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[Directions to East Lake High School](#)

**01/05/25**

Good Afternoon Eagle Families,

This is Dan Schmittiel, Principal of East Lake High School, with some important reminders and updates to start semester 2. First of all, Happy New Year – we hope that everyone had a relaxing holiday season with friends and family and we're excited to kick off the second half of the school year at The Lake! As always, let's look outside of the academics first to celebrate our students in their various extracurriculars along with events taking place on campus. Students are always ready to SOAR to success both in and out of the classroom within our athletic programs, clubs, performing arts, and visual arts. Check out this week's events below:

- Boys JV/Varsity Basketball face Dunedin HS on Tuesday 1/7 away, Clearwater HS on Thursday 1/9 away, and Lakewood HS on Saturday 1/11 away
- Girls JV/Varsity Basketball face Sunlake HS on 1/8 at home, Mitchell HS on Thursday 1/9 away, and Countryside HS on Friday 1/10 at home
- Boys Soccer face Seminole HS away on Thursday 1/9
- Girls Soccer face the Academy of the Holy Names HS on Wednesday 1/8 away and Seminole HS on Thursday 1/9 away
- Boys Wrestling compete in the JV Quad Meet at Hollins HS on Wednesday 1/8 and in the Fivay Duals Tournament at Fivay HS on Friday 1/10 and Saturday 1/11
- Girls Wrestling compete in Pink Out IBT at Wiregrass HS on Saturday 1/10
- FAFSA Completion Night will take place on January 22 at East Lake High School starting at 5:30pm – advisors from local colleges will be on site to assist with questions as well!
- ELHS PTSA and SAC will meet on Tuesday 1/14 starting at 6pm. PTSA will meet first followed by our SAC meeting. The PTSA meeting will be a brief review with time for comments, along with announcing the nomination committee for the 2025-26 ELHS PTSA board positions. Anyone interested in being active in the collaboration of the ELHS PTSA board for next school or just an interest in being involved should come join the team next Tuesday for either the PTSA or SAC committee – we hope to see you there!

Some of our Eagles also continue their season for the East Lake High School Hockey Club this week – they have three games facing Palmetto, Newsome, and Land O' Lakes on Friday through Sunday (1/10 to 1/12). Good luck to all of our Eagles in all of their extracurriculars!

Some reminders for the week:

## Semester 2 Opening Day Procedures

Tomorrow, Monday, January 6, 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 1<sup>st</sup> period class per usual to start the day, which begins at 7:25am. As students are enrolled in some semester courses or may have had a schedule adjustment due to enrollment fluctuations and balancing class sizes, it is imperative that students sign into Focus and verify their schedules **tonight (Sunday, January 5)**, 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 1<sup>st</sup> period but isn't sure where it is located. We'll have printed schedules available in 1<sup>st</sup> period classes for all students in case they would like a hard copy. For those that have a release period 1<sup>st</sup>, we'll have a copy of their schedule in the front office if they'd like a hard copy. If you and your student have any questions or concerns regarding their schedule, please don't hesitate to reach out to your student's School Counselor and/or Assistant Principal.

## Closing Out Semester 1

Quarter 2 and Semester 1 grades will be finalized by this upcoming Friday. If there was any make-up work your student was doing over break, please remind them to get with their teacher ASAP this week. Also, if you have any questions regarding these grades, please reach out to their teacher.

## Semester 2 Student Reminders

As we begin the second half of the 2024-25 school year, it's important that we review our schoolwide expectations to ensure an excellent start to the second semester!

- **Student Grades:** I'll continue to send out progress reports every Wednesday beginning the second week of the quarter, which will begin on January 15. This is intended to give you a snapshot in time on how your student is doing in each of their classes but shouldn't replace that communication with their teacher if needed. As always, if you have questions regarding their grades, please reach out to their teacher directly.
- **Tardies:** Student tardies reset tomorrow, giving students a fresh start. To ensure they get the most out of every class, we do expect that students are on time to each class throughout the day. If they are late, they'll need to get a tardy pass at one of the tardy kiosks throughout the school – after five warnings, they'll receive a detention.
- **Cellphones and Earbuds:** On that same token, we want students engaged in class with the content, their teachers, and their peers. To remove the distraction cellphones and headphones can pose in a learning environment, we'll continue Powering Up Learning and Powering Off Devices by keeping phones off and out of site during class time – phones should only be used in class if it is tied to a teacher's lesson. Headphones can be used during lunch and before/after school but should be off and out of site during class and passing time to remove distractions and for safety reasons. For a reminder on what it means to Power Up Learning, see the link below:
  - <https://www.pcsb.org/powerup>
- **Dress Code:** Please review the ELHS and PCS dress code with your students – we expect that all students are in dress code each day – for more details, please see the link below:
  - <https://www.pcsb.org/dresscode>

