



THE SPARTAN PRIDE

For the parents, students,
and community supporters of

TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL

TARPON MIDDLE ADMINISTRATION TEAM

Raquel Giles
Principal

Mr. Eric Leopold
6th Grade Administrator
Ms. Joanne Wright
7th Grade Administrator
Mrs. Felicia Moline
8th Grade Administrator

Ms. Laura Burge
6th Grade Guidance Counselor
Mrs. Allison (Linstrum) Rice
7th Grade Guidance Counselor
Mrs. Elena Kharina-Sampson
8th Grade Guidance Counselor

Vision: Learning Gains for Every Student, Every Day

Mission: We will provide challenging learning experiences so all students are inspired to enhance our school community through character development and creativity.

We will accomplish this mission through our core values:
CREATE: We will use our imagination and ingenuity to bring the students' education to life in ways they will always remember.

INSPIRE: We will create classrooms that excite, motivate and prepare students to be lifelong learners

LEAD: We will guide them in developing skills needed to survive and thrive in education, career and life.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the season of Thanksgiving! As we enter this holiday season, I am reminded of the word "Grateful". Webster dictionary defines grateful as being appreciative of the benefits received. I am grateful every day for the opportunities to make a difference in the life of our scholars. Please know that we are committed to preparing our scholars for college, career and life.

In fact, Pinellas County has recently rolled out a dynamic way for scholars to stay engaged in tracking their own learning progression; it called the Personalized Learning Pathway. The Personalized Learning Pathway is a new online platform that helps students navigate their path to academic and career success.

The PLP helps students:

- Build resumes and keep track of achievements, goals, hobbies, and volunteer and work experience.
- See their performance on assessments and access targeted lessons to improve.
- Track progress toward graduation and discover areas they may need to address.
- Keep track of advanced coursework, industry certifications and performance on college entrance exams to determine if they are ready for college and careers.

Students can access the Personalized Learning Pathway through the Clever login on the home page of the PCS website or the Pinellas County Schools Clever page. We encourage you to visit the website with your scholar.

TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL

501 N FLORIDA AVE.

TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689 | (727) 943-5511

NOVEMBER 2018 Volume 3 • Issue 4



Tarpon Springs Middle School (TSMS) implements a Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) system for classroom and school wide behavior systems. CHAMPS strategies and routines are used as the foundation for our Tier 1 processes in the classroom. As a part of PBIS, Tarpon Springs Middle School implements a token economy system where students earn "PBIS Rewards" for contributing positively towards our school learning community. Rewards is an automated system to help manage the PBIS initiative at our school. With PBIS Rewards, teachers can reward students anywhere at any time. Students use the PBIS Rewards point system to purchase items at the Spartan store and for entrance into a school event. Additionally, students are awarded points based for modeling TSMS' guidelines for success: Be Respectful, Be Accountable, and Be Productive (RAP). For example, one point is given to students for modeling one behavior expectation, two points for modeling two behavior expectations, and three points for modeling three behavior expectations. Students may use points every Friday in the school PBIS Store in the front office and the PBIS store will be open each Friday from 9:10 am to 9:35 pm.



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- Denise McCallister
- Camillo Mingone
- Jenifer Palmer
- Sandra Risoldi
- Eleni Sakis
- Brynette Wemheuer

You Made Our Day

Susan J. Emmons, Family & Community Liaison
emmonss@pcs.org, 727-943-5511 Ext. 2008

SAVE THE DATE

MENTOR WORKSHOP COMING TO T.S.M.S.

When: Tuesday, November 27, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Where: Media Center

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TSMS NJHS "GIVING TREE" TOY DRIVE

- The Tarpon Springs Middle School National Junior Honor Society will be hosting their annual "Giving Tree" community service project.
- Honorary members will be creating gift tags recognizing students' holiday wishes.
- Students, staff and community members may visit our Giving Tree from December 2, 2018-December 21, 2018 in the front office.
- Once a selection is made, please drop it in the red bucket with the gift tag attached by Friday, December 21, 2018.
- All donations collected will be donated to Tarpon Springs Boys and Girls Club.
- Together we can fulfill all the children's wishes.



