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[Directions to East Lake High School](#)

**8/11/24**

This is Dan Schmittiel, Principal at East Lake High School. Tomorrow begins day 1 of the 2024-25 school year – we’re excited to kick off the new school year! As always, we want to look outside of the academics to support and celebrate our students in their various extracurriculars. Our students are always ready to SOAR to success as we progress throughout the school year both in and out of the classroom. This week we start the year off with our Fall Athletics season. Let’s show our school spirit and cheer on our different sports teams, clubs, and performing arts programs throughout the year – a list of this week’s events can be found below:

- Varsity Football faces Zephyrhills HS at home on Friday 8/16 in our Preseason Varsity Football Game.

Parents, we will also host both our PTSA and SAC meeting on Tuesday, August 13 starting at 6pm at ELHS – we encourage all to attend! If you plan to attend, please enter through the front office.

### **Student’s First Day and Getting Involved**

Student hours this school year are still from 7:25am – 1:55pm. Each year we continue our commitment to both academic and extracurricular excellence, centered around what it means to SOAR like an Eagle at East Lake High School: have a Success mindset, take Ownership of learning, have an Attitude centered around positivity, and have Respect for all. We can’t wait to see what the 2024-25 school year brings as we build on the great work from last year and continue to SOAR to new heights!

As students arrive on campus, they will be welcomed by the amazing East Lake High School Band! At the Lake, we pride ourselves in not only our academic successes and opportunities but also our extracurriculars, our band being one of many incredible opportunities available to students at East Lake High School. Our goal is to help all students find that passion and grow and thrive in it, leading to a fulfilling student experience! I would highly recommend that, if you haven’t yet, peruse the many club options on our school’s website. We’ll also be offering a club gallery walk day within the first few weeks of the school year where students will have a chance to speak with sponsors and student leaders and hopefully find one or more, they’d like to join.

### **School Safety Updates and Lunches**

As a reminder, with the new state law centered around school safety, HB1473, all interior building doors will be locked throughout both the school day and during any extracurricular events. With that, we have made some adjustments with the flow of the school day, including passing time and when students need to be out of the classroom on a hall pass. With this, please remind your child that they are not able to prop open doors or gates throughout the day or after school.

In the mornings, students will either enter campus through A) the north gates by the parent car circle/student parking lot or B) the southeast gate near the auditorium connected to the bus loop. Students will no longer enter through the gates by the front office this school year. We are also adding a 7:15am bell which is when students will be able to leave the cafeteria and main outdoor hallway to access lockers and begin heading to class.

For extracurricular activities after school, students will need to enter through the front office or be met at a door or gate by their coach only.

As a reminder, we are shifting to two lunches this school year. The breakdown of which teacher and students have A lunch versus B lunch is based on buildings. We've received questions on whether it could instead be broken down by grade level, but because we have so many classes on campus with mixed grade levels, this is not an option. See below for the breakdown and attached you'll also find our bell schedule for the 2024-25 school year:

[24-25 ELHS Bell Schedules 2 Lunches.pdf](#)

- A Lunch:
  - o Building 9
  - o Building 4
  - o Performing Arts (Building 5 and 6)
- B Lunch:
  - o Building 2
  - o Building 3
  - o Gym (Building 1)

**Power Up Learning Power Down Distractions, Dress Code, and More**

Parents, please assist with reviewing student expectations with your students tonight and throughout the week, centered around the student code of conduct, with items like tardies, grades, dress code, cellphones, headphones, and more.

Our goal is to ensure students get the most out of every period, engaging with content, their teachers, and peers to deepening learning. We will focus on Powering Up Learning and Powering Down Distractions to assist with this throughout the year – students will learn about our new countywide initiative to help remove the distraction that cellphones and headphones pose. To learn more, see the links below:

- [Power Up Learning \(pcsb.org\)](#)
- [Strategic Communications / Power Up \(pcsb.org\)](#)

Parents, please review the ELHS and PCS dress code with your students before the first day of school year. We do expect that all students are in dress code starting day 1. For more details on the dress code, please use the link below:

- [Code of Conduct / V. Dress Code \(pcsb.org\)](#)

For more helpful reminders, including viewing the different back-to-school forms, please use the link below to visit the 2024-25 Back to School Guide:

- [Strategic Communications / Back to School Guide \(pcsb.org\)](#)

**Additional Reminders**

***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 that helps us identify and intervene in a proactive way. Please remind your student(s) that this is in place to assist with addressing a concern and also a way for someone get any help that may be needed – tips are passed along to appropriate law enforcement and school personnel. FortifyFL is also another reporting system that is available to report suspicious activity which allows Florida students and the community to relay any safety concerns. Both links can be found below.

