



East Lake High School

1300 Silver Eagle Dr.,
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688
Phone: (727) 942-5419
Website: www.pcsb.org/eastlake-hs

Eric C. Smith, Ph.D., Principal
Shawn Anderson, Assistant Principal
Russell Denton, Assistant Principal
Megan Hatfield, Ed.D., Assistant Principal
Dwight Latimore, Assistant Principal

8/29/2025

Good afternoon East Lake families,

We had an outstanding week here at the Lake. I appreciated meeting so many of you at open house and hope you enjoyed the event. I do want to thank our parents for a great job correcting tardies, dress code issues, and cell phone/headphone usage. We saw a reduction in these areas and that means our students are fully engaged in learning.

It feels like fall with all of our high school activities kicking off. We have our first home football game tonight. The band will be playing halftime, chorus singing the national anthem, cheerleaders performing, and of course our boys on the field taking on Pinellas Park. Please make sure you review our gameday reminders attached to this email.

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

Focus:

- Check your students grades in Focus at least weekly. Let's stay on top of their assignments and reach out if you need assistance.
- Please review the link below for additional steps in assisting with Focus needs.
 - <https://www.pcsb.org/newfocus>

Absences and Permission to Leave (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>
- **VERY IMPORTANT:** The online PTL process is ONLY to be completed by a parent or guardian.
 - Students that complete this form will receive disciplinary consequences.
 - Parents may receive school contact to verify the form.
 - Please check your student's attendance regularly.
 - Focus will send a daily communication if your student is absent.

PM1 Testing:

- 9th and 10th grade state testing is just around the corner. Our first progress monitoring (PM1) test for all English classes will be on Tuesday 9/9.
 - Students need to bring their school issued laptops, fully charged.
 - Very important that students are well rested, have a good breakfast, and take their time on the assessment. Students need to take this test seriously as the subsequent tests (PM2 and PM3) based on results of PM1

Tardies:

- **VERY IMPORTANT:** Please address getting to class on time with your student.
- 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

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 \(pcsb.org\)](https://www.pcsb.org/Strategic-Communications/Power-Up)
- 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: **shirts that do not cover the stomach, spandex shorts.**
 - [Code of Conduct / V. Dress Code \(pcsb.org\)](https://www.pcsb.org/Code-of-Conduct/V-Dress-Code)
 - PCSB Student Code of Conduct PDF:
 - <https://www.pcsb.org/cms/lib/FL01903687/Centricity/Domain/6122/2025-2026-PCS-Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

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.
- Students have been doing a great job with entering through the front gate by the main office. All late arrivals and those leaving early, we will continue that process.

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 pick ups 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 and will receive a tardy pass.

Theatre:

- Mark your calendars!! September 18th @ 6:30 is a FREE Homecoming & Prom attire/Halloween costume fashion show hosted by the Theatre Department.
 - Students will be modeling Dillard's and Men's Wearhouse dresses, suits and tuxes.
 - Off the rack clothing and silent auction items from the Theatre Costume Closet for sale at deep discounts.
 - VIP seating available for sale on the booster website <https://www.elhstheatre.com>

Engineering Advisory Board:

- The first meeting of the year will be on Friday, 9/5, at 6:45am in room 2104.
- Parents should check in at the main office.

National Honor Society Applications:

