



Building Purposeful Leaders Where Everyone Shines Through Achievement

Zachary Strom, Principal

Bonnie Curran and Amy Nass, Assistant Principals

July 21, 2025

Palm Valley Academy Bobcat Families,

Hello Bobcats and happy summer once again! As I mentioned in last week's correspondence, I've created a series of communications focused on different "Big Rocks" here at PVA, along with important upcoming dates of note. These communications, along with any other pertinent information that becomes available will be sent out on the below dates. If you miss one, no worries, please visit our website as everything I send will be 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 second of our four summer communications, is focused on PVA's scheduled events to start the year, volunteer processes and policies, as well as all things PTO- more specifically, an introduction to the PTO Board Members, ways the PTO continues to support our students, staff, and school year-in and year-out, along with membership information. Please take a few moments to read the following information and as always, don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or clarifications as needed.

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 up until August 7th.

7/24 Kindergarten Social [SEE DETAILS AND SIGN-UP HERE!](#)

7/31 6th 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

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



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- 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 the Café from 8:45-9:30am)
- 8/20 1st 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 WEEK'S CONTENT

Interested in Volunteering?


EVEN IF YOU'VE DONE THIS IN THE PAST... Please, register now to become an approved St Johns County Volunteer. Make sure to include your complete FIRST, MIDDLE and LAST NAME on the application. **You must be an approved volunteer in the St. Johns County system to enter the school beyond the front desk. Click the link below to sign-up today.**

[CLICK HERE! FOR SJCSO VOLUNTEER APPLICATION!](#)


The St. Johns County Volunteer Application is an application for clearance to be on school campus. 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, volunteering in the lunchroom, joining us for a presentation/celebration, and/or attending a field trip, you must have completed the above form. This is a district policy with no exceptions.

All Things PTO!


PTO stands for Parent-Teacher Organization. The PTO consists of parents and teachers working together to support and enrich all students here at Palm Valley Academy. Our PTO supports school staff, helps promote student self-esteem, and assists efforts to solve school needs through volunteers and funding. All parents at Palm Valley Academy are encouraged to participate in PTO activities whenever possible, but you do not have to commit to anything. There is no mandated hours of service to complete, no commitment to volunteer, or not even a promise to attend the meetings. **It is all AT-WILL.** But as everyone knows, the more opinions and voices, the better ideas that will be brought to the table for discussion.



Why Join The PVA PTO?




The PTO Needs → YOU!




1. CHILDREN BENEFIT

Research shows that participating in your child's school and showing engagement helps them perform better academically




2. THE SCHOOL BENEFITS

PTO performs support for school teachers and administration which in turn creates a positive & caring atmosphere in the school



3. MAKE CONNECTIONS

Get to know the teachers & staff better and make life-long friends with other parents at the school!




4. IT'S GOOD FOR YOU

Socializing with other parents and volunteering to do good for your child's school is fun, healthy and rewarding!

READY TO SIGN UP?

Either use the QR Code or contact PTO Membership at membership@pvapto.org





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For those who are interested and able... There are daily opportunities at Palm Valley Academy members to volunteer in and out of school- Helping in the classroom, volunteering in the cafeteria, lending a hand in the library, chairing a PTO committee, or assisting at a PTO event are all example of PTO activities and involvement.

Our PTO has several scheduled family and fundraising events that are planned and facilitated by committee assignments. Check out the flyer below for all the PTO has done for us our Bobcats!

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 Board and members who work so hard year-round to ensure a safe and educationally enriched environment here at PVA.

See the below page for an introduction from our PTO President, Ms. Amy Stellwagen, opportunities and ways to get involved with the PTO immediately, PTO membership options and for important dates and information. You can also visit the PTO website at <http://www.pvpto.org/>.

A colorful flyer titled "DID YOU KNOW.... THE PALM VALLEY PTO DOES THAT?!" featuring a paw print icon in each section. The flyer lists various PTO activities and programs in different colored boxes.

DID YOU KNOW.... THE PALM VALLEY PTO DOES THAT?!

- SCHOOL UPGRADES**
ENSURE A SAFE & TECHNOLOGICAL UPDATED ENVIRONMENT TO LEARN!
 - * Yearly Technology Subscriptions and Curriculum Supports
 - * Playground Updates and Upgrades as Needed
 - * Campus Landscaping and Regular Beautification Projects
- SCHOOL PROGRAMS**
ATTEND TO THE NEEDS OF ALL CHILDREN THROUGH SPECIALIZED SUPPORTS!
 - * First Day Folders, Car Tags, SSYRA Books
 - * Character Counts Awards and Celebrations
 - * CAT ART, Staff Professional Development, and more!
- SCHOOL EVENTS/FUNDRAISERS**
RAISE MONEY, FOSTER PARENT INVOLVEMENT & CREATE MEMORIES!
 - * Bobcat Bolts & Carnivals
 - * Family Fun & Event Nights
 - * Holiday Parties
 - * School Dances
 - * Teacher Appreciation Week
 - * Celebrations/Ceremonies
- TEACHER/STAFF SUPPORT**
HAPPY TEACHERS & STAFF BENEFIT THE STUDENTS!
 - * Room Parent Program
 - * Staff Breakfasts & Luncheons
 - * Teacher Appreciation & Hospitality
 - * Organization of Volunteers
 - * Teacher Grants & Requests
 - * Summer Tours
- SCHOOL MARKETING/RECRUITMENT**
MAKE CONNECTIONS AND GROW OUR COMMUNITY!
 - * Community Flyers and Communication
 - * Partners in Education
 - * Occupy Booths at School Events

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS TO HELP OUT!
PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A PART OF THE PTO TODAY!
If interested please visit [pvpto.org](http://www.pvpto.org), attend a meeting or contact PTO
Membership at membership@pvpto.org



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A LETTER FROM YOUR PTO PRESIDENT

Dear Bobcat Families,

My name is Amy Stellwagen, and I am incredibly excited to serve as your PTO President for the 2025–2026 school year! I'm the proud mom of a rising 6th grader, 2nd grader, and an incoming Kindergartner! I've been volunteering at Palm Valley Academy for several years now, including serving as President last year.