PENNIES FOR PASTA

The Tarpon Springs Middle School Interact Club sponsored the fourth annual Pennies for Pasta fundraiser for the Suncoast Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. We had a fabulous response to our fundraising efforts, as a school we collected over \$1500.00 to help support local families that are affected by blood cancers. Our donation helped to make it possible for a local girl just recently diagnosed with Leukemia to receive the necessary medications to help save her life. "Way to go Spartans!"

'The Spartan Pride'

November 2018 • Issue 4
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Tarpon Springs Middle School
Pinellas County School Board
525 Pennsylvania Ave.
Palm Harbor, FL 34683-5223

STUDENTS DROPPED OFF EARLY OR PICKED UP LATE — LIMITED DUTY OF SUPERVISION

By **Jim Robinson, School Board Attorney**

Pursuant to Sec. 1003.31, F.S., students are subject to the control of the school during a reasonable time before and after the student is on the premises for attendance at school or for authorized participation in a school-sponsored activity, and only when on the premises. School Board Policy 6.20, Supervision of Students, says that supervision is provided 30 minutes before school begins and 30 minutes after school ends. Casual or incidental contact between school district personnel and students on school property does not result in a legal duty to supervise outside of the 30 minutes. However, parents must be advised in writing twice per year, or by posted signs, of the school's formal supervisory responsibility and that parents should not rely on additional supervision. Because the "Code of Student Conduct" is published only once annually, we recommend that a notice be posted on school premises.

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IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 21, 2018	End of first semester
Dec. 22, 2018 – Jan. 6, 2019	Winter Holidays- No School for students
Jan. 7, 2019	No school for students
Jan. 8, 2019	Second Semester Begins
Jan. 18, 2019	Report cards
Jan. 21, 2019	Martin Luther King Jr Holiday – No School for students
Feb. 18, 2019	No school for students
Mar. 7, 2019	End of third quarter
Mar. 8, 2019	No school for students
Mar. 9, 2019 – Mar.17, 2019	Spring Holidays – No school for students
Mar. 18, 2019	School reopen and classes resume
Mar. 29, 2019	Report cards
Apr. 19, 2019	No school for students
May. 27, 2019	Memorial Day Holiday- School and district offices closed
May. 29, 2019	Last day for all students
June. 7, 2019	Report cards



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SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS

SRO K. Lang

As the fall/winter holiday seasons get closer we would like for everyone to enjoy a safe and happy holiday season. There are many things we can all do to ensure our safety is a priority for us and others.

With Thanksgiving approaching fast many families will be traveling local and far. In Florida, there have already been over 300,000 traffic crashes reported in 2018. There have been over 2,000 traffic fatalities in Florida this year with almost 200,000 reported injuries that resulted from a traffic crash.

So what can you do to increase your safety while traveling?

Wear your seat belt! Not only can it save your life but it can also reduce or eliminate injuries overall.

Travel within the speed limit range and as conditions and traffic flow will allow. That means if the speed limit is 55 miles per hour, do 55 miles per hour or less but not too slow because that too can create a hazard for others. Speed is a serious factor for preventing and creating traffic crashes. Traveling too fast can compound a situation that prevents you from being able to avoid a crash. Traveling too slow creates a hazardous situation for others to include yourself.

Pay close attention to posted school zones and school bus stops. The fines for ignoring these are extreme but it's worse if someone is injured or killed because you failed to obey these laws.

Drinking and Driving will be strictly enforced with special and proactive campaigns by law enforcement throughout the holiday season and into the New Year. Simply, if you drink, do not drive. If caught, it can cost you thousands of dollars and may cost you your job. You could also kill yourself or someone else. If you plan on drinking always have a designated and sober driver or an alternate form of transportation available because it's just not worth it.

