



**POLO PARK
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Stallion Sentinel

SEPTEMBER 2024

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 5

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

Every School Day Counts

An estimated 5 million to 7.5 million U.S. students miss nearly a month of school each year.

Research shows that missing 10 percent of school days, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence.

Chronic absence is a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.

When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their school performance.

Good attendance is an important life skill.

Parents play a key role in school attendance. Let your student know it is the expectation. Establish home-study routines and sleep habits that make attendance a non-issue. Encourage participation in school clubs, organizations, and sports. Monitor his/her progress and talk about it. Students who are engaged at home and at school rarely miss a day.

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 ed 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.



Welcome Back, Stallion Family

We hope everyone had an amazing summer break and a smooth start to the new school year! It's wonderful to reconnect with our Stallion family, especially welcoming the new 6th grade families during Polo Park Prep. Your PTSA Board has been working diligently to ensure a fantastic year ahead.

Welcome Back Luncheon: We kicked off the year by welcoming back our dedicated Stallion Faculty and Staff with a "Cruising into the New Year" themed luncheon. It was a great way to show our appreciation for their hard work and preparation leading up to the first day of school. A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who made this event a success!

First General PTSA Meeting: Our first General PTSA Meeting for the 2024-2025 school year had a great turnout. This was the first of three general meetings scheduled for the year, and we'd love to see even more of you at the next one on December 14th at 5:30 PM in the media center. We're always looking for more volunteers, so if you're interested, please reach out to us at volunteers@poloparkptsa.com.

PDQ Sales & Upcoming Events: Our first PDQ sale was a tremendous success, thanks to everyone who participated. The next sale will be in October. Also, get ready for the Glow Party coming up in November, more details will be shared soon. Be sure to check your email and social media for updates.

PTSA Candy Days: Our first PTSA Candy Day for student members was a huge hit! The next one is scheduled for October 9th, with more to come each month. Don't miss out!

Join the PTSA: Parents, please remember to sign up for your PTSA membership for the 2023-2024 school year and support our school. You can find the MemberHub link on the school website or on any of our social media platforms.

Stay Connected: Stay updated by checking your emails and following us on social media:

- **Facebook:** Polo Park Middle School PTSA
- **Instagram:** @Poloparkptsa
- **Website:** poloparkptsa.com



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

continued

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Thank You to Our Business Partners: A big thank you to all our business partners, both new and returning, for their continued support this school year. If you're interested in becoming a business partner, please email us at businesspartners@poloparkpts.com. For any other inquiries, feel free to reach out to president@poloparkpts.com.

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- Camden Agency
- Code Ninjas Wellington, LLC
- Daisy Holisticare
- Family Pool 360
- Five Guys
- Funtastic Photobooth & Game Rentals
- Inn The Doghouse
- Kelly Richter, Realtor
- Little Caesars
- Mathnasium
- McCaffrey Orthodontics
- McGovern Gerardi Law, P.A.
- Music Lessons with Myra
- Palm Beach Physical Medicine
- Palm Beach Skate Zone
- Parsons Orthodontics
- PDQ
- Promo Girl (P&S Promotional Specialties)
- Salon Bella Vita
- Score at the Top
- Shullman Orthodontics
- The Poke' Company
- Tricoli Team - Keller Williams
- We Insure Flex Insurance
- Young Orthodontics



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Beads, Fiber Arts & Crafts Club

The Beads, Fiber Arts & Crafts Club meets on Wednesday mornings at 8:15am. This is a fun club for students who are serious crafters. Students are in the process of creating their first project: stuffed felt letters that will form a name or word. They will spend the next few weeks working on this, and then on the next big craft!

The next project that is planned will be an amulet bag. Students will have an opportunity to weave a small bag on a loom and embellish it with beads and charms.

Future projects include painted sneakers, paper beads, and beaded bracelets. If your child is interested have them see Mrs. Bernstein in the Library Media Center for more information and a permission slip.



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Students Design Engaging Brochure on the United States Citizenship Process

Students in 7th grade civics recently completed a project on citizenship. As part of the assignment, students were tasked with creating informative brochures that outlined the process of naturalization, including the necessary steps and requirements. Additionally, the brochures highlighted the responsibilities and obligations of U.S. citizens. The project provided students with a hands-on opportunity to learn about the importance of civic engagement and active participation in their community.



Lost Colony of Roanoke

Sixth grade U.S. History students are trying to solve the mystery about what happened to the lost colony of Roanoke. They worked together to create a hypothesis after analyzing primary and secondary sources. They even examined "real" evidence to support their theory.



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Media Center



Winners of our first Brainteaser

Media Center: From the Library Media Center

Things are off to a great start in the Library Media Center. After a virtual orientation, students learned the correct procedure for checking out books.

To stay informed of the wonderful activities happening at Polo Park's Library Media Center, we encourage everyone to join our Google Classroom. The code is dyjkkb. This is where students can participate in a weekly brainteaser, view library lunch activities and more! Students need to fill out a Library Club Permission slip to sign up and participate in activities. This form can be found on our Google Classroom.

Our first brainteaser was a candy quiz, and winners were selected randomly from the correct entries. As a reward, students received a candy bar and enjoyed the sweet treat.

