

WELCOME HOME DISSTON ACADEMY IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK!

Dear Students, Families, and Faculty,

Today we officially welcome you back to our school building. After the challenges of Hurricanes Helene and Milton in October, this homecoming represents our resilience and strength.

Our displacement taught us valuable lessons – that learning happens anywhere when we're committed, and that challenges bring out the best in us. We've discovered new strengths and proven our determination.

As we begin anew, we carry deep appreciation for our journey and excitement for what's ahead. Our school is more than a building – it's our people, relationships, and shared commitment to excellence.

The Administration and Faculty



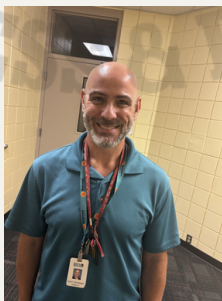
We have been recognized by the FLPBIS Project as a 2024-2025 PBIS Model School! As a PBIS Model School, we are committed to the effective implementation of PBIS and strive for positive outcomes for all students.

Welcome Extended Transitions Students

If you haven't noticed, Disston Academy has a new group of people on campus. Extended Transitions trainees are graduates of PCS and are working towards some employment goals. They volunteer at the YMCA for work readiness training, and you may catch these amazing trainees assisting around campus as well.

Each student/trainee is working towards gaining volunteer experience to assist with working towards obtaining their first entry level jobs.

Mr. Peterson

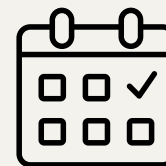


Mr. Peterson has 22 years teaching ESE in PCS. Originally from Upstate, NY, he served in the US Navy which brought him to Florida. He later earned his degree from USF St. Pete to teach students with unique abilities. He is happily married and has two wonderful teenage children.

Ms. Brumdage



Ms. Brumdage started in the district December 2024. She has two adult children, a son and a daughter. In her free time, Ms. Brumdage likes reading books of all kinds.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept. 19th - No school for students
Oct. 10th - 1st 9 weeks ends
Oct. 13th - No school for students
Nov 22nd to Nov 30th - Thanksgiving Break
Dec 20th to Jan 4 - Winter Holidays

Award winning staff

Disston Academy Support staff of the year



Mr Morand

Congratulations to Mr Morand for being nominated as Disston Academy Support Staff of the year. Mr Morand has been with PCS for 11 years as was the Night Forman before his promotion to Head Plant Operator last year. When he is not ensuring the safe and sanitary operations of the school or taking care of his extended family, Mr Morand puts his Digital Media degree to work as a freelance Graphic Designer.

Disston Academy Teacher of the year



Mrs Sandman

Congratulations to Mrs Sandman for being nominated as Disston Academy Teacher of the year. Mrs Sandman has been with PCS for 28 years and has worked at Baypoint Middle, Enterprise Village/Finance Park before coming to Disston Academy ten years ago. Along with teaching Personal Finance, Economics, DIT and Sociology, she also manages the schools Media Center, is the school Technology Coordinator and Social Studies Department Chair.

1st Day Spirit Day



We extend our appreciation to Mrs. Cleveland for her exceptional grant writing expertise, which successfully secured funding for the SAVE and PMAC clubs. Through her initiative, Mrs. Cleveland has allocated a portion of these funds toward purchasing spirit shirts for both students and staff members.

Dunkin' Donuts Break



The Dunkin' Donuts mobile visited on October 3rd to share samples of their new refresher drinks. Students and staff enjoyed both Strawberry Dragon Fruit and Blueberry varieties, and each student received a \$5 gift card. Thank you, Dunkin', for treating our school community!



Back to School and Title 1 meeting



Disston Academy's staff thanks all families who attended our Annual Title I Meeting and Open House. We appreciate your partnership in supporting your child's success. Families learned about the Title I program, including fund allocation and educational support for students. Afterward, families participated in an abbreviated schedule walk-through to meet teachers and discuss academic expectations, classroom procedures, and instruction. Light refreshments were served.

Start with Hello



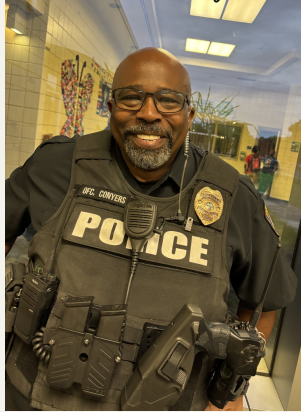
Students participated in the Start With Hello program, an initiative created by Sandy Hook Promise that empowers students to reduce social isolation and strengthen school communities.

The program teaches students to recognize when someone might be feeling lonely or left out—and what to do about it. Our students pledged to notice when someone might need a friend and to take that first step in making a connection.

We're proud of our students for building a more connected and compassionate Disston Academy.

