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[Directions to East Lake High School](#)

6/24/2025

Dear East Lake High School families,

It is with immense gratitude and excitement that I introduce myself as the new principal of East Lake High School. This is a truly special school community, one that has been built through years of dedication, care, and high expectations. I consider it a great privilege to join East Lake, and I do not take this responsibility lightly.

Throughout my career in education, including leadership roles at three high schools here in Pinellas County, I've been shaped by the belief that schools thrive when students, families, and educators work together in partnership. As a principal, I lead with purpose, integrity, and care, always keeping students at the center of every decision. I also believe deeply in trust, transparency, and communication. You can count on me to listen with intention, support with compassion, and work each day to ensure your student feels known, challenged, and celebrated.

As we begin this journey together, I want to honor the strong foundation that already exists at East Lake while also working collaboratively to build an even brighter future. Your insight and involvement matter greatly to me, and I look forward to building strong relationships with our families in the weeks and months ahead.

To those I've already had the chance to meet, thank you for the warm welcome. I'm eager to get to know you, your students, and your stories. Please don't hesitate to reach out, introduce yourself, or stop by the school to connect.

Thank you for the trust you place in us. I look forward to all we'll accomplish. Let's SOAR high together!

With great respect and enthusiasm,

Eric C. Smith, Ph.D.

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.