

# TOGETHER PCS



## SOARING TO ANOTHER YEAR AS AN A DISTRICT

### District Celebrates 130 Teachers of the Year at 'Illuminate' luncheon



*Watch the video here*

Welcome to TogetherPCS, the district's monthly newsletter featuring students, staff, alumni, coaches, curriculum, community partners, and so much more!

In this issue, we celebrate our 2025-26 Teachers of the Year as well as the launch of the Innovation Lab, a school-bus transformed into a mobile science lab. We also introduce Boca Ciega High School alum, Dr. Tonjua Williams, the first female and first Black president of St. Petersburg College, who has worked on the campus since 1986.

If you know someone who should be featured in TogetherPCS, please click the "Nominate Here" button below.

[NOMINATE HERE](#)

## WHAT'S INSIDE

# PLANNING FOR PROGRESS >>>> COMMUNITY MEETING

*Your voice matters as we plan for the future of public education in Pinellas County. Together, we can ensure every student has access to high-quality learning environments and opportunities for success.*

*We are holding community meetings to discuss what's next for our schools and seek your ideas on various topics, including population trends, school building utilization, new school programming, and the potential for new school grade configurations, closures, or consolidations.*

*Meetings will be held 5:30 - 7 p.m.*

- Wednesday, Nov. 12 – Boca Ciega High School
- Monday, Nov. 17 – Largo High School
- Tuesday, Dec. 2 – Dunedin High School
- Thursday, Dec. 4 – Hollins High School
- Tuesday, Dec. 9 – Lakewood High School

Learn more at [pcsb.org/progress](https://pcsb.org/progress)



**A student at Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School prepares to sample the honey siracha burger during Food & Nutrition's visit to the school.**

## Students sample 'Taste the World' menu options

Teriyaki steak ramen, Moroccan chicken tagine and chicken shawarma have made their way to a local menu. And no, there is not a new tapas restaurant in town.

As part of Pinellas County Schools' scratch kitchen initiative, students participated in taste tests of new globally inspired recipes prepared by the district's Food and Nutrition team. Each recipe was created using fresh ingredients — part of a broader effort to provide more nutrient-dense meals that support both student wellness and academic success.

Last month, the Food and Nutrition team visited four schools – Northeast High, Dunedin High, Walsingham Oaks K-8, and Morgan Fitzgerald Middle – to offer students of all ages the opportunity to taste and rate potential menu options. This year's National School Lunch Week theme was "Taste the World."

Hundreds of students participated, providing not only votes but also valuable verbal feedback. Their input will help shape what new menu items appear in cafeterias next year.

***Read the full article***

## Prekindergarten and VPK

Enroll your child for the 2026-27 school year

Give your child the best start with Pinellas County Schools' Early Learning programs — including Pre-K3 and VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten). Our programs prepare



children ages 3 to 5 for academic success in a caring, safe, and enriching environment.

The first application period is Nov. 19 through Dec. 9. Find out more at [pcsb.org/early](https://pcsb.org/early).

# ACHIEVE TOGETHER

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

For St. Petersburg College President, Dr. Tonjua Williams, stepping onto the campus of her alma mater isn't just a trip down memory lane, it's a reminder of where her journey began.

The laughter of friends, the lessons learned—both in and out of class—and the sense of belonging that shaped her foundation began between the walls and among the hallways of Boca Ciega High School, she said.

“When I walk through the door, I just feel like I’m at home,” Williams said. “Memories, names of instructors, things that we’ve done—it all rushed back to me. My beloved high school and all the crazy things we did.”

*[Read the full article](#)*



***Dr. Tonjua Williams, a graduate of Boca Ciega High School, has worked for St. Petersburg College since 1987 and is the current president.***



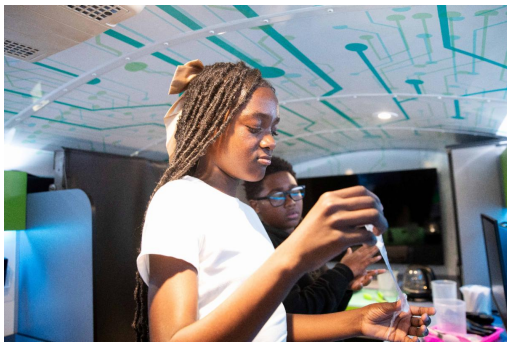
## Get ready for **EXPERIENCE PCS**

Join Pinellas County Schools for a day of family and community fun for all ages. Explore activities and opportunities that showcase the student experience.

Experience PCS is FREE to attend and is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 at Clearwater High School, 1951 Gulf to Bay Blvd.

The event will feature music, games, performances, and so much more! **Check it out here!**





## Pinellas County Schools Unveils Mobile Innovation Lab to Inspire Middle School Scientists

Pinellas County Schools officially rolled out its new Innovation Lab last month — a state-of-the-art, mobile learning space designed to bring hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) experiences directly to students throughout the district.



The former school bus has been transformed into a high-tech laboratory where seventh graders can explore robotics, physics, engineering, and ecology through immersive, interactive stations. The on-campus “field trip” model allows students to dive into activities such as navigating obstacle courses with robots, designing thermoplastic keychains, and studying Everglades ecosystems — all without leaving school grounds.

[Read the full story and watch the video](#)

### The Superintendent Says...

“I am so excited to welcome our youngest learners—our three-, four-, and five-year-olds—into the Pinellas County Schools family! Our Early Learning programs, including Pre-K3 and VPK, give children a strong foundation for lifelong success in a caring, engaging environment. From the moment our students step into our classrooms, they begin building confidence, curiosity, and a love of learning that will last for years to come.”



*To help spread the word, please forward this newsletter to community members who are interested in public education. Sign up by clicking the button below.*

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