2023 Spring Semester Retirement Memory Book
Dear 2023 Retirees,

On behalf of Pinellas County Schools, thank you for your dedication and service to our students and community. You have embodied our core values, and through your work, you have enriched the lives of countless students and families. Although you are retiring, please know that the impact you have made does not end. Teachers, and all Pinellas County Schools employees, touch lives in ways that carry on for generations to come.

Thank you for being an integral part of our Pinellas County Schools family. We wish you good health, happiness and great fulfillment in your next chapter. Congratulations.

Kevin Hendrick
Pinellas County Schools Superintendent
Dear 2023 Retirees,

On behalf of the Pinellas County school board, I would like to congratulate you on your retirement!

We are grateful for the hard work and incredible dedication that you have given to the students and families of Pinellas County Schools. Many thanks to the educators, support staff, and administrators who have given so much to contribute to the success of our students. When you look back, we hope you will see with pride what incredible achievements your steadfast commitment has helped to build.

We wish you a very happy retirement filled with joy and memories you will cherish forever.

Lisa Cane
Chairperson of the Pinellas County School Board
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Lisa Wittmann
Secretary Bookkeeper, 11 Years of Service
Cynthia Carbone
Secretary Area Superintendent, 33 Years of Service
Robert Stanley
Paraprofessional, 9 Years of Service
Dorene Brunetti
Food and Nutrition Assistant, 16 Years of Service

Shirley Feltz
Teacher, 7 Years of Service

Sue Godfroinon
Teacher, 24 Years of Service
Favorite memory at PCS: The best and most exciting thing about teaching kindergarten was teaching kids to read. I still get goosebumps when they "get it"!

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: Relaxing, kayaking, and spending more time with my family. Going to enjoy watching Sunday Night Football without worrying about having to go to work on Mondays!
Paula Milford
Teacher, 18 Years of Service

Ronald Motyka
Teacher, 47 Years of Service

Favorite memory at PCS: Teaching different grade levels during Summer Bridge. Before the pandemic, we took great field trips with our students. I especially enjoyed taking first graders to the Clearwater Aquarium.

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: I’m looking forward to not being on a time schedule and taking little trips.
Sandra Claxton
Teacher, 16 Years of Service
Bonnie Smith
Teacher, 23 Years of Service
Alysia Dillon
Teacher, 14 Years of Service

Favorite memory at PCS: My favorite memories are all the times I saw the light bulb turn on for my students when they learned something. I enjoyed working with so many students with diverse needs.

What I'm looking forward to during retirement: I have been working for my family's business on the administrative side. I plan to enjoy my 9 grandchildren and participate in their school events.
Lynda Anderson
Secretary Bookkeeper, 27 Years of Service

Debbie McConnaughey
Food and Nutrition Assistant, 9 Years of Service
What I’m looking forward to during retirement: Enjoying time with the grandkids.
Campbell Park ELEMENTARY

Scherris Diaz
Paraprofessional, 23 Years of Service
JoAnn Niles
Teacher, 33 Years of Service
Favorite memory at PCS: One of the best memories I would say is being nominated for Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers. The nomination comes from a student. I still don't know which student it was, but I was always hopeful that I made a positive impact on my student’s lives and the nomination was confirmation that I made a lasting impression.

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: I’m looking forward to relaxing and lots of traveling
Brenda Vlach
Administrator Adult High School, 37 Years of Service
Favorite memory at PCS: The Countywide Graduation Ceremony every year with grads from ages 16 to 80 participating. It is an awe inspiring experience.

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: Plan to be a "Sunbird" soaring between Wisconsin and Florida with the animals in a mini-van.
Ellen Flasphofer
Teacher, 23 Years of Service
Dawn Richmond
Medical-Behavioral Assistant, 32 Years of Service
**Kathy Wickett**  
Principal, 27 Years of Service  
Favorite memory at PCS: Working with such dedicated teachers and administrators at North Ward Elementary, McMullen Booth Elementary and Cross Bayou Elementary.

