

Welcome Panthers,

Parents and students I wanted to welcome you to Palm Harbor Middle School. We are excited to all of our students to return to school either in person or through our virtual MYPCS program.

Many of you have reached out regarding Panther Camp and Open house. Both of these events will be virtual this school year. Panther Camp virtual tour will be posted on our school website by 8/20 as well as our open house welcome videos will be posted by 8/21. At this time and through the first nine weeks we are not permitted to have any parents or visitors on campus so there will be no tours.

Students entering 7th grade must whether they are on campus or virtual need to have their shot records at our school prior to school starting. Please note that our hours are changing and we will be open from 830-330 Monday through Friday until school starts. Any person entering the front office must have a mask on. Our front office has a capacity of three persons. Any additional visitors will be asked to wait outside. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Several questions have been raised regarding school supplies. We do not mandate specific school supplies. Go for the basics – pencil pouch, binders, and folders for each class, pencil sharpener, composition notebooks and spirals. Remember less is more – they will have to carry everything with them all day.

If you believe your child qualifies to ride a bus for the upcoming school year you will receive notification via postcard approximately 10 days prior to school starting. It will include information about location of pick up and drop off times.

I wanted to reach out and share with you some of the changes and new expectations that will be occurring this upcoming school year. I will provide a detailed message that will include all safety measures prior to school starting. Please note the following changes:

- All students and staff will wear a mask all day. Students will not be permitted to enter the school without a mask. Each student will receive masks on day one. Masks must be appropriate and follow the same guidelines as clothing in the code of conduct.
- Students will not be using lockers this school year – backpacks only (none with wheels). This includes PE and students will not be expected to change clothes for PE
- If your child is a walker, bike rider or car rider we ask you not to have them come onto campus prior to 915. We do not have supervision in outside of school prior to this time and are unable to monitor the use of masks / social distancing. Our school doors open at 9:20.
- Parents we ask that you not send any sick students to school. If your child is ill they will have to be picked up from the school in a timely manner. We will not be able to send these students home on the bus.
- We ask that if you need to meet with a staff member (administrator, counselor, etc) that you call ahead for an appointment because we have limited spacing for meetings in our front office.

As a school our number one mission is to keep all students safe and healthy. Parents we need your assistance and cooperation more than ever this year. Thank you to all that have reached out with your overwhelming support. More information will be available in the near future. Thank you