



May 2023 | 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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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

Lonnette Alexander, Brad Bernstein,

Erin Overall, Cynthia Ramos-Gonzalez

A Note From The Principal

Cougar Family,

The weather is warming up and our Cougars are pacing through the last academic quarter of the 2022-2023 school year! Countryside High School is in full focus mode as we enter our assessment series, prepare for AP and AICE examinations, and prepare for our end-of-course examinations. We know that with preparation and commitment to the tasks at hand, our students will have a successful completion of this school year.

We look forward to celebrating our outstanding class of 2023, on Wednesday, May 17, at 7:30 AM at Tropicana Field for graduation. The graduation ceremony is open to the public and will be a great celebration of our 44th graduating class of Countryside Cougars. We will be honored to have representation from the City of Clearwater, the Clearwater Police Department, Deputy Superintendent of Schools Mrs. Stephanie Woodford, and our Pinellas School Board Member Dawn Peters in attendance as we congratulate our seniors. Senior messages will be provided from Valedictorian Grace Carmen and Salutatorian Kayla Tywoniuk. We look forward to a glorious commencement ceremony for our deserving graduates!

As we transition to the summertime, we want everyone to be aware of the credit recovery and enrichment programs Countryside High School has available for all students. Credit recovery in all areas begins on May 30, 2023, for any students needing to make up a core academic course. We additionally have preparation courses for ACT Math and Algebra EOC math that begin in late June up to each assessment. Please take a moment to review your child's academic transcript to identify any course recovery that they may need to enroll in for the summer program. Countryside High School will also be sending out select communication to families that are encouraged to attend our summer opportunities.

Thank you for your commitment to our school and to the success of your student. Countryside High School has remained one of the most highly selected schools in Pinellas County and we continue to look for ways to improve our student experience. Please do not hesitate to reach our administration if you have any questions or concerns regarding your student!

Go Cougars!

Sincerely,

Taylor K. Henderson, Sr.
Principal



'Cougars CHRONICLE'

May 2023

Published Four Times a Year

Pinellas County School Board

301 Fourth Street SW

Largo, FL 33770

Issue # 3

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2023 Community and Business Partnerships- 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 Ms. Litchy in the Student Services office or email litchym@pcsb.org 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.

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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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.

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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Cougar

CHRONICLE



COLLEGE and CAREER CENTER

Class of 2023

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!



Common Application

www.commonapp.org
*Don't forget to connect to Naviance



FAFSA - Free Application

www.studentaid.gov
*Have your SS# handy when completing



Bright Futures Application

www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org
*Have your SS# handy when completing



Pinellas Education Foundation Scholarships

www.pinellaseducation.org



Self-Reported Student Academic Record

<https://ssar.selfreportedtranscript.com/login.aspx>
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- ✓ Resident of Pinellas County (South of Ulmerton Road)
- ✓ Attending a public/private school in Pinellas County or St. Petersburg Collegiate High School

Scan QR code or visit website
www.stpetedeltas.org/scholarships

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Future Business Leaders of America

Sky's the Limit for Countryside FBLA at State Conference & Save the Date for April 26th Social

Ten Countryside High students arrived at the March Future Business Leaders of America Conference in Orlando with enthusiasm and faces full of smiles. All were ready to compete, experience four days of leadership workshops, and network with business professionals and 4,800 FBLA students from across the state. The FBLA program kicked off with an opening General Session with spectacular stage lighting, lively music, and keynote speakers to build the momentum. Students competed in contests or events on Friday & Saturday with our CHS team competing in cybertech, finance, and public speaking. Competition was fierce but well worth the effort for CHS FBLA students who stepped up to the challenge.

Ask these Cougars what they liked best about the FBLA Conference and you hear: The team building & bonding, interaction & networking with National and State Officers, seeing the Candidates present, visiting their booths, the workshops, and not to be forgotten... the scrumptious bagels, homemade ice cream & coffee drinks at the Hilton Orlando's Scratch Market!

While two of our FBLA students attending the conference graduate this May, the other eight already confirmed they want to compete again in 2024! Stated Business Education/ISTEM Teacher Yaeger, "I am so proud of Countryside's FBLA students and officers who are motivated, step up to the challenge to do their best as young professionals, and who dedicated time to prepare for their competitions on top of packed academic and work schedules. They never cease to amaze me, and I am thrilled to be their advisor!"

For more info on Countryside High School's FBLA Club, visit Ms. Yaeger in A-1 or email her at yaegerj@pcsb.org - or ask a CHS student officer or Club member you know. "What makes the FBLA Club great? It's the student members!" What's even better... **STUDENTS, SAVE THE DATE FOR APRIL 26th FROM 2 – 3 pm, BE OUR GUEST & MEET OUR FBLA CLUB MEMBERS** to see what fun you are missing! **Join us at our Social on April 26th at 2 pm in A-1 for Student Elections, Speeches, Fun Activities & Games, Food & More!**

FBLA States Conference
Pictured in photos are: Micah Fling, Jeffrey Chen, On Luu, Advisor Julie Yaeger, Milanna Brookins & Rachel Hart-Banks.

