



## *Building Purposeful Leaders Where Everyone Shines Through Achievement*

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Zachary Strom, Principal

Bonnie Curran, Amy Nass, and Valerie Etienne-Leveille, Assistant Principals

August 4, 2025

Palm Valley Academy Bobcat Families,

Over the past four weeks, you have received a lot of information from me that will remain relevant and important as the year goes on. Please know these communications and their attachments will stay available on our school website for reference throughout the year as needed. However, please also know that all of us here at PVA are willing and able to help guide, or assist you and your family with any questions, concerns, or situations that may arise as the year gets going. So, keep the school's phone number handy and please don't hesitate to reach out 😊

*As you know, this summer I've released a series of communications focused on different "Big Rocks" here at PVA, along with important upcoming dates of note. As a reminder, these communications, along with any other pertinent information that becomes available will added to the Communication section of the PVA Homepage -<https://www-pva.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>. Each week's focus of information is as follows:*

- ~~July 14, 2025 - General Welcome and Immediate Information~~
- ~~July 21, 2025 - PVA Upcoming Events and PTO/Volunteer Information~~
- ~~July 28, 2025 - All Things Logistical and Operational~~
- **August 4, 2025 - Official Welcome Back and PVA Day 1/Week 1**

This, the fourth and final of Summer communications, is focused on being prepared for "PVA Day 1/Week 1". You will find information on the school's mission and vision, a few of our student supports, important cafeteria news, and quite a few other links/forms that could be useful as we get closer to August 11<sup>th</sup>. When time allows this week, please read through the communication (detailed below in This Weeks Content) and keep in mind where to find them to reference as needed throughout the year. But first, a quick reminder of upcoming important dates.

### Upcoming Dates:

- ~~7/14 7/15 Kindergarten Screeners~~
- ~~7/22 7/23 Middle School Schedule Preview (sign into HAC to PREVIEW your student's schedule.~~  
~~As a reminder, this is only a PREVIEW and classes are subject to change.~~
- ~~7/24 Kindergarten Social~~
- ~~7/31 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation (See flyer for sign-up and additional info below)~~
- ~~8/4 Kindergarten staggered start information and sign-up will be sent via email~~
- ~~8/6 All elementary families will receive an email from their child's assigned teacher~~



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- 8/7 Middle school schedule available in HAC
- 8/7 Kindergarten Meet the Teacher from 5pm-6pm
- 8/8 **Staggered Elementary Meet the Teacher:**
- 8:00am-9:00am for Last Names = A-J
  - 9:30am-10:30am for Last Names = K-R
  - 11:00am-12:00pm for Last Names = S-Z
- Staggered Middle School Walk Your Schedule** (teachers will not be available):
- 12:30pm-1:00pm for Last Names = A-J
  - 1:30pm-2:00pm for Last Names = K-R
  - 2:30pm-3:00pm for Last Names = S-Z
- 8/11 First Day of School 😊
- 8/11-8/14 Kindergarten Staggered Start (sign-up using link in the 8/4 email)
- 8/15 First Full Day for Kindergarten Classes (Tears and Cheers Parents breakfast in Café from 8:45-9:30am) Sign-up HERE: [All Volunteers: Tears and Cheers Breakfast 2025](#)
- 8/20 1<sup>st</sup> PTO General Meeting in Café @ 9:00am – JOIN US!
- 8/26 Elementary Curriculum Chats (PM) – Details forthcoming
- 8/28 Middle School Curriculum Chats (PM) – Details forthcoming

## **THIS WEEKS CONTENT**

### **YOUR OFFICIAL WELCOME BACK – DAY 1/WEEK 1 INFO**

**Front Office Phone:** (904)547-4200

**Front Office Hours:** 7:45am – 3:45pm

**School Hours:** 8:40am – 3:00pm

**Wednesdays:** 8:40am – 2:00pm

**Early Release Pickup Cut-off Times: 2:15pm (MTRF) and 1:15pm on W**

**\*\*PLEASE BE SURE TO REVIEW ALL OF LAST WEEK'S SAFETY AND PROCEDURAL INFORMATION- IF YOU MISSED THE COMMUNICATION, IT CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE\*\***



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**PVA's Mission and Vision-**

