



July 2023 | Issue 4

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

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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

Lonnette Alexander, Brad Bernstein,

Erin Overall, Cynthia Ramos-Gonzalez

A Note From The Principal

Dear Cougar Family,

I hope this correspondence finds your family enjoying your summer holiday and gearing up for a great start to the 2023-2024 school year! The summer is a great opportunity for our school community to relax, enjoy the warm Florida weather, and engage in some planning for success in the upcoming school year. Our school staff is so excited for the 2023-2024 school year and our we are deep in preparations for a smooth start.

The summer months also provide an excellent opportunity to continue to work on refining academic skills and preparing for 2023-2024. Each Countryside High School student can access online learning opportunities through their Clever account. In Clever, students can access their Naviance college preparation application, and numerous content-specific programs including Imagine Math and the High School Science Center. These concise learning enrichment opportunities will allow our students to remain academically fresh as they enjoy the summertime.

Please take a moment to look at all the extracurricular options that Countryside High School offers on our school website. Our amazing coaches and sponsors are listed on the website and can be reached about practice times and requirements for participation. We want all students to be involved in at least one activity outside of the classroom to have a more well-rounded high school experience.

We wish our community a safe and relaxing summer closure and start to the school year that involves some learning and growth! We are proud of our increases in student proficiency from last year and know that Countryside High School will continue to provide a great academic experience for all students. Please reach out to our administration office should you have anything that we can assist you with at any time.

Thank you for your help in keeping Countryside High School as one of the most prestigious and highly selected schools in all of Pinellas County.

Go Cougars!

Sincerely,
Taylor K. Henderson, Sr.
Principal



'Cougar CHRONICLE'
July 2023
Published Four Times a Year
Pinellas County School Board
301 Fourth Street SW
Largo, FL 33770
Issue # 4

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2023 Community and Business Partnerships- Thank You

Bayside Community Church
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Heritage United Methodist Church
Muscaro Family
Safety Harbor Kiwanis Club
Tarantino Family

*Thank
You*



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 the Student Services office 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 seen the doctor or 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 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 seen the doctor or 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.



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Your Family & Community News

Our goal is to work with the CHS community to promote a service in our classrooms, tutor our students, and assist our support staff with volunteers. We recruit mentors who can provide knowledge, support, and informal communication relevant to their work, and career or professional development on a face to face basis. Partners who may not have the time, can provide supplies or a tax-deductible donation by participating in the Mini-Grant/Adopt a Class program. There is no greater investment in our future than our children and teaching staff.

Reminder, all volunteers must **ACTIVATE** their profile in FOCUS before they come on campus or volunteer in any capacity. This is something that is done at the beginning of every school year. You need to go into the volunteer system. **Go to <https://focus.pcsb.org/volunteer>, enter your username and password. If not sure what it is, contact the volunteer coordinator. Answer the 10 criminal offense questions. This will activate your profile for this school year.**



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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.

Mentoring

Mentoring workshops are face-to-face and virtual. Attendees will receive the full mentor training and be able to ask questions or share ideas during the webinar.

Please note: some webinars have an additional 15 minutes added to the presentation to discuss the Take Stock in Children's Scholarship Program.

It does not take much time to make a difference in a child's life. Come be a part of our mentoring team.

Listen, encourage, be a friend to a child at a school closest to where you live or work.

We've made it easy for you! To sign up for a workshop go to <https://www.pcsb.org/Page/461>

- Register to volunteer and obtain a free level 1 background screening
- Be matched with a student
- Get all the resources to help develop a fun and meaningful relationship
- Why Mentoring is Important (Video)
- Questions, please e-mail volunteer@pcsb.org

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2023-2024 Student Calendar

Date	School Info
Aug. 10, 2023	All schools open. First Day for Students. All Pre-k and postsecondary schools' classes begin
Sept. 4, 2023	Labor Day holiday – No school for students
Sept. 25, 2023	No school for students. (a) *Possible hurricane make-up day)
Oct. 13, 2023	End of first quarter
Oct. 16, 2023	No school for students. (a) *Possible hurricane make-up day)
Nov. 20, 2023 - Nov. 24, 2023	Thanksgiving holiday week – No school for students. (a) * November 20- 21, 2023 Possible hurricane make-up days)
Dec. 21, 2023	End of second quarter
Dec. 22, 2022 - Jan. 5, 2024	Winter holidays – No school for students
Jan. 8, 2024	All PreK-12 and postsecondary schools' classes resume. Second semester begins
Jan. 15, 2024	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No school for students
Feb. 16, 2024	No school for students. (a) *Possible hurricane make-up day)
Feb. 19, 2024	No school for students.
Mar. 8, 2024	End of third quarter
Mar. 11, 2024 - Mar. 15, 2024	Spring holidays – No school for students.
Mar. 29, 2024	No school for students.
Apr. 26, 2024	No school for students.
May 27, 2024	Memorial Day holiday – No school for students.
May 29, 2024	End of fourth quarter. Last day for all students. Students will be released two hours early.

