



Welcome Back!

Welcome back everyone! We have many exciting things happening this year. We have had some changes. AMI kids, Center for Personal Growth has moved. They are now located at 3101 Gulf Blvd. in St. Pete Beach. We have added some new personnel to our staff . Welcome to our new personnel— Derrick Dickey, an ESE Associate at Charles Britt Academy, Darlene Smith a Literacy Staff Developer for all our sites, Nicholas Turner a math teacher for the Graduation Enhancement Program, Kenesha Hollis , a paraprofessional at N. Greenwood Aquatic Center, Ekresha Thompson a paraprofessional at the Pinellas County Jail and Angela Murphy, secretary/bookkeeper at the EAS Office.

TEACHER COMPLIANCE

Our outstanding teachers are dedicated to our students and to the goal of having them reach their highest level of academic achievement. Our teachers are all certified by the state of Florida and are qualified to teach the core academic subjects they are assigned. In addition, they attend professional development designed to keep them current with the best strategies to help our students achieve.

Initial teacher selection and on-going determination of class assignments is a challenging process. It often becomes necessary to assign a teacher to instruct a course / subject for which he / she is not currently certified.

These decisions are made with consideration to teacher competence and with a continual commitment to highest student achievement.

The following teachers are in the process of meeting the compliance standards for No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

Charles Britt Academy

Ladarius Halton—Reading Endorsement

ALPHA, N. Greenwood Aquatic, Operation PAR

Nancy Miritello –ESOL Endorsement

Juvenile Detention Center

Claudia Pettee—Reading Endorsement

Derek Sanders– ESOL Endorsement



EAS, Lighting the way to success!

PTC Clearwater – Child care and health teacher

Stacey Sgroi—ESOL Endorsement

Mary Pat Troy—ESOL Endorsement

We are confident that these teachers will provide effective instruction in a safe learning environment to all of their students.

Teachers assigned out-of-field are chosen carefully, given additional district support and are expected to work toward appropriate certification in a timely manner. Our teachers and staff work diligently to meet the needs of every student in our school. Your continued support of your child's education is appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 727-588-6069.

UPCOMING DATES

November 23-24 –12 month staff on duty (all students and other employees off)

November 25-27—Thanksgiving holiday for all students and all personnel

December 21-January 1– Winter holidays for all personnel and students

January 4— All employees return except bus drivers. Trade Day option for 10 month & 11.5 month instructional personnel.

January 5– Classes resume for all students

January 18—Martin Luther King Jr Day holiday for all personnel and students



EAS SITES

- ALPHA @ BLANTON ES
- CHARLES BRITT ACADEMY
- ECKERD E-NINI-HASSEE
- ECKERD YOUTH CHALLENGE
- JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER
- NORTH GREENWOOD RECREATION & AQUATIC CENTER
- OPERATION PAR
- PACE, CENTER FOR GIRLS
- PINELLAS COUNTY JAIL
- EAS SERVICES**
- HEAT TEAM
- TEEN PARENTING
- TEEN PARENT CHILDCARE
- TITLE I
- TITLE X

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is very important for all students. Not only will students increase their likelihood of graduation, but funding for the district is based on student attendance. Attendance is required daily. If a student is absent the parents should send written notification of the reason for absence when their child returns to school. Please help ensure your child's success by making sure they are attending school.

ANNUAL EMPLOYEE BENEFIT ENROLLMENT IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

During the timeframe of **October 14th, 2015 – October 26, 2015**, employees may enroll, change, or cancel their annual benefit elections. The 2016 Annual Enrollment newsletter outlining the benefit and deduction changes will be available the week of October 12th, both online and delivered to your worksites. Please watch for this important information. Further questions regarding benefits and annual enrollment may be directed to the benefits team, 588-6197.

REPORT CARDS

In order to assure uniformity of dates for distribution of report cards for the school year 2015-2016, please distribute according to the schedule below. Alternative education students and exceptional education students will follow the schedule below for their grade levels.

