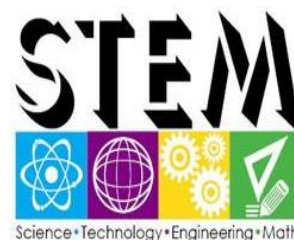


# Welcome to Palmetto Middle School Science Department



## Our Teachers

Terri Ortiz – Department Head  
 Sal Avila      Terri Buria      Mayer Ersoff      Kathryn Garciga      Jan Hopta  
 Elizabeth Sioli      Dayana Valido

## Our Curriculum

6<sup>th</sup> Graders: Comprehensive Science 1

7<sup>th</sup> Graders: Comprehensive Science 2 or Physical Science\*

8<sup>th</sup> Graders: Comprehensive Science 3 or Physical Science\* or Biology\*

**Elective** Research 1: Forensic Investigation

**Elective** Research 2: Forensic Engineering

**Elective** Research 3: Forensic Green Studies

## 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  
 2018 – Silver Award Winner  
 2017 – Silver Award Winner  
 2016 – Silver Award Winner  
 2015 – 1<sup>st</sup> 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 – Race Cars & Drones

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

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

2018 Ten80 Race Cars 2<sup>nd</sup> place Overall National STEM League Racing Challenge  
 National Drone Obstacle Course Champions  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place Nationals – 2<sup>nd</sup> place Drag Racing- 1<sup>st</sup> place Team Identity- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Data Driven Design- 1<sup>st</sup> place Aerodynamics  
 Vex IQ Robotics State Qualifier & Vex IQ Robotics Teamwork Champion Award  
 Ten80 Racing National Qualifier  
 2018 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Math Olympiad SECME Competition  
 2018 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Science Brain Bowl SECME Competition  
 2017 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Future City  
 2017 Miami Heat Robotics Award  
 2017 Vex Robotics Youth Fair 1<sup>st</sup> place Robotic Game & 2<sup>nd</sup> place Overall Champions  
 2017 Bionic Hand 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners  
 2017 2<sup>nd</sup> Place STEAM Bowl  
 2017 Silver STEAM Designated 2018 & 2016 STEM Designated School: Bronze Award  
 2016-2015- Office of Naval research Award & Broadcom Masters Natl. Science Fair Award  
 2018-2015- Winner of Superior Medals at Miami Dade County Science Fair Competition  
 2015- Fairchild Challenge Banner Recipient 5-year School of Excellence  
 2017, 2015 – 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish for “Mouse Trap Cars” at the Miami-Dade County SECME Competition  
 2014 – 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish for “Mouse Trap Cars” at the Miami-Dade County SECME Competition  
 2014 – 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish for “Egg Drop” at the Miami-Dade County SECME Competition  
 2017, 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  
 Selected as a WE-Lab (Water/Energy) school by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



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