



**PCS**   
PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

# DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

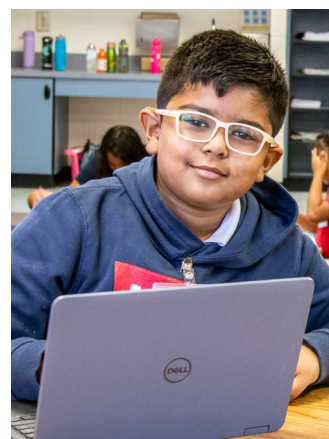
Published September 2024

**PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS IS AN  DISTRICT**



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# PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

**THE MISSION** of the Pinellas County School Board is to provide the best opportunities for all students to succeed by adopting policies that ensure continual improvement for highest student achievement, safe learning environments and effective, efficient operation. The District Strategic Plan demonstrates one of the many ways the School Board supports the strategic work for 100% student success.



*Front row: Carol J. Cook, Vice Chairperson; Laura Hine, Chairperson; Eileen M. Long  
Back row: Kevin K. Hendrick, Superintendent; Dawn Peters; Lisa N. Cane; Caprice Edmond; Stephanie Meyer*



## A NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

“The district’s annual report is a compilation of the achievements and highlights that Pinellas County Schools amassed over the course of the 2023-2024 school year. We are so thankful for our students, teachers and staff who have received state and national recognitions, awards in the arts, athletic accolades and countless improvements across the academic spectrum. Our schools continue to elevate the student experience through field trips, hands-on learning and academic rigor while continuing to outpace the state in assessments. We remain proud of the safety and efficiency of our school operations, our extensive volunteer base and our connection with community and we look forward to another outstanding school year.”

**KEVIN K. HENDRICK**



# WHO WE ARE

## VISION

**100%**  
STUDENT SUCCESS

## MISSION

**EDUCATE AND PREPARE**  
**EACH STUDENT FOR**  
**COLLEGE, CAREER AND LIFE**

## CORE VALUES



## FAST FACTS



**9<sup>TH</sup> LARGEST**  
FLORIDA SCHOOL DISTRICT



**THE LARGEST EMPLOYER**  
IN PINELLAS COUNTY



HOME TO A TOTAL OF  
**91,315 PK-12 STUDENTS**



**143 SCHOOLS**  
DISTRICTWIDE

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**  
THROUGH INNOVATION



**SAFE AND RESPECTFUL**  
CLIMATE & CULTURE



**EQUITY WITH**  
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL



**POSITIVE STAFF**  
EXPERIENCES



**STRONG CONNECTIONS**  
& COMMUNICATION



**FISCAL & OPERATIONAL**  
RESPONSIBILITY



# WHO WE ARE

## WHERE THE MONEY GOES

82%

of the district budget goes to supporting students and schools.

14%

is utilized for operating and maintaining facilities.

4%

goes to management of the district operations.



51.2%  
WHITE

## STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

0.31%  
PACIFIC  
ISLANDER

4.1%  
ASIAN

18.6%  
BLACK

20.4%  
HISPANIC

0.01%  
AMERICAN  
INDIAN

5.7%  
MULTI-RACIAL

4,777  
TECHNICAL  
COLLEGES

461  
EXCEPTIONAL  
CENTERS

7,105  
CHARTER

36,983  
ELEMENTARY

## STUDENT POPULATION: 104,417

26,964  
HIGH

1,324  
ALTERNATIVE

8,325  
ADULT  
GEN ED

16,026  
MIDDLE

2,150  
K-8

302  
VIRTUAL

422  
ADMINISTRATIVE

5,374  
SUPPORT

## EMPLOYEE POPULATION: 13,797

6,667  
INSTRUCTIONAL

1,334  
SUBSTITUTES

## CHOOSE YOUR OWN *Adventure*

22,627

MAGNET, FUNDAMENTAL  
AND CAREER ACADEMY STUDENTS

PARTICIPATING IN  
84 PROGRAMS

ENROLLED AT  
55 SCHOOLS



Data reflects the 2023-24  
official state enrollment

# 2023-24 IN REVIEW

## PRIORITY 1: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION

### PCS EARNED A DISTRICT GRADE OF AN A



### 83% of PCS schools are **A** and **B** schools

PCS reached the **highest levels** of proficiency in **ELA, Math and Science** in **nine years**, reaching **first among** large districts in **the state**.

