

Principal's Note

Palm Valley Academy: Week of 8/21 – 8/25

Dear PVA Families,

One full week the books (for most) and what a great start we have had. As we settle in to routines at school and at home, I'm extremely encouraged to see how hard everyone is working and the continual effort they put forth during what has no doubt been a successful first week to a school year. While the week certainly had a few hiccups and unexpected challenges (both at school and home I'm sure), I have seen continual improvement, problem solving, and the overcoming of obstacles across settings. This is a testament to the resolute dedication and commitment to the educational process that is being shown by our teachers, school support staff, students, and parents. We will never eliminate or find perfect solutions to some of the challenges we face, but I sit here today with a warm and full heart knowing that both in the building and out, I see a group of people that show up each day to do the hard work, pour their heart and soul into everything they do, and work the long hours necessary for the betterment of our students and our school. At times, it has been and may continue to be a bit bumpy, but as we enter another full week, I can say without hesitation that PVA is a great place and that you, along with the individuals inside this building, make all the difference. With that in mind, we will celebrate our successes, admit our mistakes, and continue to get better, heart first and mission bound to **P**ursue excellence, **V**alue all, and **A**chieve success. Thank you all for such a great start!

Please take time to review the below information, reminders and upcoming events.

Until next weekend, take care and Go BOBCATS!

INFO FOR ALL (K-8)

Arrival Reminders/Updates

- The carline is open for arrival between 8:05am and 8:35am
 - Early Arrivals (PRIOR TO 8:05): If you arrive prior to 8:05am, students must stay inside their vehicles as staff members are NOT in their duty spots and ready to welcome students.
 - Late Arrivals (8:35am-8:45am): Students and teachers must be allotted time to get to their classes by 8:40am for the day to begin. Thus, starting at 8:35am, the carline will be shut down (cars already

in the line will be unloaded by staff), the middle gate will be opened and cars will be ushered over to the bus loop where students will unload, be given a tardy slip and head onto class. Parents, for these first couple of weeks, we will also hand you a TARDY ALERT flyer as a gentle reminder to the arrival times. As a parent, I certainly understand tough mornings are a part of life and that's ok, but when at all possible its important students are on campus and in class prior to the day beginning. Thank you for your support and understanding.

- Arriving past 8:45am: The school staff has obligations and must be in the building by 8:45am. Any cars arriving 8:45am will need to park and walk students in the front office.
- Car-tags MUST BE DISPLAYED UNTIL STUDENTS ARE IN YOUR VEHICLE and have the following information: FIRST NAME, LAST NAME, GRADE LEVEL. Thank you!
- Students MUST enter and exit on the passenger side of the vehicle.
- Adults MUST remain in vehicles at all times.

Dismissal Reminders/Updates

Please review the RAINY DAY DISMISSAL/HOLD Procedures (can be found on the PVA homepage within the July 17th Summer Communication). I apologize for the late switch Tuesday afternoon, but it was the right call. Thank you for your grace and patience with us as we safely loaded more than 700 students into cars that afternoon! We will get better, but lets just all do our daily rain dance each afternoon! We will continue to monitor the skies and communicate any change in dismissal AS SOON AS possible each day. Remember, PLEASE have your tag labeled and displayed until all kids are in your car – Rainy day or not. Thank you!

Cell Phones/Smart Watches

It is a state mandate and SJCS D Policy that all cellphones and smartwatches are off and away during instructional blocks during the school day. Students may have phones/watches out upon arrival and dismissal, but they must be turned off and put away at all other times. The only exception to this is the middle school policy, which allows phones/watches to be on during transitions.

- Elementary (K-5): ALL Phones and Smart Watches are off and in their backpacks at all time.
- Middle School (6-8): Students will turn-off phones/watches and place in the teachers provided pocket chart, where they will stay until students are dismissed. Additionally, ONE EAR BUD may be used during arrival and dismissal, but off and away at any other point of the day.

We kindly ask that parents continue to assist us in discussing appropriate cell phones use regarding restrooms, pictures/videos, and social media. We appreciate your support and understanding.

