



May 2024 | Issue 3

Cougar

CHRONICLE

For The Parents, Students, Faculty, Staff & Community Of Countryside High School - Pinellas County, Florida

Mission:

At Countryside High School, we are committed to educate and prepare all students for career, college, and life.

Vision:

The vision of Countryside High School is 100% student success.



Area 1 Office

Area Superintendent:

Dr. Christen Tonry Gonzalez Ed. D

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Dawn M. Peters

Superintendent:

Kevin K. Hendrick

Countryside High School

<http://www.pcsb.org/countryside-hs>

Taylor Henderson, Principal

Main Office 727-725-7956

Main Office Fax 727-725-7990

Guidance Office Fax..... 727-669-1929

Assistant Principals

Lonnelle Alexander, Brad Bernstein,

Erin Overall, Cynthia Ramos-Gonzalez

A Note From The Principal

Cougar Family,

Happy springtime and we hope that this finds your family well! Our Countryside Cougars are sprinting to the finish line, and we are very proud of our graduating senior class of 2024. Without any doubt, the 45th graduating class of Countryside High School has seen many changes and navigated numerous trials on their journey to graduation. Our 389 graduating seniors will be moving into their adult lives, leaning on the experiences that they have grown from while attending Countryside High School. We thank our graduates for all that they have contributed to our school over the last four years.

Our campus has remained active and successful this second semester with numerous celebrations to share. It has truly been a banner year for Cougar performing and fine arts! Our Drama Troupe 900 held amazing performances of Monty Python’s *Spamalot* that were a huge hit for our students, staff, and community. Our visual arts programs have had over 25 students recognized this year for their artwork at various locations including the Morean Arts Exhibit and the Mainsail Art Exhibit. Both our Golden Band of Pride and our chorus programs have earned superior ratings at numerous contests during the performing season as well. It is truly a great time for the arts at Countryside, and we are very proud of our students and program directors for their hard work this year.

All our spring sports programs have remained competitive this season, and we have had over 1,000 student athletes compete for our school this year. A big thank you to all our students and parents who have been involved with one of our sports teams or booster organizations. We always encourage our Cougars to get involved in a club or activity to keep them engaged and enjoy the high school experience much more. We are proud of our coaches and sponsors who help our students explore various interests and create diversity among our school days! Fall sports tryouts and conditioning begin in June, and information on insurance and participation can be found on our school website under the athletics banner.

As we move into the summer months, we always remind our community of the learning opportunities that the summer brings. Our campus is open from the beginning of June through the middle of July for our credit recovery students and students preparing for the ACT. All summer learning opportunities can be registered for on our school website, and it is never too late to register for credit recovery.

Thank you again for allowing our school to partner with you in the education of your child, and we hope that this summer brings you time to relax, refresh, and gear up for an exciting 2024-2025 school year!

Go Cougars!

Taylor Henderson

Principal



Cougar CHRONICLE

'Cougar CHRONICLE'
May 2024
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Largo, FL 33770
Issue # 3

Guest Speakers

We want to express our sincere gratitude to the following guest speakers from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office's N.O.P.E. Task Force (Narcotics, Overdose, Prevention, Education) for visiting CountrySide High School: Laurie Serra, Desire Mosser, and Sgt. Dan LaFave. They presented to our junior and senior prom attendees, addressing important issues and helping students make informed decisions. Their visit undoubtedly had a positive impact on our student population. The Junior Class would also like to thank School Resource Officers Officers Brett Faulk and Paul Comini for their assistance in setting up this presentation for our students.



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News from School Counseling Office

Who is my School Counselor? By student's Last Names: A-G: Ms. Harris, email: harrisjul@pcsb.org; H-O: Ms. Parsley, email: parsleye@pcsb.org; P-Z: Ms. Santiago, email: santiagok@pcsb.org; and all ISTEM students: Mrs. DeGarmo, email: degarmoca@pcsb.org.

Looking for Scholarships? Check out the latest postings on our school's website, the guidance bulletin board, or the binder in Mrs. DeGarmo's office in Student Services. Learn more at: www.pcsb.org/financialaid

Bright Futures Scholarship – Seniors! All volunteer/work hours are due before graduation. As a reminder you must also apply for the FFAA to have your BF scholarship application considered complete. Complete your BF & FFAA application at: www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org. **FAFSA** is due for seniors. Still need help? Learn more at: pcsb.org/fafsa.

