



March 2024 | 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.



### Area 1 Office

Area Superintendent:

Dr. Christen Tonry Gonzalez Ed. D

### Pinellas County School Board

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Laura Hine, Vice Chairperson

Carol J. Cook, Caprice Edmond,

Eileen M. Long, Stephanie Meyer,

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

Lounette Alexander, Brad Bernstein,  
Erin Overall, Cynthia Ramos-Gonzalez

## **A Note From The Principal**

Cougar Family,

The weather is warming and spring is in the air! We are so excited about our last quarter of the 2023-2024 school year and our Cougars are sprinting to the finish line!

Countryside High School has had a tremendous number of successes this year and our students have excelled greatly. Our school was graded a "B" status for the 2022-2023 school year and our current data trends indicate that we can improve on this academic status this year. Our proud population of over 1,600 students is focused on improvement and there is a clear indication that our students and parents are aware of learning progress this year! We thank all our school community for making learning and overall academic progression their main focus this year.

Spring also brings many exciting events to the school including our annual prom at Ruth Eckerd Hall, the senior GradBash event at Universal Studios, a spring production of Spamalot from our awesome Drama Troupe 900, and celebrations of our outstanding Cougars! We are excited to provide an exciting sports season that includes tennis, track and field, flag football, lacrosse, softball, and baseball. It is truly a great time to be a Countryside Cougar!

Thank you again for being the most supportive school community in Pinellas and please reach out to our administration if we can assist you at any time.

Go Cougars!

Sincerely,

Taylor K. Henderson, Sr.

Principal



## Cougar CHRONICLE

'Cougar CHRONICLE'  
March 2024

Published Four Times a Year  
Pinellas County School Board  
301 Fourth Street SW  
Largo, FL 33770  
Issue # 2

**Follow Us On  
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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.



## 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 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 or email Ms. Perry at [perryypa@pcs.org](mailto:perryypa@pcs.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 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](http://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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## Student Parking

Good afternoon parents & students:

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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- School or district events
- Special application opportunities

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- 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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# Cougar

## CHRONICLE



### 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: santiagook@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](http://www.pcsb.org/financialaid)

Bright Futures Scholarship – All students must submit volunteer / work site proposals for review & approval on Profferfish via Clever. Once approved, then students may upload their completed hours & reflection. All volunteer/work hours for seniors are due by graduation day. Seniors as a reminder you must also apply for the FFAA to have your BF scholarship application considered complete. Need more help, please see Ms. Blalock in room L1.

The new Better FAFSA is open! Be on the lookout for FAFSA completion events throughout PCS high schools to help you complete the new Better FAFSA application. Learn more at: [pcsb.org/fafsa](http://pcsb.org/fafsa)  
SAT / ACT test fee waivers – You must apply each school year at: [www.applyforlunch.com](http://www.applyforlunch.com) to see if you meet eligibility. Email your School Counselor to verify your status.

College Acceptances – Seniors we are looking to celebrate you at our end of the year "Senior Signing Day". We are looking for your college acceptance letters. Please email a copy of your letter to Ms. Santiago at: [santiagook@pcsb.org](mailto:santiagook@pcsb.org)

For more information from our School Counseling office, check out our quarterly newsletter on our school's website.

#### Important Dates:

- Rising 10th, 11th & 12th graders will be meeting with their School Counselors in February & March to complete their course registrations & credit checks for the upcoming school year. You can view all the course offerings in our curriculum guide available on our school's website.
  - Semester 2 – Naviance required tasks need to be completed for all 9th-12th grade before then end of S2. Log into Clever to access your Naviance account and then search for Planner → Tasks
  - 2/14 ASVAB Testing – Sign up to take the ASVAB in the media center. This is for 11th & 12th graders.
  - 3/1 Next stop SPC is the signing day for our seniors that have completed their SPC application. Join us in the media center during your lunch period to celebrate with SPC Admissions.
  - 3/6 SAT In-School test day for all juniors! This is test is FREE and will count towards college admissions and Bright Futures eligibility. All juniors will be pre-registered by the district so need to sign up. Be sure to have your laptops & chargers ready to go for test day. This is a digital test and you can learn more about what to expect on test day and how to practice at: [www.satsuite.collegeboard.org/digital](http://www.satsuite.collegeboard.org/digital)
- Save-the-date: May 1st is our Class of 2024 Senior Awards Night. Seniors that will be receiving an award that evening, will be receiving an invitation from Mrs. DeGarmo. The ceremony will be at 6:00 p.m. in our auditorium.
- 5/3 Last day for seniors to complete their online classes in time to be cleared for graduation.
  - 5/16 Graduation Day for Class of 2024! Announcements for our Senior class are on our school's website.



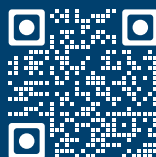
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901 34th Street South St. Petersburg

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- Up to 10 winners selected annually
- Application period opens: December 1
- Application deadline: March 3
- Winners notified: mid-April.
- Must have a GPA 3.0 or higher
- Student can demonstrate that he/she has overcome significant obstacles in life.
- Fill out the FAFSA

sunshineopportunitiescholarships.com  
or  
Visit your College and Career Center for more information!




## COLLEGE and CAREER CENTER

# Class of 2024

## Ready to Start Your Journey?

Follow these steps when you are preparing for your post-secondary journey. Each activity below will get you one step closer to your goal.