In Florida, if you travel on a roadway with two or more lanes that allow movement in the same direction, Florida law (F.S. 316.081 (3)) requires you to travel in the right-hand lane if the driver knows or reasonably should know that he or she is being overtaken in that lane. Staying in the prohibited lane creates problems for both you and others around you so be aware.

With the clocks being set back, it will get darker earlier. So remember your vehicle lights need to be on 30 minutes prior to sunset.

Always lock your doors. If your vehicle is unoccupied, the doors should be locked and the windows should be up. This is the number one cause of burglaries.

Keep valuables out of sight. Put them in the trunk (if you have one) or under a seat. If someone can look in the window and see something valuable they could break a window and take it without entering the vehicle and this can happen in seconds.

Never ever leave a spare key to your vehicle inside the vehicle it goes to. This is another common occurrence.

Secure any and all firearms. Never leave a firearm unattended or where someone else can get to it. If you have to leave it in your vehicle for an extended period of time, ensure it is secured or rendered useless should someone else get a hold of it.

Situational Awareness. What this means is always be aware of your surroundings to be able to identify situations that can pose hazards and dangers to you and others with you. If you are walking and paying attention to your cell phone you're not paying attention to your surroundings. Have a plan of escape should something happen. Run what-to-do scenarios in your head as you move around or if you are inside of a business. Having a pre-determined plan will give you time and options should something happen. Have your keys ready to open your vehicle door. Briefly look inside your vehicle before getting into it. Teach your children about situational awareness so they can be prepared as well when going to school or going home.

Situational Awareness is not something that is part-time but a lifestyle. It doesn't mean you need to always be afraid of what's going to happen but simply always try and be prepared if something does. If you practice this it will become natural to you and you won't even notice that you're doing it.

Holidays are a time to spend with family and friends to enjoy yourself and create memories. Use these tips to help make those good memories become a reality instead of a lesson learned.

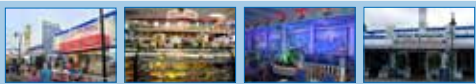


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DISTRICT APPLICATION PROGRAMS

- Mark Your Calendar
 - Apply for the 2019-2020 School Year Jan. 9-18, 2019
- Application Period: Jan. 9-18—Acceptance Period: Feb. 13-22**

- Questions about how to apply?
- Contact StudentAssignment@pcsb.org or (727) 588-6210.

HOW TO APPLY

Step 1: Get a Parent I.D. and Password

- If you do not already have a User ID and password for your family, go to a nearby school and ask for one. Bring a photo ID with you.
- Only one User ID and password is needed per family.

Step 2: Apply Online Jan. 9-18

- Log on to the Student Reservation System (SRS) on the district's website, www.pcsb.org, using your User ID and password.
- Select District Application Programs.
- Enter up to five program selections from the list of programs.

REMEMBER: Non-PCS students must deliver all documentation of program eligibility, to the appropriate program office(s) by the close of the school day on Jan. 25, 2019.

Step 3: Accept Invitations Feb. 13-22

- Log on to the Student Reservation System (SRS) with your User ID and password during this period to accept a program invitation. **If you do not accept during this period, your child's invitation(s) will no longer be valid.**
- Review your child's status in all programs to which you applied.
- It is not necessary to accept waiting list positions.
- If you accept any ONE program's invitation during the acceptance period, the student's name will be removed from all other lists, (except the centers for Gifted Studies) including waiting lists. You have the option to change your mind and select a different program before the Feb. 22, 2019 deadline.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. May I apply to more than one program?

A. Yes, you may apply to up to five programs in order of preference (first ranked choice is the top choice). Priority preferences will only apply to the first ranked program (the top choice). There are some programs that have eligibility criteria that applicants must meet. The District Application Programs procedures manual contains the entrance criteria for each program. You can find it at www.pcsb.org/choice.

NOTE:

- You may only apply to one of the two Center for Wellness and Medical Professions Programs at Boca Ciega High or Palm Harbor University High or The Centers for Innovation & Digital Learning at Gulf Beaches and Kings Highway (based on student's address).

