



**POLO PARK
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

AUGUST 2019

Stallion Sentinel

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 1

Polo Park M.S.

11901 Lake Worth Rd.
Wellington, FL 33449
tel: 561-333-5500
fax: 561-333-5505

Administration

Mr. Michael Aronson
Principal

Mrs. Fallon Kauker
Assistant Principal - 7th Grade

Mr. Larry Matz
Assistant Principal - 8th Grade

Mr. Craig Corsentino
Assistant Principal - 6th Grade

School Counselors

Ms. Brittny Kirik
6th Grade

Ms. Naomi Soto-Coleman
7th Grade

Ms. Kelly Fredley
8th Grade

County Web Address

www.palmbeachschools.org

School Web Address

www.poloparkmiddle.org

Mission

Polo Park Middle School will empower our students to attain their maximum potential through partnering with parents and the community to foster the understanding, cooperation, and communication skills necessary for students to become literate, productive citizens.

For the Parents, Staff, Students, and Community of Polo Park Middle School

Principal's Message

Dear Polo Park Family

We are very excited for the upcoming school year and are eager to open our doors to our students in August! We have been working extremely hard this summer to be ready for the first day, August 12th. We are very proud to say that we maintained our "A" for the 2018-2019 school year!

Our bell schedule will remain the same, with the doors opening at 9:10 and classes beginning at 9:30. The school day ends at 4:05. Please remember that supervision is limited to 30 minutes prior to the start of school and the end of the school day (9:00-4:35). If these times are not convenient for you, we do offer before school and after school care. Applications are in the main office.

Looking forward to another great year.

Sincerely,
Michael Aronson



Polo Park Pride

- Be Positive
- Be Disciplined
- Be Respectful
- Be Excellent
- Be Independent

Vision

Polo Park Middle School is committed to empowering students to become productive and responsible citizens with the skills needed to succeed in a diverse and global society. Students will become responsible, independent, and creative life-long learners.

If you need help translating this document, please contact Polo Park Middle School at 561-333-5500.

Creole Version:

Si w bezwen èd tradui dokiman sa a, tanpri kontakte Polo Park Middle School nan 561-333-5500.

Spanish Version:

Si necesitas ayuda para traducir este documento, favor de comunicarse con Polo Park Middle School al 561-333-5500.

Stallion Sentinel
August 2019
Published Five Times Per Year
Fulton-Holland Educational
Services Center
3300 Forest Hill Boulevard
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
Issue #1

School-Sponsored Shirts

This year all Polo Park t-shirts and school-sponsored clothing will be available for purchase online at our online store: <https://polopark.pyra360.com/>. The school T-shirts can be worn to school at all times. The P.E. T-shirt is only to be worn to P.E. classes and not during the regular school day.

This year's athletic event T-shirt is also available on this site. The athletic T-shirt can be worn to school at all times and gets you in to all of the home sporting events free.



Lockers & Agendas

Students will be able to come to the school and rent lockers and/or purchase an agenda on the dates below. Locker rental is \$5.00 and students must use the school-issued lock for their assigned locker. Polo Park agendas will be available for \$5.00 as well. We take cash or checks made out to Polo Park Middle School.

- **6th Grade:** Wednesday, July 31st from 12:30 until 3:30 p.m. (immediately following the Prep Program)
- **7th Grade:** Thursday, August 1st from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.
- **8th Grade:** Thursday, August 1st from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Dress Code

Lastly, as students return, you can find our dress code on the school website <https://ppms.palmbeachschools.org/>. Also, please be aware that students will be required to wear their student IDs at all times and that they must be visible. Lost or missing IDs will be replaced at a cost of \$5.



Student Schedules

Students will be able to access their FY20 class schedule on July 30th through the SIS Parent Gateway. If your student has an issue with their schedule as outlined on the list below, we will have a table set up during locker and agenda sales to discuss the issue. **We will only discuss the issues outlined below.**

- Too many or too few classes
- Student is in the Pre-Engineering or Pre-IT program and missing the program's designated elective
- Enrolled in the wrong level of a class (advanced vs. regular)

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Call 561-641-2063 to Register

A few spots are left!

We need you!

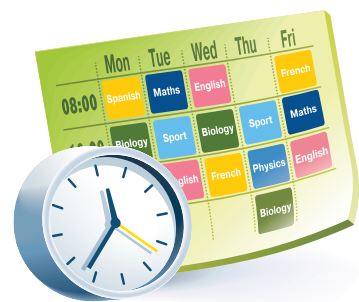
Advertise in the *Stallion Sentinel!*

This is a wonderful way
for your company
to get community recognition
and exposure,
and at the same time
help support your local schools!