**55**  
“A” SCHOOLS

**40**  
“B” SCHOOLS

**20**  
“C” SCHOOLS



Over 270 middle and high school students attended the 6th annual Ignite Arts Camp for band, chorus, orchestra, musical theater and dance.

PCS Grade 3 ELA proficiency increased by 9 percentage points compared to 2022-23 and outperformed the state by 7 points in 2023-24.

## PRIORITY 2: SAFE & RESPECTFUL CLIMATE AND CULTURE

PCS continues to collaborate with local law enforcement agencies to maintain full compliance with all school safety requirements.



**89% OF FAMILIES AGREE THAT STUDENTS HAVE SOMEONE AT SCHOOL THEY CAN GO TO FOR HELP WITH A SCHOOL PROBLEM.**



Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) clubs in each school organized and led various campus-wide activities during Say Something Week in March. Hollins High was invited to present a breakout session at Sandy Hook Promise National Summit.

## PRIORITY 3: EQUITY WITH EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

**11 SCHOOLS**  
in the Transformation Zone  
**INCREASED A SCHOOL GRADE**



Black student proficiency increased in ELA by 6.8 percentage points on the FAST assessment.



English language learners increased at a higher rate in ELA than their English-speaking peers.



All ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) subgroups increased in proficiency.



# 2023-24 IN REVIEW

## PRIORITY 4: POSITIVE STAFF EXPERIENCES



**93%** of participating employees said they find their work interesting.



Over **750 PARTICIPANTS** have been trained on the principles and expectations of PCS for adult learning and trainings.



**96%** of participating employees strongly agreed or agreed that they are engaged in their work.



All employees received an average **4.5% SALARY INCREASE** in 2023-24.

## PRIORITY 5: STRONG CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNICATION



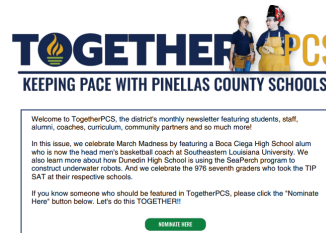
PCS and the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Pete celebrated a 10-year partnership. **50,000+ students** have attended the field trip connecting social studies to the arts throughout the partnership.



PCS started **three new podcasts this year** with a total of 12 episodes. All episodes of Finding Joy, Tales from the Tech Side and AHA moments can be found on the PCS YouTube channel and wherever you get your podcasts.



Volunteer time equated to **\$17 million added value** to PCS students and schools in 2023-24.



PCS has published 13 issues of TogetherPCS, the district newsletter. It has nearly **10,000** subscribers with an average open rate of over 50%.

## PRIORITY 6: FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



**87.6% OF ALL ESSER/ARP FUNDS** received by PCS were spent as of April 2024, positioning the district for full expenditure by the September 2024 deadline.



Nearly **8,000 STUDENT** laptops have been repaired by in-house technicians.



**151 STUDENTS** earned their certification in the Dell Tech Crew program and repaired 610 devices through the PCS Connects initiative.



In partnership with PCS, the Speer YMCA opened to the community in December 2023. Mangrove Bay Middle School, located on the shared campus, welcomed students in August 2024.

# POINTS OF PRIDE

## Nationally Recognized Student Achievements



PCS took home **three top awards** in the **National History Day competition**. Dunedin Highland Middle School was awarded first place for Junior Group Performance and Largo High won the Equality in History Award for Senior Group Website. Amanda Dogu of Boca Ciega High School was named the **Florida History Day Teacher of Merit**.



Carwise Middle School competed in the **National Future Cities competition**.



Palm Harbor University High School team won the 2023-24 **NextGenTech360 competition** for an AI-driven fitness app.



Elisa Nelson Elementary School **Odyssey of the Mind** team placed second at the **world championship**.