- [Say Something Tips — Sandy Hook Promise](#)
- [FortifyFL \(getfortifyfl.com\)](#)

***Counselor and Assistant Principal Updates***

This school year, we will have an adjustment to our Assistant Principal student assignments to match our counselor team. The breakdown will be as follows:

Alphas A-D = Chiquita Godwin (Assistant Principal) and Ashleigh Reger (School Counselor)  
Alphas E-K = Megan Hatfield (Assistant Principal) and Kayleigh Bordenkircher (School Counselor)  
Alphas L-Q = Dwight Latimore (Assistant Principal) and Leah Liguori (School Counselor)  
Alphas R-Z = Shawn Anderson (Assistant Principal) and Jennifer Fernandez (School Counselor)

### ***PTSA and Spirit Wear***

Our outstanding PTSA would like to thank all of their returning and new members, along with the sponsor support they've receive. They kicked off the year with an amazing Teacher Breakfast to wrap up pre-school week on Friday – a BIG THANK YOU to our two cooks, Greg Mosman and Tere Bertke. Please consider becoming a member of the PTSA this year by going to their Facebook page and click on “Sign up”. They are also looking for sponsors – more information can n be found on the membership sign up site.

If you'd like to purchase Spirit Wear, visit the below link. Options will expand as the year begins but get your “Class of” shirt today! [East Lake High School "Class of" Gear | Mascot Universe | powered by OrderMyGear \(itemorder.com\)](#)



## **ORDER YOUR SPIRIT APPAREL!**



### **East Lake Class of 2028 Bundle**

Starting at \$50.00



East Lake Class of 2028 Tee



East Lake Hooded Sweatshirt



East Lake Class of 2028 Decal



East Lake Mascot Decal

**Order an East Lake HS  
Welcome Box,  
customized for the  
Class of 2028!**

*More designs & products will be available soon!*

### ***College and Career Center***

The College and Career Center is open! Contact Ms. Gallaty, [gallatyn@pcsb.org](mailto:gallatyn@pcsb.org) or visit our virtual resource center for help planning for life after high school. Whether it's college, career or military we have resources to help. Parent Car Circle Drop-off/Pick-up

We will be using the same car circle path on the northeast end of the building as we did last school year. Please be cognizant that the traffic patterns may have changed, and as a reminder, all high school and middle school families will be using the same parent drop off car line. The lot in front of the middle school will only be used for families that have an appointment on either campus this school year. The 2024-25 Car Circle Map is attached to the email with the callout.

[ELHS 2024-25 Car Circle.pdf](#)

### ***Clothing Donations***

In the south end of the school within the teacher parking lot, there's a clothing donation bin. If you have any clothing you're giving away, feel free to drop it off at any time – not only is it for a good cause, ELHS also receives some funding to support the school!

### ***Yearbook Sales***

Eagle families - our yearbook is now available at a special back to school price. Please go to [www.yearbookordercenter.com/job/1232](http://www.yearbookordercenter.com/job/1232) to order your yearbook today. You can also purchase your senior dedication page at this same website. Any questions regarding yearbook or senior photos - contact the adviser at [walln@pcsb.org](mailto:walln@pcsb.org)

### ***Flag Football***

There will be a Flag Football new player interest meeting on Wednesday after school on August 28th in room 3-132. See Coach Khan for more information!

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Assistant Principal or Counselor. We can't wait to get the 2024-25 school year started! Always remember that Life is Better at the Lake – have an amazing rest of your weekend, stay safe and dry, and GO EAGLES!

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