SAT / ACT test fee waivers – You must apply each school year at: www.applyforlunch.com to see if you meet eligibility. Email your School Counselor to verify your status.

Important Dates: Online courses: Students that were enrolled in an online class during 2nd semester, must complete their courses ASAP to receive credit. Requesting an online summer class? You need approval from your School Counselor and/or Administrator.

Semester 2 – It's not too late to complete your Naviance required tasks that need to be completed for all 9th-12th grade students. Log into Clever to access your Naviance account and then search for Planner à Tasks

SAT / ACT / CLT exams: Learn more about testing dates for each of these exams over summer break. Once school starts, the CLT exam will offer a remote proctoring test date of August 15, 2024, with a registration deadline of August 8. Those who wish to register to take the traditional Saturday SAT, have an anticipated test date on August 24, 2024. Usually, registration is a month before. Lastly, the ACT will follow on September 14, 2024, with a registration deadline of August 9.

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Upcoming AP Testing

General Information

In May, students will be given the opportunity to take AP exams for the course they are registered to take. These exams provide students with a worldwide standardized measure of what they have accomplished in the AP classroom or as a self-study. Scoring well may provide students with college credit which opens more options in college, such as upper-level courses, double majors, or time for study abroad.

Fees and Grading

The district covers the cost of the exam fee; therefore, all students registered in an AP course are, according to district policy, expected to take the AP course exam. **Students not taking their AP exam will receive a grade of F as the final exam grade for the semester.**

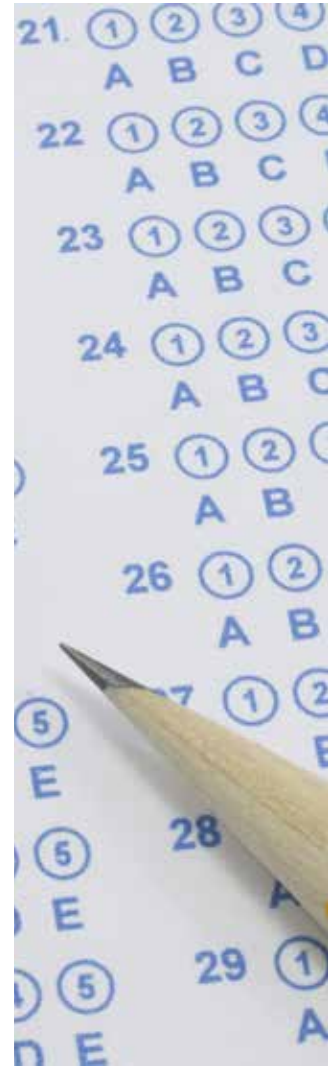
- Exam Fee \$97: students taking an exam for a class they are not enrolled in
- Exam Fee \$53: reduced fee for eligible students taking an exam for a class they are not enrolled in
- Late order \$40: when an exam has to be ordered after the deadline
- Late testing \$40: late exam for an excused reason (paid before the late exam is ordered)
- Cancellation fee \$40: dropping a class after the ordering deadline (paid prior to a schedule change)
- Unused fee \$40: no show for the scheduled exam

Preparation

Student preparation for an AP exam correlates to greater success. Reviewing and studying a year's worth of material is a different skill than studying for unit tests. Teachers of individual courses can provide strategies for students to utilize in preparing for the exam. Students also have access to course studying material via APRO.

Attendance, Testing Start Times & Transportation

Students will have an excused absence on the day of testing; it will show as a school (SCF) in PORTAL. All exams must start at the designated time set by the College Board; therefore, students will need to be at the testing room by 7:15 AM for the morning test and by 11:25 AM for the afternoon test and 1:30 PM for the Physics C: EM exam. **If a student arrives after the exam begins, they will not be allowed to take the exam and they will not be permitted to take a late exam!**



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2023 AP Exam Schedule (All testing is at Countryside)

