



**1300 Silver Eagle Drive
Tarpon Springs, Florida 34688**

Office: (727)942-5419

Fax: (727)942-5441

[Directions to East Lake High School](#)

8/8/2025

This is Dr. Smith with important updates regarding the first day of school. I hope you had a restful and fun summer.

We are back to school this Monday, August 11 and we have a lot of information for you to review. I will keep this callout as brief as possible so please review in detail my email and its attachments. Additionally, all information can be accessed on our school website, including our Opening Day PowerPoint (please review as soon as possible, link below).

- <https://www.pcsb.org/cms/lib/FL01903687/Centricity/Domain/110/2025ELHS-OpeningDayInformation.pdf>

First Day of School – Monday, August 11

- School hours: 7:25 AM – 1:55 PM (see attached bell schedule)
 - Arrive early the first week to avoid traffic

School Entry/Exit & Safety

- Entry gates:
 - North (car circle/student parking) at drop off location
 - Southeast (bus loop/auditorium); bus gate
- Parent Drop-Off/Pick-Up follows the same car line as last year. A car circle map is attached.
- Gates open at 7:05 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.

Bus information

- Review your bus route/number info in Focus by Sunday night.
- Be at your bus stop at least 10 minutes early (be patient the first few days with exact pickup/drop off times).
- Sign up for Bus Bulletin for real time bus information (this is the same info the school receives). <https://www.pcsb.org/Page/32164>
- If you are missing a bus route or need to access a bus, report to student services.

Schedules

- On the first day of school, students will report directly to 1st period (there is no homeroom).
- Students will follow their schedule each period as it is currently on Focus.
 - If there's a missing classroom in a period, students should report to the media center during that period ONLY. A missing classroom in a period is the only reason to report to the media center.
 - Do NOT report to the media center for scheduling change requests.
- For scheduling changes, see my previous call out or view our website to find the scheduling change form link (a QR code is also in the Opening Day PowerPoint on the school website).
 - Complete the form in its entirety and a counselor will follow up with you.

- Schedules may change throughout the first week; your counselor will notify you once the request has been processed.
- Be sure to check your student's schedule by Sunday night in Focus and view it with them.
 - You must complete all required online forms in Focus to make sure you have access to all your student's information.

New Lunch Format

- All students have one lunch: 10:49–11:19 AM, right after 4th period
- Additional seating & media center access will be available to support volume and enhance the lunch experience.
 - Once club meetings are scheduled, student will be able to meet with club sponsors in set locations throughout campus during lunch.
- All students are afforded time to eat their lunch and we may extend the lunch period by a few minutes over the next few day. Please be patient with the new process as we all get accustomed.
- Encourage your student to speak to an adult if there is any confusion with the lunch process.
- Review your student's lunch pin on focus and make sure they remember the pin.

Student Expectations

- Cellphones/headphones 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.
 - Teacher may approve device use but this will be rare.
 - **Strategic Communications** / <https://www.pcsb.org/PowerUp>
- 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.
 - **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-PCS-Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

Additional Reminders

- Assistant Principals & Counselors are aligned by last name (see full breakdown in the Opening Day PowerPoint on the school website).
- Get Involved! Join PTSA, Boosters, SAC, or volunteer. Your support makes a difference.
- Fall Athletics and Student Parking info is on our website.

After you review this material, please reach out to the appropriate personnel if you have any questions. We want this school year to start smoothly and we are ready to support your student.

We are so excited to welcome you back and to meet our 2025-2026 student body.

Have a great last summer weekend East Lake.

Life is better at the Lake and remember to SOAR High Eagles!

Eric C. Smith, Ph.D.
Principal, East Lake High School
SmithERICC@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.