.



GRATIA GALA

January 23, 2027 - The Ora Premiere Event Venue
Join the Committee! We need your help planning this year's annual gala, please contact Dana Mitchell at dmitchell@cmhs-sarasota.org if interested.



C.A.R.E. COMMITTEE: MEET THE BOARD

PRESIDENT: CASSIE VASSALLO



Cassie was born and raised in Sarasota. She met her husband, Tom, while attending Riverview High School and they married in 1993. Together, they raised three sons in Sarasota and have proudly been the senior since 15 years.
Cassie graduated from Mooney in 2015. During the time she joined the Sports Club and later served as its President for several years. Sports have always held a special place in her heart because she believes athletics offer students lessons that extend far beyond competition.
Serving as President with Cardinal Mooney began in the fall of 20Il, when their oldest, Tommy, first became a student. During the time she joined the Sports Club and later served as its President for several years.
Sports have always held a special place in her heart because she believes athletics offer students lessons that extend far beyond competition.
In 2025, she joined the CARE Board to expand that commitment beyond athletics and help support the entire Cardinal Mooney community. Cassie believes that a strong school is built through relationships, involvement, volunteerism, and a shared commitment to supporting students, faculty, staff, and families.
Now serving as President of the C.A.R.E. Board, she is focused on strengthening the connection between parents and Mooney, increasing volunteer involvement on campus, supporting our faculty and staff, and finding new ways to engage families in the life of our school.
Cassie states that the center of our mission is the students. Her goal is to help foster a welcoming and connected community where every student has the opportunity to grow, build meaningful relationships, and have the best possible experience during their years at Cardinal Mooney.

VICE PRESIDENT: LAURA CHEESMAN



Laura is born and raised in Sarasota. Both her and her husband, Aaron, attended Sarasota High School. They have a daughter, Addy, who is a Senior at Mooney and a 7th grader, Jackson, at St. Martha.
She enjoys being on the CARE Board because she loves the opportunity to celebrate the staff and students at Mooney while supporting the school in whatever way is needed to help make the high school experience a memorable one for everyone!

TREASURER: JOE C. HEMBREE



Joe was born and raised in Sarasota. He graduated from Sarasota High School in 1999 and the US Naval Academy in 2003.
His wife, Melissa, and him have four children, two that currently attend Mooney. Their son, Joe W., is a Sophmore and their daughter, Annabelle, is a Freshman.
Observing how Cardinal Mooney shapes our kids into confident, faith-filled young men and women fills Joe with gratitude. He states that gratitude is best expressed through action. Serving on the CARE Board is a great opportunity for him to give back to a school that gives our children so much. He want to work alongside our Cardinal Mooney families to ensure every student is supported, guided, and grounded in the values that matter most.

C.A.R.E. COMMITTEE: MEET THE BOARD

SECRETARY: DAGMAR LADLE



Dagmar and her husband, John, moved from Chicago 5 years ago.
They have three children. Their youngest, Luke, is Junior at Mooney and is on the Varsity Wrestling team.
Dagmar enjoys being on the CARE Board because she wanted to contribute in a hands on way to the Mooney Community.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: KAREN MOORE



Karen is from Seminole, FL. Both her and her husband, Casey, grew up in the St.Pete area. Casey went to St Pete Catholic High School and Karen attended Seminole High School. They moved to the LWR area in 2013.
Their son, Brady, is a sophomore at Mooney & their daughter, McKinley, is an 8th grader at St. Martha.
She really enjoys being on the CARE Board and that CARE impacts all aspects of Mooney from students and families to teachers and staff/faculty.

COMMUNICATIONS: CHRISTY COHEN



Christy and her husband, David, are from Sarasota.
She attended Riverview High School and David attended Cardinal Mooney.
They have two sons. Their oldest, Bryson, is a Sophomore at Mooney & their youngest, Micah, is an 8th grader at St. Martha.
Christy joined the CARE Board because it allows her to really get involved and support the staff, students, and families. She enjoys helping to make a difference and giving back to those who already give so much to our children!