Nora Bernstein
nora.bernstein@palmbeachschools.org
Polo Park Middle School

Every School Day Counts

An estimated 5 million to 7.5 million U.S. students miss nearly a month of school each year. Research shows that missing 10 percent of school days, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence.



- Chronic absence is a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
- When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their school performance.
- Good attendance is an important life skill.

Parents play a key role in school attendance. Let your student know it is the expectation. Establish home-study routines and sleep habits that make attendance a non-issue. Encourage participation in school clubs, organizations, and

sports. Monitor his/her progress and talk about it. Students who are engaged at home and at school rarely miss a day.

Parents, Establish A Solid Home-Study Discipline

Encouraging and supporting this vital activity will improve your student's attitude and performance at school and instill a work ethic that endures for a lifetime.

1. **SET A SCHEDULE:** Establish a regular timeslot for this important daily activity. Seek your child's agreement and commitment to reserve this time each day for homework and study. Encourage this discipline. In many ways, it's his/her job and should be an important part of the daily routine. Your support and involvement in your student's home-study effort makes a huge difference in the high school experience.
2. **CREATE THE ENVIRONMENT:** Students can be easily distracted. Teach them to create an atmosphere conducive for concentration. Minimizing social media access, loud music, and other detractors will improve effectiveness and retention. If you notice distractions or deterrents, suggest possible remedies. Having a defined study area works with some students but not all. The most important factor is the discipline of doing it every day.
3. **OBSERVE AND ENGAGE:** Psychologists suggest that it takes three weeks to break or establish a habit. When school resumes this month, commit three weeks to observing your students daily routine. Make good homework practices a habit for both of you. Your daily assistance and attitude toward school have a huge impact on your child's success.



GET CONNECTED!



**POLO PARK
FACEBOOK**

www.facebook.com/poloparkptsa



**SCHOOL INFO
& NEWS
& PHOTOS**



For More Information, & To Stay In The Know. Check out our Polo Park Middle School PTSA Facebook page and our PTSA section on Edline.



Required Immunizations for 7th Grade Students

Seventh grade students **cannot** begin school in August without their required immunizations. Students who show up to school on the first day without their immunizations, will not be permitted to attend their classes until proper documentation is submitted.

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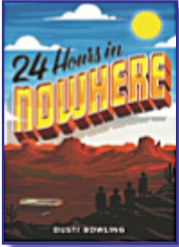
Required Summer Reading

If your child has not read their Sunshine State Young Reader's Award book yet, please make sure that they do before school starts, as they will be taking their Reading Counts test when they return to school.



SSYRA

2019 - 2020
Grades 6-8



24 Hours in Nowhere
Dusti Bowling



The Adventurers
Guild
Zack Loran Clark



All's Faire in
Middle School
Victoria Jamieson



Boy X
Dan Smith



Breakout
Kate Messner



Captain Superlative
J.S. Puller



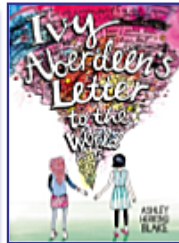
Elephant Secret
Eric Walters



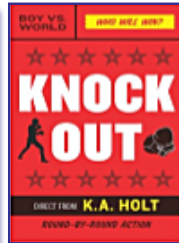
Ethan Marcus
Stands Up
Michele Weber Hurwitz



Greetings from
Witness Protection
Jake Burt



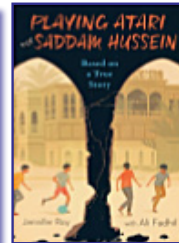
Ivy Aberdeen's Letter
to the World
Ashley Herring Blake



Knockout
K.A. Holt



Nightbooks
J.A. White



Playing Atari with
Saddam Hussein
Jennifer Roy



Slider
Pete Hautman



Small Spaces
Katherine Arden

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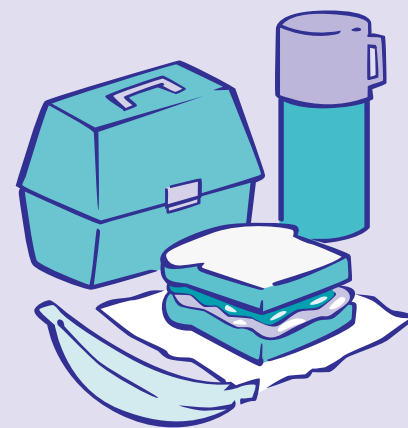
From the Library Media Center

The new school year is upon us and it brings changes to our library media center. In June, I began reorganizing our fiction section by genre. I believe that this change will benefit students because it will make easier for students to find books they enjoy. This reorganization will continue when school is back in session.

