

SEXTON STINGRAY NEWS

A John M. Sexton Elementary School Publication



www.pcsb.org/sexton-es

September 2023

Upcoming EVENTS

September

- ♦ **4th:** Labor Day
No School for students
- ♦ **5th:** Annual Fundraiser
- ♦ **25th:** No School for students
*possible hurricane make-up day if needed
- ♦ **28th:** Open House



A Message from Mr. Pleshe

Hello Sexton Families,

I am excited about all that this new school year has to offer and look forward to working collectively with you to ensure that our students are provided with the best educational experience possible. We want our students to be critical thinkers, responsible citizens and prepared to be successful in their endeavors. We will continue to focus on efforts to improve student literacy which impacts all other subjects. Please take advantage of our September 28th Open House with your child's teachers to learn more about the content your child will be learning this year. I also encourage you to become an active member in our PTA and participate in our family nights planned this year. September 5 is our annual fundraiser with funds going to improve the student's experience. I look forward to seeing you around our campus for drop off, pick up and all of the other events we have going on this year.

The Golden Ticket Fundraiser

On 9/5/2023, we're excited to launch our GameOn! fundraiser for our school.

Here's why we're excited:

- The money raised will be used for resources to support students, teachers, and our school community.
- Students earn fun rewards just for participating and completing the Golden Ticket assignment.

So please...be sure to take the time to help us out. Your involvement is critical to our success.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT
AND SUPPORT OF THIS IMPORTANT EVENT

Continued next page

Greetings Sexton Families,

My name is Ms. Valentine, and I am the new School Counselor at Sexton. I have been enjoying getting to know all your children and seeing them learn, make friends, and socialize. This is my 18th year as a school counselor with Pinellas County Schools and I am so happy to be here at Sexton.

Each month I will be doing a lesson in your child's classroom. These lessons focus on conflict resolution, friendship skills, resiliency, study skills and other important life skills. As the school counselor I will also be running small groups and working with students individually.

Pinellas County Schools also promotes character education, each month we will focus on a character trait. For August we are introducing Character Education, "The process of learning common attitudes, beliefs and behaviors that are important for people to have as responsible citizens."

Sexton has a zero tolerance for bullying. Bullying is defined as being exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more students (Olweus, 1993). There are three key components to all bullying situations: One person has more power, there is intent to harm, and it is repeated. Sexton is a safe school where all children can feel accepted. Please contact me, your child's teacher or any staff at school if you have a concern.

I look forward to a wonderful school year and getting to meet many of you!

Sincerely,

Catherine

School counselor

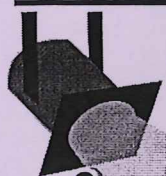
Valentinec@pcsb.org

727-570-3400 x 2060





Hello, my name is Amanda Rio and I am the new school social worker at Sexton Elementary School! I am so excited to get to know everyone and support all students and families here at Sexton. The mission of school social work is to work collaboratively with the home, school and community to enhance highest student achievement in a safe environment. I can offer many services including community agency referrals, mental health interventions, and attendance support. My contact information is below, I look forward to working with you!



Spotlight on

Attendance

Tardy Policy Changes:

Beginning Tuesday September 5th, Sexton Elementary tardy policy will be changing. Any student arriving after the bell at 8:45am, must be walked into the front office and signed in by an adult. This change is for the safety of our students to ensure all children are supervised and accounted for.

Tips for getting your student to school ON TIME:

- **Set up a routine and stick to it** – create a visual schedule and post it in your home for students to follow
- **Prep clothes, backpacks, and meal choices the night before**
- **Go to sleep early and get enough sleep** – brain functioning is better when you are well rested
- **Make a family commitment to be on time** – model morning routine and behavior expectations
- **Prepare for emergencies** – make a plan with family, friends, or neighbors if you are having difficulty getting student to school on time.

Remember that lateness has an impact on your student and other people.

Teaching your children to be on time does more than save time; it can strengthen their relationships (if you are on time for your friends they feel better about the relationship), make them more efficient, and increase their level of confidence.

Amanda Rio, Social Worker: 727-570-3400 *rioa@pcbs.org

If you are experiencing any barriers to regular attendance, please contact Amanda Rio, School Social Worker, so we can problem solve together!

