



East Lake High School

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Phone: (727) 942-5419
Website: www.pcsb.org/eastlake-hs

Eric C. Smith, Ph.D., Principal
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Good afternoon East Lake families,

Week 2 is in the books, and we had a fantastic week at the Lake.

I hope all our parents know how well of a job you're doing. Your students are awesome kids. I have enjoyed our interactions on campus and getting to them more and more each day.

As always, we have a lot of information to cover. Please review my email carefully and thoroughly.

Open House:

- Please review my email communication from early this week regarding the details of Open House on Tuesday 8/26, 4:30-6:30.
 - Arrive at your convenience and visit classrooms, meet teachers, and access information in the media center (see below)
 - Counselors Corner
 - Admin Q+A
 - Focus and Tech support
 - Athletic information
 - Map your schedule
 - This is not intended to be a conference night. If you wish to have a more in-depth discussion regarding your student, please request to schedule a later date/time with the teacher.

Tardies:

- Recording of tardies per period has started. You should have received an email through the student conductor system if your student was tardy.
- Remember, if a student is late for class, they will have to report to a tardy station/kiosk and enter their lunch pin (see attached map for tardy station/kiosk locations).
- Tardies follow a progressive disciplinary pattern:
 - 1st-3rd – warning, minor infraction, parent contact
 - 4th-5th – lunch detention, parent contact
 - 6th-7th – after-school detention, parent contact
 - 8th – 1 day consequence IC, parent contact
 - 9th – 2-3 days consequence IC/ABS, parent contact conference
 - 10th – Parent conference
- **VERY IMPORTANT:** Please address getting to class on time with your student.

Cell Phones and Headphones:

- Cellphones are only allowed before/after school and during lunch.
 - Phones and other electronic devices (e.g. headphones, smart watch) must be turned off and put away during instructional time.
 - A teacher may approve device use but this will be rare.
 - [Strategic Communications / Power Up \(pcsb.org\)](http://www.pcsb.org)
- Headphones are not allowed to be used during instructional time. They may be used at lunch.
- We have had several students wearing their headphones in the hallway during class transitions. Students need to be able to hear information and directives during class transitions. Please discuss this with your student to put away their headphones.

Dress Code:

- Please review the dress code (see example slide in Opening Day PowerPoint on the school website)
 - Dress code will be enforced. Please discuss the dress code with your student and check daily their attire.
 - For both boys and girls, key issues with dress code so far have been **tank tops, shirts that do not cover the stomach, shorts that are too short (past mid-thigh) & spandex shorts.**
 - [Code of Conduct / V. Dress Code \(pcsb.org\)](#)
 - PCSB Student Code of Conduct PDF:
 - <https://www.pcsb.org/cms/lib/FL01903687/Centricity/Domain/6122/2025-2026-PCSB-Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

Focus:

- Grades are starting to collect in the Focus gradebook. Make it a habit to check your student's grade weekly.
- We will have live Focus help during open house on Tuesday 8/26. Head to the media center upstairs and you can access our Focus experts to help with your situation.
- Please review the link below for additional steps in assisting with Focus needs.
 - <https://www.pcsb.org/newfocus>

Student Passwords:

- A reminder to students to use a secure password to access your PCSB R2.D2 account. There have been several instances already this year where student passwords have been compromised.
- Do not use your student number, School name or mascot, favorite teacher's name, or anything easy to figure out as part of your password. Also do not share your password under any circumstances.
- If you feel your account has been compromised, let a teacher know as quickly as possible and change your password. If you need assistance, let an administrator know. Ultimately, you are responsible for all activity linked to your student account.

Absences and Permission to Leave (PTL):

- We have made the process of reporting absences and PTLs much easier. On our school site (at the very top), there is a link that says, "Report Student Absence." It will take you to a page that you can report an absence or request a PTL.
- Click the appropriate link and you will complete a brief form and we take care of the rest. No need to call or email anymore.
- There is also a QR code attached to the email
- The direct link is below.
 - <https://www.pcsb.org/Page/20925>

School Entry/Exit & Safety:

- Gates open at 7:00 AM along with the Cafeteria
 - Buildings and classrooms open at 7:15 AM
 - 5-minute warning bell at 7:20 AM
 - 1-minute warning bell at 7:24 AM
- Doors remain locked during the day per safety policy following the 7:25 AM start bell.
 - Students are to never prop open doors or let anyone in on campus.
 - Late arrivals must enter through the front office.
- All virtual and dual enrollment students coming on to campus either 2nd, 3rd, or 4th period must enter through the front gate by the main office.

- All virtual and dual enrollment students that are leaving campus anytime after 4th period, must exit through the front gate by the main office.
 - **To maintain campus safety, we are enforcing a single point of entry and exit during the school day.** Students must use only the main gate by the front office unless there is an emergency.
 - We understand that the north gate may be more convenient for accessing the parking lot; however, using unauthorized exits poses a security risk. An open/propped gate or allowing someone to enter through an unmonitored access point, compromises the safety of everyone on campus.
 - Disciplinary consequences will be issued to students that leave through unauthorized gates and/or open the gate for other students or adults.
 - Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school secure.

