



1300 Silver Eagle Drive
Tarpon Springs, Florida 34688
Office: (727)942-5419
Fax: (727)942-5441
[Directions to East Lake High School](#)

8/4/24

This is Dan Schmittiel, Principal of East Lake High School. First off, I hope that everyone is staying safe and dry today! Whether your student is a new or returning Eagle, welcome to the 2024-25 school year – we can't wait to get started in only one week! This message contains information surrounding upcoming events and helpful reminders as we get closer to the beginning of the school year. This is a longer message filled with lots of helpful information but the email contains all of the information that you can peruse at your leisure.

Student's First Day

The first day is, again, August 12th, 2024, and student hours are still from 7:25am – 1:55pm. This year we continue our commitment to both academic and extracurricular excellence, centered around what it means to **SOAR** like an Eagle at East Lake High School: have a **S**uccess mindset, take **O**wnership of learning, have an **A**ttitude centered around positivity, and have **R**espect for all. We're also excited to announce that last year we achieved a school grade of an "A" for the 20th time in school history, with our best performance as a school since the 2016-17 school year! This is a direct result to the unwavering commitment of this outstanding Eagle's staff and the amazing student body's dedication to both their academic studies and involvement outside of the classroom. We can't wait to see what the 2024-25 school year brings as we continue to SOAR to new heights!

We've spent countless hours to ensure that our campus is safe, clean, and ready for another amazing school year – a massive shout out to our plant operations team for all of their hard work throughout the summer to prep the campus for day 1! As you prepare for the first day of school, please know that we are working to ensure classes are well balanced. With that, schedules may not be completely finalized until Friday, August 9th.

Get Involved

Students – we pride ourselves in having a multitude of opportunities available to students outside of the classroom, whether it's in athletics, performing arts programs, or clubs. I highly recommend that you check out our school's website for information on these options on campus and have your student explore their interest at the start of the school year. A few weeks into the school year, we'll have a club gallery walk day to learn more about those options.

School Safety Updates and Lunches

As many are aware, new state law, HB1473, went into effect at the beginning of July surrounding school safety measures. With that, interior building doors will be locked throughout both the school day and during any extracurricular events. With that, we have made some adjustments with the flow of the school day, including passing time and when students need to be out of the classroom on a hall pass. As always, it is imperative and expected that students never prop open an exterior gates or doors for another student during the school day. Any student arriving after the start of the day must check in through the front office.

In the mornings, students will either enter campus through A) the north gates by the parent car circle/student parking lot or B) the southeast gate near the auditorium connected to the bus loop. Students will no longer enter

through the gates by the front office this school year. We are also adding a 7:15am bell which is when students will be able to leave the cafeteria and main outdoor hallway to access lockers and begin heading to class.

Lastly, attached you will find the bell schedule for the 2024-25 school year. Based on these new laws, we will be shifting to two lunches this school year – students will have lunch either before or after 4th period, determined by which lunch their 4th period teacher is assigned. Students will receive that information on the first day of the school year. To ensure that this won't impact student participation in clubs and tutoring, we will still be offering the same tutoring opportunities for each of the core subject areas in the media center, along with offering several clubs during lunch, along with options after school as well.

- <https://tinyurl.com/3pcxrwpt>

Power Up Learning Power Down Distractions, Dress Code, and More

Parents, we ask that you assist with reviewing student expectations with your students prior to the start of the school year, centered around the student code of conduct, with items like tardies, grades, dress code, cellphones, headphones, and more.

This school year we want to ensure that students get the most out of every period each day, with students engaging with the content, their teachers, and their peers to deepen their learning. With that, we'll focus on limiting the distraction posed by cellphones, social media, and headphones. Based on a newly approved schoolboard policy, students can use headphones before and after school, along with during lunch but not in class or passing time. There may be times where teachers utilize cellphones for an academic lesson within the classroom, but outside of that, the distraction needs to be off and out of site. We're looking forward to Powering Up Student Learning this school year!

