

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 welcome everyone, both returning and new families. I hope everyone was able to enjoy their summer with some fun and relaxation. With masks now optional in Charlotte County Public Schools, it will be exciting to see everyone's smiling faces! We are ready to begin the 2021-2022 school year.

School begins promptly at 9:10 am and ends at 4:10 pm, with breakfast available beginning at 8:35 am. 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 of our 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

Ms. Renee McLain,
Assistant Principal, Discipline

Mrs. Kellee Anderson
Dean of Students

Dr. Scott Nicklas,
Assistant Principal,
Activities & Facilities

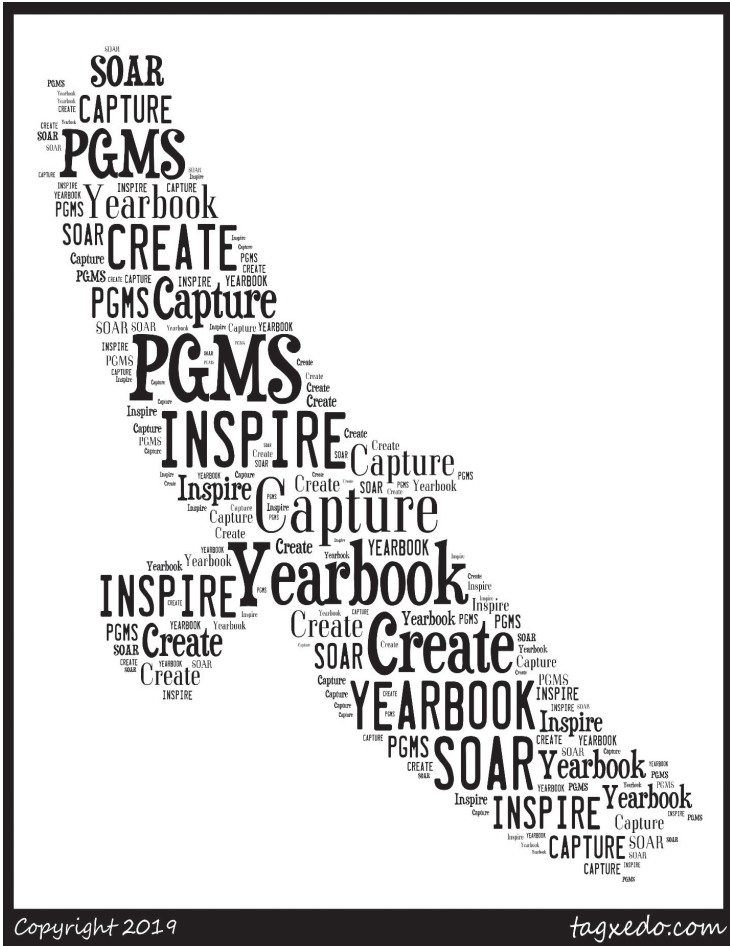
Dr. Christine Young,
Assistant Principal, Curriculum

Mrs. Kerri Thibeault,
School Counselor

Kimberly Wiery,
School Counselor

Mr. Douglass Barr,
School Counselor

Where Eagles
SOAR Everyday!



Calendar of Events

August

- 10..... First Day of School
- 12..... First PTO Meeting, 9:30am
- 16..... SAC Meeting, 5:30pm
- 19..... Dance, sponsored by Drug Free Punta Gorda, 4:15 pm
- 25..... Picture Day

September

- 6..... Labor Day
- 13..... SAC Meeting, 5:30pm

October

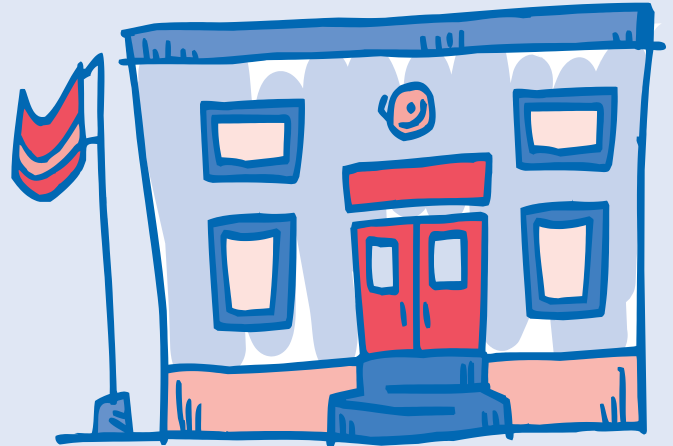
- 6..... Make Up Picture Day
- 11..... SAC Meeting, 5:30pm
- 12..... Last Day of Quarter 1