- For application area programs, parents may only apply to the program located within the application area in which they live.

Q. How long can my child stay on a waiting list if no invitation is received?

A. Applicants stay on the waiting list for all of the programs to which they apply until they accept an invitation to one of the programs. Accepting an invitation to a program automatically removes a student's name from all other waiting lists (except for the Centers for Gifted Studies). For grades K-7, waiting lists expire on March 1. For grades 8-12, waiting lists expire on the 11th day of the second semester.

Q. If I apply to a magnet or fundamental, does my child lose the seat at the current school?

A. No, students do not lose their current seat by applying to one of these programs. The seat is surrendered for the following year only if the parent receives and accepts an invitation to a program.

Q. Is there any advantage to applying early in the application period?

A. No, applications are NOT processed on a first-come, first-served basis. All applications received during the application period, Jan. 9-18, 2019, are randomized giving applications equal treatment.

Q. What happens if my child is invited to a program but I do not log back into the Student Reservation System (SRS) during the acceptance period?

A. To guarantee your child's seat at the school from which an invitation was offered, you must log in during the appropriate dates to accept the invitation (Feb. 13-22, 2019). If you do not log back into the SRS system to accept an invitation during this period, your child's invitation will no longer be valid.

Q. If I apply to one of these schools and accept an invitation, can I change my mind and try to get into a zoned school instead?

A. You may, but there is no guarantee that a seat would be available in the zoned school. Students entering kindergarten, sixth, or ninth grade are assigned to their zoned school in most cases. Students in other grades will be assigned based on seat availability.

Q. Will I receive any official written notification if my child is accepted into one of these programs?

A. NO, you must log into the Student Reservation System (SRS) during the acceptance period, Feb. 13-22, 2019, to find out which school/ program you have been accepted to, then you either accept the invitation or take no action to remain on all wait lists.

Q. What can I do if I have a question or problem with the application process?

A. If it is a technical question about the online system, parents may contact the Tech Help center at (727) 588-6060 or email help@pcsb.org. For all other questions, call Student Assignment, (727) 588-6210.



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LCA NEWS

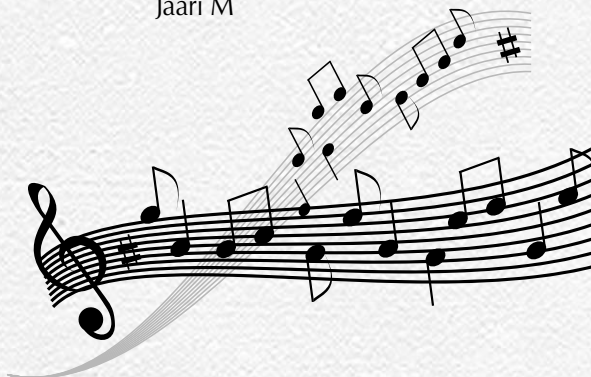
The TSMS Leadership Conservatory for the Arts held their annual donation drive through Snap Raise Fundraising during the months of September and October. The Conservatory raised over \$14,200.00 to support the students and their educational needs! The LCA Staff would like to thank all the families, friends and supporters that donated!

Orchestra – the following students have been selected to serve on the TSMS Orchestra Leadership Committee

2nd: Morgan Bieber
Anthony Hamati
Kaytlin Kwopil
Morgan May
Isma Kabir
Tashira Bryant
4th: Savannah Speight
Damian Larson
Emily Birkhimer
Anjela Guthrie
Yianni M. Zaronias
5th: Jade Bridges
Bree Tindell
Ella Strecher
Catherine Altman
6th: Madison Reidy
Jayson Alger

The following students will be auditioning for the 2018-19 Pinellas All-County Middle School Orchestra in November.