## Additional Reminders

*(Anonymous Reporting, Senior Updates, and College and Career Center Updates)*

- 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 which helps us identify and intervene in a proactive way. Please remind your student(s) this is in place to assist with addressing a concern and also a way for someone get any help they may need – 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 \(getfortifyfl.com\)](https://www.getfortifyfl.com)
- Senior Updates
  - Senior families – time is running out to submit your senior dedication page. Please go to <https://www.yearbookordercenter.com/job/1232> to design your senior ad ASAP. Please contact our yearbook adviser, Mrs. Wall at [walln@pcsb.org](mailto:walln@pcsb.org) with any questions.
  - As a reminder, the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2025 will take place on Thursday, May 29 at 9:00am at the Yuengling Center at USF Tampa. More information will be released as we get closer to the event. We can't wait to celebrate the Class of 2025 on May 29!
  - It's time to secure your cap and gown along with paying your senior grad fees. Below you'll find links to A) purchase your cap and gown purchase (required \$59.81 which includes the cap, gown, and tassel) and B) pay the senior graduation walking fees (required \$50). Seniors do need to purchase both. The graduation walking fees cover things like the venue rental, event security and flowers, programs, yard signs, and other aspects that assist with making the day and ceremony special for all of our students walking across the stage. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to reach out to Ms. Stang, our Senior Class Sponsor, at [stangr@pcsb.org](mailto:stangr@pcsb.org).
  - CAP AND GOWN: <https://hub.jostens.com/ls/7ed522a8-6ef6-433e-a669-a571dd80545b/sf-NdDkQWd6joHAF#/>
  - GRAD WALKING FEES: <https://pcsb.revtrak.net/hs/east-lake-high/elhs-senior-class/elhs-graduation-walking-fee/>
- College and Career Center Updates
  - Complete the FAFSA. The new FAFSA is much easier and quicker. The first step is creating an FSA Id: <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>. We will have a FAFSA completion night on January 22nd at 5:30 at East Lake. Financial Aid Advisors from local colleges will be on hand to assist. [https://www.pcsb.org/cms/lib/FL01903687/Centricity/Domain/110/School FAFSA Nights 2024-25 - Flyer.pdf](https://www.pcsb.org/cms/lib/FL01903687/Centricity/Domain/110/School%20FAFSA%20Nights%2024-25%20-%20Flyer.pdf)
  - Bright Futures - complete the FFAA: <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome?url=home>

- Pinellas Ed Foundation Senior Scholarships - Students submit one application to be considered for over 300 scholarships! Last year over \$710,000 in scholarships were awarded to graduating Pinellas County Seniors. Fill out the application before it's too late!
  - <https://pinellaseducation.awardspring.com/>
- Other Scholarship Opportunities: <https://www.pcsb.org/Page/39425>. Students can also look in Xello (through their Clever account) to find other scholarships.
- Save the Date: February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6-8pm. 901 34<sup>th</sup> St. South, St. Pete.
  - College and Career Fair: University recruiters, financial aid information, career/internships, military recruiters all in one place! [https://www.pcsb.org/cms/lib/FL01903687/Centricity/Domain/110/South Pinellas CC Fair 2025.pdf](https://www.pcsb.org/cms/lib/FL01903687/Centricity/Domain/110/South%20Pinellas%20CC%20Fair%202025.pdf)
  - Pinellas Technical College Open House: Meet instructors, get financial aid information, enter to win a \$500 scholarship. [https://www.pcsb.org/cms/lib/FL01903687/Centricity/Domain/110/PTC Open House 2025.pdf](https://www.pcsb.org/cms/lib/FL01903687/Centricity/Domain/110/PTC%20Open%20House%202025.pdf)
- Internship Opportunity: The Bank of America Charitable Foundation is now accepting applications for the 2025 Student Leaders® program. We will be selecting four local high school students to represent Tampa Bay in 2025. In light of your role at a local high school, we would like your help spreading the word. Learn more and apply. <https://tinyurl.com/3d2u2y67>
- Have questions? Need help? [Book an appointment with me Mrs. Gallaty when we return from winter break.](#)

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Assistant Principal or Counselor. Let's SOAR to new heights during semester 2 at The Lake starting tomorrow! Have an amazing rest of your weekend and GO EAGLES!

Dan Schmittiel, Principal  
 East Lake High School  
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***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.***