If you would like to change your student transportation for the day or early release, please call or pick up **before** 2:30pm. This will help with communication between staff to make sure your student is in the right location for dismissal. To report a student absence we have a spot on the school website located at the top of the page " Report Student Absence" which will send an email to our DMT Cheryl -Cunningham. You can also communicate this via Class Dojo.

Ms. Z, Front Office Staff



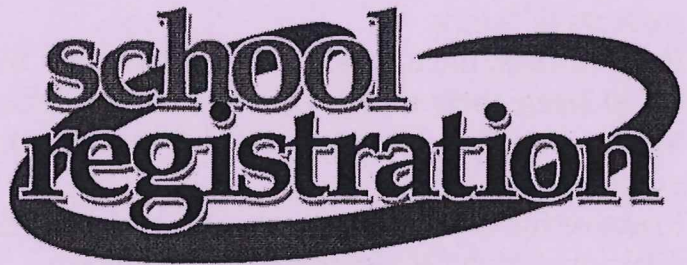
IT'S TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.

If you have a new student starting this school year, here are the things that need to be done.

Parent Portal – make or update information

Make a reservation for your zone school (if you would like to go to a school outside of your zone, you may apply for that school.

- Things that you will need for registration:
- Birth Certificate
- Physical within the last year
- Updated Immunization records
- 2 proofs of address - electric bill, water bill, lease agreement, mortgage bill, homeowner insurance
- Any court documents that relate to the child
- Any other school records that may be helpful for your student
- FOR VPK: we must have the VPK voucher to register your child. You can go to Elcpinellas.org to get your voucher



If you have any questions or need help with any part of the process, feel free to contact Cheryl Cunningham at 727-570-3400 Ext. 2007, cunninghamc@pcsb.org or stop by the office between the hours of 9:00 – 2:00 and I will be more than happy to help you.

Cheryl Cunningham, DMT

Welcome Back Sexton Families

We are so excited to have on campus visitors and chaperones for our field trips again this school year. If you'd like to share these experiences with your child, please register to volunteer.

Below is information on what it takes to get started. Please access the following link to start the application process. <http://www.pcsb.org/volunteerregistration>

- For those who've volunteered in the past, all you need to do is reinstate your volunteer status and you're set. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me via email salgs@pcsb.org or call (727) 570-3400 X2045.

Sheila Salg

Sexton Elementary

Family & Community Liaison

A BIG THANK YOU

Sexton would like to THANK Ron Belcher, and the following businesses for their generosity to our school & students for the month of August. Dunkin Donuts (7595 4th Street North) The Backpack Lady Project, Metro Diner, Seminole First Baptist Church, Wallace, Welch & Willingham Insurance & 8 Brother's Services. Your kindness and commitment to Sexton is greatly appreciated.



Great American Teach-In (GATI) November 15, 2023

The Great American Teach-In provides an opportunity for parents and members of the community to come in and speak with students about their occupations, hobbies, or areas of interest.

If you're a family member for one of our students or know of someone who would like to discuss their profession, please contact Sheila Salg/Family & Community Liaison.

salgs@pcsb.org

(727) 570-3400 X2045

Dear Sexton Elementary music parents,

I am excited to start our Sexton Singing Stingrays chorus and Jammin Stingrays percussion group for the 2023-2024 school year! Any 4th or 5th grade students who can commit to rehearsals and performances, are invited to participate with the Singing Stingrays. Singing Stingrays rehearsals will be held after school on Wednesdays from 3:15 – 4:15pm, starting September 27th. The Jammin Stingrays is open for any 3rd, 4th, or 5th graders, with rehearsal held on Tuesdays, starting September 26th, from 3:15 – 4:15pm. The Winter concert is scheduled on December 20th at 6:30pm and Spring concert on May 9th at 6:30pm, both performances at Northeast High School. There is no audition process: Any students who enjoy singing or playing drums, regardless of ability, are encouraged to join. Participating students will be taking a letter (contract) home for their parents to sign and return to Mr. Woods. Please email me with any questions you may have.

Thank you! Musically Yours,

Michael Woods

Music Teacher

Sexton Elementary School

woodsmik@pcsb.org



The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) wants you!

Why should you join PAC?

