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○ ISSUE | ○ Summer | ○ 2017

ExCEL



Summer of 2017 is here and we are already preparing for school to start on Thursday, August 10. Before we look to the future, let us review what has happened at Largo HS and ExCEL this past year.

The first thing that comes to mind is our new guidance counselor, Samantha Fitzjarrald, who started in February as a temporary counselor replacing Shelley Steele who left in December. Samantha has turned into a big asset to the program as she is proactive, efficient and organized. You may reach her at fitzjarralds@pcsb.org or call our office at 588-4622.

Our ExCEL 2017 graduates have set a new record for the highest number of students graduating with honors and distinction—**80%**! We are also proud of our school and program salutatorian, Suraj Baldeo.

In the final review of the year, our new school—pretty amazing. It is inviting and attractive—visitors compliment the campus and our students.

This fall we have a full freshman class—the first time in program history (1993). It also looks like we will be filling sophomore openings with new students too which will finally fill that class as well.

Largo High School

Student Hours 7:05 to 1:35

Office Hours 6:30 to 3:00*

*not every department is open

**Student morning drop-off
 no later than 6:55 a.m.**



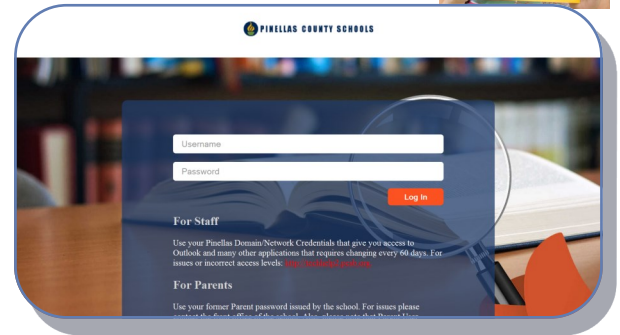
Focus—Parent's best friend

Focus provides parents and students with real-time updates on grades, attendance and communication with teachers. To log-in, go to:

<http://focus.pcsb.org>

Parents should see their child or children's records. Parents who don't see a current schedule or student name should call Ms. Howard to have their child's records attached to their account. Click the course or grade and the user will see the assignments and grades for those assignments. Click the box next to the teacher's name and you may email the teacher questions. If you are having issues with Focus, please contact Ms. Howard. Resetting your password normally resolves most issues.

Be connected at your finger tips



Khan Academy

It started as a project to help family with tutoring over a long distance. Salman Khan (who has 3 degrees from MIT) used the internet to post tutorials he created to demonstrate the topic he was teaching. In 2006 Khan Academy was launched which offers online tutoring free to all.

The site consists of topic areas of school instruction from elementary to college level topics. It was recently expanded to offer financial planning to older adults too.

Select a topic discipline and subtopic area. For example, Chemistry, covalent bonds. Users will select the subtopic and watch a brief video followed by a short test of comprehension. If the user doesn't understand, another video is presented.

This remote tutoring program enables students to get help from the finest teaching professionals at any hour of the day or night.

Bookmark the site in your favorites. It is one of many useful online tools available on the web. See Largo High School's home page for more useful sites, school information and calendar of activities.

www.khanacademy.org

www.largo-hs.pcsb.org

Program Wish List Items:

- ☆ Gift cards to Publix, Walmart, Target, Winn Dixie, etc.
- ☆ Facial tissues
- ☆ Clorox/Lysol Wipes
- ☆ Hand sanitizer
- ☆ Loose-leaf paper or spiral bound notebooks for students-in-need
- ☆ Composition Books

School Supplies - Shopping List

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Flash Drive | 11. Pencils |
| 2. 3" Binder | 12. Graph Paper |
| 3. 1" Binders (need 3) | 13. Highlighters |
| 4. Scientific calculator (no cell phone calculator) | 14. White Glue |
| 5. 8 dividers for English binder | 15. Index Cards |
| 6. Pocketed folders | 16. Glue Sticks |
| 7. Blue & black ink pens | |
| 8. Colored markers | |
| 9. Construction Paper | |
| 10. Colored pencils | |





School Bus Transportation

Postcards will be mailed to all PCSB students who ride the bus. How does PCSB determine who will ride the bus? The system uses your registered address and your designated school to determine if you need transportation to school.

