



1300 Silver Eagle Drive  
Tarpon Springs, Florida 34688

Office: (727) 942-5419

Fax: (727) 942-5441

[Directions to East Lake High School](#)

**5/5/25**

Good afternoon, Eagle Families,

This is Dan Schmittiel, Principal of East Lake High School, with some important reminders and updates as we continue through the 4<sup>th</sup> and final quarter of the 2024-25 school year at The Lake and put in final preparations for upcoming high stakes testing. Looking outside of the academics first, students are always ready to SOAR to success both in and out of the classroom within all our different extracurricular programs offered throughout the school. Check out this week and major upcoming events below:

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<b><u>Events</u></b>	<b><u>Dates</u></b>
Softball	Last week our Lady Eagles were crowned District Champions as they defeated Mitchell HS! They face Palmetto HS at home on Thursday 5/8 in the regional quarterfinals!
Track and Field	Several of our athletes will compete in the State Series Meet this Friday 5/9 and Saturday 5/10 as they qualified from an outstanding performance at the regional meet yesterday!
Walker's Rising Stars	Next week, Walker's Rising Stars Scholarship Competition is an initiative which helps students hone their audition, portfolio, and performance skills. The event takes place at Mahaffey Theater on Monday, May 5. Tickets are free and East Lake High School will be represented by four extremely talented students in Theater and Visual Arts where they'll be competing for college scholarships – go out to support their outstanding work! - <a href="https://tinyurl.com/2025Walkers">https://tinyurl.com/2025Walkers</a>
Spring Band Concert	We'll host our Spring Concert Friday night 5/9 in the ELHS auditorium
Spring Jazz Concert	The Jazz Band will perform at Pioneer Park on Saturday 5/10
Orchestra Concert	Our amazing orchestra will perform this week for their spring concert!
AP Testing	AP Testing begins Monday 5/5 and will continue through Friday 5/16. Remember testing takes place on campus each day for Advanced Placement courses, with the specific dates and times designated by CollegeBoard. This process has been communicated in all AP classes throughout campus, but please refer to our recorded Testing Webinar on the Facebook page along with reaching out to either their teacher or School Counselor for specific questions.
FAST ELA PM3	We'll begin FAST ELA PM3 testing for all 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> grade students starting Thursday 5/1 through Friday 5/9 through English classes. All 1 <sup>st</sup> period English classes will take the FAST ELA PM3 assessment Thursday 5/1 and all 2 <sup>nd</sup> period English classes will take it on Friday 5/2, for all freshmen and sophomores.

Good luck to all of our Eagles in their extracurriculars! Some additional reminders for the week include:

### **Teacher Appreciation Week**

This week is the 2025 ELHS Teacher Appreciation Week! Together the administrative team and PTSA have a great week planned to spoil all of our East Lake High staff! Throughout the week, take a moment to do something special to celebrate our AMAZING teachers at The LAKE – let's show them love for all they do for your students and the community at The Lake!

## **FAST ELA PM 3 Testing – Modified Block Schedule**

This Thursday 5/1 we will begin FAST ELA PM3 testing. There will be a modified bell schedule from Thursday 5/1 through Friday 5/9. This will include a block schedule each morning from 7:25am to 10:50am, one lunch, and a modified set of three classes in the afternoon each day. Please pay close attention to the schedule each day, as the times of each class is the same but the class periods themselves will vary. We'll start Thursday off with a 1<sup>st</sup> period block where all 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in an English class 1<sup>st</sup> period will take their FAST ELA PM3 assessment. Students in an English class a different period will test on their designated block day. All other students will be in the block class period for continued instruction, support, and review during this same block time, from 7:25am to 10:50am.

