



February 2025 | Issue 2

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.



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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

Brad Bernstein, Lonneta Frazier,

Robert Murphy and Erin Overall

A Note From The Principal

Cougar Family,

Happy February and we are excited to be in the second semester of the 2024-2025 school year! This third academic quarter brings new opportunities to refresh academic goals and re-establish good habits for a successful finish to the school year. Countryside High School is busy finishing out the winter sports season and moving into spring, featuring tons of fun activities and events for our students and community! It is truly a great time to be a Countryside Cougar!

As we head towards spring, we also plan for the next school year and begin strategic conversations about our course offerings. Our school counselors are meeting with each student returning to CHS next year to create a personalized course schedule that challenges and engages them. We offer over 80 courses for student study and all course registration sheets can be found under Academics on our school website. CHS is proud to offer a full slate of Advanced Placement coursework including the prestigious AP Capstone program. All students who attend Countryside High School can also apply to take courses in the award-winning iSTEM technology program. iSTEM strands can also be found on our school website and offer college credit and industry-leading certifications to its participants. If your student is interested in pursuing iSTEM, please contact Mr. Brad Bernstein or Mrs. Degarmo for application information.

Thank you again for supporting our school and always supporting our Cougars. We hope that your student is off to a great start this semester and please do not hesitate to reach out to our administration should you need any assistance with your student.

Go Cougars!

Sincerely,
Taylor K. Henderson, Sr.
Principal



Student Services – Guidance Department

Who is my School Counselor?

By student's Last Names:

- A-G: Ms. Harris: harrisjul@pcsb.org
- H-O: Ms. Parsley: parsleye@pcsb.org
- P-Z: Ms. Santiago: santiagook@pcsb.org
- ISTEM students: Mrs. DeGarmo: degarmoca@pcsb.org

College Acceptances – Seniors we are looking to celebrate you at “Senior Signing Day”. Be sure to scan the QR code provided by Ms. Cobb or send her an email with your acceptance letter to: cobbj@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 by **May 15th** if you're a senior to receive credit and by end of the semester for underclassmen. 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 needed 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: The in-school SAT for all juniors is scheduled **March 5th**. All juniors are pre-registered by the district so plan accordingly to bring your laptop and charger to school that day and be here on time. Only seniors who have been identified from the district will be permitted to test that day. Learn more about national testing dates for each of upcoming SAT / ACT / CLT exams by visiting their websites. Don't miss the deadline to register as you'll be penalized with extra fees.

ASVAB exam – Will be offered on **April 15th** for upperclassmen. Sign-ups will be posted in our media center.

Save-the-date: **April 30th** is our Class of 2025 Senior Awards Night. Seniors who will be receiving an award that evening will be receiving an invitation by the guidance department. The ceremony will be held in our auditorium at 6:00 p.m.

Graduation is May 30th for the Class of 2025 at Baycare Sound at 7:00 p.m.



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Attention Countryside Seniors!!

We are excited to launch the application for our Career Center Scholarship starting February 1, 2025, and ending, Midnight March 31, 2025.

Please go to the CHS website under "Academics" to get the application. Fill in the application, attach your essay, and send it to Kathleen Lamb at pcs.lambk@pcsb.org. We will send you an email to acknowledge the receipt of your application and essay.

- **ESSAY TOPIC:** Who has had the biggest impact in your life, and why?
- **AWARD:** \$1,000.00 to three Countryside High School Graduating Seniors.
- **APPLICATION & ESSAY DEADLINE:** Midnight, March 31, 2025.

2024/2025 Important Dates

February 17th	SCHOOL IN SESSION – HURRICANE MAKE-UP DAY
March 13th	Spring Sports Pep Rally
March 14th	End of Third Quarter
March 17 – 21	SPRING BREAK – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
March 28th	Final Grades Due in FOCUS
April 3rd	Report Cards Issued
April 4th	Quarter 3 Principal's Recognition – PBIS 2025 Grad Bash
April 11th	2025 Junior Prom
April 18th	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
April 21st	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
April 25th	Midterm Report
May 26th	Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
May 29th	End of Quarter 4 – Final Grades Due in FOCUS – Last Day for all Students – FULL DAY OF SCHOOL.
June 3rd	Report Cards

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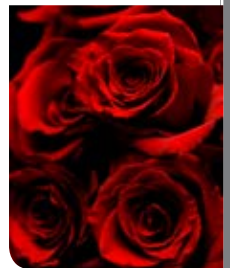
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Samuel Landrian DMD, MD





Student Parking

This 2024/2025 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, until 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.

