

**Jim Ragusa,
Principal**

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<http://www.collierschools.com/schools/prh.asp>

ADMINISTRATION

Daniel Chouinard, Assistant Principal
Curriculum

Clay Terrell, Assistant Principal
Student Relations

Michal Durik, Assistant Principal

Jessie Garcia, Assistant Principal

Brent Brickzin, Activities Coordinator

Charles Brown, Director of Guidance

From the Activities Coordinator

Coming Home

The old adage “You Can Never Go Home Again” came to mind when I learned about becoming the principal at Palmetto Ridge High School last May. While there may be some truth to that statement, I really do not see it as the case as it is a great honor to be given the opportunity to return to Palmetto Ridge High School as your principal. It is hard to believe that eight years has passed since I served as the Assistant Principal for Curriculum here. My time at PRHS was brief, but it was a great experience that has made the transition back to this school community a much smoother one.

While there are a number of new faces on our team there is one thing that has remained constant at Palmetto Ridge and that is the commitment that our parents, families, students, faculty and staff have to this school. It is my hope that I can continue to foster that support and I look forward to working with you all to make a positive impact on every student who is a part of this school community.

Our first quarter has flown by and we are entering quarter two as you receive this newsletter. We encourage you to come out to the many events occurring on our campus. You can always keep up with what is happening on our web site, social media sites (Facebook and Twitter) as well as the school app. Please don't hesitate to say hello at our events and activities as I take great pleasure in meeting our parents and families when attending the concerts, sporting events, competitions and performances that our students participate in. If I can ever answer or concern please call me at your convenience.

Jim Ragusa
Principal



From the Office of Curriculum

It is hard to believe that we are already in November! Senior parents, have you applied for your Federal Student Aid? The FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is a form that students fill out to apply for federal financial aid. In order to award eligible students with grants and federal student loans, the government assesses the information that is included on the FAFSA.

Some of the information that is requested on the FAFSA includes your income, what aid you are interested in, and what school you plan to attend. Federal Aid is disbursed on a first come, first served basis so it is important to get that information in as soon as possible. Do not hesitate to contact your guidance counselor if you need assistance.

www.fafsa.educationconnection.com/

The PRHS Academic Booster Club meets in the Principal's Conference Room on the FIRST Monday of the month. All meetings are from 6:30PM to 7:30PM, immediately following the SAC meeting. New members are always welcome!

What is the Academic Booster Club?

We are dedicated parents, staff and teachers with common goals:

- To enrich the educational experience of our students.
- To promote communication, understanding and cooperation among parents and teachers.
- To develop a caring community atmosphere.
- To organize and implement fundraising activities.
- To recognize and promote the Academic excellence of our hard working students.

As always, the office of curriculum is always here to ensure that your student has the best placement possible and the most challenging of classes. If you ever have any questions regarding placement or progression you are always welcome to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Daniel Chouinard

Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction

239-377-2402

choud@collierschools.com



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Guidance Department

Class of 2020

The Florida State Universities opened their applications in August. It pays to be the early bird especially with schools that have rolling admissions! Rising seniors who wish to apply to a Florida school should be working on getting applications sent out.

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) opened October 1st for the class of 2020. Students will need to use their parent's tax return information. Please go to www.fafsa.ed.gov for more information or our school web site, guidance tab and then financial aid.

Scholarships – Scholarship season is ramping up. You should be "getting all of your ducks in a row" so that you are ready to apply as those windows open up. Try to send in your applications early, so that if you are missing anything you may have an opportunity to amend your application. There is a long list of scholarship opportunities that can be found using the following link: <https://www.swflscholarships.org/finder/>

Class of 2021 and 2022

Dual enrollment.....We will be having a dual enrollment meeting after school, sometime in December for students interested in dual enrollment for next year. If you are thinking about dual enrollment for next year, you should be signing up to take either ACT or SAT or possibly both. When you sign up to take the test, be sure to have your test scores sent directly to FSW.

