

# EAGLETIMES

Punta Gorda Middle School

1001 Education Ave.  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
Phone: 941-575-5485

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardians,

I hope everyone was able to enjoy their summer with some fun and relaxation. I want to welcome back those families that are returning to Punta Gorda Middle School and welcome any new families joining us this year. It has been a busy summer getting the school in shape and hiring staff, but we are ready to begin the 2022-2023 school year.

As many of you already know (and others are about to find out) middle school is a transitional time in your student's life. Your student will try many different things (including your patience) to figure out his or her direction in life. Each day, our staff will be working hard with all our Eagles to help them become great leaders and to find their wings and **SOAR**:

- **Strive for success**
- **Opt for honesty**
- **Act responsibly**
- **Respect others**

School begins promptly at 9:10 am and ends at 4:10 pm, with breakfast available beginning at 8:35 am. Your student's schedule will still consist of seven classes: four core classes (Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies), one computer class, and two exploratory classes (or remedial classes, if necessary). Classes are 51 minutes long, and each class meets every day.

You should be able to get all the information you need from this newsletter, but if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school at (941) 575-5485. I look forward to working with all of you this school year!

Sincerely,

Justina Dionisio

Principal



**Mrs. Justina Dionisio,**  
Principal

**Ms. Renee McLain,**  
*Assistant Principal, Discipline*

**Mr. William Porter**  
*Dean of Students*

**Ms. Erika Hippler**  
*Dean of Students*

**Dr. Scott Nicklas,**  
*Assistant Principal,*  
*Activities & Facilities*

**Dr. Christine Young,**  
*Assistant Principal, Curriculum*

**Mr. Douglass Barr,**  
*School Counselor*

**Jasmine Puskey,**  
*School Counselor*

**Tamra Thompson,**  
*School Counselor*

**Where Eagles**  
**SOAR Everyday!**

**PGMS**  
**BACK TO SCHOOL**  
*Open House*

**August 9th**  
4:00-5:30  
6th grade  
5:30-6:30  
7th & 8th grade

- \*Tour the School.
- \*Meet your teachers.
- \*Gather information.
- \*Buy School t-Shirts & PE uniforms.

Main office: 941-575-5485

## When Do I Get My Schedule?

Schedules will be posted to the parent portal, or you can pick it up **at the Open House on Tuesday, August 9th**. If you are unable to attend, your schedule will be in your first period class. Please rest assured that staff will be easily accessible to assist on the first day as students try to find their way around the school.

## Where Do I Report on the First Day of School?

Students should report to their first period class on **Wednesday, August 10th**, the first day of school. Student Locator lists will be posted around the school and will show where first period classes are located. Staff will be available in hallways and common areas to provide assistance.

### Follow PGMS on



@pgmiddle



@Pgmiddle



pgmiddle

[www.edline.net/pages/Punta\\_Gorda\\_Middle\\_School](http://www.edline.net/pages/Punta_Gorda_Middle_School)

## What Time Does School Begin?

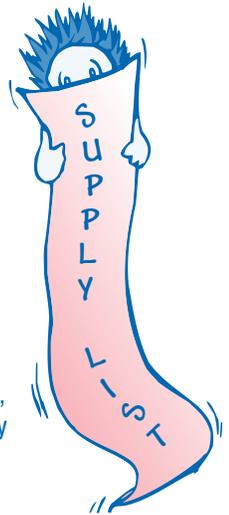
School hours are **9:10 a.m. - 4:10 p.m.** Please arrive on time whether you are coming on foot, by bus, on bicycle, or by car. The school office hours are **8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Parents, please be aware that students should not arrive on campus before 8:35 a.m. as supervision does not begin until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

## What Should I Bring to School on the First Day?

A spiral notebook and a pen or pencil will be sufficient for the first day of school. Most teachers will provide a supply list for their class, so it makes sense to wait until your child brings their lists home to purchase any other supplies. Backpacks will be allowed as you travel from class to class (rolling backpacks are permitted). Students will have items to bring home on the first day, and we ask parents/guardians to complete necessary paperwork and return it with your student.

## Basic Student Supply List

- 7th and 8th graders will need a calculator for math. We recommend the TI-30xa, which is available on Amazon or at Walmart for around \$9
- Pencils
- Erasers/cap erasers
- Pens: blue or black ink ONLY
- 3 or more different colored highlighters
- Notebooks & Folders
- Earbuds/headphones - No wireless
- Backpack (please get your child a comfortable backpack, but please do not get something extremely large, as they usually only need to carry supplies and folders)
- Graph Paper



## 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.

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## When Will The Bus Arrive?

The district transportation department has (or will mail out) your student's specific bus information before school starts. You can also access the information through the transportation website:

- <https://www.yourcharlotteschools.net/transportation> OR go to
- [www.wheresthebus.com](http://www.wheresthebus.com) - select CCPS, enter student ID number and birthdate

Bus riders should **write down** their bus numbers in order to find their bus easily in the first week of school.