August 6th - Open House

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

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

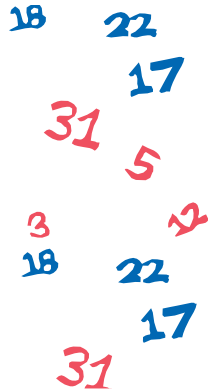


You will have the opportunity to purchase PE uniforms and school shirts, pick up student schedules, meet your student's teachers, and get information regarding various activities at PGMS!

Happy Hour
3AM-6PM M-F

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When Do I Get My Schedule?

Schedules will be distributed at **Open House on Friday, August 6th**. 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.

Where Do I Report on the First Day of School?

Students should report to their first period class on **Tuesday, August 10th**, the first day of school. Student Locator lists will be posted around the school and 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.** Parents, please be aware that students should not arrive on campus before 8:35 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.

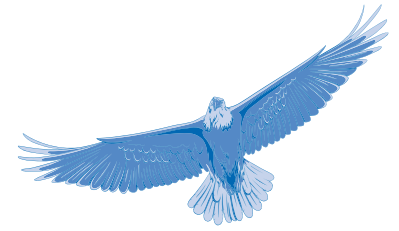
School Advisory Council (SAC) and Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

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. 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 16th at 5:30 pm in our Media Center.
- Our first PTO meeting will be held on Thursday, August 12th at 9:30 am in our Cafeteria.

Basic Student Supply List

- 7th and 8th graders will need a calculator for math. We recommend the TI-30xa, which is available on Amazon or at Walmart for around \$9.
- Pencils
- Erasers/cap erasers
- Pens: blue or black ink ONLY
- 3 or more different colored highlighters
- Notebooks & Folders
- Earbuds/headphones - No wireless
- 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



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Issue #3

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- Trauma Therapy

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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.**

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.

Who Should I Contact?

Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Christine Young, Assistant Principal

Activities/Athletics/Facilities

Dr. Scott Nicklas, Assistant Principal

Discipline

Ms. Renee McLain, Assistant Principal
Ms. Kellee Anderson, Dean of Students

School Counselors

Ms. Kerri Thibeault
Ms. Kim Wiery
Mr. Doug Barr

Other Contacts

JoAnn Barr, ESE Liaison
Kathryn Desjardins, ESE Liaison
Jena Williams, School Social Worker

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.

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>

OR go to www.wheresthebus.com - select CCPS, enter student ID number and birthdate

Bus riders should write down their bus numbers in order to find their bus easily the first week of school.

What About Breakfast And Lunch?

Breakfast is served in the cafeteria starting at **8:35 a.m.** daily. All PGMS students receive FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH every day. There is no need to fill out any forms: every PGMS student automatically qualifies.

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 visits to 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.

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/21-22/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.



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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 6th.

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.

PGMS PBIS

The PGMS PBIS team is excited to start the new 2021/2022 school year! We are ready to help our Eagles succeed and have the best school year ever! Our team is committed to helping students achieve improved social & academic outcomes, discipline issues, and support our staff along the way. With PBIS, families, students, and school personnel set goals and work together to achieve positive outcomes. Beyond daily interaction, each quarter, the team will showcase students that are making good choices on campus. If you are a member of the community or own a business that would like to contribute to the PBIS efforts at our school, through donations, please contact Team Leader, Summer Nicklas (summer.nicklas@yourcharlotteschools.net). Welcome back, Eagles!



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 2021-22. 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.

Picture Day Info

- **Fall Individuals** - 8/25/2021 (everyone takes a Fall picture for ID's, Focus and the Yearbook)
- **Fall Retakes** - 10/6/2021

Yearbooks can be purchased at www.yearbookforever.com throughout the year but they are cheaper if you purchase before Jan.1st, 2022

Yearbook Ads from parents and local businesses can also be purchased at www.yearbookforever.com Please support PGMS Yearbook!

Important Reminders

From the school counselors:

- Remember to check the 2021/2022 school calendar when planning vacations to avoid missing exams. This includes Semester 1 exams right before we go on Christmas Break, Dec. 13-17, 2021, as well as Final exams right before the last day of school, May 20-26, 2022.
- FOCUS provides 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**.
- CANVAS provides 24-hour access to your student's classroom materials and assignments. FOCUS provides the official grades for classes.