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: Spending time with my family, especially my grandsons!
Sarah Honey
Teacher, 9 Years of Service

Chris Ward
Night Foreman Elementary,
11 Years of Service
Lesley Cooper
Teacher, 28 Years of Service

Minnie Morand
Plant Operator, 22 Years of Service
Dixie Hollins
HIGH

Joseph Freshley
Teacher, 21 Years of Service

Scott Mason
Teacher, 37 Years of Service

Paula Roberts
Secretary IV, 35 Years of Service
**William Lewis**  
Night Foreman High, 42 Years of Service

**Garry Scheuer III**  
Teacher, 17 Years of Service  
*Favorite memory at PCS: Really valued, and miss now, the camaraderie among my teacher friends.*

*What I’m looking forward to during retirement: Spending more time with my wife, continue my love of learning- endless interests and skills to explore.*

**Chloe Schreiber**  
Teacher, 19 Years of Service
Kristo Bardhi
Plant Operator, 14 Years of Service
**East Lake HIGH**

**Linnea Williams**  
School Office Clerk II, 34 Years of Service

**Greg Rocktoff**  
Teacher, 39 Years of Service  
Favorite memory at PCS: The Video conference with my students and the Space Station. Lots more!

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: Keep moving.......catch waves, ride powder, expeditions and adventure with the family!

**Terri Yancey**  
Medical-Behavioral Assistant, 38 Years of Service  
Favorite memory at PCS: The fundraising that we did with our Best Buddies / ESE department and school to help abandoned or abused pets have a better life. And to help cancer victims through our Relay For Life events have a longer and better quality of life. We loved helping others.

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: Sleeping in past 5am every day and going on my first cruise "of many I hope" to Mexico. I also want to continue helping rescue animals find their loving FUR ever homes.
Karin (Catharina) Forrest
Teacher, 39 Years of Service

Favorite memory at PCS: My first and favorite memory is that I was hired by Bernice Johnson who called me at 8:00 am the morning when I arrived to Florida from New Jersey! I still had the UHAUL and mattress on the car when I met her for my early morning interview! Since then, my favorite memories are of all the students and staff I have enjoyed my many career days with! So much love!

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: My husband and I plan to do a lot of cruising and purchasing a RV to travel throughout the United States.
Mark Wardrum
Teacher, 18 Years of Service
Joanna Estell
Clerk Specialist II, 30 Years of Service
Michael Fisher
Plant Operator, 9 Years of Service
Margaret Gress
Teacher, 37 Years of Service
Favorite memory at PCS: All the great kids I taught! I love running into them when I am out and about in the community and catching up with them. It’s wonderful to have students remember me and all the life skills they learned in my classes.

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: Helping coordinate the Gibbs High School History Museum. Visiting my family, and finally getting to see the National Parks throughout our beautiful country.

Gregory Sumner
Head Plant Operator, 35 Years of Service
Scott Peters
Head Plant Operator, 11 Years of Service

Favorite memory at PCS: One favorite memory was created at the beginning of my career as Head Plant Operator at Gulf Beaches Elementary. The staff and I were preparing for the reopening of the school as "Gulf Beaches Elementary Magnet School - A Center for Innovation and Digital Learning". That was nine and a half years ago.

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: Riding my motorcycle.
Barbara Ina
Resource Teacher, 37 Years of Service
Favorite memory at PCS: I enjoyed reuniting with many former students when they visited...as parents. Connecting with countless, generous parent and business volunteers throughout the years was always fun and rewarding. I will always treasure the relationships I shared with my "work family".

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: I plan to play golf, travel, hang out with my dog and get up when I want to.
Beth Anderson
6-8 Reading Specialist, 16 Years of Service
Favorite memory at PCS: There is nothing better than running into a former student at a store or out in the community and getting a hug, a thank you and a glimpse of what you did or said to them and that it mattered.

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: I’m looking forward to time with my grandchildren, and getting my fill of pickleball and golf.

John Frank
Admin Professional Standards, 37 Years of Service
Dawn Handley
Employee Wellness Specialist, 15 Years of Service
Favorite memory at PCS: All the friendships and relationships that I have gained over the 15 years. I never thought I would be so fortunate to have an amazing work family.

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: Expanding my nonprofit, travel, enjoying friends and family.

Liz Pribble
Staff Developer, 30 Years of Service

Philip Sardin
Clerk Specialist I, 22 Years of Service
Jerry Williams
Medical-Behavioral Assistant, 9 Years of Service
Favorite memory at PCS: Working with special need students. I love being able to give the support they might not otherwise receive.

