

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 the parents and guardians of all Punta Gorda Middle School students on behalf of myself and the entire PGMS administration, faculty and staff. The 2020-2021 school year poses unique challenges and opportunities to all school stakeholders, and I want to assure you that PGMS is fully prepared to meet those challenges and to provide the same quality education for your child for which we are known. We have been preparing throughout the summer to welcome our students back to a dynamic educational environment where safety and learning are our highest priorities.

This year, we have made changes to school operations to meet district and federal COVID guidelines. The most obvious of these is the requirement that anyone entering the building must wear a mask at all times, and the practice of physical distancing to the greatest extent possible in our classrooms and other areas on campus. Your child will be given more information about our plan the very first day of classes during what is known as our "suspended curriculum," when new and returning students are introduced to school rules, complete necessary forms, and attend class meetings and other orientation activities. If you have any questions about the steps we are taking to keep your child safe as they continue their education, please see our homepage.

As many of you already know (and others are about to find out!) middle school is an exciting period of transition 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, to find their wings and to **SOAR**:

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

There is important information in this newsletter, but additional information is available on the school website. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call the school at (941) 575-5485. I look forward to serving you and your children this school year as your principal.

Sincerely,
Justina Dionisio
Principal

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. Kalya Wolff,
School Counselor, 7th Grade

Mr. Douglass Barr,
School Counselor, 8th Grade

Where Eagles
SOAR Everyday!

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.



Important Dates in the School Calendar

August 31st	First Day of School
September 7th	Labor Day – No School
November 26th & 27th	Thanksgiving – No School
December 24th-January 1st	Christmas Break – No School
January 11th -15th	Semester Exam Week
January 18th	MLK Day – No School
February 15th	President's Day – No School
March 15th-19th	Spring Break – No School
April 2nd	Holiday – No School
May 31st	Mem. Day – No School
June 1st-4th	Final Exam Week
June 4th	Last Day of School



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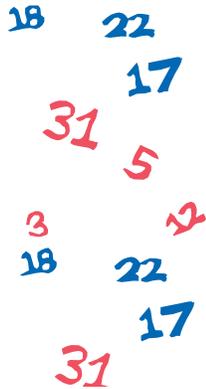
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Student Dress Code

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/20-21/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.



'Eagle Times'
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Charlotte County Public Schools
1445 Education Way
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Issue #3

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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 hallpass. The replacement cost for a lost planner is \$5.00.

Who Should I Contact?

Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Michael Davey, Assistant Principal

Activities/Athletics/Facilities

Dr. Scott Nicklas, Assistant Principal

Discipline

Ms. Renee McLain, 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 Williams, School Social Worker

When Do I Get My Schedule?

Students will be able to access their schedules in FOCUS during the week of August 24th. They will also receive a printed copy in their first period class on the first day of school.

Where Do I Report on the First Day of School?

Students should report to their first period class on **Monday, August 31st**. Student Locator lists, posted around the school, will show where first period classes are located. Staff will be available in hallways and common areas to provide assistance.

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.

Due to COVID, it is more important than ever that students have their own supplies. Students are required to wear a mask and are allowed to bring a 3oz or smaller bottle of hand sanitizer. It must be in its original container.

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.*

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 2020-21 school year. There is no need to fill out any forms: every PGMS student automatically qualifies.




ANIMAL MEDICAL CLINIC
of Punta Gorda

Dan Bowen, D.V.M.

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www.puntagordavet.net

324 Cross Street, Suite 111
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

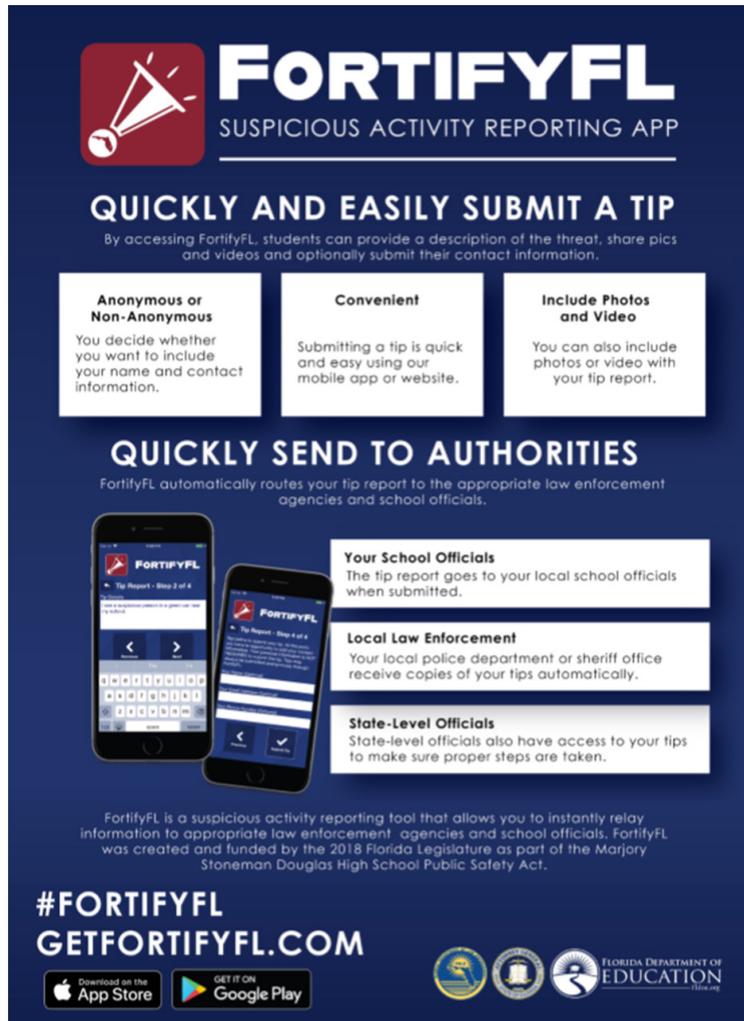
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Reporting Suspicious Activities or Threats (Fortify Florida)

