



July 2024 | Issue 4

# Cougar

## CHRONICLE

For The Parents, Students, Faculty, Staff & Community Of Countryside High School - Pinellas County, Florida

### **Mission:**

At Countryside High School, we are committed to educate and prepare all students for career, college, and life.

### **Vision:**

The vision of Countryside High School is 100% student success.



### **Area 1 Office**

Area Superintendent:

Dr. Christen Tonry Gonzalez Ed. D

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Laura Hine, Vice Chairperson

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Eileen M. Long, Stephanie Meyer,

Dawn M. Peters

### **Superintendent:**

Kevin K. Hendrick

## ***Countryside High School***

<http://www.pcsb.org/countryside-hs>

***Taylor Henderson, Principal***

Main Office ..... 727-725-7956

Main Office Fax ..... 727-725-7990

Guidance Office Fax..... 727-669-1929

### **Assistant Principals**

Brad Bernstein, Lonnette Frazier,

Robert Murphy and Erin Overall

## **A Note From The Principal**

Cougar Family,

It's an exciting time of year as we enter the Fall season! We are excited for the start of the school year and our Cougar family is bustling with the excitement of the coming months!

CHS is proud to be the home of numerous rigorous academic opportunities and our extra-curricular student experiences are tremendous! We look forward to working together with our families to ensure the success of each of our students this year. Countryside High School has long been one of most prestigious schools in Pinellas County and we are proud to continue the great traditions of garnet and gold this year!

The 46th Countryside High School homecoming game will be played on September 27th versus River Ridge. The homecoming week will be filled with fun activities for our students during the day culminating on Friday with a pep rally celebration for our fall sports programs. We will also have our annual fall festival during homecoming week that highlights all of our school programs and organizations. CHS will culminate the week with our homecoming dance on Saturday, September 28 in our concourse area.

Be sure to reach out to our school administration with any questions or needs for your Cougar! We know that this school year will be a year of excitement for our school, and memories will be made on campus! We look forward to a successful 46th year of our historic school and look forward to seeing you on campus soon! Go Cougars!

Taylor Henderson  
Principal



**Cougar**  
CHRONICLE

'Cougar CHRONICLE'  
July 2024  
Published Four Times a Year  
Pinellas County School Board  
301 Fourth Street SW  
Largo, FL 33770  
Issue # 4

## 2024/2025 Important Dates

August 7th:	New Student Orientation – 9:30am
August 12th:	First Day Back for Students * Opening Day Pep Rally (Adjusted Bell Schedule)
August 13th:	9th Grade Assembly – 2nd Period
	11th Grade Assembly – 3rd Period
August 14th:	12th Grade Assembly – 4th Period
	10th Grade Assembly – 6th Period
August 27th:	Back to School Night – 6:00pm
August 28th:	Lighthouse Habit ONE (Adjusted Bell Schedule)
September 2nd:	Labor Day – NO SCHOOL
September 10th:	Midterm Report
September 18th:	Underclassman Photo Day
<b>September 23rd:</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS – Possible Hurricane Make-up Day</b>
September 24th:	HOMECOMING WEEK BEGINS!
September 27th:	Fall Sports & Homecoming Pep Rally (Adjusted Bell Schedule)
October 9th:	Lighthouse Habit TWO (Adjusted Bell Schedule)
October 11th:	End of First Quarter
<b>October 14th:</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS – Possible Hurricane Make-up Day</b>
October 16th:	Underclass Photo Retake Day
October 18th:	Final Grades Due in FOCUS
October 24th:	Reports Cards Issued
October 25th:	Quarter 1 Principal's Recognition – PBIS
November 5th:	Senior Panoramic Photo
November 13th:	Midterm Report
November 20th:	Lighthouse Habit THREE (Adjusted Bell Schedule)
<b>Nov. 25th – Nov. 29th:</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS *November 25-26. 2024</b> <b>Possible Hurricane Make-up Days</b>
December 5th:	Senior Portrait
December 19th:	Winter Sports Pep Rally
December 20th:	End of Second Quarter
<b>Dec. 23, 2024 – Jan. 3, 2025:</b>	<b>WINTER BREAK – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</b>

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Shaun R. Young DMD  
Samuel Landrian DMD, MD