- <https://tinyurl.com/37rtcn56>

Teachers and students have been working diligently as they progress through the standards and skills within English and Reading courses this school year, while focusing on digging into and practicing the different test strategies which help students tackle the FAST ELA assessment. Later this week we'll be sending out callouts to all 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade families with further information regarding the upcoming FAST ELA PM3 testing, as it begins this Thursday 5/1 through the following Friday 5/9. Attached you'll also find several OnePagers with critical strategies and reminders to SOARing on the FAST ELA PM3 starting May 1<sup>st</sup> – please take some time to review these with your students as added preparation before the FAST!

- <https://tinyurl.com/SoarOnThe2025FAST>
- <https://tinyurl.com/2025TestDayStrategies>

The link below will take you to our testing calendar and schedule for major testing dates as an additional reminder for the remainder of the year:

- <https://tinyurl.com/42e29sw9>

## **Modified Block Schedule Attendance**

Parents, it is crucial to reminder students attendance matters every day. Students are working through continuing to work through curriculum, prepare for upcoming testing (Advanced Placement, End of Course, Final Exams, and FAST ELA). Please ensure they are here each day and refer to my email from Thursday regarding how attendance is being coded for the three class periods students won't see each day of the block period.

## **Yearbooks**

The yearbooks have arrived! This year's edition, "All The Things", will be available for seniors to pick up in Room 3-214 during lunch starting Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Juniors can pick up on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, Sophomores on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, and Freshmen can get their books starting on Monday May 12<sup>th</sup>. If you did not pre-order a book, there are still a few left – you can bring \$80 cash to Room 3-214 during lunch starting Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **Class of 2025 Reminders**

Below are reminders for seniors as senior exams and graduation are fast approaching! We'll be sending out specific information regarding the ceremony soon for all senior families in a separate callout as well. If any special accommodations are required for graduation day at the Yuengling Center, such as seating in our new Deaf and Hard of Hearing section, please reach out to Mrs. Blum as soon as possible. Some additional upcoming dates for the Class of 2025 can be found below:

- Tuesday 5/20 to Friday 5/23: Senior Exams
- Thursday 5/29: Class of 2025 Graduation @ the Yuengling Center in Tampa at 9am
- *A reminder to visit <https://elhssenior.weebly.com> to keep up with all things Senior Class!*
- *If you haven't paid for A) your Cap and Gown and B) your Grad Walking Fees, use the links below:*

Cap & Gown: <https://hub.jostens.com/ls/7ed522a8-6ef6-433e-a669-a571dd80545b/sf-NdDkQWd6joHAF#/>

Grad Walking Fees: Please see Ms. Stang or Mrs. Blum – payments are cash or check only as the link has expired

Below you'll find a variety of College and Career Center updates relevant to students in different grade levels as they plan for their post-secondary journey (<https://www.pcsb.org/Page/43646>):

