

Palm Valley Academy: Week of 8/18 – 8/22

Good afternoon, PVA Community!

One full week the books (for most) and what a great start we have had. As we settle into our 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. In just a couple of days, I have seen continual improvement, problem solving, and the overcoming of obstacles across settings. This is a testament to the dedication and commitment to the educational process that is being shown by our teachers, school support staff, students, and parents. I can say without hesitation that PVA is a great place and that you, along with the individuals inside the 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!

Mr. Strom

PVA Vision Statement

Building purposeful leaders where everyone shines through achievement.

We Pursue Excellence.

We Value All.

We Achieve Success.

We are PVA!

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. 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 first bell. 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 after 8:45am will need to park and walk students in the front office.

Dismissal Reminders/Updates

Please review the RAINY DAY DISMISSAL/HOLD Procedures (can be found on the PVA homepage within the July Summer Communications and below). As these summer storms continue to roll in, rest assured 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!

RAINY DAY DISMISSAL PROCEDURES



2025 - 2026

RAINY DAY HOLD vs. RELEASE

What you need to know...

Rainy day dismissals require an all-hands on deck approach, in which we will all need to work diligently to ensure students get home safe and sound. This is not an ideal dismissal scenario, but by working together, all students will get home as safely and quickly as possible. We appreciate your patience and support as we work to accomplish this feat.

There are TWO different types of Rainy Day Dismissals that we will use at PVA. One for passing weather and another for severe, sustained weather. Depending on local skies, administration will make the call to do one or the other by 2:40 p.m. if at all possible. A school messenger will be sent out announcing the dismissal changes (BE SURE YOU ARE SIGNED UP AND RECIEVEING TEXT ALERTS). Please read and become familiar with BOTH types of Rainy Day Dismissals and prepare as necessary.

RAINY DAY HOLD:

A **Rainy Day HOLD** will be called when inclement weather is in the area but looks to be quickly passing. If this is called, all bridge goers will be held within the building. Once the weather lightens and it is safe for student travel, the hold will be lifted and students will be able to dismiss as normal. In a HOLD, students will go home as planned, they will just be **delayed**. A message will be communicated to parents both when the Rainy Day HOLD is placed and when it is lifted. **No check-outs will occur at this time.**

RAINY DAY RELEASE:

A **Rainy Day RELEASE** will be called when inclement weather is in the area and looks to be long lasting. If this is announced, all BIKER/WALKER/GOLF CART students will be held within the building and **EVERYONE** will become a car rider. The bridge gates will remain locked and closed, as NO walk-up check-outs will be allowed. A message will be communicated to parents when a Rainy Day RELEASE is announced (no later than 2:40 p.m. if at all possible) so arrangements can be made for student pick-up. AGAIN, THERE WILL BE NO BRIDGE ACCESS WHEN A RAINY DAY RELEASE IS CALLED AND ALL STUDENTS WILL BE CAR RIDERS. Please make sure you have your students name and grade level on your dashboard, along with your ID.

****In the event of Rainy Day Hold or Release, please be attentive to all alerts and messages****

Access to the School:

Whether you are attending a conference with the teacher in person, volunteering in the classroom/events, escorting your kindergartener to class on their first official day of school, joining us for a presentation/celebration, and/or attending a field trip, you must have completed the **School Access Form: Volunteer Application**. This is a district policy and there are no exceptions. We truly do not like to turn families away, so please complete and submit the application by following the link: <https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/OTY0OTplbi1VUw==>

Cell Phones/Smart Watches

Per Florida State Statute, students are no longer permitted to have cell phones or smart watches, that can communicate, during the instructional day. As a school, we will fully embrace an "Away for the Day" policy and know that our students will have more opportunities to just be a kid a little bit longer while reducing distractions during the instructional day. For more research and best practices, please check out the "Away for the Day" resource!

Additional PVA "Away for the Day" details:

- Student cell phones and/or smart watches must be "off and away" between 8:40-3:00 every day.
- Phones and/or smart watches may be out and used in the morning along with ONE earbud (8:20-8:40) and then must either be locked and stored in lockers, in a backpack, or in a place that is secured during the school day (8:40-3:00).
- PVA is not responsible for lost or damaged items.
- Teachers and staff will remain consistent from class to class and not allow students to use phones during the day; laptops or iPads will be used during the instructional day if internet is needed for a lesson or activity.
- Students may not use their phones during class transitions or during lunch time.
- If a student is found using their devices, the following progression of support will be utilized:
 - 1st Offense: Device confiscated and taken to front office for student to pick up at end of day and an appropriate consequence will be assigned.
 - 2nd Offense: Device confiscated and taken to front office. Parent will be contacted to pick up device at end of day. Appropriate consequences will be assigned.
 - 3rd Offense: Device confiscated and taken to front office. Parent will be contacted to pick up device at end of day. Appropriate consequences will be assigned.

PTO, PTO, PTO!!

Palm Valley Academy and the PVA PTO share the same vision for success, which is only accomplished by leaning and relying on the strength of everyday working relationships between students, parents and staff. The effort the parent-members, chair-members, and board members put forth daily to support our students, staff and school is nothing less than extraordinary. On behalf of everyone here at PVA, we sincerely thank all our PTO members who work so hard year-round to ensure a safe and educationally enriched environment here at PVA. Please consider joining our PTO HERE!!!

