



Welcome to Palmetto Middle School Science Department



Our Teachers

 Terri Ortiz – Department Head

Sal Avila
Kathryn Garciga

Terri Buria
Elizabeth Sioli

Mayer Ersoff
Dayana Valido

Jan Hopta

Our Curriculum

6th Graders: Comprehensive Science 1

7th Graders: Comprehensive Science 2 or Physical Science* **Elective** Research 1: Forensic Science

8th Graders: Comprehensive Science 3 or Physical Science* or Biology* **Elective** Research 2: Forensic Engineering



Our Clubs

Green Team

Open to all earth-loving, tree-hugging, green-thumbed students. Meets Mon & Wed & Fri mornings during homeroom.

(Mon & Wed: gardening. Fri: school-wide classroom recycling pickup.) The Green Team is sponsored by Mrs. Ortiz Speaking of gardens: have you visited our hydroponics gardens? Or our pinelands? Or our raised, edible garden beds? Or our Bromeliad garden?

Fairchild Challenge Awards

sponsored by Fairchild Tropical Gardens

2017 – Silver Award Winner

2016 – Silver Award Winner

2015 – 1st Place Gold Winner

2014 – Silver Award Winner

2013 – Silver Award Winner

Mad Scientists / SECME

Open to students in all grades. Students can choose to participate in one of our SECME categories.

- Egg Drop
- Mouse Trap Car
- Bottle Rockets
- SECME Banner Design
- Science Fair Experiments
- Robotic Hand
- Bridge Building
- Science Olympiad
- Math Olympiad
- FPL Generator
- Research Paper
- Robotics Vex IQ
- Ten80 Racing Challenge

Meets Wednesdays from 8-9 am and is sponsored by fabulous teachers from various departments.

We don't like to brag but....

2017 2nd place Future City
 2017 Miami Heat Robotics Award
 2017 Vex Robotics Youth Fair 1st place Robotic Game & 2nd place Overall Champions
 2017 Bionic Hand 1st & 3rd place winners
 2017 STEAM Designated School: Silver Award
 2016 STEM Designated School: Bronze Award
 2016-2015- Office of Naval Research Award & Broadcom Masters Natl. Science Fair Award
 2017-2015- Winner of Superior Medal at Miami Dade County Science Fair Competition
 2015- Fairchild Challenge Banner Recipient 5-year School of Excellence
 2017, 2015 – 3rd place finish for “Mouse Trap Cars” at the Miami-Dade County SECME Competition
 2014 – 2nd place finish for “Mouse Trap Cars” at the Miami-Dade County SECME Competition
 2014 – 2nd place finish for “Egg Drop” at the Miami-Dade County SECME Competition
 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013– Grant Award recipient from SlowFoods for Hydroponics & Organic Garden.
 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013 Award-Winning “Dream in Green” School
 2017-2015- Green Machine Award
 2016, 2015, 2014- Eco-Summit Award
 2014-Innovation in Education
 2014-WE-Lab School Award
 Selected as a WE-Lab (Water/Energy) school by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 Official Monarch Watch School by transforming the Emerald Garden into a butterfly habitat.
 Community Partners NASA, Tomatosphere & The 1 Million Orchid Project 2017, 2016 & 2015



* Physical Science and Biology are High School level classes that require special prerequisites & recommendations.