



BACK TO SCHOOL

SHARE YOUR FIRST DAY FUN!

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS FROM THE FIRST
DAY OF SCHOOL TO BE FEATURED ON THE
DISTRICT WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA



FIND THE FORM AND OTHER IMPORTANT
BACK-TO-SCHOOL INFORMATION AT:

pcsb.org/backtoschool

Welcome students, staff, parents, leaders
and community to the 2026-27 school year!

In this issue, we talk with Seminole High
School alum Brett Phillips, famously known
for his [Tampa Bay Rays'](#) 2020 World Series
Game 4 walk-off hit. Phillips is now his
former team's brand engagement executive.

On Tuesday, Aug. 11, 70 percent of our
schools will start the new school year as "A"
schools and 92 percent will start the year as
either an "A" or "B" school. We are so proud
of our district's continued growth and
excellence.

Find out more about where to find Back-to-
School forms, important dates, athletics
information, and so much more in this
special back-to-school edition of your PCS
newsletter.

Have a great school year!

WHAT'S INSIDE

History Made: Four Schools Earn Their First-Ever "A"

There are moments that mark more
than a successful school year—they
become part of a school's history.

This year, four Pinellas County Schools
elementary schools reached a first-ever
milestone. Campbell Park Elementary,
Gulfport Elementary, Melrose



Elementary and Woodlawn Elementary each earned an "A" school grade from the Florida Department of Education.

Students at Campbell Park Elementary School, which received its first A grade in history, celebrate top 10 teacher finalist Bobby Coston last November.

[Read full story](#)

ACHIEVE TOGETHER

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Brett Phillips, a 2012 graduate of Seminole High School, played professional baseball for 13 years and recently accepted a position with his hometown team, the Tampa Bay Rays.

For Brett Phillips, every time he pulls into Seminole High School it feels like coming home.

Not because of the baseball field, though that holds plenty of memories. And not because it's where a 13-year professional career began.

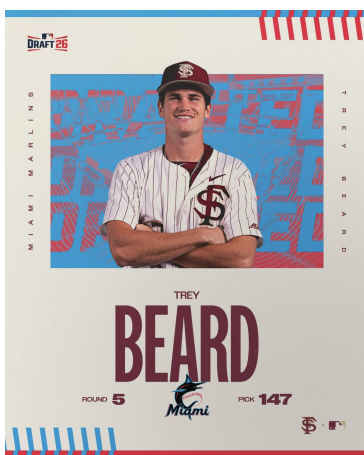
But because of the people: the teachers who encouraged him. The teammates who became lifelong friends. The community that rallied around him long before he ever stepped onto a major league field.

"This is where it started," said Phillips, sitting along the third base line of the very field where his dreams began. "I was blessed to play 13 years of professional baseball, but it all started here at Seminole High School."

[Read the full article](#)



PCS ALUM IN THE MLB DRAFT



Trey Beard. Left-handed pitcher. Dunedin High School Class of 2023.



Cooper Consiglio. Left-handed pitcher. East Lake High School Class of 2023.



Riley McDonald. Right-handed pitcher. Hollins High School Class of 2025.



Pinellas County Schools has earned an “A” for the third consecutive year as reported by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) release of the 2025-26 district-level and school grades.

Every district-operated school continues to accelerate outcomes for students, with 70 percent of schools earning an A, and 92 percent of schools earning an A or B. All schools earned an A, B, or C.

Pinellas County Schools continues to be one of Florida’s top-performing school districts, with third-grade reading proficiency reaching 70 percent for the first time in district history, outpacing the state and ranking ninth statewide. Guided by the District Strategic Plan, the district remains committed to elevating academic excellence through innovation for all students, providing engaging experiences and maintaining high expectations to achieve 100% student success.

Among the many school highlights, Campbell Park Elementary, Gulfport Elementary, Melrose Elementary, and Woodlawn Elementary each earned their first-ever ‘A’ school grade. Together, these achievements demonstrate that excellence is being realized in schools across the district.

Pinellas County School Board Chairperson Caprice Edmond said: “It is a wonderful accomplishment to earn an ‘A’ district grade for the third consecutive year and reflects the hard work and dedication of our students, teachers, staff, families, and community. We are committed to 100% student success and proud to celebrate this achievement while continuing to raise the bar. Thank you for your continued support of our schools!”

For more information on individual school grades and the district’s accomplishments, visit pscb.org or the [Florida Department of Education website](https://fldoe.org).



Now that school buses are back on the roads, here are some safety tips from one of our own PCS drivers:

- When the amber lights begin to flash and the stop arm extends from the side of the bus, STOP. This should be treated like a red traffic light.
- Cars should not proceed until the stop arm is completely retracted and the lights are no longer flashing.
- Please do not attempt to flag down your child’s bus driver. If you need assistance, call 727-587-2020.
- Please be a courteous driver and yield to bus drivers attempting to merge into traffic, change lanes or enter or exit a highway.

SUMMER CAMP FUN 2026

From sewing and cosmetology to mural painting, performing arts, STEM, fitness, cooking and more, students spent their summers exploring new interests, building skills and having fun along the way. Nearly 2,800 students registered for more than 80 Summer Enrichment Camps, making this our biggest summer yet. These hands-on learning experiences kept students engaged, inspired and connected as they discover new passions beyond the traditional classroom. Thank you to all of our staff who spent part of their summer sharing their talents and making these enriching camp experiences possible.



The Superintendent Says...

"Earning an 'A' district grade for the third consecutive year is an incredible accomplishment and a reflection of what is possible when an entire community is committed to student success. This achievement belongs to our students, teachers, staff, families, School Board, and community partners, whose dedication to excellence continues to make Pinellas County Schools a place where every student can thrive."



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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VISION: 100% STUDENT SUCCESS

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

PCS Compliance Statement



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