***Building purposeful leaders where everyone shines through achievement.***

 <b>OUR MISSION</b>  <b>WE PURSUE EXCELLENCE.</b> <b>WE VALUE ALL.</b> <b>WE ACHIEVE SUCCESS.</b>  <b>WE ARE PVA!</b>	<b>BOBCATS SHOW PRIDE, WE ARE...</b>  <b>P</b> REPARED <b>R</b> ESPECTFUL <b>I</b> NSPIRED <b>D</b> ETERMINED <b>E</b> NGAGED
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**HAC (HOME ACCESS CENTER)**

Parents and Guardians will be able to view and/or print their child's educational information and report cards from Palm Valley Academy through HAC, (Home Access Center). If you need a HAC login or HAC password reset, please go directly to the [HAC website](#). For important HAC information, please make sure to read HAC Directions first. If you are experiencing issues with obtaining your HAC access, please email Tatiana Tomei-Marques @ [Tatiana.TomeiMarques@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Tatiana.TomeiMarques@stjohns.k12.fl.us)



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## **HELPFUL SCHOOL BASED LINKS**

On the [PVA Homepage](#), you will find a wide range of important forms and documents under the section Helpful Links. While many of the documents are from last year, they are in the process of being updated and should be done prior to August 11<sup>th</sup>. Please keep this resource in mind as the year gets underway. Below are the current resources available.

### Important Forms and Documents

PVA Student and Family Handbook  
PVA Absentee Form  
PVA Dismissal Change Form

### Parent/Guardian Information

School Access – Visitors and Volunteer Clearance  
HAC Access  
Master Calendar  
SJCSJ Lunch Menu Website  
Year-At-A-Glance (pacing guide and content standards for selected courses)  
High School Academy Application Information  
SJCSJ Enrollment Policy  
Attendance Zoning Information  
Attendance Zone Locator  
Residency & Guardianship Policy  
Bullying Prevention Presentation  
Use of Service Animals by Individuals with Disabilities  
And More!

## **HELPFUL DISTRICT BASED LINKS**

The [St. Johns County School District website](#) is also a very important resource to keep at your fingertips. Like our school site, the district links are currently “under construction”, but should be fully updated by August 12<sup>th</sup>. Below are the current resources available on the district’s website.

### SJCSJ - Families Tab

Families FAQ  
Character Counts!  
Home Education  
Parent Resource Guide  
Report Bullying  
Safe & Drug Free Schools  
Student Progression Plan



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Student Transfer and Choice Options  
VPK Information  
Year-at-a-Glance Pacing Guides  
And More!

## **REMAINING IMPORTANT AND NOTEWORTHY:**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION (FIRST COMMUNICATED 7/14)**

#### **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==>

#### **Elementary Meet and Greet:**

This is your time to “Meet the Teacher” and get acquainted with the PVA campus. Please see the above staggered schedule to accommodate all families in our hallways and parking areas. During this event, students will walk the building, meet their teacher(s) and drop off any school supplies they’d like to bring. Representatives from Transportation, Food Service, School Clinic, Extended Day, and other areas of service will be onsite and available to answer questions.

#### **Middle School Walk Your Schedule:**

Middle school students and families are invited to visit the campus, pick up their class schedules, and walk through their day at their own pace. This is a great opportunity to locate classrooms, practice locker combinations, and get a feel for the flow of the school day before the first bell rings. Please note that teachers will not be available during this time, but staff will be on hand to help with directions and any general questions. We look forward to seeing you and helping you feel confident and prepared for a strong start to the year! Please see the schedule above!

#### **An Important Legislative Update: K-8 Phone & Smart Watch “Away for the Day” Policy**

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!



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### ***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:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Device confiscated and taken to front office for student to pick up at end of day and an appropriate consequence will be assigned.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

- Check out the second Summer Communication sent on July 21<sup>st</sup> for tons of additional information on all the things PTO! Or, for more information about PTO membership opportunities and/or additional ways to volunteer see the attached membership flyer or visit the PTO website at <http://www.pvapro.org/>.

Have a great week everyone... stay dry, stay cool, and stay hydrated! We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Zachary R. Strom  
School Principal  
Palm Valley Academy



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The background of the central graphic is a vibrant collage of various fruits and leaves. It includes slices of watermelon, kiwi, and citrus, as well as whole fruits like apples, grapes, and a kiwi. The colors are bright and saturated, creating a cheerful and healthy atmosphere. The text "BACK TO SCHOOL" is centered over this background in a large, bold, green font with a white outline and a slight drop shadow.

# BACK TO SCHOOL

APPLY FOR FREE AND  
REDUCED LUNCH HERE:



SET UP ONLINE  
PAYMENTS HERE:



<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/food/free/>