

TOGETHER PCS



KEEPING PACE WITH PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

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

In this issue, we get to know Jim Myers, a Boca Ciega High School graduate whose unique career path led him to his current role as President of Crown Automotive and a longtime member of the Pinellas Education Foundation board. We also celebrate 2026 Teacher of the Year Denise White and learn more about the recyclables fashion craze taking over STEM programs across the district.

If you know someone who should be featured in TogetherPCS, please click the "Nominate Here" button below. Let's do this TOGETHER!!

[NOMINATE HERE](#)



Denise White is the 2026 PCS Teacher of the Year

For more than three decades, Denise White has been committed to educating Pinellas County students. Her motto, "Be Awesome Today," isn't just a slogan. It reflects her commitment to giving her students the best day possible every day. A lifelong resident of Pinellas County, she graduated from Northeast High. She earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of South Florida and a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Florida. Her teaching career began at Woodlawn Elementary School, where she also served as a math and science curriculum coach. Congratulations Mrs. White!

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

WHAT'S **INSIDE**



Approximately 100 students from 15 schools participated in this year's annual "Trashion Show" as part of STEM Fest.

From Trash to 'Trashion'

Creativity, sustainability and STEM took center stage at the third annual Pinellas County Schools Trashion Show, held as part of STEM Fest at Largo Central Park last month. Students from elementary through high school dazzled the audience with one-of-a-kind fashion pieces made entirely from recycled and repurposed materials.

This year's event featured 35 teams from 15 PCS schools, each showcasing wearable designs such as toilet paper tube hats, paper clip earrings, soda can tab necklaces and grocery bag gowns. Students demonstrated how everyday "trash" can be transformed into imaginative works of art.

Read the full article and watch the video



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

Feb. 10-20, 2026

DAP Acceptance period.

For questions about the Application Process, contact the Student Assignment Office at

StudentAssignment@pcsb.org or by phone at 727-588-6210.

Feb. 18, 2026 - March 8, 2026

Summer Camp application period
pcsb.org/summercamps

Feb. 24, 2026

6-7:30 p.m.

College and Career Fair
Hollins High School

Feb. 27, 2026

Superintendent's Academic Challenge
Conference Hall

March 6, 2026

Pinellas History Day
Largo High School

March 16-20, 2026

Spring Break for Students

**REGISTER TODAY
FOR KINDERGARTEN!**

PCSB.ORG/KG



If your child will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2026, it's time to get ready for kindergarten. Kindergarten enrollment is now open and is easy with Pinellas County Schools! Follow the three simple steps below:

- Get a PCS user ID and password (Focus Parent



Applications for Pinellas County Schools Summer Camps will open Feb. 18. Families can choose from more than 50 summer camp offerings, ranging from STEM to the arts to fitness activities. The district is expanding camp opportunities and offering options in June and July. This year, camps will cost \$100 per session and \$25 per

- Portal Account).
- Reserve a seat.
- Complete enrollment at your child's school.

For information, contact your school or call the Early Childhood Education office at 727-588-6513. Get more details by visiting <https://www.pcsb.org/kg>

session for students eligible for free- or reduced- meals.

New this year, families may apply for up to four camps. Once the application window closes, families will receive notification of acceptance between March 31 and April 14. A student's seat at the camp is not secured until acceptance and payment are received.

ACHIEVE TOGETHER

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Long before Jim Myers became president and chief operating officer of Crown Automotive Group, he was just another student walking the outdoor halls of Boca Ciega High School.

A proud member of the Class of 1977, Myers was raised in St. Petersburg after his family relocated from southeastern Pennsylvania when he was eight.

Education was the family business. Both of his parents were educators in Pinellas County Schools—his father at what was then St. Petersburg Junior College, and his mother at 16th Street Middle School and later at St. Petersburg High School. From an early age, Myers saw firsthand the impact teachers could have on young lives.



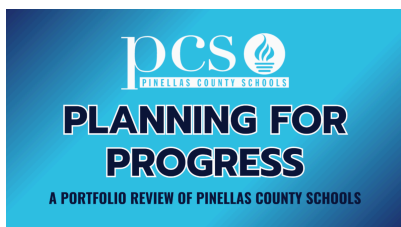
Jim Myers, a 1977 graduate of Boca Ciega High School, is now the President of Crown Automotive and a longtime Pinellas Education Foundation mentor.

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



Are You a PCS Alumni?

What are you up to now? Use the link below to update Pinellas County Schools on family, career and life for a chance to be featured in TogetherPCS. Tell us more here.



Pinellas County Schools is committed to keeping our community informed as we continue to navigate important decisions that affect our students, staff, and families. As part of the district's ongoing Planning for Progress work, school-based community meetings continue at sites affected by the first round of recommendations. The Pinellas

Two Pinellas elementary schools chosen to pilot National Elementary Art Honor Society chapters

The National Art Education Association has selected two Florida schools to pilot National Elementary Art Honor Society chapters, both in the Pinellas County School District. The chapters are at Curlew Creek and Plumb elementaries. Selections were based on the strength of their existing art programs, community involvement, and a clear vision for service learning and leadership at the elementary level. Applications for the new opportunity opened last school year. Curlew Creek Elementary held its induction ceremony last week to formally recognize this honor. Sixteen students were honored at the ceremony. Plumb Elementary plans to hold its ceremony in early April. In addition to monthly meetings, the Curlew Creek chapter also meets weekly after school. Sessions focus on creating

County School Board will review and discuss the recommendations at a School Board Workshop on Tuesday, February 17, 2026. A final vote is scheduled for the School Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2026. For details, visit www.pcsb.org/progress.

art, collaborating as a team, and discussing upcoming school events and community outreach opportunities. Several district administrators attended Curlew Creek's ceremony, including Director of Student Experience Kim Hill, PreK-12 Visual Arts Specialist Jonathan Ogle, and PCS Visual Arts Coordinator Latonya Hicks, who also serves as the Secondary Division Director on the National Art Education Association Board.

Read the story



Thank you to all of our schools and programs that participated in the 39th Annual MLK Dream Big Parade through downtown St. Petersburg last month. About 200 students represented 5,000 Role Models and Girlfriends groups from several schools. The Seminole, Gibbs, Boca Ciega and Osceola high school bands also performed in the parade, as well as an appearance by School Board Chair Caprice Edmond, the PCS transportation department and more!



The Superintendent Says...

"For decades, Denise White has devoted her career to helping students grow by igniting their curiosity, confidence, and a love of learning. Her passion, joy, and belief in each child have shaped generations. We are honored to celebrate her as the 2026 Pinellas County Schools Teacher of the Year. To all our Teachers of the Year, your dedication and unwavering commitment to students and families embody the



very best of who we are as a district. You show us every day what is possible for every child."

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.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)



VISION: 100% STUDENT SUCCESS

MISSION: EDUCATE AND PREPARE EACH STUDENT FOR COLLEGE, CAREER AND LIFE

PCS Compliance Statement

Pinellas County Schools | 301 Fourth St. SW | Largo, FL 33779 US