



VOLUME 9 ISSUE 2
OCTOBER 2024

TERRIER TIMES

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families, Students, and Staff,

Over the past few weeks, we've faced incredible challenges as a community. The recent hurricanes have tested our strength, disrupted our routines, and brought unexpected hardships. Yet, in these moments of uncertainty, I am reminded of the resilience that defines us.

Resilience is not about avoiding difficulties, but about how we rise in response to them. I have witnessed firsthand the kindness, support, and perseverance displayed by our students, families, and staff. Whether it's offering a helping hand to a neighbor, or showing up with a positive attitude despite the struggles, each of you has demonstrated what it means to be truly resilient.

As we move forward, I encourage us all to continue leaning on each other. Our school is more than just a place for learning—it is a community. Together, we will rebuild, adapt, and grow stronger. We will ensure that each of our students feels supported and cared for, and that learning continues, no matter the circumstances.

Thank you to everyone for your hard work, patience, and unwavering spirit. Let's continue to face these challenges with courage and compassion, knowing that brighter days are ahead.

Sincerely,

Tara Whisenant
Mrs. Tara Whisenant
Principal



ADMINISTRATION

Principal

Tara Whisenant

Assistant Principals

Dr. Paul Curtis

Zachary Wheeler

Deans

Chris Stephenson

Gabrielle Thompson

Guidance Counselors

Eric Grzechowiak

Alesha Jewett

ESE Liaison

Marjorie Stevens

Social Worker

Kearstin Pineda

School Resource Officer

Deputy Anderson

23000 Midway Blvd.

Port Charlotte FL 33952

Phone: 941-255-7460

Fax: 941-255-7469

Attendance Line: 941-255-7467

Office Hours: 8:00 - 4:30





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PCMS WINS ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE!

For the month of September, CCPS challenged their students to come to school every day. PCMS competed against the other CCPS middle schools for the monthly challenge and held our own weekly challenges as well. For one of those weeks, students could "shine a light" on the importance of showing up for school by wearing neon. Our students not only knocked that weekly challenge out of the park, but PCMS won the district challenge, too! Congratulations, Terriers!



LIVING WITHIN OUR VALUES

Each month, Superintendent Vianello asks CCPS staff members to recognize their peers who are "Living within our Values." CCPS employee values are empowerment, community, collaboration, communication, integrity, resilience, innovation, and safety. In the month of September, two of our exceptional teachers were recognized by their peers for exemplifying at least one of these core values. Congratulations, Mrs. Tara Eiken and Mrs. Megan Guarente!

Pictured above are Dr. Paul Curtis, Tara Whisenant, Tara Eiken, and Zack Wheeler



Pictured above are Zack Wheeler, Dr. Paul Curtis, Megan Guarente, and Tara Whisenant



A MESSAGE FROM THE MEDIA SPECIALIST. TONI SALVATORE

This past Friday, September 13, we held our first annual Summer Reading Celebration in the Media Center! Students were challenged to read at least 3 SSYRA books over the summer in order to get an invitation to a special luncheon in September. The students who read at



least 5 SSYRA books were also entered into a grand prize raffle drawing for a Nintendo Switch! This year we had two students qualify for the grand prize. Congratulations to Zain Neal for taking home the big prize! Our runner-up, Osleobel Martinez, took home a box of Crumbl cookies. Students interested in participating in the next Summer Reading Challenge can get more information from the Media Center in May.



PCMS SOCIAL WORKER REMINDERS



Resources Available

- Backpacks
- Canned goods
- School supplies

Please contact our school social worker Mrs. Pineda for more information

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LEADERSHIP CLASS NEWS

Mrs. Anderson's Leadership class is fully engaged this quarter. We are solving mysteries, creating an Escape Room, saving Sammy the Worm, and many other things in our team-building activities. We have kicked off our community outreach by volunteering at Peace River Elementary School's Math Night. We will also be volunteering at Kingsway Elementary, Deep Creek Elementary, and Neil Armstrong Elementary next quarter. In class, our focus is on Growth Mindset and learning to change how we approach challenging situations in life.



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HOPE AMBASSADORS

The Kindness club gathers to work on projects that help promote kindness in the building and community. Club members do various acts of kindness for staff, students and community members and encourage others to pay it forward with kindness. The Kindness club is up and running and has just completed our first community outreach incentive with Care totes for children at Galisano's Childrens Hospital. The club received generous donations in order to be able to provide 85 totes for children staying long term at the hospital. We want to thank everyone for the AWESOME SUPPORT of this project. The students worked hard to stuff bags with all the goodies purchased at our last meeting. We are looking forward to planning more events in the near future! Meetings are scheduled for the following dates (Thursdays from 4:10-5:10 in the Media Center): Oct. 3 and 17, Nov. 7 and 21, Dec. 5 and 19, Jan. 9 and 23, Feb. 6 and 20, March 6, April 3 and 17, and May 1 and 15. All are welcome!



