

EAGLETIMES

Punta Gorda Middle School

1001 Education Ave.

Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Phone: 941-575-5485

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents(s) and /or Guardians,

Greeting to the Punta Gorda school community! As your new principal, I am beyond excited to get the new school year kicked off! I hope that everyone is enjoying their summer and finding time to relax with friends and family!!

Moving to a new county and a new school comes with so many unknowns and uncertainties, but I have been blown away by the welcome Charlotte County Schools has extended. Everyone from the highest district official to our team here at the school level have been simply amazing! PGMS is obviously an amazing place and I am honored to be part of this team!

I want to welcome back our returning parents and extend a huge welcome to those who are just now joining the PGMS family!

Together we will S.O.A.R.

- Strive for Success
- Opt for Honesty
- Act Responsibly
- Respect Others

Our goal this year is to set high expectations for academic achievement while continuing to build a positive culture here at PGMS! I truly want our students to enjoy, rather than endure, their middle school experience with many shared memories and engagement in the school community! I also want our school to be the kind of place teachers and staff never want to leave!

The school day begins promptly at 9:10 AM and ends at 4:10 PM, with breakfast available at 8:35 AM. Your student's schedule will consist of seven classes: Four core classes (Language

continued on page 2

Mr. Sam Davis, Principal

Ms. Jodi Richards
Dean of Students

Mrs. Erika Hippler
Dean of Students

Ms. Renee McLain,
*Assistant Principal,
Activities & Facilities*

Ms. Carol Woelke,
Assistant Principal, Curriculum

Mr. Douglas Barr,
School Counselor

Jasmine Puskey,
School Counselor

Tamra Thompson,
School Counselor

**Where Eagles
SOAR Everyday!**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

continued from cover

Arts, Math Science and Social Studies), one computer class and 2 exploratory classes. Classes are 51 minutes long and each class meets every day.

You should be able to find the most important information in this newsletter, but of course, please do not hesitate to call the school at 941-575-5485 if needed.

Sincerely,

Samuel E. Davis
Principal

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 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. Lunch times are based on your student's schedule.

Calendar of Events

Aug 10	First Day of School
Aug 14	SAC Meeting, 5:30pm
Sept 4	No School (Labor Day)
Sept 8	Picture Day
Sept 11	SAC Meeting, 5:30pm
Oct 9	SAC Meeting, 5:30pm
Oct. 13	End of Quarter 1 Period
Oct 16	No School (Teacher Work Day)



August 9th Open House

All Middle School Students

5:30-6:30 6th Graders

6:30-7:30 7th & 8th Graders

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

Where Do I Report on the First Day of School?

Students should report to their first period class on **Thursday, 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. First classroom information will be available on the student CANVAS Announcements page.

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, 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 items to bring home on the first day, and we ask parents/guardians to complete necessary paperwork and return it with your student.

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 in the first week of school.*



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Punta Gorda Middle School

When Do I Get My Schedule?

Schedules will be posted to the parent portal, and assistance in accessing a digital schedule will be available at open house. 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 assist on the first day as students try to find their way around the school. First classroom information will be available on the student CANVAS Announcements page.

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 help stay organized and will have the dates and times of visits to the restroom, nurse's clinic, front office, and media center. It will also be used by students to stay current on assignments. 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/22-23/CodeOfStudentConduct.pdf>.

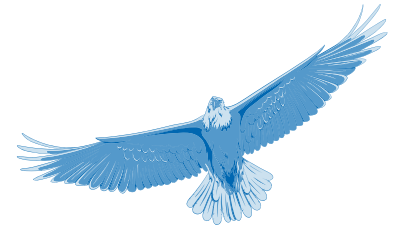
Note: The principal or the principal's designee has the final authority for interpreting whether a student's apparel conforms to the dress code. When it is determined that a student's clothing does not comply with the dress code or is disruptive, a parent/guardian may be asked to bring an appropriate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

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

During class time 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.

*Limited supply of PE uniforms will be available for purchase at **Open House on August 9th** 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.



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Issue #3

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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 - **For classroom use only.**
- 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 will make sure it gets used.

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?

<i>Curriculum and Instruction</i>	Ms. Carol Woelke, Assistant Principal
<i>Activities/Athletics/Facilities</i>	Ms. Renee McLain, Assistant Principal
<i>Discipline</i>	Ms. Erika Hippler, Dean of Students
	Ms. Jodi Richards, Dean of Students
<i>School Counselors</i>	Mr. Doug Barr
	Ms. Tamara Thompson
	Ms. Jasmine Puskey
<i>Other Contacts</i>	Ms. JoAnn Barr, ESE Liaison
	Ms. Andrea Pitter, ESE Liaison
	Ms. Jena Williams, School Social Worker
	Ms. Korie Shipley, School Social Worker

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 14th at 5:30 pm in our Media Center.**

**Our first PTO meeting will be held on
Wednesday, August 16th at 9:30 am in our Cafeteria.**

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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 2023-24. 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.

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.



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

Media Center News

The beginning of the school year is always exciting, and the media center is a wonderful place to share that excitement. Please stop by during the Open House on August 9th.

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.

Show School Spirit with Eagle Gear

See us at the Open House in the school atrium to purchase your shirts and other PGMS goodies to get your school year started right or talk to Mr. Comment for further details regarding our Student Store.

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The PGMS PBIS team is excited to start the new 2023/2024 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 and 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, Eric Comment (eric.comment@yourcharlotteschools.net). Welcome back, Eagles!



Happy Hour

3PM-6PM M-F

\$9.99 Lunch Express

11AM-3PM M-F

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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.

Boys and Girls Basketball Try-Outs begin Aug. 21st !!!

Do not miss Try-Outs because you do not have all your forms and your Physical turned in!

All the FORMS are on the PGMS website under the Athletics tab then Sports and then Forms.

Middle School Athletics Schedule 2023-2024 (subject to change)

Basketball (Boys/Girls)

- **August 21- October 7, 2023**
- **Games: 5:30pm/6:30pm**
- October 7th Playoffs at PCHS at 9am (Saturday)

Volleyball (Girls)

- October 17– December 9, 2023
- Game time(s): 5:30pm
- Playoffs at LBHS on December 9th

Track and Field

- Jan 29 – Feb 10, 2024
- County meet: Feb 10 (Saturday) at CHS @ 9am
- Events: 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 4X100 Relay, 4x400 Relay, and Long Jump.

Wrestling

- March 25– May 4, 2024 (6 week season)
- Week of March 25 – First week of Practice
- Dual matches: April 18, 25, and May 2
- Match time(s): 5:30pm (School locations TBD at a later date)
- County Tournament: May 4 (Saturday) @ CHS



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Picture Day Info

- Fall Individuals - 9/8/2023 (everyone takes a Fall picture for ID's, Focus and the Yearbook)
- Fall Retakes - 10/25/2023

Yearbooks can be purchased at www.yearbookforever.com throughout the year but they are cheaper if you purchase before Jan.1st, 2024

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 2023/2024 school calendar when planning vacations to avoid missing exams. This includes Semester 1 exams right before we go on Christmas Break, Dec. 18-21, 2023, as well as Final exams right before the last day of school, May 20-24, 2024.
- 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 busy periods in the nurse's station. To maintain the focus on student care, our nurse is unable to meet with parents/guardians during these times.