Save the Dates!

The AICE General Paper Exam will be given on **Friday, April 25 (Paper 1)** and **Tuesday, April 29 (Paper 2)**. All students enrolled in AICE General Paper are **required** to take this exam and must attend on **both dates**. If students fail to attend one or both exam dates, they will earn an automatic failing grade for their final exam grade. Students who attend both dates of the exam will be excused from the final exam. Students who receive a passing grade on the exam will earn college credit. There are no makeup dates, so please plan to be on campus by 8:20 am on 4/25 and 4/29. If you have any questions, please reach out to your AICE General Paper teacher (Mrs. Decresie or Dr. Michael).

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All Things Attendance

Cougar students and families

First, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support and communication regarding your student and their attendance. Each day many of you reach out and let us know if your student will be attending school, any hardships they may be experiencing or to ask questions about their attendance. It is our vision here at CHS to graduate 100% of our students. One major component toward achieving this vision is every student is in attendance and not missing valuable instructional time.

Below I have listed a general breakdown of some of our attendance policies. These are the most common areas I get questions regarding students' attendance:

1. Tardies – student is not present in class when bell rings

- 1 – 10 minutes late = TAR (tardy)
- 11- 22 minutes late = EXT (extreme tardy)
- 23 + minutes = PND w/comment (absent majority of class period)
- *Every 3rd tardy = an absence (excused or unexcused) Also, there are additional consequences for excessive tardiness.

Such as:

- 1-2 = Teacher warning
- 3-4 = Teacher Contact Parent
- 5 = Assigned lunch detention
- 6+ = Teacher written disciplinary referral with progressive consequences (ISS)

2. PTL – permission to leave early (requested by parent or guardian in person, by email or note sent with student).

- a. PTL's do affect your students' attendance record.
- b. *Every 3rd early release = an absence (excused or unexcused).
- c. We ask that you try and schedule all doctors' appointments during non-school hours, if possible.

3. Absences – Parent or Guardian must notify Mrs. Perry of their student's absence prior to the end of the school day of the absence. If possible, provide written notification within 48 hours of the student's return to school. Otherwise, the absence is unexcused.

- a. The maximum number of days that a student may be absent without acceptable documentation justifying the absence is five (5) consecutive days.
- b. After five (5) days, the parent or guardian will need to provide documentation from a physician or public health unit within 48 hours of the student returning to school.

4. Testing attendance – student attendance during this time is taken at the location of the test by a Proctor. The Proctor, at the end of the allotted testing time will submit the attendance rosters to me and I will update this information in your student's portal. Please be patient, this process may take up to a day or more to update.

5. Reporting your students' absence – You may go to <https://www.pcsb.org/countryside-hs> click the link on the top right "Report a Student Absence." Please include student name, date of absence, reason, birthdate, and grade. If applicable, please attach any supporting documentation.

You may also call Mrs. Perry at – (727)-725-7956 ext. 2051 or email perrypa@pcsb.org.

6. Where to locate the Pinellas County Attendance Policy, please visit: <http://www.pcsb.org/Page15059> on the Pinellas County Schools website www.pcsb.org.

Again, thank you so much for your continued support, and if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Mrs. Perry



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The Sky's The Limit with FBLA at Countryside High!

FBLA Officers were in full swing ziplining across the skies at Empower Adventures, volunteering in the Safety Harbor Best Race, and doing team building activities last week. **Now it's your turn to join in the fun, professionalism, leadership, and community service opportunities** in this rocking student-led Club. **Join us in A6 for our next monthly meetings from 2 to 3 pm on: Feb. 20th, March 27th, and April 24th. It's THE Club on campus to join – so don't miss out!** For more info – visit with our CHS FBLA Officers: President Ryan Rocco, VP Michael Fee, Treasurer Jhoanna Pioquinto, Secretary Lucy Wilson, PR Manager/Reporter Syd Youran, and District XII Secretary Milanna Brookins. Or stop by A-6 to chat with Club Advisor Mrs. Yaeger or email yaegerj@pcsb.org. **Congratulations goes to New FBLA CHS Club Member Caylee Rudolph who won as District VP at the January 2025 election. Way to go Caylee!**




