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[Directions to East Lake High School](#)

**9/1/24**

This is Dan Schmittiel, Principal of East Lake High School, with some important reminders and updates for the week. As always, let's look outside of the academics to support and celebrate our students in their various extracurriculars – our students are always ready to SOAR to success as we progress throughout the school year both in and out of the classroom. This week we continue with our Fall Athletics season. Let's show our school spirit and cheer on our different sports teams, clubs, and performing arts programs throughout the year – a list of this week's events can be found below:

- **JV/Varsity Volleyball** faces St. Pete HS on Thursday 9/5 away and competes in a tournament on Friday 9/6 and Saturday 9/7
- **Swim and Dive** face Osceola HS at Shorecrest on Wednesday 9/4
- **Boys Golf** faces Lakewood HS and Largo HS on Tuesday 9/3 at Wentworth Country Club
- **Girls Golf** faces Countryside HS, Clearwater HS, and Palm Harbor University HS at Wentworth Country Club on Thursday 9/5
- **JV Football** faces Tarpon Springs HS away on Wednesday 9/4
- **Boys and Girls Bowling** faces Tarpon Springs HS at Dunedin Lanes on Thursday 9/5
- **Varsity Football** faces St. Pete HS at home on Friday 9/6

As a quick reminder, schools will not be open tomorrow, Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, in observance of Labor Day. We will see students back at East Lake High School on Tuesday!

### **Upcoming Testing (FAST PM1 and Concordant Score Testing)**

Starting the week of September 9th, we will conduct several assessments throughout September and October, beginning with the FAST ELA PM1 assessment. This is the first of three assessments that 9th and 10th grade students will take this school year on the FAST, and it is crucial that students put forth their best effort, as this assessment sets the tone for the year. All 9th graders will take the assessment on Tuesday, September 10th, and 10th graders will take it on Thursday, September 12th. The FAST PM1 assessment is adaptive, meaning the questions will become more challenging as students answer correctly. Therefore, students should not guess and flag questions to return to later. It is important that they carefully consider each question and provide their best answer before moving on.

Students will start the assessment at the level where they left off last school year. For example, if a student earned a passing score of a 3 last year, their questions will start at level 3; if they had a score of a low 2, their questions will start at that level. This system applies to all PM assessments (PM1, PM2, PM3). It is essential for students to perform well on PM1 so that their starting point for PM2 is not low as a result of not taking PM1 seriously. We want to accurately measure their growth throughout the year on PM2 and PM3, and we don't want them to face an unnecessary challenge due to not taking PM1 seriously.

Attached you'll also find some reminders on the test strategies taught last school year and sent out in many callouts. Please go over these strategies with your students throughout the year, but especially before September 10<sup>th</sup> and September 12<sup>th</sup> testing. We'll begin sharing testing locations with students in English classes this week, but we will also post testing locators near Student Services near the end of the week. Testing will occur mostly in the Media Center and in upstairs building 3.

- <https://www.pcsb.org/cms/lib/FL01903687/Centricity/Domain/110/EaglesSOARontheFAST.png>

**ELHS EAGLES SOAR ON THE FAST**  
Test Taking Strategies and Tips

**What do I do if I don't know the answer right away?**

- 1 Stop. Breathe. Relax.**  
Remember that you have plenty of time to take your test. Don't get worked up and take a moment to collect your thoughts.  
**TAKE A DEEP BREATH**
- 2 It's not a crime to take your time.**  
If you need to, you have the WHOLE DAY to complete your assessment. Don't rush.
- 3 Use your resources.**  
Refer to the text and use the reading strategies you've learned to annotate and take notes. Use your calculator, periodic table, reference sheet, or blank paper. Brain dump!

**What will happen if I flag and skip a question?**

- 1 The test is adaptive.**  
All questions need to be answered in order for the test to determine your correct level.
- 2 If you skip, you'll take a dip.**  
Skipping or flagging a question will count it as wrong, making your test lower your question track.
- 3 Answer every question in order.**  
You need to take your time and answer every question in order don't skip or flag a question.

**How can I prepare for the FAST on my own?**

- 1 Practice Brain Dumps.**  
For every unit of study in your classes, jot down notes of the most important terms, concepts, names, dates, formulas, etc. Remember, you get a planning sheet for all of your tests—USE IT!
- 2 Read, read, read!**  
The more you read for a purpose, the more confident and comfortable you'll feel taking the test.
- 3 Ask for help & study.**  
Ask your teachers, counselors, administrators, parents, or any other adult to help you understand concepts you're struggling with! Take time to study your notes and prepare ahead of the test.

For Juniors and Seniors requiring a concordant score in one or both of the testing graduation requirements (10<sup>th</sup> FAST ELA PM3 and/or Algebra 1 EOC), we'll have multiple testing opportunities to meet that requirement starting the week of September 16<sup>th</sup> through October, including FAST ELA PM3 retakes, Algebra 1 EOC retakes, the CLT, SAT and PSAT, along with the ACT NCR.

### College and Career Center

The College and Career Center is open! Contact Ms. Gallaty, [gallatyn@pcsb.org](mailto:gallatyn@pcsb.org) or visit our virtual [resource center](#) for help planning for life after high school. Whether it's college, career or military we have resources to help.

Additionally, there are some internship opportunities available to students. If interested, check out the next hyperlink: [Tampa Bay Engineering Internship Alliance Internship Mixer](#).

Does your child need Bright Futures hours? Below you'll find information on two separate upcoming events available to students for volunteer opportunities. Please see Ms. Gallaty for ideas on additional options to meet the 100-hour requirement for Bright Futures.

