



**POLO PARK**  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

# Stallion Sentinel

JUNE 2024

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 3

## Polo Park M.S.

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

### Administration

**Dr. Jennifer Galindo**  
Principal

**Mr. Andrew Kline**  
Assistant Principal - 6th Grade

**Ms. Annjeanette Munnings**  
Assistant Principal - 7th Grade

**Mr. Craig Corsentino**  
Assistant Principal - 8th Grade

### School Counselors

**Ms. Julie Trujillo**  
6th Grade

**Ms. Kris Connors**  
7th Grade

**Ms. Naomi Soto-Coleman**  
8th Grade

County Web Address  
[www.palmbeachschools.org](http://www.palmbeachschools.org)

School Web Address  
[www.poloparkmiddle.org](http://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

Stallion families,

The 2023-2024 school year was one to remember. Our students reached great heights. Our boys' baseball team won the county championship and both our girls' soccer team and boys' volleyball teams made it to the county finals. Our students had the highest ELA scores that we have seen in several years and boasted over 70% learning gains in both reading and math. Our amazing media program brought three authors to Polo Park, and our phenomenal PTSA supported these experiences. PTSA also provided opportunities for our teachers to enhance their classrooms and experiences to enrich our students' middle school experiences.

All in all, it was a wonderful year. I am so proud of our Stallion family and everything they have done. As we prepare for the 2024-2025 school year, we have some exciting new additions to our Faculty and Staff. Last year we added Mr. Gonzalez-Piños from Spain to our faculty. This year we will add another teacher from Spain, as well as a teacher from the Philippines, a teacher from Ghana, and a teacher from Zimbabwe. It is always so wonderful when our students can learn from people with a variety of backgrounds and experiences. Additionally, we will add a new elective to the course load, with Creative Writing, taught by Ms. Llewellyn.

I want you to enjoy your summer. I wish our 8th graders the best in High School and know that I can't wait to see all that you accomplish. Also, I cannot wait to meet our new 6th grade class and get the opportunity to help you launch your middle school experience. Don't forget to work on your summer reading project. August will be here before you know it. Enjoy the summer months and we will see you in the fall.

Dr. Galindo

## 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.



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

## Polo Park Middle School Supply List 2024-2025

This is a general list of supplies that every student at Polo Park Middle School will need for the 2024-2025 school year. Additional Specific requirements may vary by teacher and will be distributed in the syllabus given out in each class the first week of school.

- Pencils (HB #2 lead)
- Pens (blue or black ink)
- Highlighters
- 3 inch 3-ring binder
- Dividers for binder (8 tabs or more)

## Mr. Stabler's Class

Mr. Stabler's class designed parachutes and a padded lander to protect precious cargo, a G-force sensor package, from damage.



## Message from the Stallion Café

We have good news for school year 2024-2025. Student meals will continue to be free of charge. No need to add money to the students account, as we will not be serving ala carte items. Thank you in advance for all your help. Have a great summer. Can't wait to see your students next school year.

## Required Summer Reading Project

All Polo Park student are required to read one of this coming year's Sunshine State Young Readers Award books and complete a one pager assignment. The annotated list of books and the one pager can be found on the school's school district website or you can obtain a physical copy at the school.



## Spring Band Concerts

Spring band concerts were held on May 15th and May 16th at Polo Park. On May 15th the Beginning Band and the Jazz Band performed. It was hard to believe that the students in the Beginning Band just started playing this year. The Jazz Band was awesome. On May 16th the Intermediate Band and the Advanced Band performed, keeping the audience entertained throughout the evening. Kudos go out to Mr. Graham and his students.



## Stiles-Nicholson STEM Inventors Challenge

On Saturday, 18 May, the 8th annual Stiles-Nicholson STEM Inventors Challenge was held at the Cox Science Centre. Polo Park had several entries again this year and we were represented with designs by Henry Honeycutt and Amen Gabry. Both worked very hard on their ideas and were rewarded with two first places. One was for their Pennyboat design, crushing the competition by holding almost 40 pennies more than the next boat. Their other award was for Classroom Innovation, but also met the criteria for the overall design product

"The Pack Protector." This innovative design is 3D printed in a soft filament and is designed to help relieve the stress on students' shoulders with heavy backpacks.