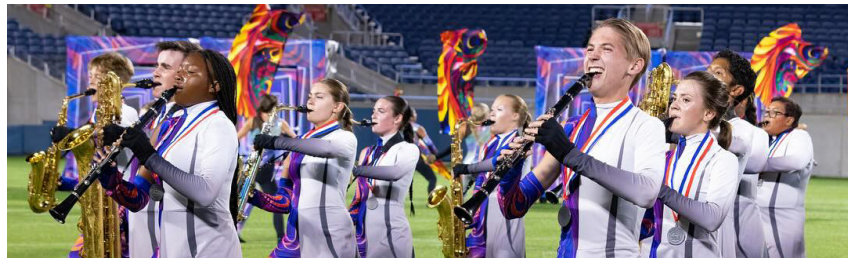
Brayden Lyons of Madeira Beach Fundamental School earned a spot at the **International Geography Bee**.



Seminole High School Warhawk Marching Band was invited to perform at the 2025 **Tournament of Roses Parade**.



Grayson Burns of Largo High School earned a **perfect SAT score**. He is in the top 1% of over 2 million test takers.



Tarpon Springs High School Outdoor Performance Ensemble was the **Regional Bands of America Grand Champion**.

Alana Hogan from Gibbs High School was named Best Dancer at the National High School Musical Theatre Awards, known as the **Jimmy Awards**.



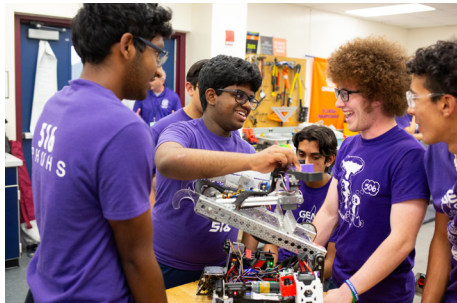
# POINTS OF PRIDE

## State and National Accolades

Gibbs High School basketball coach Larry Murphy was named **the 2024 Florida Dairy Farmers Boys Basketball Coach of the Year**. The team brought home the **state championship** for the first time since 1969.



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) honored Seminole High School students and staff as Planet Stewards for their **Landscape Architectural Project**.



Palm Harbor University High School Robotics Team was invited to the **FIRST® World Championship** for the second year.



Elisa Nelson Elementary School was awarded a **2023 Florida Power-Library School**.

## MAGNET SCHOOLS OF AMERICA

18 Pinellas schools won **National Merit Awards** from Magnet Schools of America (MSA):

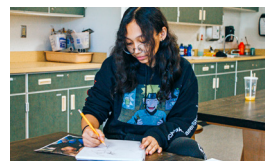


### MERIT AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS:

- Countryside High School
- Douglas L. Jamerson, Jr. Elementary School



Boca Ciega High School was revalidated as an **AVID National Demonstration School**.



Safety Harbor Middle School was recognized as a **Middle Years Programme IB World School**.

### MERIT AWARD OF DISTINCTION WINNERS:

- Dunedin Highland Middle
- East Lake Middle Academy of Engineering
- Elisa Nelson Elementary
- Gulfport Montessori Elementary
- Jacobson Technical High
- James B. Sanderlin K-8 IB World
- John Hopkins Middle
- Lakewood High
- Largo High
- Largo Middle IB World
- Midtown Academy
- Mildred Helms Elementary IB World
- Perkins Elementary
- Ridgecrest Elementary
- Seminole High
- Tarpon Springs Middle



PCS was awarded continued **districtwide accreditation** status by Cognia, scoring in the highest level of performance and earning accolades for noteworthy practices.



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION

## Student Experiences

### “A” DISTRICT

PCS has earned a district-level “A” for the first time in its history. Every Pinellas County School has earned an A, B, or C school grade. PCS reached the **highest levels** of proficiency in **ELA, Math and Science** in **nine years**, reaching **first among** large districts in **the state**.

# EXCELLENCE ELE<sup>✓</sup>ATED

PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS IS AN **A** DISTRICT



### FIELD TRIPS

PCS provided **466 standards-aligned field trips** to **over 37,500 students**. Some experiences included St. Pete Grand Prix, MacDill Air Force Base and American Victory Ship and Museum, as well as on-campus field trips from authors and scientists, college campus visits and career days.



## NEARLY 30,000 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE EXPANDED PCS DISTRICT-LED ACADEMIC CHALLENGES

### ARTS EDUCATION

**Over 270 middle and high school students** attended the PCS Ignite Arts Camp to enhance their band, chorus, orchestra, musical theater and dance performance skills.

