

PALM HARBOR COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Pinellas County Schools contacts web: www.pcsb.org - Phone: (727)669-1140 PHCS Web: pcs.org/ph-cs

Greetings PHCS! A Message from the Administrator

Welcome to Palm Harbor Community School! We are your north Pinellas Adult Education specialist here to help you learn English, earn your High School Diploma through GED or Credit Recovery, and prepare for a smooth transition to college, career and the rest of your life! Palm Harbor Community School students come from all corners of the world and range in age from 16 to over 70 years. Such diversity creates a rich academic foundation for growth as individuals and as a community.

Each and every instructor at Palm Harbor Community School is dedicated to 100% student success and their enthusiasm shows in the classroom. Through innovative lessons, team-building activities, and regular celebrations of academic success our teachers provide a learning environment that fosters student growth and achievement.



This newsletter will provide stories from many of our teachers, highlighting exceptional students in their classrooms who contribute to the overall success of Palm Harbor Community School.

We offer classes in Oldsmar, Palm Harbor, and Tarpon Springs. Our classes run year-round, in the daytime and evening, to help you reach your goals. Register now for Term 3, April 2 - July 18!

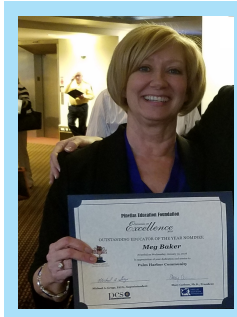
-Anne Januario, PHCS Administrator

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Awards All Around!



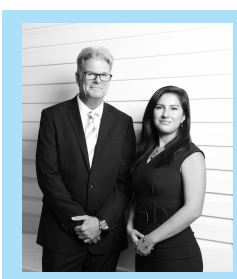
Tricia Baker-Sherman
2017 Project Prosper Empowerment Award



Meg Baker
PHCS 2018 Teacher of the Year



Nivin Farag
2017 PACTE Support Staff of the Year



Linesch Firm
PHCS 2018 Business Partner of the Year

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Palm Harbor Community

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This past year I have had more "mature" students enter my GED program. They bring dedication and determination to achieve their goal of mastering the skills they need to receive a high school diploma. Many work during the day and then come to class working tirelessly and carefully on the skills they need to master. They are patient and willing to follow through with many difficult tasks. They are students once again after many years of being mothers, fathers, workers etc. I admire them for their courage and perseverance. As their teacher I am very proud they are my students and that they trust me to guide them in their journey! Every student who walks through my door comes with unique circumstances. I like to call it baggage.



Marilyn Reid
GED Instructor

Some bags are much larger than others. Bradley was one of those students who came with a huge bag! Did he succeed in passing the GED? Yes, he did as he overcame those obstacles that stood in his way. It takes time and strength for all of us to achieve our goals.

PHCS ESOL - Featured Student



Karlton Ballard, ESOL instructor,
with student Nicole Rodriguez

Nicole Rodriguez is a young woman who came to the ESOL program from Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. She entered the beginner class knowing very little English. Since then, she has been an inspiration to her classmates and teachers. Nicole shared some insight into the devastation and pain that the people in Puerto Rico experienced during and after the deadly storm. She reports her family still does not have electric power. However, her parents do have running water now, but it is not drinkable.

During the first week of classes Nicole shared that she wanted to find a job. Her teacher, Karlton Ballard, encouraged her to speak English as much as possible and apply for jobs even though she was very frightened to interview. She quickly found a job at Marshalls. Then as her confidence grew she obtained another part time job at Walgreens. Currently, Nicole is taking online courses in Marketing through the Huertas College University in Caguas, Puerto Rico, working two part time jobs, and attending ESOL classes in the evening. Nicole has a contagious smile and a quiet determination to be successful and confront challenges. Your teachers are proud of you, Nicole!

