

# EAGLETIMES

Punta Gorda Middle School

1001 Education Ave.  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
Phone: 941-575-5485



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardians,

I want to extend a warm welcome to those families who are new to Punta Gorda Middle School and welcome back those who are returning. I hope everyone was able to enjoy their summer with some fun and relaxation. We are ready to begin the 2019/20 school year.

You may recall that with the passage of the referendum, our school day is now extended by one half hour. As a result, our start and end times have changed as has our bell schedule.

This year we will begin school at 9:10 am and end at 4:10 pm. Your student's schedule will still consist of seven classes: four core classes (Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies), one computer class, and two exploratory classes (or remedial classes, if necessary). Classes are 51 minutes long, and each class meets every day.

As many of you already know (and others are about to find out!) middle school is a transitional time in your child's life. Your son or daughter will try many different things (including your patience) in order to figure out his or her direction in life. Each day, our staff will be working hard with all Eagles to help them become great leaders and to find their wings and **SOAR**:

- **Strive for success,**
- **Opt for honesty,**
- **Act responsibly**
- **Respect others.**

You should be able to get all the information you need from this newsletter, but if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school at (941) 575-5485. I look forward to working with all of you this school year!!

Sincerely,  
Justina Dionisio, Principal

**Mrs. Justina Dionisio,**  
**Principal**

**Mrs. Allison Portwood,**  
**Assistant Principal, Discipline**

**Dr. Scott Nicklas,**  
**Assistant Principal,**  
**Activities & Facilities**

**Dr. Michael Davey,**  
**Assistant Principal, Curriculum**

**Mrs. Kerri Thibeault,**  
**School Counselor, 6th Grade**

**Mrs. Kalya Wolff,**  
**School Counselor, 7th Grade**

**Mr. Douglass Barr,**  
**School Counselor, 8th Grade**

**Where Eagles**  
**SOAR Everyday!**

## Basic Student Supply List

- Pencils
- Erasers/cap erasers
- Pens: blue or black ink ONLY
- 3 or more different colored highlighters
- Notebooks & Folders
- Earbuds/headphones
- Backpack (please get your child a comfortable backpack, but please do not get something extremely large, as they usually only need to carry supplies and folders)
- Graph Paper



## Teacher Supply Closet

The PTO maintains a Teacher Supply Closet throughout the school year. We happily accept any item on the basic student supply list as well as tissues, adhesive bandages, binders, composition books, staplers, copy paper (white or colored), white out, Post-it notes, markers, hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes, etc. Anything you think your student or a teacher might find useful is accepted. Just drop it off at the front desk or send it to school with your student and we'll make sure it gets put to use.

## What About Breakfast And Lunch?

Breakfast is served in the cafeteria from **8:30 a.m.** daily. All PGMS students receive **FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH** every day during the 2019-20 school year. There is no need to fill out any forms: every PGMS student automatically qualifies.

## Calendar of Events

### August

- 12..... First Day of School
- 22..... Dance, sponsored by Drug Free Punta Gorda, 4 pm
- 26..... SAC Meeting, 5:30pm
- 29..... First PTO Meeting, 9:15am
- 30..... Professional Development Day, no school for students

### September

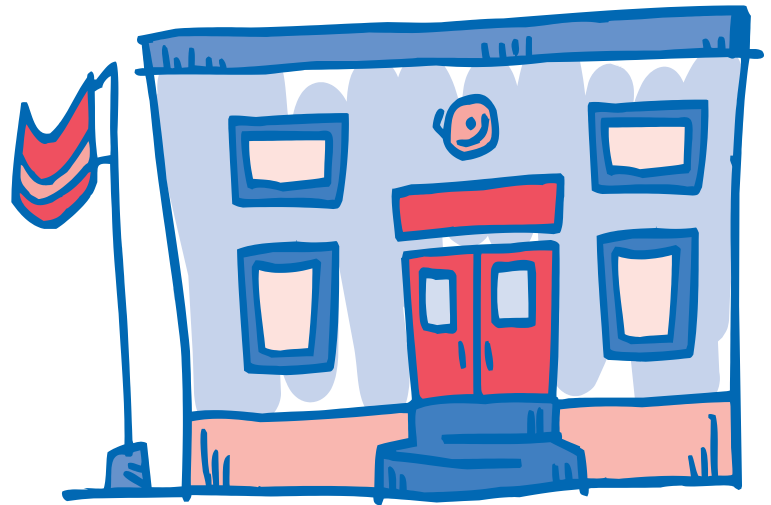
- 2..... Labor Day
- 23..... SAC Meeting, 5:30pm
- 26..... PTO Meeting, 9:15 am



