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[Directions to East Lake High School](#)

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Good afternoon Eagle Families,

This is Dan Schmittiel, Principal at East Lake High School, with some important reminders for the week. Looking outside of the academics, our students are always ready to SOAR to success as we progress throughout the school year. This week we continue with Winter Athletics – let’s show our school spirit and cheer on our different sports teams, clubs, and performing arts programs throughout the year – a list of this week’s events can be found below:

- **JV/Varsity Boys Basketball** faces Land O Lakes HS away on Tuesday 1/9 and Mitchell HS away on Friday 1/12
- **JV/Varsity Girls Basketball** faces Calvary Christian HS at home on Tuesday 1/9 and Sunlake HS away on 1/12
- **Varsity Boys Soccer** takes on Palm Harbor University HS at home on Friday 1/12
- **Varsity Girls Soccer** takes on Sickles HS at home on Wednesday 1/10 and Palm Harbor University HS at home on Friday 1/12

We hope to see you there to cheer on the team this week, good luck Eagles!

Semester 2 Opening Day Procedures

First of all, we hope that everyone had an amazing holiday season and are well-rested and ready for a great second half of the 2023-24 school year! Tomorrow, Monday, January 8th, 2024, marks the first day of semester 2. Let’s continue our commitment to both academic and extracurricular excellence, centered around what it means to **SOAR** like an Eagle at East Lake High School: having a **S**uccess mindset, taking **O**wnership of learning, having an **A**ttitude centered around positivity, and having **R**espect for all!

As a reminder, students will go directly to their 1st period class per usual to start the day, which is at 7:25am. As students are enrolled in some semester courses or may have had a schedule adjustment due to enrollment fluctuations, it is imperative that students sign into Focus and verify their schedules **tonight (Sunday, January 7th)**, prior to the start of tomorrow’s school day. We will also have staff members available in Student Services, Guidance, and the front office to assist at the start of the school day in case your student has a new 1st period but isn’t sure where it is located. We’ll have printed schedules available in 1st period classes for students in case they would like a hard copy. For those that have a release period 1st, we’ll have a copy of their schedule in the front office if they’d like a hard copy. If you and your student has any questions or concerns regarding their schedule, please don’t hesitate to reach out to your student’s counselor and/or Assistant Principal.

College and Career Updates

Need money for college? Attend East Lake's FAFSA Completion Night January 11th starting at 5:30pm. Financial Aid advisors from local colleges and universities will be on hand to help. You can create your FAFSA ID ahead of time and also register for the event using the two links below. A list of items students AND their parent/guardian should each bring can also be found below. For more information, see the attached flier!

- [Creating your FAFSA ID:](#)

- <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>
- FLYER
- Event Registration:
 - https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BZM8c9c5GkaGb_3ye_PH_3JIEDd9DiZPs6_wCkpnROJUQ1BTU0dQMlhQWTQ4M1Q3M09ZNEgxRko0WC4u&origin=QRCode
 - FLYER
- List of Items:
 - Social Security Number or
 - Alien Registration Number (if applicable)
 - 2022 federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned
 - Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
 - Net worth of businesses & farms (if applicable)
 - Records of 2022 untaxed income (if applicable)
 - Child support received from last complete calendar year (if applicable)

Additionally, there are multiple different scholarship and community service opportunities available to your student. Students who qualify for a Bright Futures scholarship need to complete the Florida Financial Aid Application. It's an easy application that can be completed in less than 15 minutes. Additionally, for seniors, the Pinellas Education Foundation scholarship application is due January 31st. The Pinellas Education Foundation provides over 100 different college and technical school scholarships to more than 300 high school seniors throughout Pinellas County, based on criteria established by the foundation and sponsors. Many are based on financial need. Scholarships may be either one-time awards or renewable scholarships for students who continue to meet the scholarship qualifications throughout college.

There's also additional scholarship information that can be found on our school's website – hyperlinks for each can be found below. For more information surrounding any scholarship and community service hours, please have your student speak with Natasha Gallaty, our College and Career Coordinator.

- Bright Futures:
 - <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome?url=home>
- Pinellas Education Foundation Scholarships:
 - <https://pinellaseducation.awardspring.com/>
- Additional Scholarships:
 - <https://www.pcsb.org/Page/39425>

Tardies, Dress Code, and Cellphones

As a reminder, it is a continued expectation that students are to class each period on time. We will continue using our Student Conductor tardy kiosks for the ELHS tardy system throughout semester 2, beginning tomorrow. Students have been doing a great job ensuring they get the most out of every period and we'll continue that tomorrow – keep it up Eagles!

Please also remind your child to follow the Pinellas County Schools dress code, which can be found on page 56 of the Student Code of Conduct ([2023-2024-Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf](#)). Continue to remind them about our cellphone expectations at ELHS as well – they are to be off and out of sight in the classroom unless the teacher has a lesson specifically utilizing them. For each of these, along with other student expectations, we will continue to follow the ELHS Discipline Matrix throughout semester 2. Weekly progress reports will also pick back up the second Wednesday of semester 2 (1/17/24).

Additional Announcements/Reminders

- **Anonymous Reporting:** As most of you are aware, Pinellas County Schools has partnered with Sandy Hook Promise which allows us to offer the Say Something Anonymous Reporting System. This allows stakeholders to submit a secure and anonymous safety concern that helps us identify and intervene in a proactive way. Please remind your student(s) that this is in place to assist with addressing a concern and

also a way for someone get any help that may be needed – tips are passed along to appropriate law enforcement and school personnel. FortifyFL is also another reporting system that is available to report suspicious activity which allows Florida students and the community to relay any safety concerns. Both links can be found below.

- [Say Something Tips — Sandy Hook Promise](#)
- [FortifyFL \(getfortifyfl.com\)](http://getfortifyfl.com)

We're excited to get semester 2 started at East Lake High School! If you have any questions at all, as always, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Assistant Principal or Counselor. Always remember that Life is Better at the Lake – have an amazing rest of your weekend and GO EAGLES!

Dan Schmittiel, Principal
East Lake High School

Vision- 100% student success

Mission- The community of East Lake High School will develop productive and responsible students who are prepared for post-secondary education, the workforce and citizenship.