Saint Petersburg College, Tarpon Springs



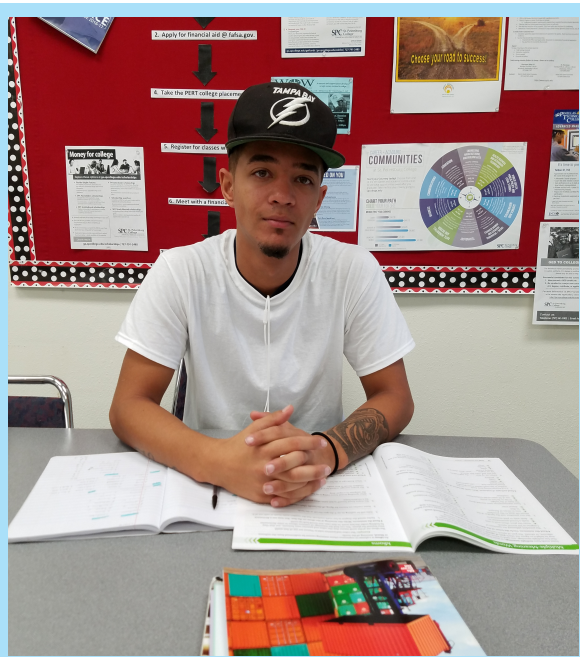
Our GED class is located in the Gamma building, room 423

Tarpon SPC GED students recently participated in an informative presentation about electrical and advanced manufacturing apprenticeships in the Tampa Bay area. Students learned that apprenticeships offer PAID hands-on training for high-wage, in-demand careers. Students also learned that both electrical and manufacturing fields are perfect for those who like to work with their hands and want a well-paying job. As we continue to learn more about the very different career pathways available in our community, we can make better-informed decisions about our post-secondary educational plans.

SPC GED - Featured Student



Meg Baker
GED Instructor

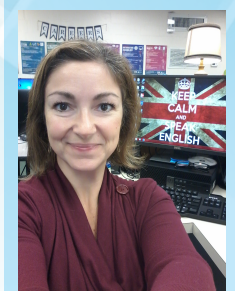


Javier, SPC GED student

When life doesn't turn out the way you planned, when stress and struggle are always there, it's easy to give up. Most people do. But not Javier.

While growing up, it was hard having to always move, and worry where your next meal would come from. There are many obstacles he still faces today, including having to ride his scooter over 12 miles to school and back every day on U.S. 19 - the deadliest road in the nation. Even torrential rains and blistering heat don't stop Javier! Perhaps it's because of these struggles that Javier has grown into a young man who is persistent in life and his studies! Javier is always interested in improving his academic skills. Even after completing a full prescription, he will study more. Javier also knows that learning can take time. Coupled with his patience and persistent attitude, Javier will go far!

Oldsmar English Academy



Tricia Baker-Sherman
ESOL Instructor

To accommodate growing class sizes in the Oldsmar ESOL program, we have acquired a new classroom in Building 4. This has allowed us to move one teacher and her students out of the very small breakout room (which could only hold 16 students) and into a full-size classroom that can accommodate 30+ students. This change has enabled us to expand our class offerings and ensure students are comfortable in their classroom environment.

Mario (pictured right) recently completed his tax preparation certification and was immediately offered a new job where he is currently completing QuickBooks training. He is excited to return to the accounting field, which was his profession in his native country of Venezuela. Mario and his wife Monica were forced to seek political asylum here in the United States and resuming his career (thanks to his improved English skills) has made him feel he is finally making up for lost time due to his immigration journey.



More from the Oldsmar Facility

I have begun to include mini-lessons regarding each of the 50 United States. In this week's lesson, we started with a KWL (what we know, what we want to know, and what we learn) graphic organizer and shared any information the students already knew about Alabama. They then split into teams and worked to complete state puzzles that contained symbols representing the capitals, landmarks, resources, and more. After completing the puzzles, the students wrote down information including bordering states and other facts.



