



New Families' Guide to Starting at Palmetto Middle School 2017-2018

Welcome to Palmetto Middle School! In order to ensure a smooth transition, we have compiled some information to help answer some questions you may have. This document is intended to supplement the information found online and on the app, so be sure to look there as well.

1. Go To: <http://www.pmsptsa.org> and sign up for the "LINK". The LINK is our online newsletter. It is the best way for us to communicate with you. Every two weeks or so, the PTSA will send you an updated newsletter regarding what is happening at our school.
2. Download the Palmetto Middle School PTSA app for iPhone and Android. This free app will make it easy for you to keep up to date on what is going on at school. To get it, go to the iTunes Store or Google Play, and search for Palmetto Middle School. When prompted, click Continue/Allow/ OK (depending on device) for Push Notifications to get important school notifications during the year.
3. If you are a Facebook user, 'Like' the Palmetto Middle School PTSA group to receive school updates in your newsfeed. This won't be as comprehensive as the LINK newsletter, but will have good reminders.
4. Check out the updated web site: <http://palmettomiddle.com>. Here you will find important school information, summer reading lists, and contact information for your child's teachers.
5. If you are new to Miami-Dade public schools, you will want to register on their parent portal: <https://mdcpsportal.dadeschools.net> Here you will find important information about your child, including their class schedule and teachers (when available), grade information, bus information, and more.
6. 6th Grade and New Student Orientation will be held on **Thursday, August 17th, 2017, at 6:00pm**. On this evening, you and your child are invited to come to the school auditorium for an orientation presentation. Afterwards, you are welcome to tour the school to get acquainted with where your child's classes will be. Class assignments will be given close to the first day of school.
7. Starting June 1st, visit mkt.com/palmettomiddleschoolgear to pre-order your Palmetto Middle school items including sweatshirts, Friday spirit shirts, school supplies, required P.E. uniforms, and other gear. Orders can be picked up in the cafeteria on the day of orientation, Aug. 17th, from 10:00 AM- 8:00 PM. Orders can also be picked up Friday, Aug. 19th from 8:00 AM- 12:00 PM, or during the first week of school in the school store. Items not pre-ordered will be sold at these times on a first-come, first-serve basis. Note that some sizes may be limited.
8. Palmetto Middle School Students are required to wear a uniform. To get the uniform policy, which will be strictly enforced, go to <http://www.pmsptsa.org>, click on "Info", then "School Uniform Policy." Uniforms and patches can be purchased at AA Uniform or Kings Bay Athletics. Students are also required to wear a separate uniform if they are taking PE. PE uniforms can be pre-ordered (see #5). We recommend you purchase 2-3 PE outfits to ensure you have a clean one to send with your child when needed.
9. School hours are 9:10 AM- 3:50 PM. Be familiar with the school calendar, including teacher work days, holidays, and Early Release days. The calendar can be found here: <http://www.dadeschools.net/calendars/>
10. Unlike some elementary schools, individual teachers will give supply lists during the first week of school, not before school starts. Your child should come to school the first day with basic necessities: a binder, paper, pencils, pens, and a computer flash drive. The other items can be purchased after you receive the lists from your child's teachers.

Lunch can be brought from home, or purchased at school. More information about school lunch, including a daily menu, can be found here: <http://nutrition.dadeschools.net>

11. Parent/Guardian Volunteers- We LOVE and NEED volunteers! Not only is it rewarding, but volunteering is the best way to know what is going on at your child's school. Please read the PTSA directory to see what committees we offer. Each one could use help. To volunteer, please contact Katie Abbott, KatieLAbbott@comcast.net
12. Parking- Parking is very limited but surprisingly manageable. Unlike elementary school, there is no specifically designated drop off/pick up spot. During drop off in the morning, you are welcome to park on the perimeter of the school (NOT in the teacher parking lot). Most parents drive past the front, stop at the crossing guard and let their child out. For pick up, set up a place to meet your child nearby the front/side of school. Pick up is very crowded but don't fret - it works. You and your child will figure out what works for you in the first week.
13. If your child is eligible for bus service, you will receive a postcard from the school district (probably in August) with details about your bus route and pickup/drop off times. This information is also available on the Student Portal. If your child is not eligible for bus service and you live in Pinecrest (usually those people within 1 mile of the school), you can request that the Village of Pinecrest schedule a People Mover stop near your home. If you are interested in using this service in the 2017-18 school year, whether a retuning rider or a new one, you must let the Village know by completing the "Pinecrest People Mover Stop Request" form at www.pinecrest-fl.gov/PPM or emailing your information to PPM@pinecrest-fl.gov. You can also visit www.pinecrest-fl.gov/PPM to see the new route once it is posted at the end of the summer.
14. Clubs/Sports- PMS offers a HUGE variety of activities and we highly encourage your child to get involved. Clubs and sports vary from year to year. Please go to palmettomiddle.com, and click on "Students" to see what clubs and sports are offered, and when. In the first weeks of school, your child will be given information about clubs and sports for the 2017-18 school year.
15. Summer Reading- Please go to palmettomiddle.com, click on "Students", then "Student Resources," then "Summer Reading." In an effort to minimize loss of learning during the summer, Palmetto Middle School has provided students in grades 6-8 summer reading.
16. Special Programs- Palmetto Middle is proud to announce that we are a Cambridge School! To read more about the program in general, go to <http://www.cie.org.uk>. Palmetto Middle also offers a Forensic Science Academy. To read more about these two special programs at PMS, go to palmettomiddle.com under 'Academics.' Besides these special programs, Palmetto Middle offers various levels of instruction, including gifted, advanced, general education, and remedial. In order to be in the gifted program, a student must have an EP (Education Plan). If you have any questions, contact the school to find out more information about appropriate class placement for your child.
17. Don't forget to pay attention to the PTSA Calendar of Events for the year, which will be sent home. Put important dates into your calendar now, to be sure you don't miss out on any special events or meetings. Any date changes will be announced on the app and in the LINK newsletter. At the beginning of the year you will also receive information about Palmetto School PTSA membership. Please read these materials closely.
18. Help support Palmetto Middle School PTSA at no cost to you. Shop at Amazon? Simply add this bookmark to your computer and use it when you shop at Amazon. There is no additional charge to you, and Amazon will give our PTSA a small commission of all sales. Please share with friends and family. THANK YOU!
<http://www.amazon.com/?tag=palmettomiddleptsa-20>. We also collect Box Tops.
19. Still have questions? Visit the PTSA in the cafeteria on August 17th from 10:00 AM-8:00 PM and August 18th from 8:00 AM- 12:00 PM, where PTSA representatives will be available to answer your questions or concerns.

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