

EAGLETIMES

Punta Gorda Middle School

1001 Education Ave.

Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Phone: 941-575-5485

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greeting Punta Gorda Middle School Families,

As we wrap up the first half of the school year, I can report many positive changes here at PGMS! We have created an official PGMS Facebook page to highlight achievements, share information, and increase our community engagement, so follow along and see what's happening.

To help parents in our community with the hectic process of balancing work and kids, we have launched Boys and Girls Club. Students can be dropped off as early as 7:00 AM for a \$25 per month fee and/or can participate in our afternoon program from 4:15 PM to 6:30 PM for FREE. This program is growing daily and has been a huge success. We are thankful for this partnership.

I'm proud to report we have shifted our focus towards positive behaviors and academic excellence of students. Initiatives include the All-Complete Retreat where students can be recognized for having a clean discipline record, no missing assignments, and no failing classes. We enjoyed seeing our parents supporting their honor roll students as we thanked them for their academic success at our award presentation and light breakfast.

Additionally, our sports teams have continued their winning streaks across the district; building confidence and instilling teamwork in our young Eagles. We are proud of our student athletes and coaches for their efforts and leadership.

Changes have been made to our school bell schedule to maximize staff and reduce confusion in lunches which also helps to build grade level community and sense of belonging.

Campus wide, we have also looked for opportunities to show our sincere appreciation for the hard work our teachers do. Some highlights include a coffee cart, ice cream floats, small treats, and a caramel apple bar to date. Walk-n-talk activities recently began to help bring our staff closer together, and the continued support of our PTO has been second to none!

When I addressed the faculty at the beginning of the year, I made the analogy of our school being a ship pulling out of the harbor. We mapped out our school improvement plan in terms of what sails to raise and what rudders to push on to steer our ship into 2024. Following along with that analogy, know that the PGMS ship is well out of the harbor and picking up speed towards a successful school year!!

continued on page 2

Mr. Sam Davis, Principal

Ms. Renee McLain,
*Assistant Principal,
Activities & Facilities*

Ms. Carol Woelke,
Assistant Principal, Curriculum

Mr. Jon Hock,
Assistant Principal, Discipline

Ms. Jodi Richards,
Dean of Students

Mrs. Erika Hippler,
Dean of Students

Jasmine Puskey,
School Counselor

Tamra Thompson,
School Counselor

**Where Eagles
SOAR Everyday!**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

continued from cover

I want to thank the PGMS community for their support knowing that together we can lead our Eagles to success!!

Samuel E. Davis
Principal

What Time Does School Begin?

School hours are **9:10 a.m. - 4:10 p.m.** Please arrive on time whether you are coming on foot, by bus, on bicycle, or by car. The school office hours are **8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.** **Parents, please be aware that students should not arrive on campus before 8:35 a.m. as supervision does not begin until then.**

What About Breakfast and Lunch?

Breakfast is served in the cafeteria starting at **8:35 a.m.** daily. All PGMS students receive **FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH** every day. There is no need to fill out any forms: every PGMS student automatically qualifies. Lunch times are based on your student's schedule.

Cell Phone Policy

Students are not permitted to utilize personal cell phones within the school building during times of instruction defined as bell to bell unless given specific permission such as when the privilege is earned for lunchroom use and other appropriate times.

School Store

Visit Mr. Comment before first period in the school store located in the atrium to see what is available!

Are YOU on Facebook?

If so, consider Liking and following the official Facebook page of PGMS!



Student Dress Code

Responsibility for the dress and appearance of students enrolled in Charlotte County Public Schools rests with parents and students. Please be aware that some student apparel may not be appropriate to wear to school, even though that same apparel may be appropriate in other settings.

The School Board of Charlotte County believes that there is a relationship between student attire and classroom behavior, attitude, and achievement. The objectives of our dress code are to bring dignity to the classroom and to prevent classroom distractions. The Code of Conduct is posted online at <http://yourcharlotteschools.net/students/documents/22-23/CodeOfStudentConduct.pdf>.

