



Principal Houston's Welcome Back Letter

Honoring Our Commitment to 'Showing Up' for students, staff, families and SELF!

August 8, 2024

Welcome Back BCE Families,

I am honored to serve as your principal and leader during the 2024-2025 school year. It is with immense pride that I announce for the first time since the inception of our state's school grading system, Pinellas County Schools is an 'A' school district. By the same token, I am incredibly proud of the efforts of my teachers and staff in ensuring that BCE maintained a school grade of 'B'. As we prepare for the start of the upcoming school year, we will continue to focus all efforts in *Honoring our commitment to 'Show Up' for students, staff, families, community, and self*. Our mission of providing all children with a challenging, high-quality education for their academic and vocational success will continue to guide our work.

As partners in education, we are charged with the shared responsibility of educating students, while making a positive impact on their lives. As the principal of Bear Creek, it is my duty to ensure that the safety, academic, and behavior needs for every student are known and met. In the spirit of keeping the main thing – the main thing, I challenge each of you to support this journey by *Honoring your commitment to 'Show Up' for our school community!*

Please take a moment to review the important school safety and legislative updates, below.

SCHOOL SAFETY/LEGISLATIVE UPDATES for the 2024/2025 school year:

House Bill 1473 – School Safety

The bill establishes new perimeter and door safety requirements with which school districts and charter school governing boards **must comply by August 1, 2024.**

What will this mean for Bear Creek?

- ALL exterior and interior doors and gates (except for the office main entrance gate) will remain locked during the instructional day.
- ALL front office interior doors will remain locked during the instructional day.
- ALL open doors and gates must be manned by staff and remain locked at all times.
- ALL open doors and gates must be manned by staff and remain locked, during afterschool events.

First Day of School – School Safety

Due to increased safety measures, Pre-K and Kindergarten families will be allowed to walk their children to class on the first day of school Monday, **August 12th**. Pre-K and K parents **will not** be permitted to enter the classrooms; however, may walk their child(ren) to the entry way or classroom door between **8:30am-8:45am**. Beyond the first day of school, students will be required to walk to class without a parent or guardian. Please rest assured in knowing that there will be staff on hand to help your student(s) get to their classrooms safely.

Wireless Communication Device Usage – Elementary Cell Phone Policy/Smartwatch Discipline Policy 5500.07

Elementary aged students are prohibited from using cell phones/smart watches during the school day. Students must keep cell phones in the off position and smart watches in silent mode, this includes while commuting via PCS transportation. **Anyone who chooses to bring a device to school will be personally responsible for the security of their device.** Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action.

Wireless Communication Device Usage Summary Chart

Time Periods	Elementary	Middle	High
After School	No	Yes	Yes
Before School	No	Yes	Yes
During Lunch	No	No	Yes
Passing Period	No	No	Yes

REMINDERS for the 2024/2025 school year Electronic Back-to-School Forms are available for parents via Parent Portal:

Please see enclosed TIPS form

- Parent Acknowledgement of Student Code of Conduct
- Media Release
- School/Classroom Library Materials Access Preference
- Directory Information Optional Opt-Out
- Network/Internet Acceptable Use Agreement
- Technology Equipment Acceptance and Responsibility
- Residency Questionnaire
- School-Based Healthcare Services
- Student Clinic Card

UPDATES for the 2024/2025 school year:

Our official first day of school is Monday, August 12th. Whether students are car riders, bus riders, walk, or bike to school; please consider the following:

- Student attendance is important and being on time matters.

- Our student hours are **8:45am-2:55pm.**
- **Pre-K drop-off is from 8:30am-8:45am using the designated Pre-K drop-off location in the car circle, zones 1-3. Car circle zones 1-3 are designated only for Pre-K drop off.**
- Our front office hours are 8:15am-3:55pm.
- Students K-5 are not permitted on campus until 8:15am (unless enrolled in the YMCA).
- All students must adhere to the Bear Creek expectations and all students are required to wear a uniform.
 - Shirts
 - Collared solid color in navy, light blue or white (no designs or patterns)
 - Bear Creek Spirit t-shirts – can be worn on any day of the week. Shirts should always be tucked.
 - Bottoms
 - Khaki or navy shorts, slacks, skirts, shorts, capris, or jumpers
 - No jeans, sweatpants, cargo pants or baggy clothing
 - Pants must be worn at waistline. If not, a belt must be worn.
 - Shoes
 - Safe and appropriate footwear must always be worn. Inappropriate footwear includes, but is not limited to – Crocs, backless shoes, sandals, roller skates, and bedroom slippers.
 - Winter Wear
 - Solid color sweatshirts, sweaters, and jackets in navy, light blue or white
 - No printing or designs allowed on outerwear
 - Hoods/hats may not be worn inside the classroom
- Car riders must be dropped off in the car circle **at 8:15am.**
- All students (car rider, bike riders and walkers) must use the single point of entry (car circle) to gain access to our campus. **Students are not permitted on campus until 8:15am.**
- As in the previous years, all students arriving before 8:30am must report directly to the cafeteria.
- Breakfast is free to all students and served daily from **8:15am - 8:45am.**
- Students arriving after **8:45am** are considered tardy and must report to front office.