Week One: May 6th – May 10th	Week Two: May 13th – May 17th	Late Testing (Specified Seniors Only)
Monday, May 6 (~3h 40m) Afternoon, Chemistry (H-3)	Monday, May 13 (~3h 40m) Morning, Calc AB/BC (G-5)	*Thursday, May 23 (~3h 25m) Afternoon, Biology (J-6)
Tuesday, May 7 (~2h 35m) Morning, Human Geography (GYM)	Monday, May 13 (~3h 25m) Afternoon, Precalculus (GYM)	*Friday, May 24 (~3h 30m) Morning, Span. Lang. & Culture (K-3)
Tuesday, May 7 (~2h 35m) Morning, Microeconomics (J-5)	Tuesday, May 14 (~3h 40m)-D Morning, Eng. Lang. & Comp (GYM)	
Tuesday, May 7 (~2h 5m)-D Afternoon, Seminar (J-6)	Tuesday, May 14 (~1h 45m) Afternoon, Physics C: M (J-6)	
Tuesday, May 7 (~3h 25m) Afternoon, Statistics-(MEDIA CENTER)	Tuesday, May 14 (~1h 45m) Afternoon (2p), Physics C: EM (J-5)	
Wednesday, May 8 (~3h 30m)-D Morning, Eng. Lit & Comp (G-5)	Wednesday, May 15 (~3h 30m) Morning, French Lang. & Culture (K-4)	
Wednesday, May 8 (~3h 25m) Afternoon, Comp Sci A (J-6)	Wednesday, May 15 (~3h 40m)-D Morning, World History Modern (GYM)	May 1st – Seminar, Research, CSP Tasks and/or Paper due by 11:59p (PCS deadline) May 5th – Art Digital & Physical portfolios are due by 11:59p (CHS early deadline) DIGITAL EXAMS (D) -Students MUST bring a charged laptop and their charger to testing!
Thursday, May 9 (~3h 20m) Morning, Environmental Sci (G-5)	Wednesday, May 15 (~3h 25m)-D Afternoon, Comp Principles (G-5)	
Friday, May 10 (~3h 40m)-D Morning, European History (H-3)	Thursday, May 16 (~3h 30m) Morning, Span. Lang. & Culture (K-3)	
Friday, May 10 (~3h 40m)-D Morning, US History (G-5)	Thursday, May 16 (~3h 25m) Afternoon, Biology (G-5)	
Friday, May 10 (~2h 35m) Afternoon, Macroeconomics (F-6)	Friday, May 17 (~3h 25m) Physics 1: Algebra-Based (H-3)	
Friday, May 10 (~3h 30m) Afternoon, Spanish Lit & Culture (K-3)		

Note: Students eligible for accommodations are tested at the same location in a different room. Students testing with extended time accommodations will be longer than the times noted in the chart above. If you have back-to-back exams, bring a snack.

*Seniors will take the late test for Biology and Spanish Language & Culture during late testing due to graduation

Testing Locations & Start Times

- Countryside High School, 3000 FL-580, Clearwater, FL 33761
- Morning Sessions-Students need to be at the testing location by **7:15a** to start reading instructions at **7:30a**
- Afternoon Sessions-Students need to be at the testing location by **11:25a** to start at noon
- Afternoon AP Physics C: EM-Students need to arrive by **1:30p** to start reading instructions

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Ms. Harris (harrisjul@pcsb.org) and/or Ms. Alexander (Alexanderlo@pcsb.org). Additional information can also be accessed at www.collegeboard.com.



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Student Parking

This 2023/2024 school year Countryside High School will begin enforcing the need for students to purchase a parking pass to park on school property. In today's school environment, security is of the utmost importance. Our staff must be able to know whether a vehicle has a right to be parked on campus or if someone has entered the campus without permission. Students will be required to purchase the general parking permit for \$5. The basic parking placard, which will hang from the rear-view mirror, will allow staff to identify which vehicles do belong on school property.

The students will be given a grace period, till September 5th, to purchase the parking placard. After that there will be a progression of discipline. It will be as follows:

- **1st offense:** Written Warning (grace period to buy placard)
- **2nd offense:** A referral to their AP for inability to follow school rules.
- **3rd offense:** A referral to their AP and parking privileges revoked until parking permit purchased.
- **4th offense:** the vehicle will be booted (wheel lock). A parking permit would need to be purchased/arranged for when released.
- **5th offense:** The vehicle will be towed from the property, continuously towed until they purchase a placard. (Cost of the tow will be the responsibility of vehicle owner)

The placards can be purchased on Revtrak.com. Once purchased, your child will be able to get their placard from the SRO office.

We would appreciate your cooperation in complying with the parking requirements. If there are any questions, feel free to contact our SROs, Ofc. Comini and Ofc. Faulk.