- Network and connect with other families across the district
- Share resources that are available to support your student (and your family)
- Dynamic Guest Speakers related to various topics, such as parent training
- Provide feedback on how to best support your student and others in your school community

Meetings:

PAC will meet virtually or in-person with the district's Title I staff twice a year. One meeting in the Fall 2023 and the other meeting will be held in the Spring 2024.

Join us:

Please join us in representing your school and community as a member of PAC for the 23-24 school year by completing these simple steps:

Complete the PAC interest form (see QR Code below!)

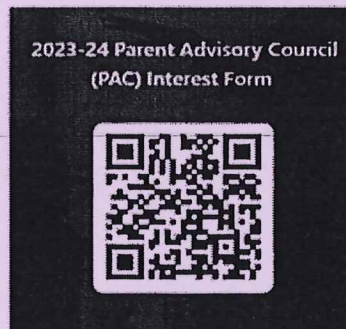
Save The Date!!!

Title I Annual Meeting and Open House

Thursday, September 28th

6pm-7pm

More Information Coming Home Soon!



Parent's Right to Know

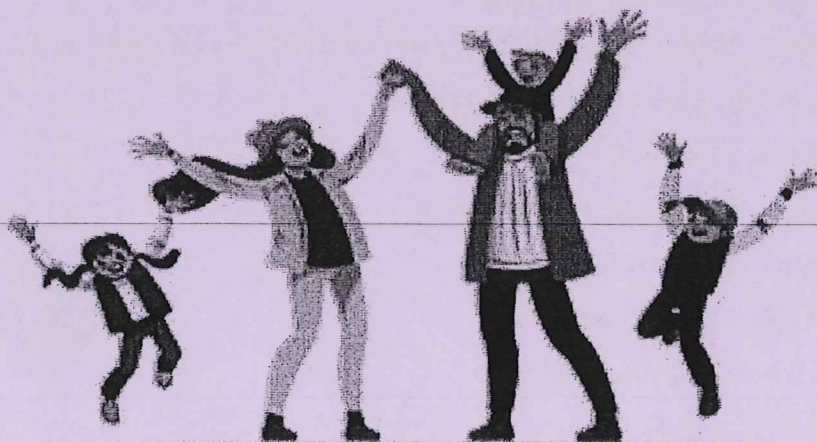
As a parent of a student attending a Title I Pinellas County Public School, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teachers and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's teachers:

- Whether the Florida Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the Florida Department of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of circumstances.
- The teacher's college of major, and any advanced degrees, if so, the subjects and degrees
- Whether any teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child, and if they do, their qualifications.
- Review Principal's Attestations (in the Principal's office and LEA office)

In addition, you have the right to be provided information on your child's level of achievement on the Florida Standard Assessments. This information will be available at your child's school.

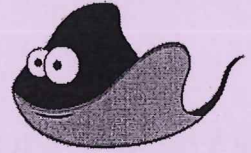
If you would like to receive any of this information, please contact your child's school at

727-570-3400. You may call the school between 8am and 4pm, Monday through Friday and ask to speak to Mr. Pleshe, regarding this request. An appointment will be made for you to come to the school to view this information.



Reflection Reef Corner...

By: Mrs. Hubble



So excited for this school year to begin! I am Mrs. Hubble the Behavior Specialist

at Sexton Elementary! You will read this year in my articles and strategies that I will be sharing with our Sexton families about Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) that we are implementing at Sexton this year. There will be many opportunities

for your child to earn positive incentives school wide. From R.A.Y.S Days on Fridays to whole school store associated with our RAYS Motto and the BEST incentives are the ones where they earn points and whole school activities based on their individual growth on our state assessments that we take three times a year.

R-Respect

A-Act Responsibly

Y-Your BEST is expected

S-Self-Control

In every area of the school those letters are defined for that situation. PE, Music, Art, Lunchroom, lunch line, bathrooms, walking in the hall, media center, in the classrooms, at car line, buses, and walking home.

They are important because the students will start earning points based on that criterion and these points, they can go to the school store and buy things like earning extra lunch time with their favorite teacher. earn to spend time with Mr. Pleshe or Ms. Fellows, and many more incentives. More to come about those incentives.

Every Friday the students at Sexton will be able to participate in a **NON-UNIFORM** day. There is a criterion they must adhere to this special day on campus. Your child will receive a stamp on THURSDAYS in agenda, on their hand, and/or told in DOJO to you. The front office does not know which students get RAYS Day. You need to contact the individual teachers if you have questions about if your child has it or not. To get **RAYS DAY**...

