

Core Values

- Commitment to Children, Families, and the Community
- Respectful and Caring Relationships
- Cultural Competence
- Integrity
- Responsibility
- Connectedness

Study Skills

AVID Program
Tutorial Process
Focused Notetaking
Interactive Notebook
Writing Questions
Developing Learning Goals
Critical Reading
Text Marking
Organizing Materials

Guidelines for Success

Be Safe
Be Organized
Be Accountable
Be Respectful

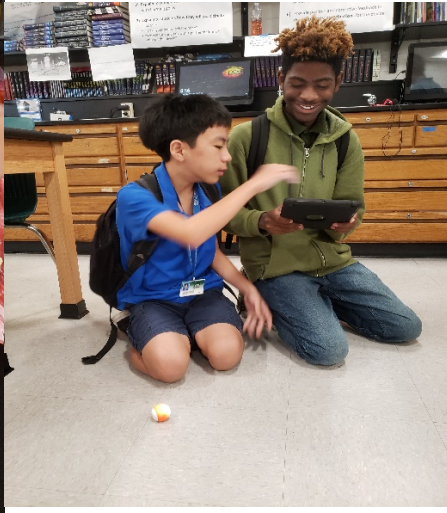
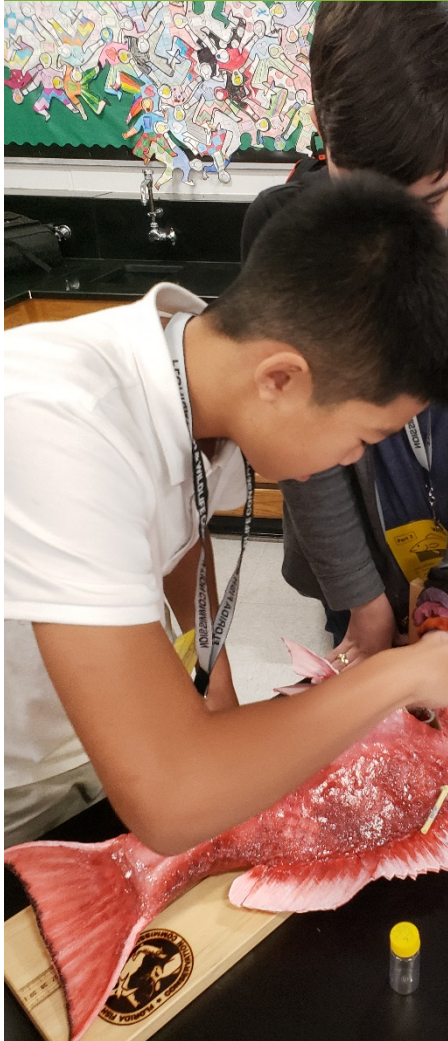
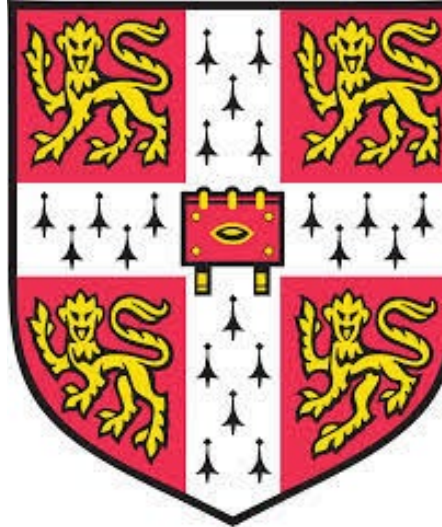
PPMS

Science



Pre-AICE

The Cambridge secondary curriculum is an internationally recognized program of advanced studies administered and assessed by the University of Cambridge. The Pre-AICE program at PPMS engages students in rigorous, inquiry based, hands-on learning.



Pinellas Park Middle

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Cambridge

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Advanced Science

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<https://www.pcsb.org/ppms>

Canvas

Students can access Canvas and Focus to monitor their grades and find learning activities. These activities are great for students who miss a class. They are also a good way to practice topics that are difficult.

Science Options

Advanced Science

- Dives into deep curriculum

Accelerated Science

- 6-8 curriculum compressed into 2 years.

