

EAGLETIMES

Punta Gorda Middle School

1001 Education Ave.

Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Phone: 941-575-5485

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear parents or guardians,

This school year has had its challenges but time seems to be flying by. I can't believe it is time for the Spring Newsletter already. This edition is very important because it contains many important testing dates including FSA testing and final exams. Please take some time to look at the dates and do your best to avoid scheduling appointments on these days. We will begin testing first thing in the morning so please be sure to have your student here on time, ready to go by 9:10. I also need to let you know that even though we have the schedule set, there is still a chance it could change. Remember, most of the testing is on the computer so if something happens and a group is unable to test, it may change the whole schedule but we will do everything we can to keep it the way it is listed now. We have also included the dates for a couple of end of year events. Some events will be happening but in a different way this year because of Covid. We will be having awards ceremonies but they will be for students only. We are trying to do a live stream so that you are able to view it during that time but we do not have that confirmed yet. As we get closer to that time, we will give you more information. Our last day of school for this year is Friday, June 4th. The last day of regular classes is Friday, May 28th and then we have exams June 1st - 4th. School Board policy prohibits us from giving exams before June 1st so please do not plan on taking your child out of school early. Thanks for all your hard work and help this year. I am looking forward to a smooth ending and hopefully a return to some normalcy.

Sincerely,
Justina Dionisio

Mrs. Justina Dionisio,
Principal

Ms. Renee McLain,
Assistant Principal, Discipline

Mrs. Kellee Anderson
Dean of Students

Dr. Scott Nicklas,
Assistant Principal,
Activities & Facilities

Dr. Michael Davey,
Assistant Principal, Curriculum

Mrs. Kerri Thibeault,
School Counselor, 6th Grade

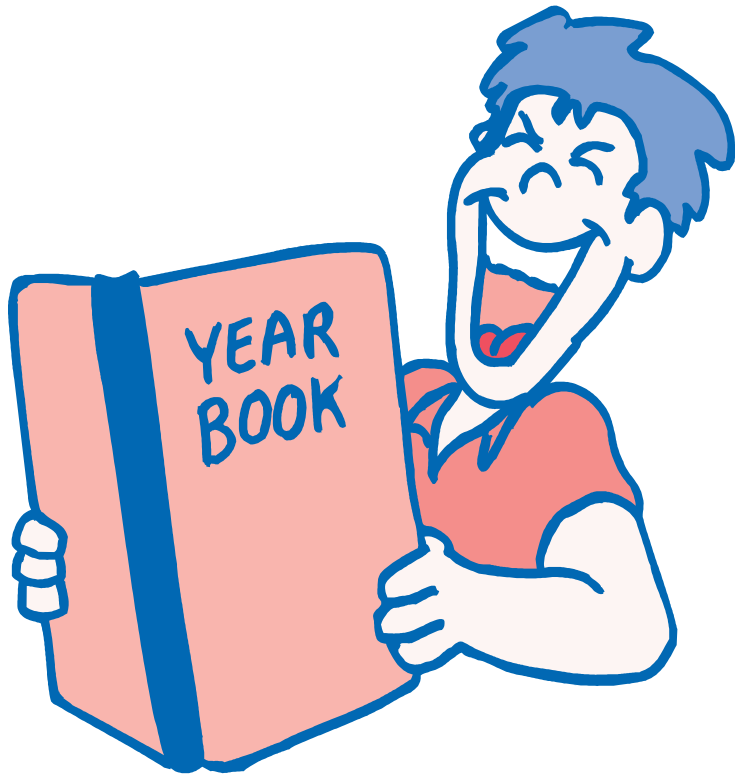
Mrs. Kalyn Wolff,
School Counselor, 7th Grade

Mr. Douglass Barr,
School Counselor, 8th Grade

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Please continue to purchase Yearbooks on line at www.yearbookforever.com and remember, the ONLY way to guarantee that your child gets a Yearbook is to PRE-ORDER!