Be on Time for School

- Be on time for school every day and in the classroom by the last bell in the morning.
- No tardy passes Monday-Friday
- Excused Dr. visits will require a note from the Dr. to count.

In Uniform Friday-Thursday

- In uniform Friday-Thursday with required uniform. No Crocs at all.
- Uniform blue sweatshirts are a must

Attendance Counts!

- Be at school daily and ready to learn.

Behavior in Specials!

- RAYS motto is required!

Behavior in the Classroom

- All classroom rules apply daily

RAYS DAY!!!

Parent's Right to Know

As a parent of a student attending a Pinellas County Public School, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teachers and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's teachers:

- Review the Principal's Attestation (in the Principal's Office and the LEA office)
- Whether the Florida Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the Florida Department of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of circumstances.
- The teacher's college of major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees, if so, the subjects and degrees.
- Whether any teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

In addition, you have the right to be provided information on your student's level of achievement on assessments for FSA in reading/language arts, mathematics and science. This information will be available at your child's school.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please contact your child's school at 727-570-3400. You may call the school between 7:30am-4:00pm Monday through Friday and ask to speak to Mr. Pleshe the principal, regarding this request. An appointment will be made for you to come to the school to view this information.

As partners in your child's education, your input is valued. Please participate in the Title I Annual Survey which will be distributed in October.

Title I School & Family Partnership Overview

Sexton Elementary School
1997 54th Avenue North St. Petersburg, FL 33714
(727) 570-3400
September 1, 2023



PINELLAS
COUNTY
SCHOOLS

Parent and Family Engagement Plan Summary

The 2023-2024 District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan states:

Parents of students in Pinellas County Title I schools will be involved in the joint development, annual review, and revision of district wide and school wide parent and family engagement plans and policies. The Title I plans and policies outline programs, services and funding that will be provided to students and parents at Title I schools. Parent representatives serving on the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and individual school parent groups will participate in the review and revision of the plans. The review will be used to determine the effectiveness of the plans in improving student achievement and to identify barriers that hinder parental participation.

Revisions will be based on feedback from parental input and results from the Title I Annual Parent Survey. Each school will hold a Title I Annual Meeting to explain what it means to be a Title I school and the Title I requirements, including parents' right to be involved. Each school will jointly develop with parents a parent/school compact for learning which will be discussed at parent/teacher conferences. The District Title I Office and Title I schools will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies and activities with other agencies such as VPK. Parents of Title I students will be provided with training and materials to help them support the learning of their children at home.

A complete copy of the 2023-2024 District Parent and Family Engagement Plan is available in our front office and at www.pcsb.org/titleone, translation is available upon request.

School & Parent Compact Information

Parents, if you have not already done so, please make sure you and your child/children have read, discussed, signed and returned the School-Parent Compact. The compact will serve as an agreement between school staff, students and parents to support the student's learning throughout the year. It will be reviewed and discussed in regard to your child's education during parent/teacher conferences. Please inform your child's teacher if you did not receive a compact. 727-570-3400

Where to Access 2023-2024 School and District Title I Plans and PFEF

Families and community members are invited to read individual Title I Schoolwide and School Improvement Plans, School Parent and Family Engagement, and the District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan. These plans and policies are available in each school's front office. A translator can be provided upon request. The district and school parent and family engagement plans are also available on the Pinellas County Schools district website (www.pcsb.org). The 2023-24 Title I Part A Plan will be revised in the months of March and April 2024. This plan outlines the funding of programs and services Title I will provide to the children and families in the schools. Individuals wishing to offer input to any of the plans or policies may contact the School Administrator at specific Title I schools or attend Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings.



Tutoring and Clubs

Tutoring will begin in mid-September and clubs will begin a week later. Tutoring and Clubs will run Tuesday-Thursday from 3:15-4:15 until the end of November. A flyer will be going home at the end of August, so please be looking for it in the backpacks.

YREADS

YREADS will begin the first week in September after Labor Day from 3:00-5:30

Monday-Kindergarten

Tuesday-First Grade

Wednesday-Second Grade

Thursday-Third, Fourth, & Fifth Grade

