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[Directions to East Lake High School](#)

5/11/25

Good afternoon, Eagle Families,

This is Dan Schmittiel, Principal of East Lake High School, with some important reminders and updates as we wrap up the final three weeks the 2024-25 school year at The Lake! This week resumes AP and state testing and continues our Spring Athletics season with the softball regional semifinals game, along with our May PTSA and SAC meetings. Check out this week and major upcoming events below:

Events	Dates
Softball	Softball moves on to the regional semifinals this Tuesday 5/13. We'll host Mitchell HS at home. Good luck ladies!
Biology EOC	All students enrolled in Biology 1 Honors will take the EOC on Tuesday 5/13.
US History EOC	All students enrolled in US History Honors, AP US History, and DE US History will sit for the EOC on Thursday 5/15.
AP Testing	AP Testing continues Monday 5/12 through Friday 5/16. Remember testing takes place on campus each day for Advanced Placement courses, with the specific dates and times designated by CollegeBoard. This process has been communicated in all AP classes throughout campus, but please refer to our recorded Testing Webinar on the Facebook page along with reaching out to either their teacher or School Counselor for specific questions.
FAST ELA PM3	We'll be running FAST ELA PM3 make-ups this week and next for students who missed because of AP testing or an absence.
ELHS PTSA and SAC	We'll host our May PTSA and SAC meetings in the Media Center on Tuesday 5/13 at 6pm. We'll begin with PTSA and follow it with our SAC meeting. The ELHS PTSA will be having elections for the 2025-26 school year at the meeting. Voting will take place at the General Meeting directly before the SAC meeting. ALL are welcome and encouraged to attend! If you have any questions or would like to get involved with the PTSA please email: ptsaehs@gmail.com
Yearbook Distribution	Yearbook distribution will continue again this Wednesday 5/14 for all grade levels. With this week's continuation of testing, especially the Biology EOC on Tuesday, we'll continue mid-week.

Good luck to all of our Eagles in all of their extracurriculars and testing this week! Some additional reminders for the week include:

Biology and US History EOCs

Parents, as a reminder students enrolled in Biology and US History will take their EOC's this week. All Biology 1 Honors students will take the EOC on Tuesday 5/13. US History students in US History Honors, Advanced Placement US History, and Dual Enrollment US History, will sit for the EOC this Thursday 5/15. For both assessments, students will sit for 160 minutes but will be allowed to continue testing if they need additional time.

Attached are some posters which cover strategies on tackling the test which students have been discussing and practicing throughout the year in class. Both assessments are adaptive this year. Every student will start at a level 3, which is a passing score. When they answer questions correctly, the questions will become more challenging, which means they're doing great! Students can't skip questions or flag them to return, so it's vital they give every question their best answer using the different strategies covered throughout the year and reviewed on the OnePager, and they can take as much of the school day for the EOC as they need beyond the 160 minutes. Please take some time this weekend to do a final review of these strategies with them before testing.

- <https://tinyurl.com/2025BioTestStrategies>
- <https://tinyurl.com/2025USH-TestStrategies>

Class of 2025 Reminders

Graduation is fast approaching. It is crucial for seniors finish strong as they close out their final week before senior exams. Please ensure you are checking Focus to see where your seniors stand, and if there are any specific low grades at this point, please reach out to their teacher if you haven't been in communication recently to work on a plan for make-up work. Let's ensure they finish strong so we can celebrate them as they walk across the stage on May 29th at the Yuengling Center! Attached you'll find a One Pager with a variety of reminders. Additionally, below are some quick reminders regarding graduation:

- **Flyer** - <https://tinyurl.com/2025GraduationGuide>
- **TICKETS:** You do NOT need a ticket for graduation. Graduates are allowed to invite as many guests as they would like. There is a parking fee, but again, no ticket cost or limits on guests.
- **SEATING:** The event is open seating.
- **PARKING:**
 - Fee - \$15.00 and CREDIT CARD ONLY, per CAR. ALL graduates, students, parents, and friends/community members attending must pay the \$15 fee at the parking lot entrances.
 - Gates: the open gates will be Gates A and B, with graduates entering through the Corral Entrance to the LEFT of Gate A.
- **HANDICAP/HEARING ACCOMMODATIONS:** Parking is available for all ADA guests in all parking lots on a first-come, first-served basis. Please make sure to display official placards. Also, there will be hearing accommodations section, should you require these services, please let our Graduation Coordinator, Mrs. Blum via email.
- **FOOD:** There will be a few concessions stands open with food and drink items for sale. Card purchases only.
- **BACKPACKS, BAGS, and STROLLERS:** No bags exceeding 12"x12"x12" are permitted and all are subject to search upon entry. Backpacks are not permitted, outside of diaper and medical bags. Strollers which are too large to fold under your seat have to be checked in at Guest Services at the Gate A entrance.
- **NO BALLOONS ALLOWED.** Visit raysbaseball.com/security for more details.
- **GATE ENTRY:**
 - Graduates are to arrive at 8:00am through the Corral Entrance to the LEFT of Gate A – No exceptions. No early arrivals without a staff member with a school ID.
 - Public gates (A and B) open at 8:00am as well.
- **GRADUATION DIPLOMA COVERS AND PROGRAMS:** When students exit the graduation, they will be escorted to receive their diploma covers as well as a brand-new event program for your keeping as they exit the arena.
- **GRADUATION DAY PICTURES:** All students attending graduation will have 3 pictures taken as they graduate (Plain background, American Flag, and with the principal during diploma hand off). You will receive information regarding purchasing after the event from Grad Images and Balfour.
- **LIVE LINK/GRADUATION PROGRAM:** Closer to the day of the event, we will communicate the LIVE YouTube link as well as the link to the online Graduation Program for those not attending.
- **QUESTIONS:** Please email Graduation Coordinator, Mrs. Blum at blumme@pcsb.org with any questions.