All juniors should be planning on taking either ACT or SAT or possibly both this year, the general rule is if you are in a higher math than Alg 2, anytime now is good. If you are in Alg 2 or below, you should wait until after January to take the test.

Class of 2023

Hope you are getting settled in and adjusting to the early school start time. Remember to keep your grades up. Many campus privileges such as parking, sports, and activities are dependent on your GPA.

Vaping It's Not Just The "Bad Kids"!!!!

Obviously this has been in the news a lot lately. Research shows that last year 12th-graders who reported vaping in their lifetime rose to 42.5 percent from 35.8 percent in 2017. That is nearly half of all students.

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults.html

Community Service

Community service sites must be PRE-APPROVED by the guidance department. <http://cfcollier.guidestar.org/find/view-all-nonprofits.aspx>

Forms are available on our school website (guidance tab and then bright futures) and in guidance office. IT IS DISTRICT POLICY THAT WE CANNOT GIVE CREDIT UNLESS THE SITE HAS BEEN PRE-APPROVED.

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We need spots filled...



...Can YOU help?

Palmetto Ridge High School
239-377-2400

Most Current Information

If you are not receiving periodic automated phone and email messages, please log into the parent portal to ensure we have your current information. Our automated messaging system is the best form of communication we have to contact you immediately in case of an emergency or for general announcements. Time will go by extremely fast between now and June. I ask that each of you reach out to your child's teachers or guidance counselors if you have any questions or concerns surrounding their grades or graduation requirements. The best time to resolve issues is during the school year.



Attendance

We continue to hold high expectations for attendance at Palmetto Ridge High School. The full potential for academic growth is only possible when students are in class as often as possible. We need all of our Bears to attend class every day! Making up work independently at home is no substitute for real classroom learning and interaction. As we move into the second quarter, please continue to monitor your students' academic progress through the parent portal. Taking advantage of class time and resources will help your student's success. Thank you for all you do... and as always... Go Bears!!!



St. Agnes Catholic Church Mass

at Palmetto Ridge High School

December 1- April 26

Sunday Mass 10:00 a.m.



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Student Reminders

Hello Parents and Students, We are off to a wonderful start! Our students are demonstrating their dedication and talent both in the classroom and in extracurricular activities. Student ID Badges are now part of the dress code. Students are required to display their student ID while on campus. A lanyard and student ID was issued to every student at the beginning of the year. If your child needs to purchase a new lanyard (\$2.00) or student ID (\$3.00) they may go to the office of Student Relations.



1. Student are not allowed to open, prop, or alter doors or gates at any time.
2. Students are not permitted to leave school grounds without authorization.
3. Students are not allowed to have outside food delivered onto campus.
4. Students are not allowed to leave campus during lunch.
5. Students are not allowed to go to their vehicle during the school day without permission from a school official.

We appreciate your cooperation to follow these rules to ensure the safety and security to our students. If you have any questions, please call the school at 239-377-2400.

Bag Policy and Security Procedures

Palmetto Ridge has always had a policy against backpacks in the stadium but the entire district has now moved to a more stringent policy which prohibits anything larger than a clutch bag. Larger necessary bags such as diaper bags may be permitted but only after being searched at the entrance. This is for any event on campus at the stadium, gym or auditorium. We thank you in advance for assisting us in meeting this requirement so that we can quickly and easily get you through the gates and to your event.



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Student Relations



Social Media Announcements

We encourage you and your students to follow us on Twitter (@PalmettoRidgeHS) or on Facebook so that you can stay up-to-date with the announcements and events happening on campus. We also use these tools to assist us in pushing out other important, fun and interesting information that happens at our school or in the district. We have had a great start to the year and have been able to reward our students for their many successes. We will continue to emphasize the positives that our students are doing this year and share those many successes on Twitter, Facebook and our website.

JROTC

For all updated pictures and stories about the Bear Battalion, please visit, and follow us, on TWITTER at:

- Palmetto Ridge High School JROTC
- Thank You !

