



Thunderbird Counseling Corner Newsletter

Welcome Back: Let's Fall into GREAT Habits !

Hello Thunderbird Family and Friends! Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! Can you believe it is August already? For our students, this year is an amazing opportunity to start fresh, build on goals, and continue to grow in their academic endeavors. It has been great to see the smiling faces of our new and



returning Thunderbirds.

It is our hope that each and every one of our students have a wonderful year where they are able to grow and shine into productive members of society.



The mission of the Counseling Department is to assist the administrative team and instructional staff with the goal of helping students at our school achieve maximum potential within the academic disciplines, while providing a world-class education


to students and ensuring that they have social interactions and college and career ready mindsets that have relevance to the real world. We are very excited to bring you these newsletters so that they may serve as a tool for your continued involvement in your student's education. We are hoping for an exciting year! In this newsletter, we will be discussing important dates for this Fall, ways to encourage your student, organizational skills and more! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your student's School Counselor!

Who's Who in Your Guidance Department?

Mr. Fletcher
6th Grade Counselor
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727-545-6400 ext 2013



Mrs. Norton
7th Grade Counselor
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727-545-6400 ext 2017



Ms. Sobo
8th Grade Counselor
sobo@pcsb.org
727-545-6400 ext 2023



How the Guidance Team Can Help...

- ◆ *Need Help with School Uniforms?* Contact us today about our on campus **Clothes Closet**, where we can get you uniforms, from Ms. Stubbs, our Intervention Teacher
- ◆ We schedule parent: teacher conferences
- ◆ We work with students in small groups, classroom guidance lessons, individually to help with social skills.
- ◆ Individualized scheduling options
- ◆ Referrals to outside services such as Clothes to Kids and Toys for Tots
- ◆ Help Celebrate Student Success

What to Look Out For!

- *Back to School Night:* Date/Time TBD in September
- *'Coffee With The Counselors':* A parent Workshop to focus on school success. October 28th @ *8:15-8:55am
- *Schedule Correction Request Period-* August 22nd-September 2nd
- *Recruitment for College Reach-Out Program (CROP) in AVID, Adv Science and Adv Math classes. First Week of September!*

'Falling Into the Habit of ORGANIZATION' by Mrs. Norton

Donna Goldberg, who wrote "The Organized Student" says that a student's ability to locate his or her class notes, bring home the right textbook, and complete and deliver an



assignment on time is just as vital to their school success as their ability to read or write. What this means is that for our

students, being organized is an important skill that our students must learn to be successful. Well, how does a student stay organized? Here at 'The Park', our students have 8 classes, which may that they can have up to 8 different teachers, 8 different classrooms, and/or 8 sets of class materials! AHHHH! How does a Thunderbird keep up? Here are some tips for your Thunder-

bird to stay on top of organization:

1. Keep an Organized Backpack. Everything in the backpack needs to be categorized by subject. There should be a designated place /'home' for everything. Check the backpack regularly, throwing out unneeded items.

2. Use the Pinellas Park agenda to write down assignments, important dates, upcoming tests, and homework. The agenda also has supplemental information for students such as the current dress code, US history information, the periodic Table of Elements, and even a place for teachers to mark students' progress.

3. Manage time wisely. Students should keep track of immediate deadlines, projects, calculate how much time they have to complete their work, and block out study time/homework completion time in

their schedule. For example, your Thunderbird should have a planned schedule for after school which designates time for chores, homework/studying, leisure, and preparation for the next day. The Thunderbird agenda will help with this as well.

4. An organized Thunderbird has an organized bedroom. Your student should have designated places for work and sleep. It is important that the bedroom is functional, and not necessarily neat!

5. Seek help when needed. Your grade level counselor is here to assist students who need more help with organizing. Contact your Counselor if your student needs more assistance.

Hoping that these tips can help your Thunderbird stay organized and successful this year. For more tips, read "The Organized Student" by Donna Goldberg.