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: We have a small bungalow in Bali, and I spend on spending every available minute on the beach.
Patricia Brewer
School Counselor Adult Vocational, 37 Years of Service
Michael Collins
Teacher, 41 Years of Service

David Koehler
Teacher, 35 Years of Service
John Mundella
Night Foreman, 35 Years of Service
Donna Porterfield
Data Management Technician, 25 Years of Service
Maintenance
SERVICES

Paul Atkinson, JR
Air Compressor/Emergency Systems Technician, 36 Years of Service

Gary Bajkowsky
Electrician-Journeyman, 10 Years of Service

Roy Harris
Heating/Air Conditioning Mechanic - Journeyman, 35 Years of Service
**William Izzo, JR**
Air Compressor/Emergency Systems Technician,  
36 Years of Service

**Gary Merrill**
Maintenance Service Foreman,  
34 Years of Service

Favorite memory at PCS: Repairing football scoreboards on game day.

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: Continuing to repair pinball machines
Maintenance SERVICES

Steven Petrosky
Heating/Air Conditioning Mechanic - Journeyman
31 Years of Service

Susan Yandel
Clerk Specialist II, 39 Years of Service
Ann Gerakios Arfaras
Teacher, 35 Years of Service
Favorite memory at PCS: As the proud daughter of Steve Gerakios (teacher, 30 years, Clearwater High School) and Esther Gerakios (Media Services, 20 years, PCS Administration Building), carrying on my family's legacy in education in Pinellas County, for the past 35 years, has been the honor of a lifetime. Along with my sister, Maria Gerakios (teacher, 40 years Countryside High School), and my brother Manual Gerakios (Associate Professor, 19 years, and counting, at St. Petersburg College, T.S.), we are eager to continue to serve our community as advocates for the profession and all those who continue to devote their lives to it. And most importantly, my love to you Michael (Mechanical Engineer and possible future teacher) and Steven (teacher, 4 years and counting, Largo High School) for being such amazing sons and caring human beings. I am forever grateful to be your Mom.

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: Travel to the NC Mountains as often as possible, especially in the fall. Volunteer. Spend more time enjoying my beloved Clearwater Beach-the place where I grew up.
Meadowlawn
MIDDLE

Charles Matoka, JR
Paraprofessional, 14 Years of Service

Margaret Ross
Medical-Behavioral Assistant, 21 Years of Service

Effie Trihas
Teacher, 14 Years of Service
Mary Deoliveira
Assistant Principal, 34 Years of Service
Marie Brainard
Principal, 30 Years of Service

Lorraine King
Teacher Assistant, 22 Years of Service
Deborah Dyer
Teacher, 21 Years of Service

Patricia Mulholland
Teacher, 8 Years of Service
Lisa Cesta
Teacher, 14 Years of Service

Favorite memory at PCS: The memories that stand out are working in various schools with outstanding teachers and friends that I will cherish forever. The opportunity to teach Adaptive PE was an incredible experience!

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: I am looking forward to sleeping in, working out, finding Joy in every day, and going on new adventures!

Jennifer Sullivan
Teacher, 31 Years of Service
Larry Toebe
Head Plant Operator, 40 Years of Service
Cheryl Sleppy
Teacher, 20 Years of Service
Deborah Giovo
Family and Community Liaison, 15 Years of Service

Karen Moody
School Office Clerk II, 8 Years of Service
Joanne Scherer
Teacher, 33 Years of Service
Karen Tremblay
Food and Nutrition Manager IV, 32 Years of Service
Kim Thomson
Teacher, 30 Years of Service
Michael Hawkins
Police Sergeant, 9 Years of Service
Mary-Kay Cornell
Data Management Technician, 17 Years of Service
Favorite memory at PCS: I enjoyed working with amazing people in my school, FTE ladies, also the help desk, transportation crew and all DMT’s who are the best! I will miss you all but I’m so going to enjoy my well deserved retirement. Thanks to everyone who helped me get here.

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: Plan to travel with my 6 awesome grandchildren and 1 great grandson!

Theresa Damewood
Plant Operator, 35 Years of Service
Sharon Henry, RN, MM, MS
Nursing Instructor, 10 Years of Service
Favorite memory at PCS: Having former students who have been out in the field working as nurses coming back and thanking me.

