

Pinellas County Schools 2018-2019 Parent's Guide

Educating and preparing each student for college, career and life

Celebrating Student Art



My Choice. My Pinellas County Schools.

www.pcsb.org

Pinellas County School Board

Dear Parents and Families,

On behalf of Pinellas County School Board members, district leadership, teachers and employees, I would like to share my excitement about the promise this school year brings. We have expanded educational and enrichment programs and opportunities, and we look forward to a successful and fulfilling year for students, families and staff.

This school year, we will continue to focus on growing greatness, increasing achievement and helping our students to reach their full potential. Among the many new programs and opportunities for students is a new high school, Pinellas Technical High School, and two new magnet programs at Midtown Academy. For the first time, we will also provide families and community members opportunities to make an impact on children's lives through virtual mentoring.

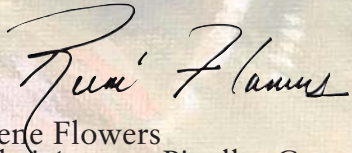
Parental involvement is an important factor to student success. This guide is in a calendar format to give parents a holistic look at the school year and help you keep track of important dates, while sharing valuable information.

Thank you for making Pinellas County Schools your choice and for partnering with us in your child's education, growth and future.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Grego, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Pinellas County Schools



Rene Flowers
Chairperson, Pinellas County School Board

Front Cover by Nicole Thompson, Osceola Fundamental High School



Sitting left to right: Peggy L. O'Shea, Vice Chairperson, Rene Flowers, Chairperson, Carol J. Cook

Standing left to right: Michael A. Grego, Ed.D., Superintendent, Linda S. Lerner, Joanne Lentino, Terry Krassner, Eileen M. Long

About PCS

With approximately 150 schools including neighborhood schools, magnets, career academies, technical and adult education centers, and our own Pinellas Virtual School, we offer families a wealth of educational choices suited to individual students' interests, talents and abilities. We are the eighth largest district in the state and the largest employer in Pinellas County. One of our many strengths is the diversity of our nearly 116,305 pre-kindergarten through adult education students. The School Board generally meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. and the fourth Tuesday at 5 p.m. in the Conference Hall of the Administration Building, 301 Fourth St. SW, Largo. Meeting dates and times are available on pcsb.org. Live and recorded video of the meetings can be viewed on pcsb.org. The meetings are televised for two weeks following the meeting on WPDS-TV14. For more information, contact the board office, 727-588-6300.

Tips to Help Guide Your Child's Academic Progress



Elementary

Talking and listening: Talking and listening builds strong foundations for learning. Ask questions. Encourage your child to provide examples to support what they tell you.

Support at home: Homework assignments help your child master skills they practice in school. Establish good habits early and help your child value the importance of homework.

Transitions: If your child is in fifth grade, ask about middle school orientation events or schedule a time to visit your neighborhood middle school. Explore District Application Programs and check important dates at pcsb.org/Choice.

Middle

Know the options: Review your child's class schedule and the student handbook. Courses students take in middle school impact high school course options. If you have questions, contact your school early in the school year.

Update records: All incoming seventh grade students must be up to date on the Tdap vaccination and provide documentation to their school.

Test success: All students in eighth grade take the PSAT 8/9 in the fall at no charge and have access to personalized test preparation through SATpractice.org. High-performing seventh-graders are invited to take the SAT in the spring.

High

Graduation Pathways: Has your child determined their Pathway to Graduation? Pinellas County Schools offers three Pathways to help guide students in their educational planning: Advanced Scholar, College Scholar and Technical/College. Visit pcsb.org/Pinellas-pathways for more information.

College prep: Preparing for college admissions and scholarships starts early. Students in ninth and tenth grade take the PSAT at no charge during the school day each October. Students in eleventh grade take the SAT in school in March, and the college application process begins in August of senior year. Additional SAT and ACT testing dates are available. Contact your child's school for more information.

Score higher: Free, personalized preparation for the SAT is available online through SATpractice.org. A smart phone app, called Daily Practice for the new SAT, is also available. Visit SATpractice.org for more information.



By Tionna Hamilton, Southern Oak Elementary

August 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6 SAT test date	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 All Schools Open St. Petersburg College Foundation Spring Scholarship Application opens	14 School Board Meeting 10 a.m.	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Pinellas Technical College-Clearwater Back to school celebration	24	25 SAT test date
26	27	28	29	30	31 Pinellas Technical College-St. Pete Back to school celebration	



Mandatory Screenings

The Pinellas County School District, in accordance with FL Statute 381.0056(4)(a), provides health screenings for students enrolled in public school. These screenings include vision, hearing, scoliosis (grade six only) and Body Mass Index, along with any appropriate follow-up. If you do not want your child to participate in any of these screenings, you must notify your child's school in writing. For questions regarding physical exams, immunization requirements or screenings, please contact School Health Services at (727) 588-6320.