Note: The principal or the principal's designee has the final authority for interpreting whether a student's apparel conforms to the dress code. When it is determined that a student's clothing does not comply with the dress code or is disruptive, a parent/guardian may be asked to bring an appropriate change of clothes to school, or the student may be sent home to change clothes.

NJHS Animal Welfare Food Drive



A few spots are left!



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Do I Dress Out for P.E.? Yes!

During class time locker rooms will be available for student use here at PGMS. Our coaches expect all students to dress out for PE wearing black shorts, a white or gray shirt, and sneakers. Students are graded on dressing out as well as participation.

*Limited supply of PE uniforms will be available for purchase at **Open House on August 9th** as well as during the school year. Lockers will also be available for \$2 once school starts. Checks should be written to PGMS.*

Please note, aerospray products, cell phones, gum, and candy are not allowed in the gym or locker rooms.

Security on Campus

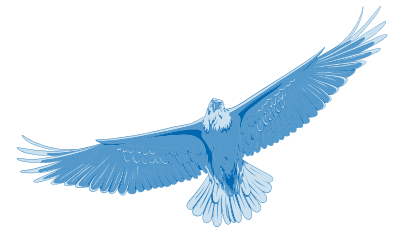
Student ID information

Students are now required to wear ID badges on a lanyard around their neck in all CCPS schools. The district stance is as follows: "In order to maintain a high level of student safety, students are required to wear school issued identification badges during regular school hours".

Visitor Information

PGMS welcomes visitors to our campus, but here are a few things to remember:

1. Gates will be closed with the exception of drop off and pick up. All visitors must be screened before entering campus. Push the camera button to speak with the front office. Wait until the gate opens completely. (Even if another vehicle passes through and the gate is open, please still follow the same procedures.)
2. Park in the visitor parking lot, and if it's full, then you may park along the sidewalk behind the cone. This allows an open lane for traffic to pass. (Do NOT park along the sidewalk by the exit gate or along the sidewalk in front of the lobby as this is reserved for emergency vehicles only.)
3. Approach the lobby and present your ID after pushing the buzzer. The office will assist you.



'Eagle Times'

December 2023

Published Four Times Per Year
Charlotte County Public Schools

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Issue #4

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Clubs

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, school-based extracurricular activities offer opportunities for students to learn the values of teamwork, individual and group responsibility, physical strength and endurance, competition, diversity, and a sense of culture and community. We are proud that PGMS offers many clubs to engage our students. Please check the school calendar on our web page often for updates regarding meeting dates and times, and all we have to offer the students.

Boys and Girls Club

PGMS now offers a morning program for \$25 per month (from 7:00 am to 8:30 am) and an afternoon program for FREE (from 4:15 pm-6:30 pm). Students in the afternoon program will receive a free meal from CHAMPS Café and can be picked up anytime before, but no later than 6:30pm.

To participate in the program parents will need to register ahead of time. For more information and registration contact janderson@bgcofcc.org.

PGMS

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Regular School Calendar | 2023-2024

JANUARY '24

M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
1	2	3	4	5	90	102
8	9	10	11	12	95	107
15	16	17	18	19	99	111
22	23	24	25	26	104	116
29	30	31			107	119

- 1 New Year's Day/Pd Holiday
- 2,3 Winter Break Continued
- 4 HMU #3 Students/Teachers
- 5 HMU #2 Students/Teachers
- 8 Students/Teachers Return
- 15 M.L.K. Day

MAY '24

M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
		1	2	3	165	179
6	7	8	9	10	170	184
13	14	15	16	17	175	189
20	21	22	23	24	180	194
27	28	29	30	31		196

- 24 Last day for Students/
- 24 End of Qtr 4
- 27 Memorial Day
- 28 Teacher Work Day
- 29 District PD Day #3
- 29 Last Day for Teachers