More pictures on next page



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Congratulations to our very first cougar French team competing at the 71st French State Competitions in Orlando this March 9th through 11th, 2023:

"Congrès de la Culture Française en Floride"

Countryside competed amongst 25 other schools in the State of Florida. This year's theme was "Innovations in the Francophone world."

Mrs. Bogdani is so proud of all team members who've pushed themselves and all earned ribbons in the following categories in their respective levels:

- *lecture* (reading) - Jesse and Jude,
- *déclamation* (memorized passage) Yaretzy and Olivia, Citlaly and Peter,
- *discours/causerie* (extemporaneous speaking), Lauren, Yaretzy, William,
- *album* - French honor society and French club team effort,
- *casse-tête* (Francophone culture quiz bowl) Jesse, Lauren, Carolyn,
- *chance aux chansons* (singing) – Jesse.

Jesse (French singing competition) and Yaretzy (French memorized passage) earned superior ratings! French Honor Society and French Club students who've worked on the album also earned a superior rating! Bravo to all!

Rendez-vous March 7th - 9th, 2024 for the 72nd Congrès! The theme will be: "Musique du Monde Francophone."

Countryside High School Junior Class cordially invites you to
Under the Stars
Prom 2023

Friday April 20th
7:00 PM - 11:00 PM
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Cougar Career Fair & Employment Center News

The Cougar Career Fair Advisory Board announces the three scholarship winners for 2023. Ahmany Almonte, Marcus Coleman and Katelyn Ritter will receive \$1000.00 toward their post-secondary education. These students were chosen based upon their application and submitting a paragraph titled, "Explain the greatest challenge that you have faced in your lifetime." The winners will be recognized at the Awards Ceremony, Wednesday, April 26, 2023, in Countryside High's Auditorium.

On March 3rd 2023, The **Cougar Career Fair & Employment Center** opened with a ribbon cutting for its new Center name which reflects the amazing support it offers students on campus at **Countryside High School in G-7A**. In addition to a revamped Center look, complete with technology workstations & more, the 2023 branding campaign kicked off with the unveiling of a unique logo designed by CHS ISTEM student Shelby Wilson and printed graphic designs by ISTEM & FBLA student Syd Youran.



*Dignitary pics below, left to right:
Former Clearwater Mayor Frank Hibbard,
Cougar Career Fair & Employment Center
Director Kathleen Lamb, FBLA Advisor/CTAE
& ISTEM Teacher Julie Yaeger, PC School
Board Chairperson Lisa Cane, Director of
High School Education Rita Vasquez, and
Countryside High Principal Taylor Henderson*

*Ribbon Cutting photo in action from left
to right: Director of High School Education
Rita Vasquez, Former Clearwater
Mayor Frank Hibbard, PC School Board
Chairperson Lisa Cane, Cougar Career
Fair & Employment Center Director
Kathleen Lamb, & Countryside High
Principal Taylor Henderson*



*Here are students
recognized who designed
logo & graphics: Shelby
Wilson & Syd Youran.*



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REGISTRATION

A school physical and all necessary paperwork **MUST** be submitted before try-outs. All cheer packets will be collected on Wednesday & Thursday May 31st & June 1st from 5p-6:30p in the Cafeteria. If you are unable to attend the meet & greet session. You can pick up a packet from the Athletic Director Ms. Overall

CONTACT: COACH PHELESHIA SHAW & COACH TONYA SANDY AT COUNTRYSIDECHEERSQUAD@AOL.COM

All things Sports!

Countryside Cougar Swimming & Diving will start the season training before school opens in early August. Paperwork will be needed to be completed and approved before any student-athlete can begin training. Please contact Coach Scott Hernon at Hernons@pcsb.org or Coach Nghia Nguyen NguyenNgh@pcsb.org for more information. Have a great Summer!

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:

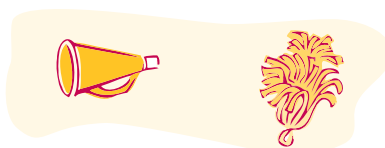
Please contact the coaches regarding summer conditioning/summer workouts. Please check the website for specific coach contact information, located under the Athletics tab.

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.

A BIG hats off to the following Countryside Cougars Varsity Cheerleaders for their perseverance and dedication during this year's football AND basketball season:

- Elizabeth Leon: Captain
- Sophia Robles: Captain
- Gabriella Viana
- Jackie Rogala




Cheerleading is often a year-round commitment. As such, cheerleaders quickly learn that many people and teams depend on them for their motivational skill set. As cheerleaders, these individuals are making a huge commitment, during the big WINS and the not so big wins. Their dedication to their teams and school can sometime go unnoticed, so let's pause and applaud Elizabeth, Sophia, Gabriella and Jackie!! Thank you all for an awesome 2023 season!

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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.



MY SCHOOL BUCKS

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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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Kimberly Hutchins • hutchinski@pcsb.org
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Inside this issue

*Things to Remember
Mentoreing
Class of 2023
FB.L.A
FROM
All things Sports
and more!*