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[Directions to East Lake High School](#)

**10/15/24**

Good Afternoon Eagle Families,

This is Dan Schmittiel, Principal of East Lake High School, with some important reminders and updates for the week. First and foremost, we want to acknowledge the significant challenges many within the East Lake High School community and throughout Pinellas County have faced in recent weeks due to both Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. Please know that you are in our thoughts, and we sincerely hope that you and your loved ones are safe. If you and your family have experienced considerable loss, please don't hesitate to reach out to the school; we are here to support you in any way we can. Like after Hurricane Helene, I do want to give major kudos to our stellar Plant Operations staff – they have been working diligently these past several days to ensure that our campus is clean and safe for all students to return tomorrow, Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>!

As always, let's look outside of the academics to support and celebrate our students in their various extracurriculars as our students SOAR to success as we progress throughout the school year both in and out of the classroom. Let's show our school spirit and support our sports teams, clubs, and performing arts this year! Check out this week's events below:

- **Varsity Volleyball** start the district tournament this week as they face Sunlake HS in the district quarterfinals on Thursday 10/17 at 7pm
- **Swim and Dive** face Mitchell HS at the James P. Gills Family YMCA in New Port Richey on Wednesday 10/16 where we'll celebrate our seniors during Senior Night
- **Boys and Girls Bowling** competes in the PCAC Championship on Thursday 10/17
- **Varsity Football** takes on Clearwater High School on Friday, 10/18 where we'll celebrate our seniors during Senior Night. The Palm Harbor University HS game will be rescheduled and communicated with families soon.

Good luck to all our Eagles in all of their extracurriculars! Some reminders for the week:

### **ELHS Community Hurricane Relief**

The East Lake High School National Honor Society and PTSA have partnered to continue our donation drive in support of the many families and staff members that were significantly impacted by both Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. We are collecting hygiene products, non-perishable food, household items, clothing, and other essentials for distribution to affected families within our school community. Here's a list of urgently needed items:

- Personal hygiene products
- Cleaning supplies
- Towels and blankets
- Clothing, socks, undergarments, and middle school uniforms
- Non-perishable food items (packaged goods, snacks, drinks, etc.)
- Bottled water

Additionally, we've created an Amazon wish list with additional items that can be donated. You can drop off any donations during the school day. If your family is in need, your student can come by the office throughout the day or you can set up a time after 1:55pm with the office to take a look and take when you need to support your family. Any assistance helps and we appreciate everyone's support as we come together as a community at The Lake!

### **Homecoming Week Postponed**

To ensure that families have time to prepare and to provide students with a full week experience, we are postponing homecoming week. We will be moving it to the week of November 4<sup>th</sup>, with the homecoming dance taking place on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at East Lake High School. This will also push back the ELHS Powder Puff tournament, which will take place on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. We will announce information on ticket sales and dress up theme days as we approach that date.

### **Upcoming SAT/PSAT Testing**

We will have a FREE opportunity for all students to take either the SAT or PSAT. We have shifted testing to Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, where all seniors are scheduled to take a free in-school SAT and all freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will take the free PSAT. For juniors, this is the year where they'll take the PSAT to potentially qualify for various scholarships, including National Merit. There is no need to opt-in for any of these assessments as all students are automatically registered based on the assessment their grade level takes. Juniors will have an opportunity to take a free in-school SAT in March as well.

Testing will begin at the start of the school day, so if your student attends classes off campus or has a release period at that time, please ensure they are on campus for the start of the school day, 7:25am. Additionally, testing locators will be posted by student services and in the main hallways as we approach the testing date. Students will need to bring their school-issued laptop fully charged that day, along with a writing utensil and their laptop charger. More information on testing logistics for October 24<sup>th</sup>, including a day designated to ensure BlueBook is functioning properly, the testing application for both assessments, will be sent out this weekend.

### **School Lunch Update**

For those unaware, our Food & Nutrition Department at all schools in Pinellas County will serve all meals free of charge to all students for the next month. This is due to the events of Hurricane Helene. As a reminder, breakfast will continue to be free of charge for all students beyond that time.

### **Additional Reminders**

(Anonymous Reporting, ELHS Theatre Program Updates, Clothing Donations, Yearbooks, and Mu Alpha Theta Tutoring)

- **Anonymous Reporting**
  - o 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 \(getfortifyfl.com\)](https://getfortifyfl.com)
- **College and Career Center Updates**

- **The College and Career Fair** at Countryside High School has been rescheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30 pm. There will be over 140 colleges, universities, and businesses from across the nation.
  - **Flyer** - <https://tinyurl.com/3azwzt5d>
- **The Pinellas Ed Foundation Senior Scholarships** - application is now open. 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.
  - <https://pinellaseducation.awardspring.com/>
- **Walkers Rising Stars** - One of the most recognized arts awards programs in the country, this year-long initiative assists high school juniors and seniors in honing audition and portfolio skills. Application deadline is October 20th.
  - <https://www.cognitofrms.com/PinellasEducationFoundation1/2425WalkersRisingStarsStudentApplication>
    - **Flyer** - <https://tinyurl.com/58nb2ze2>
- **Bright Futures** - The Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) is now open. Every graduating student must complete the FFAA in order to be eligible for state grants and scholarships, including Bright Futures. <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/>
- **Volunteer Opportunity** – Forest Lakes Elementary is looking for volunteers to help with their Trunk or Treat event on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00. Students can get Bright Futures hours. Email [flespto@gmail.com](mailto:flespto@gmail.com) to volunteer. Be sure to take Bright Futures forms to have signed.
- **Clothing Donations**
  - In the south end of the school within the teacher parking lot, there's a clothing donation bin. If you have any clothing you're giving away, feel free to drop it off at any time – not only is it for a good cause, ELHS also receives some funding to support the school!
- **Yearbook Sales and Picture Retakes**
  - Senior picture retakes will take place on Thursday, October 24 in the afternoon in the auditorium lobby. Please also place your senior dedication ad before space is gone at [www.yearbookordercenter.com/job/1232](http://www.yearbookordercenter.com/job/1232) or contact Mrs. Wall at [walln@pcsb.org](mailto:walln@pcsb.org) with any questions. She can also answer questions about senior portraits, yearbook sales, and our upcoming Picture Retake Day.
- **Mu Alpha Theta Math Tutoring**
  - Math tutoring is available in the Media Center every Tuesday and Thursday during both lunches.

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Assistant Principal or Counselor. We look forward to the amazing year ahead! Always remember that Life is Better at the Lake where we SOAR together – have an amazing rest of your week, let us know what we can do to support, and GO EAGLES!

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 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.*