



# TERRIER TIMES

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 5  
MAY 2023

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As I end my first full year as principal of Port Charlotte Middle School, I find myself drawn to a powerful quote by Saint Francis Assisi: "Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you're doing the impossible." This year, we have accomplished what others would consider impossible, and I want to take this opportunity to thank every member of the team who helped us achieve this success. While this long list of accolades is completed in no specific order, I can't stress how essential it was that each member played a unique role in keeping our students engaged in the learning process.

Thank you, students. You didn't sign up for your middle school experience to incorporate a hurricane, virtual school, and months of uncertainty. Yet it has, and you have navigated it better than anyone could have imagined. You trusted your teachers and the instructional plan, and when you came to school in January, you were focused and ready to learn. Many of you even stayed after school to make up for lost time. Your resilience has been nothing short of inspiring. When you were dealt a tough hand, you showed that great things can happen if you work hard enough. Regardless of all the barriers thrown in your path, you have once again put Port Charlotte Middle in a position to be the highest-performing school in the district. You have made your teachers proud.

Thank you, parents. I know that any decision that impacts your child's future is a decision that no parent takes lightly. When you listened to my parent-calls after the storm, I know that other options existed, options that would have helped your child return to normalcy sooner. I know that the lack of concrete knowledge and updates was infuriating at times. In spite of that, you stuck by your student's teachers and Port Charlotte Middle School. Your continued trust and support throughout this entire process has been

## ADMINISTRATION

Principal

**Matthew Kunder**

Assistant Principals

**Tara Whisenant**

**Jon Hock**

Dean

**Zack Wheeler**

Guidance Counselors

**Eric Grzechowiak**

**Alesha Jewett**

**Alexa Manaski**

ESE Liaison

**Marjorie Stevens**

Social Worker

**Brittany Baumhardt**

School Resource Officer

**Deputy Anderson**

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Port Charlotte FL 33952

**Phone:** 941-255-7460

**Fax:** 941-255-7469

**Attendance Line:** 941-255-7467

**Office Hours:** 8:00 - 4:30



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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incredible and has been paramount to the success of all our students.

Thank you, community. From the moment that PCMS was announced as being the only school in Charlotte County that was not ready to return to in-person instruction on November 18th, our community showed their support. Local churches, schools, restaurants, neighbors, and businesses flocked to offer their assistance, even while they were struggling to put their own lives back together. Your support was instrumental in getting resources into the hands of our students and their families, and I can't possibly thank everyone enough.

Thank you, Port Charlotte Middle School teachers and staff. I am certain no one wanted to be housed at the David Gayler Professional Development Center for 42 days, and I can guarantee that video chats did not provide the same satisfaction that teaching an

in-person lesson does. I know that meeting students' needs over Canvas was tough and the staff transition to alternative work sites was uncomfortable. Despite all of this, the Terrier staff remained focused, giving their all each and every day. And, when it was time to return to campus, teachers and staff came together as a team to help students get back to normal. Without your flexibility and commitment, this school year would not have been as successful.

To our 8th grade students, I wish you the best of luck in high school and beyond. Your flexibility, resourcefulness, and resiliency has proven over and over again that you are an outstanding group of students with bright futures ahead. The Terrier teachers and staff are proud of you.

Mr. Matthew Kunder  
Principal



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Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1052

## TEACHING OUT OF FIELD

**The following teachers are currently teaching Out of Field:**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Madeline Guerrero | Reading Endorsement and Missing ESOL/ELL hours or endorsement |
| Mayann Rasmussen  | Social Science  |
| Kimberly Smith    | English   |



Maura Stanchak, DDS, MS  
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## MARCH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

|           |                 |                  |
|-----------|-----------------|------------------|
| 6th Grade | Forrest Richter | Jaylynn Dunnell  |
| 7th Grade | Vincent Son     | Ariella Hamilton |
| 8th Grade | Jayden Robinson | Eleanor Richter  |



## APRIL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

|           |                   |                 |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 6th Grade | Emely Garcia      | Daikiel Ricardo |
| 7th Grade | Sophie Martinez   | Farooq Memon    |
| 8th Grade | Isabella Clemente | Patrick Joy     |




## KINDNESS AWARDS

Emily Fountain, Alex Bammel, Eduardo Pacheco, Isabella Kirk



## STRAIGHT A LUNCHEON



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## THANK YOU DONORS

Whew! We've made it! This year has been one of the most challenging and yet most rewarding years at PCMS. When Hurricane Ian hit and our school was damaged, our community, though damaged itself, pulled together for our students and staff. We PCMS Terriers would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of the community sponsors.

