



PALMETTO MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA

Parent Teacher Student Association | 6th - 8th Grade | Pinecrest, FL

New Families' Guide to Starting at Palmetto Middle School 2024-2025

Welcome to Palmetto Middle School!

Stay Informed:

- Sign up for our **e-newsletter** at <https://pmsptsa.org> and sign up for the "Lancer LINK".
- Download the FREE **Palmetto Middle School PTSA app**. Review instructions on <https://pmsptsa.org>
- "Like" us on **Facebook** (Palmetto Middle School PTSA) or "Follow" us on **Instagram** (PalmettoMiddle_PTSA)
- Bookmark the **school website**: <https://palmettomiddle.com> for important school information, including contact information for teachers.
- Register on the **MDCPS parent portal**: <https://mdcpsportal.dadeschools.net>. You will find information about your child, including class schedule and teachers, grades and bus information.
- Many useful links can be found in our *Link Tree*. Scan the QR for easy access including calendars, PTSA directory and more!
- There are class level WhatsApp groups. The purpose is for parents to connect and help each other out! There is a parent liaison for each grade that serves as administrator to help post PTSA information as well. To be added, please text Carolina Ballas (305) 713 6302 with your students grade level for the invitation link.



Important Dates:

- **Tuesday, August 13th: Orientation & Campus Preview.** All families welcome to come pick up any orders they made online from school store, visit location of classrooms, tour the new art walls and join a presentation by our Principal Valero at 7 PM. Food, snacks and drinks available for purchase in support of 8th grade Fund. Ice cream truck also available for purchases. Doors open 4:30 pm.
- **Wednesday, August 14th 9am-12noon: School Store Open** in Cafeteria. Pickup online pre-orders and purchase required PE Uniforms.
- **Thursday, August 15th: First Day of School.** School hours are 9:10 AM- 3:50 PM. Palmetto Middle has block scheduling – "A" days are periods 1, 3 & 5 and "B" days are periods 2, 4, & 6. The first day of school is an "A" day.
- **Wednesday, September 18th:**
 - **First PTSA General Meeting & Volunteer Orientation, 9:15 AM, Auditorium**
 - **Academic Options/Informational Meeting, 10 AM, Auditorium**
- **Date TO BE ANNOUNCED: Back to School Open House Night.**
- Please note 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, social media, and in the 'Lancer LINK' e-newsletter.

General Information:

- **Uniforms:** Palmetto Middle School Students are **required to wear a uniform**. To see the uniform policy, go to <https://palmettomiddle.com/uniform-policy/> . Students are also required to wear a separate uniform if they are taking Physical Education. 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 School Store. We recommend you purchase 2-3 PE uniforms to ensure you have a clean one to send with your child when needed.
- **Class Schedules:** Class schedules will be provided shortly prior to the first day of school on the MDCPS parent portal at <https://mdcpsportal.dadeschools.net>.

- **School Supply Lists:** Teachers will provide 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, and pens.
- **Lunch:** Can be brought from home or is available at no extra cost at school for 2024-2025. 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, whether a returning rider or a new one, you must let the Village know by completing the "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. Please, no double parking while you wait to pick up your child. You and your child will figure out what works for you in the first week.
- **Clubs/Sports:** PMS offers a variety of activities and we highly encourage your child to get involved. Clubs and sports vary from year to year. Please go to <https://palmettomiddle.com>, and click on "Students" to see what clubs and sports are offered, and when. Your child will be given information about clubs and sports for the 2024-2025 school year as they become available.
- **Summer Reading:** Please go to <https://palmettomiddle.com> for assignments to be completed before the first day of school. In an effort to minimize loss of learning during the summer, Palmetto Middle School provides all students in grades 6-8 summer reading.
- **Special Programs:** Palmetto Middle is proud to be a Cambridge School! To learn more about the program, go to <http://www.cie.org.uk>. Palmetto Middle also offers a Forensic Science Academy. To learn more about this program, go to <https://palmettomiddle.com> under 'Academics.' In addition, Palmetto Middle offers various levels of instruction, including gifted, advanced, general education and remedial. To be in the gifted program, a student must have an EP (Education Plan). Questions? Contact the school to find out more information about appropriate class placement for your child.

Get Involved:

- **Volunteer!** Parents/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. We have many opportunities, and no job is too small. For more information, join us at our **Volunteer Orientation on Thursday, September 18th at 9:15AM.**
- **JOIN THE PTSA!** Becoming a PTSA Member is not tied to any volunteer commitments! Support your child & school, as well as the programs & activities the PTSA helps provide with your membership. 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. We have general meetings throughout the school year, we hope to see you there!

Need more information?

Email pmsptsapres@gmail.com