Vision - 100% student success Mission - educate and prepare each student for college, career and life



**Strengthening Children,
Families & Communities**



- 49 Convenient Locations in the Tampa Bay Area, 10 Early Learning Academies for Children as Young as 8 Weeks
- Nationally Accredited Early Childhood Education Centers & VPK, Head Start, and Early Head Start throughout Pinellas County
- Project Challenge for Children 0-5 Years with Special Needs

- Nutritious Meals and Snacks Provided
- Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum
- Elementary and Middle School Before and After School Programs, Promise Time Tutoring
- FREE 21st Century Community Learning Centers in Middle Schools

MORE Information!
Online: www.rclub.net
Phone: 727-578-5437



September 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 Labor Day holiday Schools and District offices closed	4 St. Petersburg College 2019 Presidential Scholarship Application opens	5	6	7	8 ACT test date
9	10	11 School Board Meeting 5 p.m. Budget Public Hearing 6:30 p.m.	12	13 Countywide Graduation 7 p.m. Mahaffey Theater	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 School Board Meeting 10 a.m.	26 Pinellas Technical College-Open House-St. Pete campus 5:30-7 p.m. Dads Take Your Child To School Day	27	28	29
30						



Family Communication

Pinellas County Schools uses an electronic flyer communication and delivery tool called Peachjar. With the Peachjar eflyer program, eflyers are sent directly to parents' email inboxes as well as posted on school websites for easy access. Learn more at pcsb.org/peachjar.

NATIONAL SCHOOL SUCCESS MONTH • NATIONAL ATTENDANCE MONTH

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DID YOU KNOW

SPC GRADUATES EARN THE HIGHEST ENTRY-LEVEL WAGES IN THE STATE AMONG FLORIDA COLLEGES?

We also offer:

- More than 100 programs in high-demand fields
- Short-term certifications to help students enter the workforce sooner
- Free tutoring and advising to help students succeed
- Scholarship and financial aid assistance
- Dozens of online programs, and campuses throughout Pinellas County

October 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Pinellas Technical College-Open House Clearwater campus 5:30-7 p.m.	4	5	6
7	8	9 School Board Meeting 10 a.m.	10 PSAT test date	11	12 End of first quarter	13
14	15 No school for students Hurricane make-up day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 School Board Meeting 5 p.m.	24 St. Pete College Spring 2019 registration opens	25	26 Report Cards distributed	27 ACT testing
28	29	30	31	Pinellas Technical College Graduation		



Parent Academy Workshops

Parent Academy workshops promote parental engagement and enhance student academic success. To learn more or register online, visit pcsb.org/parentacademy. For more information, contact the Office of Strategic Partnerships at (727) 588-6405.

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Every Day Counts!



ATTENDANCE TIPS

- Know the attendance policy for your child's school and keep it handy.
- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Don't let your child stay home unless he or she is truly sick.
- Develop back-up plans for getting your child to school. Call on a neighbor, family member or another parent.
- Avoid scheduling appointments for your child or taking family vacations when school is in session.

PARENT PLEDGE

I pledge to send my child to school every day. I know *every day counts*, and missing just 1 or 2 days a month can impact my child's school success. I also know good attendance is an indicator of future success, such as reading on grade level and graduating high school.



Strengthening Children,
Families & Communities

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MORE Information!
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Phone: 727-578-5437



November 2018

November 2-December 21 - District Application Discovery Night
November 19-23 Thanksgiving holiday week - No school for students

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				Choice Programs Parent Info Session Gibbs High School 6-8 p.m. 1	2	Choice Programs Parent Info Session Largo High School 9 a.m. - Noon SAT test date 3
4	5	6	7	Choice Programs Parent Info Session Duendin High School 6-8 p.m. 8	9	10
11	12	13 School Board Meeting 10 a.m.	14 Great American Teach-In	15	16 SPC dual enrollment deadline spring: Permission form due	17
18	19 Hurricane make-up days	20 Hurricane make-up days School Board Organizational Meeting 10 a.m.	21	22	23	24
25	26 Schools reopen classes resume	27	28	29	30	



Choices Abound

PCS offers 70 District Application Programs, which include themed, career and fundamental programs that cater to students' interests, talents and abilities. Find out more at pcsb.org/choice.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT MONTH

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*By Jack Lemnus,
Clearwater High School*

December 2018

December 24-January 7 - Winter holidays - No school for students

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						Deadline to register 1 for SPC dual enrollment classes for Spring 2019 SAT test date
2	3	4	5	6	7	ACT test date 8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 End of first quarter	22
23	24	25	26	27 Pinellas Technical College Graduation	28	29
30	31					



Virtual School

Pinellas County Schools has its own virtual school, which offers full and part-time programs and more than 120 rigorous and engaging online courses for students in grades K-12. Learn more at pcsb.org/virtual.