Calendar of Events

May

12	6th Grade Band Concert - Outside Parking Lot
13	7th & 8th Grade Band Concert - Outside Parking Lot
18-19	Play - Alice In Wonderland
20	Honor Society Induction
25	6th Grade Awards
26	7th Grade Awards
27	8th Grade Awards

Important Testing Dates

Test	Date
6, 7, 8 FSA Writing	Weds 4/7
6 FSA ELA READ PBT	5/4 and 5/5
7 FSA ELA READ CBT	5/4 and 5/5
8 FSA ELA READ CBT	5/4 and 5/5
6 FSA Math PBT	5/6 and 5/7
7 FSA Math CBT	5/6 and 5/7
8 FSA Math CBT	5/6 and 5/7
8 FCAT Science PBT	5/11
7 Civics EOC CBT	5/11
8 ALG EOC CBT	5/12 and 5/13
FSAA Window	3/1 to 5/14
FSAA Materials to Schools	2/15 to 2/19
FINAL EXAMS	6/1-6/4

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The girls and boys Basketball teams celebrating their Championship victory at BEEFS after the game.

8th Graders test their Rocket Building and Rocket Launching Skills in Science Class

"One of the best days of 8th grade is going outside and launching our rockets to see if they SOAR!" said 8th grader Abbie Willis. She continued "the 8th grade science teachers Mr. Booher, Mr. Comment, and Mr. Jesse do an amazing job with this unit. It is so cool to see everyone having fun with science!"



8th Graders Ava Hall, Abbie Willis and Lillian Harlan

'Eagle Times'
April 2021

Published Four Times Per Year
Charlotte County Public Schools
1445 Education Way
Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1052
Issue #2

PBiS "Spirit Night" at Beef O' Brady's of Punta Gorda

The first ever PBiS "Spirit Night" at Beef O' Brady's of Punta Gorda was a HUGE success thanks to our PGMS family! Students, parents, and staff enjoyed great food and a fun-filled atmosphere! The PGMS PBiS team would like to thank Beef O' Brady's of Punta Gorda for hosting a great event and for supporting our school. Go Eagles!

BEEF O' BRADY'S
GOOD FOOD. GOOD SPORTS
& Super Arcade

CONGRATS TO ALL OF THE PGMS EAGLES!
SEE YOU AT BEEFS!



A big thank you to Chris Lansdale and the Punta Gorda Beef O' Brady's for their continued support of Punta Gorda Middle School and everything they do for our community.

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Stop Bullying

Punta Gorda Middle School does not condone Bullying. We have many ways to report issues of bullying. Students or Parents can contact Teachers, Counselors, our Dean, or Administrators either by phone, email, or the school bully button.

From Your School Counselors

We had a fantastic 1st semester. We've been working diligently with students on academics and social/emotional development. We are very proud to report that two Punta Gorda Middle 8th graders were awarded a Take Stock in Children Scholarship. We look forward to a strong start in the 2nd semester. Please continue to monitor your student's academic progress through Focus, weekly if possible. Feel free to reach out to your student's grade level counselor with any questions or concerns.



PGMS Science Fair

The PGMS science fair concluded with 6th grader Ella Courtney winning the Chemistry division and advancing to the Regional Thomas Edison science fair. Her project studied the topic of convection to transfer heat through the baking cookies in different materials (pans, glass, stone, sheet). It was tastefully done and thanks to her peers, Mrs. Cabana, and Mr. Commet for their guidance and support.

Congrats!

PGMS Media Center

"A book is a dream you can hold in your hands." (Author unknown)

Media has been busy with chrome books and checking out books in our media center. Despite that, we have had time to complete presentations about Emmett Till, do book talks, and keep our library in order. PGMS has a great student media staff.

We are trying something new this year – by the time you receive this we will be in the thick of it. PGMS is running not one, but TWO book fairs simultaneously online! Our always partner, Scholastic will offer the same types of books seen in person at our book fairs as always. Junior Library Guild, a peer-reviewed supplier of books, is offering a chance for our students who want "a little more" in a book. If you haven't checked them out, there is still time. Both fairs will run from March 22 - April 4. Shop for now, for birthdays, for Easter, or any upcoming event. Keep our kids reading!

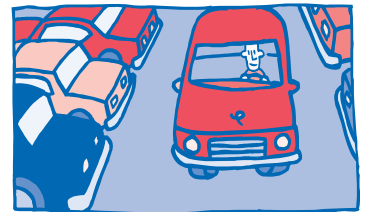
Also, follow our twitter feed in Media @PGMS_Media to see some of the activities the media center provides and collaboration between classrooms and media. Thank you to all who support our PGMS Media Center.