Yearbooks

The yearbooks have arrived! This year's edition, "All The Things", we will continue to be available for pick-up starting Wednesday May 14th and any student who missed pickup in a different grade level. If you did not pre-order a book, there are still a few left – you can bring \$80 cash to Room 3-214 during lunch starting Wednesday, May 7th.

Saturday SAT Opportunities	For students in 10 th through 12 th grade focusing on college and/or scholarship prep, make sure to register for a weekend SAT at ELHS! This is done directly through the https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/registration Upcoming tests are below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - June 7 SAT (digital testing only) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Contact your counselor if you have any questions about registering</i>
SPC Off Campus Summer/Fall Registration	Additionally, if your student is wanting to take Dual Enrollment classes off campus at SPC this summer, registration is now open and due by April 30. Fall Dual Enrollment registration for off campus SPC classes begins on April 16 with a deadline of May 29. Please have your student reach out to their counselor if they are interested
Elevating Excellent Summer Seminars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Road to College Senior Seminar (click hyperlink) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Calling all Class of 2026! This FREE workshop will assist rising Seniors in the college application process. Students will create their FAFSA ID and Common Application account, complete their SSAR/SRAR, work on BigFuture Scholarships and CSS account, if needed. Conveniently located at East Lake High School for the first time! Join Ms. Gallaty this summer to get a head start on the college application process. Two 3-hour sessions offered each day July 21st-24th. - Road to College Underclass Seminar (click hyperlink) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Elevating Excellence Road to College is a FREE 3-hour seminar will assist your student in the college readiness process. Students will engage in activities to explore Career Matching, College Matching, Financial Aid, College Budget and Planning and Bright Futures. Two 3-hour sessions offered each day July 16th and 17th.
Evara Health Institute High School Open House (hyperlink)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learn more about what Evara Health Institute has to offer on May 15th from 7-8:30 at Evara Health Institute 14106 58th Street N Clearwater
Spectrum Internship (hyperlink)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ***THIS INTERNSHIP IS SPECIFICALLY FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS ENTERING THEIR SENIOR YEAR*** - This is a learning-intensive High School Internship program designed to give you essential business insights and hands-on experience in the technology field. Training is a full-time, 8-week commitment from June 7, 2024, through August 2, 2024, with the possibility of extending on a part-time basis through your final year of high school. Part-time scheduling during your senior year includes 1 full day each weekend and 2-3 evenings per week, totaling a minimum of 20 hours. - As a Spectrum Intern, you will have access to full benefits, including medical, 401K, and comp services, with potential for tuition assistance once you graduate.
Student Volunteer Opportunities (https://www.pcsb.org/Page/37909)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summer Camp Assistant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Volunteer to become a summer camp assistant. Assist with fun & creative activities for boys and girls ages 5-12. Hours volunteering can be used towards Bright Futures! - https://www.pcsb.org/Page/37909: Ruth's Promise Adult Day Program