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GWC & Cougars Who Code - Collaborating & Coding Rock Star Cougars at GWC

Students, if you want to learn or know coding and like building radios or other cool stuff – the Cougars Who Code and GWC is the Club for you! On campus at CHS we build ETRON kits, and program a super cool Geochron TV Display with worldwide flights/weather/earthquake and other cool info. We saw the path of the ISS International Space Station and have Arduino kits, 3d printer and other programming projects on the horizon. It's student led, and we team up with UPARC (a local Amateur Radio Club) for events and to get our Technician license – which can let us transmit all over the world! Tune in and join in for a fun time. All welcome and no knowledge of coding, technology or lab kit builds required. Next up... robotics and in 2024 we had a field trip to the Ice Palace for the Synapse Summit!

Meetings are Mondays in A-6 from 2 to 3 pm on: Feb. 10, March 10, April 14, and May 12. For Club info see Advisor Mrs. Yaeger in A-6 or email yaegerj@pcsb.org.





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CHS Esports Cougars were Crushing it in Competitions & Invite You to Join in to Level Up!

Students, YOU are invited to our upcoming competitions, game play and meetings to be a part of this cool club vibe. It's student-led and lets you partake in games and collaborate with others who love gaming like you do! Be sure to save the dates to meet up in the ISTEM Lab on campus. **26 Students competed on Feb 11th for Top Team and Performer Prizes!** Stay tuned for the District Sunshine State SSEL Competition and get ready to create/join a CHS Team. It's Level Up time in Marvel Rivals, Rocket League, Super Smash Bro's, Mario Kart, League of Legends and More. Save these dates (2-3:30 pm): Feb. 11 and 18, March 4 and 11, April 8 and 22, and on May 13 and 20. For more info, contact Club Advisor Mrs. Yaeger in A-6 or at yaegerj@pcsb.org.

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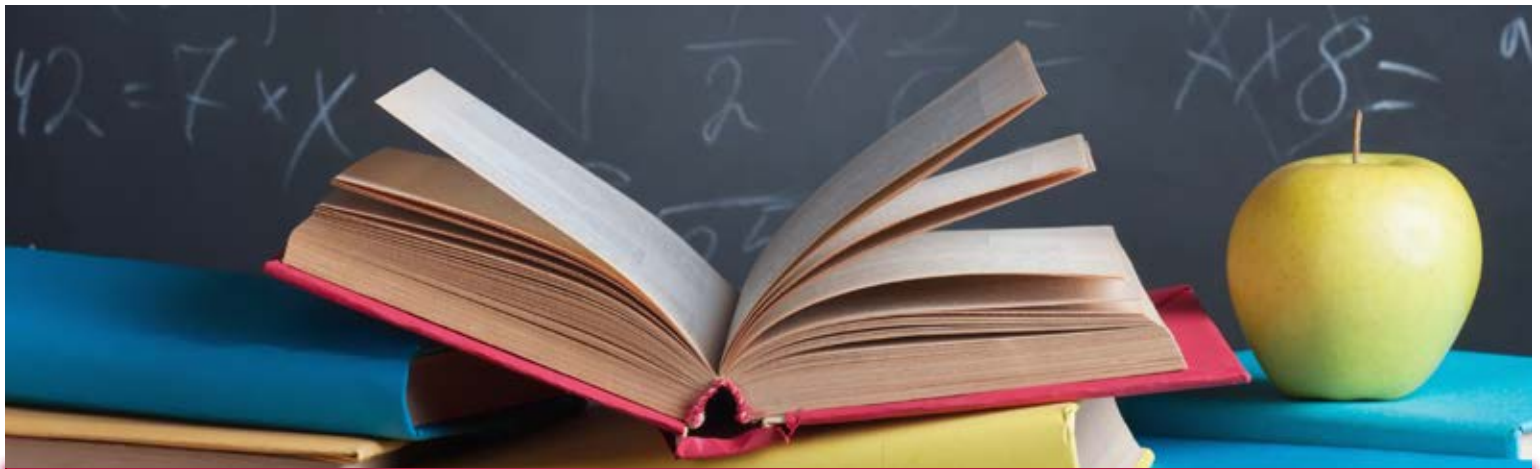


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Important Dates

Student Parking
FBLA
and more!