



Building Purposeful Leaders Where Everyone Shines Through Achievement

Zachary Strom, Principal

Bonnie Curran and Valerie Etienne-Leveille, Assistant Principals

July 20, 2026

Palm Valley Academy Bobcat Families,

Hello Bobcats and Happy Summer! I hope all of you are having a fantastic break filled with memorable trips, plenty of sun at the pool and/or beach, and of course...sleeping in. While these summer months allow us to rest and recover a bit and spend precious time making memories with our own families, I'd be remiss if I did not say that we miss all our students. The classrooms are empty and the halls are eerily quiet... its just not the same without the smiles and laughter. I speak for everyone in saying we're excited to welcome everyone back soon and look forward to an amazing new school year.

With the start of school only weeks away and quite a bit of information to share, 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 at the below dates.. Please continue to 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 20, 2026 - General Welcome and Immediate Information
- July 24, 2026 - PVA Upcoming Events and PTO/Volunteer Information
- July 31, 2026 - All Things Logistical and Operational
- August 7, 2026 - Official Welcome Back and PVA Day 1/Week 1

Upcoming Dates:

7/22-7/23 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.

7/29 Kindergarten Signing-Day (See below for sign-up and additional info)

7/30 6th Grade Orientation (See attachment for sign-up and additional info)

8/4 Kindergarten staggered start information and sign-up will be sent via email

8/5 All elementary families will receive an email from their child's assigned teacher

8/6 Middle school schedule available in HAC

8/6 Kindergarten Meet the Teacher from 5pm-6pm

8/7 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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- 8/10 First Day of School 😊
- 8/10-8/13 Kindergarten Staggered Start (sign-up using link in the 8/4 email)
- 8/14 First Full Day for Kindergarten Classes (Tears and Cheers Parents breakfast in the Café from 8:45-9:30am)
- 8/19 1st PTO General Meeting in Café @ 9:00am – JOIN US!
- 8/27 Middle School Curriculum Chats (PM) – Details forthcoming
- 9/8 Elementary Curriculum Chats (PM) – Details forthcoming

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Kindergarten Summer Screener - July 22–23

To assist with kindergarten class placement, we invite your child to participate in a brief, 15-minute screener on campus. The screener provides an opportunity for us to get to know your child and better support the class placement process. If you are unable to attend one of the scheduled screener dates, there is no need to schedule a make-up session. We look forward to welcoming your family to Palm Valley Academy!

Sign Up Here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E45A5AA2AA4FB6-64423905-20262027#/>

Kindergarten Signing Day – Wednesday, July 29 at 5:30 PM

Join us as we officially welcome our newest Bobcats! This special event is a fun opportunity for students and families to celebrate the start of their PVA journey.

RSVP Here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A4EACA928A7F58-64714434-kindergarten>

Middle School Schedule Preview

We know many families are eager to view student schedules for the upcoming school year. Please note that any schedule you may have seen in the eSchoolPlus app up to this point is a work in progress and should not be considered final. Our team is continuing to make adjustments to balance classes, accommodate course requests, and finalize student placements. Schedules will be available during the Schedule Preview Window on July 22–23. At that time, families will have the opportunity to review schedules and submit any scheduling concerns for consideration. Scheduling concerns submitted prior to the preview window will not be addressed. Please watch for an additional communication this afternoon with important details about the Schedule Preview Window, including how to submit schedule concerns if needed. We appreciate your patience as we work to prepare the best possible schedules for all of our students.



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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/OTY00TPlbi1VUw==>

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 Reminder: K-8 Phone & Smart Watch "Away for the Day" Policy

Per Florida State Statute, students are not 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.



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- 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.

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

Be Well,
Zach

Zachary R. Strom
School Principal