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The organization is looking for high school students to volunteer to interact with seniors doing various activities like arts & crafts, exercise programs, trivia, and many other exciting activities. Do you have a talent, musical background, or other special skills you'd like to share with us? Our participants enjoy being around students and love to be entertained by your talent. Please contact Terri Ziegler, Ruth's Promise Volunteer Coordinator, at (727)365-1866 or by email at ruthspromiseadp@gmail.com
Scholarships https://www.pcsb.org/Page/39425	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students can also look in Xello (through their Clever account) to find other scholarships. - Bright Futures - complete the FFAA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome?l=home - SPC Open Door Scholarship for work force training - SPC offers scholarships to help prepare you for your dream job or develop your career. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Through the Open-Door grant program, you can complete short-term training for high-demand jobs in as little as six weeks for FREE. ○ This opportunity covers 100% of tuition and fees for eligible programs after all other federal and state financial aid is applied. To qualify, you must be a Florida resident. Scholarships are offered on a first come, first served basis while funding is available. https://now.spc.edu/open-door - Pinellas Technical College - Earn free tuition for the first term by attending National Technical College Signing Day April 10th. https://padlet.com/gallatyn/east-lake-college-and-career-center-idyrvtlk9okb080m/wish/XGyBQbkL2ql0ZL6K - \$2,500 Scholarship. In partnership with Intuit for Education, one student winner will be awarded \$2,500 in educational funding from each semester-based entry period during the 2024-25 school year. The Financial Futures Student Scholarship Contest is open to students (age 13-19) who have completed at least one lesson within the course <i>Tax Simulation: Understanding Taxes</i>. To enter for a chance-to-win, students will be asked to submit an application form and share how learning about tax topics has made an impact on their life through a reflection essay (200-500 words). For additional information and to apply, go to https://turbotax.everfi.com/scholarships/?utm_source=everfi&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=all-contests-page
Ask the Experts - Advice from Admissions Officers at Top Universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panelists from UGA, Syracuse University, Northeastern University, and University of Miami - May 7th from 7:00–8:00 PM (Online) Register: https://www.applerouth.com/college-admissions-webinar - Our expert panelists will provide insights on: Test-Optional vs. Test Required: Understand the impact of the latest changes. Grades vs. Course Rigor: Discover which factors carry more weight. Essays & Activities: Learn what makes an application stand out. College Visits: Get tips on how to make the most of campus tours. - Engage in a live Q&A to address your specific questions. Can't Attend Live? Register to receive the recording post-event.
Free SPC Class (Current Seniors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take American Government and fulfill your Civic Literacy requirement in just 7 weeks! This is a great opportunity to get a head start and knock out the Civic Literacy Requirement, no matter which college/university they plan on attending this fall. Please see the attached flyer and the bullets below for more information. - This class will be offered in person at the following locations:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Downtown Center ○ Clearwater Campus ○ Seminole Campus ○ St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus ○ Tarpon Springs Campus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is a 7-week class which begins on June 8th and ends on July 25th. - The class meets two days a week in person from 11am-1:15pm. - There is only one class on each of these campuses, so seats are limited. - Students can register for this class at Titanhub.spcollege.edu, or by speaking with an advisor (on campus or virtually) <p>Any student who would like to take this class and hasn't applied yet can do so for FREE at Explore SPC: https://now.spc.edu/explore25</p>
Have questions? Need help?	Book an appointment via the hyperlink.

Additional 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 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 which is available to report suspicious activity and allows Florida students and the community to relay any safety concerns. Both links can be found below.
 - [Say Something Tips — Sandy Hook Promise](#)
 - [FortifyFL \(getfortifyfl.com\)](#)
- **Driver's Ed Program - Summer**
 - East Lake High School, along with multiple other schools throughout the county, are hosting a Summer Driver's Ed Program. Below you'll find a link to register. The program costs \$250 and seats are limited to first come first serve basis. The classes at ELHS are sold out, however some seats are available at other high schools.
 - Summer Driver's Ed Link: <https://www.pcsb.org/Page/43586>
- **PTSA Updates**
 - The ELHS PTSA is seeking nominations for the 2025-26 school year and will have open elections in May. Are you interested in making a difference in our school community? Join the PTSA Executive Committee. Please submit your interest for our four open board positions to our three nomination committee co-chairs listed on Instagram and Facebook. Voting will take place at our May General Meeting directly before the SAC meeting May 13th at 6pm in the ELHS Media Center. ALL ARE WELCOME! If you have any questions, email ptsaelhs@gmail.com
 - Share some LOVE and APPRECIATION TO OUR AMAZING TEACHERS AND STAFF! The ELHS PTSA is beginning an ongoing year-round request to "FUEL THE FACULTY". We are looking for small snack and drink donations for a snack cart which rolls around the office and halls. PTSA is kicking off this effort in February with their Sign-up Genius posted on their Facebook and Instagram pages. Please see the links below to access the social media pages on how to sign up: <https://bit.ly/4jsZuaQ>

- Consider starting your membership off with the PTSA or making a donation this month - both assist with supporting the teachers and students at The Lake each day! 100% of all membership fees and donations go directly back to the school. And check out their Facebook and Instagram pages for more information!
 - <https://www.facebook.com/EastLakeHSPTSA>
 - <https://www.instagram.com/eastlakehighptsa/>

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Assistant Principal or Counselor. Let's continue SOARing to new heights this semester at The Lake! 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.