The library media center hours have changed as well. This year we will open at 8:00 AM for student use each day except Tuesdays, which is reserved for parent teacher conferences.

I look forward to a great year filled with interesting books, reading clubs, and fun activities.

Happy reading,
Mrs. Bernstein



From the Cafeteria

As a reminder: any negative balances will follow your student to the next year. If you have any blocks on your students account(s) you will receive NO SNACKS or Snack only on Friday. If you want this removed, please send an email or note to school. We must have a paper trail in order to process your request.

Applying for Free / Reduced Meal Plans won't start until the middle of July.

On-line pre-payments won't be available until August 1, 2019.

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5 - 100 GUESTS

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- > 1 FREE ADRENALINE T-SHIRT
- > A PAIR OF JUMP SOCKS FOR PARTICIPATING GUESTS
- > PARTY SETUP & CLEANUP

Test Taking Tips for Parents

Tip #1: Make attendance a priority, especially on days that you know standardized testing will be administered. Though it's important for your student to be in school every day, making sure he's there when the test is taken helps to ensure he won't lose more learning time because he has to make up a test during school. Make a note of test days on the calendar. That way both you and your student know what's coming and will be prepared.

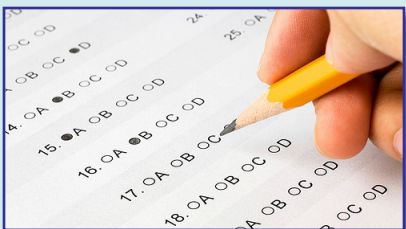
Tip #2: Monitor your student's progress and check for understanding. Subjects like science, social studies and math often have cumulative exams at the end of learning units. If your student is struggling with something now, it won't be easy for her to have time to try again to learn it just before the test.

Tip #3: Set a reasonable bedtime and stick to it. Eight hours of sleep is preferable. Many parents underestimate the importance of a rested mind and body. Tired children have difficulty focusing and are easily flustered by challenges.

Tip #4: Make sure your child has enough time to wake up fully before he has to go to school. Just as rest is important, so is having enough time to get his brain engaged and in gear. If his test is first thing in the morning, he can't afford to spend the first hour of school groggy and unfocused.

Tip #5: Provide a high-protein, healthy, low-sugar breakfast for your student. Kids learn better on full stomachs, but if their stomachs are full of sugary, heavy foods that will make them sleepy or slightly queasy, it's not much better than an empty stomach.

Tip #6: Talk to your student about how the test went, what he did well and what he would have done differently. Think of it as a mini-debriefing or brainstorming session. You can talk about test-taking strategies after the fact as easily as beforehand and these discussions will improve performance on future tests.



Strong Start

Helping Your Teen Get the Most Out of Middle School

From NEA and National Parent Teacher Association,

Parents want their children to do well in middle school but sometimes it is a challenge to figure out how to support them. High school is a time when parent involvement is critical; teens need your help even if they don't realize it. Following are some hints on how to help your teen get the most out of middle school.

Help Your Child Show Up At School With A Good Attitude And Ready To Learn

Studies indicate that showing up is important but not sufficient for school success. Physical and mental states are important factors in getting the most from school.

- Keep tabs on school attendance. Check report card attendance reports. If you suspect a problem, immediately call the school. Do not encourage your child to skip school for special trips or activities not related to school such as a family vacation or an outing with friends. That makes school seem less important than having fun.
- Make sure your teen gets plenty of sleep. Recent studies show that teenagers need nine or more hours of sleep nightly and that students earning As and Bs generally are getting to bed earlier than students with lower grades.
- Don't accept the "I'm never gonna use this after middle school" excuse for not working hard in a particular class. For example, algebra may not be everybody's favorite subject, but studies show that courses like algebra are critically important in college acceptance decisions and achievement.
- If you have a senior, beware of "senior slump." Recent reports indicate that students may consider the last year of high school a waste of time. However, students who waste their senior year are often unprepared for college-level work even if they took challenging courses during their earlier high school years.