PVA Curriculum Chats

Elementary Curriculum Chat- Tuesday, August 26th – Further Info Coming
Middle School Curriculum Chat- Thursday, August 28th – See Flyer Below

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

Getting Off to a Great Start! A NOTE FROM OUR COUNSELORS

The start of a new school year can be met with a lot of excitement, apprehension and anxiety...and I am just talking about the parents! There are a lot of unknowns that each new school year brings. Every met expectation results in relief and every unmet expectation often results in disappointment. Every year is an opportunity for academic growth and the opportunity to build resiliency. Resiliency is defined as the capacity to withstand or recover quickly from difficulties or demonstrating "toughness" in difficult situations. Of course this looks different for Kindergartners than it does for middle schoolers but how it is achieved is the same.

Here are some tips and reminders to help your children transition to a new school year and develop resiliency throughout the year:

- 1. Encourage Open Communication:** Talking about feelings helps children understand and express their emotions. Ask about their day, listen without judgment, and validate their feelings. Let them know it's okay to feel nervous, excited, or unsure.
- 2. Set Realistic Expectations:** Setting achievable goals helps children feel capable and boosts self-esteem. Celebrate small wins, whether it's mastering a new skill, making a new friend, or completing an assignment. Praise effort over perfection.
- 3. Model Problem Solving and Coping Strategies:** Children learn resilience by seeing how their parents handle challenges. Share age-appropriate stories of when you've faced setbacks, how you overcame them and how you didn't shy away from a challenge.
- 4. Promote a Growth Mindset:** Focusing on effort and learning rather than outcomes helps build resilience. Use language like "You didn't get it this time, but you can try again" or "Mistakes are a part of learning." Encourage them to embrace challenges.
- 5. Provide Emotional Support (without trying to save them):** When we see our children struggle, it is tempting to want to take their discomfort away. However, by giving children space to experience discomfort while you provide emotional validation, it boosts their self-confidence and helps them feel safe and secure. Acknowledge their anxieties about school and offer reassurance. Let them know they can count on you for support, no matter what happens.
- 6. Create a Positive Environment for Learning:** A dedicated space to study and be creative builds focus and reduces distractions. Set up a quiet and organized study area. Keep supplies accessible and encourage a positive, distraction-free atmosphere for homework or reading.
- 7. Teach Time Management:** Learning to prioritize tasks and manage time helps build independence and reduces stress. Use planners or digital apps to organize schoolwork and extracurricular activities. Teach how to break tasks into smaller steps to avoid feeling overwhelmed.
- 8. Talk About Failure in a Positive Light:** Resilient students understand that failure is part of life and help them grow. When they face setbacks, discuss what they learned from the experience and how they can approach the next challenge differently.
- 9. Encourage Healthy Sleep Habits:** Adequate sleep enhances mood, focus, and the ability to handle stress. Stick to a consistent bedtime, avoid screen time before bed, and ensure they have a calming pre-sleep routine.
- 10. Stay Connected with Teachers and School Staff:** Knowing the school environment and building a relationship with educators makes kids feel supported. Attend parent/teacher meetings, stay in touch via email, and volunteer if possible. This shows children the importance of community involvement.
- 11. Be Patient and Flexible:** Some children take longer to adjust to a new school year. Be understanding if your child takes time to settle in and adjust routines if necessary to ease stress.

ELEMENTARY INFO (K-5)

No news to report this week 😊

MIDDLE SCHOOL INFO (6-8)

Middle School Transitions/Book-Bags

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 and to make use of their lockers. Just a reminder, locker information (including combinations) have been assigned and are uploaded on HAC for student access.

Middle School Volleyball Try-outs THIS WEEK!

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

WHO: 6th, 7th, & 8th grade Girls interested in trying out for PVA volleyball team.

WHEN:

- Monday, August 18th (Tryout)
- Tuesday, August 19th (Call back only)
- Wednesday, August 20th (Call back only if needed)

WHERE: PVA Gym

TIME: 3:20pm – 5:30pm

PTO HAPPENINGS (ALL GRADES)

- Please join us Wednesday, August 20th for our first GENERAL PTO MEETING OF THE YEAR @ 9:00am in the PVA Café. Please check into the front office upon your arrival.
- The PVA Apparel Store is OPEN thru 8/31!! Get all your PVA Spirit wear TODAY! [SHOP ALL THE GEAR HERE!](#)

THIS WEEK'S DATES OF NOTE:

- Monday, August 18th
 - Girls Volleyball Tryouts – See info above for details
- Wednesday, August 20th
 - Early Release
 - PTO GENERAL MEETING @ 9:00am in the PVA Café

That's all for this week!

Sincerely,

Zach Strom

PVA School Principal



FORTIFYFL
Suspicious Activity Reporting App

See suspicious activity
at your school?
Report it.

Visit www.getfortifyfl.com to
submit a tip or download the app

#FORTIFYFLORIDA

The advertisement features a dark blue background with a white diagonal stripe. On the left, there is a red megaphone icon and the text 'FORTIFYFL Suspicious Activity Reporting App'. Below this, it says 'See suspicious activity at your school? Report it.' and includes a circular logo with 'PVA' and 'COMMUNITY'. At the bottom left are three small circular icons. On the right, there are two smartphones displaying the app's interface. At the bottom right, it says 'Visit www.getfortifyfl.com to submit a tip or download the app' and '#FORTIFYFLORIDA'.

Prepared

Respectful

Inspired

Determined

PVA Middle School CURRICULUM CHAT

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28TH

HR

Doors open at 5:30pm

5:30-5:40 Transition to 1st Period Class

01

1st Period

5:40-5:50

02

2nd Period

5:55-6:05

03

3rd Period

6:10-6:20

04

4th Period

6:25-6:35

05

5th Period

6:40-6:50

06

6th Period

6:55-7:05

07

7th Period

7:10-7:20

Follow your student's schedule and meet their teachers.
Friendly reminder - paper schedules will not be provided. Schedules are
available on HAC.

Engaged

Prepared

Respectful

Inspired

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the link™
space that inspires



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