PVA is a truly special place—our amazing teachers, staff, and administration work tirelessly to give your children the best educational experience possible, and I'm so grateful to be a part of this community.

I wanted to take a moment to introduce you to the PTO and share more about what we do.

The PTO plays a vital role in supporting our school. We work hand in hand with the PVA staff to help fund and organize many important programs and events throughout the year. While we always welcome volunteers, your membership donation has a direct and meaningful impact. PTO funds help support:

- Classroom setup and materials
- Playground equipment
- Library books
- Computer software and educational resources
- Staff development and appreciation
- School-wide events like Fall and Spring Festivals, Book Fair, Holiday Shop, Middle School Dances, Kindergarten Welcome Socials, and 5th and 8th Grade Promotions

And that's just the beginning! Your support helps enrich the educational experience for all PVA students—and we truly couldn't do it without you.

This year, I'm thrilled to work alongside an incredible team of board members:

- Brittany Hulsey - President-Elect
- Andrea Kirkland - Treasurer
- Brittany Dunning Pavlock – Elementary VP
- Tanja Treen – Middle School VP
- Mare Guglielmo & Wanwisa Chanasit – Co-Recording Secretaries

If you see us around campus, please don't hesitate to say hello! We'd love to meet you and encourage you to get involved—whether by volunteering for an event or simply supporting the PTO through your membership.

Thank you for being part of our amazing Bobcat community. We're looking forward to a fantastic school year ahead!

GO BOBCATS!

Amy Stellwagen

PTO President 2025–2026



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SEE PTO WEBSITE FOR PRINTABLE FORM



Palm Valley Academy PTO Member Sponsorship Form



I WOULD PREFER THE BRONZE MEMBERSHIP YEARLY FEE OF \$25.00 ONLY (MAGNET) _____

\$500

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

BOBCAT OF THE YEAR

PTO Membership Dues, \$10 Spirit Wear Voucher, FREE Yearbook, Vehicle Magnet, VIP Access to include priority sign-up opportunities, early and exclusive event access, reserved seating at school events and ceremonies, and an OVERFLOW Parking Spot!

\$250

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

PLATINUM BOBCAT

PTO Membership Dues, \$10 Spirit Wear Voucher, FREE Yearbook, Vehicle Magnet, VIP Access to include priority sign-up opportunities, early and exclusive event access, reserved seating at school events and ceremonies, and more!

\$130

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

GOLD BOBCAT

PTO Membership Dues, \$10 Spirit Wear Voucher, Vehicle Magnet, and a FREE Yearbook!

\$50

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

SILVER BOBCAT

PTO Membership Dues, \$10 Spirit Wear Voucher, and a Vehicle Magnet!

Name _____ Phone # _____

Email _____

Home Address _____



Sponsorship Level ___ \$500 BOBCAT OF THE YEAR ___ \$250 PLATINUM ___ \$100 GOLD ___ \$50 SILVER ___ \$25 BRONZE

Payment Method ___ Check ___ Cash ___ Credit Card (QR Code) Date of Payment: _____

*If Paying By Check Please Make Payable to Palm Valley PTO and staple to this form.

* If Paying By Cash Please staple in an enclosed envelope to this form and hand in at school front office to obtain a receipt

Thank You So Much For Your Contribution!



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SEE PTO WEBSITE FOR PRINTABLE FORM



Palm Valley Academy PTO Membership Form



Your Information

Name _____

I have _____ student(s) enrolled at Palm Valley Academy
My student(s) is/are in grade(s): K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Student Name(s) _____

Phone # _____ Ok to text? YES _____ NO _____

Email _____

Tell Us a Little More

Have you been fingerprinted and had a background check? YES _____ NO _____

Will this be your first time volunteering with the PVA PTO? YES _____ NO _____

How Are You Interested in Getting Involved?

Communication

_____ Bulletin Board
_____ Photo Copying
_____ Phone Calls
_____ Fundraising
_____ Event Setup/Cleanup
_____ No Preference

Events

_____ Back to School Event(s)
_____ Bingo Night(s)
_____ Kinder Tears and Cheers
_____ Middle School Tailgate
_____ Fall Festival
_____ Book Fair(s)
_____ Candy Cane Lane
_____ Middle School Dance(s)
_____ Bobcat Bolt(s)
_____ Staff Appreciation Week
_____ Spring Carnival
_____ No Preference

Are You Able to Commit To Attending 1 Meeting Per Month? YES _____ NO _____

What Skills/Expertise & Areas of Interest Would You Like to offer to the PTO?

Thank You So Much For Your Interest and Support!



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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!

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.



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- 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.

We look forward to seeing everyone soon. In the meantime, please enjoy making memories with your families during these last few weeks of summer!!!

Have a great evening,

Zachary R. Strom
School Principal
Palm Valley Academy