## What About Breakfast And Lunch?

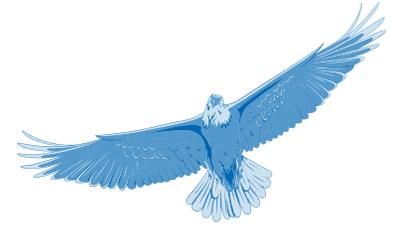
Breakfast is served in the cafeteria starting at **8:35 a.m.** daily. All PGMS students receive FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH every day. There is no need to fill out any forms: every PGMS student automatically qualifies. Lunch times are based on your student's schedule.

## Student Planners at PGMS

Each student will receive a planner, free of charge, at the beginning of the school year. The planner is used to help stay organized and will have the dates and times of visits to the restroom, nurse's clinic, front office, and media center. It will also be used by students to stay current on assignments. The replacement cost for a lost planner is \$5.00.

## Who Should I Contact?

Curriculum and Instruction	Dr. Christine Young, Assistant Principal
Activities/Athletics/Facilities	Dr. Scott Nicklas, Assistant Principal
Discipline	Ms. Renee McLain, Assistant Principal
	Ms. Erika Hippler, Dean of Students
	Mr. Bill Porter, Dean of Students
School Counselors	Mr. Doug Barr
	Ms. Tamra Thompson
	Ms. Jasmine Puskey
Other Contacts	Ms. JoAnn Barr, ESE Liaison
	Ms. Andrea Pitter, ESE Liaison
	Ms. Jena Williams, School Social Worker
	Ms. Korie Shipley, School Social Worker



'Eagle Times'  
July 2022

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Issue #3

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Punta Gorda, FL 33950 **941-676-1111**

## 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.**

## 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 [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TZchKwYu9vxrwOh5O55f0kllwBrWSkw/\\_view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TZchKwYu9vxrwOh5O55f0kllwBrWSkw/_view?usp=sharing).

*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.

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

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.

PE uniforms will be available for purchase during the school year. Lockers in the gym will 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.*

## School Advisory Council (SAC) and Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Parents are encouraged to participate on our School Advisory Council (SAC) and in our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). These organizations provide input to PGMS administrators and assist in the decision-making process concerning all school issues. Each year the role of SAC & PTO becomes more critical to the life of our school. Please consider becoming a vital part of these important organizations.

## Computer Teachers Offer Industry Certifications

Many colleges and universities award academic credit to students certified in Microsoft Office, and the Florida Department of Education reports that students with MOS certification graduate high school at a significantly higher rate and have a higher average GPA. Additionally, students with MOS certification have a dropout rate near zero, which suggests they are more engaged in their learning process.

Certification is a tremendous opportunity PGMS offers students, and we hope you will encourage your child to become certified this year. PGMS students earned over 400 Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification last year, and computer teachers hope to surpass that number in 2022-2023. In their seventh and eighth-grade computer classes, students have the opportunity to earn certifications in Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel, and Access.

## Media Center News

The beginning of the school year is always exciting, and the media center is a wonderful place to share that excitement. Please stop by during the Open House on August 9th.

The media center is open each morning, and throughout the day students can come in to work, read, and check out books. Please encourage your children to be a part of the literacy club by visiting the media center, and by following the Media Center on Twitter @PGMS\_Media.

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## Important Reminders

### From the school counselors:

- Remember to check the 2022/2023 school calendar when planning vacations to avoid missing exams. This includes Semester 1 exams right before we go on Christmas Break, Dec. 16-21, 2022, as well as Final exams right before the last day of school, May 23-26, 2023.
- FOCUS provides 24-hour access to your child's grades, as well as the opportunity to email teachers with any questions or concerns. Parents/guardians should make sure they have their own login information for FOCUS. This is separate from your student's username and password. **Please visit the school website for information on how to set up your account.**
- CANVAS provides 24-hour access to your student's classroom materials and assignments. FOCUS provides the official grades for classes.

### From the school nurse:

- Medication drop-offs will not be accepted from **11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or after 3:15 p.m.** These are busy periods in the nurse's station. To maintain the focus on student care, our nurse is unable to meet with parents/guardians during these times.



## Middle-School Sports

Students in all grade levels have the opportunity to participate in team sports at PGMS. Team sports include basketball, volleyball (girls only), wrestling, and track. Students who plan to try-out for a sport must maintain a 2.0 grade point average and must have private health insurance or purchase school coverage. Students must also have a current, up-to-date sports physical.

Intramural sports have less stringent requirements. Students interested in intramural sports should listen to daily announcements for information regarding teams, start dates and practice schedules.

**Boys and Girls Basketball Try-Outs begin in August!!!**

**Please do not miss Try-Outs because you do not have all your forms and your Physical turned in!**

**All the FORMS are on the PGMS website under the Athletics tab then Sports and then Forms\*\*\*  
You can turn all of this paperwork in to Coach Damico as early as the first day of school!**

## Calendar of Events

- Aug 10 First Day of School
- Aug 15 SAC Meeting, 5:30pm
- Aug 23 No School (Voting Day)
- Sept 5 No School (Labor Day)
- Sept 6 Picture Day
- Sept 12 SAC Meeting, 5:30pm
- Oct 10 SAC Meeting, 5:30pm
- Oct 13 Make Up Picture Day

### August 9th Open House

#### 6th Grade Students

- 4:00-5:30 pm

#### 7th & 8th Grade Students

- 5:30-6:30 pm

You will have the opportunity to purchase school shirts, meet your student's teachers, and get information regarding various activities at PGMS!