PCS was named as one of the **Best Communities for Music Education** by **NAMM** for the fifth consecutive year.



**3,446 K-12 students' 2D and 3D artworks** were displayed in over 25 exhibitions at local museums, centers and galleries.

**450 scholastic art awards** were earned by **324 middle and high school students**.

**4,500 students** participated in arts fields trips to local museums.



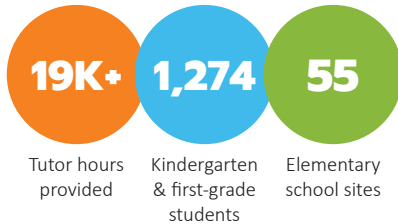
# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION

*High Expectations*

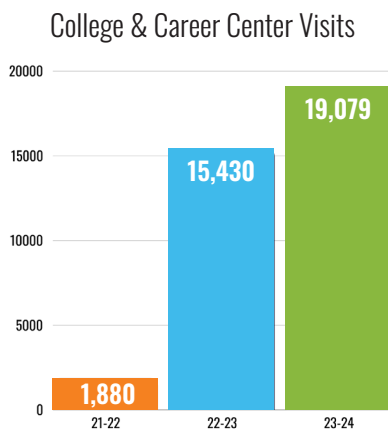
## READ ACROSS PINELLAS (RAP)

90 **Read Across Pinellas** (RAP) trained tutors worked with individual kindergarten and first-grade students twice a week. For the second year, RAP was extended through the summer. Over 2,200 students in grades VPK through second grade were tutored by 156 PCS alumni and community members in June.

## BY THE NUMBERS



## COLLEGE READINESS



PCS graduates attend colleges throughout the country.



## Cash for Courses

PCS students and families saved \$14 million in college tuition by completing 23,037 courses for 69,111 college credits.



17

College and Career Centers

8.5K

students served

## CAREER EDUCATION

97%

of seniors enrolled in a career dual enrollment program completed the program prior to high school graduation or transitioned to PTC after graduation to complete the program.

43%

of graduates for the 17 traditional high schools earned at least one industry certification.

169

students participated in summer internships with 50 businesses.



PCS received the **Power of Hope award** from the National Postsecondary Strategy Institute for engaging school counselors to lead and increase college and career outcomes for students.

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION

## Middle School Experience

### TRANSFORMING MIDDLE SCHOOLS

PCS is transforming the middle school experience to **accelerate student achievement while supporting students' transitions from elementary to middle and middle to high school**. The major components of change include:



EMBEDDING ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES  
THAT PROMOTE TEAM BUILDING



INTEGRATING CROSS-CURRICULAR  
HANDS-ON LEARNING EXPERIENCES



RAPPORT-BUILDING THROUGH  
TEACHER TEAMING



ENHANCING FIELD TRIP  
OPPORTUNITIES

### IMPACT 2023-24

The six schools that implemented the middle school initiative outperformed the non-pilot schools:

↑ Increased student achievement   ↓ Reduced D and F grades in core courses   ↓ Reduced discipline infractions





# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION

## Middle School Experience



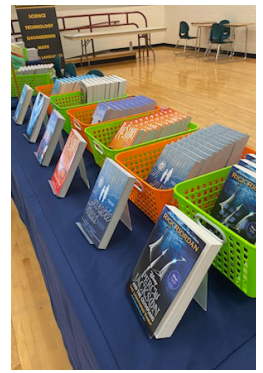
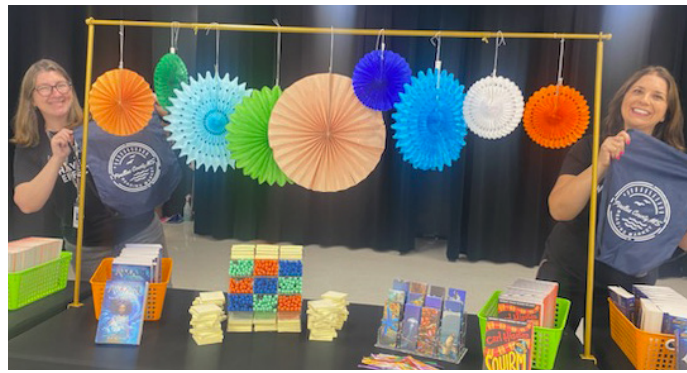
### FUTURE CITIES COMPETITION

Six middle schools hosted a schoolwide **Future Cities competition**, totaling over 100 projects. The winning class from each school competed in the first districtwide middle school Future Cities competition. Students were tasked with imagining, researching, designing and building a city 100 years in the future that would mitigate the impacts of wind and rain during hurricane season.