Congratulations to both on a job well done. We are all very proud of you.

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## From the Library Media Center

It has been a busy time in the library media center. April 12th New York Times bestselling author James Ponti visited Polo Park. He spoke to students about his struggles as a reader while growing up and how he became an author. Everyone enjoyed his visit and we hope he will visit Polo Park again soon.

This year, the Media Center collaborated with Ms. Llewellyn and Ms. Beach for the "Battle of the Books." Teachers chose one of their classes, and those students were divided up to form teams. Each team was responsible for reading all 15 Sunshine State books, and Each student read three or more of the Sunshine State books to serve as an expert for those books on their team. The teams then competed in the districtwide online Battle. After all the results were in, we celebrated with pizza and a mini-Ice Cream Extravaganza in those classes. Next year, thanks to PTSA, who generously purchased this coming year's books, Ms. Buhrman will select a 6th grade class to compete as well.

We celebrated reading success with an Ice Cream Extravaganza for those students who read three or more Sunshine State books. Students received ice cream and their choice of over 15 different toppings. We also celebrated our Half-Way There and Million Word Club readers with a luncheon from Panda Express.

Along with the mandatory summer reading, students can find my optional summer reading challenge. If students complete my summer challenge, again it is optional, they will be invited to a Pancake Party in August.

We have great things planned for next year, so please encourage your child(ren) to participate in the Library Media activities.

Have a great summer, and Happy Reading!  
Mrs. Bernstein



James Ponti's Visit



"Million Word Club" and "Halfway There" Club luncheon and Awards

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## Gradventure

On May 17, 8th graders and their chaperones had a great time at Universal Studios Orlando for Gradventure 2024! Students enjoyed rides, food, entertainment & amazing fun with friends!



## Drama Club

Polo Park Middle School Drama Club performed its first play last May 22 in the cafeteria, a moment the club shared with families, other students and the administration team, a demonstration art and culture are a part of our education and society.

The play was "A Knight's Tale," by Monroe Oxley, a fun play about how main and traditional characters in a fairy tale can disagree with their fates, and can change things to make their dreams a reality - even when they include a bunny.

Shayla, Abbi, Cassandra, Ava, Isabella, Ava, Sharon, Mycah and Dylan made it possible to have a first play, with more to follow next year. The students did awesome work playing the narrator, princesses, witches, knights and maids in the tale, and they were brave enough to show their expression and interpretations in front of the audience.

This first play of the Drama Club showcased the dedication of actors and actresses, which will make it possible to continue with this drama tradition year after year.



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# PPMS Dress Code

## Tops

### Permitted:

- Crew Neck shirts or collared shirts
- There are no restrictions regarding shirt color or pattern
- School-sponsored t-shirts which are either affiliated with a PPMS sport or activity that have been approved by the administration.
- Shirts may be "un-tucked" as long as the size of the shirt is proportionate to the size of the student.
- No altering of the shirt

### Not Permitted:

- Shirts that show excess skin such as shoulders, chest, etc. (tank tops, crop tops, etc.)
- Shirts that reveal the waistline/midriff
- No see-through, sheer or netting
- No sleeveless or spaghetti straps
- No shirts tied up or with a rubber band
- No shirts ripped, frayed, cut, or torn
- Graphics with inappropriate words, slogans (drugs, tobacco, weapons, explicit or suggestive language etc.)
- Altered shirts (i.e., collar cut off, tied up, frayed or ripped)

## Bottoms

### Permitted:

- Solid Color Jeans/pants/shorts/skirts that fit properly at the hip and not below the waist and hip
- Solid Color Shorts, gym shorts, and skirts that are 2 inches above the knee or longer
- Solid Color Sweatpants

