



VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1  
AUGUST 2024

# TERRIER TIMES

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Terrier Families,

Welcome back to a new and exciting school year at Port Charlotte Middle School! I hope this letter finds you and your family well and rejuvenated after a well-deserved summer break. As we embark on the 2024-2025 academic year, I am thrilled to share some outstanding news with you: our school has achieved an "A" status!

This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to the dedication, hard work, and collaboration of our entire school community—students, teachers, staff, and parents. Our collective efforts have resulted in an environment where academic excellence, personal growth, and a supportive community thrive.

Here are a few highlights of what contributed to our success:

- **Academic Excellence:** Our students have consistently demonstrated outstanding performance in state assessments and standardized tests, showing remarkable growth and proficiency across all subjects.
- **Dedicated Staff:** Our teachers and staff have gone above and beyond, employing innovative teaching methods and providing individualized support to ensure each student reaches his or her full potential.
- **Engaged Community:** The involvement of our parents and guardians in school activities, volunteer efforts, and open communication has played a crucial role in creating a positive and nurturing school culture.

As we celebrate this remarkable achievement, PCMS staff remains committed to maintaining and building upon this success. We have an exciting year ahead filled with enriching academic programs, extracurricular activities, and opportunities for our students to explore their interests and talents.

We have so enjoyed welcoming our new students and families and seeing familiar faces back in our halls. Together, we will continue to strive for excellence and make Port Charlotte Middle School a place where every student can achieve greatness.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

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.

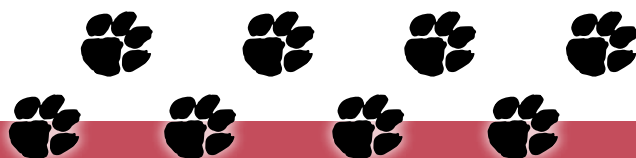
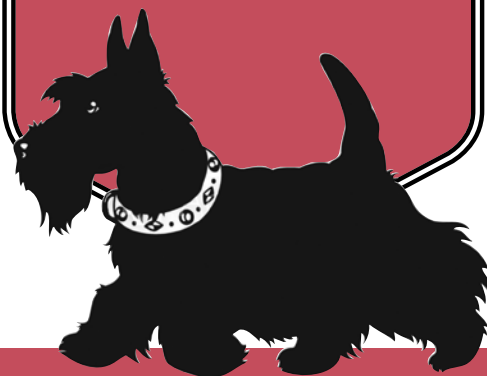
Port Charlotte FL 33952

**Phone:** 941-255-7460

**Fax:** 941-255-7469

**Attendance Line:** 941-255-7467

**Office Hours:** 8:00 - 4:30



# 2



## NEW PCMS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: DR. PAUL CURTIS

I, Dr. Paul A. Curtis, am an educational leader and military veteran. I come with a diverse and accomplished background. With six years of service in the military, I bring a wealth of leadership and educational knowledge culminated with over 20 years of educational experience. In my experience with the military and education professional realms, I have traveled the United States and many other countries in the world. Professionally in education, I have worked in states such as Florida (Orlando, Port Charlotte, & Tallahassee) and Louisiana (New Orleans & Baton Rouge). Professionally in the military, I have traveled the world and served in Fort Jackson, Fort Gordon, Fort Stewart, NATO (Germany), the Middle East, and other countries.

My academic journey started at Florida State University, where I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science in 1999. Then, I graduated with a Master of Business Administration from Belhaven University in 2003, further honing my expertise in organizational management and strategic planning. My commitment to education and professional development led me to earn a Doctor of Education & Specialist Degrees from Nova Southeastern University.

With a passion for fostering academic excellence, I have experienced great success and administrative roles in education through various leadership campaigns. I have served in various capacities such as Supervisor of Louisiana Regional Schools, Principal, Assistant Principal, Dean of Students, HS Football/Baseball Coach, and now Assistant Principal of Curriculum/Instruction at Port Charlotte Middle School. Previously, I served as an Assistant Principal at Port Charlotte High School, where I contributed to the school's leadership and administration team for 12 plus years.

My unique combination of military experience and advanced education equipped with a distinctive, open-minded mindset, and work ethic will assist with working with collaborative family and continued success at Port Charlotte Middle School. I am very happy to be a "Terrific Terrier!"

## MESSAGE FROM THE SOCIAL WORKER: KEARSTIN PINEDA

Hello, Terrier Family,

My name is Kearstin Pineda, and I am the school social worker here at Port Charlotte Middle School. I am excited for this school year and am honored to be a Terrier. My role as a school social worker is to provide support and interventions to the students and their families. I work with community partners to assist in resources that can be beneficial to our students and families. I am responsible for addressing any attendance concerns, providing individual counseling and group counseling, making referrals to outside agencies when needed, managing the food pantry, school supplies, and backpacks donated to the school, completing risk assessments and threat assessments when needed, as well as providing support and crisis interventions. In addition, I am the Check & Connect Coordinator. Check & Connect is an evidence-based intervention used for K-12 students who show warning signs for disengagement that provides mentorship. I look forward to working with you and supporting the students to ensure student success. If you have any questions or concerns about your child, while here at Port Charlotte Middle School, please don't hesitate to reach out to me for support. I am here to help and will do whatever I can to assist you and your children.