## August 8th Open House

**6th Grade Students**  
4:00-5:30 pm

**7th & 8th Grade Students**  
5:30-6:30 pm



You will have the opportunity to purchase PE uniforms and school shirts, register for before school care, pick up student schedules, meet your student's teachers, and get information regarding various activities at PGMS!

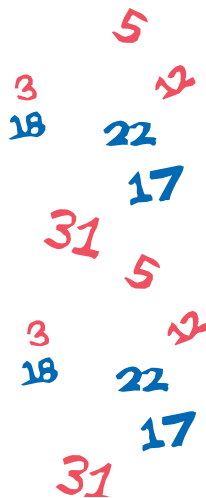
## Helgemo & Liou

pediatrics

DR. BENJAMIN HELGEMO  
DR. WEN LIU  
KRISTY CAREY, ARNP  
ASHLEY REID, PA  
KENDRA GERACE, PNP

2040 Tamiami Trl Unit C | Pt. Charlotte, FL 33948  
Phone: (941) 629-4464 | Fax: (941) 629-4701

New Patients Welcome | Most Insurances Accepted  
[WWW.HELGEMOPEDIATRICS.COM](http://WWW.HELGEMOPEDIATRICS.COM)



**Government Rates Available**

## LAQUINTA

INNS & SUITES

wake up on the bright side®

941-979-4200 • [www.lq.com](http://www.lq.com)  
812 Kings Highway • Port Charlotte, FL 33980

## CHARLOTTE

### Behavioral Health Care

Outpatient Therapy

Psychiatric Services

Children & Adolescent Programs

Crisis Services

Detox/Inpatient Treatment Programs

Court Mandated Services for Adolescents & Adults

**Punta Gorda**  
1700 Education Ave.  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

**North Port Charlotte**  
1032 Tamiami Trail, Unit 7  
Port Charlotte, FL 33953

941-639-8300 • [cbhcf.org](http://cbhcf.org)

## SOAR Like An Eagle

Become a VIP Star Sponsor at PGMS by advertising on a banner in the PGMS gym. Banners are 3x4, cost \$200 for the first year, and can be renewed for just \$100 annually. Sponsors are also listed on our website. **Sponsorships are limited, so act now!** For more information contact [summer.nicklas@yourcharlotteschools.net](mailto:summer.nicklas@yourcharlotteschools.net) or [christina.hall@yourcharlotteschools.net](mailto:christina.hall@yourcharlotteschools.net).

## Student Council Welcomes New Students For 2019-2020

Student Council is looking for student representatives from 6th, 7th, and 8th grades to help us plan and implement some of the most exciting events on campus. We meet once a month after school to prepare for Spirit Week, the Spirit Dance, a holiday Card drive for residents of our local nursing homes, the Spring Talent show, and the 8th grade Farewell Dance. If this sounds like something you'd be interested in doing, listen to morning announcements for meeting times and locations, and pick up an application to join us!

Spirit Week and our first Spirit Dance will be in September, so we will start working early. If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Combs in room #314 or Ms. Alumbaugh in room #229.

## National Junior Honor Society Looks Forward To Another Great Year

The National Junior Honor Society is ready to kick off another busy and productive year at PGMS. A look at last year's projects, like the spring campus clean-up and AR Leveling Project, offer an idea of what's in store for 2019-20.

The NJHS spring clean-up was supported with a grant from Keep Charlotte Beautiful that paid for a truckload of mulch. Students spruced up landscaping around the campus before welcoming parents for spring awards ceremonies.

The Accelerated Reader (AR) Leveling Project was one of our chapter's major projects, requiring several volunteer hours to complete. NJHS students identified and labeled over 2,000 books from Deep Creek and Sallie Jones for the AR programs at the two elementary schools. We believe this project will develop young readers and future members of our NJHS chapter.