To reduce the use of paper, we will continue using electronic forms of communication with families. This year you can keep up with Bear Creek in the following ways:

- The Bear Creek website will be our primary source of communication at <https://www.pcsb.org/bearcreek-es>. All weekly communication updates will be posted on our website by 6pm Sunday.
- ClassDojo will be used primarily for school-wide reminders and daily communication between parents and instructional staff.
- School Messenger will be used on occasion to remind families or previously communicated information shared on the Bear Creek website.
- Student agendas will also serve as a communication tool.

Bear Creek is looking forward to another great school year!

Principal Houston

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Back-to-School FOCUS Forms Tip Sheet



You'll find these annual forms in the **2023 Beginning of School Year Forms (Parent) packet**:

- Student Code of Conduct
- Media Release
- Directory Information Opt-Out Letter (Optional)
- Network/Internet Acceptable Use Agreement
- **School/Classroom Library Materials Access Preference**
- Technology Equipment Acceptance and Responsibility
- Residency Questionnaire

These forms are in the **2023 Clinic Card & School-Based Healthcare packet**:

- School-Based Healthcare Services
- Student Clinic Card

Instructions:

- Please allow yourself 5-10 minutes to complete the **forms in each packet**.
- **Both packets must be submitted for EACH returning student** before parents/guardians regain access to their student's FOCUS information.
- If there are multiple parent/guardian FOCUS accounts for a student, only one parent/guardian can submit the each packet.
- Please note: An asterisk (*) indicates that a response is required to move to the next page.
- If you need to pause, click the **Save and Continue Later** button to save your work and return to your last response.

Electronic Signature:

1. To electronically sign, select the **Click to Sign** link.

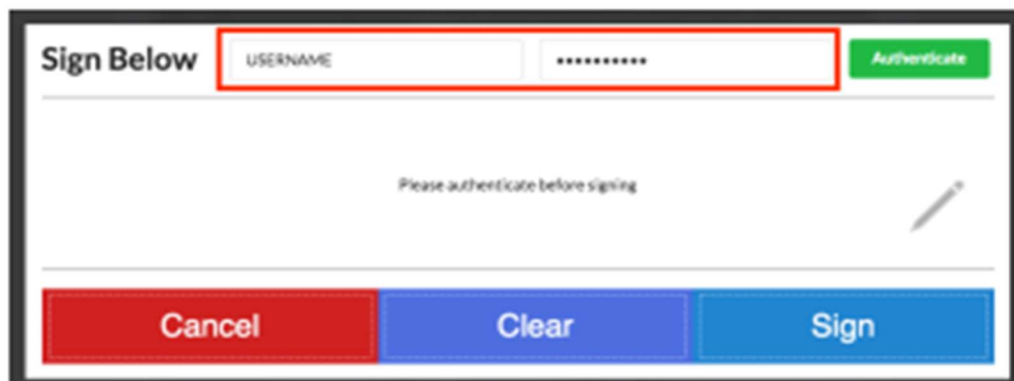
Signature:*



Click to Sign

Back-to-School FOCUS Forms Tip Sheet

2. Enter your FOCUS username and password. Then, click the green **Authenticate** button.



The screenshot shows the 'Sign Below' form. At the top, there are two input fields: 'USERNAME' and a password field with masked characters. A green 'Authenticate' button is to the right. Below the inputs is a large white box with the text 'Please authenticate before signing' and a pencil icon. At the bottom, there are three buttons: 'Cancel' (red), 'Clear' (blue), and 'Sign' (blue).

3. Use your mouse or touchpad on a computer or finger on touchscreen devices to sign.



The screenshot shows the 'Sign Below' form with a signature written in the large white box. The signature is enclosed in a red rectangular box. The 'Authenticate' button is now greyed out. The 'Clear' and 'Sign' buttons are still present at the bottom.

4. Click the blue **Sign** button to complete the process.



The screenshot shows the 'Sign Below' form with the signature. A red arrow points to the 'Sign' button, indicating it should be clicked to complete the process. The 'Authenticate' button remains greyed out.

Questions?

- If you have questions about items on the forms, contact your student's school.
- If you need technical assistance, contact the PCS TIS Help Desk at 727-588-6060.