Mr. Wolfahrt and the Drama Department Present two fabulous Plays this Spring!

- 7th Grade Drama Presents: Orange is the New Glass on April 12th and 13th from 7:00 to 8:30
- 8th Grade Drama Presents: Alice in Wonderland on May 18 and 19th from 7:00 to 8:30

Gated Entry and Exit Procedures From PGMS Security:

Parents need to wait and push the intercom button even if the gate is open before entering. Every car needs to be screened before entering campus. When leaving, the gate will automatically open when you pull up to the exit gate. Thanks!



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D-Fy (Drug Free Youth)

Most students at Punta Gorda Middle School are making great choices when it comes to alcohol, nicotine, marijuana & other harmful drugs. We want to recognize and honor those youth! D-Fy (Drug Free Youth) is a way for us to do just that. With the help of the local community: parents, businesses, schools and social agencies we can

create a culture that reinforces and rewards the teens who are choosing to be drug free.

Beginning on Thursday, April 22, youth will be able to apply for a D-Fy membership by signing a commitment to be drug, alcohol & nicotine free. They validate, put their words into action, by taking a parent approved drug test. Upon passing the test they are then given a photo ID card along with free swag items (t shirt, sling backpack, lanyard, gift cards, coupons...)

D-Fy business partners in the community provide discounts, special perks, freebies, etc. to show support for the teen's drug free decisions when a D-Fy photo ID card is presented. This creates a community culture that says with our words & actions that we see & we recognize your positive choice- we are proud of you, we are with you!

The D-Fy members take pride in their resolution to be drug free which tends to be a positive influence with their peers! D-Fy members will have events in the future that they can attend for free (like dances) or other special events.

The D-FY business partners will receive free advertising on the Drug Free Punta Gorda / D-FY website, a "We Support Drug Free Youth" window cling, and are identified as a partner in a variety of D-FY promotional and marketing materials.

D-FY volunteers are also needed who will provide critical and necessary support to the program by donating their time and services to help with various program facets such as sign-ups, testing, community and other special D-FY Punta Gorda opportunities.

Registrations will be held 2x a month beginning Thursday, April 22 with the first opportunity taking place at the Bayfront YMCA building from 2:30-5:15 by appointment. To make an appointment or for further details, contact Monica Babcock 941-740-4358, call or text, or email monica.babcock@yourcharlotteschools.net.

Student applications will be available in the PGMS front office, on the Drug Free Punta Gorda website (drugfreepg.com) or D-Fy Punta Gorda social media.

Empowering our youth to make healthy drug free choices.

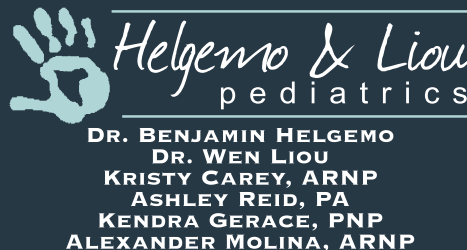


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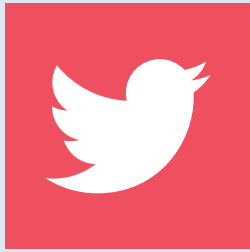
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http://www.edline.net/pages/Punta_Gorda_Middle_School

The BOYS TRACK Team Won 1st Place in the DISTRICT TRACK MEET!

Congratulations to the Boys Track team they won the County Meet on January 30th. The Girls Track team tied for 3rd.

Boys

- Trent Curliss (7th) won the 200m and 400m
- Devan Jones (7th) 2nd in the 100m and 5th in the 400m
- Jordan Taylor (8th) was 4th in the 200 and Long Jump
- Robert Robbins (8th) won the 800m and 3rd in the mile
- Michael Soquita (7th) was 3rd in the 200m and 5th in the 100m
- Kade Pena (8th) was 4th in the 800m and 4th in the mile
- Braxton Taylor (7th) was 5th in the mile
- Connor Crouse (7th) was 3rd in the Long Jump
- Dior Evans (8th) was 5th in the Long Jump

Girls

Samantha Vega (6th) was 5th in the 200m
Ava Taylor (8th) was 5th in the 800m and 5th in the mile
Abbie Willis (8th) was 3rd in the Long Jump



8th grader Jordan Attia celebrates with the trophy!