Angela Faiola
ESOL Instructor

Another activity we do in class regards couponing. I teach my adult ESOL students how to save money and be thrifty. I have a PowerPoint that teaches couponing 101 to EXTREME couponing techniques. I have a coupon box where students can swap coupons they need putting in coupons they don't need but may be needed by others. Examples can be diapers for babies as well as pet food. Students enjoy this activity which takes up ten minutes but teaches an awareness to the many possibilities to save, and sometimes MAKE money!

As a teacher, I love to see students learn geography and the importance of globalization in our economy. I believe it is vital to understand the geography of past times and how that has played important roles in the evolution of people, their ideas, places, and environments. To visualize a mental map of the country we live in helps my students understand the "where" of events and sometimes also the many "whys" that caused historical immigration, as well as why some people today choose to move to different states.



Oldsmar Featured Student



Jennymir Calderone-Nieves

Positive Changes at Oldsmar Facility



Donna Gauthier
ABE/GED Instructor

A couple of wonderful changes have occurred in Oldsmar over the last year! An ABE class has been created to enhance reading and language skills for ESOL students. The influx of students from all over the globe has enriched the classroom experience for all students and provided a sense of community that benefits everyone. In addition, we now offer an online ABE/GED program where students who cannot attend a traditional class can still prepare for their high school diploma from home. The opportunity to provide educational support in the form of additional English skills and GED preparation to so many more students is extremely rewarding and helps me grow as an educator every day.

Each and every student has a unique and special story. One who is particularly inspiring is Jennymir, an ESOL student who enrolled in ABE class to improve her English Language skills. She recently relocated here from Puerto Rico, where she lost her home and possessions to Hurricane Irma. Despite this devastation, she arrives to class each morning with a big, beautiful smile that lights up the room. She is always optimistic and expresses how fortunate she is! Her resilience and courage are truly uplifting, and I feel so blessed to have an opportunity to know her and help her achieve her goals.



School volunteers are people just like you -- community members, parents, grandparents, students, business people and seniors -- who have discovered that spending time and sharing talents with adult students is an energizing and worthwhile experience. Being a school volunteer doesn't require any special skills -- you simply need to be yourself. As you share your time and talents, you can help change students' lives. community group. These partnerships have proven to be extremely beneficial to student success.

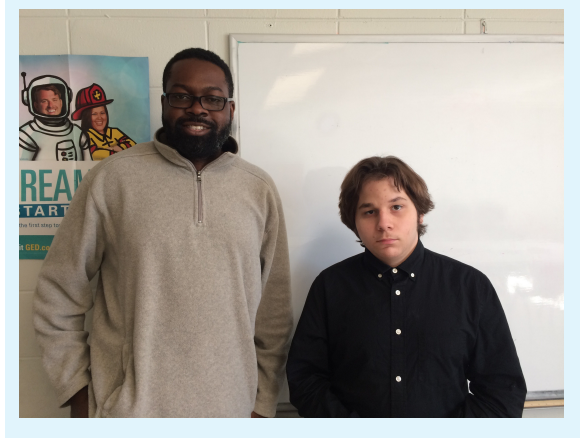
School business partnerships match community resources to identified needs of our school. In turn, our school provides resources to meet identified needs of a our partners. Business partners often contribute money, materials, time and expertise, and/or speak to classes about their business or organization.

For more information about becoming a Community School Volunteer or Business/Community Partner, please contact: Jayne Marino, Family & Community Relations Liaison @ 727-669-1131, ext. 2045.

Stories from the CAP Center



We have had 4 students achieve a total of 5 LCPs in the past month and a half. These tests also place two students at GED level in Language and Reading. Another student passed her 4th and final GED Ready exam in early January, and is ready to test. I believe that such successes enhance the classroom experience by increasing student morale and providing an impetus (impending graduation) to keep attending and working hard. As for me, seeing and being a part of my students' success (in life, not just testing) is the reason I come to work every morning.