Hoja de consejos sobre los formularios FOCUS para el regreso a clases



Encontrará estos formularios anuales en el paquete de formularios de comienzo del año escolar 2023 (padres):

- Código de Conducta Estudiantil
- Comunicado de prensa
- Carta de exclusión voluntaria de la información del directorio (opcional)
- Acuerdo de uso aceptable de la red/Internet
- Preferencia de acceso a los materiales de la biblioteca de la escuela/aula
- Aceptación y Responsabilidad de Equipos Tecnológicos
- Cuestionario de Residencia

Estos formularios se encuentran en el paquete de tarjeta clínica y atención médica basada en la escuela de 2023:

- Servicios de atención médica en las escuelas
- Tarjeta Clínica Estudiantil

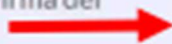
Instrucciones:

- Permitase de 5 a 10 minutos para completar los formularios en cada paquete.
- Ambos paquetes deben presentarse para CADA estudiante que regresa antes de que los padres/tutores vuelvan a tener acceso a la información FOCUS de su estudiante.
- Si hay varias cuentas FOCUS de padres/tutores para un estudiante, solo un padre/tutor puede enviar cada paquete.
- Tenga en cuenta: un asterisco (*) indica que se requiere una respuesta para pasar a la página siguiente.
- Si necesita hacer una pausa, haga clic en el botón Guardar y continuar más tarde para guardar su trabajo y volver a su última respuesta.

Firma electrónica:

1. Para firmar electrónicamente, seleccione el enlace **Haga clic para firmar**.

(Obligatorio) Firma del padre/tutor:*



Haga clic para firmar

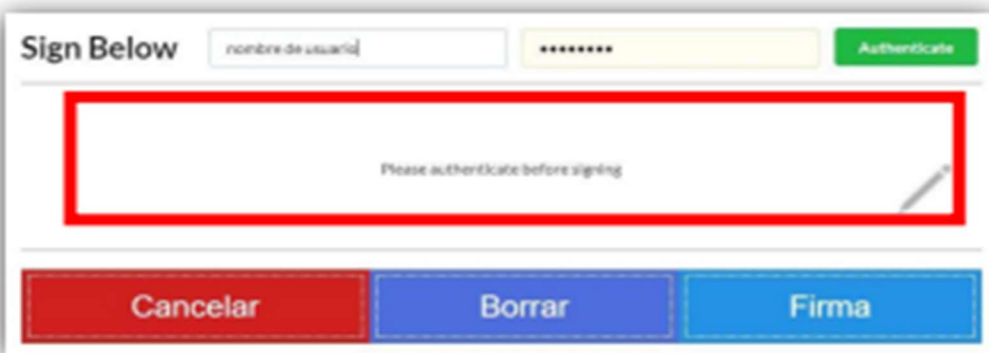
Hoja de consejos sobre los formularios FOCUS para el regreso a clases

- Ingrese su nombre de usuario y contraseña de inicio de sesión de Focus. Haga clic en el botón verde Autenticar.



The screenshot shows the 'Sign Below' section of the Focus interface. At the top left, the text 'Sign Below' is displayed. To its right are two input fields: 'Nombre de usuario' (username) and 'Contraseña' (password). A red rectangular box highlights both of these fields. To the right of the password field is a green button labeled 'Autenticar'. Below the input fields, the text 'Please authenticate before signing' is centered, with a small pencil icon to its right. At the bottom of the form, there are three buttons: a red 'Cancelar' button, a blue 'Borrar' button, and a blue 'Firma' button.

- Use su mouse o panel táctil en una computadora o dedo en dispositivos de pantalla táctil para firmar.



This screenshot shows the same 'Sign Below' form as above, but with the 'Autenticar' button now highlighted in green. The 'Nombre de usuario' field contains the text 'nombre de usuario' and the 'Contraseña' field contains seven asterisks. A large red rectangular box highlights the central area containing the text 'Please authenticate before signing' and the pencil icon. The 'Cancelar', 'Borrar', and 'Firma' buttons remain at the bottom.



This screenshot shows the 'Sign Below' form with a handwritten signature in black ink over the signature area. The signature appears to be 'John P. Adams'. The 'Cancelar', 'Borrar', and 'Firma' buttons are still present at the bottom. A red arrow points from the 'Borrar' button towards the 'Firma' button, indicating the next step in the process.

- Haga clic en el botón azul Firmar para completar el proceso.

¿Preguntas? Si tiene preguntas sobre los elementos de los formularios, comuníquese con la escuela del estudiante. Si necesita asistencia técnica, comuníquese con el servicio de asistencia de PCS al (727) 588-6060.