

TOGETHER PCS



THE CLASS OF 2023 TAKEOVER

Welcome to TogetherPCS, the district's new monthly newsletter featuring students, staff, alumni, coaches, curriculum, community partners and so much more! We look forward to not only keeping you updated with important events and reminders, but also giving you a glimpse into the day-to-day experiences of the people who help make the district shine.

In this first issue, we meet an alumna of St. Petersburg High School who is now a children's book author and take a look inside the Hollins High School Interactive Book Club, which performs weekly at Rawlings Elementary. We also learn about what it means to be an AVID National Demonstration School through the eyes of the East Lake Middle School principal.

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

[NOMINATE HERE](#)

**WE ♥ OUR
TEACHERS!**

May 8-12 is **Teacher Appreciation Week!**

Make sure to show the teachers in your life how much they mean to you. Follow along on our social channels for teacher spotlights each day next week. Thank you, teachers, for all you do all year long!

WHAT'S INSIDE

Mark Your Calendar!

Assessments:

End-of-year assessments will be taking place throughout the month of May.

Elementary assessment dates

Middle school assessment dates

High school assessment dates

Graduation Dates:



Palm Harbor University High School's Jayden Griggs is headed to Florida Institute of Technology on a lacrosse scholarship.

Lacrosse defensive standout is successful on and off the field

Ask Palm Harbor University High School Head Lacrosse Coach Adam Deisley to say a few words about senior defender Jayden Griggs and you will undoubtedly get a novel-length response.

"Jayden has been one of the best all-around players I have ever coached over the past 20 seasons," Deisley said. "He is the kind of kid every coach wants."

Deisley can list Griggs accolades – James Callahan Award for defensive player of the year in 2021 and 2022, team captain in 2022 and 2023, First team All-PCAC in 2021 and 2022, PCAC Championship MVP in 2023 – off the top of his head and is quick to point out his confidence and strong communication skills on the field. In the PCAC Championship game, Griggs helped lead his team in a come-from-behind victory against Osceola, putting some of his strongest talents on display.

"He has never been one to back down from a challenge," Deisley said. "He is literally like having a coach on the field."

[Read the full article](#)

High school graduations will be held on May 13, 15, 16, and 17 for traditional high schools, May 19, 23 and 24 for Educational Alternative Services and Pinellas Virtual and May 17 and 18 for Exceptional Student Education. Please visit our [Graduation Page](#) for specific dates and times by school.

Last Day of School - Early Release

May 25 is the last day of school for students. All students will be released two hours early.

Summer Bridge

Begins June 5 and runs through June 29. Visit our [Summer Bridge](#) page for more information, including registration and transportation.

Summer Camps

Looking for a fun and fulfilling way to spend your summer? Camp registrations are happening now. Visit the [Summer Camps](#) page for a full list of options.

2023-2024

Mark your calendars for the first day of school: August 10, 2023.

ACHIEVE TOGETHER

When Tori McGee was hired as the front office supervisor at The Vinoy after majoring in hospitality management at the University of Central Florida, she thought she had landed her dream job.

But in 2011, after three years of employment at the iconic hotel, she was offered an opportunity to branch out into marketing, and she never looked back.



[Read the full article.](#)



Pinellas Park High valedictorian and salutatorian represent Criminal Justice Academy

When Leonel Resendiz walks across the graduation stage on May 15, his mother's unwavering support will undoubtedly be top of mind. Resendiz, who is Pinellas Park High School's valedictorian, lost his father



East Lake Fundamental Middle Named AVID National Demonstration School

For seventh grader Eric Bull, taking the AVID elective at the East Lake Middle School Academy of Engineering has led to better organization and more class preparedness.

"My notebook is extremely organized," Eric said. "And



Hollins High's 'Interactive' Book Club keeps reading fun

Every Monday afternoon, you can find Ada Lau and eight other 'Interactive' Book Club members in full costume and character in the Rawlings Elementary library acting out prose from books such as "Mad About Meatloaf" or "Cranky Chicken."

in sixth grade, and has used his mother's strength to motivate him ever since.

"My mom is such an amazing woman. She's why I do what I do," Resendiz said. "It's all about hard work, commitment and determination."

[Read the full article](#)

it's not just the AVID class that has AVID materials, all classes incorporate AVID methods into our day."

[Read the full article](#)

It may not be the most traditional way for seniors to hang after school, but for Lau, the gratitude she has received from the 30 first, second and third graders for the past three years is more than enough.

[Read the full article](#)

The Superintendent Says...

"I am so excited to launch TogetherPCS as a new way to connect with our community. The successes of our students and alumna highlight the longstanding impact of Pinellas County Schools. We invite all our stakeholders to be part of the academic excellence and dynamic student experiences across our district."



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](#)