FEBRUARY '24

M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
			1	2	109	121
5	6	7	8	9	114	126
12	13	14	15	16	118	130
19	20	21	22	23	122	134
26	27	28	29		126	138

- 5-9 Survey Window
- 16 HMU #1 Students/Teachers
- 19 Presidents' Day

JUNE '24

M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
3	4	5	6	7		
10	11	12	13	14		
17	18	19	20	21		
24	25	26	27	28		

MARCH '24

M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
				1	127	139
4	5	6	7	8	132	144
11	12	13	14	15	136	149
18	19	20	21	22	136	149
25	26	27	28	29	140	154

- 14 End of Qtr 3
- 15 Teacher Work Day
- 18-22 Spring Break
- 29 Good Friday/Pd Holiday

Grading Period Dates	Everyone Off/Unpaid
Students Off/Teachers Work	Everyone Off/Paid Holiday

Board approved 12/13/2022

APRIL '24

M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
1	2	3	4	5	145	159
8	9	10	11	12	150	164
15	16	17	18	19	155	169
22	23	24	25	26	160	174
29	30				162	176



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NO BULLYING
SAFE SCHOOL ZONE

School-wide initiatives at PGMS educate students about bullying and how to effectively interact with others. Our staff incorporate cognitive-skills training on how to interact responsibly, handle controversy and resolve conflicts amicably. Punta Gorda Middle regularly trains staff on Bullying and Abuse recognition, and training is provided to educate students, parents, and community members as well.

Teacher Supply Closet

The PTO maintains a Teacher Supply Closet throughout the school year. We happily accept any item on the basic student supply list as well as tissues, adhesive bandages, binders, composition books, staplers, copy paper (white or colored), white out, post-it notes, markers, hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes, etc. Anything you think your student, or a teacher might find useful is accepted. Just drop it off at the front desk or send it to school with your student and we will make sure it gets used.



Absences

The student attendance line is 941-575-5490. By 10:00 am on any day that your child is absent from school, you should call the attendance line to record the reason for the absence. If your child is absent from school, you will receive a call home, with the first calls going out at 10:15 am. For your convenience, our voicemail is available after school hours to leave messages regarding absences. Regular office hours are from **8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**



Happy Hour

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Who Should I Contact?

<i>Curriculum and Instruction</i>	Ms. Carol Woelke, Assistant Principal
<i>Activities/ Athletics/ Facilities</i>	Ms. Renee McLain, Assistant Principal
<i>Discipline</i>	Mr. John Hock, Assistant Principal of Discipline Ms. Erika Hippler, Dean of Students Ms. Jodi Richards, Dean of Students
<i>School Counselors</i>	Ms. Tamara Thompson Ms. Jasmine Puskey
<i>Other Contacts</i>	Ms. Andrea Pitter, ESE Liaison Ms. Taylor Gilkey, Psychologist Ms. Korie Shipley, School Social Worker



We need spots filled...



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8

Yearbook info

Baby photos for 8th grade students ONLY can be submitted by emailing renee.council@yourcharlotteschools.net. The deadline for submissions is January 19, 2024. THIS IS FOR ALL 8th GRADE STUDENTS AND IS FREE TO SUBMIT.

Additionally, personal and/or local business ads are available now for purchase! Ads can be purchased and designed at www.yearbookforever.com. The deadline for submission is 3/01/2024.



Reporting Suspicious Activities or Threats (Fortify Florida)

- Students, parents, CCPS employees, and members of the community have a responsibility to report suspicious activities and potential threats to our schools. Any suspicious activity or threat should be promptly reported to one of the following individuals, agencies or reporting tools:
- School Resource Officer or local law enforcement agencies.
- School Administrator or any available staff member.
- **The FortifyFL Reporting APP** or to the Crime Stoppers Tip Line (1-800-780-TIPS).
- Contacting the Supervisor of District Security and Emergency Management at (941) 255-0808
- Calling 9-1-1