

August 14, 2020

Good evening Palm Valley Families,

Your PVA staff returned to school this week to begin preparing and planning for a new year of learning and growing together. We had a very successful three days of professional development and will welcome our staff back again the week of August 24 to finalize our preparations, so we are fully ready to greet a little over 2100 students on the first day of the 2020-2021 school year.

There is **A LOT** of necessary communication in this message. Before proceeding, plan time to:

- Take a breath
- Sit for a while
- Take notes
- Visit a few school related websites
- Take another breath
- Plan next steps for you and your student

Parent/Guardian outcomes from this message should include:

- Knowing when I will be contacted by my child's teacher.
- Being more informed on what Meet the Teacher will look like.
- Knowing how to access Home Access Center.
- Knowing how to access Schoology.
- If applicable, learning more about distance learning.

All students will have an opportunity to virtually meet their teacher this year. This will take place in the form of a 10-minute virtual conference with the student, teacher, and parents/guardians. The time is for the student and teacher to get to know each other prior to the first day of school. Conferences will take place through homeroom teachers in elementary school and with your student's first period teacher in middle school.

Families will also receive a grade level or content specific PowerPoint presentation that will answer many of your questions on curriculum, instructional resources, first days of school, schedules, and safety procedures.

Monday, August 17th - Kindergarten families will receive an email notifying you of your child's teacher along with sign up information for a staggered start day and individual student virtual conferences. This email will be delivered between 3:00 and 3:30 pm.

Wednesday, August 26th - 1st-5th grade welcome emails from teachers will be sent to families between 3:00 and 3:30 pm. This communication will have a sign-up for individual student virtual conferences.

Wednesday, August 26th - Middle School Schedules will be accessible via Home Access Center, HAC, after 3:00 pm. <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/> You will need your HAC username and password to view your student's schedule. You will also receive an email from your student's first period teacher to sign up for individual student virtual conferences.

ACCESSING YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE IN HAC:

After logging in, you will see an overview snapshot of your student's weekly schedule. For a more detailed view, follow the steps below:

- Click the CLASSES icon at the top of the screen
- You should see CLASSWORK and SCHEDULE tabs
- Click on the SCHEDULE tab for your detailed schedule

MAKING A REQUEST FOR A MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE CHANGE

If a student has a question or concern about their schedule, they will need to see their guidance counselor during the first few days of school. (Ms. Anzualda A-L, Ms. Ferguson M-Z). If a course change is being requested, counselors will provide the "Schedule Change Request Form." Students will need to complete all necessary fields and return to their counselor. All requests will be processed and decisions will be made within the first 10 days of school. If necessary, distance learners can communicate to their counselor through Schoology for this process. Please be reminded that schedule changes for the following reasons will not be honored:

- Teacher preference request
- Limited availability in a class
- Courses in a particular order
- Modified period order
- Taking the same course virtually

Thursday, August 27th - Instructional Material and Technology Pick Up for all Distance Learners. A schedule of specific times will be forthcoming.

For our families participating in school-based distance learning, please see the videos below for examples of what a school-based distance learning day could look like. <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/online-learning/>

Schoology - Schoology will be one of the main platforms used by both brick and mortar students and distance-based learners. It will be important for all parents/guardians to have access to this resource. During your individual student conference, teachers will provide student logins and parent/guardian logins. More information, along with an upcoming tutorial session, can be found by viewing the website below and the Schoology Flier.

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/edtech/schoology/schoology-for-parents/>

[Schoology for Parents August 2020.pdf](#)

Home Access Center- All parent/guardians will need a Home Access Center, HAC, account.

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/>

[Register-for-Home-Access-Center.pdf](#)

The beginning of the school year is always very busy and sometimes a little overwhelming for all of us. This year will bring extra opportunities for all of us to work on our patience, flexibility, technology skills, and trust. Next week, we will share video segments that will allow families to virtually join us in learning more about what PVA will look like and how we will operate on a daily basis.

We are in this together and will continue to do everything in our power to create learning environments for your children that are safe, while not losing sight of the need for comfort, nurturing, and connections.

Thank you for your continued support and until next time, be well.

Sincerely,

Jessica Richardson- Principal