<b>January 6th:</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS – Possible Hurricane Make-up Day</b>
January 7th:	Students Return – 2nd Semester Begins
January 10th:	Final Grades Due in FOCUS
January 16th:	Report Cards Issued
January 17th:	Quarter 2 Principal's Recognition – PBIS
<b>January 20th:</b>	<b>Dr. Martin Luther King , Jr. Day – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</b>
January 22nd:	Lighthouse Habit FOUR (Adjusted Bell Schedule)
February 7th:	Midterm Report
<b>February 17th:</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</b>
February 19th:	Lighthouse Habit FIVE (Adjusted Bell Schedule)
March 12th:	Lighthouse Habit SIX (Adjusted Bell Schedule)
March 13th:	Spring Sports Pep Rally
March 14th:	End of Third Quarter
<b>Mar. 17th – Mar. 21th:</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</b>
March 28th:	Final Grades Due in FOCUS
April 3rd:	Report Cards Issued
April 4th:	Quarter 3 Principal's Recognition – PBIS
	2025 Grad Bash
April 11th:	2025 Junior Prom
<b>April 18th:</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</b>
<b>April 21st:</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</b>
April 25th:	Midterm Report
April 30th:	Lighthouse Habit SEVEN (Adjusted Bell Schedule)
May 26th:	Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
May 29th:	End of Quarter 4 – Final Grades Due in FOCUS – Last Day for all Students – Students released two hours early.
June 3rd:	Report Cards

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## Student Services – Guidance Department

Who is my School Counselor? By student's Last Names:

- A-G: Ms. Harris: harrisjul@pcsb.org
- H-O: Ms. Parsley: parsleye@pcsb.org
- P-Z: Ms. Santiago: santiagok@pcsb.org
- ISTEM students: Mrs. DeGarmo: degarmoca@pcsb.org

eCounselor? PCS offers access to a School Counselor during summer months or after hours (Monday-Thursday 4p-9p) to assist with answering your questions on topics that may include: Graduation requirements, College & Career Planning, Financial Aid & Scholarship questions, etc. Please submit your question to: eCounselor@pcsb.org.

Bright Futures Scholarship – All students must submit volunteer / work site proposals for review & approval. All forms may be found on the PCS District website, keyword search: Bright Futures. Once approved, then students may upload their completed hours & reflection.

FLVS / PVS – Did you complete a summer virtual class? If so, email your School Counselor to let them know to secure your grade/credit onto your high school transcript.

Xello – PCS is introducing Xello to help students define their future goals. This online program is accessible via each student's Clever account. The program puts students at the center of their college and career planning experience. Learn more about Xello at [www.xello.world](http://www.xello.world)

SAT / ACT test fee waivers – You must apply each school year at: [www.applyforlunch.com](http://www.applyforlunch.com) to see if you meet eligibility. To register for an SAT / ACT exam log onto their sites at: [www.sat.org](http://www.sat.org) & [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

## SAVE THE DATE

***Countryside High is the Place to be on  
Thurs., September 26th from 6 to 7:30 pm  
For the 16th Annual No. Pinellas Co.  
College & Career Fair***

Once again, Countryside High is hosting our 16th Annual North Pinellas County College & Career Fair with exhibitors from across the county, state, and nation. This is the annual **FREE** event for students, parents or guardians, and the public. It is endorsed by Florida Tours and Pinellas County Schools as one of the most prestigious in the area, drawing over 1000 attendees. Why is it so popular? It is because a student's **career** can start here! Attendees can talk with many exhibitors to get free information from college administrators, vocational schools, major employers, military recruiters, and more. The campus and concourse open at 6 pm. For more details, contact us at (727) 725-7956 x2318 or email Kathleen Lamb at [pcslambk@pcsb.org](mailto:pcslambk@pcsb.org). Starting in the new school year students may also visit the on-campus Cougar Career Fair & Employment Center in G-7A for more information about the event, and employment opportunities, or to sign up as a student ambassador volunteer on September 26th. A wonderful way to get volunteer hours for scholarships!



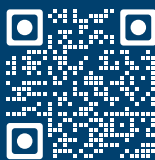
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## Girls Who Code Club

Are you interested in coding or technology or radio communication, or a gamer? We are the **Girls Who Code Club at Countryside High School!** Whether you know how to code, program, or write games and use technology or not - this is the club for you! We are part of the International Association of Girls Who Code and one of 2 high schools in Pinellas County promoting using technology, learning to code & helping YOU advance into technology careers. Have fun, learn programming, and how to use it to make a difference in your community & school. Plus learn all about Ham Radio Communications and communicate across the world with Morse Code, Radios and cool programming technology. You even have the opportunity to become a "Ham Radio Technician!" **The Club is open to all CHS Cougars & please join us on Monday, September 16th for our 1st GWC Club meeting of the year at 2:30 pm in A-6.**



*At far right is 2024 2025 elected GWC CHS President Lily Bahm, pictured with Former President Joey O'Neal, VP Caleigh Green, and Kaysen Hollins.*