### Not Permitted:

- Pants or bottoms that "sag" or reveal undergarments
- Clothing that is ripped/frayed/torn above the knee
- Sleepwear/pajama pants/flannel pants
- Athletic wear other than gym shorts
- Leggings of any kind, including flare, yoga pants, tights, biker shorts (including those showing under shorts or skirts)
- Any bottoms with graphics, patterns, or words

## Shoes

### Permitted:

- Footwear consisting of full, closed-toe shoes with backs
- Laces that are tied

### Not Permitted:

- No sandals, slides, cleats, high heels, platforms, slippers, flip flops, Crocs, or opened-toe shoes

## Outerwear/General Reminders

### Permitted:

- Sweaters, jackets, sweatshirts may be worn as needed in colder weather; however, clothing worn underneath must adhere to the dress code policy
- Hooded sweatshirts are permitted, but the hood CANNOT cover the child's head for safety reasons

### Not Permitted:

- Sweaters, jackets, sweatshirts, hoodies with inappropriate word, graphics or patterns
- Sweaters, jackets, sweatshirts, hoodies that are being used to cover non-dress code outfits.
- Sweaters, jackets, sweatshirts, hoodies that are being used as the only shirt

## ID Badge

### Permitted:

- Students must wear their ID and Lanyard on their neck and visible at all times while on campus. (First one will be provided at no cost. Additional charge of \$5 for each additional replacement badge and lanyard.)

### Not Permitted:

- Other student's IDs
- Lanyards on backpacks or in pockets.

## General Guidelines:

- No exposed undergarments or sleepwear allowed
- No caps, hats, bandanas or sunglasses allowed
- Any attire, jewelry, or ornamentation deemed disruptive, provocative, unsafe, or inappropriate by the administration is prohibited
- Outerwear cannot be used to cover up dress code infractions
- Hoods may not be worn on the head

**No ID? No Lanyard? NO Entrance.**



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## Tiny But Mighty!

Ms. Stalker's 6th grade engineering students blew everyone away on Thursday with their Tiny House exhibit.

Ms. Stalker's students, also known as the "STEM Stalkers", spent the entire fourth quarter learning how to architecturally plan and design their houses. Our future engineers and architects took on the task of planning and drawing blueprints and created full floor plans using architectural computer programs. They progressed from initial designs all the way to constructing their final 3D models. These models were inspired by the tiny house movement, emphasizing efficient and sustainable living with scaled-down floorplans.

The students were able to explore their creative side while honing in on their technical skills. Through this hands-on experience, they learned valuable lessons about resource and time management, the challenges of design, collaboration with peers, and presentation skills.

### And From Ms. Stalker:

*"It was truly amazing seeing the kids so proud of all the work they put in this year and I loved that they were able to show it off. These were skills that they never thought that they would be able to do and they're really doing them. It excites me for what is to come for next year and beyond!"*

*WOW! I truly have no words for all the love and support - it was amazing seeing them so proud of their hard work and getting to show it off! Best student quote of the night was "I never actually thought I could do something like this!" :)*

Also, a special thank you to Ms. De Celles, Ms. Stern, Mr. Craig, and Dr. Galindo for all their help and support for the entirety of the event. It would not have been possible without them!

Now, off to brainstorm for next year...



## 8th Grade Awards

The 8th Grade Awards ceremony was held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. Students were recognized for their Academic Excellence and their Character. We know that they will continue to make Polo Park proud as they continue their academic endeavors.



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## PTSA

That's a wrap for the 2023-2024 school year! The 4th quarter was a busy one for the PTSA. The biggest events of the last quarter were the celebrations of our teachers and staff and then our 8th grade students before they head to high school.