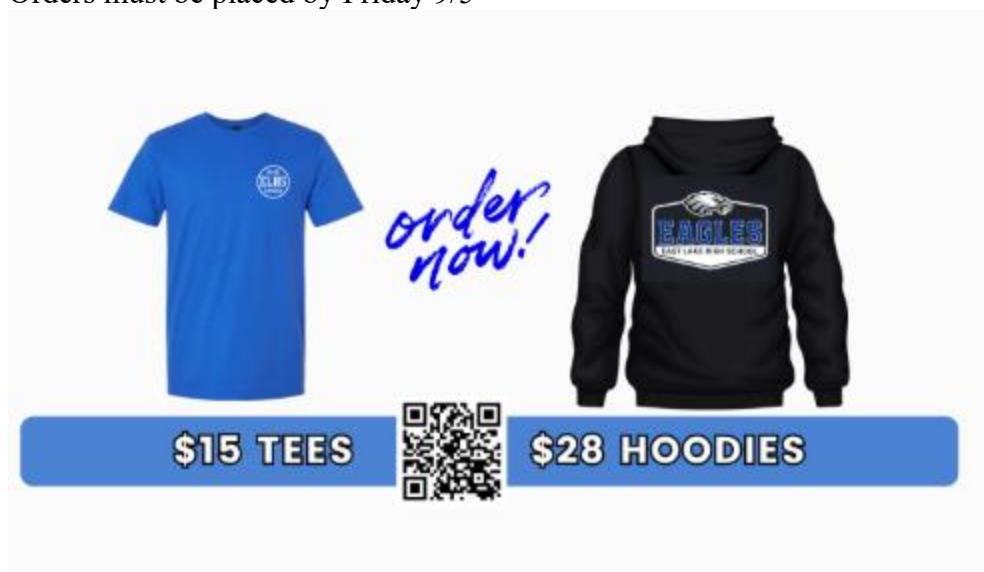
- If your student is interested in joining the National Honor Society (NHS), they must meet the following eligibility requirements:
 - Be a **Junior or Senior**
 - Have a **weighted GPA of 3.5 or higher**
 - Submit an application: Applications can be accessed using the QR code found in Mrs. Campbell's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

Band, Chorus, Orchestra, Guard:

- Spring Trip info meeting on Tuesday, 9/2, at 7pm in the auditorium.

PTSA:

- PTSA Fundraiser – East Lake Spirit Wear! Hoodies (Black and Gray), T-Shirts (Blue and Gray)
 - Visit here to purchase: <https://elhsptsa.givebacks.com/shop>
 - Add your membership when checking out.
 - Orders must be placed by Friday 9/5



- Spirit wear will be distributed in mid-late September.

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

School Counselors:

- **10th-12th grade students that are 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 (click for links).
Contact your counselor if you have any questions about registering!
- 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 as soon as possible.

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.

Blue Crue:

- Shirts are in. Pick up from Mrs. Serpa upstairs building 2 breezeway during lunch next Tuesday through Thursday.
- See Mrs. Serpa in room 2230 about joining Blue Crue.

Picture Day:

- Picture Day is coming - Friday, Sept. 12th.
- Students will be photographed during their English class.
- If your child is off-campus or does not have an English class, students are able to get photographed at their discretion, with teacher approval.
- Visit <https://www.pcsb.org/Page/214#calendar44828/20250902/event/355049> for information
- Contact Mrs. Wall at walln@pcsb.org with any additional questions.

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:

- GameDay Reminders for all sports (field or gym):
 - No back packs or large bags
 - Small, clear bags ok (see attached flyer)
 - No unsealed beverages or outside food
 - No re-entry
 - Display sportsmanship – no taunting refs or the other team, no foul language
- Volleyball is now 2-0 on the season with a dominating 3-0 set performance over Tarpon Springs last night. Next match is at Sunlake Sept 4th
- Varsity Football traveled to Georgia last Friday and played with a ton of grit and toughness but eventually fell to Camden County. They open up at home Friday / tonight vs Pinellas Park at 7:30
- XC opened their season last Saturday. The girls' varsity finished 7th out of 23 teams and the boys finished 9th out of 26 teams. 2 athletes had top 10 performances: Kaitlyn Wilcox placed 3rd overall and Truman Houk placed 9th. The next meet is this Saturday as our runners compete at the Falcon Invite hosted by Dunedin HS.
- Swim/Dive: East lake came in second place, the girls having a winning relay in the 400 free relay, the boys coming in first in their relay of 200 medley, Shea Farrell coming in first and Maren Mchugh taking the spot of 2nd in the 200 IM, Alera Michaud securing the spots of first place in the 100 free and 100 back, Gage Vacek taking the spot of 1st in the 100 free, and Sullivan Smith coming in first in the 100 back.
- Our Eagle Bowling teams opened this week. Out Varsity boys defeated Largo 7-0, while our girls' varsity and boys JV was edged out by the Largo Packers. The next match is Sept 4th where the Eagles will take on the Palm Harbor Hurricanes at Dunedin Lanes.
- Our East Lake swim/dive team will compete Sept 3rd against Seminole at the East Lake YMCA.
- *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.
- Power Puff has moved from 10/29 to Tuesday 10/28

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.

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>

Have a great weekend Everyone 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.*