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January 2019

December 22-January 6 - Winter holidays - No school for students
January 9-18 District Application Period

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 No school for students Hurricane make-up day	8 Schools reopen classes resume Second semester begins	9	10	11	12
13	14 Kindergarten and New Student Enrollment Begins SPC Spring term begins	15	16 Ready , Set, Kindergarten	17 Ready , Set, Kindergarten	18 Report cards distributed	19
20	21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday No school for students	22 St. Petersburg College Foundation Summer Scholarship Application opens	23 St. Petersburg College 2019 Presidential Scholarship Application deadline	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Early Childhood Education

Pinellas County Schools offers families numerous early childhood education opportunities with the goal of preparing students for kindergarten and beyond. Learn more about early childhood education at pcsb.org/early or call (727) 588-6513.

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

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BULL
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA®
— TOMORROW —



FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
RATTLER
— TOMORROW —



These programs guarantee admission to specific bachelor's programs at a University of South Florida System institution or Florida A&M University for eligible students who first complete an associate degree at St. Petersburg College.

- Tuition at SPC is half the cost of Florida universities, saving students money on lower level courses.
- FUSE and IGNITE students have clear, customized academic pathways with no wasted credits.
- Students have dozens of academic programs to choose from.

February 2019

February 13-22 - District Application Programs Acceptance Period

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 ACT test date
10	11	12	13	14 Pinellas Technical College Signing Day	15	16
17	18 No school for students	19	20 St. Petersburg College Foundation Summer Scholarship Application deadline	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		



Get Engaged in Education!

Pinellas County Schools offers a wide array of possibilities for dedicated, caring individuals who wish to support and guide students through their volunteerism. To learn more, call (727) 588-5050 or visit at pcsb.org/volunteers.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH • VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH

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By Z'niyah Spells, Melrose Elementary

March 2019

March 11-15 Spring Holidays - No school for students

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	SAT test date 6 Pinellas Technical College Open House St. Pete campus	End of third quarter 7 Pinellas Technical College Open House Clearwater campus	8 No school for students Hurricane make-up day	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Schools reopen Classes resume	19 Explore SPC Week begins	20 St. Petersburg College Summer registration opens	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Report cards distributed	30
31						



Section 504

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is national legislation that protects individuals from discrimination solely on the basis of their disabilities. It prohibits school districts from discriminating against disabled people. When school officials or a parent feels a student may have a disability, the school Section 504 coordinator will obtain parent consent for a 504 evaluation and invite the parent to a meeting after the evaluation is done. For more information regarding students in grades K-12, call (727) 588-6054. For more information regarding adult students, call the Office of Equal Opportunity, (727) 588-6368.

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By Renee Favell, Osceola Fundamental High School

April 2019

April 1-15 Initial Special Assignment Request (SAR) Application Period

April 7-13 National Library Week

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 St. Petersburg College Foundation Fall 2019 Scholarship Application opens	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 ACT test date
14	15	16	17	18	19 No school for students	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



Parent Advocacy Program

The Parent Advocacy Program provides support to parents with concerns about student retention and placement, suspension, expulsion, IDEA and 504 compliance issues, discipline and advancement. If you need Parental Advocacy assistance, please contact the Office of Strategic Partnerships at (727) 588-6484.