Spring was fully in bloom during our Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week! We were springing with thanks for our teachers and staff! On day one, staff enjoyed a delicious Chick-Fil-A breakfast with tasty donuts from Jupiter Donuts. A big thank you to Shullman Orthodontics for their donation for the donuts! Up next was our always favorite, Sweet Treats Day! Everyone enjoyed scrumptious treats generously donated by our Polo Park families. We finished off the week with a delightful luncheon! Don Ramon catered the mouthwatering Cuban food. Everyone had their pick of delectable desserts such as brownies, petit fours and fruit tarts! We wanted to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the PTSA volunteers for their incredible support and dedication. It's because of volunteers like you that we were able to celebrate and honor our hardworking teachers in such a memorable way. We hope our teachers felt the love this week. Polo Park is so lucky to have amazing teachers and staff! We truly appreciate you all!

The 8th grade "Hollywood" themed dance was a big success! PTSA was happy to send off our 8th graders with a fun filled night that included a DJ, cotton candy, pizza, popcorn, photo booth and more! We wish all our 8th grade students success in high school!

We held our Business Partner and Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast to thank all of our wonderful business partners and volunteers for their time and support throughout the year. Our events throughout the year would not be possible without their support, we thank you.

Polo Park PTSA would like to extend a BIG thank you to all of our PTSA members for their membership and involvement this school year. With your support, we were able to put on many fun events for our students and staff. We look forward to having your support next year! In May, we voted in our new board members for the 2024-2025 school year. We are excited to continue to support our school, staff and students in as many ways that we can. We would always love to get as many parents and community members involved! If you would like to get involved either as a volunteer or business partner, please email [businesspartners@poloparkptsa.com](mailto:businesspartners@poloparkptsa.com) or [volunteers@poloparkptsa.com](mailto:volunteers@poloparkptsa.com). Thank you to Dr. Galindo for all of her support this year! It was an awesome year and we are so appreciative of how involved and supportive she continues to be with the PTSA. We hope that everyone has a great summer break!

If you want to be a part of any of the PTSA committees, or donate any items needed to make these events a success, please contact us!

Please continue to check your emails and social media for our latest happenings and dates of all these events!

- Facebook- Polo Park Middle School PTSA
- Instagram - @poloparkptsa
- PTSA Website - [www.poloparkptsa.com](http://www.poloparkptsa.com)



## Our 2023-2024 PTSA Business Partners

Thank you to all of our loyal business partners for their generous and continued support of PPMS! The school would not be as amazing without their support. Polo Park families, let's show them our support in return!

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# Stallion Sentinel

*For the Parents, Staff, Students,  
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## Girls Track

These are the results from the Regional track meet. Congratulations to our athletes.

- Jordana Mitchell earned 1st place in the high jump at the Regional track meet and 3rd place at the County meet.
- Gayelle Laguerre earned 4th place in the shot put at the Regional track meet and 5th place at the County meet.
- Jordana Mitchell earned 3rd place in the 400 meters at the Regional Track meet and 12th place at County meet.
- Jordana Mitchell, Alexis Holt, Maliyah Newton, and Laila Mazsak earned 2nd place in 4x400 relay at Regional track meet and 9th place at the County meet.
- Aria Mindley earned 3rd place in the 200 meters in the Regional track meet and 10th at County meet.
- Riley Hidalgo earned 3rd place in the 800 meters in the Regional track meet and 16th place at the County meet.

## Celebrating 15 Years at Polo Park Middle School

FCCLA is a national student-run organization. Our Mission is: To promote personal growth and leadership development through Family and Consumer Sciences education. Focusing on the multiple roles of family member, wage earner, and community leader, members develop skills for life through character development, creative and critical thinking, interpersonal communication, practical knowledge, and career preparation.

We have traveled to the National Leadership Conferences in Anaheim, CA, Denver, CO, Nashville, TN, Orlando, FL, San Antonio, TX, San Diego, CA, Washington, DC, and this summer, Seattle, WA. We bid farewell to our two eighth graders: Alise Desravins has been a member of FCCLA for 3 years, and Aleyah Desravins has been a member for 2 years. We wish them the best as they head to high school.

