



New Families' Guide to Starting at Palmetto Middle School 2020-2021

Welcome to Palmetto Middle School!

Stay Informed:

- Sign up for our **bi-weekly e-newsletter**. Go To: <http://www.pmsptsa.org> and sign up for the "Lancer LINK".
- Download the FREE **Palmetto Middle School PTSA app** for iPhone and Android. Go to the iTunes Store or Google Play, and search for "Palmetto Middle School". Be sure to allow Push Notifications to get important information!
- "Like" us on **Facebook** (Palmetto Middle School PTSA) or "follow" us on **Instagram** (PalmettoMiddle_PTSA)
- Bookmark the **school website**: <http://palmettomiddle.com> for important school information, including contact information for teachers.
- Register on the **MDCPS parent portal**: <https://mdcpsportal.dadeschools.net>. Here you will find important information about your child, including their class schedule and teachers, grades, bus information, and more.
- 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/>

Important Dates:

- **Thursday, August 20th at 3 pm, 4:20pm & 5:40pm**: Please join us at the designated times. Pre-registration is required and can be done via the email that was sent to parents, the school website palmettomiddle.com, or the PTSA website pmsptsa.org
- **Monday, August 24th: Week of Welcome** – miamiweekofwelcome.com – virtual preparedness for MSO for students and families.
- **Monday, August, 31, 2020**: First day of school. My School Online (MSO) – cameras are required to be on.
- School hours are 9:10 AM- 3:50 PM.
- **Thursday, September 10th**:
 - **First General PTSA Meeting, 6pm**- Zoom
- **Date TO BE ANNOUNCED: Back to school Open House Night.**
- Please note the **PTSA Calendar of Events** for the year posted on our website. Any date changes will be made on the online calendar, announced on the App and in the 'Lancer LINK' newsletter.

General Information:

- **Uniforms**: *Uniforms will not be required while students are on MSO.* Palmetto Middle School Students are **required to wear a uniform**. To see the uniform policy, go to <http://www.pmsptsa.org>, click on "Info", then "School Uniform Policy".
- **Online Store**: Visit <https://palmettoms.memberhub.store> to pre-order our masks, agendas, and spirit wear. New items available! Order pickup dates will be announced in mid-September.
- **Class Schedules**: Class schedules will be provided on or close to the first day of school on the MDCPS parent portal at <https://mdcpsportal.dadeschools.net>
- **School Supply Lists**: Teachers will provide during the first week of school, not before school starts. Your child should attend school the first day with basic necessities: a binder, paper, pencils, pens, and a computer flash drive.

- **Lunch:** During virtual learning (MSO) lunch will be held from 1:45pm to 2:15pm. During Stage II lunch can be purchased at school or brought from home. Meal distribution will continue in designated schools. Students attending My School Online will be able to pick up multiple meals at distributions throughout the week. Information about school lunch, including a daily menu, can be found here: <http://nutrition.dadeschools.net>
- **Bus Service:** 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. To maintain social distancing MDCPS buses will have more space, by way of fewer passengers, and hand sanitizing stations. School buses will also be sanitized daily and between morning and afternoon routes. 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 2019-20 school year, whether a returning rider or a new one, you must let the Village know by completing the "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.
- **Parking (Drop off/Pick up):** Parking is very limited but surprisingly manageable. Unlike elementary school, there is no specific 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. We ask that you be considerate of others and not block empty parking spaces. You and your child will figure out what works for you in the first week.
- **Clubs/Sports:** Clubs will be virtual for the 2020-21 year. 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 2020-2021 school year. Sports are not taking place at this moment but "A phased plan has been developed for our students to safely engage in athletics and activities. This will begin once schools are opened and coaches and student-athletes are able to return."
- **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.

Get Involved:

- **Volunteer!** Parent/Guardians, Grandparents, Community Businesses- 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 email us at PalmettoMiddleVolunteers@gmail.com
- **JOIN THE PTSA!** Even if you can't volunteer, joining the PTSA gives you a voice on important issues related to your child's education. We PTA for your child. Each member is COUNTED and represented by our State organization when speaking to lawmakers in Florida about important legislation that affects YOU AND YOUR CHILD! If you are concerned about your child's education, their safety in schools, the tests that they are required to take, and many other issues, then joining the PTSA is the easiest way to have your voice heard. In addition, our monthly meeting agendas and minutes are posted online for your information and input all year round- even if you cannot attend the meetings.
- **Help support Palmetto Middle School PTSA when you shop 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**— Box Tops has gone digital. Download the Box Tops app and instead of turning Box Tops to the office, scan your

receipts within 14 days and select Palmetto Middle School as your school choice. Every bit counts to provide vital services for all of our students.

- Still have questions? Email president@pmspts.org.

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