Jayson A	Georgios G
Auriana C	Lena E
Richard M	Anthony H
Madison R	Ismael K
Ethan H	Juliette K
John W	Matina K
Jaari M	



The TSMS Leadership Conservatory has been approved for referendum funds to purchase the following resources:

- Band – resources to provide guest clinicians to prepare for assessments
- Chorus – new sheet music, provide accompanists for Solo & Ensemble and other events, access to MusicFirst program
- Orchestra - purchase much needed strings, three new violas, cello/bass cases, new cello/bass bows, cello/bass rock stops, new sheet music, and a Dr. Beat metronome/tuner.
- We are grateful to the voters of Pinellas County and our music supervisor, Mrs. Jeanne Reynolds, for these important resources.

The Leadership Conservatory was represented at the 2018-19 Florida All-State band and chorus auditions by the following students:

- Chorus - Makenzie K, Kylie O, Kendall M, Evamarie A, Caelyn S, Madison A.
- Band – Ethan A., Kylie O., Julian T., Lauryn T., Matthew P.

The results will be announced sometime in November.

Chris Touchton, Director of Bands

CONGRATULATIONS

We need spots filled...



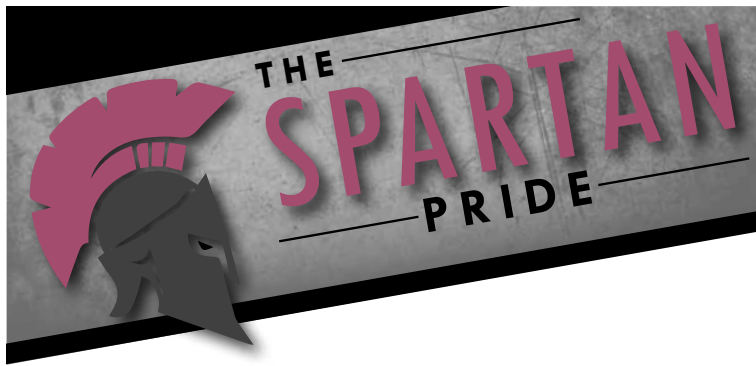
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FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS TAKE CHARGE AT TSMS

Tarpon Springs Middle School welcomed a new chapter of Future Business Leaders of America this year. Tarpon Springs Middle is one of four middle schools in the county with an active chapter. Palm Harbor University High School FBLA President and Treasurer visited Tarpon Springs Middle School campus in late August to interview 12 candidates for five leadership positions. Our officers this year are as follows:

- Zoe Fernandez- President
- Alyssa Abraham-Vice President
- Bradley Stallings- Secretary
- Gavyn Thinnies- Treasurer
- Katerina Lecourezos- Historian

Officers attended a kick off Leadership Conference at a Rays game in September and shared ideas with the high school officers and sponsors. The theme this year is Leave your Mark and these students are hoping to do just that. They are in the process of planning volunteer activities and fundraising for a cause. On October 31st, 7 members will attend the Fall Rally at the Tradewinds Hotel where they will finalize their plans and prepare for district, state and national competitions in December. Other amazing members include: Alexis Mizell, Gabriel Daniel, Natalie Arn, Connor Meslin, Ivana Pavlovic, Marina Morris and Michael See.



CAMBRIDGE INTEGRATION

Our Cambridge Lower Secondary program classes and our Leadership Conservatory for the Arts classes are hard at work producing integrated projects! The Veterans' Day Assembly, held on November 13th was a fine example of such collaboration. The Band, Orchestra, Chorus, and Dance students all performed. Students from the Language Arts classes read prepared poetry and students from Visual Arts classes had work displayed. All came together to honor military veterans in our community.

As the year progresses, many other classes are working together on projects of mutual interest to keep our Spartan Cambridge scholars loving learning!

Discovery Night

Discovery Night will be held at Tarpon Springs Middle School on Tuesday, December 4 from 6:00-7:30. This will be an opportunity to explore each of the offerings in our Leadership Conservatory for the Arts and Cambridge Lower Secondary Program! All current fifth grade students and their families are invited to learn about involvement in Band, Chorus, Orchestra, Dance, Visual Arts, and Leadership. Those offerings, combined with our rigorous Cambridge courses make for an amazing middle school experience! Come and discover!