Finally, PGMS inducted 52 new students into NJHS at our May ceremony. These students will be expected to participate in chapter events this school year. These include service events and fun activities like last year's Skyzone social. Students wishing to become NJHS member should apply yourself in class and keep an eye out for information next February on how you can be inducted into this special group of young scholars and leaders.



NJHS members spent hours levelling over 2,000 books for elementary AR programs.



NJHS advisor Dr. Scott Courtney and NJHS students prepare to celebrate with the 52 new members of the PGMS chapter.



Students cleaned up landscaping areas around campus to prepare for end of year awards celebrations with students and parents.

## When Will The Bus Arrive?

The district transportation department has (or will mail out) your student's specific bus information before school starts. You can also access the information through the transportation website:

<http://yourcharlotteschools.net/departments/transportation.cfm>

All bus riders should write down their bus numbers in order to find their bus easily the first few days of school.



'Eagle Times'  
August 2019  
Published Four Times Per Year  
Charlotte County Public Schools  
1445 Education Way  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1052  
Issue #3

**Whitesides**  
**ORTHODONTICS**  
Joseph Whitesides, DDS  
**941-627-2011**  
3 convenient locations:  
North Port • Port Charlotte • Punta Gorda

**LA FIORENTINA**  
STEAKHOUSE ITALIANA  
TheFiorentina.com  
941 639 6500  
Delightfully juicy steaks served alongside great Italian favorites  
10361 Tamiami Trl Punta Gorda FL 33950  
**Village Fish Market & Restaurant**  
NEW ENGLAND STYLE SEAFOOD  
www.village-fish-market.com  
New England Style seafood with great meat lover favorites too!  
941 639 7959 1200 W Retta Esp Punta Gorda, FL 33950

**ANIMAL MEDICAL CLINIC**  
*of Punta Gorda*  
**Dan Bowen, D.V.M.**  
**941-639-9600**  
[www.puntagordavet.net](http://www.puntagordavet.net)  
324 Cross Street, Suite 111  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

## Where Do I Report on the First Day of School?

Students should report to their first period class on **Monday, August 12th**, the first day of school. Student Locator lists posted around the school will show where first period classes are located, and staff will be available in hallways and common areas to provide assistance.

## When Do I Get My Schedule?

Schedules will be distributed at open house on **August 8th**. If you are unable to attend, your schedule will be in your first period class. Please rest assured that staff will be easily accessible to provide assistance on the first day as students try to find their way around the school.

## What Time Does School Begin?

School hours are **9:10 a.m. - 4:10 p.m.** Please arrive on time whether you are coming on foot, by bus, on bicycle, or by car.

The school office hours are **8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.** once school begins. **Parents, please be aware that students should not arrive on campus before 8:30 a.m. as supervision does not begin until then.**

## What Should I Bring To School On The First Day?

A spiral notebook and a pen or pencil will be sufficient for the first day of school. Most teachers will provide a supply list for their class on day one so it makes sense to wait until your child brings their lists home to purchase any other supplies. Backpacks will be allowed as you travel from class to class (rolling backpacks are permitted). Students will have a number of items to bring home on the first day, and we ask parents/guardians to complete necessary paperwork and return them with your student.

## A Word From Drug Free Charlotte County

Vaping is a hot topic in schools lately. It is a trend whose popularity continues to rise throughout the United States. But vaping is not your typical trend. Unlike clothing and music trends, vaping leads to health dangers and addiction.

Smoking is a hard habit to kick, and this is due to Nicotine. Nicotine is the chemical that makes quitting hard, because once your body is addicted and dependent on Nicotine, you suffer from withdraw symptoms when you no longer take in that chemical. If you use e-cigs or vape pens to quit smoking, what will you use to quit e-cigs or vape pens?

This new dangerous and addicting trend is especially concerning for our kids. Much like big tobacco markets to kids through candy flavors and brightly colored packaging e-cigs and vapes are following suit. It sounds harmless to them considering the original marketing tactic to "help people quit smoking", it looks interesting with the candy flavors and bright packaging...not to mention all the YouTube videos showing vape tricks, and it is even made to smell like scents kids are attracted to (like fruity pebbles), and it is very easy to get, as cheap as .99 for a kit.

