



New Families' Guide to Starting at Palmetto Middle School 2023-2024

Welcome to Palmetto Middle School!

Stay Informed:

- Sign up for our **bi-weekly e-newsletter** at <https://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 enable 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**: <https://palmettomiddle.com> for important school information, including contact information for teachers.
- Register on the **MDCPS parent portal**: <https://mdcpsportal.dadeschools.net>. You will find information about your child, including **class schedule** and teachers, grades and bus information.
- Be familiar with the **MDCPS school calendar**, including teacher work days, holidays, and Early Release days. The calendar can be found here: <http://www.dadeschools.net/calendars/>
- Stay up-to-date with all the **PTSA sponsored activities and events** with the **PTSA Calendar** located on the school website, App or www.pmsptsa.org/calendar. Any date changes will be announced on the App, social media, and in the ‘Lancer LINK’ e-newsletter.

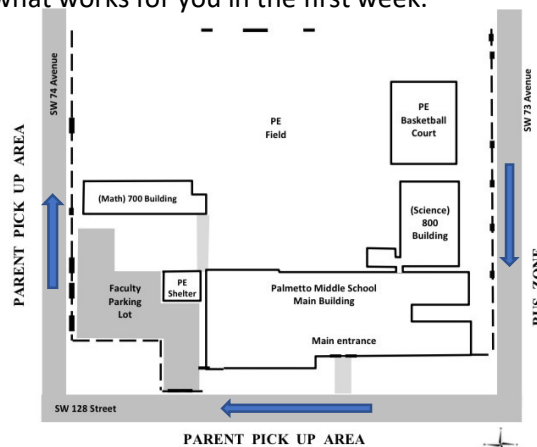
Important Dates:

- **Tuesday, August 15th 3pm-7pm: School Store Open** in Media Center/School Store. Pickup online pre-orders and purchase any last-minute uniform polos, required PE Uniforms, hoodies & spirit wear.
- **Tuesday, August 15th Orientation: New Family Orientation & Campus Preview**. You and your child(ren) are invited to visit the school to find your classrooms and **meet Principal Valero**. Please note **6pm is for 6th Grade** and **7pm is for 7th/8th Grades**.
- **Wednesday, August 16th 9am-12noon: School Store Open** in Media Center/School Store. Pickup online pre-orders and purchase any last-minute uniform polos, required PE Uniforms, hoodies & spirit wear.
- **Thursday, August 17th: First Day of School**. School hours are 9:10 AM- 3:50 PM. Palmetto Middle has block scheduling – “**A**” days are periods 1, 3 & 5 and “**B**” days are periods 2, 4, & 6. The first day of school is an “**A**” day.
- **Thursday, September 14th:**
 - **First PTSA General Meeting & Volunteer Orientation, 9:15 AM, Auditorium**
 - **Academic Options/Informational Meeting, 10 AM, Auditorium**

General Information:

- **Uniforms:** Palmetto Middle School Students are **required to wear a uniform**. To see the uniform policy, go to <https://palmettomiddle.com/uniform-policy/>. Students are also required to wear a separate uniform if they are taking Physical Education. PE uniforms can be purchased in our school store which will be open before school starts (see dates above) and, once the new school year begins, in the mornings (8-9am) before school in the School Store. We recommend you purchase 2-3 PE uniforms to ensure you have a clean one to send with your child when needed.
- **Online Store:** Visit <https://palmettoms.memberhub.com/store> to order uniform polos, hoodies, Friday spirit shirts and other supplies, as available. Pre-orders will be available for pick-up from School Store on Tuesday, August 15th from 3PM-7PM, Wednesday August 16th from 9AM-noon, or school days between 8-9am beginning August 17th.
- **School Supply Lists:** Teachers will provide 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, and pens.
- **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>

- **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. If your child is not eligible for bus service and you live in Pinecrest (usually those people within 2 miles 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, 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. If the deadline to request service has passed, you may email the above address to inquire if there are any options still available.
- **Parking (Drop off/Pick up):** 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, please **follow the dismissal route:** Coming from **124th Street**, turn **South onto 73rd Ave** and when available, turn **Right onto 128th Street**. Please **STAY BEHIND BUS SIGNS/BUSES**. Please **Do Not Park** on residents lawns and be respectful of other drivers. Please, no double parking while you wait to pick up your child. You and your child will figure out what works for you in the first week.



- **Clubs/Sports:** PMS offers a variety of activities and we highly encourage your child to get involved. Clubs and sports vary from year to year. Please go to <https://palmettomiddle.com>, and click on "Students" to see what clubs and sports are offered, and when. Your child will be given information about clubs and sports for the 2023-2024 school year as they become available.
- **Special Programs:** Palmetto Middle is proud to be a Cambridge School! To learn more about the program, go to <http://www.cie.org.uk>. Palmetto Middle also offers a Forensic Science Academy. To learn more about this program, go to <https://palmettomiddle.com> under 'Academics.' In addition, Palmetto Middle offers various levels of instruction, including gifted, advanced, general education and remedial. To be in the gifted program, a student must have an EP (Education Plan). Questions? Contact the school to find out more information about appropriate class placement for your child.

Get Involved:

- **Volunteer!** Parents/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. We have many opportunities, and no job is too small. For more information, join us at our **Volunteer Orientation on Thursday, September 14th at 9:15AM** or visit <https://palmettoms.memberhub.com/store> to select specific areas of interest and you'll be notified of those events.
- **JOIN THE PTSA!** Becoming a PTSA Member is not tied to any volunteer commitments! Support your child & school, as well as the programs & activities the PTSA helps provide with your membership. 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. We have general meetings throughout the school year, we hope to see you there! <https://palmettoms.memberhub.com/store>

Need more information?

Email pmsptsapres@gmail.com