### BOOK MARKETS

Free, pop-up middle school **Summer Reading Book Markets** were hosted in all middle schools. To make reading feel exciting and special, students selected a novel of their choice from the market, in addition to receiving a drawstring bag, bookmark, pen and sticky notes.



### MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE

All 21 middle schools hosted the **Great Explorations Planetarium on-site field trip** for more than 5,000 eighth graders. The 180-degree immersive video experience complemented the science standards and helped students learn how the curriculum applied to the real world.



# 96%

of middle school students demonstrated grade-level or higher knowledge of the standards covered in the planetarium experience, based on the state science assessment.



Middle school students engaged in hands-on science and innovation labs designed in partnership with **ARK Educate**. During the labs, students created reusable rockets, sustainable Florida structures and built and coded robots. Their projects were showcased during the **Science and Engineering Showcase**.



# SAFE & RESPECTFUL CLIMATE AND CULTURE

## POSITIVE CULTURES OF LEARNING

The Student Support division is supporting schools and addressing student behaviors using a multifaceted approach that includes:

- Designing and refining systematic processes to address behaviors across all tiers
- Providing high-quality professional development to build capacity and shift mindset regarding discipline and consequences
- Increasing stakeholder input and engagement
- Strengthening support to schools



## DIGITAL RESPONSIBILITY

PCS elicited feedback from school staff, families and the community regarding the use of cell phones in schools. Using the feedback from stakeholders, the School Board revised its wireless communication device policy and designed a communications strategy to encourage schools and families to power up learning and power down distractions.



## STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

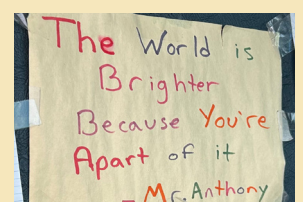
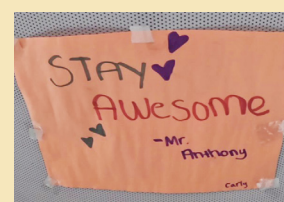
The annual Student Leadership Summit brought diverse groups of students from every school to the USF St. Petersburg campus to engage in a conference-style leadership experience. Throughout the day, students:

- **provided feedback** to the superintendent and district leaders
- competed in **hands-on challenges** that exercised their communication skills
- explored the college campus during a **scavenger hunt**
- applied their **leadership skills** to partner with their school's SAVE Club and organized activities for See Something, Say Something week utilizing the skills harnessed



## DRIVING POSITIVITY IN PCS

Anthony Burgess, a PCS bus driver, encouraged students to decorate the bus with positive messages. Mr. Anthony then taped the positive messages next to each seat, so children could read the messages creating a fun climate and culture for his students. Anthony's story was recongized internationally.





# EQUITY WITH EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

## BRIDGING THE GAP

The **Bridging the Gap** Plan is dedicated to closing the achievement gap for Black students in Pinellas County. In 2023-24, the district **demonstrated improvement in areas within all six goals** and is committed to the work to accelerate progress. To learn more about the plan go to [www.pcsb.org/BTG](http://www.pcsb.org/BTG).



## READING ROYALE

The inaugural **Reading Royale** was a literacy competition for third-grade students in the Transformation Zone. Each school team utilized their literacy skills to compete in games and a poetry slam. During the games, students deepened their knowledge of making words with morphologic knowledge and reading new BEST passages.



## FUNCTIONABLE CLUBHOUSE

The **FUNctionable Clubhouse at Nina Harris ESE Center** is a custom-designed, innovative space where special-needs students experience multisensory play. The creation of the FUNctionable Clubhouse was made possible by the Mr. Strong Foundation.