In addition, we also had our first lunchtime activity on September 4th. Students gathered in the Library Media Center to eat lunch and play Harry Potter Trivia. It was a lot of fun for everyone.

We are also planning several activities for students to enjoy at Polo Park such as First Chapter Friday, Mrs. Bernstein's Birthday Bingo, Book Trailers and Popcorn, and a Mystery Monday. I hope to see lots of student participation.

But that's not all. We have a new reading program at Polo Park Middle School called Book Taco. Teachers will be using it in various ways in their ELA and reading classrooms. I will be using it for the library incentive programs. Students reading 500,000 words based on Book Taco quizzes will reach Taco Grande status. Students reading 1,000,000 words based on Book Taco will reach Taco Supreme status. Both groups will receive certificates and brag tags, those achieving Taco Supreme status will be invited to an end of the year celebration. Also, using Book Taco, students reading three or more Sunshine State Young Readers Award books will earn brag tags and an invitation to the Ice Cream Extravaganza held towards the end of the year.

Please encourage your child/children to make time for reading and visiting the library.

Happy reading,
Mrs. Bernstein

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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
2nd Hour	10:23am - 11:09am
3rd Hour	11:14am - 12:00pm
4th Hour	12:05pm - 2:18pm
5th Hour	2:23pm - 3:09pm
6th Hour	3:14pm - 4:05pm

A Lunch	12:23-12:58
B Lunch	1:03 - 1:38
C Lunch	1:43 - 2:18

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 HOLIDAY	5 District Closed	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
29	30	31			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

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
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

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
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

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
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14

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	☒	TEACHER WORK DAYS/ALL-DAY IN-SERVICE NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS				Selected Teachers (T)	188	8/8/2024	5/30/2025		
Aug 20, 2024	Fall Holiday	X	☒					SECONDARY DUTY	OCT 14, 2024	ELEMENTARY PDD	250	7/1/2024	6/30/2025
Sep 2, 2024	Labor Day	X	☒					PDD	NOV 08, 2024	DUTY	196	8/5/2024	6/2/2025
Oct 3, 2024	Fall Holiday	X	☒					PDD	JAN 6, 2025	PDD	206	7/22/2024	6/3/2025
Nov 25 - 29, 2024	Thanksgiving Break	X	☒	PDD	FEB 24, 2025	DUTY	216	7/09/2024	6/5/2025				
Dec 23, 2024 - Jan 1, 2025	Winter Break	X	☒	PDD	MAR 31, 2025	PDD	226	7/08/2024	6/17/2025				
Jan 2-3, 2025	Winter Break	X	☒	PDD	JUN 2, 2025	DUTY	260	7/01/2024	6/30/2025				
Jan 20, 2025	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	X	☒	SECONDARY SCHOOLS STUDENTS' ATTENDANCE DATES				All Other Employees (NT)	180	8/9/2024	5/30/2025		
Mar 24 - 28, 2025	Spring Break	X	☒					PERIOD	BEGIN	END	# DAYS		
Apr 18, 2025	Spring Holiday	X	☒					1 st Quarter	Aug 12, 2024	Oct 11, 2024	42		
May 26, 2025	Memorial Day	X	☒					2 nd Quarter	Oct 15, 2024	Dec 20, 2024	43		
Jun 19, 2025	Juneteenth	X	☒	3 rd Quarter	Jan 7, 2025	Mar 21, 2025	52						
				4 th Quarter	Apr 1, 2025	May 30, 2025	42						
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS STUDENTS' ATTENDANCE DATES				SECONDARY SCHOOLS REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION DATES				Please see Employee Calendar page for additional information regarding workdays. It is each employee's responsibility to know their workdays for the school year.					
PERIOD	BEGIN	END	# DAYS	PERIOD	BEGIN	END	# DAYS						
1 st Trimester	Aug 12, 2024	Nov 4, 2024	57	1 st Semester	Aug 12, 2024	Dec 20, 2024	85						
2 nd Trimester	Nov 06, 2024	Feb 21, 2025	61	2 nd Semester	Jan 7, 2025	May 30, 2025	94						
3 rd Trimester	Feb 25, 2025	May 30, 2025	61										
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION DATES				SECONDARY SCHOOLS REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION DATES									
PERIOD	ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS			PERIOD	SECONDARY SCHOOLS								
1 st Trimester	TBD			1 st Quarter	TBD								
2 nd Trimester	TBD			2 nd Quarter	TBD								
3 rd Trimester	TBD			3 rd Quarter	TBD								
TEACHERS' & ASST. PRINCIPALS' PAID HOLIDAYS				SECONDARY SEMESTERS									
PERIOD	BEGIN	END	# DAYS	PERIOD	BEGIN	END	# DAYS						
Sep 2, 2024	Jan 1, 2025			1 st Semester	Aug 12, 2024	Dec 20, 2024	85						
Nov 28, 2024	Jan 28, 2025			2 nd Semester	Jan 7, 2025	May 30, 2025	94						
Dec 25, 2024	May 26, 2025												

Pursuant to S. 1011.00(3)(a) F.S., the following are legal 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, as provided in this School Calendar.



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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.