



Building Purposeful Leaders Where Everyone Shines Through Achievement

Zachary Strom, Principal

Bonnie Curran and Valerie Etienne-Leveille, Assistant Principals

July 24, 2026

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 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

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:

~~7/22 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



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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

8/10 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

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.



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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. Brittany Hulse, opportunities and ways to get involved with the PTO immediately, PTO membership options and for important dates and information.

A colorful flyer titled "THE PALM VALLEY PTO DOES THAT?!" is tilted at an angle. It features a series of blue paw prints, each followed by a section header and a list of activities. The sections are: "SCHOOL UPGRADES" (purple background), "SCHOOL PROGRAMS" (yellow background), "SCHOOL EVENTS/FUNDRAISERS" (light blue background), "TEACHER/STAFF SUPPORT" (orange background), and "SCHOOL MARKETING/RECRUITMENT" (green background). At the bottom, it says "WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS TO HELP OUT! PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A PART OF THE PTO TODAY!" and provides contact information for membership.

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 pvapto.org, attend a meeting or contact PTO
Membership at membership@pvapto.org



Dear Palm Valley Academy Families,

I am thrilled to welcome both our returning families and those joining our Bobcat community for the very first time. I hope your summer was filled with fun, relaxation, and special memories, and that you are as excited as we are for the year ahead.

As PTO President, I am honored to serve our incredible school community alongside a dedicated team of volunteers who are passionate about supporting our students, teachers, and staff. Our mission is simple: to strengthen the connection between school and home while creating meaningful opportunities that help every child thrive.

This year, we have so many exciting events, programs, and volunteer opportunities planned. From family nights and teacher appreciation events to fundraising initiatives that directly benefit our school, there are countless ways to get involved. Whether you have an hour to volunteer, attend an event, become a PTO member, or simply cheer us on, your support truly makes a difference.

One of the greatest strengths of Palm Valley Academy is the incredible partnership between our families, teachers, staff, and community. Together, we create an environment where every child feels supported, encouraged, and inspired to succeed.

I encourage you to stay connected throughout the year by following the Palm Valley Academy PTO on social media, reading our newsletters, and watching for upcoming announcements. We also welcome your ideas, feedback, and involvement—because the best PTO is one that reflects the voices of our entire school community.

Thank you for trusting us to serve your families and our school. We are excited to partner with you throughout the year and can't wait to make this one our best yet!

Here's to a fantastic school year filled with learning, friendship, school spirit, and unforgettable memories.

Go Bobcats!

Warmly,

Brittany Hulsey ♥

PTO President

Palm Valley Academy PTO

✉ presidentpvapto@gmail.com





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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS OPEN

PTO membership is a monetary contribution that allows the PTO to fund projects that benefit the school. While volunteers are always welcome, joining the PTO is NOT a commitment to volunteer. Your membership shows support for our school and is greatly appreciated by the children and staff of PVA.

JOIN @ ANY CONTRIBUTION LEVEL



BRONZE
LEVEL

\$25
CONTRIBUTION



SILVER
LEVEL

\$50
CONTRIBUTION



GOLD
LEVEL

\$100
CONTRIBUTION



PLATINUM
LEVEL

\$250
CONTRIBUTION



BOBCAT
LEVEL

\$750
CONTRIBUTION

Thank you FOR SUPPORTING PVA

www.pvapto.org



PRIDE ROCK

**SIGN UP
IS HERE!**



✓ RESERVE YOUR
PRIDE ROCK
TODAY!

LET'S PAINT OUR SCHOOL WITH

Bobcat Pride!

SIGN UP NOW:
www.pvapto.org/priderock

PTO Volunteer MENU

Welcome! Think of this like a restaurant menu—pick the tasks that fit your time, talents, and appetite for helping out.

Starters

Quick and easy ways to jump in.

Help put flyers in mailboxes for fundraisers, book fair, etc	1 hr
Bring snacks for teacher lounge	1 hr
Help Set up for Book Fair	1 hr
Help Set up for Holiday Shop	1 hr

Mains

Got more time to give? Help us organize or run an event or fundraiser.