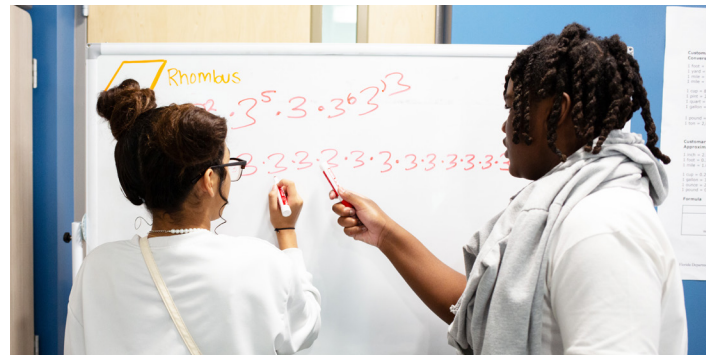
## BOYS READ AND GUYS READ BOOK BATTLE

The **Boys Read Book Battle Teams** are composed of boys in third through fifth-grade. The teams read a series of books based on topics of interest, and tested their comprehension and evidence-finding skills in a quiz-bowl-style district competition. The competition was developed as a strategy to support boys' literacy skills while competing and having fun. The Boys Read Book Battle expanded to high school in a similar competition called **Guys Read**.



## ALGEBRA BOWL

Middle school students participated in the Transformation Zone **Algebra Bowl**. Students competed to answer three rounds of FAST-style algebra questions plus a 15-minute, 15-question lightning round. Tyrone Middle School earned the championship for the second year in a row.





# POINTS OF PRIDE

## Outstanding Staff

### PCS EMPLOYEE HONORS



**DR. AMANDA DANIELS**  
Emerging Teacher of the Year, Palm Harbor University HS



**LINDA BURRIS**  
Principal of the Year, Tyrone MS



**PAUL COMINI & BRETT FAULK**  
School Resource Officers of the Year, Countryside HS



**KATRINA CARPENTER**  
Emerging Teacher of the Year, Mount Vernon ES



**CANDICE METCALF**  
Assistant Principal of the Year, Hollins HS



**YARITZA RAMOS**  
School Safety Officer of the Year, Douglas L. Jamerson Jr. ES



**DAVID GONZALES**  
Support Employee of the Year, Garrison-Jones ES



**REBECCA SPENCER**  
Student Services Employee of the Year, Prevention Office



**JOHN DARBY**  
Jessie Dorsey Campus Activities Monitor of the Year, Lakewood HS



**PCS TEACHER OF THE YEAR**  
**GERARD MADRINAN,**  
SEMINOLE HIGH SCHOOL



Azalea Middle School Engineering and Aviation Instructor Willis Reese III was named **Magnet Schools of America (MSA) Regional Teacher of the Year**.



Dr. Jennifer Maronie, a district occupational therapist, was awarded the **Landis M. Stetler Memorial Award** by the Florida Council for Exceptional Children.



Jamerson Elementary School teacher Rafael Robinson was named the **Florida Association of Science Educators Outstanding Science Teacher of the Year**.



Mark Hunt, Executive Director of Career, Technical and Adult Education, was awarded the **Lifetime Achievement Award** from the **Florida Association for Career Technical Educators (FACTE)**.



# POSITIVE STAFF EXPERIENCES



## EMPLOYEE CHILD CARE LAUNCH

PCS launched a new child care program for employees with young children. The program offers developmentally appropriate curriculum with enrichment and parent communication. The program welcomed its inaugural class in July 2024.



## FAMILY-FRIENDLY WORKPLACE

PCS was awarded as a Family-Friendly Workplace that demonstrates a commitment to creating a workplace that cares about the needs of employees and the needs of their families.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The superintendent's Leadership Summit brought staff together to kick off the school year with interactive experiences that model adult learning expectations.



## TEACHER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

In collaboration with St. Petersburg College, the Teacher Apprenticeship Program aims to fill teacher vacancies. The apprenticeship is a new instructional pathway for school staff to earn a bachelor's degree in education. Nearly 30 employees were selected to take part in the initial cohort for the 2024-25 school year.

## ADULT LEARNING

The Adult Learning initiative is designing a system that sets expectations for all trainings and guarantees a continuum of learning options to meet staff needs and interests. All PCS facilitators are expected to take the Skilled Facilitator Essentials course. Over 750 staff members completed the training in the first six months.





