

TOGETHER PCS

KEEPING PACE WITH PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Welcome to TogetherPCS, the district's monthly newsletter featuring students, staff, alumni, coaches, curriculum, community partners and so much more!

In this issue, we meet St. Petersburg High School alum and Doorways (now Take Stock in Children) scholarship recipient Logan Manderscheid who recently started his own law firm after years of practicing in the Tampa Bay area. We also feature the Mt. Vernon Elementary Garden Club, which meets weekly to harvest food that contributes to the school's free food pantry. And we capture the AP Capstone Symposium, which took place for the first time since 2019, where AP Research students are afforded the opportunity to present to their peers in a college setting.

Do you know someone who should be featured in TogetherPCS? Please click the "Nominate Here" button below. Let's do this TOGETHER!

[NOMINATE HERE](#)



Congratulations to the 2024-25 Emerging Teachers of the Year: Emma Johnson, Pre-AP World History and Geography teacher at Safety Harbor Middle School and Gabriella Hernandez, third grade teacher at Walsingham Elementary. The Emerging Teacher of the Year program recognizes exemplary new teachers (in their second, third, or fourth year of teaching) who have demonstrated excellence through the representation of the district's core values.

Watch the video



WHAT'S INSIDE

DANCE

Emma Keaton
 Madelyn McRitchie
 Tehya van Deutekom
 Aubrey Xayasone

INSTRUMENTAL

Briana DeStoppelaire
 Kevin Saenz
 Tess Thacker
 Naveen Yengera

THEATER

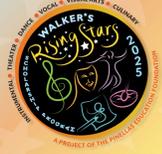
Mikaela Diana
 Gabriela Felton
 Markos Halkias
 Jesielle Rosenberg

VOCAL

Aiden Levine
 Jocelyne Lioe
 Phoebe Robinson
 Ava Wagoner

VISUAL

Satori Abdur-Rabbani
 McKayla "Micah" Carwile
 Mia Hipolito
 Kaitlyn Sudduth



Congratulations to the 2024-2025 Walker's Rising Stars Finalists! Join us on May 5 to watch our talented students take center stage at Mahaffey Theater, delivering show-stopping performances in music, dance, theater, and more! Created by Dr. Jeffrey Walker and the Pinellas Education Foundation, Walker's Rising Stars Scholarship Competition is a year-long initiative that helps students hone their audition, portfolio and performance skills. Participants in Walker's Rising Stars compete for college scholarships in six categories: Culinary Arts, Dance, Instrumental, Theater, Visual Arts and Vocal Performance. This is a FREE ticketless event! Learn more at pinellaseducation.org/walkers

AP Capstone students participate in districtwide symposium

Junior Liam Smith has been known to procrastinate a time or two throughout his high school career. So, when he was provided the opportunity to do a mock run-through of his AP Research presentation three weeks ahead of schedule, he jumped at the chance.

"It really helped me get everything together," said Liam of attending the AP Capstone Symposium with 117 other students from nine high schools on March 28. "I was able to really solidify my line of reasoning while preparing for today and I got some really good feedback from my peers and teachers."

This year's symposium is the first in the district since 2019. The Pinellas County Schools Advanced Studies department partnered with University of South Florida St. Petersburg to give AP Research students the college experience, as well as an opportunity to present and receive feedback on their presentations, which they will give before their teachers in a couple of weeks. Students from Countryside, St Petersburg, Osceola Fundamental, Largo, Seminole, Hollins, East Lake, Pinellas Park and Palm Harbor University high schools participated in break-out sessions, heard from two keynote speakers and also got to question a student panel with representatives from the Honors College and the Innovation Scholars Program.

[Read the full article](#)

ACHIEVE TOGETHER

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

As Logan Manderscheid tells it, his path to success hasn't been a straight line. But as he nears the one-year anniversary of starting his own law firm, he appreciates every twist and turn that

got him there just a little bit more.

Manderscheid, a Doorways (now Take Stock in Children) scholarship recipient, and St. Petersburg High School graduate, credits the hundreds of hours spent with his mentor in middle and high school, as well as some of the long-standing teacher relationships, as some of the main reasons for his success.

[Read the full article](#)



Logan Manderscheid is a graduate of St. Petersburg High School's Class of 2010 and recently started his own law firm.



Students recognized by Sheriff's Office

On Feb. 19, Osceola High senior Sydney Seabrooks and freshman Jacquelyn Gars came across a serious two-vehicle crash on their drive home from school. Before first responders arrived, they stopped to help and assisted a 71-year-old woman who was eventually transported to the hospital as a trauma alert. The students also helped obtain a witness account from a driver who saw the accident but had to leave the scene. The Sheriff's Office honored the students with a surprise celebration on Wednesday March 5, on their school campus. Prior to that, the school recognized the students with its GOAT (Greatest Of All Time) Award.

Mt. Vernon Garden Club teaches life lessons

On any given Wednesday afternoon, you can find about 15 Mount Vernon Elementary School students watering, digging, planting and harvesting in the school's newly refurbished garden plot in the center of campus.

And soon, the fruits (and vegetables) of their labor will be a welcomed addition to the school's weekly farmer's markets.

"I love checking on the strawberries every week," said second grader Jayde O'Brien. "And I love that we can taste some of the things."

Read the full story and watch the video



ARE YOU A PCS ALUM?

Did you graduate from Pinellas County Schools? What are you up to now? Use the link below to update us on family, career and life for a chance to be featured in TogetherPCS! Tell us more.



We have greatly enjoyed celebrating our students during award season: Vyrle Davis, Carwise, Maria Edmonds and the Yes, I Can! awards, our scholars continue to amaze and inspire us. Congratulations to all the award winners and scholarship recipients. We can't wait to see what you do next!





Schools are reaching out to families to invite students to Summer Bridge based on new criteria this school year. More information is available at pcsb.org/SummerBridge. Rising K will be open to Pinellas County Schools students registered for kindergarten for the 2025-26 school year. Rising K is focused on preparing children for kindergarten and does not have the same eligibility requirements as other elementary programs. Families can learn more about Rising K at pcsb.org/risingk.

Grades and Grit

The April Grades and Grit student athlete is none other than Boca Ciega High School's standout track star Zakilya Zeigler. Zakilya has been running competitive track since she was five years old. She runs the 400-meter and 800-meter and has competed in multiple state championships. Zakilya has seven Division I offers to run track in college.

Watch the video here.

The Superintendent Says...

"With graduations on the horizon and the recent announcements of our high school valedictorians and salutatorian for the class of 2025, I



remain incredibly proud of our students and the remarkable achievements they have made throughout their academic journey. We celebrate their accomplishments and look forward to seeing all they will achieve in the years to come."

CLASS OF 2025

Where are you headed to college? Taking a gap year to study abroad or travel the world? Going straight to work to begin your trade career? Tell us about your future plans by visiting pcsb.org/futureplans.



To help spread the word, please forward this newsletter to community members who are interested in public education. Sign up by clicking the button below.

SIGN UP HERE



VISION: 100% STUDENT SUCCESS
MISSION: EDUCATE AND PREPARE EACH STUDENT FOR COLLEGE, CAREER AND LIFE

PCS Compliance Statement

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