Chair a Middle School Tailgate	1 yr
Chair the Middle School Dance	1 yr
Chair 5th Grade Celebration	1 yr
Chair 5th Grade Promotion	1 yr

Lighter Fare

Medium commitments that matter.

Volunteer for a shift at Fall Festival	2 hr
Volunteer for a shift at Spring Carnival	2 hr
Volunteer for Staff Appreciation Breakfast	3 hr
Decorate for Middle School Spirit week	4 hr
Decorate for Middle School Dance	1 hr
Serve at Cookies and Cocoa Event	1 hr
Count Candy during Candy Drive	1 hr

Sweets

Small ways to help us spread joy at school.

Stock the staff lounge with coffee	<1 hr
Bring a staff member flowers or a gift	<1 hr
Write the Staff Thank you notes	<1 hr

Take-Out

Pitch in without leaving the house.

Cut Middle School Spirit Banners	tbd
Make a Staff Holiday Treat	tbd
Assemble Prizes for Fundraisers	tbd
Bake Cakes for Cake Walk at Fall Festival	tbd



Ready to lend a hand?
Scan the QR code to sign up!





AUGUST 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Meet the Teacher	8
9	10 First Day of School	11	12	13	14 Kinder Teers and Cheers	15
16	17	18	19 General PTO Meeting PVA Cafeteria 9:00 AM	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Middle School Curriculum Night	28	29
30	31					



SEPTEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Book Fair Begins	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Book Fair Ends	17	18	19
20	21 Believe Kids Fundraiser Begins	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



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2026–2027 PVA Middle School Bobcat Brigade Family Sign-Up

The Bobcat Brigade is back, and we're excited to continue this special tradition of celebrating our amazing middle school teachers and staff! Because middle school teachers don't have traditional room parents like our elementary classrooms, the Bobcat Brigade gives families the opportunity to adopt a teacher or staff member for the school year and show their appreciation through a few thoughtful surprises.

Here's how it works:

- Each participating family will be randomly assigned a MS teacher.
- Your identity will remain a secret until the end of the school year.
- Families will provide three gifts throughout the year (details through link)
- Once you sign up, you'll receive a welcome email with important dates and gift drop-off information.

To ensure every middle school teacher and staff member is paired with a family, **we need 30 volunteers!** When signing up, please select all of the teachers your middle school student has this year, and we'll do our best to match you with someone familiar. Thank you for helping make our Bobcat Brigade such a meaningful tradition for our incredible middle school staff! Questions? Contact Bobcat Brigade Co-Chairs Lan Yeung and Katie Berseth at bobcatbrigade@gmail.com

[CLICK HERE FOR SIGN UP!](#)

PALM VALLEY ACADEMY BOBCATS

BOBCAT BRIGADE

OUR VERSION OF ROOM PARENTS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF!

HOW IT WORKS:

- 1 SIGN UP** to be a Bobcat Brigade parent.
- 2 WE WILL SEND YOU** your assigned staff member.
- 3 THEN CELEBRATE** them throughout the year!

BOBCAT BRIGADE is our way of showing appreciation, kindness, and encouragement to the amazing middle school teachers who make a difference every single day.

SMALL ACTS. BIG IMPACT.
Let's make their day!

BE KIND. BE THANKFUL. BE A BOBCAT.

YOU'RE
INVITED!



6TH GRADE ORIENTATION

**
*

JULY 30

8AM-12PM

PVA GYM

DRESS COMFORTABLY, DON' T BRING ALL YOUR
STUFF, AND LEAVE YOUR PHONE BEHIND, TOO!

USE THE FOLLOWING QR CODE (OR LINK)

TO REGISTER BY JULY 28TH.

[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.CO
M/R/8RKQ6MHQJK?
ORIGIN=LPRLINK](https://forms.office.com/M/R/8RKQ6MHQJK?ORIGIN=LPRLINK)





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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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>

6th Grade Orientation – July 30

Calling all incoming 6th Grade Bobcats! Join us for 6th Grade Orientation on Wednesday, July 30, from 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. This fun and informative event will help students become familiar with middle school, meet teachers and classmates, tour campus, practice lockers, and build confidence before the first day of school. **Registration is required.** Be sure to sign up by July 28 using the QR Code Above

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!



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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.
- 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