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[Directions to East Lake High School](#)

12/1/24

Good Afternoon Eagle Families,

This is Dan Schmittiel, Principal of East Lake High School, with some important reminders and updates for the week. I hope everyone had a great holiday with friends and family! Tomorrow, we head back for the last three weeks of quarter 2 and semester 1. As always, let's look outside of the academics to support and celebrate our students in their various extracurriculars. They're always ready to SOAR to success every day both in and out of the classroom within our athletic programs, clubs, performing arts, and visual arts. Check out this week's events below:

- **East Lake HS Madrigal's Concerts** will take place at the Grand Villa on Monday 12/2, at 1st UMC of Clearwater on Wednesday 12/4, at Stafford Court on Thursday 12/5, and at St. Marks Village on Friday 12/6
- **Annual PRISM Concert** will wow audiences on Friday 12/13 and Saturday 12/14 – rehearsals will take place all this week and next as they prepare for the show
- **Club Picture Day** takes place on Thursday 12/5 throughout the day on campus at ELHS
- **Class of 2025 Panoramic Photo** will be taken this Thursday 12/5 in the gym
- **Girls JV/Varsity Soccer** face Sunlake HS on Monday 12/2 away and Dunedin HS on Wednesday 12/4 at home
- **Boys Varsity Soccer** face Dunedin HS on Wednesday 12/4 at home and Springstead HS on Friday 12/6 away
- **Girls JV/Varsity Basketball** face Largo HS on Tuesday 12/3 away, Gulf HS on Wednesday 12/4 at home, and Northside Christian HS away on Friday 12/6
- **Boys JV/Varsity Basketball** face Cyress Creek HS on Tuesday 12/3 away and Countryside HS on Friday 12/6 at home
- **Girls Varsity Wrestling** compete in the Ladies Round Robin at Tarpon Springs HS on Wednesday 12/4
- **Boys JV/Varsity Wrestling** compete in the JV Quad Meet at Osceola Fundamental HS on Thursday 12/5 and in the Varsity Osceola Duals Tournament at Osceola Fundamental HS on Friday 12/6 and Saturday 12/7
- **Varsity Football Holiday Tree Fundraiser** continues until trees are sold out, so get one before they're gone – they're being sold at Brooker Creek ES Monday through Thursday from 5:30pm – 8:30pm, Fridays from 5:30pm – 9pm, Saturdays from 9am – 9pm, and Sundays from 11am – 7pm



- [Tree Fundraiser.jpeg](#)

Some of our students also participate in the local East Lake Hockey Club – they face Seminole on Friday 12/6. Good luck to all of our Eagles in all of their extracurriculars!

FAST ELA PM2 Testing

Students have been preparing all semester in their English classrooms for the upcoming FAST ELA PM2. All 9th and 10th grade students will begin testing the week of December 9, and the assessment will give teachers, students, and families some great data points to help drive instruction and preparation for May testing. Attached you'll find reminders on test taking strategies for the FAST ELA assessment. A few important things to remember:

- **ADAPTIVE** – The assessment is adaptive, so the next batch of questions students get are determined by whether students get the questions correct or incorrect. It's vital for students to give each question their best first attempt (don't skip and return to answer later) – going back and changing the answer later won't impact their overall score.
- **TIMING** – the FAST ELA assessment is not timed. Students can use the entire school day to take the assessment if needed, so they should **NOT** rush.
- **Prep for PM3** – students will begin the FAST ELA PM2 at the level they scored from testing in September. Their score this month on the FAST ELA PM2 assessment will dictate where they start the final FAST assessment (PM3) in May. It's vital for them to take their time and put their best effort forth on testing this month to have a higher starting point in May.
- **Testing Strategies Flyer / Reminder** – <https://tinyurl.com/4r9thnbt>

We'll also send out information regarding testing logistics later this week to families, along with posting testing locators so students are aware of their testing sites and the day they'll test well ahead of time. Throughout this week and next, teachers will be working with students on reminders surrounding these testing strategies, but we're also asking you take some time to review them with your 9th and 10th grade student(s) as well to ensure they enter testing with all the test taking tools necessary to SOAR on the FAST assessment this month!

Week of December 16 (end of Semester 1)

As a reminder, this year we will not have Semester 1 Exams as a part of the hurricane make-up plan in Pinellas County Schools. The week of December 16th will consist of regular instruction in all classes throughout the week. We'll also pair this with a themed Winter Spirit Week to close out the semester before Winter Break begins at the close of the day on Friday, December 20. The 20th will also end Quarter 2 and Semester 1, with grades being finalized by the week we return from break. Dress up themes for each day and events will take place during the week of December 16, and will be released early next week – we can't wait to see all of the holiday spirit!