PVA Curriculum Chats

Thursday's Middle School Curriculum Chat was a resounding success! It seemed like a time that was enjoyed by all! Thank you to all who could attend. We hope the information you received was valuable and the time you spent walking the house gave you a little bit of insight into your students daily routine.

Elementary Open House- September 7, 2023 @ 5:00-8:00pm (SEE ATTACHED FLYER FOR DETAILS)

A Note From Deputy Wilson

Welcome back Bobcats! I'm so excited to be back at PVA, I missed you guys during the summer. I wanted to share a couple of reminders with each of you to get us back into good, safe habits.

- Remember to always wear your helmet if you're riding a bike, scooter or skateboard.
- Look both ways before crossing the street and use the crosswalk if one is provided.
- Never get into a car with someone you don't know and don't accept gifts or candy from strangers.

I look forward to another great year of fun and learning with each of you.

Your friend,
Deputy Wilson

FAST Testing is Upon Us

Please see the attached letters from our Testing Coordinator, Ms. Audra Wilson for the latest information pertaining to your students and their upcoming assessments.

District Training Opportunity!

The Family Technology Training will cover the basics of Clever, Schoology, and Microsoft 365. Families will learn skills and strategies to help their child succeed with the technology tools available in St. Johns County School District.

****See attached flyer for more****

GRADE SPECIFIC INFO (K-8)

Middle School Transitions/Book-Bags (6-8)

As your students begin to dig into the curriculum, their backpacks and belongings are going to become more and more cumbersome. Please remind students to clean out backpacks as often as necessary. I will be speaking to teachers about potentially consolidating binders and materials as well. Just a reminder, locker information (including combinations) have been assigned and are uploaded on HAC for student access.

Middle School Volleyball Try-outs (6-8)

Sign-ups for try-outs are posted on the school website under the Athletics tab
ALL STUDENTS MUST BE SIGNED UP TO PARTICIPATE.

- Girls Tryouts: Mon. 21st and Tues. 22nd @ 3:20-5:30pm (Callbacks Wed.-info to come)
- Boys Tryouts: Thurs. 23rd and Fri. 24th @ 3:20-5:30pm

PVA's First Cross County Running Club is NOW! (6-8)

What is Cross Country?

Cross country is competitive distance running over varying terrain. At the middle school level, students race 3km, (1.86 miles). High School runners race 5km, (3.1 miles).

The PVA Cross Country Club is designed to introduce students to distance running, goal setting, running competition and promote physical fitness and training skills. We will begin practice sessions on Tuesday, September 5th. The club will meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00pm to 4:00pm, at the outdoor PE Court.

****SEE ATTACHED FLYER FOR FURTHER DETAILS! ****

Middle School Soccer Tryouts are THIS WEEK (6-8)

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at Davis Park. Bring plenty of water!

- Monday and Tuesday: 3:45 – 5:15pm
- Wednesday: 3:15 – 4:45pm

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. McArthur (coach Mac) at cmac252525@yahoo.com

PTO HAPPENINGS (ALL GRADES)

- Dome Hats Fundraiser: What an AMAZING FUNDRAISER TO KICK OFF THE YEAR! Once hats have arrived and delivered, our PVA Spirit-Day Fridays will include PVA HATS! Congratulations to 1st Grade for winning the Pizza Party with 137 hats sold, ONLY 5 more than 4th! Thank you to everyone for

helping the school earn over \$6,000 and THANK YOU to *Dome Hats* for sponsoring this event/contest!

- The PVA Apparel Store Opens TOMORROW (8/21) for only a short period of time! Updated link to be sent by PTO soon!
- Panera Spirit Night Aug. 23rd @ 4:00-8:00pm
- Back to School Bingo is Aug. 25th @ 6:00-8:00pm. Pre-order dinner from Trasca to be delivered to PVA cafeteria. [CLICK HERE TO SIGN-UP/PRE-ORDER!](#)

UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE:

- Wednesday, August 23rd
 - Panera PVA Spirit Night! See details from PTO.
- Friday, August 25th
 - Back to School Bingo! 6:00-8:00pm. See details from PTO.
- Thursday, September 7th
 - Elementary Curriculum Chat @ 5:00-8:00pm. Details attached!

That's all for now Bobcats. Have a great week!

Respectfully,

Zach