

TOGETHER PCS



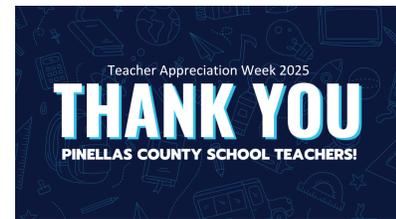
KEEPING PACE WITH PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

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

In this issue, we celebrate several of our CLASS OF 2025 SENIORS, who will graduate at the end of May. Keep an eye on the website and social media for the triumphant stories of graduates across the district. We also feature the Dell Tech Crew, a group of certified computer repair technicians at eight middle and high schools who are repairing hundreds of laptops daily. And we visit with Lakewood High School alum Mark Ferguson, who spent years as a PCS teacher and coach before opening the legendary Ferg's in downtown St. Petersburg.

Do you know someone who should be featured in TogetherPCS? Please click the "Nominate Here" button below.

[NOMINATE HERE](#)



May 5-9 is **Teacher Appreciation Week!** Last week, our School Board members visited classrooms throughout the district to personally thank our incredible teachers. Starting Monday, May 5, our YouTube and social media channels will share those special moments. Thank you, teachers, for your dedication and all that you do every day!

WHAT'S INSIDE





Congratulations Osceola Boys Tennis - Class 3A State Champions!



Graduation Dates:

High school graduations will be held on May 29-30 and June 1 for traditional high schools, May 28-29 for Educational Alternative Services and Pinellas Virtual and May 28 for Exceptional Student Education. Please visit our Graduation Page for specific dates and times by school.

Last Day of School

May 29

Summer Bridge

Begins June 2 and runs through June 26. Visit the Summer Bridge page for more information, including registration and transportation.

Summer Camps

Looking for a fun and fulfilling way to spend your summer? There are still a couple of PCS camps with openings. Visit the Summer Camps page for a full list of options.

2025-2026

Mark your calendars for the first day of school: August 11, 2025.

Dell Student TechCrew repairs hundreds of computers across district

Visal Poyhanya may only be in seventh grade, but this school year, he has repaired more than 25 student laptops as part of the Dell Student TechCrew at Tyrone Middle School.

“I have learned how to fix basically everything on the computer – the palmrest, motherboard, screen,” said Visal, who has taken Linda Dugan-Martinez’s Digital Discoveries in Society class, and, in turn, has become a Dell certified TechCrew member. “I’m getting real-world experience.”

Pinellas County Schools has TechCrews in eight schools across the district – ranging from Gulf Beaches Elementary to Pinellas Technical College. PCS began partnering with Dell Technologies in 2023 and now has 200 students across the district certified to repair student computers. This year, TechCrews have repaired 1,059 devices, equating to approximately \$500,000 in savings to the district, according to Keith Mastorides, chief technology officer for Pinellas County Schools.

“I remind them as often as I can, there aren’t many students out there who can do this,” said Christopher Cotton, technology teacher at Northeast High School. “With this program, they can not only say they are certified, but they can say they’ve spent years working with devices and clients, and I feel like employers really want that experience.”

[Read the full article and watch the video](#)

ACHIEVE TOGETHER

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Mark Ferguson, owner of the iconic Ferg's Sports Bar in downtown St. Petersburg, is a proud graduate of Lakewood High School.

It's been nearly 30 years since Mark Ferguson taught at Southside Fundamental Middle School.

But when visiting his iconic restaurant in the heart of downtown St. Petersburg, you feel as if you've stepped into a Pinellas County Schools archive room.

The Ferg's stage where bands perform on Friday nights is constructed from old wooden gymnasium bleachers from Gibbs and Northeast high schools. The outdoor patio stage is made of pieces from the former Meadowlawn Middle gym floor. Photos from his days at Southside line the walls, and relics from when Ferguson played basketball and baseball at Lakewood High School are proudly displayed.

[Read the full article](#)



CONGRATS CLASS OF 2025



Lexander Coleman-Tunsil
Lakewood High

In his senior season, Lexander, who has a 4.2 weighted GPA, became the first wrestler in Lakewood Spartan history to compete in the FHSAA state final match. He also has 101 career wins.

Lexander entered foster care at 8 years old and was placed with Coach Necole Tunsil when he was 11. He wasn't succeeding academically and was making bad choices in and out of school, but Tunsil knew what he needed - love and structure.

"I knew it would be a good home because there were rules and consequences," Lexander "Lex" said.

Coach Tunsil officially adopted Lex his sophomore year of high school. Lex will attend Hawkeye Community College in Iowa on a wrestling scholarship.

"I am overwhelmed with pride and count it as a blessing to witness his growth the last four year," said head wrestling coach James Ervin. "Lex has everything he needs to move forward in life."

Lex will major in English with plans to go to law school.



Milanna Brookins
Countryside High

Milanna Brookins didn't have her sights set on college until she reached high school, and now, she has received a full academic scholarship to attend Harvard University.

Milanna was raised by a single dad and spent a lot of unstable years moving around, during which she says she learned to place trust in herself.

"I know I can succeed despite any outside influences," Milanna said. "With every step, I'm in more disbelief of what I am able to do."

Milanna is Countryside High School's valedictorian with a 4.75 GPA and a 1520 on her SAT. She was also accepted to 10 other prestigious colleges and universities including Cornell and Princeton.

Milanna is an FBLA state competitor, part of the iStem program and a recipient of the Anne Frank Humanitarian award her junior year.

She plans to major in computer science and also get her MBA.

"I still can't connect the person in the mirror to Harvard," she said.



Sydney Seabrooks
Osceola High

Sydney Seabrooks has had a passion for gymnastics since she stepped foot in the gym at 8 years old. She is now headed to the University of North Carolina on a full gymnastics scholarship this fall.

Sydney spends most of her time at the gym when not at school, but she takes her leadership role very seriously and enjoys mentoring younger students and gymnasts. She is involved in National Honor Society at Osceola Fundamental High School and also contributes as a writer to College Gym News, an online gymnastics publication.

"I think I've always had an unshakeable confidence," Sydney said. "I've surrounded myself with ambitious people who are always reaching for the best and supporting my dreams."

Sydney, who has a 4.4 weighted GPA, was also recruited by University of Illinois, University of Georgia, Auburn, UCLA and Michigan State.

She plans to major in exercise science or sports medicine and hopes to be a trainer or coach.



Auto Mechanics program drives students to sign with Pinellas Technical College

Genevieve Novak will never forget the feeling of driving the Mazda Miata she and her friends spent months rebuilding on the track of the St. Petersburg Grand Prix in February.

And it wouldn't have been possible without her dual-enrollment program at Pinellas Technical College combined with her instructor's foresight to find the girls a project car.

"It was so refreshing just to be able to run it on the track. I almost cried the first time we started it," said Genevieve, a senior at Pinellas Park High School and part of the auto mechanic program at PTC St. Petersburg. "I'm just very proud of everyone who worked on the Miata because we came from knowing very little to completely rebuilding a car that wasn't even supposed to be apart."

Read the full article and watch the video



The Superintendent Says...

"Congratulations class of 2025 graduates! I am so proud of your hard-earned accomplishments and feel honored to have witnessed a small portion of your journey. Please keep in touch and let us know where you go from here. We know you will continue to achieve amazing things!"

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