**Resources Available**

- Backpacks
- Canned goods
- School supplies

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



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# LATE BUS STARTS IN SEPTEMBER



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 will be 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.

## 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 will be 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

## VAPE SENSORS

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

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

Early Release Days: September 8, 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.



QR code linking to the school calendar.

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*WE WELCOME NEW SMILES!*

# 4



## A MESSAGE FROM THE BAND DIRECTOR: MRS. MILLER.

I am excited to get the new school year started! The Band department is growing larger every year, and this year we will have the highest number of musicians for the last 20 years. Our first nine weeks will be busy for our returning band students. We will be reviewing our fundamentals, creating our best characteristic tone, and building ensemble skills. Our new members will be introduced to our PCMS Band culture and traditions, learn about all the instruments, and make that important decision on what instrument they will study. It's an exciting time of year!

PCMS winter concert date is December 5th at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center (CPAC) starting at 7pm. Our concerts are always free for attendees.

**PCMS  
BAND SIGN  
UPS**

Join today! No experience necessary!

The graphic features a central QR code for sign-ups, surrounded by musical notes and a yellow frame. The background is teal with yellow accents.



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The advertisement features a yellow car with black antennae, a speech bubble, and a logo with a cartoon mole character.



# 2024-2025 ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

## Basketball (Boys/Girls)

Games: 5:30pm/6:30pm

- 8/29 PGM @ PCM / MMS @ LAA (Boys/Girls)
- 9/5 PCM @ MMS / LAA @ PGM (Girls/Boys)
- 9/12 LAA @ PCM / MMS @ PGM (Boys/Girls)
- 9/19 MMS @ PCM / PGM @ LAA (Girls/Boys)
- 9/26 PCM @ PGM / LAA @ MMS (Boys/Girls)
- 10/3 PCM @ LAA / PGM @ MMS (Girls/Boys)
- 10/5 Playoffs at PCHS at 10 am (Saturday)

## 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

## Track and Field

Meet Time: 9am start

- 2/8 (Saturday) @ Charlotte High School

## 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)

## Wrestling

Dual Matches – Match time: 5:30pm

- 4/17 PGM @ PCM LAA @ MMS
- 4/24 MMS @ PGM PCM @ LAA
- 5/1 PGM @ LAA MMS @ PCM

County Tournament – Time: 10am start

- 5/3 (Saturday) @ Charlotte High School



Go Terriers!





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# 6



## AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

After-school enrichment opportunities will begin in September. Be on the lookout for more information through Remind, PeachJar, and your student's PCMS school binder.



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## PE NEWS

The PE department welcomed Coach McKeith to the team mid-March of last school year. He is returning this year to join Coach Hibbard and Coach Renne. As we begin the school year, students are going to work on establishing rules and procedures for class as well as safe, inclusive play with peers. Students are being introduced to Hands Only CPR techniques and should 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 will also be introduced to a variety of cooperative games and activities, group and individual fitness goals and concepts, and PACERS. PACERS are a cardiorespiratory endurance run that challenge students to elevate their best score each time they run. They have the opportunity to improve approximately every 3 weeks. In the coming weeks, they will also be introduced to circuit training to learn more fitness concepts.

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

- Changing out is a part of your student's 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 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), he or she 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). If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your student's PE teacher via email or by calling the school. THANK YOU! We look forward to an amazing year with your children.




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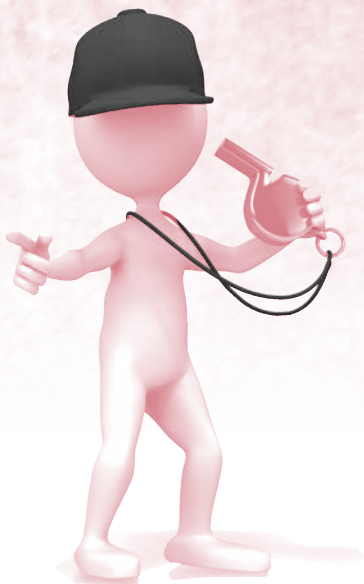
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# A MESSAGE FROM THE PE COACHES: COACH HIBBARD, COACH MCKEITH, COACH RENNE



### Uniform & Lock Rental Info

- Uniform/Lock Combo \$20
- \$10 P.E. Shirt ONLY
- \$10 P.E. Shorts ONLY
- \$2 Lock Rental ONLY\*
- SCHOOL ISSUED LOCKS ONLY, NOTHING FROM HOME
- original lock must returned at the end of year to avoid additional charges
- students are not permitted to share locks at any time.

It is not mandatory to purchase a school-issued uniform, BUT dressing out is a part of the class and can affect the student's grade. If you choose to purchase your own uniform, we would prefer a gray shirt and black shorts or pants.

### Proper Footwear is Required

Tennis Shoes or sneakers ONLY. No slides, crocs, HeyDudes, or slippers.

### Expectations

1. Participation
2. Dress Out
3. On time for class
4. Respect to Teachers and Classmates
5. Follow Rules and Expectations

### NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES OF ANY KIND

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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.

Port Charlotte Middle  
**TERRIERS**

