



New Families' Guide to Starting at Palmetto Middle School 2018-2019

Welcome to Palmetto Middle School!

Stay Informed:

- Sign up for our **bi-weekly e-newsletter**. Go To: <http://www.pmsptsa.org> and sign up for the "LINK".
- Download the FREE **Palmetto Middle School PTSA app** for iPhone and Android. Go to the iTunes Store or Google Play, and search for "Palmetto Middle School". Be sure to allow Push Notifications to get important information!
- "Like" us on **Facebook** (Palmetto Middle School PTSA) or "follow" us on **Instagram** (PalmettoMiddle_PTSA)
- Bookmark the **school website**: <http://palmettomiddle.com> for important school information, including contact information for teachers.
- Register on the **MDCPS parent portal**: <https://mdcpsportal.dadeschools.net> . Here you will find important information about your child, including their class schedule and teachers, grades, bus information, and more.
- Be familiar with the **school calendar**, including teacher work days, holidays, and Early Release days. The calendar can be found here: <http://www.dadeschools.net/calendars/>

Important Dates:

- **Thursday, August 16th at 6:00 pm : 6th Grade & New Student Orientation.** On this evening, you and your child are invited to come to the school auditorium for an orientation presentation. Afterwards, you are welcome to tour the school to get acquainted with where your child's classes will be.
- **Thursday, August 16th, 2pm-8pm: School Store Open** in Cafeteria.
- **Friday, August 17th, 10am-2pm: School Store Open** in Cafeteria.
- **Monday, August 20th : First Day of School.** School hours are 9:10 AM- 3:50 PM.
- **Thursday, September 13th, 9:00 am: First PTSA Meeting-** Media Center.
- **Date TO BE ANNOUNCED: Back to school Open House Night.**
- Don't forget to pay attention to the **PTSA Calendar of Events** for the year, which will be sent home and posted on our website. Any date changes will be announced on the app and in the LINK newsletter.

General Information:

- **Uniforms:** Palmetto Middle School Students are **required to wear a uniform**. To see the uniform policy go to <http://www.pmsptsa.org>, click on "Info", then "School Uniform Policy." Students are also required to wear a separate uniform if they are taking PE. PE uniforms can be purchased in our school store which will be open before school starts (see dates above) and, once the new school year begins, in the mornings before school in the Media Center. We recommend you purchase 2-3 PE outfits to ensure you have a clean one to send with your child when needed.
- **Class Schedules:** Class schedules will be given close to the first day of school but may be available earlier on the MDCPS parent portal at <https://mdcpsportal.dadeschools.net>
- **School Supply Lists:** Teachers will give list during the first week of school, not before school starts. Your child should come to school the first day with basic necessities: a binder, paper, pencils, pens, and a computer flash drive.
- **Lunch:** can be brought from home, or purchased at school. More information about school lunch, including a daily menu, can be found here: <http://nutrition.dadeschools.net>
- **Bus Service:** If your child is eligible for bus service, you will receive a postcard from the school district (probably in August) with details about your bus route and pickup/drop off times. This information is also available on the Student Portal. If your child is not eligible for bus service and you live in Pinecrest (usually those people within 1 mile of the school), you can request that the Village of Pinecrest schedule a People Mover stop near your home. If

you are interested in using this service in the 2018-19 school year, whether a retuning rider or a new one, you must let the Village know by completing the "Pincrest People Mover Stop Request" form at www.pinecrest-fl.gov/PPM or emailing your information to PPM@pinecrest-fl.gov. You can also visit www.pinecrest-fl.gov/PPM to see the new route once it is posted at the end of the summer.

- **Parking (Drop off/Pick up):** Parking is very limited but surprisingly manageable. Unlike elementary school, there is no specifically designated drop off/pick up spot. During drop off in the morning, you are welcome to park on the perimeter of the school (NOT in the teacher parking lot). Most parents drive past the front, stop at the crossing guard and let their child out. For pick up, set up a place to meet your child nearby the front/side of school. Pick up is very crowded but don't fret - it works. You and your child will figure out what works for you in the first week.
- **Clubs/Sports:** PMS offers a HUGE variety of activities and we highly encourage your child to get involved. Clubs and sports vary from year to year. Please go to palmettomiddle.com, and click on "Students" to see what clubs and sports are offered, and when. In the first weeks of school, your child will be given information about clubs and sports for the 2018-19 school year.
- **Summer Reading:** Please go to palmettomiddle.com, click on "Students", then "Student Resources," then "Summer Reading." In an effort to minimize loss of learning during the summer, Palmetto Middle School has provided students in grades 6-8 summer reading.
- **Special Programs:** Palmetto Middle is proud to announce that we are a Cambridge School! To read more about the program in general, go to <http://www.cie.org.uk>. Palmetto Middle also offers a Forensic Science Academy. To read more about these two special programs at PMS, go to palmettomiddle.com under 'Academics.' Besides these special programs, Palmetto Middle offers various levels of instruction, including gifted, advanced, general education, and remedial. In order to be in the gifted program, a student must have an EP (Education Plan). If you have any questions, contact the school to find out more information about appropriate class placement for your child.

Get Involved:

- **Volunteer!** Parent/Guardians, Grandparents, Community Businesses- We LOVE and NEED volunteers! Not only is it rewarding, but volunteering is the best way to know what is going on at your child's school. Please read the PTSA directory to see what committees we offer. Each one could use help. To volunteer, please email us at PalmettoMiddleVolunteers@gmail.com
- **JOIN THE PTSA!** Even if you can't volunteer, joining the PTSA gives you a voice on important issues related to your child's education. Each member is COUNTED and represented by our State organization when speaking to lawmakers in Florida about important legislation that affects YOU AND YOUR CHILD! If you are concerned about your child's education, their safety in schools, the tests that they are required to take, and many other issues, then joining the PTSA is the easiest way to have your voice heard. In addition, our monthly meeting agendas and minutes are posted online for your information and input all year round- even if you cannot attend the meetings.
- **Help support Palmetto Middle School PTSA at no cost to you.** Shop at Amazon? Simply add this bookmark to your computer and use it when you shop at Amazon. There is no additional charge to you, and Amazon will give our PTSA a small commission of all sales. Please share with friends and family. THANK YOU!
<http://www.amazon.com/?tag=palmettomiddleptsa-20>. **We also collect Box Tops** (box is in the office).
- Still have questions? Visit the PTSA in the cafeteria on, **Thursday, August 16th, 2pm-8pm** and **Friday, August 17th, 10am-2pm**, where PTSA representatives will be available to answer your questions or concerns.

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