Students who live within 2 miles of Largo High School are considered within walking distance of LHS. Bus transportation is provided to all **magnet** and zoned students who live outside the 2 mile radius.

Please take a moment to review your address in Focus.

To change your address, go to the **Student Reservation** site (<http://reservation.pcsb.org>). Using your Focus password, you will be directed to a page which enables you to update your address. Please make sure to click "change address ONLY" otherwise you will be withdrawn from the magnet program and sent to your zoned school.

The process is not complete until you bring in two (2) proofs of address into your child's **current** school.

Proof of address may be a utility bill, lease agreement, or any service on your dwelling.

It takes approximately **10 days to change a bus route**. Once the proposed routes are complete, it is very difficult to have stops added or moved. Don't wait! Call Ms. Howard if you have questions or need assistance.

We anticipate having a copy of the routes just before August.

Two parent households which requires two bus stops? If you have a court order that has a 50/50 custody, we can provide two stops. Please send the following to the school:

1. 1st parent's proof of residency
2. 2nd parent's proof of residency
3. Complete court order of divorce including shared parenting addendum.



These documents will be sent to the legal department of transportation to evaluate and assign stops.

Student parking

Student parking at Largo High School is just \$5 for the year. Student are permitted to park in the last two rows of parking (closer to the roadway). To purchase a parking hang-tag, see Mrs. Brock at the front desk. Look on the Largo HS website for dates she will start selling hang-tags. All students parking on campus are **required** to purchase a hang-tag. www.largo-hs.pcsb.org



Parent Car Loop

Almost as fun as an amusement ride is Largo's parent car loop. This winding roadway is designed to accommodate those parents who loyally drop-off and pick-up their children.

Please remember that this drive is not to challenge your Indy skills or "beat" another driver to a prime spot. Students and faculty cross this drive and you don't earn points if you accidently hit one.

Parking lot rows are designed for people who

are parking. Please do not use these rows as an alternative drop-off/pick-up.

Finally, please drive slowly through the loop. If your child is late, driving faster is not the option for our campus. Parents should drop off **NO LATER** than 6:55 in order for your child to be seated for the "start" bell at 7:05.



Summer Reading

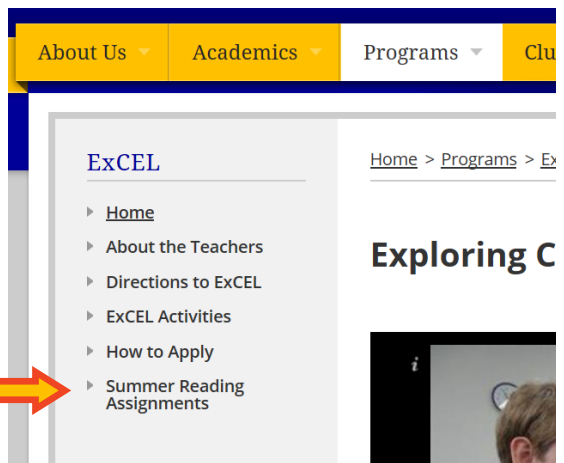
Honors and Advanced Placement courses have summer **REQUIRED**

READING. You will find a list of courses, books and assignments on our ExCEL web site. Look for **Summer Reading Assignments** on the left toolbar.

If you intend on borrowing the book from the library, go early as many use these services. If you are purchasing the book, look for used books available online. Many titles can be downloaded on a Kindle or other book reader.



Enjoy summer. Find a quiet place to read and reflect.



For all ExCEL magnet students and parents, your contact with the school is Ms. Howard, our magnet secretary.

Ms. Howard has been at Largo High School since 1989. She welcomes children of alumni with memories of their parents' high school "activities" and for a small bribe can forget those activities too. :)

Along with her many duties, she has the responsibility to record and update attendance for all ExCEL students. Please submit all documentation to her desk. To help her keep accurate records, please make sure your child's name is clearly on the documentation and a contact number is available too.

She is here to help parents, students and teachers. Have a question about policy, call her. Need to get a message to a teacher, call her. Need to print a class report, see her. Project due and you need ribbon to make it complete, she probably has a supply.