# STRONG CONNECTIONS & COMMUNICATION

## LISTEN & LEARN

The superintendent and school board hosted **community Listen & Learn** sessions throughout the year to hear first-hand input from the community. The input gathered during these sessions is used to inform district improvements and further strengthen the partnership between the district and its community.



## EXPERIENCE PCS



PCS welcomed over 3,000 people to Experience PCS, an event that featured family-friendly activities such as a chess competition, a flag football tournament, a chalk mural competition, and a contest to create the tallest Lego tower.

**25,000+ VOLUNTEERS**  
**GAVE MORE THAN**  
**545,000 HOURS**  
**OF THEIR TIME TO PCS THIS YEAR**  
**12% MORE**  
**THAN LAST YEAR**

## VOLUNTEERS AND MENTORS OF THE YEAR



**TIFFANY WHITMAN**  
 Youth Volunteer,  
 M.K. Rawlings ES



**JACK FLETCHER**  
 Take Stock in Children  
 Mentor of the Year



**TODD HARAMINAC**  
 Elementary Mentor of  
 the Year, M.K. Rawlings  
 ES 5000 Role Models  
 Program



**SUE SPURGEON**  
 Adult Volunteer,  
 Shore Acres ES



**CHRISTINE COLLINSON**  
 Lunch Pals Mentor of  
 the Year



**JASMINE HENDERSON**  
 Middle School Mentor  
 of the Year, Seminole  
 MS Girlfriends Program



**BILL SCHMIDLING**  
 Senior Volunteer,  
 Oak Grove MS



**REBECCA CARROLL**  
 Most Active Lunch  
 Pals Volunteer



**GARIUS GOSHAY &  
 DARYL SIMMONS**  
 High School Mentor of  
 the Year, Largo HS 5000  
 Role Models Program



# FISCAL & OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

## TRANSPORTATION

PCS enhanced the efficiency of bus routes and the bus driver hiring process, resulting in on-time routing.

20 electric buses were tested in summer 2024 and launched in the fleet in August 2024-25 school year.



## FINANCE

PCS is modernizing the purchasing processes through a contract with OpenGov, which is a cloud-based, end-to-end procurement platform. As of April 2024, 87.6% of all ESSER/ARP funds received by PCS were expended, positioning the district for full expenditure by the September 2024 deadline.

ESSER/ARP funding provided PCS students with summer enrichment experiences in STEM, arts, culinary and robotics.

## TECHNOLOGY

PCS has begun the development and implementation of a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system to improve all essential financial and human resources processes.

Back-to-school forms and property removal forms have been fully converted from paper forms to online forms.

## FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

**GULF BEACHES ELEMENTARY POCKET VILLAGE • COMPLETED: AUG 2024**

**\$3.1M new construction** of a six-classroom pocket village at Gulf Beaches Elementary School

**MANGROVE BAY MIDDLE • COMPLETED: AUG 2024**

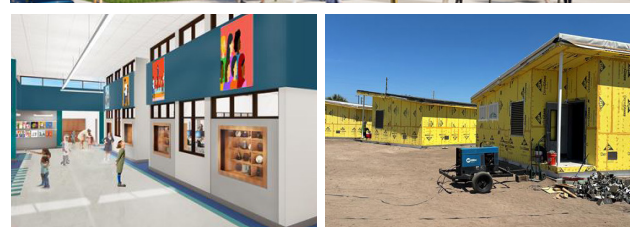
**State-of-the-art** YMCA and middle school shared facility designed to meet both organizations' needs.

**SANDY LANE ELEMENTARY • COMPLETED: AUG 2024**

**\$14M remodel** of the existing Sandy Lane Elementary School campus, which houses the Conservatory for the Arts.

**LEADERSHIP CENTER • GROUNDBREAKING: JANUARY 2024**

**\$15M new construction** of a 21st century leadership center to enhance the growth of professionals within the district and the surrounding community.





## **SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY**

Laura Hine, Chairperson  
Carol J. Cook, Vice-Chairperson  
Lisa N. Cane  
Caprice Edmond  
Eileen M. Long  
Stephanie Meyer  
Dawn Peters

### **VISION**

100% Student Success

### **MISSION**

Educate and Prepare Each Student For College, Career and Life

To learn more, visit [pcsb.org](http://pcsb.org)