<b>Saturday SAT Opportunities</b>	<p>For students in 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade focusing on college and/or scholarship prep, make sure to register for a weekend SAT at ELHS! This is done directly through the <a href="https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/registration">https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/registration</a> Upcoming tests are below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- June 7 SAT (digital testing only) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>Contact your counselor if you have any questions about registering</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>SPC Off Campus Summer/Fall Registration</b>	<p>Additionally, if your student is wanting to take Dual Enrollment classes off campus at SPC this summer, registration is now open and due by April 30. Fall Dual Enrollment registration for off campus SPC classes begins on April 76 with a deadline of May 29. Please have your student reach out to their counselor if they are interested</p>
<b>Elevating Excellent Summer Seminars</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Road to College Senior Seminar (click hyperlink)</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Calling all <b>Class of 2026!</b> This FREE workshop will assist rising Seniors in the college application process. Students will create their FAFSA ID and Common Application account, complete their SSAR/SRAR, work on BigFuture Scholarships and CSS account, if needed. Conveniently located at East Lake High School for the first time! Join Ms. Gallaty this summer to get a head start on the college application process. Two 3-hour sessions offered each day July 21st-24th.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <a href="#">Road to College Underclass Seminar (click hyperlink)</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The Elevating Excellence Road to College is a FREE 3-hour seminar will assist your student in the college readiness process. Students will engage in activities to explore Career Matching, College Matching, Financial Aid, College Budget and Planning and Bright Futures. Two 3-hour sessions offered each day July 16<sup>th</sup> and 17th.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<a href="#">Evara Health Institute High School Open House</a> (hyperlink)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Learn more about what Evara Health Institute has to offer on May 15<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30 at Evara Health Institute 14106 58th Street N Clearwater</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Spectrum Internship</a> (hyperlink)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>***THIS INTERNSHIP IS SPECIFICALLY FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS ENTERING THEIR SENIOR YEAR***</b></li> <li>- This is a learning-intensive High School Internship program designed to give you essential business insights and hands-on experience in the technology field. Training is a full-time, 8-week commitment from June 7, 2024, through August 2, 2024, with the possibility of extending on a part-time basis through your final year of high school. Part-time scheduling during your senior year includes 1 full day each weekend and 2-3 evenings per week, totaling a minimum of 20 hours.</li> <li>- As a Spectrum Intern, you will have access to full benefits, including medical, 401K, and comp services, with potential for tuition assistance once you graduate.</li> </ul>
<b>Student Volunteer Opportunities</b> ( <a href="https://www.pcsb.org/Page/37909">https://www.pcsb.org/Page/37909</a> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Summer Camp Assistant</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Volunteer to become a summer camp assistant. Assist with fun &amp; creative activities for boys and girls ages 5-12. Hours volunteering can be used towards Bright Futures!</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <a href="https://www.pcsb.org/Page/37909">https://www.pcsb.org/Page/37909</a>: Ruth's Promise Adult Day Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The organization is looking for high school students to volunteer to interact with seniors doing various activities like arts &amp; crafts, exercise programs, trivia, and many other exciting activities. Do you have a talent, musical background, or other special skills you'd like to share with us? Our participants enjoy being around students and love to be entertained by your talent. Please contact Terri Ziegler, Ruth's</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>Promise Volunteer Coordinator, at (727)365-1866 or by email at <a href="mailto:ruthspromiseadp@gmail.com">ruthspromiseadp@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Scholarships</b> (<a href="https://www.pcsb.org/Page/39425">https://www.pcsb.org/Page/39425</a>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students can also look in Xello (through their Clever account) to find other scholarships.</li> <li>- <b>Bright Futures</b> - complete the FFAA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <a href="https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome?url=home">https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome?url=home</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>SPC Open Door Scholarship for work force training</b> - SPC offers scholarships to help prepare you for your dream job or develop your career. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Through the Open-Door grant program, you can complete short-term training for high-demand jobs in as little as six weeks for FREE.</li> <li>o This opportunity covers 100% of tuition and fees for eligible programs after all other federal and state financial aid is applied. To qualify, you must be a Florida resident. Scholarships are offered on a first come, first served basis while funding is available. <a href="https://now.spc.edu/open-door">https://now.spc.edu/open-door</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Pinellas Technical College</b> - Earn free tuition for the first term by attending National Technical College Signing Day April 10th. <a href="https://padlet.com/gallatyn/east-lake-college-and-career-center-idyrvtlk9okb080m/wish/XGyBQbkL2ql0ZL6K">https://padlet.com/gallatyn/east-lake-college-and-career-center-idyrvtlk9okb080m/wish/XGyBQbkL2ql0ZL6K</a></li> <li>- <b>\$2,500 Scholarship.</b> In partnership with Intuit for Education, one student winner will be awarded \$2,500 in educational funding from each semester-based entry period during the 2024-25 school year. The Financial Futures Student Scholarship Contest is open to students (age 13-19) who have completed at least one lesson within the course <i>Tax Simulation: Understanding Taxes</i>. To enter for a chance-to-win, students will be asked to submit an application form and share how learning about tax topics has made an impact on their life through a reflection essay (200-500 words). For additional information and to apply, go to <a href="https://turbotax.everfi.com/scholarships/?utm_source=everfi&amp;utm_medium=web&amp;utm_campaign=all-contests-page">https://turbotax.everfi.com/scholarships/?utm_source=everfi&amp;utm_medium=web&amp;utm_campaign=all-contests-page</a></li> </ul>
<b>PTC Dual Enrollment</b>	<p>PTC – Clearwater, has extended the application period for the Diesel program due to the industry demand for skilled Diesel Technicians. If your student is a junior or senior and interested in learning this high-demand skill, please use this link to complete the application: <a href="https://dualenrollment.mypc.edu/">https://dualenrollment.mypc.edu/</a> and let me Ms. Gallaty know you are applying. <a href="mailto:gallatyn@pcsb.org">gallatyn@pcsb.org</a></p>
<b>Have questions? Need help?</b>	<p><a href="#">Book an appointment</a> via the hyperlink.</p>