This all means that as parents, community members, teachers, medical professionals, law enforcement, etc. we all need to come together to teach kids the facts about e-cigs and vaping. First, Nicotine is a drug that is addictive. Nicotine is not relaxing, contrary to what they may have heard, it actually increases heart rate and blood pressure. It can even change insulin levels in the body and lead to heart disease. Second, nicotine is not the only chemical in e-cigs and vapes... even the ones that claim to not have any Nicotine include other chemicals in the liquid and there is not yet research that shows the short- and long-term health risks of ingesting those chemicals. Other chemicals known to be in e-cigs and vape pens like formaldehyde and heavy metals we already know can cause cancer, or like diacetyl which when inhaled can cause a serious lung disease called popcorn lung. Also, vapes can explode. There have been many instances we have heard of people being seriously injured because of vaping explosions. It is up to all of us to educate our community so that our teens can make healthy and informed decisions. For more information and resources, please visit us online at [www.drugfreecharlottecounty.org](http://www.drugfreecharlottecounty.org) or find us on Facebook (Drug Free Charlotte County), Twitter (@DFCCTweets), or Instagram (drugfreecharlottecounty).

Jen Bernardi  
Prevention Program Coordinator  
Drug Free Charlotte County



Named Charlotte County's "Best Performing Unit" by the Chamber of Commerce for over 20 years!



Home of the Award Winning  
**Florida Dance Company**  
and the  
**Ovations Competition Team**

Ballet • Tap • Jazz • Contemporary • Lyrical • Hip Hop • Acrobatics

941-743-2115 • [www.FloridaDanceWorkshop.com](http://www.FloridaDanceWorkshop.com)  
24901 Sandhill Blvd., Units 1-3 • Punta Gorda, FL 33983



Maura Stanchak, DDS, MS  
Specialist in Orthodontics

941-249-9193

18334 Murdock Circle • Port Charlotte, FL 33948

[www.SlackOrthodontics.com](http://www.SlackOrthodontics.com)



LOCALLY OWNED  
& OPERATED

25% OFF REGULAR MENU PRICE  
Order Online at [papajohns.com](http://papajohns.com)! Promo Code: PGMS25

2310 Tamiami Trail #3101  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950 **941-676-1111**

## Computer Teachers Offer Industry Certifications

Many colleges and universities award academic credit to students certified in Microsoft Office, and the Florida Department of Education reports that students with MOS certification graduate high school at a significantly higher rate and have a higher average GPA. Additionally, students with MOS certification have a dropout rate near zero, which suggests they are more engaged in the learning process.

Certification is a tremendous opportunity PGMS offers students, and we hope you will encourage your child to become certified this year. PGMS students earned over 400 Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certifications last year, and computer teachers hope to surpass that number in 2019-20. In their seventh- and eighth-grade computer classes, students have the opportunity to earn certification in Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel, Word Expert, Excel Expert and Access.

## School Advisory Council (SAC) and Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Parents are encouraged to participate on our School Advisory Council (SAC) and in our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). These organizations provide input to PGMS administrators and assist in the decision-making process concerning all school issues. Minority parents are especially encouraged to get involved in SAC and/or PTO, as we want our committees to be representative of all families in our community. Each year the role of SAC & PTO becomes more critical to the life of our school. Please consider becoming a vital part of these important organizations.

- **Our first SAC meeting will be held on Monday, August 26th at 5:30 pm in our Media Center.**
- **Our first PTO meeting will be held on Thursday, August 29th at 9:15 am in our Cafeteria.**

## Student Dress Code

Responsibility for the dress and appearance of students enrolled in Charlotte County Public Schools rests with parents and students. Please be aware that some student apparel may not be appropriate to wear to school, even though that same apparel may be appropriate in other settings.

The School Board of Charlotte County believes that there is a relationship between student attire and classroom behavior, attitude, and achievement. The objectives of our dress code are to bring dignity to the classroom and to prevent classroom distractions. The Code of Conduct is posted online at <http://yourcharlotteschools.net/students/documents/19-20/CodeOfStudentConduct.pdf>.

**Note:** The principal or the principal's designee has the final authority for interpreting whether a student's apparel conforms to the dress code. When it is determined that a student's clothing does not comply with the dress code or is disruptive, a parent/guardian may be asked to bring an appropriate change of clothes to school or the student may be sent home to change clothes.