Don't forget to stop by the COLLEGE and CAREER CENTER on campus if you have additional questions. We are here to help!



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**FAFSA - Free Application**  
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**Bright Futures Application**  
[www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org)  
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**Pinellas Education Foundation Scholarships**  
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**Self-Reported Student Academic Record**  
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Florida SUS Schools Required - University of Central Florida uses SPARK.

### Resources & Exploration

Naviance in your Clever has post-secondary exploration tools.

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- Career pathway and major exploration
- College exploration and match
- Application development and submission
- SAT/ACT preparation resources
- College Fair and admission events
- Financial and scholarship planning
- Essay preparation and review
- Volunteer opportunities

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## FBLA

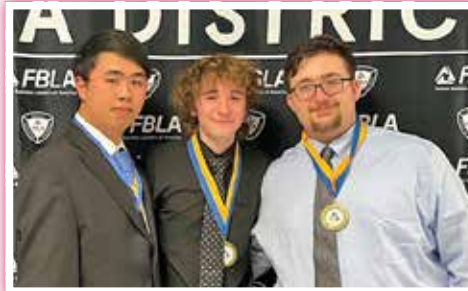
### FBLA CHS Students are all Smiles as they get Recognized as Top Winners in Competitions at District XII

Way to go CHS FBLA Club members & Officers as they finish in top achievement levels – with 10 of our 14 winners making it to States!

- For those competing in March in Orlando please wish them luck & congratulate our District Winners for a job well done:
- 1st Place in Personal Finance – Daniel Tauchnitz
- 1st Place in Network Design – Jeffrey Chen, Micah Fling & Liam Boomgarden
- 2nd Place in Sales Presentation – Nathan Graff & Ryan Rocco
- 3rd Place in Programming & Coding – Michael Fee
- 3rd Place in Health Care Administration – Madeleine Lile-delfino
- 4th Place in Business Communications – Milanna Brookins
- 6th Place in Business Law - Johnny Cline

Also attending the March FBLA Conference are Lily Bahm, Lucy Wilson, Samantha Coschignano and Hayden Eyermann.

For more info on the FBLA Club, contact Advisor Julie Yaeger at [yaegerj@pcsb.org](mailto:yaegerj@pcsb.org) or stop by A-1 on campus.



### Milanna Brookins sets the record as the 1st Countryside High School student to become a District XII FBLA Officer.

Be sure to Congratulate Milanna on her extraordinary leadership achievement! Her District Secretarial role begins with the 2024/2025 school year & she retains her current role as CHS FBLA President for our Countryside High campus. There are no limits to the accomplishments this outstanding CHS student can do!

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**What's Exciting & On the Horizon...Countryside High ISTEM Students & Girls Who Code Students will participate in the February 28th, 2024, Synapse Summit, Florida's Premiere Innovation Event.**

Get ready CHS to join the Florida innovation movement that "Connects, Catalyzes & Celebrates!" Top students in the ISTEM Web App Development Program & new GWC Club officers & members will be able to network with top industry experts, change-makers, and Florida visionaries to focus on the needs and future of Florida industries, technologies & communities.



### 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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# CLASS OF 2024

## Seniors

Need money to help you afford that college tuition once you graduate?

Now is the time to apply for the 2024 Career Center Scholarship by the 3/31/24 deadline.

You can potentially be one of this year's three Seniors winning a \$1,000 scholarship.

Applying is as easy as 1 – 2 – 3:

1. Fill out the Short One-page Application.
2. Write a 150-word Essay on the topic: What is the greatest challenge that you have overcome?
3. Next submit both by email to Volunteer Director Kathleen Lamb at [pcs.lambk@pcsb.org](mailto:pcs.lambk@pcsb.org)

For Questions or more information visit the Cougar Career Fair & Employment Center on campus in G7A where volunteers are waiting to help you.

Here is the link on the CHS Website for the application you can find at: <https://www.pcsb.org/Page/41856>



THE JUNIOR CLASS AT COUNTRYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL PROUDLY PRESENTS

*At Last, We See the Light*

**PROM**

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024  
7P.M. TO 11P.M.  
LOCATION - RUTH ECKERD HALL  
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## Athletics & Events

Spring sports are in full swing, but it is not too late to join!

Please go to Student Services or to our website for more information.

Baseball	Morse, Steven	Varsity Head Coach	morsest@pcsb.org
Flag Football	Pusateri, Tom	Varsity Head Coach	pusaterit@pcsb.org
Football (Spring)	Schmitz, Eric	Varsity Head Coach	schmitze@pcsb.org
Lacrosse (Girls)	Byrnes, Trinity	Varsity Head Coach	byrnesrt@pcsb.org
Lacrosse (Boys)	Lowdermilk, Dylan	Varsity Head Coach	lowdermilkd@pcsb.org
Softball	Bunday, Rebecca	Varsity Head Coach	Bundayr@pcsb.org
Tennis (Boys & Girls)	Smith, Daniel	Head Coach	smithdan@pcsb.org
Track (Boys)	Givens, Eileen	Varsity Head Coach	givense@pcsb.org
Track (Girls)	Shackton, Bill	Varsity Head Coach	shacktonw@pcsb.org
	Atherholt, Tony	Assistant Coach	atherholtm@pcsb.org

## 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**





# Cougar

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### *Inside this issue*

*Things to Remember  
Student Parking  
Counseling Office  
Seniors  
Athletics & Events  
and more!*