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



FORTIFYFL
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

QUICKLY AND EASILY SUBMIT A TIP

By accessing FortifyFL, students can provide a description of the threat, share pics and videos and optionally submit their contact information.

<p>Anonymous or Non-Anonymous</p> <p>You decide whether you want to include your name and contact information.</p>	<p>Convenient</p> <p>Submitting a tip is quick and easy using our mobile app or website.</p>	<p>Include Photos and Video</p> <p>You can also include photos or video with your tip report.</p>
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QUICKLY SEND TO AUTHORITIES

FortifyFL automatically routes your tip report to the appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.

<p>Your School Officials</p> <p>The tip report goes to your local school officials when submitted.</p>	<p>Local Law Enforcement</p> <p>Your local police department or sheriff office receive copies of your tips automatically.</p>	<p>State-Level Officials</p> <p>State-level officials also have access to your tips to make sure proper steps are taken.</p>
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FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. FortifyFL was created and funded by the 2018 Florida Legislature as part of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act.

#FORTIFYFL
GETFORTIFYFL.COM

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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.**



Be Here!

EVERY DAY. ALL DAY. ALL THE WAY!

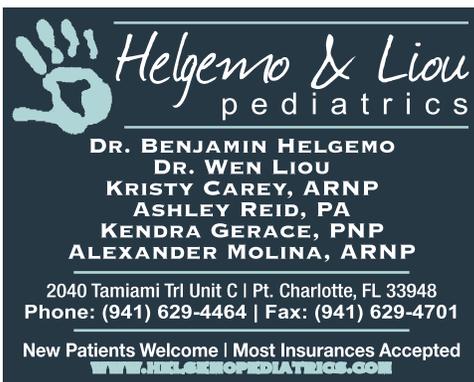
ATTENDANCE COUNTS



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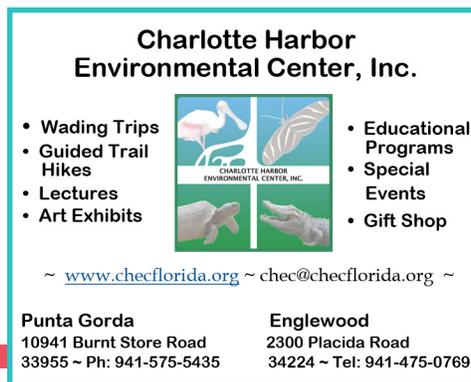


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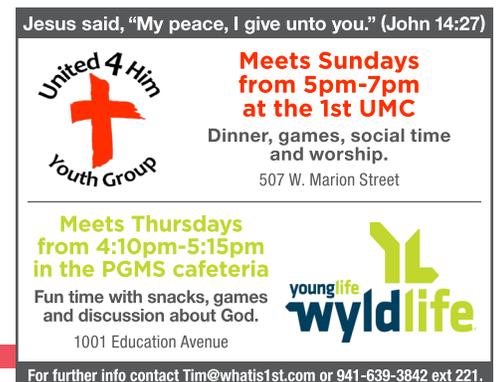
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Jesus said, "My peace, I give unto you." (John 14:27)

United 4 Him Youth Group

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

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

Meets Thursdays from 4:10pm-5:15pm in the PGMS cafeteria

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

younglife wildlife

For further info contact Tim@whatist1st.com or 941-639-3842 ext 221.

Important Reminders:

From the school counselors:

Remember to check the 2020/2021 school calendar when planning vacations to avoid missing exams. This includes Semester 1 exams scheduled after Christmas Break, as well as Final exams scheduled for the last week of school.

FOCUS gives you 24 hour access to your child's grades, as well as the opportunity to email teachers with any questions or concerns. 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.

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No Bully Zone

**STOP
BULLYING
NOW**
STAND UP • SPEAK OUT

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. To report bullying go to the district website at yourcharlotteschools.net and look for the Bully Button.

Media Center News

The beginning of the school year is always exciting, and the media center is a great place to share that excitement. 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.

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 or christina.hall@yourcharlotteschools.net.

School Advisory Council (SAC) & 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. 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. More information about this year's meetings will be forthcoming.



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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.

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.

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.

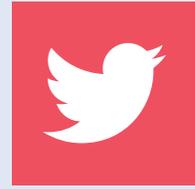


Computer Teachers Offer Industry Certifications

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 in the past year. 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.

Follow PGMS on



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www.edline.net/pages/Punta_Gorda_Middle_School

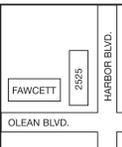


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