



POLO PARK
MIDDLE SCHOOL

AUGUST 2024

Stallion Sentinel

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 4

Polo Park M.S.

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Wellington, FL 33449
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Administration

Dr. Jennifer Galindo
Principal

Mr. Andrew Kline
Assistant Principal - 6th Grade

Ms. Annjeanette Munnings
Assistant Principal - 7th Grade

Mr. Craig Corsentino
Assistant Principal - 8th Grade

School Counselors

Ms. Naomi Soto-Coleman
6th Grade

Ms. Julie Trujillo
7th Grade

Ms. Kris Connors
8th Grade

County Web Address
www.palmbeachschools.org

School Web Address
www.poloparkmiddle.org

Mission

Polo Park Middle School will empower our students to attain their maximum potential through partnering with parents and the community to foster the understanding, cooperation, and communication skills necessary for students to become literate, productive citizens.

For the Parents, Staff, Students, and Community of Polo Park Middle School

Principal's Message

Welcome, Stallions, to another exciting year at Polo Park Middle School. For our returning Stallions, we hope you had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to continuing your middle school experience with us. For our new Stallions, we hope you have taken the time to enjoy your summer and are ready to launch your middle school journey at Polo Park. We have so much to offer our students. We offer a variety of clubs and activities, sports teams, and high level academics. We promise to give you all that we have to offer, but in return we need our students to put forth their best effort to be successful and prepared to learn.

A successful middle school experience is a family affair. We have an amazing PTSA who are highly involved and always open to new members. We are planning several parent and family events this year. So, be sure to watch our PTSA Facebook and Instagram posting as well as notices emailed home. Please take a moment to check SIS and ensure that we have the correct email on file. The bulk of our communications will go home this way.

Finally, please take a look though this issue of the newsletter carefully. There have been changes to the cell phone policy, dress code, and ID policy. We want to be sure you know what to expect when you arrive on August 12th. I will see you soon.

Polo Park Pride

- Be Positive
- Be Disciplined
- Be Respectful
- Be Excellent
- Be Independent

Vision

Polo Park Middle School is committed to empowering students to become productive and responsible citizens with the skills needed to succeed in a diverse and global society. Students will become responsible, independent, and creative life-long learners.

If you need help translating this document, please contact Polo Park Middle School at 561-333-5500.

Creole Version:

Si w bezwen èd tradui dokiman sa a, tanpri kontakte Polo Park Middle School nan 561-333-5500.

Spanish Version:

Si necesitas ayuda para traducir este documento, favor de comunicarse con Polo Park Middle School al 561-333-5500.



For More Information, & To Stay In The Know. Check out our Polo Park Middle School PTSA Facebook.

PTSA

The PTSA would like to welcome all of our new and returning Polo Park families for a fantastic new school year! We are already planning some exciting events for our students and staff in the upcoming months. Some events to look forward to are our Glow Party in November, our Annual Walk A Thon in February, after school PDQ sales, monthly Candy Days for PTSA student members, Spirit Nights and much more. Be sure to follow our Facebook and Instagram pages at Polo Park Middle School PTSA to stay on top of important dates and information.

If you are interested in becoming a business partner to help support our school, please reach out to businesspartners@poloparkptsa.com. Becoming a business partner has many advantages (banner on campus, shout outs on social media, business flyers in the front office, and opportunities to meet our families) but most of all, it is a great opportunity to help support the PTSA, which in turn benefits our students and staff.

Be sure to become a PTSA member and support Polo Park Middle School today! Becoming a student member of the PTSA comes with perks throughout the school year! There are monthly candy giveaway days and raffles at events. Our PTSA is part of the National Parent/Teacher Association that strives to enhance children's educational experiences. The National Organization requires us to pay dues, to offset these dues, every year, we have a membership drive. Becoming a member does not mean you are signing up to volunteer, it just means you support the PTSA and Polo Park Middle School. Last year we had 235 members – this year we set our goal for 300! All parents and caregivers, along with school faculty can be members. Please enroll by using the QR code and help us achieve our membership goal.

Polo Park merchandise such as school shirts and hoodies can be bought online. The PTSA will be placing an order on 8/22 so get your orders in soon. The deadline to get your orders in will be 8/21. Delivery is expected the week of 9/9. Please use the QR code to view and purchase items available.

We invite you to join us for our first PTSA General Meeting of the school year that will take place Thursday, August 29th at Polo Park's library at 5:30 PM. We look forward to meeting you!

On behalf of the Polo Park PTSA we would once again like to extend a warm welcome and best wishes for a successful and enriching school year! Please contact any of us with questions or comments. If you are interested in getting involved with the PTSA in any capacity, please feel free to email president@poloparkptsa.com or volunteers@poloparkptsa.com. We would love to have you!