Thank you,
Taylor Henderson, Principal



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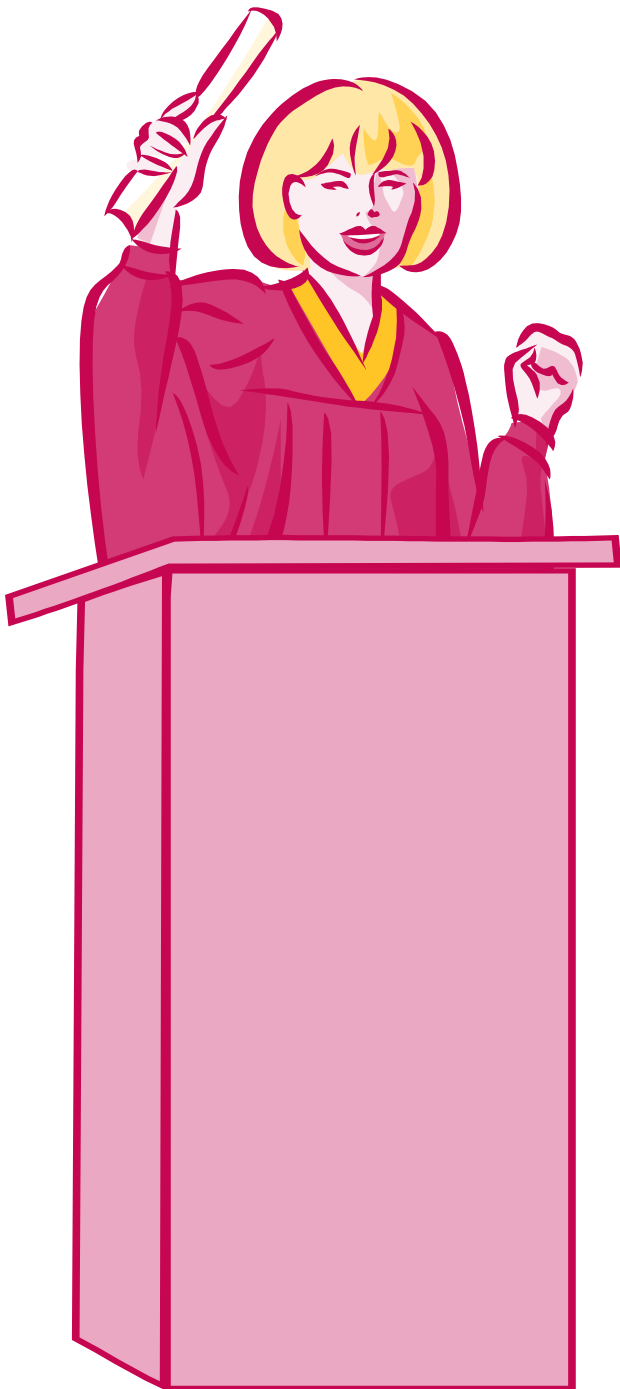
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Valedictorian: Josephine O’Neal

Congratulations to our Class of 2024 Valedictorian, Josephine O’Neal. This young scholar joined the iSTEM magnet program and excelled in two focus areas: Digital Design and Game & Simulation. Josephine also earned Industry Certifications in both areas. She set the bar high when she began to pursue Dual Enrollment coursework with both the University of Florida and St. Petersburg College. She is admired by her peers and teachers, getting herself involved with National Honor Society, Interact Club, and as President of Girls Who Code Club. In giving back to her community, she has been an active volunteer at Ponce de Leon Elementary for many years. This past year, she completed an internship with Pinellas County Utilities as a graphic designer. Josephine has a warm heart, with a loving family that has supported her in achieving her academic goals. She is an avid reader and enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Regardless of her busy schedule, Josephine was able to pull off a stellar 4.573 weighted G.P.A. This truly remarkable scholar received acceptance from our state schools. Josephine has decided to attend the University of Florida in the fall and plans to major in mathematics and aspires to become a professor.