SCHOOL CALENDAR

This year, Charlotte County Public Schools, will have three more early release days, which are dedicated to Professional Learning for our staff. On these days, schools will dismiss two hours early.

Early Release Days: December 11, February 12, and April 30.

- Bus schedules will be adjusted by two hours to bring students home.
- All on-campus after-school camps will proceed as normal.
- For off-campus programs, please check with the people in charge of those programs directly for information about pick-up arrangements for those days.

Please click the QR Code to see Port Charlotte Middle School's 2024-2025 calendar.



Special Note:* Monday, November 25th, Tuesday, November 26th **and Wednesday November 27th are Hurricane Make-up Days. because of Hurricane Helene, CCPS will have school on those days.



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WE WELCOME NEW SMILES!

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RECYCLING CLUB

The PCMS Recycling Club meets every Thursday afternoon, and all students are welcome to join.



Pictured above are Dr. Curtis, Zia'Kaira Borden, Destiny Hricovsky, Mr. Wesley Marshall, and Denver Pittman

KIND KID AWARD

To help support our Terriers in being kind humans and treating others the way they would like to be treated, our staff members will nominate outstanding students who perform kind acts daily. The nominations will occur once a month and two kind students will be selected to be recognized by our principal Mrs. Whisenant. Staff members will recognize students who are consistently kind and helpful, who are doing the right thing, and are going out of their way to be kind to others. We believe when you focus on the good, the good gets better! You'll be shocked at how many more positive things start happening when you focus on the positive things in your life. Just a couple immediate examples that come to mind: A student purchased a mother and her children pizza at a basketball game. A student was witnessed picking up trash that was not their doing off the floor. Various students daily who acknowledge their teachers by saying Thank you or Have a Nice day! These are just a few things we have witnessed. We are excited to see the nominations come in and to see the greatness our PCMS Terriers share!

PCMS HOSTS A MOCK PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



VAPE SENSORS

There are vape sensors in every bathroom on campus in order to continue to promote a safe learning environment for all.

LATE BUS



This year, Port Charlotte Middle School will utilize the services of a late bus for PCMS-zoned students on Mondays through Thursdays after school. We hope this will allow more students the opportunity to be part of our extracurricular activities and tutoring services. A parent or guardian must sign the Late Bus Permission Slip before a student can ride the late bus. Permission slips were sent home at the beginning of September.

A few things to remember:

- The stops made by the late bus are not the same as the normal bus stops. Please review with your child the route that he/she will need to take home. It is the student's responsibility to know which stop to exit the bus from. Please review the stop, as well as the safest route home. This should be done before riding the late bus.
- Students will use their student ID badge to scan themselves on and off the bus.
- Please remember that normal bus rules apply. Students will be held accountable if they violate bus rules and/or the Code of Student Conduct.



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BADGE POLICY

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As part of our commitment to maintaining a safe and orderly environment, we would like to remind you of an important district policy regarding student identification.

All students are required to wear their school-issued ID badges at all times throughout the school day while on campus. This policy is in alignment with the district's safety and security protocols and aims to ensure that every individual on campus is properly identified.

Each student was provided an ID badge at the beginning of the school year. Should a badge be lost or damaged, the first replacement will be provided free of charge. Any additional replacements will be provided for a \$5 fee. Parents may pay any fees necessary through the Front Office, or students may pay fees through the Front Office before school, after school, or during lunch. It is crucial that students adhere to this policy. Failure to wear the ID badge may result in disciplinary action.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us uphold this important aspect of our school's safety measures. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Port Charlotte Middle School at 941-255-7460.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

PE NEWS

The PE department has been working on establishing rules and procedures for class and safe, inclusive play with peers. Students were introduced to Hands only CPR techniques and should now know the steps to help in an emergency. (Call 9-1-1, push hard and fast in the center of the chest, keep pressing until help arrives and EMT's take over) They have also been introduced to a variety of cooperative games and activities, group and individual fitness goals and concepts, and PACERS. PACERS is a cardiorespiratory endurance run that challenges students to elevate their best score each time they run. They have the opportunity to improve their personal best score approximately every 3 weeks. They were also introduced to circuit training to learn fitness activities for a full body workout.

A couple reminders regarding PE uniforms and locks and make up work when missing class.

Changing out is a part of your students' PE grade. Black shorts and grey shirt are preferred and can be purchased with a lock for \$20 at school (during PE) all year long OR you may purchase your own clothing/ outfit outside of school and only pay the \$2 rental fee for the locker.