NATIONAL AUTISM MONTH

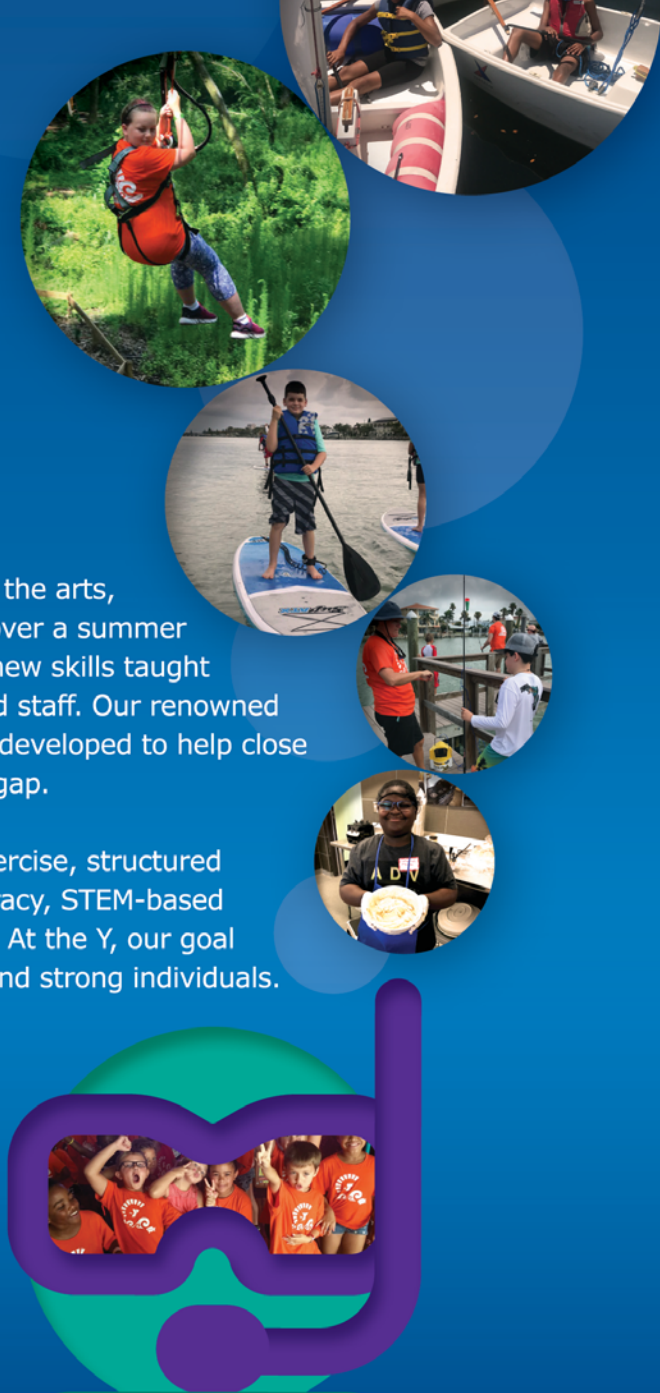
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BEST SUMMER EVER™

From swimming to the arts, your child will discover a summer of exploration and new skills taught by our highly-trained staff. Our renowned curriculum has been developed to help close the summer learning gap.

We integrate physical exercise, structured and spontaneous play, literacy, STEM-based activities and so much more. At the Y, our goal is to cultivate curious, happy and strong individuals.



YMCA OF GREATER ST. PETERSBURG
stpeteymca.org/camp

YMCA OF THE SUNCOAST
suncoastymca.org/summercamp



May 2019

May 6 - 10 National Teacher Appreciation Week

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 FAFSA Priority Deadline	2 AVID Pinning Ceremony	3	4 SAT test date
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 St. Petersburg College Foundation Fall 2019 Scholarship Application deadline	16	17	18
19	20 St. Petersburg College Summer term begins	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day Schools and District offices closed	28	29 Last day for all students K-5 Report cards distributed SPC Dual enrollment deadline for Fall 2019	30	31	



AVID

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is a program that takes students with the potential and determination to go to college and provides them with the instruction that allows them to acquire the skills to be independent and successful in college while taking the rigorous courses necessary and to gain admission into four-year universities. To learn more about AVID, visit pcsb.org/AVIDapp.

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By Zaire Tafari, Gibbs High School

June 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1 SAT test date
2	3	4	5	6	7 Report cards distributed grades 6-12	8 ACT test date
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



School Advisory Committee (SAC)

Members of this school-based group work together to guide the school toward continuous improvement. Florida law requires each school to have a SAC to plan and implement its School Improvement Plan. SAC membership includes the principal, teachers, support employees, students, parents and business and community members who represent the ethnic, racial and economic community served by the school. For more information on your child's school's SAC, contact your school.

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July 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 ACT test date
14	15 Deadline to register for dual enrollment classes at SPC for Fall 2019	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



PTA, PTSA

Provides ways for parents, teachers, administrators, students and community members to work together to help children succeed. For more information about Pinellas County Council PTA/PTSA, visit pccpta.org or contact your school's PTA/PTSA.

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Area Offices

Area 1

Ward Kennedy, Area Superintendent (727) 588-5023

Area 2

Dr. Barbara Hires, Area Superintendent (727) 588-5024

Area 3

Robert Poth, Area Superintendent (727) 588-5020

Area 4

Patricia Wright, Area Superintendent (727) 588-5022

Emergency Information

Parents can call the district's emergency information phone line at (727) 588-6424 to hear emergency messages, such as school closings due to hazardous weather. Emergency messages will also be communicated on the district website, Facebook and Twitter. See below for web and social media information.

Contact Us

English for Speakers of Other Languages
(ESOL) 588-6068

Exceptional Student Education (ESE)
588-6032

School Board Office588-6300

Homework Helpline.....547-7223

All numbers are (727) area code

Home Education.....588-6209

Strategic Partnerships.....588-6405

Student Assignment588-6210

Student Services.....588-6307

Superintendent's Office588-6011

Teaching and Learning588-6121

Transportation Call Center.....587-2020

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, prohibits any and all forms of discrimination and harassment based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation or disability in any of its programs, services or activities.



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