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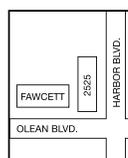
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## Picture Day Info

### Fall Individuals - 9/6/22

Every student gets their picture taken on this day for the Yearbook, Focus and school ID's. If you would like to purchase pictures, we will send home forms but you can also visit [www.barksdalephoto.com](http://www.barksdalephoto.com).

*Barksdale*

### Retakes: 10/13/22

Yearbooks can be purchased at [www.yearbookforever.com](http://www.yearbookforever.com) throughout the year but they are cheaper if you purchase before Jan. 1st, 2022.

Yearbook Ads from parents and local businesses can also be purchased at [www.yearbookforever.com](http://www.yearbookforever.com).

## No Bully 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.

## 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 Administration 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 911



The PGMS PBIS team is excited to start the new 2021/2022 school year! We are ready to help our Eagles succeed and have the best school year ever! Our team is committed to helping students achieve improved social & academic outcomes, discipline issues, and support our staff along the way. With PBIS, families, students, and school personnel set goals and work together to achieve positive outcomes. Beyond daily interaction, each quarter, the team will showcase students that are making good choices on campus. If you are a member of the community or own a business that would like to contribute to the PBIS efforts at our school, through donations, please contact Team Leader, Summer Nicklas ([summer.nicklas@yourcharlotteschools.net](mailto:summer.nicklas@yourcharlotteschools.net)). Welcome back, Eagles!



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## Show School Spirit with Eagle Gear

See us at Open House in the school atrium to purchase your shirts and other PGMS goodies to get your school year started right or talk with Mrs. Nicklas for further details.

## Statement of Non-Discrimination

- The School Board of Charlotte County does not discriminate (including anti-Semitism [as defined in Bylaw 0100]) on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, gender status, or gender identity), recognized disability, pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law (collectively, "protected classes") in its programs and activities, including employment. The School Board also ensures equal access for Boy Scouts of America and other identified patriotic youth groups, as required by 34 C.F.R. §108 (Boy Scouts Act). (School Board Policy 1122, 3122, 4122, 2260)
- The District Title IX Coordinators and Equity Compliance Officers for the District are Adrienne McElroy (Director of Human Resources), available at (941) 255-0808, Patrick Keegan (Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Employee Relations), available at (941) 255-0808, and Michael Desjardins (Assistant Superintendent for School Support), available at (941) 255-0808 The District Section 504 Compliance Officer and ADA Coordinator is Rebecca Marazon (Coordinator of Psychological Services), available at (941) 255-0808 (School Board Policy 2260)

**A few spots are left!**



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## 8

### It Is Back To School Time!

For parents, back to school means supply shopping and maybe some new clothes since they are growing like beans, maybe figuring out school pick up and drop off schedules, possibly even a relief on the grocery bill. For kids, back to school can be full of lots of emotions including excitement, dread, anxiety, anticipation, fear, the list goes on and on. Each child will view back to school differently and have different emotions about it. Parents can help their children enter the new school year set up for success academically and emotionally as well. Here are a few tips to help your kids thrive through the transition:

**Listen** – I thought about calling this tip “talk,” but the truth is that our kids often need us to listen more than they need us to talk. So yes, we need to offer opportunities to open up the line of communication about how our kids are feeling about getting back to school, but the important part is listening and validating what our kids share with us. We may not be able to always tell them everything is going to be great, but we can reassure them that no matter what happens, we will be there for them.

**Routine Prep** – Summers can often turn into a far more relaxed schedule and routines may even go out the window completely. However, when it comes to heading back to school it is best to get a head start and get back on track. Sit down with your kids and talk about a healthy school routine. Include things like sleep schedules, morning routines, homework/study time, and personal time. If you haven't already established some time for mindfulness in your

home, this would be a great time to start. Make sure to practice some of the routine BEFORE school begins, especially the sleep schedule.

**Get Organized** – Help your child prepare needed materials for school. Sometimes having a morning or evening checklist can help calm a child's nerves as well. Create a space with your child that they can use specifically for homework and studying. If your child will be bringing lunches to school, let them help create the shopping list and encourage healthy habits. Review school layout and class schedules as well as locker combinations and lunch codes.

**Create Goals** – Hopes and dreams are great, but without goals they may never become a reality. Help your children decide on some goals that they are interested in accomplishing throughout the school year. These goals can be personal, academic, emotional, etc. It is okay if they have some goals that they don't wish to share as well. Help them to establish the short-term goals to reach their long-term goals. Encourage them to create a vision board to help them keep their goals in focus.

As you work through some of the back-to-school jitters with your kiddos, remember to stay calm yourself. Your kids will be looking to you for support, encouragement, and safety. It will be important for you to demonstrate healthy ways that you deal with new experiences as you enter this new school year as well.