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*Congratulations goes to Ryan Rocco, elected as the CHS FBLA President for the 2024/2025 School Year! (High 5 picture with Nathan Graff and Ryan Rocco.)*



*Photo taken at election of 2024 officers and newly elected Officers to serve 2024/2025. Pictured from left to right are Samantha Coschignano, Jhoanna Pioquinto, Syd Youran, Madeleine Lile-Delfino, Ryan Rocco, Michael Fee, Lucy Wilson, and Daniel Tauchnitz.*



*Photos of Principal Henderson with Students at FBLA Social & Board Elections & Senior Recognition*



## Join the Club at CHS that's been Making Waves Over the Summer!

Students, the time is now to join the FBLA Future Business Leaders of America Club and join in the fun and waves as you surf to success! This is your chance to team up with and meet other students who are geared to being their best selves in business, school, competitions, and at conferences. CHS FBLA Vice President Ryan Rocco and other student officers are on board to give YOU the best opportunity to team up across the campus and district as you soar to unimaginable heights. Why? Because "TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE" and we ACHIEVE MORE. That is what our FBLA Rock Star Student Network Design Team of Jeffrey Chen, Micah Fling & Liam Boomgarden did this summer by placing 1st at States & in the Top 10 Finalists at Nationals! Now it is your turn to network, compete, and win across the district, state, and the USA in competitions, scholarships, networking, leadership, professionalism and more.

**Join us at our 1st Club Meeting & Social on Wednesday, August 21st at 2:30 pm in A-6.** Plus look for our FBLA booth on campus at CHS Back-to-School, Orientation & Fall Festival events. See Advisor Julie Yaeger in A-6 or email [yaegerj@pcsb.org](mailto:yaegerj@pcsb.org) for more details.

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## Student Parking

This 2023/2024 school year Countryside High School will begin enforcing the need for students to purchase a parking pass to park on school property. In today's school environment, security is of the utmost importance. Our staff must be able to know whether a vehicle has a right to be parked on campus or if someone has entered the campus without permission. Students will be required to purchase the general parking permit for \$5. The basic parking placard, which will hang from the rear-view mirror, will allow staff to identify which vehicles do belong on school property.

The students will be given a grace period, till September 5th, to purchase the parking placard. After that there will be a progression of discipline. It will be as follows:

- **1st offense:** Written Warning (grace period to buy placard)
- **2nd offense:** A referral to their AP for inability to follow school rules.
- **3rd offense:** A referral to their AP and parking privileges revoked until parking permit purchased.
- **4th offense:** the vehicle will be booted (wheel lock). A parking permit would need to be purchased/arranged for when released.
- **5th offense:** The vehicle will be towed from the property, continuously towed until they purchase a placard. (Cost of the tow will be the responsibility of vehicle owner)

The placards can be purchased on Revtrak.com. Once purchased, your child will be able to get their placard from the SRO office.

We would appreciate your cooperation in complying with the parking requirements. If there are any questions, feel free to contact our SROs, Ofc. Comini and Ofc. Faulk.




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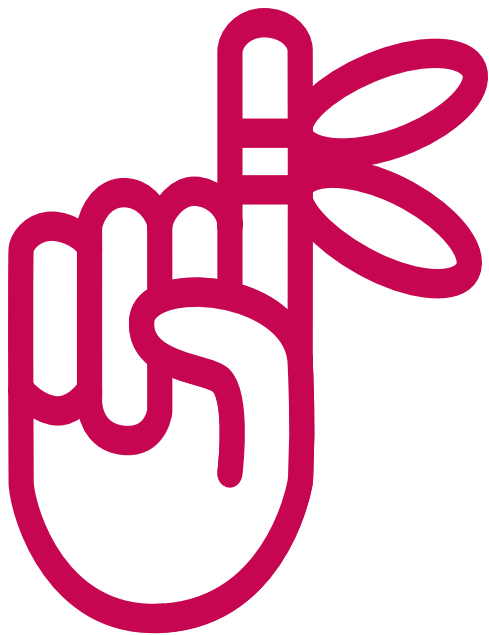
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# Things to Remember



**PERMISSION TO LEAVE:** If you know in advance that your student will need to leave during the school day, please provide a note and have your student bring it to the Student Services office or email Mrs. Perry at [perryypa@pcsb.org](mailto:perryypa@pcsb.org) with: **Student's Legal Name, Date of Birth, Grade Level, Reason for Leaving, Time Allowed to Leave & Phone Number and Name of the Parent or Legal Guardian where they can be reached for verification.**

We will provide a yellow permission-to-leave (PTL) pass for your student. Please sign the yellow pass and have your student return it to the Front Office/Visitor Entrance when he/she returns to school. **Please send in a doctor's note if the student had an appointment, has been hospitalized or has seen a doctor.**

**ABSENCES:** If your child will be absent, please report it on our website at <https://www.pcsb.org/countryside-hs>, and click on the top right link "Report Student Absence." Please include the following: **Student's Legal Name, Date of Birth, Grade, Absence Date, and Reason.** If applicable, please attach any documentation to support the absence.