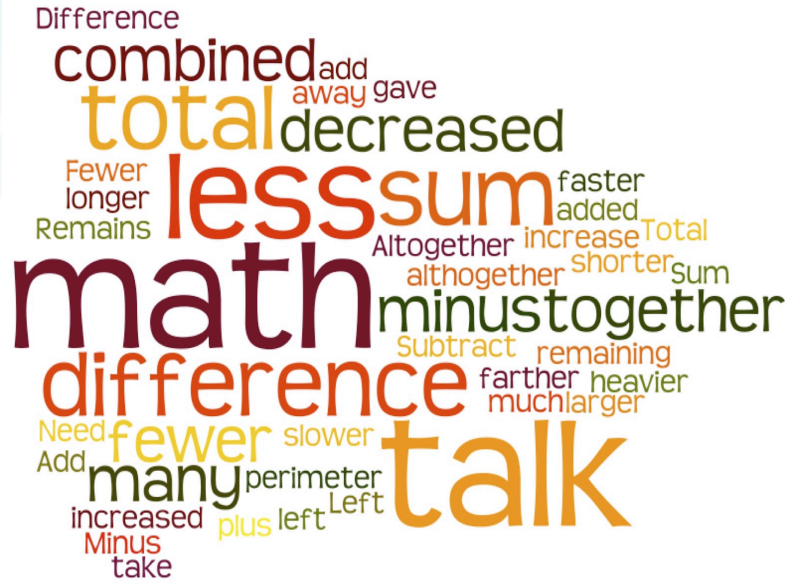
James Akintonde, GED instructor,
with student, **Tio Flores**

Despite being on the autism spectrum (not a disability!), having no real passion for math (he is a writer at heart) Tio has worked his way from E level to D level in only 1 year. He attends regularly, often asks to take work home, and continues to plug away at math, often despite repeated frustration. He is a true inspiration to me, and hopefully the other students as well.

Understanding the language of mathematics

Understanding mathematical word problems with ELL students (an excerpt)

Word problems in mathematics often pose a challenge because they require that students read and comprehend the text of the problem, identify the question that needs to be answered, and finally create and solve a numerical equation. Many ELLs may have difficulty reading and understanding the written content in a word problem. If a student is learning English as a second language, he might not yet know key terminology needed to solve the equation. In other words, ELLs who have had formal education in their home countries generally do not have mathematical difficulties; hence, their struggles begin when they encounter word problems in a second language that they have not yet mastered (Bernardo, 2005). For this reason it is recommended that students learn key terminology prior



to attempting to solve mathematical word problems. Once English language learners know the key terminology used in mathematical word problems, it will be easier to learn how to write numerical equations. It is important for teachers to provide ELLs with opportunities to learn and practice key vocabulary words. While key words are very important, they are only part of the process. Understanding the language in word problems is critical for all students.

They need to know the meaning of words. But because words are often used differently and problems are set up differently, there are some cautionary messages. Here is an example of a problem that uses "fewer than" to set up a subtraction equation. Maria has 24 marbles which is 8 fewer than Paolo has. How many marbles does Paolo have? If we were to only focus on using key words, "fewer than" is a signal to pick out the numbers and subtract. The student may immediately make the conclusion that the answer is 16, but that is not what the problem is asking, and the child would be wrong. (The correct answer, by the way, is 32). (<http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/reading-and-understanding-written-math-problems>)

Math Word Search













Find the words from the word box in the puzzle and circle them. Words can be forward, backward, diagonal, horizontal, vertical.

Word Box
subtraction
addition
multiplication
division
fraction
decimal
equals
percent
sum
difference
product
multiple
negative
positive
ratio
factor
number
degrees
angle
estimate