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THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY
SCHOOL CALENDAR 2024-2025
 School Board Approved 06/01/2022

Revised: 12/06/2023

1st Hour	9:30am - 10:18am	A Lunch 12:23-12:58
2nd Hour	10:23am - 11:09am	B Lunch 1:03 - 1:38
3rd Hour	11:14am - 12:00pm	C Lunch 1:43 - 2:18
4th Hour	12:05pm - 2:18pm	
5th Hour	2:23pm - 3:09pm	
6th Hour	3:14pm - 4:05pm	

JULY 2024					AUGUST 2024					SEPTEMBER 2024				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
29	30	31												

OCTOBER 2024					NOVEMBER 2024					DECEMBER 2024				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
28	29	30	31											

JANUARY 2025					FEBRUARY 2025					MARCH 2025				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
27	28	29	30	31										

APRIL 2025					MAY 2025					JUNE 2025				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
27	28	29	30	31										

Holidays & Non-Work Days			EMERGENCY MAKE-UP DAYS (EMD)			EMPLOYEE CONTRACT PERIODS			
DATE	Holiday / Non-Work Day	X	Emergency Make-Up days (EMD) will be at the discretion of the Superintendent in accordance with the state statute for student instructional time.			EMPLOYEE GROUP	# DAYS	BEGIN	END
Jul 4, 2024	Independence Day	X				Selected Teachers (T)	188	8/8/2024	5/30/2025
Aug 20, 2024	Fall Holiday	X				Teachers & Assistant Principals (T & I)	250	7/1/2024	6/30/2025
Sep 2, 2024	Labor Day	X				All Other Employees (NT)	196	8/5/2024	6/2/2025
Oct 3, 2024	Fall Holiday	X					206	7/22/2024	6/3/2025
Nov 25 - 29, 2024	Thanksgiving Break	X					216	7/09/2024	6/5/2025
Dec 23, 2024 - Jan 1, 2025	Winter Break	X					226	7/08/2024	6/17/2025
Jan 20, 2025	Water Break	X					260	7/01/2024	6/30/2025
Jan 20, 2025	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	X					180	8/9/2024	5/30/2025
Mar 24 - 28, 2025	Spring Break	X				180 + 2 Asst/ Days (Mock Day - 8/7/2024)	182	8/7/2024	5/30/2025
Apr 18, 2025	Spring Holiday	X					182	8/7/2024	5/30/2025
May 25, 2025	Memorial Day	X					187	8/5/2024	6/2/2025
Jun 19, 2025	Juneteenth	X					190	8/5/2024	6/2/2025
							193	7/25/2024	6/2/2025
							196	7/24/2024	6/2/2025
							206	7/11/2024	6/5/2025
							216	7/8/2024	6/12/2025
							226	7/8/2024	6/25/2025
							260	7/1/2024	6/30/2025
						Please see Schedules, Contract, and Needs for additional information regarding workdays.			
						It is each employee's responsibility to know their workdays for the school year.			

Pursuant to S. 1011.00(3)(a) FS, the following six legal holidays are paid holidays for all regular full-time 12-month employees, not represented by CTA: Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, New Year's Day, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Memorial Day. In addition, some employees may have other paid holidays that are considered not to be legal holidays, as provided in their Labor Agreements and the School Calendar.

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 August 2024
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 Issue #4

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Media Center

From the Library Media Center

Welcome to the library media center. I hope you had a great summer break filled with fun and lots of great books. We will be rolling out a new reading program called Book Taco this year and I look forward to introducing it to students when I meet with ELA classes for library orientation in August and September. I also have many lunchtime activities planned for the year, these will begin in September; permission slips will be required and your child(ren) will receive one during the library media center orientation. Students must have one on file to sign up and participate in any of our library media activities.

Over summer break, I started reading this year's SSYRA (Sunshine State Young Readers Award) books and I must say I'm really enjoying them. I can tell I'll have a hard time choosing a favorite this year when it's time to vote. Reading the SSYRA books can earn students brag tags and an invitation to our Ice Cream Extravaganza in April; reading all 15 will earn you an even bigger reward.

Students who chose to participate in my optional summer reading challenge, the forms are due by August 19th in the library media center. Those students, who completed my optional reading challenge, will be invited to my Phenomenal Pancake Party with delicious pancakes made by Dr. Galindo.

Reading will be very important this year, if any students need assistance in connecting to a great book, I can help. If you have any questions regarding the library media center and our programs, please reach out to me. I can be reached at nora.bernstein@palmbeachschools.org

As always, happy reading,
Mrs. Bernstein

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Polo Park's Dress Code Policy 2024-2025 School Year