Unique to ExCEL is our email communication process. Ms. Howard sends out emails advising of school activities, deadlines, report card distributions and school news. "I send information on school dress-up days too

so parents won't wonder why their child is going through their closet for 80s attire or for that ugly Christmas sweater." Current parents compliment and comment on these emails as keeping them informed and **connected** to the school. "When students graduate, sometimes it's harder for me to say goodbye to the parents because we have developed a relationship over the four years."

For two parent households, the email service keeps both sets of parents informed on school activities without having to hear things second hand. Parents may submit up to three (3) email addresses for this service. Email your child's name and email addresses to Ms. Howard at:

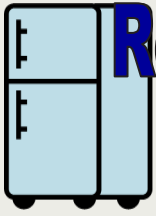
howardd@pcsb.org or (727) 588-4622



Important Notice

ATTENTION PARENTS!

We need your email addresses for communication from the program and school. We do not give these addresses out to anyone but ExCEL staff. Please take a moment now to email Ms. Howard your email address (up to three accounts). **howardd@pcsb.org**



Refrigerator Page

This handy page is designed for continued use.

2017 / 2018 LHS SCHOOL CALENDAR

Thr., Aug. 10 All schools open
Thurs., Aug. 24 Back-To-School Night (Open House)
Mon., Sept. 4 Labor Day Holiday - schools closed

Fri., Oct. 13 End of 1st Quarter

Mon., Oct. 16 ProEd Day - no school for students
Fri., Oct. 27 Report Card (1st Quarter)

Nov. 18—26 Thanksgiving Holidays

Dec. 19—22 1st Semester Exams

Fri., Dec. 22 End of 2nd Quarter/End of 1st Semester

Dec. 23 - Jan. 7, 2018 Winter Holidays

Mon., Jan. 8 ProEd Day - no school for students

----- SECOND SEMESTER BEGINS -----

Tues., Jan. 9 Schools reopen. Classes resume.

Mon., Jan. 15 M. L. King Holiday - schools closed

Fri., Jan. 19 Report Card (1st Semester/2nd Quarter)

Mon., Feb. 19 ProEd Day - no school for students

Fri., March 9 End of 3rd Quarter

Mon., March 12 ProEd Day - no school for students

Fri., March 23 Report Card (3rd Quarter)

March 24 - April 1 Spring Holidays - schools closed

Mon., April 2 ProEd Day - no school for students

Thur., May 24 Last day for students

Fri., June 1 Report Cards available

Just for ExCEL Magnet Students & their Parents:

- Report an absence
- Messages to magnet staff

Ms. Howard 588-4622

"Consider me your secretary here!"

Answered from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

or email: **howardd@pcsb.org**



If you have a Yahoo email account, please be advised that PCSB is blocking Yahoo from reaching our servers. Parents and students who would like to communicate with the school will need another email service to reach staff.

Yahoo is being blocked because their internet protocol will not filter out material that we, the school system, feels inappropriate for students to see. On several locations adult images and content were found on school servers through Yahoo. As a result the school system is taking the action of blocking Yahoo—which includes mail, messaging and internet pages.

Websites

Largo High School: www.largo-hs.pcsb.org

ExCEL's Web Site: www.excel.pcsb.org

Pinellas County Schools: www.pcsb.org

Focus: <http://focus.pcsb.org>

SSRPM: <https://sap.pinellas.k12.fl.us/ssrpm/Logon.asp>

(SSRPM is the automated password reset program, once you create an account YOU can reset or retrieve your lost password)



Exploring Careers & Education in Leadership (ExCEL)

Largo High School
410 Missouri Avenue
Largo, Florida 33770

Parents' "to-do" list



Here is a list of things parents should accomplish this summer.

- ◆ Register your email address with Ms. Howard at: **howardd@pcsb.org** so you are included in her email communication.

- ◆ Bookmark both the Largo High School web page and the ExCEL web page so you will have school updates.

www.largo-hs.pcsb.org

www.excel.pcsb.org

- ◆ Log onto Focus to see your child's records. If you don't see a child on your account, notify Ms. Howard so she can connect your Focus account to your child (and other children you have in Pinellas County public schools)
- ◆ Check the ExCEL web site for summer reading and assignment requirements.



Before you shop...

Each year we hear, "if I only had known I wouldn't have bought.." from a parent whose child is being challenged by our dress code.

On our web page, www.largo-hs.pcsb.org is a tab "About Us." Under this tab are the school policies—including dress code. Please review these policies BEFORE shopping for clothes.