- [Horses for Handicapped Foundation of Pinellas County](#) – please also see the attachment.
- **Innisbrook Golf Resort Cars & Coffee Show:** Saturday, November 9th and students here from 6:30am – 12:30pm. Contact John Schroeder [jschroeder@innisbrookresort.com](mailto:jschroeder@innisbrookresort.com) for more information.

For more information on Bright Futures, please visit our website or reach out to Ms. Gallaty!

## Additional Reminders:

- **Anonymous Reporting**
  - As most of you are aware, Pinellas County Schools has partnered with Sandy Hook Promise which allows us to offer the Say Something Anonymous Reporting System. This allows stakeholders to submit a secure and anonymous safety concern that helps us identify and intervene in a proactive way. Please remind your student(s) that this is in place to assist with addressing a concern and also a way for someone get any help that may be needed – tips are passed along to appropriate law enforcement and school personnel. FortifyFL is also another reporting system that is available to report suspicious activity which allows Florida students and the community to relay any safety concerns. Both links can be found below.
  - Say Something Tips <https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/say-something-tips/>
  - FortifyFL <https://getfortifyfl.com/>
  
- **ELHS PTSA**
  - The ELHS PTSA would like to thank everyone that came to the meeting on Tuesday! We will be posting meeting information on the school website under the Get Involved/PTSA tab – come check it out! Next week we will begin our Membership Drive from August 19<sup>th</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup>. We will be giving some comp tickets to an ELHS home football game this season. This will go to one family that has already signed up for the PTSA this year and another family that signs up during the Membership Drive! Please help us meet our goal of 300 members this year. The PTSA’s annual budget is using this number to meet their support proposals but would love to exceed that. Also, if you are considering becoming a family or business sponsor, there’s also an opportunity to join our sponsorship tiers listed on our membership site, see the link below. Additionally, you can buy spirit wear on the site below to support our PTSA and rep the school!
    - [ELHSPTSA.givebacks.com](https://ELHSPTSA.givebacks.com)
    - <https://east-lake-high-school-class-of-gear.itemorder.com>
  
- **Student Expectation Reminders**
  - We will continue to focus on Powering Up Learning to assist with removing the distractions of cellphones and headphones throughout the year. To learn more, see the links below:
    - <https://tinyurl.com/w59wevby>
    - <https://www.pcsb.org/PowerUp>
  - Please continue to review the ELHS and PCS dress code with your students. We do expect that all students are in dress code each day. For more details on the dress code, please use the link below:
    - <https://www.pcsb.org/dresscode>
  - We want every student to have an amazing high school experience and be involved in any and all of the extracurricular activities that we have on campus, but some discipline infractions could get in the way of that. Any major offense including infractions like vaping, use or possession of an illegal substance, fighting, etc. will result in your student not being able to participate in certain after school events, including homecoming, prom, etc. Multiple repeat referrals may also result in a loss of that privilege at all. Please make sure to review this with your student as well.
  
- **College and Career Center**
  - The College and Career Center is open! Contact Ms. Gallaty, [gallatyn@pcsb.org](mailto:gallatyn@pcsb.org) or visit our [virtual resource center](#) for help planning for life after high school. Whether it's college, career or military we have resources to help.

- **National Honor Society Application**
  - The National Honor Society Application is now open for NEW members, and QR codes are posted around campus! Returning members do NOT need to reapply. If your student is an 11th or 12th grader with a 3.5 GPA or higher and a clean discipline record, they are eligible to apply for membership in the National Honor Society. If accepted, members will need to complete 10 service hours per semester, including in-person hour requirements, and pay dues of \$20 for each year of membership. There will be an informational meeting on Tuesday, September 10th after school in the media center to learn more. Students can also see Mrs. Munson in room 4222 or Mr. Eustace in room 3-222 with any questions. The application will remain open through Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- **Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society Application**
  - Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society applications are now open! Interested students must be a Junior or Senior with a 3.0 or higher in their Social Studies courses to apply. A link to the digital application can be found on the school website. Applications must be completed by Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. For any questions, please reach out to Mrs. Lee ([leeas@pcsb.org](mailto:leeas@pcsb.org)) or Mr. Rundle ([rundlee@pcsb.org](mailto:rundlee@pcsb.org)).
- **East Lake Theatre Program Fundraiser**
  - The theatre department will be running a fundraiser for the program through September 12<sup>th</sup> – use the QR code within the flyer or click the hyperlink!



- **East Lake Silver Sound Marching Band – DC Trip**
  - We're excited to announce that the East Lake Silver Sound Marching Band has been accepted to represent the State of Florida in the 2025 National Independence Day Parade in Washington D.C. There is still time to join our marching band, and the group is looking for piano players and dancers that want a way to get involved with one of our largest organizations on campus. See Mr. Black in the band room during lunch or after school to find out more or email him at [blacki@pcsb.org](mailto:blacki@pcsb.org).
- **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!
- **Chess Club**
  - Chess club will meet this Wednesday during A and B lunch in room 3-241.

- **Yearbook Sales**

- Please order your yearbook before our Back to School Sale is over. [www.yearbookordercenter.com/job/1232](http://www.yearbookordercenter.com/job/1232) or contact Mrs. Wall at [walln@pcsb.org](mailto:walln@pcsb.org) with any questions. She can also answer questions about senior portraits, senior dedication ads, and our upcoming picture day.

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Assistant Principal or Counselor. We look forward to the amazing year ahead! Always remember that Life is Better at the Lake where we SOAR together – have an amazing rest of your weekend and GO EAGLES!

Dan Schmittiel, Principal  
East Lake High School  
[schmittield@pcsb.org](mailto:schmittield@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.*