'Moving to Middle School' by Mr. Fletcher

For most parents and caregivers, the middle school years can be the toughest challenge as a family. For some families, this is their first time having a child enter middle school. With only the elementary school experience, students and families are entering into unfamiliar territory with large class sizes, new peers, academic demands and developmental changes.

At Pinellas Park Middle School, we want the transition into middle school to be a collaboration between the school and the family. When



our families are more involved, empowered and knowledgeable about the transition, more success occurs. Research has

shown that the more involved a family is with

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The ways that parents can be involved in the transition into middle school:

- Agenda Planner - daily checking of your child's planner ensures that the student is responsible and organized with their classes
- Homework Help – Mentors and after school tutors are available
- Resources
- Stay Organized

Helpful online resource - <http://kidshealth.org/en/kids/middle-school.html>



Does your student need assistance to improve their core academic skills, needs additional tutoring, homework help, or needs to make up a Math, Social Studies, Language Arts or Science class they failed? You should sign your

child up for the Extended Learning Program (also known as ELP)

If your student signs up for ELP, they will get free dinner immediately after the program as well as the support they need to earn the best grades possible. There is also an ELP bus with limited stops that can help your child get home. If you are interested, please obtain an application from

the front office. Join now as space is limited! ELP bus **ONLY** stops at the following locations:

- ◆ Broderick Park
- ◆ Nina Harris
- ◆ Pinellas Park Elementary
- ◆ Lealman Innovative School
- ◆ Sheriff PAL and Dixie Hollins High

Ms. Sobo welcomes you to the “Top of The Flock!”

Hello Thunderbirds! Welcome to your 8th grade year! I hope you are ready to SOAR through this year as we prepare you to be successful high school students! My name is Ms. Sobo and I am your 8th grade counselor. I am really excited about this year and all the things we will accomplish together.

My goals for you all this year are to help you with your organization, goal setting, academic success and preparation to transition to high school. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns or questions. I am here to help you succeed and become the best you that you can be!

There will be many things to pay attention to this year as we you get ready to graduate from middle school

and move on to the next chapter of your life! Pinellas County offers many District Application Programs that you may be interested in. I will be providing you with all of the information about the programs, when to apply, how to apply, and what

you need to get in. Stay tuned for more information on that. I will also be helping you as you decide what classes will best suit you for high school. We will be working with our district on a program called “Career Cruising” to help you map out your future. I encourage you to stay up to date on all things 8th grade by joining my Remind message group. I will be sending out text message reminders of important dates and PPMS information. Text message the number “81010” with the message “@ka38e” to join the group.

We are so happy to have you here in our Thunderbird family. Let’s have an awesome year and SOAR to new heights!



The PPMS College Reach-Out Program is Looking for 6th and 7th Graders!!!

Did you know the PPMS offers the College Reach-Out Program (CROP)? Funded by St. Petersburg College, This program provides students on the college track with mentorship, workshops and trainings on college-readiness skills. CROP also provides college exposure, and other opportunities. For more information on how your student can join, contact Mrs. Norton!

CROP students receive:

- An assessment of their academic needs
- Workshops on study skills and test-taking strategies
- Instruction in math, reading comprehension and technology
- Academic and career counseling
- Training in cultural diversity and opportunities to attend cultural activities
- Referrals to appropriate school services for enhancing academic skill
- Field trips that expose students to college environments



Take Stock in Children Scholarship

Through the support of businesses, civic groups, a myriad of organizations and individuals who care enough to invest their resources in the future of our school children, the TSIC Scholarship Initiative, in partnership with Take Stock in Children, is giving low-income students the opportunity to work toward the attainable goal of a college educa-

tion. While TSIC provides those necessary college tuition funds, this comprehensive program offers so much more including mentors who provide inspiration and guidance and school-based ambassadors who monitor student progress and enhance student learning through enrichment activities.

To Nominate a student, contact Ms. Sobo or go to this link: <http://www.pinellaseducation.org/pcs-employees/take-stock-in-children-scholarship-program/nominate-a-student>