Salutatorian: Shannon “Ali” Strickland

Congratulations to our Class of 2024 Salutatorian, Ali Strickland. Ali is an incredibly motivated student and athlete. She is a member of the Varsity Volleyball and Flag Football teams. She was also a member of and named Captain of the Basketball and Softball teams for her senior year. Ali holds herself to the highest of standards both on and off the field. She has been able to earn a 4.56 GPA while taking several AP, dual enrollment, and AICE courses each year and participating in 4 varsity sports. Ali a member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society, Gold Gang, and the Lighthouse team in the Leader-in-Me program. She is also Countryside’s Senior Class Vice President. Ali’s teachers and coaches have nothing but the best to say about her work ethic and dedication to both school and athletics. She is a kindhearted and strong individual who aspires to make great change in this world. Ali has decided to attend the University of Florida next year and plans to major in environmental science. Ali, we wish you all the best next year.






Prom 2024: We did it! 🎉

It was an epic night, and we couldn't have pulled it off without the amazing Junior Class Officers:

- President: Milanna Brookins
 - Vice President: Amanda Stewart
 - Secretary: Ava Balough
 - Treasurer: Sophia Gattarello
 - Historian: Addysen Glover
 - At Large: Madeline Miller
- ★ Shoutout to Mrs. DeRosa & Mrs. Gray for being superstars too!
 Mark your calendars for next year's prom: April 11, 2025!

Thank You



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Things to Remember

PERMISSION TO LEAVE - If you know in advance that your student will need to leave during the school day, please provide a note to Student Services office or email with: Name of the student, grade level, why they are leaving, time they are leaving, and the phone number of the parent or legal guardian where they can be reached for verification.

We will provide a yellow permission-to-leave pass for your student. Please sign the yellow pass and have your student return it to the Front Office/Visitor Entrance when he/she returns to school. Please send in doctors' notes when students have had an appointment or have seen the doctor or have been in the hospital.

NO permission-to-leave passes will be granted over the phone.

ABSENCES - If your child will be absent, please report it on our website at <https://www.pcsb.org/countryside-hs>, and click on the top right link "**Report Student Absence.**" Please include the following: **Student's Name, Date of Birth, Grade, Absence Date, and Reason.** If applicable, please attach any documentation to support the absence.

You may also call the school at (727) 725-7956 #2051 or email r. Perry at perryra@pcsb.org and let us know that your student will be absent. If there is no answer, please leave a message with the following information: Student's name, grade, reason the student will be absent, your name and relationship to the student. When the student returns, please send an absence note with the same information, and have your student deliver the note to Student Services. Also, please send in doctors' notes when students have had an appointment or have seen a doctor or have been in the hospital.

If your student is absent, you might still receive a phone call at the end of the day even if you have called to notify us. Please allow us 48 hours to get the attendance updated. If you know that your child is absent from school, there is no need to call the school.

For more information about the Pinellas County Attendance Policy, please visit <https://www.pcsb.org/Page/15059> on the Pinellas County Schools website www.pcsb.org. In addition, your student received the Student Code of Conduct booklet the first day of school where you will be able to find this information.

CHANGE PHONE/EMAIL CONTACT INFORMATION

The school district needs accurate contact information to send parents phone calls and emails about:

- Emergencies or severe weather
- School or district events
- Special application opportunities

To update your phone and email address:

- Visit <https://reservation.pcsb.org> and log in with your parent username and password. If you do not have a parent ID or forgot yours, you can get help at any public school. Make sure to present a valid photo ID.
- Select the option: "Change Phone and Email Address Only"
- Enter your child's name and date of birth or student ID number and update your phone number and email address.

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FBLA is an awesome club that provides success along with amazing opportunities in the future. It allows club members to learn and use important life skills that are important in everyone's lives, the club builds communication, leadership, business skills and more! FBLA is also a huge part of the community, and we help by doing things like fundraising, volunteering, clean-ups, and more. You'd have the option to compete in a category of your choice and can even make it to the state's competitions, which is an overall amazing experience. FBLA is so much fun and the best place to make friends, help out, have fun, and earn volunteer hours simultaneously. We'd love to see you at our club meeting on August 21, 2024!

Speaking of competitions, we'd like to congratulate our winners of the "Network Design" competition. Jeffery Chen, Liam Boomgarden, and Micah Fling (pictured from left to right) won 1st place at the state competition this year and will now make it to regionals.



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Speak French

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French Honor Society: Félicitations! Congratulations! To our newly inducted members! The next opportunity to join the French Honor Society will be in Fall 2024.