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: More time for children/grandchildren and more time to work out with CrossFit.

Kathleen Robinson
Clerk Specialist II, 18 Years of Service
Robert Smith, JR
Plant Operator, 42 Years of Service

Arilee Still
School Counselor, 31 Years of Service

Brian Young
Teacher, 17 Years of Service
Frederick Friedman
Teacher, 12 Years of Service
Ponce De Leon
ELEMENTARY

Amany Akhnoukh
Food and Nutrition Assistant, 13 Years of Service

Lynne Moench
Teacher, 20 Years of Service
Barbara Frank
Secretary Bookkeeper, 24 Years of Service
Eartha L. Mims, EdD
School Counselor, 36 Years of Service
Marquetta Rich
Medical-Behavioral Assistant, 24 Years of Service
Lindsay Stacey
Social Worker, 17 Years of Service
Janice Monroe
Teacher, 29 Years of Service

Judith Powell
Campus Activities Monitor, 26 Years of Service

Cynthia Scarbrough
Night Foreman, 19 Years of Service
Seminole MIDDLE

**Darla Gatesman**  
School Counselor, 28 Years of Service

**James Hawblitzel**  
Head Plant Operator, 35 Years of Service

**Dolores Pastorino**  
Food and Nutrition Assistant, 7 Years of Service
Anna Patterson
Behavior Specialist, 35 Years of Service
Favorite memory at PCS: Making a book with my 1st grade class about Miz Granny, our 94-year-old classroom volunteer whom no one else wanted. Our book was selected for the traveling library and mentioned in a St. Petersburg Times article about Miz Granny and Pinellas County volunteers.

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: Spending time with friends and family
Frederick Nodine
Plant Operator, 12 Years of Service
Patricia Jones
Food and Nutrition Assistant, 11 Years of Service
Maryellen Silva
Registered Physical Therapy Assistant, 29 Years of Service
Specialized Services

**Patricia Byler**  
Teacher Speech Language Impaired, 34 Years of Service

**Jill Pfluke**  
Teacher Visually Impaired, 20 Years of Service
Mary Lou Derrickson
Secretary II, 27 Years of Service
Favorite memory at PCS: Attending graduations of all my students over the years... from school football fields to Tropicana, always a thrill to see my kids get their diplomas after years of hard work.

What I’m looking forward to during retirement: Sleeping in! High schools start early! Love to read, watch tv, do puzzles, hoping to eventually babysit a grandchild or two...

Dorothy Tran
Bilingual Assistant I, 33 Years of Service
Student Assignment
SERVICES

Juanita Tavarez
Clerk Specialist II, 20 Years of Service
Tarpon Springs
Elementary

Dorothy Freeman
Clerk Typist I, 14 Years of Service
Technology & Information
SERVICES

William F. Barnett Jr.
Technology Technician, 23 Years of Service
Favorite memory at PCS: Driving a school bus
What I’m looking forward to during retirement: Building a homestead on 10 acres in TN and growing/canning produce.

Claudia Claerhout-Saltz
Applications Administrator, 29 Years of Service

George Lewellen
Senior Application Specialist, 9 Years of Service
Transportation Services

Daphni Black Sermon
Bus Driver Relief, 30 Years of Service

Mary Daddario
Bus Driver Relief, 17 Years of Service

Janis Hoskins
Bus Driver, 24 Years of Service

Bryon Hunter
Bus Assistant, 9 Years of Service

Kathleen Johnson
Bus Assistant, 32 Years of Service
Paul Leyendecker
Bus Driver Relief, 19 Years of Service

Joel Smith III
Bus Driver, 13 Years of Service
Patricia Thompson
Food and Nutrition Assistant, 21 Years of Service
Warehousing
SERVICES

Isuf Llupa
Stock Clerk, 11 Years of Service
Westgate ELEMENTARY

Barbara Philie
Food and Nutrition Manager II, 10 Years of Service

Smiljka Martinovic
Plant Operator, 18 Years of Service
Congratulations on Your Retirement
For all your hard work
for all the support,
and help you have given
others, may all your years
ahead be filled with the rich
rewards of joy and fulfillment
you so greatly deserve
and have so fully earned.

Meerabai Madam