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On March 11th 2021, the PGMS (Girls and Boys) Basketball Teams WON the DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP!

Girls 2021 Basketball Team

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| • Chrissi Jamison | • Hanna Hall | • Adrianna Stewart | • Brandi Trzeciak | • Madeline Bradsher |
| • Ava Hall | • Ci'Anna Fulton | • Jade Grier | • Jaiden Halvorsen | • Reese Crandall |
| • Abbie Willis | • Sammy Vega | • Keira Vasquez | • Ellie Jobbers | |



Coach Chelsea and Coach Hall with their team



Boys 2021 Basketball Team

- | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| • Kamran Curliss | • Devan Jones | • Aaron Hurley | • Dior Evans | • Robert Robbins |
| • Jaycion Thomas | • Trenton Curliss | • Jordan Taylor | • David Thelusma | • Gino Dibene |
| • Connor Crouse | • Corbin Sifrit | • Jordan Attia | • Bonamussa Fullen | • Evan Armstrong |



A few spots are left!



We need you!

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Christina Hall
christina.hall@yourcharlotteschools.net
Punta Gorda Middle School



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8

Good kids can make bad decisions. That thought rolled around in my head as I listened to story after story of grown adults in recovery talking about the decisions they all made as kids that led to the addictions that destroyed their lives, that robbed them of everything and everyone that mattered to them. None of them were bad kids, and most of them grew up in happy homes with parents that loved them. This scared me a bit and made me think.... then what in the world can us parents do to keep kids from choosing alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD)?

So, the good news is that research shows that teens say their parents are one of the top reasons they choose not to use ATOD. That's right, they may act like they know all about everything sometimes, but when you talk, they really are listening. So, while there isn't a book on the right way to raise our kids, but there are steps that we can take to help our kids make good choices when it comes to ATOD. Here are some tips.

Communicate with love and understanding:

1. Pick a time that makes sense. You want to make sure that you can devote complete attention to the conversation without any distractions. You also want to think about your child's schedule/routine and avoid times when they may be rushed or busy getting ready for school/work or doing homework. Picking a time when you and your kiddo are in a good mood is also helpful.
2. Have a plan. Think about what you want to say ahead of time. This will help you to organize your thoughts and feel more relaxed. When you are relaxed, your kiddo will be more relaxed. However, remember it isn't just about what you want to say but listening as well.

Drug Fact Week Blog

3. Practice active listening. Look at your child while they are talking. Show them your listening by mirroring back to them what they are saying. Use comfortable body language and avoid crossed arms or making unapproving facial expressions. Occasionally smiling and nodding your head can let them know your still paying attention.
4. Be respectful in your responses. Avoid fault finding, sarcasm, comparing, and belittling. Give them time to express themselves. Use encouragement when they talk about choices that they have made that are positive. Consider telling them that your proud of them for sharing with you.

Listen and hear them when they share:

1. Rather than telling them what solution you would do, try guiding them into coming up with a solution by asking guiding questions.
2. Don't shoot down their ideas. Ask them about what they think would be the pros and cons of each solution. Praise them when they come up with solutions on their own.
3. Don't make assumptions, rather ask questions about the situation.
4. Avoid putting people down. Your kids may share about friends. If you start talking poorly about their friends, they may be less likely to share in the future.
5. Make sure you are focusing more on solving the problem than the problem itself.

Make sure your kids know where you stand and set clear limits:

1. Let kids know that you don't approve of ATOD use.
2. Make sure they know your expectations for them.

3. Tell your kids why you have set the limits.
4. Come up with some specific consequences together if they break the rules about ATOD.
5. Make sure to compliment them when they do follow these limits.

Be there for your kids:

1. Spend time with your kids AND their friends. Try new activities. Work on goals together.
2. Make time for them every day.
3. Take an interest in their hobbies and things they are involved in.
4. Be present at things that are important to them.
5. When your kids are going to be going somewhere, call and talk with the parents first and make sure there will be parent supervision.
6. Meet your kid's friend's parents. Make sure that where they are going is a safe place. Get contact information for the parents as well. Find out the parent's rules about ATOD.
7. Know where your child is, ALWAYS. Have your child check in with you when they leave somewhere and when they arrive as well. Call and check in with your child at different times.