If your child misses a class due to an "in school" or "out of school" suspension (ISS or OSS), they can make up the missing grade for partial credit. ISS work should be requested from the ISS coordinator (Ms. Davis) and OSS work can be found on the teacher's CANVAS page. (classwork section)

INTRAMURALS

PCMS offers an intramurals activity (sports) club after school (weather permitting). The club runs Monday through Thursday after school from 4:10-5:10 p.m. ANY STUDENT may stay after school to participate in a choice of activities to include soccer, basketball, flag football, and volleyball (when the gym is available). Students need to get a consent to participate form from the gym and return it to Coach Hibbard or Coach Renne prior to participation. Students may stay whichever days they choose and work for their schedule. ALL behavioral expectations and pick up times should be followed or it may be cause for your student to be dismissed.



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CREDIT RECOVERY

All Subjects:
Mondays (N137)

ELL TUTORING

All Subjects: Mondays (M125)

MATH

6th Grade: Tuesdays (D5)
Wednesdays (D7)

7th Grade: Tuesdays (E5)
Wednesdays (E6)

8th Grade/Algebra:
Tuesdays (E3)
Wednesdays (E2)

*Students must sign up before 7th period on the day they want to attend.



SCIENCE

All Grades:
Mondays (B4)
Tuesdays (B4)
Wednesdays (A4)



ENGLISH, LANGUAGE ARTS

6th Grade: Tuesdays (D4, D8)
Thursdays (D3)

7th/8th Grade:
Mondays (D2, C2)
Tuesdays (D1)
Wednesdays (C1, C2, D1)
Thursdays (C1)

*Students must sign up before 7th period on the day they want to attend.





SOCIAL STUDIES

All Grades/All Subjects:
Mondays (N143A)
Tuesdays (A3, B1)
Wednesdays (B1)

*Students must sign up before 7th period on the day they want to attend.








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2024-2025 ATHLETIC SCHEDULE



Soccer (Boys/Girls)

Games: 5:30/6:30 pm @ Centennial Park
 2/20 PCM @ PGM (F1/F2) / MMS @ LAA (F3/F4)
 2/27 PCM @ MMS (F1/F2) / LAA @ PGM (F3/F4)
 3/6 LAA @ PCM(F1/F2) / PGM @ MMS (F3/F4)
 3/13 PGM @ LAA(F1/F2) / MMS @ PCM (F3/F4)
 3/27 LAA @ MMS(F1/F2) / PGM @PCM (F3/F4)
 4/3 MMS @ PGM(F1/F2) / PCM @ LAA (F3/F4)
 4/5 Playoffs at Centennial Park at 10am (Saturday)

F1=Field 1 (Girls)
 F2=Field 2 (Boys)
 F3=Field 3 (Girls)
 F4=Field 4 (Boys)

Track and Field

Meet Time: 9am start
 2/8 (Saturday) @ Charlotte High School

Volleyball

Games: 5:30 pm
 10/24 PCM @ MMS / LAA @ PGM
 10/30* MMS @ LAM / PGM @ PCM
 11/7 LAA @ PCM / PGM @ MUM
 11/14 MMS@ PCM/ PGM @ LAA
 11/21 LAA @ MMS / PCM @ PGM
 12/5 PCM @ LAA/ MMS @ PGM
 12/7 Playoffs at LBHS at 9am (Saturday)
 *Wednesday Game

Wrestling

Dual Matches
 Match time: 5:30pm
 4/17 PGM @ PCM LAA @ MMS
 4/24 MMS @ PGMPCM @ LAA
 5/1 PGM @ LAA MMS @ PCM
 County Tournament
 Time: 10am start
 5/3 (Saturday) @ Charlotte High School

PCM Terriers 

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A MESSAGE FROM THE BAND DIRECTOR, MRS. MILLER.

Parents and Community,

Mark your calendars! Our winter concert date is December 5th at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center (CPAC) starting at 7pm. Our concerts are always free for attendees. We'll see you there!

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OUT-OF-FIELD

The following teachers are currently teaching Out of Field:

Megan Dean	ESOL
Richard Fry	ESOL, English
Christine Salmon	ESOL, Reading, English
Marjolene Faustin	Social Science
Wesley Marshall	Biology, MG Earth-Space, MG Life Science
Nicolette McKerritt	English
Jana Tornabene	ESOL
Kristina Weston	ESOL

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REPORTING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES OR THREATS

Students, parents, CCPS employees, and members of the community have a responsibility to report suspicious activities and potential threats to schools. Any suspicious activity or threat shall 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 Crimestoppers Tip line (1-800-780-TIPS).
- Contacting the Supervisor of District Security and Emergency Management at (941) 255-0808
- Calling 9-1-1.

Note: Reports may be done anonymously.

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TERRIERS



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