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.

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 Crime Stoppers Tip Line (1-800-780-TIPS).
- Contacting the Supervisor of District Security and Emergency Management at (941) 255-0808
- Calling 9-1-1



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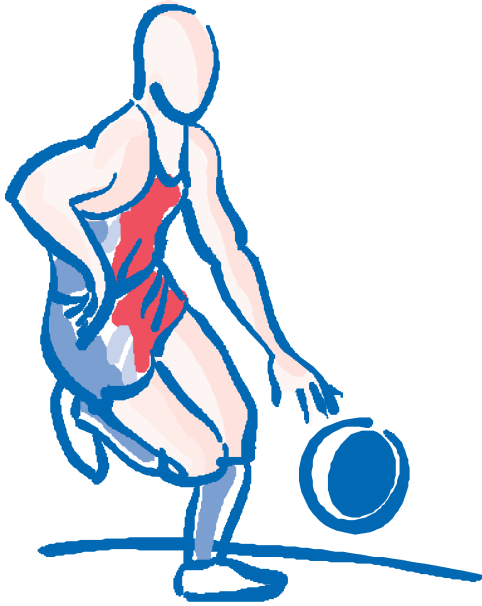
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Boys and Girls Basketball Try-Outs Begin August 23rd!!!

- Do not miss Try-Outs because you do not have all your forms and your Physical turned in!
- All of the FORMS are on the PGMS website under the Athletics tab then Sports and then Forms.



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.

Middle School Athletics Schedule 2021-2022

(subject to change)

Basketball (Boys/Girls) Games: 5:30pm/6:30pm

- 8/31BNS @ MMS (Boys)
- 9/2LAA @ PCM / MMS @ PGM (Girls/Boys)
- 9/7BNS @ PGM (Boys)
- 9/9PGM @ PCM / LAA @ MMS (Boys/Girls)
- 9/14BNS @ PCM (Boys)
- 9/16PCM @ MMS / PGM @ LAA (Girls/Boys)
- 9/23PCM @ LAA / PGM @ MMS (Boys/Girls)
- 9/28BNS @ LAA
- 9/30MMS @ PCM / LAA @ PGM (Girls/Boys)
- 10/7PCM @ PGM / MMS @ LAA (Boys/Girls)
- 10/9Playoffs at PCHS at 9am (Saturday)



Track and Field Meet Time: 10am start

- 2/5(SAT) @ Charlotte High School



Wrestling - Dual Matches Match time: 5:30pm

- 4/14PGM @ PCM - LAA @ MMS
- 4/21MMS @ PGM - PCM @ LAA
- 4/28PGM @ LAA - MMS@PCM

County Tournament - Time: 10am start

- 4/30(SAT) @ Charlotte High School



Volleyball Games: 5:30pm

- 10/19BNS @ LAA
- 10/21MMS @ PCM / LAA @ PGM
- 10/26BNS @ MMS
- 10/28PCM @ LAA / MMS @ PGM

11/2 BNS @ PGM

- 11/4PCM @ MMS / PGM @ LAA

11/9 BNS @ PCM

- 11/11LAA @ MMS / PCM @ PGM
- 11/18LAA @ PCM / PGM @ MMS

12/2MMS @ LAA/ PGM @PCM

- 12/4Playoffs at PCHS at 9am (Saturday)





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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 or find us on Facebook (Drug Free Charlotte County), Twitter (@DFCCTweets), or Instagram (drugfreecharlottecounty).

Jen Bernardi, *Prevention Program Coordinator*
Drug Free Charlotte County

Do I Dress Out For P.E.? Yes!

Returning this year, locker rooms will be 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 as participation.

PE uniforms will be available for purchase at Open House on August 6th as well as during the school year. Lockers will also be available for \$2 once school starts. Checks should be written to PGMS.

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

Show School Spirit With Eagle Gear

See us at Open House in the school atrium to purchase your shirts and other PGMS goodies to get your school year started right or talk to Mrs. Nicklas for further details.

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Partners - Joseph R. Schortz, CPA, CGMA,
Justin A. Schaefer, CPA, Jaime L. Parlade, CPA



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Punta Gorda Middle School
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8

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



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



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