



# TOGETHERPCS

## 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 catch up with a Dunedin High School alum who is living her dream as a country music artist as well as celebrate the expansion of bowling as a sanctioned sport to all 16 PCS traditional high schools. We also share the story of a grandmother-grandson duo who graduated together at the countywide graduation last month.

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

[NOMINATE HERE](#)

## WHAT'S INSIDE

**LISTEN & LEARN**  
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

**Upcoming Community Listen and Learn Sessions Dates:**

**Sept. 27, 2023**

**5:30 - 7 PM**

**Clearwater High School (Area 2)**

**School Board Members Attending:**

**Laura Hine and Eileen Long**

**Oct. 12, 2023**

**5:30 - 7 PM**



*3DE Teacher Nicole Jones chats with seniors Daniela Leombruno and Angel Ouk. There are currently 429 students in St. Pete High's 3DE Program.*

### **St. Pete High's First 3DE Senior Class Prepares for Consultancy**

Tate Keber, Kenyon Clarkson, Daniela Leombruno and Angel

**Boca Ciega High School (Area 3)**  
**School Board Members Attending:**  
**Carol Cook and Laura Hine**

**Nov. 8, 2023**

**5:30 - 7 PM**

**Hollins High School (Area 4)**

**School Board Members**

**Attending: Lisa Cane and**

**Stephanie Meyer**

[Learn More here](#)

Ouk entered into the 3DE career academy program as freshmen at St. Petersburg High School four years ago with the like-minded goal of building their intangible skillsets and deciding on a career field.

By the time they were sophomores, they were the 2022 Home Depot National Case Competition champions.

Now, as they begin their senior consultancy curriculum, they are all thinking about what's next.

"I always knew I wanted to be a CEO or a boss," Clarkson said while discussing the year ahead with his classmates and teacher Nicole Jones. "3DE teaches us how to do that."

[Read the full article](#)

# ACHIEVE TOGETHER

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



*Dunedin High School alumna Aubrey Wollett has made a name for herself in Nashville, starting her career after graduating from the music business program at the prestigious Belmont University.*

Aubrey Wollett felt instantly nostalgic when she returned to her high school auditorium. It had been 15 years but the stage where she first dreamed of becoming a performer was still peppered with memories of her first lead role in a play and singing the national anthem dozens of times for school assemblies.

"When you're in high school, you think everything is the biggest deal of your life," said Wollett, sitting in a vintage wingback chair on that very same stage, this time strumming her acoustic Taylor guitar and detailing her "climb" to becoming a successful country music artist. "Looking back, I realize those were the building blocks to get me to where I am now."

[Read the full article](#)



---

## From Club to Competition: All 16 High Schools Now Have Bowling Teams

Senior Kristofer Fields fully admits that he joined the Boca Ciega boys bowling team to hang with his friends.

But once he started to practice over the summer, he began to appreciate the competitive aspect as well.

“This is definitely weird for someone who has only been bowling a few months,” Fields said of the district’s first regular season match at Sunrise Lanes in St. Petersburg. All 30 lanes were packed with varsity and junior varsity programs from all 16 high schools, a first for



---

## Grandmother-Grandson Duo Graduate Together

If there is anything Jaevon Ponds and his grandmother Portia can agree on, it’s that math was the biggest hurdle to graduating high school.

But they overcame that hurdle together. The grandmother-grandson duo celebrated Aug. 31 by walking across the stage one right after the other, capping off a years-long journey to obtaining their GED diplomas.

“None of this was part of the plan,” Portia Ponds said just before the All-County graduation ceremony, which took place at St. Petersburg High School just two days shy of

Pinellas County Schools.

“My favorite part about bowling for sport is it’s not a defensive sport,” Fields continued. “How you perform is never based on how the other teams perform against you. It’s all personal best and you are constantly improving.”

[Watch the video and read the full article](#)

her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. “We stayed in contact the whole time, but it was never in our minds that we would march at the same time.”

Portia Ponds was just 16 when she dropped out of Dunedin High School when she got pregnant with her daughter Loretta. Despite her parents urging her to return to school, Portia instead obtained a dietary management certification, which allowed her to “get a job, make some money and take care of her babies.”

[Read the full article](#)

## The Superintendent Says...

"Amazing things are happening within Pinellas County schools. Our students, staff and alumni continue to make me proud to lead such an active and vibrant district. Please consider joining me and our board members at one of our three upcoming Listen & Learn sessions in an effort to continue to strengthen partnerships both as a district and within school communities."



*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