<u>ELEMENTARY (Grades K-5) STUDENTS</u>		
Mid Period Report (for those students needing a mid-term report- see note below)	End of Report Period	Report Cards Distributed
Friday, September 18, 2015	Friday, October 16, 2015	Wednesday, October 28, 2015
Notify Parents of Potential Retention by Friday, February 19, 2016		
Monday, November 16, 2015	Tuesday, January 5, 2016	Wednesday, January 13, 2016
Monday, February 8, 2016	Friday, March 11, 2016	Wednesday, March 30, 2016
Wednesday, April 27, 2016	Tuesday, June 7, 2016	Tuesday, June 7, 2016
Note: Mid-Term Progress Reports in elementary schools are distributed to students who have a current grade of N, U, D, or F at mid-term, and to students who had an N, U, D, or F on the previous report card. Some schools choose to send Mid-Term Progress Reports to all students. Midterm grades are not entered into Focus.		
<u>SECONDARY (GRADES 6-12) STUDENTS</u>		
Mid Period Report (for those students needing a mid-term report- see note below)	End of Report Period	Report Cards Distributed No Later Than:
Friday, September 18, 2015	Friday, October 16, 2015	Wednesday, October 28, 2015
Monday, November 16, 2015	Tuesday, January 5, 2016	Wednesday, January 13, 2016
Monday, February 8, 2016	Friday, March 11, 2016	Wednesday, March 30, 2016
Wednesday, April 27, 2016	Tuesday, June 7, 2016	Wednesday, June 15, 2016
Note: Mid-Term Progress Reports in elementary schools are distributed to students who have a current grade of N, U, D, or F at mid-term, and to students who had an N, U, D, or F on the previous report card. Mid-Term Progress reports are distributed to high school and middle school student who have a current grade of D or F. Some schools choose to send Mid-Term Progress Reports to all students. Midterm grades are not entered into Focus.		

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



Upcoming Test Dates

The **American College Test** and **The Scholastic Aptitude Test** are the two major college entrance exams. Qualifying scores may also be used to meet state diploma requirements. Registration materials for each of these tests are available in the school counseling office. Seniors should sign up **immediately** for the next available test date. Recommended dates for juniors are April, May and June 2016.

ACT		SAT	
Test Dates	Registration	Test Dates	Registration
October 24	Late fee	November 7	October 9
December 12	November 6	December 5	November 5
February 6	January 8	January 23	December 28
April 9	March 4	March 5	February 5
June 11	May 6	May 7	April 8
		June 4	May 5

You may also register for these tests over the telephone or **online** using a credit card as payment; the websites are:

A.C.T. www.act.org 1-800-525-6926
 S.A.T. www.collegeboard.com 1-800-728-7267

Florida Statewide Assessment Program – semester one

Students are required to earn passing scores on these assessments in order to meet this diploma requirement. Concordant ACT, SAT, and PERT test scores may be used as well.

FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake (for students entering grade 9 in 2012 or earlier)

Oct. 12 – 23

NGSSS End of Course Assessments - semester one

Oct. 12 – 23 - Algebra 1 – Biology – U.S. History – Civics

FSA End of Course assessments - semester one

Nov. 30 – Dec. 18 - Algebra 1 – Geometry – Algebra 2

English Language Arts grade 10 Retake

Oct. 12 – 23 - (students entering grade 9 in 2013 and beyond) – **semester one**

District Financial Aid Seminars – 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. for all dates

Oct. 1 Dixie Hollins HS	Oct. 20 Clearwater HS
Oct. 6 Pinellas Park HS	Oct. 22 Seminole HS
Oct. 13 Lakewood HS	Oct. 27 Dunedin HS
Oct. 15 East Lake HS	Oct. 29 St. Petersburg HS

Students must be in attendance during the week of Oct. 12 – 16 as this is the time frame the state determines the number of students enrolled and attending school for funding purposes.

INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION

C-Tech is a new program that will allow our students to earn industry certification in Copper Cabling, Telecommunications, Fiber Optics, and Audio Visual (home theater). Students will be able to use these certifications in a very high needs job market. All of the certifications are aligned with STEM objectives. C-Tech graduates will be able to seek employment with many of the cable companies, new construction projects, and sub-contractors. We are hopeful that our students in our DJJ facilities will be starting within the next month.