There will still be Cycle 2 testing scheduled for all students enrolled in Algebra 1A, Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology, and US History still, but will take place during the week of January 13. More information will be forthcoming each of those classes.

PTSA Updates

The ELHS PTSA needs your voice! The PTSA at The Lake has an opportunity to use anonymous feedback from parents and students to help foster a stronger sense of community, and they kindly ask you to take a few moments to complete a short survey. They are seeking to create programs which promote meaningful connections and enriching our shared experience at the lake from your thoughtful input. Thank you for your time and participation!

- SURVEY: <https://forms.gle/MfTGpJefKmbQ7Evi8>

College and Career Center and Guidance Updates

- Our amazing Guidance Team and College and Career Center continues to provide student supports surrounding planning for their post-secondary journey. Some reminders on items like upcoming SAT and ACT testing opportunities, Financial Aid Information Night, The Pinellas Education Foundation Senior Scholarships, Bright Futures, Financial Readiness with the USF Pathe Program, and Take Stock in Children Scholarships can be found below:
 - o **Saturday Testing Updates:**
 - 10th-12th grade students interested in College/Scholarships
 - Make sure to register for a weekend SAT or ACT at ELHS! This is done directly through the SAT/ACT website (links included here).
 - Upcoming: December 7 SAT (digital testing only), December 14 ACT (paper testing only)
 - Registration deadline for both: November 22
 - *Contact your counselor if you have any questions about registering!*
 - Flyer with Testing Dates: <https://tinyurl.com/w42kmwuu>
 - *The Pinellas Ed Foundation Senior Scholarships* – the application is now open for seniors. 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!
 - o <https://pinellaseducation.awardspring.com/>
 - *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
 - o <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/>
 - Take Stock in Children Scholarship Program is now accepting applications from students in grades 6-9. The deadline to apply is December 15th. This program offers a unique opportunity for students who aspire to attend college but face financial challenges. Participants receive a college scholarship, mentoring, and guidance from a dedicated college success coach. See the attached flyer to apply.
 - o Take Stock in Children Flyer (English): <https://tinyurl.com/TakeStock24-25English>
 - o Take Stock in Children Flyer (Spanish): <https://tinyurl.com/TakeStock24-25Spanish>

Additional Reminders

(Anonymous Reporting, Student Parking, and National Honor Society)

- **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 helping 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 which may be needed – tips are passed along to appropriate law enforcement and school personnel. FortifyFL is also another reporting system available to report suspicious activity allowing 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

- The date is in: graduation 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!
- Also, if you haven't yet, it's time to look ahead. We're over 75% of the way through the school year and graduation will be among us in the blink of an eye! Not only is it crucial to be working hard in their classes and planning for their post-secondary journey, they also need to prepare for the ceremony itself. Though we don't have a confirmed date yet, 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). You'll also find a flyer with quick QR links to both. 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 which 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.
- Cap & Gown: <https://hub.jostens.com/ls/7ed522a8-6ef6-433e-a669-a571dd80545b/sf-NdDkQWd6joHAF#/>
- Graduation Walking Fees: <https://pcsb.revtrak.net/hs/east-lake-high/elhs-senior-class/elhs-graduation-walking-fee/>

- Student Parking

- Attention student drivers! We have noticed a growing number of students parking in our parking lot without displaying valid parking permits in both the senior and underclassmen parking lots. To park on campus, seniors should have purchased a senior parking permit to park in the closer senior reserved parking, and underclassmen or seniors not using reserved parking need to purchase the \$5.00 hangtag. These must be hung from the rear-view mirror when parked on campus. Both senior reserved and underclassmen parking can be purchased by visiting <https://pcsb.revtrak.net/High-Schools/east-lake-high/#/list> If your student is found parking without a valid tag, the car could be booted, and parking privileges can be revoked. Please take care of this as soon as possible.

- National Honor Society

- First semester service hours for both returning and new members are due by December 20th to Mrs. Munson in room 4222 or Mr. Eustace in room 3222. As a reminder, at least two of the ten required hours must come from in-person opportunities. Information on current and future volunteer opportunities can be found on the NHS Instagram, the LinkTree, the Remind, and outside Mrs. Munson's room in the media center.

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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.