d	h	y	x	k	z	i	t	n	d	x	l	s	g	d	n	d	o	d	l	e	k	t	b	j	s
o	i	m	f	b	g	l	r	q	o	a	k	u	z	a	e	h	q	p	s	l	q	m	p	z	
d	h	f	n	t	k	w	k	w	x	i	v	m	g	i	o	g	m	g	u	d	i	u	b	d	v
c	e	q	f	v	d	i	v	i	s	i	o	n	z	q	b	f	r	k	w	u	v	t	a	h	m
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l	q	i	d	q	s	l	n	e	e	o	r	p	j	k	l	a	w	h	f	a	c	t	o	r	t
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t	y	u	s	u	b	t	r	a	c	t	i	o	n	v	w	z	d	l	r	g	r	x	u	k	a
i	c	y	s	j	s	i	h	v	d	r	o	k	n	l	r	y	j	z	f	d	o	p	g	v	t
o	x	c	d	l	m	y	m	u	l	t	i	p	l	e	w	m	a	a	d	n	d	q	h	g	i
n	c	l	i	g	j	i	t	b	b	l	j	t	s	f	x	v	s	b	f	r	u	e	u	v	v
o	i	h	g	l	k	g	a	h	w	h	y	s	f	r	a	c	t	i	o	n	c	a	m	l	e
e	l	g	n	a	s	m	k	a	d	n	s	y	u	d	i	f	e	u	f	b	t	n	o	z	x

Letter Logic

Find the correct letter for each clue to spell a six-letter word that you can eat.

- The first letter is in  but not  _____
- The second letter is in  but not  _____
- The third letter is in  but not  _____
- The fourth letter is in  but not  _____
- The fifth letter is in  but not  _____
- The last letter is in  but not  _____

Write your answer letters again to spell the name of something you can eat:

Encourage Achievement and Lifelong Learning

The mission of Palm Harbor Community School (PHCS) is to educate and prepare each student for college, career and life. PHCS's main office is located on the west side of the beautiful campus of Palm Harbor University High School at 1900 Omaha Street. Our school has been serving the educational needs of students age 16 and older in northern Pinellas County since 1996.

Need your diploma? PHCS offers high school diploma options through High School Credit Recovery and GED classes. Need to learn or improve your English skills? We also offer ESOL classes across northern Pinellas County.

PHCS Locations & Hours



Palm Harbor Community, 1900 Omaha St., Palm Harbor, FL 34583

ESOL Class (Monday -Thursday 4:00pm - 8:30pm)

GED Class (Monday - Thursday 5:30pm - 8:30pm)

Credit Recovery Class (Monday - Thursday 2:30pm - 4:30pm)



Oldsmar Facility, 400 Chestnut St., Oldsmar, FL 34677

GED Class (Monday - Friday 8:00am - 1:00pm)

ESOL Daytime Class (Monday - Friday 8:00am - 1:00pm)

ESOL Evening Class (Monday & Wednesday 3:30pm - 7:00pm)



CAP Center, 401 E. MLK Jr. Dr., Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

GED Class (Monday - Friday 9:30am - 1:30pm)



SPC Facility, 600 Klosterman Rd., Tarpon Springs, FL 34683

GED Daytime Class (Monday - Friday 8:00am - 2:00pm)

GED Evening Class (Monday - Thursday 5:00pm - 8:00pm)

Explore Pinellas Technical College!

Spring Open House 2018



**PINELLAS
TECHNICAL
COLLEGE**

Opportunity starts here



Technical College Education Night!

College enrollment is right around the corner. Get a head start on your future during our Spring Open House.

Your next step: join us on campus to explore how you can have a career in less than a year!

☀️ **FAFSA** ☀️ **Guidance** ☀️ **College 101** ☀️

- FAFSA informational sessions - get your financial aid questions answered.
- Meet with guidance counselors to discuss your desired program.
- Hear from current PTC students who can share their college experiences.
- College 101 – Managing time and coursework to be successful in the college setting.
- Get to know college instructors from our programs and tour the campus.

Get the training you need for the career you want!

For more information please contact us today.

St. Petersburg Campus

Tuesday, April 10th

5:30pm-7:00pm

901 34th St. S.,
St. Petersburg, FL 33711

Chris Blackwell
727-893-2500 ext. 2620

Clearwater Campus

Wednesday, April 11th

5:30pm-7:00pm

6100 154th Ave. N.,
Clearwater, FL 33760

Jenn Weaver
727-538-7167 ext. 2086

www.myptc.edu

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