New Disston staff

Officer Conyers



Officer Conyers retired from the Clearwater Police Department after 30 years of service, rising to Patrol Corporal. He worked in Patrol, Community Policing as a Bicycle Officer, and served 10 years on the SWAT Team as a sniper with training in Hostage Rescue and Dignitary Protection. Officer Conyers joined Pinellas County Schools Police in June 2024. A Pinellas County native, he is an alumnus of Clearwater High School and St. Pete College. His hobbies include riding motorcycles with family, bicycling, and weight training.



Ms Young

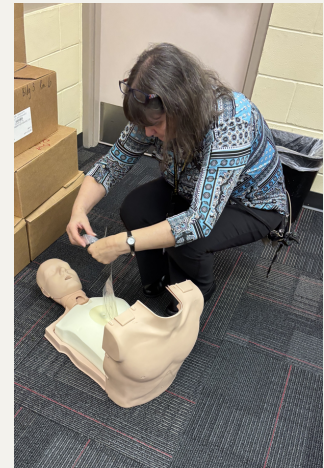
Ms. Young is our new Paraprofessional, replacing Ms. Turner, who retired this year. Along with working at Disston Academy, Ms Young is a home health aide in the evening. She lives in Gibsonton and when she is not working she likes to go to Disney World, Universal Studios and spend time with her grandson.

Dr. Hawley

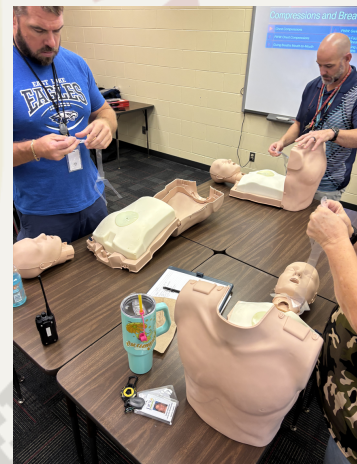


Dr. Hawley is the Varying Exceptionalities teacher at Pinellas Teleschool, now in her 23rd year with Pinellas County Schools. As a proud Pinellas County Schools graduate herself (Fuguitt Elementary, Morgan Fitzgerald Middle, and Pinellas Park High), she understands the community well. Dr. Hawley earned her doctorate in education from the University of South Florida (Go Bulls!) and is the proud parent of two teenage sons in 8th and 10th grade. When she's not teaching, she enjoys traveling with her family and cheering on the Chicago Bears and Chelsea.

CPR Certification Training



The American Heart Association provided CPR and first aid training at Disston Academy over two days, giving all interested staff the opportunity to participate. Our school and community are now safer thanks to their support.



SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING



SUBMIT A TIP

SUBMIT A TIP THROUGH OUR SECURE [WEBSITE](#)

CALL HOTLINE

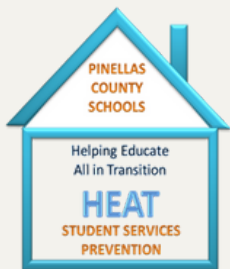
CALL OUR 24/7 CRISIS HOTLINE COUNSELORS AT 1-844-5-SAYNOW

GET THE APP

DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP AT [GOOGLE PLAY](#) OR [APPLE STORE](#)

FOLLOW UP

REQUEST [FOLLOW UP](#) INFORMATION ON THE TIP YOU SUBMITTED



HEAT (HELPING EDUCATE ALL IN TRANSITION)

727-507-4766

THE HEAT PROGRAM SERVES STUDENTS FROM BIRTH TO TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SERVICES UNDER THE FEDERAL MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT. HEAT SUPPORT INCLUDES COLLABORATING WITH THE SCHOOLS AND DISTRICT OFFICES AND REFERRING FAMILIES AND STUDENTS TO VARIOUS COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

FORTIFYFL

[FORTIFYFL](#) AUTOMATICALLY ROUTES YOUR TIP REPORT TO THE APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS.

YOUR SCHOOL OFFICIALS

THE TIP REPORT GOES TO YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL OFFICIALS WHEN SUBMITTED.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

YOUR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT OR SHERIFF OFFICE RECEIVE COPIES OF YOUR TIPS AUTOMATICALLY.

STATE-LEVEL OFFICIALS

STATE-LEVEL OFFICIALS ALSO HAVE ACCESS TO YOUR TIPS TO MAKE SURE PROPER STEPS ARE TAKEN.



988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline



[CHAT WITH LIFELINE](#)

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

AT THE [988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE](#), WE UNDERSTAND THAT LIFE'S CHALLENGES CAN SOMETIMES BE DIFFICULT. WHETHER YOU'RE FACING MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES, EMOTIONAL DISTRESS, ALCOHOL OR DRUG USE CONCERNS, OR JUST NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO, OUR CARING COUNSELORS ARE HERE FOR YOU. YOU ARE NOT ALONE.