Honors Science

- High School Credit Course

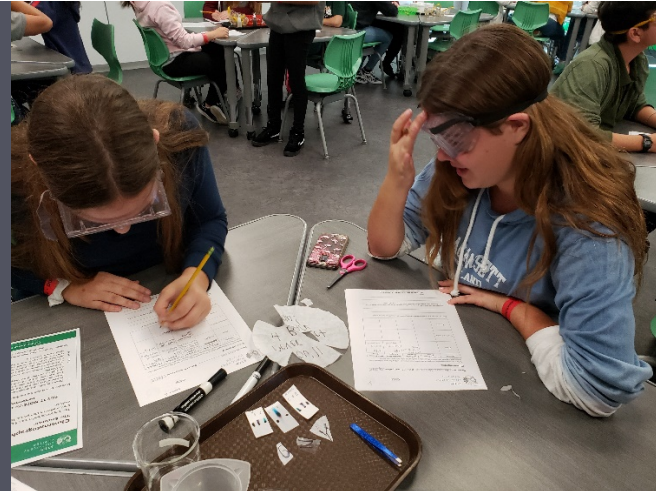
STEM Explorers Club

PPMS hosts a STEM Explorers Club where students focus on Environmental Engineering. Students also get a chance to work on robotics, coding, and engineering here at Pinellas Park Middle each week. Students build and code robots like the EV3, Ultimate, and Sphero.



Science Fair

8th grade students participate in Science Fair. Students get the chance to try their hand at being a scientist. They follow the entire process from questioning, designing an experiment to presenting the results to our community. Outstanding students can present at the District and State fairs.

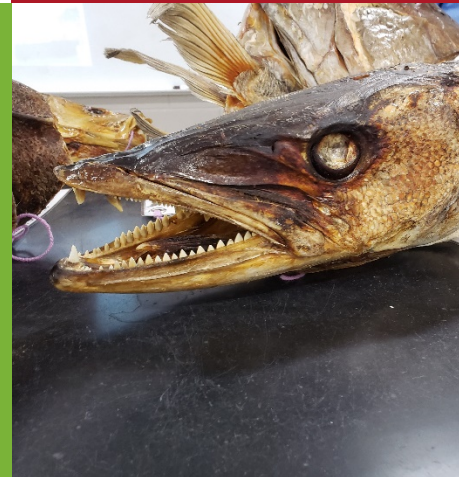


Educating students for college, career, and a global society.



Tutoring

We offer tutoring five days a week before school. Student can access the supports they need to be 100% successful in middle school.



HIGH INTENSITY STUDY SKILLS

1. Pre-Test

Practice answering questions about the content before you start studying it. Studies show this helps, even if you answer incorrectly. In class we use thinking probes and bell work to do this. Students can preview material on Canvas for future units. Students also have Unit Organizers with Unit Self-Test Questions that they can preview.

2. Spaced Practice

Space out practice sessions. Studying for a few short sessions on multiple days is more helpful than one long session. Creating flash cards and self-quizzing is an effective way to practice in short sessions. Students can create different piles of cards when practicing. Cards that are easily answered can go in one pile to be reviewed 3 days later. Difficult cards can be reviewed 2 days later and cards that are incorrectly answered should be reviewed the next day. StudyStack and Quizlet are two virtual resources for flashcards to augment the paper cards.

3. Self-Quizzing

Students should create questions they predict will be on the test. The notes in their notebooks are the answers, so they should work backwards as if they are the teacher. These questions can be placed on flash cards. In class we create questions from different levels of thinking after we create notes. Students also have questions on their Unit Organizers they can use to practice the information they are learning.

4. Interleaving Practice

This means mix up learning. Take all your flash cards and practice questions from different units mixing them up. If you only practice in one order your brain only remembers with those cues. You need to practice in different orders, so your brain can recall the information with different cues. Make it a game, if you increase your number of correct answers give yourself a reward, like watching a 5-minute YouTube video, or playing a short game.

5. Paraphrasing & Reflecting

This can be done after reading each paragraph or after taking notes. Use an intentional strategy to make sure you are connecting with the information. Relate information in each paragraph to prior knowledge. Write an explanation of the content that a 5-year old would understand. Reflect on the content, ask questions about the content. In class we write summaries of our notes a day or two after taking the notes. This helps review and process the information in a meaningful way. Students also write reflections on the content and the process of learning.