

TOGETHER PCS

KEEPING PACE WITH PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Welcome to TogetherPCS, the district's monthly newsletter featuring students, staff, alumni, coaches, curriculum, community partners and so much more!

In this issue, we catch up with a Palm Harbor High School alum who is starting her second season as a college football broadcaster for CBS sports. We also share the story of a 75-year-old graduate whose walk across the stage at Countywide Graduation last month was almost 60 years in the making, as well as some highlights of our first day of school.

If you know someone who should be featured in TogetherPCS, please click the "Nominate Here" button below. Let's do this TOGETHER!

NOMINATE HERE



The school year just started but the District Application Period for the 2026-27 school year is right around the corner. Here are a few things you can do to prepare:

- If you are new to the district, make sure to set up a Focus parent account by visiting focus.pcsb.org.
- Make sure your parent account is linked to your student's account in Focus.
- Make sure sibling accounts are linked to you and to each other (important for sibling priority consideration)
- Mark your calendar for upcoming **DAP fair dates** to learn about all of the special programs the district has to offer.

WHAT'S INSIDE

ASK QUESTIONS & SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

LISTEN & LEARN

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Oct. 21, 2025

5:30 p.m.

Palm Harbor University High
School

Focus: Athletics



Providing opportunities for the stakeholders of Pinellas County Schools to engage with the School Board, Superintendent and district leadership is imperative to continuous improvement for our students, families, staff and community.

PCS Listen and Learn events are in-person meetings with a specific theme. Each meeting will last approximately 90 minutes and include: an opening and welcome by the Superintendent and School Board members, a presentation including highlights and happenings of the district, a question/answer session and feedback opportunities during which stakeholders can have direct conversations with the Superintendent, School Board members and district leaders.



At 75 years old, Eddie Horne finally graduated high school at the district's Countywide Graduation ceremony Aug. 21.

With his pastor and church family erupting into cheers as he crossed the stage, Eddie Horne – acknowledging the outpouring with a subtle smile and wave – graduated with his high school diploma at the age of 75.

As the oldest member of the 2025 graduating class at Countywide graduation last month, Horne said putting on his cap and gown was a dream almost 60 years in the making. At 14, Horne and his two brothers were sent to the Dozier School for Boys, a “reform” school known for its excruciating abuse and neglect, which significantly derailed his education.

“They didn’t teach you nothing,” Horne said, while donning a bright blue cap and gown. “That’s why I lost out a lot on my education because they didn’t teach you nothing. You just sat there all day and looked at books.”

[Read the full article](#)



Grades and Grit is back for another season of spotlighting outstanding achievements of our student-athletes. Sophia Hernandez-Flores, a standout swimmer from Palm Harbor University High School, not only makes waves in the pool, with multiple medal-winning

GRADES & GRIT

performances at the state level, but she also keeps an impressive 4.0 GPA in the rigorous International Baccalaureate Program. Sophia exemplifies the spirit of Grades and Grit, and we look forward to sharing more inspiring stories from across the district in the months ahead.

[Watch Sophia's story here](#)

ACHIEVE TOGETHER

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Jordan Giorgio, a 2013 graduate of Palm Harbor University High School, is now a sideline reporter for college football for CBS Sports.

The first time Jordan Giorgio was on the sidelines of a football game in any official capacity, she spent most of her time delivering coffee to the ESPN Monday Night Football crew.

It was a Chicago Bears home game in 2016, and she had spent her babysitting money to purchase a plane ticket from Florida to cover the game as a production runner.

She was 20 years old at the time and still calls it one of the best decisions she's ever made.

"It was the best job," said Giorgio, a 2013 graduate of Palm Harbor University High School and now a sideline reporter for college football for CBS Sports. "I invested in myself and was just trying to meet as many people as I could networking. It led me to where I am today."

[Read the full article and watch the video](#)



BACK TO SCHOOL 2025-26



From the Mayor of Clearwater welcoming students back to A-rated Clearwater High to balloons, music and more, Pinellas County Schools students are back and better than ever!

Watch the first day video [here](#).





Congratulations PHU alum Mitch Farris

Congratulations to Palm Harbor University alum Mitch Farris on his call-up to the Majors! The left-handed pitcher made his debut Tuesday night, starting for the Los Angeles Angels against the Kansas City Royals. Farris threw five innings, allowing just one run on three hits and two walks over 70 pitches and received the win. Mitch makes history as the first Palm Harbor University graduate to reach the Major Leagues. Farris was selected in the 14th round by the Atlanta Braves in the summer of 2023. He was the 429th overall pick in the draft. He was traded from the Braves to the Angels in December of 2024. He graduated from Palm Harbor in 2019.

The Superintendent Says...

"Incredible achievements continue to unfold across Pinellas County Schools. I want to extend heartfelt congratulations to every student, teacher, staff member, and administrator for helping our district once again earn an A rating. This historic accomplishment reflects the dedication, passion, and excellence of our entire school community. Every day, our students, staff, and alumni reaffirm why it's such an honor to lead this vibrant and forward-moving district."



To help spread the word, please forward this newsletter to community members who are interested in public education. Sign up by clicking the button below.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)



VISION: 100% STUDENT SUCCESS
MISSION: EDUCATE AND PREPARE EACH STUDENT FOR COLLEGE, CAREER AND LIFE

[PCS Compliance Statement](#)