First and foremost, thank you to all of those who helped our students when they needed it the most. T-Mobile graciously donated iPads to students so that their learning wouldn't be interrupted, and the Charlotte County Public Schools IT Department was instrumental in making sure our students were provided with electronic support while they navigated this unprecedented time. Operation BBQ contributed meals for our community, and Sonshine Baptist Church donated roof tarps for our students' families and supplies for the PCMS Community Support Event. This relief effort would not have been possible without the support of Kim Amontree and the generous gift of her time. The staff of Peace River Elementary was also invaluable; they donated their building to host this much-needed event. The relief and gratitude on the faces of our families said what words could not.

Also reaching out to offer support were Maine School Administrative District #55 and Robert Sloman with Carlos E. Haile Middle School in Manatee County, who both donated a generous sum to help Port Charlotte Middle School provide materials and supplies to our students and families in need. The Volunteer Fire Department of Prospect and Mr. and Mrs. Brandien donated money to help our math students as well.

PCMS would also like to extend our thanks to Peace River Elementary and the David E. Gayler Professional Development Center who graciously hosted the PCMS staff while our building was under construction. Publix, Duncan Donuts, Operation BBQ, Olive Garden, Luigis, Sonshine Baptist Church, Robin and Darren Yassen, and Key West Subs kept our PCMS staff fed and helped boost morale.

Without all of your support, the students and staff at Port Charlotte Middle School would not have been able to make it through this difficult year.

## We need spots filled...



## ...Can YOU help?

**Support  
Port Charlotte  
Middle School  
by advertising in the  
*Terrier Times!***

This is a wonderful way for your business to get community recognition and exposure, and at the *SAME TIME* help support your local schools!

Contact the school today for more information.

**Port Charlotte  
Middle School**  
Kimberly Pruey  
[kimberly.pruey@yourcharlotteschools.net](mailto:kimberly.pruey@yourcharlotteschools.net)





## PE NEWS

Students in our PE classes have been participating in an Olympics unit which has allowed them to practice teamwork, sportsmanship, and grit (sticking with it). The unit has included activities such as a 40 yard dash, 4v4 basketball tournament, canoe relay and team canoe event (on scooters), handball tournament, swimming relay where students could practice "freestyle" swim (again on scooters, we don't have a pool), soccer tournament, triathlon events swim (freestyle or butterfly stroke), bike (pedaling skills), run (4x400 relay), tennis/volleyball tournament, and a rhythmical dance routine. Students were allowed in the beginning to choose their teams but were advised to choose wisely based on how well they felt a teammate would be supportive and participate, be present, and cooperate as a team mate. Once their teams were chosen they were not allowed to drop a team mate and had to figure out how to become leaders and work together to be successful. The kids have been awarded gold, silver, and bronze status: each carrying a point value. In the end points will be tallied based on how many medal standings a team received to determine the overall winners. As of the time of this article team showing some promise toward the ultimate gold medal are as follows:

- Period 1: Chad, Jamaica, Niger
- Period 2: Haiti, Jamaica, Iran
- Period 3: Jamaica, United States, Haiti
- Period 4: Greece, Saudi Arabia, Romania
- Period 5: Jamaica, France Niger
- Period 6: Mexico, Argentina, France
- Period 7: Niger, Australia, Japan

We are very proud of the teamwork, hard work, and perseverance the students have shown throughout this unit!



## MATH NEWS

The 9th annual *Math Carnival* was held on Friday, March 10th. All math classes were able to attend the event which was funded this year by a grant from Suncoast Credit Union. Other contributors to the event were Fidelity National Title and Publix Supermarket.

The *Math Carnival* consists of a variety of math themed, carnival style games. The carnival is run by PCMS student volunteers as well as students from PCHS and parent volunteers. In addition to the games, students were able to visit the *Museum of Pi* to learn fun facts about the number pi. There was also a concession stand with a variety of treats and free pie for everyone.

There were three new games this year: *Pi Hop*, *Zero Throw-in-a-Row* and *Mathland* which was a competition between math classes. In the game *Pi Hop*, students hopped out the beginning digits of the number pi. For *Zero Throw-in-a-Row*, students tried to make equations that have a sum of zero.

The *Math Carnival* was a great day of fun and learning!

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Melissa M. Duston, D.D.S.

Timothy L. Palmer, D.D.S.  
Ashley N. Reynolds, D.M.D.  
Neil B. Seaver, D.M.D.

WE WELCOME NEW SMILES!



## TECHNOLOGY SHOUT OUTS!

The following students in Ms. Carboni's class have earned their Microsoft Office Specialist Certification in PowerPoint 2019.