## Do I Dress Out for P.E.? Yes!

We have a beautiful gymnasium, and locker rooms re available for student use here at PGMS. Our coaches expect all students to dress out for PE wearing black shorts, a white or gray shirt, and sneakers. Students are graded on dressing out as well on participation.

Uniforms may be purchased at school for \$15 a set or \$10 for a dry-fit shirt. PE uniforms will be available for purchase at **Open House on August 8th**. Lockers will also be available at a later date for \$2. Checks should be written to PGMS.

**Please note, aerospray products, cell phones, gum, and candy are not allowed in the gym or locker rooms.**

## Follow PGMS on



@pgmiddle



@Pgmiddle



pgmiddle

[http://www.edline.net/pages/  
Punta Gorda Middle School](http://www.edline.net/pages/Punta_Gorda_Middle_School)

**EXECUTIVE**  
COOLING AND HEATING

**941-637-9800**  
**www.ExecutiveCooling.com**  
**LIC. NO. CAC1814055**

### Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, Inc.

- Wading Trips
- Guided Trail Hikes
- Lectures
- Art Exhibits



- Educational Programs
- Special Events
- Gift Shop

~ [www.checflorida.org](http://www.checflorida.org) ~ [chec@checflorida.org](mailto:chec@checflorida.org) ~

Punta Gorda  
10941 Burnt Store Road  
33955 ~ Ph: 941-575-5435

Englewood  
2300 Placida Road  
34224 ~ Tel: 941-475-0769



**FORTIFYFL**  
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

#FORTIFYFL

Available on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play



## Reporting Suspicious Activities or Threats (Fortify Florida)

Students, parents, CCPS employees, and members of the community have a responsibility to report suspicious activities and potential threats to our schools. Any suspicious activity or threat should be promptly reported to one of the following individuals, agencies or reporting tools:

- School Resource Officer or local law enforcement agencies.
- School Administrator or any available staff member.
- **The FortifyFL Reporting APP** or to the Crimestoppers Tipline (1-800-780-TIPS).
- Contacting the Supervisor of District Security and Emergency Management at (941) 255-0808
- Calling 9-1-1



**Your Local Sponsor Advertisers**

**BEEF O' BRADY'S**  
\* GOOD FOOD. GOOD SPORTS™ \*

**& Super Arcade**

**941-505-2333**  
**BEEFOBRADYS.COM**

**f** 1105 TAYLOR STREET, UNIT 1 PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950 **📍**

LESS THAN A MILE FROM PUNTA GORDA MIDDLE SCHOOL

## No Bully Zone

School-wide initiatives at PGMS educate students about bullying and how to effectively interact with others. Our staff incorporate cognitive-skills training on how to interact responsibly, handle controversy and resolve conflicts amicably. Punta Gorda Middle regularly trains staff on Bullying and Abuse recognition, and training is provided to educate students, parents, and community members as well.



## Media Center News

The beginning of the school year is always exciting, and the media center is a great place to share that excitement. Please stop by during Open House on August 8th.

The media center is open each morning, and throughout the day students can come in to work, read, and check out books. Please encourage your children to be a part of the literacy club by visiting the media center, and by following the Media Center on Twitter @PGMS\_Media.



## Student Planners at PGMS

Each student will receive a planner, free of charge, at the beginning of the school year. The planner is used to stay organized and has the dates and times of the nurse's clinic, front office, and media center. It is also used by students to stay current on assignments. Finally, it functions as a school-wide hall pass. The replacement cost for a lost planner is \$5.00.

## Absences

The student attendance line is 941-575-5490. By 10:00 am on any day that your child is absent from school, you should call the attendance line to record the reason for the absence. If your child is absent from school, you will receive a call home, with the first calls going out at 10:15 am. For your convenience, our voicemail is available after school hours to leave messages regarding absences. Regular office hours are from **8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

## Who Should I Contact?

### Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Michael Davey, Assistant Principal

### Activities/Athletics/Facilities

Dr. Scott Nicklas, Assistant Principal

### Discipline

Mrs. Allison Portwood, Assistant Principal

Ms. Kellie Anderson, Dean of Students

### School Counselors

Mrs. Kerri Thibeault, Sixth grade

Mrs. Kalyn Wolff, Seventh grade

Mr. Barr, Eighth grade

### Other Contacts

Joann Barr, ESE Liaison

Jena Kennan, School Social Worker




**Stock Chiropractic Wellness Center**  
Your journey to wellness begins here.



**Dr. Jacob E. Stock D.C.**

**Our Services Include:**  
Chiropractic Care • Massage Therapy • Sports Rehab  
Sports Physicals • Corrective Exercises  
Nutritional Counseling • Lifestyle Advice