PSAT TEST – OCT. 14

This is a practice test intended to help prepare a student to take a college admissions test, and also to give students, parents, and teachers an idea of which students could and should take advanced placement level courses. The school district provides this test free of charge for all 10th grade students. 9th and 11th grade students may sign up take the test but will have to pay the registration fee (fee waivers are available for those who qualify). 11th grade students who take the PSAT will be considered for the National Merit Scholarship, and also may receive information from colleges and other educational institutions based upon the student's profile and test score.

EDUCATIONAL ALTERNATIVE SERVICES

Educational Alternative Services (EAS) provides services to a variety of schools. We serve students in the Juvenile Justice Programs, students struggling in academics, course and credit recovery to assist students in graduation. We also offer assistance to families in transition, teen parents and childcare.

We are always working to achieve student success. We offer online and classroom instruction to students during and afterschool options.

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Educational Alternative Services

301 4th Street Sw
Largo, FL 33770

Phone: 727-588-6069

Fax: 727-588-6109

Website:

<http://pcsb.org/Domain/164>

Director: Michelle Topping
Administrator: Althea Hudson
Administrator: Eric McManus



TEEN PARENTING CORNER

Another positive start to a new school year for the teen parent students of Pinellas County. This year 66% of last year's teen parent population have returned to their schools with a common goal of being a high school graduate, 28% of the students are new to teen parenting, and at least 8 young moms have made a commitment to return to school and graduate.

Last school year 2014 - 2015, 86% of the 83 seniors graduated in June 2015. More than 200 teen parent children received services provided through the Educational Alternative Services Programs.

The goals of the Teen Parent Programs are to increase the number of teen parent students who remain in school and graduate, delay a subsequent pregnancy, and provide the ancillary services which remove the barriers to daily school attendance. Through the prolific, positive, and dedicated advocacy of the teen parent social workers and health services team and support of EAS, this school year is anticipated to be a productive year -100% success!

DJJ REVIEW

We are anxiously awaiting the career cruising to start the Career inventories, thank you for your patience. Please remember all DJJ sites need to have all students assessed on the DJJ common assessment for entry and exit – **this is the law** – not a choice. We have had some problems with testing – please make sure all students are assessed according to the testing timeline in STAR reading, math and Write to Learn. This year, Pinellas will have a site audit from the state in January. Remember Transition services and planning is a big initiative for the state. More to come about the audit and testing...

READING STRATEGIES SUPPORTS THAT PARENTS CAN DO AT HOME

Strategies for Novice Readers

Don't leave home without it

Bring along a book or magazine any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's office or for a long car ride. Always try to fit in reading.

Once is not enough

Encourage your child to re-read favorite books and poems. Re-reading helps children build fluency, speed, and accuracy.

Read with your child every day

This is possibly the most important point of all. Set aside a regular time each day to read with your child. It doesn't have to be for more than 15 minutes, but the benefits from setting aside a bit of time to read together can be amazing. Create a nook on the couch, bring along a few loved toys, cuddle up with a favorite book and, most importantly, have some fun. If you don't treat it as a chore, neither will your child.

Strategies for Decoding Readers

Create a book together

Fold pieces of paper in half and staple them to make a book. Ask your child to write sentences on each page and add his or her own illustrations.

Reading to others

Have your child read to someone younger; this sets a purpose for reading and encourages your child to read with expression in order to be understood by the listening audience. If a younger friend or sibling is not available, then your child can read into a tape recorder or perhaps to Grandma over the phone or on Skype or even to a dog!

Strategies for Fluent Readers

Look for clues

With your child, turn the chapter and heading titles into questions. Then, read the text for the answers. Also, skim graphs, charts, and pictures BEFORE reading to get clues about the text.

Use prediction strategies

Ask your child what he or she thinks is going to happen next in the story. You can do this at the end of each page, or at the end of a chapter for older readers.