Members pictured: Kimora Faulk, Sophia Gattarello, Nastasija Mistic, Valeria Negron, Lin Sleiman, Samuel Alzate, Olivia Young, Cian Casey, Peter Case, Linh Do, Yocelin Padilla-Tepetate, Citlaly Leal, Melissa Calihua-Cruz, Kayli Isaacs.

Not pictured: Jesse Appiah, Lauren Morahan, Kristangjelos Kercova, Carolyn Reyes-Tapia, Jhoanna Pioquinto.

French News!

Congratulations to Countryside French Honor Society students on participating at the Florida State French Competition! This year's theme was "Music of the French-Speaking World."

This is our second year participating at the French State Competitions! This year our Countryside High French team participated online - right before spring break and received excellent ratings! Bravo!

Here are the results:

- **Samuel Alzate** [AP French] declamation - excellent rating
- **Melissa Calihua-Cruz** [AP French] declamation - excellent rating
- **Jesse Appiah** [French 3 H] chance aux chansons solo song - excellent rating
- **Citlaly Leal** [French 2] declamation - excellent rating

French students are hoping to represent Countryside in person in Orlando, in 2025! The theme will be "Cuisine of the French-Speaking World." Rendez-vous next year, March 6-8, 2025!



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All Things Athletics and Clubs!

Summer workouts: Please contact the coaches regarding summer conditioning/summer workouts. Please check the website for specific coach contact information located under the Athletics tab. If there is a blank next to your sport, please contact Mrs. Overall at overall@pcsb.org.

Paperwork: There is a 20-page athletic packet which is required for every athlete prior to participation. We have copies in the main office, and there is a PDF link on our website. Please note that all incoming 9th grade spring football athletes will need to utilize this new packet (electronic signatures on this packet are not accepted). In addition to the packet, all athletes must have proof of school insurance. There is a summer insurance option - special insurance for JV and Varsity Football. Please go to <https://www.pcsb.org/studentaccidentinsurance> for all information and sign up links!

Fall sports: Many of the Countryside Fall Sports will start the training season before school opens in early August. Paperwork will need to be completed and approved before any student-athlete can begin training. Please contact the coach of your sport or Mrs. Overall at overall@pcsb.org for more information.

Volleyball, Cross Country, Golf, Football, Swimming/Diving, and Bowling will begin PROMPTLY at the start of the school year! Please plan ahead by visiting our website under the Athletics tab to contact those coaches and begin your paperwork.

Clubs: We have over 30 clubs on campus! Please attend our New Student Orientation and our Back to School nights to learn more or contact the club sponsors on the list on our website! If you are interested in starting a NEW club, you can follow the instructions on the QR code on our contact page.



Girls Who Code Club

Interested in coding or learning how to code? Check out the GIRLS WHO CODE CLUB.

ALL ARE WELCOME WHETHER YOU KNOW HOW TO CODE OR NOT – AND EACH SPRING WE GO TO THE SYNAPSE SYMPOSIUM FOR A FUN FIELD TRIP!

Meetings are on the 3rd Mondays every month from September – April.

CONGRATULATIONS GOES TO LILY BAHM who will be the Club President for 2024/2025 who is replacing Senior Joey O’Neal who did a great job leading the Club this school year!

YOU ARE THE MISSING PIECE!

Help **Countryside High School** by advertising in the *Cougar Chronicle!*

Your advertisement helps fund the newsletter and at the SAME TIME your business gets community recognition and exposure.

If you can help us out by advertising or would like more information, contact the school today!

Kimberly Hutchins • hutchinski@pcsb.org





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WATCH PCS SPORTS

Watch Live Games ▶ *Purchase Tickets*

In a partnership with The Identity Tampa Bay and NFHS Network, Pinellas County Schools families will now be able to watch district high school sporting events from their homes or mobile devices. This partnership has allowed for the installation of 32 automated cameras at all 16 district high schools.

For unlimited access to live and on demand content from the NFHS Network, fans can visit [NFHSnetwork.com](https://www.nfhsnetwork.com), search for their desired school, and subscribe. There is a Monthly Pass for \$10.99 a month which can be canceled at any time. There is also a \$69.99-yearly pass that is billed for 12 months at \$5.83 monthly.

In addition to the NFHS Network subscription option, The Identity Tampa Bay will broadcast multiple games per week as part of this cutting-edge partnership. All games broadcasted on The Identity Tampa Bay will be free to the viewer.

Only football and volleyball games will be broadcasted this fall. The fall viewing schedule will be released soon.

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