



1300 Silver Eagle Drive
Tarpon Springs, Florida 34688

Office: (727)942-5419

Fax: (727)942-5441

[Directions to East Lake High School](#)

12/8/24

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:

- **ELHS PTSA and SAC Meetings** will take place tomorrow, Monday 12/9. PTSA will be at 5:15pm and SAC will immediately follow at 6:00pm. Both will take place in the Media Center and families will enter near the south gate of the bus circle near the auditorium – we hope to see you there!
- **East Lake HS Madrigal's Concerts** will take place on Thursday 12/12, and at St. Marks Village on Friday 12/6
- **Annual PRISM Concert** will wow audiences this Friday 12/13 and Saturday 12/14 – rehearsals will continue throughout the week as they prepare for the show
- **Girls JV/Varsity Soccer** face Tarpon Springs HS on Monday 12/9 at home
- **Boys Varsity Soccer** face River Ridge HS on Tuesday 12/10 away
- **Girls JV/Varsity Basketball** face Osceola Fundamental HS on Monday 12/9 at home, Clearwater HS on Tuesday 12/10 away, St. Pete HS at home on Thursday 12/12, and Seminole HS on Friday 12/13 at home
- **Boys JV/Varsity Basketball** face Mitchell HS on Tuesday 12/10 at home and Northeast HS on Wednesday 12/11 away
- **Girls Varsity Wrestling** compete in the Ladies Round Robin at Dunedin HS on Tuesday 12/10 and the Cougar Clash IBT at Countryside HS on Saturday 12/14
- **Boys JV/Varsity Wrestling** compete in the JV Quad Meet at Palm Harbor University HS on Thursday 12/12 and in the Varsity Fit2Win IBT Tournament at Palm Harbor University HS on Friday 12/13 and Saturday 12/14
- **Holiday Theme Week** will take place the week of December 16, with daily dress up themes and activities for students and staff
- **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](#)

Good luck to all of our Eagles in all of their extracurriculars!

Some reminders for the week:

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>

Students will test on designated days based on their English teacher, which can be found below:

| Date | Media Center (main room) | Media Center (room 4-225) |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Wednesday, 12/11 | Bowers & Barbieri | Guardabascio |
| Thursday, 12/12 | Alvarado | Brady |
| Friday, 12/13 | Hess | Bickler |
| Monday, 12/16 | Rodriguez | Munson |
| Tuesday, 12/17 | Panarelli | Mobley |

FCLE will take place on Tuesday first thing in the morning in the Media Center. All students enrolled in either US Government Honors or AP US Government will take this assessment. Students should arrive in the Media Center at the start of the school day with a fully charged laptop.

Week of December 16 (end of Semester 1)

As a reminder, the week of December 16 will consist of regular instruction in all classes throughout the week (no midterm exams semester 1 this school year). We'll also have a themed Holiday Spirit Week to close out the semester before Winter Break begins, which starts at the close of the day on Friday, December 20. Grades will be finalized by the week we return from break, so if you have any questions regarding grades, please reach out to your student's teacher.

Holiday Theme Week (week of December 16)

We will be *SOARING INTO HOLIDAY FUN NEXT WEEK* (week of December 16) with a Holiday Spirit Week. We'll have daily dress up themes, along with student and staff activities which can be found in the attached flier. We can't wait to see all of the holiday spirit this week as we approach Winter Break and the end of semester 1 of the 2024-25 school year!

- Theme Week Flyer: <https://tinyurl.com/bdh7xejk>

PTSA Updates

The ELHS PTSA is organizing a Family/Student Holiday Cookie Drop Off for TEACHERS, STAFF AND BUS DRIVERS on Wednesday, December 18th at the high school conference room during lunch between 10am and 11:30am. Drivers can drop off at the school after 7:45 or there will be a drop off area first thing in the morning, so sharing your favorite home baked or store fresh cookie will be easy! Cookies will be eaten on the day, but PTSA is also providing cookie bags for take away-no cookie will be turned away so please use the sign-up genius to let us know what you are bringing! Thank you in advance for your donations and Happy Holidays from ELHS PTSA!

- <http://bit.ly/3OG5Oxx>

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 promoting 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>

Additional Reminders

(Anonymous Reporting, College and Career Center Updates, Senior Updates - including the 2025 Graduation and Senior Yearbook Ads, Student Parking, Rho Kappa, National Honor Society, and Flag Football)

- **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)
- **College and Career Center and Guidance Updates**
 - o 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::

- **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!

- <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

- <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.

- Take Stock in Children Flyer (English): <https://tinyurl.com/TakeStock24-25English>
- Take Stock in Children Flyer (Spanish): <https://tinyurl.com/TakeStock24-25Spanish>

- **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.

- **Rho Kappa**
 - o There will be a Rho Kappa meeting for all members afterschool in the Media Center on Thursday 12/12.
- **National Honor Society**
 - o 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.
- **Flag Football**
 - o Flag Football Spirit Night – Tuesday 12/10 @ Juan’s Mexican Grill in East Lake (open-close). Mention East Lake Flag Football and a portion of your order supports the team

If you have any questions at all, please don’t hesitate to reach out to your Assistant Principal or Counselor. We look forward to a strong finish to semester 1! Always remember Life is Better at the Lake where we SOAR together – have an amazing rest of your weekend and GO EAGLES!

Dan Schmittiel, Principal
East Lake High School
SchmittielD@pcsb.org

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.