You may also call the school at (727) 725-7956 #2051 or email Mrs. Perry at [perryypa@pcsb.org](mailto:perryypa@pcsb.org) to report your child's absence. If there is no answer, please leave a message with the following information: **Student's Legal Name, Date of Birth, Grade, Absence Date, Reason, & Phone Number and Name of the Parent or Legal Guardian where they can be reached for verification. When the student returns, please send an absence note with the same information, and have your student deliver the note to Student Services. Please send in a doctor's note if the student had an appointment, has been hospitalized or has seen a doctor.**

If your student is absent, you might still receive a phone call at the end of the day even if you have called to notify us. Please allow 48 hours for the absence to be updated. If you know that your child is absent from school, there is no need to call the school.

For more information about the Pinellas County Attendance Policy, please visit <https://www.pcsb.org/Page/15059> on the Pinellas County Schools website [www.pcsb.org](http://www.pcsb.org). In addition, all information can be found in the Student Code of Conduct.

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## What Do You Want to Do When You Grow Up?

If the average person changes careers 6-7 times in their lifetime, wouldn't it be wise to do some research before choosing a career that's supposed to last a lifetime? The most common reasons for changing a career are disillusionment of the job and not utilizing a person's strengths. With technology changing our work force at lighting speed, it's more important than ever for high school students to research careers that will align with their interests and strengths.

Two beneficial resources available to Florida high school students are Bigfuture by the College Board and the Kuder Navigator at Floridashines.

At [bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org), students can choose topics in which they are interested, then combine these interests to get career ideas. These career ideas can lead to possible college majors. A plethora of information is available for students to learn more about what careers are out there and how to make career choices.

New to the Floridashines website is the Kuder Navigator in the MyCareerShines section. Students can use career assessments to explore careers in areas which their interests, skills, and work values align. Floridashines explains this new tool as follows:

- MyCareerShines Kuder Navigator® is an online planning tool made just for students in high school. It gives you everything you need to start planning for your future. You can:
  - Assess your interests and skills to connect with careers that are just right for you,
  - Explore the extensive catalog of careers to find exciting job opportunities in the dynamic 21st century economy,
  - Get information about colleges and financial aid to turn your plan into reality, and
  - Create a resume that gets you in the door and moves you up the ladder of success.

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## Is It Really Bullying?

Bullying is a serious problem in our society and in our schools. No one should be exposed to bullying and those who witness these acts should report them immediately. The administration at Maumee High School aggressively investigates reports of bullying and works diligently to keep our students safe. What many people don't know is that bullying actually carries a very specific definition and that certain criterion must be met before someone can be disciplined for bullying. While we don't like it, people can be mean, rude, obnoxious, or not like each other without ever reaching the threshold of bullying. This guide has been developed by the Maumee City Schools to help parents determine the difference between mean behaviors, rude behaviors and bullying:

**Rude = Inadvertently saying or doing something that hurts someone else.**

From kids, rudeness might look more like burping in someone's face, jumping ahead in line, bragging about achieving the highest grade or even throwing a crushed up piece of paper in someone's face. On their own, any of these behaviors could appear as elements of bullying, but when looked at in context, incidents of rudeness are usually spontaneous, unplanned inconsideration, based on thoughtlessness, poor manners or narcissism, but not meant to actually hurt someone.

**Mean = Purposefully saying or doing something to hurt someone.**

The main distinction between "rude" and "mean" behavior has to do with intention; while rudeness is often unintentional, mean behavior very much aims to hurt or depreciate someone. Kids are mean to each other when they criticize clothing, appearance, intelligence, coolness or just about anything else they can find to denigrate. Meanness also sounds like words spoken in anger — impulsive cruelty that is often regretted in short order. Very often, mean behavior in kids (mean girls/mean boys) is motivated by angry feelings, personal insecurities, lack of self-worth, and/or the misguided goal of propping themselves up in comparison to the person they are putting down.

**Bullying = Intentionally aggressive behavior, repeated over time, that involves an imbalance of power.**

Experts agree that bullying entails three key elements: (1) an intent to harm, (2) a power imbalance and (3) repeated acts or threats of aggressive behavior. Kids who bully say or do something intentionally hurtful to others and they keep doing it, with no sense of regret or remorse — even when targets of bullying show or express their hurt or tell the aggressors to stop.