## Additional Reminders

- o **Anonymous Reporting**
  - As most of you are aware, Pinellas County Schools has partnered with Sandy Hook Promise which allows us to offer the Say Something Anonymous Reporting System. This allows stakeholders to submit a secure and anonymous safety concern which helps us identify and intervene in a proactive way. Please remind your student(s) this is in place to assist with addressing a concern and also a way for someone get any help they may need – tips are passed along to appropriate law enforcement and school personnel. FortifyFL is also another reporting system which is available to report suspicious activity and allows Florida students and the community to relay any safety concerns. Both links can be found below.
  - [Say Something Tips — Sandy Hook Promise](#)
  - [FortifyFL \(getfortifyfl.com\)](https://getfortifyfl.com)
- o **Driver's Ed Program - Summer**

- East Lake High School, along with multiple other schools throughout the county, will be hosting our usual Summer Driver's Ed Program. Below you'll find a link to register. The program costs \$250 and seats are limited to first come first serve basis.
- Summer Driver's Ed Link: <https://www.pcsb.org/Page/43586>
- **PTSA Updates**
  - The ELHS PTSA is seeking nominations for the 2025-26 school year and will have open elections in May. Are you interested in making a difference in our school community? Join the PTSA Executive Committee. Please submit your interest for our four open board positions to our three nomination committee co-chairs listed on Instagram and Facebook. Voting will take place at our May General Meeting directly before the SAC meeting May 13th at 6pm in the ELHS Media Center. ALL ARE WELCOME! If you have any questions, email [ptsaelhs@gmail.com](mailto:ptsaelhs@gmail.com)
  - Share some LOVE and APPRECIATION TO OUR AMAZING TEACHERS AND STAFF! The ELHS PTSA is beginning an ongoing year-round request to "FUEL THE FACULTY". We are looking for small snack and drink donations for a snack cart which rolls around the office and halls. PTSA is kicking off this effort in February with their Sign-up Genius posted on their Facebook and Instagram pages. Please see the links below to access the social media pages on how to sign up: <https://bit.ly/4jsZuaQ>
  - Consider starting your membership off with the PTSA or making a donation this month - both assist with supporting the teachers and students at The Lake each day! 100% of all membership fees and donations go directly back to the school. And check out their Facebook and Instagram pages for more information!
    - <https://www.facebook.com/EastLakeHSPTSA>
    - <https://www.instagram.com/eastlakehighptsa/>

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Assistant Principal or Counselor. Let's continue SOARing to new heights this semester at The Lake! Have an amazing rest of your weekend and GO EAGLES!

Dan Schmittiel, Principal  
 East Lake High School  
[SchmittielD@pcsb.org](mailto:SchmittielD@pcsb.org)

*Vision- 100% student success*

*Mission- The community of East Lake High School will develop productive and responsible students who are prepared for post-secondary education, the workforce and citizenship.*