Help Organize Time And Materials

- Just because students are in middle school does not guarantee they are all prepared to do middle school work, especially long-term projects, on their own.
- Help your teen keep an assignment calendar with dates for long-term projects as well as daily homework. Review the calendar at the beginning of the week to plan how time will be used and make allowances for other activities such as sports and clubs.
- Help your teen divide long-term assignments into smaller tasks and develop a timeline for when tasks should be finished in order to have the entire assignment completed on time.
- Make sure there is a place for quiet study away from the television and telephone along with a place to keep school materials, including materials necessary for long-term assignments.

Take An Interest

- Studies show that parent involvement drops dramatically as students move from elementary school into middle school. Yet given the complexities of today's middle schools, this is a time when many students are most in need of parental support and involvement.
- You might not understand a subject such as physics or early American literature but you can still listen to your teen talk about what is happening in class. Also listen to what is happening outside of class. Listen to what your teen is trying to say without immediately judging or offering advice. Encourage your teen to join a club or sport at school. Outside activities are educational and often increase students' interest in school.
- Help your teens put their concerns or problems into words and encourage them to try and figure out possible solutions or coping strategies.
- Try to find at least one teacher with whom you can communicate regularly for updates or advice on your teen's general well-being in high school.

The ultimate goal is to help students become self-sufficient managers of their time and resources in order to get the most out of middle school. They may need your help even if they don't realize it. Help them to develop habits and strategies for greater achievement while encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their work.



Education And The Future

Many students may not know what they want to do with their future or how to plan for it. That's okay. They have time to figure out what interests them, what they're good at, and how those things add up to a career. Exploring is the key right now. Parents should encourage conversations about their student's passions and suggest people that they can talk to for insight and guidance. They should be asking questions about career opportunities but may not know the right questions to ask. School counselors and family members are good place to start. No matter what they dream of doing after graduation, planning for education beyond high school is the wisest choice. Post high school education contributes to a better quality of life. But whether or not they go on to a college, university, career or technical school, the information and skills they learn in high school will always be useful in the world of work. Everyone, in every kind of job, needs to be able to write and speak clearly, listen carefully, understand what is written and spoken, and use math effectively. You may wish to share the following with your student.



Summer Ideas For Parents

The summer break provides a much needed rest from the rigors of school life, but a complete disconnect from education can make the start of the new school year more difficult for your student. Consider a few ways to engage your child in activities that stimulate learning and provide an opportunity to enhance your relationship. Pick two or three of the following summer opportunities and commit to achieving a common goal with your child.

READING: Read two books with your child over the summer. Each of you select a book, read it independently, and talk about it. Everyone identifies different meanings and ideas. These conversations lead to insights, not only about the books but perhaps more importantly, about each other. You may discover that some of your child's interests and perceptions surprise you.

MOVIES: See two movies with your child over the summer. Again, each of you pick a movie, see it together, and talk about its effect on you. The benefits of these conversations cannot be overstated. It's not uncommon to discover a point of view that you had never considered. As a result, you will become closer to your child. Many movies are adaptations of popular books or series. Watching them may motivate your child to read the books or others with similar or opposing themes.

HOMEWORK: Yes, yards must be tended, cars washed, kitchens cleaned, and trash taken out, but perhaps there are budgets to be discussed, correspondences to write, and bills to be paid. If appropriate, you might consider getting your child involved. Practical applications of math, reading, and writing skills reinforce the importance of education. These skills are vital for a fulfilling life!

TAKE A CLASS TOGETHER: Does your student have unexplored interests or passions? There are free online courses in art, music, dance, woodworking, gardening, writing and composition, etc., not to mention math, science, and technology. Encourage your child to select an online class of interest and complete it together. There's no way to predict undiscovered interests and talents.

FUN and GAMES: Consider some outdoor activities. Go hit a bucket of golf balls, or try surfing/water skiing. Host a game of 'Capture the Flag' at home or try paint balling. (Can you remember the joy of besting mom or dad?) Introduce games and activities that you remember from childhood. Encourage your child to practice his/her research skills by looking up rules, tips and strategies before engaging in the activity. If they really enjoy it, have them look further into opportunities for continued involvement. These activities develop and improve communication and social skills. There are numerous parks and recreation centers nearby to play any game or sport inexpensively.

These types of activities not only support the learning process but enhance relationships. Summer is a wonderful time to recover, relax, and reconnect. Make a point of including opportunities to reinforce and develop your child's education. Enjoy your summer!



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MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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*For the Parents, Staff, Students,
and Community of Polo Park
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