**Bullying may be physical, verbal, relational or carried out via technology:**

- **Physical aggression** was once the gold standard of bullying— the "sticks and stones" that made adults in charge stand up and take notice. This kind of bullying includes hitting, punching, kicking, spitting, tripping, hair pulling, slamming a child into a locker and a range of other behaviors that involve physical aggression.
- **Verbal aggression** is what our parents used to advise us to "just ignore." We now know that despite the old adage, words and threats can, indeed, hurt and can even cause profound, lasting harm.
- **Relational aggression** is a form of bullying in which kids use their friendship—or the threat of taking their friendship away—to hurt someone. Social exclusion, shunning, hazing, and rumor spreading are all forms of this pervasive type of bullying that can be especially beguiling and crushing to kids.
- **Cyberbullying** is a specific form of bullying that involves technology. According to Hinduja and Patchin of the Cyberbullying Research Center, it is the "willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices." Notably, the likelihood of repeated harm is especially high with cyberbullying because electronic messages can be accessed by multiple parties, resulting in repeated exposure and repeated harm.

*continued*

*Roz Miller*  
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### What to do if this is happening to you

Student's Response	Rudeness	Meanness	Bullying
First few situations	Ignore, laugh, walk away	Ask student to stop and let them know if they do not you will tell an adult	Tell an adult- Get help Immediately
When you feel you want them to stop and first response are not working	Ask student to stop and let them know if they do not you will tell an adult	Tell an adult- Get help Immediately	
You want it to stop and you have told them to stop	Tell an adult- Get help Immediately		

### What to do if you witness this happening to someone

Student's Response	Rudeness	Meanness	Bullying
First few situations	Ignore, Politely tell the person in private that may have been rude	Ask student to stop and let them know if they do not you will tell an adult	Tell an adult- Get help Immediately
When you see it is bothering someone (hurting their feelings)	Ask student to stop and let them know if they do not you will tell an adult	Tell an adult- Get help Immediately	
When the student is not listening and continues to do it	Tell an adult- Get help Immediately		

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**Kimberly Hutchins • [hutchinski@pcsb.org](mailto:hutchinski@pcsb.org)**







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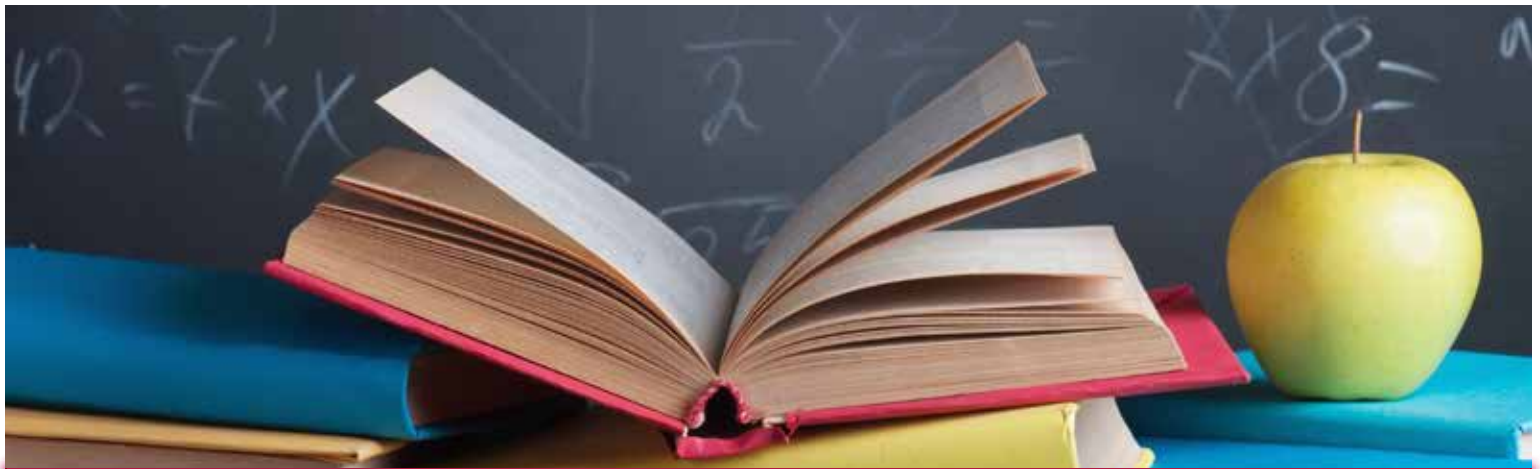
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