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French News

Félicitations! Congratulations to our newly inducted members of the French Honor Society, this May 4th, 2023!

The Société Honoraire de Français - SHF is an honor society for high school students enrolled in French and is sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French. The French Honor Society of Countryside was founded in spring 2022. Madame Bogdani is the advisor.

The purpose of the society is to recognize high achievement of high school students in the French language and to promote a continuing interest in Francophone studies. It is the highest recognition for French students.

New applications will begin in August. Qualifying students will receive an application letter. When evaluating candidates, the qualities of leadership, service, and character are examined as they manifest in the daily classroom experience. As a national organization, SHF has defined rules, elected officers, and official induction ceremony, certificates are given to members for being part of this prestigious organization. Seniors graduate with French Honor Society cords.

Take French: acquire a new language and learn about new cultures!



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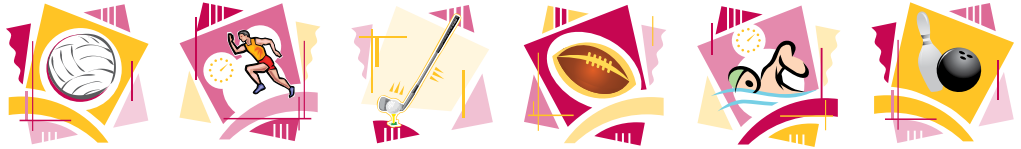
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All Things Sports!

Attention all aspiring swimmers! Are you ready to embark on an exciting journey of athleticism, teamwork, and personal growth? We invite you to join the high school swimming and diving team and discover the thrill of gliding through the water, pushing your limits, and creating lifelong memories. Whether you're an experienced swimmer/diver or just dipping your toes into the world of competitive swimming/diving, we welcome you to come out and become part of our tight-knit aquatic family. More than just a sport, swimming/diving teaches discipline, resilience, and camaraderie – qualities that will stay with you long after you leave the pool. So, grab your swimsuit and goggles, and prepare to make a splash! Join us at our first practice on July 31st, and let's make waves together as we strive for excellence in and out of the water.

- Contact Coach Johnson – ericj316@gmail.com
- Coach Nghia - NGUYENNGH@pcsb.org
- Countryside Country Club Pool – July 31st – 2:30pm to 4:00pm

There is a new athletic packet that will go into effect for the 2023-2024 School Year. You can find a link for the PDF to this packet on our website under the Athletics tab.

Please note that all upcoming 9th grade spring football athletes will need to utilize this new packet (electronic signatures on this packet are not accepted).

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.

Fall sports:

Volleyball, Cross Country, Golf, Football, Swimming/Diving, and next year possibly 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.



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Watch PCS Sports

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, 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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- Complete ALL payments for parking
 - General Parking Spot (\$5)
 - Senior Parking Spot (\$10)
 - Paint your Spot (\$10)
- Application and approved design
 - Find on CHS website (under Clubs and Activities → Senior Class) and please return to Mrs. Overall in front office or email overalle@pcsb.org for approval

****Please go to pcsb.revtrak.net and access Countryside HS page for payments.**

- General Parking Spot payment can be accessed through the Countryside HS General Parking 2023- 24 tab on left
- Senior Parking Spot and Paint your Spot payment can be accessed through the Countryside HS Senior Parking 2023- 24 tab on left and paid together

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My School Bucks - Online Service

My School Bucks is an online payment portal specially designed to allow parents to make convenient, anytime payments to their children's school meal accounts. Create a new account with My School Bucks using the student's 10-digit local ID number. You can find this number in Focus, which is located in the District's Home Page drop down menu; once in Focus, search under "Local Student ID". Each student will need his/her own account.

Please use the website link to add funds to your student's prepaid account at www.myschoolbucks.com.

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Inside this issue

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