- [Power Up Learning \(pcsb.org\)](https://www.pcsb.org/power-up-learning)
- [Strategic Communications / Power Up \(pcsb.org\)](https://www.pcsb.org/strategic-communications/power-up)

Parents, please review the ELHS and PCS dress code with your students before the first day of school year. We do expect that all students are in dress code starting day 1. For more details on the dress code, please use the link below:

- [Code of Conduct / V. Dress Code \(pcsb.org\)](https://www.pcsb.org/code-of-conduct/v-dress-code)

For more helpful reminders, including viewing the different back-to-school forms, please use the link below to visit the 2024-25 Back to School Guide:

- [Strategic Communications / Back to School Guide \(pcsb.org\)](https://www.pcsb.org/strategic-communications/back-to-school-guide)

Additional Reminders:

- **Counselor and Assistant Principal Updates**
 - This school year, we will have an adjustment to our Assistant Principal student assignments to match our counselor team. The breakdown will be as follows:
 - Alphas A-D = Chiquita Godwin (Assistant Principal) and Ashleigh Reger (School Counselor)
 - Alphas E-K = Megan Hatfield (Assistant Principal) and Kayleigh Bordenkircher (School Counselor)
 - Alphas L-Q = Dwight Latimore (Assistant Principal) and Leah Liguori (School Counselor)
 - Alphas R-Z = Shawn Anderson (Assistant Principal) and Jennifer Fernandez (School Counselor)
- **Parent Car Circle Drop-off/Pick-up**
 - We will be using the same car circle path on the northeast end of the building as we did last school year. Please be cognizant that the traffic patterns may have changed, and as a reminder, all high school and middle school families will be using the same parent drop off car line. The lot in front of the middle school will only be used for families that have an appointment on either campus this school year. The 2024-25 Car Circle Map is attached to the email with the callout.

○ <https://tinyurl.com/bdedssxx>

- Parent Involvement Opportunities

- Parents – we have many opportunities for you to be a part of supporting the school, whether it's joining one of our Boosters, Volunteering, being an active member in our PTSA or SAC, coming out to support our students at any of our many after school events, and much more.
- This year, we are also opening an online apparel store – currently, all students and families can purchase a Class of shirt that is tied to their cohort, with a welcome bundle for the class of 2028. Options will expand later this month as well. Use the link below to check it out:
 - [East Lake High School "Class of" Gear | Mascot Universe | powered by OrderMyGear \(itemorder.com\)](https://itemorder.com)



ORDER YOUR SPIRIT APPAREL!



East Lake Class of 2028 Bundle
Starting at \$50.00



East Lake Class of 2028 Tee



East Lake Hooded Sweatshirt



East Lake Class of 2028 Decal



East Lake Mascot Decal

**Order an East Lake HS
Welcome Box,
customized for the
Class of 2028!**

More designs & products will be available soon!

- Fall Athletics

- Our fall sports programs have either begun or will soon. You can find the contact information for each coach on our school's website and a quick message from Coach Meredith for our bowling team:
 - The East Lake Bowling Team needs more athletes for both the boys and girls team this year. Contact Coach Meredith at meredithe@pcsb.org if interested. Like all athletic teams, paperwork and online courses must be completed before you can tryout/participate. Tryouts will be Tuesday, August 13th, at Maple Lanes on US 19 in Clearwater, FL, at 3:30pm.

- Student Parking

- As a reminder, student parking, both senior spaces and underclassman, are currently on sale online. Please go to our website for more information. Students will need a valid Driver's License and registration.
- The senior parking space painting dates continue this week, on Thursday and Friday (8/8 and 8/9) at 12:00pm to 3:00pm both days, along with Saturday (8/10) from 8:00am to 12:00pm.

- Freshmen Orientation

- Families that attended Freshmen Orientation at ELHS on July 30, we'd love your feedback on how the night went. When you have a moment, please complete the Microsoft Forms survey below as your input is invaluable and THANK YOU for everyone that attended!
- Survey Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/rJRpWNE1A9>

- AP Precalculus

- Take advantage of back-to-school sales and tax free and purchase a graphing calculator before the school year begins. Students will need a graphing calculator for the class and teachers recommend the TI-84 series. We will have in-class calculators for students to use if they need one, but a personal one may be beneficial so that they have one for both school and home.

- Clothing Donations

- In the south end of the school within the teacher parking lot, there's a clothing donation bin. If you have any clothing you're giving away, feel free to drop it off at any time – not only is it for a good cause, ELHS also receives some funding to support the school!

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Assistant Principal or Counselor. We can't wait to get the 2024-25 school year started! Always remember that Life is Better at the Lake – have an amazing rest of your weekend, stay safe and dry, and GO EAGLES!

Dan Schmittiel, Principal
East Lake High School
schmittiel@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.