	Permitted	Not Permitted
Tops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crew Neck shirts or collared shirts • There are no restrictions regarding shirt color or pattern • School-sponsored t-shirts which are either affiliated with a PPMS sport or activity that have been approved by the administration • Shirts may be "un-tucked" as long as the size of the shirt is proportionate to the size of the student • No altering of the shirt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shirts that show excess skin such as shoulders, chest, etc (tank tops, crop tops, etc.) • Shirts that reveal the waistline/midriff • No see-through, sheer or netting • No sleeveless or spaghetti straps • No shirts tied up or with a rubber band • No shirts ripped, frayed, cut, or torn • Graphics with inappropriate words, slogans (drugs, tobacco, weapons, explicit or suggestive language etc.) • Altered shirts (ie collar cut off, tied up, frayed or ripped)
Bottoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid Color Jeans/pants/shorts/skirts that fit properly at the hip and not below • Solid Color Shorts, gym shorts, and skirts that are 2 inches above the knee or longer • Solid Color Sweatpants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pants or bottoms that "sag" or reveal undergarments • Ripped/frayed/torn clothing above the knee • Sleepwear/pajama pants/flannel pants • Athletic wear other than gym shorts • Leggings of any kind including flare, yoga pants, tights, biker shorts (including those showing under shorts or skirts) • Any bottoms with graphics, patterns, or words
Shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footwear consisting of full, closed-toe shoes with backs • Laces that are tied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No sandals, slides, cleats, high heels, platforms, slippers, flip flops, Crocs, or opened-toe shoes
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweaters, jackets, sweatshirts may be worn as needed in colder weather; however, <u>clothing worn underneath must adhere to the dress code policy</u> • Hooded sweatshirts are permitted, but the hood CANNOT cover the child's head for safety reasons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweaters, jackets, sweatshirts, hoodies with inappropriate word, graphics or patterns • Sweaters, jackets, sweatshirts, hoodies that are being used to cover non-dress code outfits. • Sweaters, jackets, sweatshirts, hoodies that are being used as the only shirt • No exposed undergarments or sleepwear allowed • No caps, hats, bandanas or sunglasses allowed • Any attire, jewelry, or ornamentation deemed disruptive, provocative, unsafe, or inappropriate by the administration is prohibited
IDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must wear their ID and Lanyard on their neck and visible at all times while on campus. First one will be provided at no cost. Additional charge of \$5 for each additional replacement badge and lanyard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other student's IDs • Lanyards on backpacks or in pockets.



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POLO PARK STALLIONS

Polo Park Middle School Supply List 2024-2025

This is a general list of supplies that every student at Polo Park Middle School will need for the 2024-2025 school year. **Additional Specific requirements may vary by teacher and will be distributed in the syllabus given out in each class the first week of school.**

Pencils (HB #2 lead)
Pens (blue or black ink)
Highlighters
3 inch 3-ring binder
Dividers for binder (8 tabs or more)

We are streamlining our classroom materials requirements so that students have less to carry and won't need lockers. Therefore, all students need the binder and dividers for all classes.



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Student Identification (ID) Cards

The purpose of this policy is to ensure safety and security on the Polo Park campus for the approximately 1300 students, faculty, and staff on campus each day. Just as a driver's license authorizes driving a vehicle, a student ID card authorizes a student to be on campus. Every student must wear their unaltered school-issued ID card with a lanyard at all times while on school grounds. Identification of staff and students is a safety issue and will not be compromised when it comes to campus security. ID cards help us to identify students as well as trespassers.

1. All students must wear their unaltered school-issued ID card and lanyard in order to:
 - Be in class
 - Move between classes and to the restroom
 - Buy lunch
 - Use the Media Center
 - Receive textbooks
 - Obtain early dismissal
 - Participate in campus activities (assemblies, sports, etc.)
 - Be on campus before or after school
2. The ID card must be worn on a school appropriate lanyard hanging around their neck.
 - School IDs cannot be worn on a shirtsleeve, pants, outside of pockets, under a coat/jacket, or at the bottom of their shirt.
 - If a student is wearing a jacket, the lanyard must be on the outside of the jacket and visible.
 - The ID card with the appropriate lanyard must be presented to any school staff member or a person of authority when seeking student identification.
 - The front and back of the ID card must remain plain and free of stickers, markings, other photos, etc.
3. Students who need a replacement ID must purchase one for \$5. If they don't have the money at the time of purchase, then the fee will be put on their school obligations page.

Non-adherence to school rules will result in consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Student Cell Phones/Earbuds

Students **are not** permitted to use cell phones during the school day. A possible exception will be during lunches if cafeteria behavior has earned it. When classes are in session, students may not use their cell phones in any area on campus. Phones must be turned off and put away upon entering campus. AirPods or earbuds are not permitted unless earned at lunch. Cell phones may not be used while in the stairwells, hallways, or any other common area. Any cell phones or AirPods/earbuds/headphones out and/or visible during non-designated times, will be confiscated and held until the parent comes to campus to pick it up.

Please note that HB 379 is a state rule stating that "a student may not use a wireless communications device during instructional time, except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes." Additionally, School District Policy 5.813 states "Middle and high school students may possess cellular phones and other wireless communication devices on school property and school-sponsored transportation, provided such cellular phones and other wireless communication devices are not visible, used or activated, and are kept in the "off" position throughout the instructional school day and while on school-sponsored transportation. Middle and high school students must keep their cellular phones and other wireless communication devices stored in a vehicle, locker, purse, backpack, or other non-visible secure location. Middle and high school principals may modify the instructional school day to establish other authorized times of use in addition to when students are waiting for the beginning of the instructional school day or waiting for a school bus at the end of the instructional school day, including the designation of areas of the school campus for such use." Our designated time and location for cell phone use is during lunch in the cafeteria when earned by student behavior.

We Need You to bring this newsletter to press

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Inside this issue...

**PTSA
Calendar
Media Center**

**Dress Code
Supply List
and more!**