

# **PINELLAS CENTRAL PRESS**

**September 2024**

## **Welcome Back Mustangs!**

**We want to welcome our returning families and our new families!**

**The past 2 years Pinellas Central has undergone a huge remodeling project. We are pleased to announce that we are done and starting the year will all of our new classrooms and spaces finished! Our school community is able to enjoy our bright and beautiful building.**

**We are starting our year on a high note. When state grades were released in July, Pinellas Central earned an "A" grade. We are very proud of the hard work our students and staff have been doing to earn this grade. We attribute this to our dedicated staff, our students engaging in learning every day and your support of our school. Your commitment to your child's education in their primary years lays the foundation for them to continue their academic success for years to come.**

**Our school theme this year is "Motivate to Accelerate". We will continue to love each and every child, provide a safe learning environment and encourage them to CHARGE each day. As you know, the G in CHARGE stands for Gritty. We strive to help each child focus on persevering through hard things and celebrating their individual progress.**

**Our first cycle of state testing has begun and will take place throughout September. Students in VPK will be tested on reading, students in grades K-5 will be tested in reading and math. The window for grade VPK through grade 2 is August 26-September 27. Grades 3-5 will begin testing the week of September 9th. Teachers will communicate specific testing dates for your child through class DOJO.**

**We look forward to partnering with you this year. We hope you will consider becoming a classroom volunteer or mentor, attending our family events and student led conferences and joining our PTA.**

## **GREAT AMERICAN TEACH-IN WED., NOVEMBER 13TH**

If you, or someone you know, would like to present to our students about your job or hobby we would love to have you! For more information, please email Mikaela Turner.  
[turnermik@pcsb.org](mailto:turnermik@pcsb.org)

## **WATER BOTTLE REMINDER**

**Students are only allowed to have plastic water bottles. Metal water bottles are not allowed.**

**FAMILIES PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT CONTACT INFORMATION ON FILE. THIS WILL ENSURE THAT YOU RECEIVE MESSAGES FROM THE SCHOOL AND THAT WE CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU IF NEEDED.**

## **COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

At PCE, Character Education is highlighted each month and students are chosen to be celebrated on the morning news show for displaying positive character throughout each month of school. The Character Education word of the month for September is Citizenship - Being a law abiding and involved citizen in service to school, community, and country. Please encourage your student to be a positive citizen both at home and at school.

Also, Start With Hello Week is September 16th - 20th. During this week, we encourage students to start all interactions with a friendly 'hello' to ensure all students feel included and welcome at our school.



**SEPTEMBER  
CITIZENSHIP**

Being a law abiding and involved citizen in service to school, community, and country.



## **A MESSAGE FROM THE MEDIA CENTER**

**Please take a moment to complete the annual survey.  
Pinellas Central Library Annual Stakeholder Survey.**

**Please return all overdue books as soon as possible. If you need to pay for a lost book please send in the exact amount in cash.**

## PTA Upcoming Events

Tuesday September 17

5:30- 6:00 - Meeting

6:00-8:00 - Skating Party at  
Astro Skate



**[Click here to Join PTA](#)**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SOCIAL WORKER

Dear Families,

My name is Ilona Sakovich, and I am the new School Social Worker at Pinellas Central Elementary. Parents often ask me what does a social worker do in a school setting? As a social worker, I wear many hats - I am a member of multidisciplinary team that addresses Exceptional Student Education for Children with Disabilities, I also monitor Functional Behavioral Assessments for students, provide individual and group counseling, work with homeless families and families in need, and more. I am also a member of CST, the school's Child's Study Team that addresses students' attendance. As we all know, consistent attendance is a key to the scholars' academic success.

I also would like you to be aware of the process that takes place if a student does not attend school regularly. How do we monitor each student's attendance in school? A student is considered to be truant by law when the student has:

- \*5 unexcused absences in a 30-day period or
- \*10 unexcused days in a 90-day period
- \*a student with 10% or more absences during a particular school year is a concern
- \*numerous tardies

What happens next? The school's Child Study Team reaches out to the parent in attempt to improve attendance. In case of no improvement, the student is referred to The State Attorney's Office Truancy Intervention Program (TIP), which is an early intervention program aimed at reducing truancy at the elementary school level in Pinellas and Pasco counties. TIP is a collaborative effort between the Office of the State Attorney, the School Board of Pinellas County, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and Family Resources, Inc. In the event when parents do not comply with the program, the case may be referred for prosecution for Educational Neglect and a criminal prosecution against the student's parent can be initiated.

What consequences can a parent face due to a child's truancy? A parent who refuses or fails to have a minor student who is under his or her control attend school regularly, or who refuses or fails to comply with the requirements in subsection (3), commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, by a fine or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 60 days.

What can you do to prevent this from happening? Make sure your scholar attends school regularly! Please report all absences through the school website and obtain doctor's notes when possible - excused absences don't count in the truancy process. Feel free to speak with your student's teacher or school counselor or school social worker about frequent absences, and don't hesitate to ask for help. We are here for you and your scholar!