Please congratulate them on this worthwhile and difficult, career-ready accomplishment.

- Gavin Fulton
- Noah Mercado
- Vincent Son

Gavin, Noah, and Vincent were our class pioneers after a trying year with Hurricane Ian and losing much preparation time in our computer lab. We are happy to report they are the beginning of many more certifications to come. Students are working diligently on their GMetrix simulation projects and doing very well preparing for the next round of certification testing. When you see our students wearing their "Certified" shirts, know the tests they are passing are those given to adults in the workplace. They earn every bit of kudos they receive. Congratulations on a job well done. All your hard work does pay off and we are so very proud to call you Terriers!

The following students in Mrs. McGee's class have earned their Microsoft Office Specialist Certification in Excel 2019.

Please congratulate them on this worthwhile and difficult, career-ready accomplishment.

- Dayna Patton
- Roshan Sojan
- Ava Gilliard
- Imani McKenzie

Dayna, Roshan, Ava, and Imani have worked very hard to be the first in their 8th Grade class to certify in Excel. We have had a trying year with Hurricane Ian and losing a great amount of preparation time in our computer labs.

Excel is an application that is not only hard for adults but extremely difficult for students to grasp. These students worked diligently to earn their Industry Certification in

Excel. When you see our students wearing their "Certified" shirts, know the tests they are passing are those given to adults in the workplace.

Congratulations on a job well done. All your hard work does pay off and we are so very proud to call you Terriers! Students who passed the IC3 GS5 Spark Certification for Ms. Gibson.

- Robert Cahill
- Joshua Rodriguez
- Kyle Zhang
- Abigail Lin
- Emma Vana
- Alexandra Hernandez
- Jaylynn Dunnell
- Bentley Hernandez
- Damian Lewis
- Patrick Rice
- Anna Walsh
- Abigail Watt
- Jaeda Nelson
- Nehemiah Rosario
- Taylor Thurman
- Jaylin Zapian
- Madison Day
- Laniya Hardwick-Derby
- Rebecca Henson
- Sophia Liedel
- Sophia Schwint

Ms. Gibson's students certified in Microsoft Word:

- Bryce Blondun
- Haiden Hurley
- Vincent Ritta
- Jayden Zapien
- Ariella Hamilton
- Farooq Memon
- Ayla Gumabong







THE INAUGURAL  
**PORT CHARLOTTE MIDDLE SCHOOL GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH, 2023

**The Hills @ Rotonda Golf and Country Club**

100 Rotonda Circle  
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**Information**

**Time:** 7:15am registration

8:30 shotgun start

Scramble format

**Cost:** \$75 per person

(\$300 per team of four).

Includes 18 holes of golf,  
lunch, prizes and more!

Come out for a great day of golf and fun to  
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academic supplements, field trips,  
technology and more!



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1. **Garnet Sponsor (\$250)**- Sign at tournament, recognition on PCMS website
  2. **Gold Sponsor (\$500)**- Garnet sponsor, with larger banner displayed outside school for 23-24 school year
  3. **Terrier Sponsor (\$750)**- Gold sponsor benefits, plus your team's registration included
- \*Sponsor by 9/8/2023 to have your business name on the event tee!**

Please select choice below and enclose with payment. Checks can be made payable to PCM PTO.

**Register by 9/15/2023 and receive a free event tee!**

Team Registration: \$300 ☐ Individual Registration \$75 ☐

Sponsorship: Terrier Sponsor \$750 ☐ Gold Sponsor \$500 ☐

Garnet Sponsor \$250 ☐

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**If sponsoring, please list your business name, contact name, contact number, and email!**

Golfer registration and payment form can be dropped off at the PCMS main office or mailed to:

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Please feel free to call: 941-255-7460 with any questions you may have!



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## CHORUS



Congratulations to the 7th & 8th Grade Girls Chorus for receiving straight "Excellent" ratings from all four judges at the Florida Music Performance Assessments on March 6. This group of 35

talented singers from PCM is proud to say that not only did they improve their scores from last year, but they received many compliments from the judges about their mature vocal sound. The Port Charlotte Middle School community should be very proud!

Congratulations to the 7th & 8th Grade Boys Chorus which performed in front of four vocal judges at the Florida Music Performance Assessments on March 7. Judges and other choral directors were especially delighted to see our 23-member Boys Chorus because PCM has the ONLY middle school Boys Chorus in all of Charlotte, Collier, and Lee Counties! Their performance -- with improved scores from last year -- yielded two "Excellent" ratings as well as two "Superior" ratings. The Port Charlotte Middle School community should be very proud!



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