Car line (drop off and pick up):

- Follow traffic patterns as instructed.
 - PM: have your student cross and walk down the walkway to find your car. Several cars wait to pick up at the crosswalk near the front and this causes a break in the flow of traffic.
- All drop off and pickups need to move through the car line.
 - Please **DO NOT** drop off in neighborhoods, in the student parking lot, or on the side of the road.
- Leave a little earlier to ensure you get to school on-time.
 - School will start at 7:25am and the north gates will close to all students to maintain security of our campus.
 - All late arriving students will report to the front gate at the main office.

Mu Alpha Theta:

- Informational meeting on Wednesday, August 28th at 2:00 PM in Room 9211. Any student interested in joining is encouraged to attend.
- If students have any questions, they are welcome to stop by Room 9211 or email me, Ms. Adrian, adrianj@pcsb.org

National Honor Society Applications

- If your student is interested in joining the National Honor Society (NHS), they must meet the following eligibility requirements:
 - Be a **Junior or Senior**
 - Have a **weighted GPA of 3.5 or higher**
 - Submit an application: Applications can be accessed using the QR code found in Mrs. Campbell's classroom (Room 3140) or by scanning the QR code on posters located around the school.

PTSA:

- Please visit the PTSA site for more information about joining and participating:
 - <https://www.pcsb.org/domain/2207>

School Counselors:

- AP acknowledgement form: All students in AP courses must complete the AP acknowledgement form.
 - The form is available in all AP classes (also attached in the email).
 - One form per student is required.
 - Please complete and submit to your AP teacher next week.

College and Career center:

- College applications opened August 1st. Come see Ms. Gallaty in College and Career Center to get started on or get help with your application, SSAR or scholarships.
- Parents, email GallatyN@pcsb.org to schedule an appointment to learn more about the college application process. Office hours are from 2:00-3:00 every day.
- [Vet Life: From Classroom to Clinic](#): Discover the journey of a veterinarian who's making a difference! Open to 8th-12th graders, September 16th from 6:00-7:00 pm at East Lake Library.
- Student Volunteer Opportunity:
 - [East Lake Library Teen Advisory Board](#): This group is for students in 9 to 12 grade who want to make a difference in the library by sharing ideas, planning events, and promoting reading among their peers. Please complete the application below in its fullest to be considered for the 2025-2026 board. Last day to apply is November 7, 2025.

Yearbooks:

- Yearbooks are on sale with a special back to school pricing of just \$60.
- The sale won't last much longer - purchase today at www.yearbookordercenter.com and enter Job 1232.
- If you have questions about yearbooks, senior dedication pages, or underclassmen photos you can contact Mrs. Wall at walln@pcsb.org.

Athletics:

- Volleyball opened up strong with a 3-0 win against Bishop Mac. They will play next Thursday 8/28 for their home opener vs Tarpon Springs HS in JV/V match.
- ELHS Swim & Dive opened the season this past Wednesday vs St Pete and Lakewood. The eagles had a strong 2nd place showing with several individuals highlighting the meet.
- Varsity Football traveled to Fivay HS last Friday and won their preseason classic 34-7. They travel to Georgia today and will face off against Camden County to start their season. Don't miss the home opener against Pinellas Park next Friday 8/29. The Silver Sound Band will be back and in full force. Come out and support our team, band, and cheerleaders for their first game of the season.
- XC opens the season this Saturday , Aug 23rd at the ragin storm challenge in Tampa @ 8 am.
- Our Eagle Bowling teams will open their season next Wed, 8/28 at Liberty Lanes where they will face off against Largo HS.
- Powder Puff Registration goes live via RevTrak on September 1. Deadline to register is October 11
- *Don't forget...Pinellas County Athletics is rolling out season ticket packages. We have non-football all sports packages and football packages available through GoFan.co
 - These new ticket packages are replacing the family pass option. Packages include individual tickets that will be validated at the gate.
 - Example: 10 ticket packages, patrons can use 1 ticket per event or bring a family of 5 and would then validate 5 tickets of the 10-ticket package which leaves 5 left over from the package.

Free-Reduced Lunch:

- The application for free and reduced lunch is available by visiting <https://www.myschoolapps.com>
- If your child had an approved free/reduced meal status last year, it will expire on Sept. 23.
 - A new application must be submitted for the 2025-26 school year to continue receiving meal benefits.
 - If a new application is not submitted, then, beginning Sept. 24, your student will need to pay for lunch.
- All students at East Lake High School are eligible to receive a free breakfast every day with no application needed.

- We encourage all families who believe they may be eligible to apply. There are additional scholarship funds and assistance available for standardized testing fees for students from qualifying families.
 - For assistance with free or reduced meals, contact Susie Zufall - zufalls@pcsb.org or 727-547-7151

Anonymous Reporting

- The Pinellas County Schools utilizes the See Something Say Something system from *Sandy Hook Promise* as a tool to help keep our campuses and students safe. Students and families can submit tips anonymously about concerns so the school can intervene in a proactive way. Tips regarding school safety, student welfare etc. can be submitted and a school official or law enforcement will look into it immediately to get someone the help and assistance they may need.
 - To report a tip to See Something Say Something, visit <https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/say-something-tips/>
 - FortifyFL is another reporting system available to report suspicious activity and allow Florida Students and the community to report safety concerns.
 - To access Fortify Florida visit <https://www.getfortifyfl.com>
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Have a great weekend and remember... SOAR High Eagles!

Dr. Smith
Principal
East Lake High School

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.*