**941-205-2225**  
2310 Tamiami Trail, #2121 • Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
[www.stockchiropracticwellnesscenter.com](http://www.stockchiropracticwellnesscenter.com)

**GROUP & GOVERNMENT RATES AVAILABLE**

WYNDHAM REWARDS  
You've earned this:



2017 CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE  
tripadvisor

**MICROTEL**  
INN & SUITES

**BY WYNDHAM**  
[charlotteharborhotels.com](http://charlotteharborhotels.com)

**941.624.6339**  
4056 Tamiami Trail • Port Charlotte, FL 33952

## Middle-School Sports

Students in all grade levels have the opportunity to participate in team sports at PGMS. Team sports include basketball, volleyball (girls only), wrestling, and track. Students who plan to try-out for a sport must maintain a 2.0 grade point average and must have private health insurance or purchase school coverage. Students must also have a current, up-to-date sports physical.



Students interested in participating in varsity sports (like spring track, pictured above) or intramurals should listen to daily announcements for information regarding teams, start dates and practice schedules.

Intramural sports have less stringent requirements. Students interested in intramural sports should listen to daily announcements for information regarding teams, start dates and practice schedules.



## Important Reminders

### From the school counselors:

- Remember to check the 2019/2020 school calendar when planning vacations to avoid missing exams. This includes Semester 1 exams right before we go on Christmas Break as well as Final exams right before the last day of school.
- FOCUS gives you 24 hour access to your child's grades, as well as the opportunity to email teachers with any concerns or questions. Parents/guardians should make sure they have their own login information for FOCUS. This is separate from your student's username and password. Please visit the school website for information on how to set up your account.



### From the school nurse:

- Medication drop-offs will not be accepted from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or after 3:15 p.m. These are very busy periods in the nurse's station. In order to maintain the focus on student care, our nurse is unable to meet with parents/guardians during these times.

Jesus said, "My peace, I give unto you." (John 14:27)



**Meets Sundays  
from 5pm-7pm  
at the 1st UMC**

Dinner, games, social time  
and worship.  
507 W. Marion Street

**Meets Tuesdays  
from 3:55pm-5pm  
in the PGMS cafeteria**

Fun time with snacks, games  
and discussion about God.  
1001 Education Avenue



For further info contact [Tim@whatis1st.com](mailto:Tim@whatis1st.com) or 941-639-3842 ext 221.

### A few spots are left!



**We need you!**

### Advertise in the Eagle Times

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

Rindi Welton

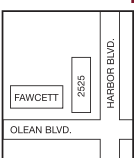
[rindi.welton@yourcharlotteschools.net](mailto:rindi.welton@yourcharlotteschools.net)  
Punta Gorda Middle School

### Medical Pavilion Clinic

**PRIMARY CARE & INTERNAL MEDICINE**  
David S. Ballestas, MD • Michael Lawson, ARNP • Natalie Ruland, ARNP

Monday-Friday 8am-7pm • Saturday 9am-3pm (November-May)

FOR ALL YOUR MINOR MEDICAL PROBLEMS  
Physical Exams • Women's Health • ECHO's  
Minor Surgical Procedures • X-Rays • Stress Test  
Weight Loss • Diabetes • Hypertension  
Impotence • Allergies Arthritis • Laboratory  
Workman's Comp



[www.medicalpavilionclinic.net](http://www.medicalpavilionclinic.net)

**629-9190**  
After Hours Call 629-7593

2525 Harbor Blvd., Ste. 101 & 102  
Port Charlotte, FL  
(Look for Red Awning)



Charlotte County Public Schools  
Punta Gorda Middle School  
1001 Education Ave.  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Orlando, FL  
Permit #2346

8

## Inside This Issue

Calendar of Events

Computer Teachers Offer industry Certifications

SAC and PTO Meeting

Basic Student Supply List

A Word From Drug Free Charlotte County

Middle School Sports

