



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 take a closer look at the Countryside High Communications Technology class, which produced more than 500 jerseys for middle school athletes across the district. We also speak with Seminole High School alum Amy Weaver who just wrapped her Broadway debut as Sophie in *Mamma Mia!* And we celebrate our district honorees who were recognized at the Pinellas Education Foundation's annual ChangeMakers breakfast.

Know someone who should be featured in TogetherPCS? Please click the "Nominate Here" button below. Let's do this TOGETHER!

[NOMINATE HERE](#)



Congratulations to two Pinellas County Schools staff members honored by the Pinellas Education Foundation at its Ninth Annual ChangeMakers breakfast on September 23 at the Hilton Carillon Park in St. Petersburg. Ellen Truskowski, director of Federal Programs, received the Impact and Innovation Award, and Bobby Coston, Jr., assistant principal at Lealman Avenue Elementary, received the ChangeMaker Award.

[Read full story](#)

WHAT'S INSIDE



District Application Program (DAP) Application Period:
Jan. 5-15, 2027

Magnet, Fundamental, and Career program events:
DAP Tips and Tricks Live
Oct. 5, 2026: 5:30 p.m.

North County DAP Fair
Oct. 21, 2026: 6-7:30 p.m. at
Dunedin High

All-County DAP Fair
Oct. 24, 2026: 9-11:30 a.m. at
Pinellas Park High

South County DAP Fair
Oct. 28, 2026: 6-7:30 p.m. at
Gibbs High

Discovery Nights
Oct. 1 - Dec. 15, 2026
School sites

How to Apply for a District Application Program and Special Assignment Request live event
January 4, 2027: 5:30 p.m.

DAP Acceptance Period walk-through live event
Feb. 4, 2027: 5:30 p.m.

District Application Program (DAP) Acceptance Period:
Feb. 10-19, 2027



The Communications Technology classes at Countryside High School printed more than 500 jerseys for middle school athletes across the district.

COUNTRYSIDE HIGH OUTFITS MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETES

At Countryside High School, the Communications Technology classes have gone from learning environment to real-life print shop in less than a year. And they have 500 middle school athletes with custom jerseys to show for it.

Students in all levels of the program printed approximately 540 reversible jerseys for all 22 district middle schools, creating uniforms that will be used across middle school sports throughout the year. They also produced cross country jerseys for East Lake and Oldsmar K-8 school.

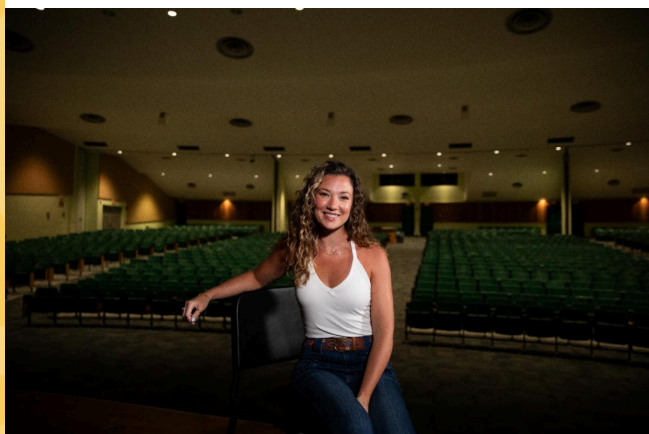
For teacher Tom Pusateri, the project was an opportunity to put his students' skills to work in a very real way.

"The goal of the class is to give students the tools they would need to be able to start their own business or get hired at a print shop, T-shirt shop or other similar business," Pusateri said. "Everything we do in my class is geared towards preparing my students for the real world."

Communications Technology is designed to progressively build those skills. Students learn programs such as Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator through project-based assignments, while more advanced students work toward industry certifications and take on leadership roles.

ACHIEVE TOGETHER

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Amy Weaver graduated from Seminole High School and just wrapped her role as Sophie in Mamma Mia! on Broadway.



Ask Amy Weaver what she learned from musical theater at Seminole High School, and she won't lead with singing or dancing.

She'll talk about communication. Discipline. Empathy. How to walk into a rehearsal room prepared.

Fifteen years after graduating from Seminole, Weaver recently wrapped a yearlong Broadway run as Sophie Sheridan in *Mamma Mia!*, the latest chapter in a career that has taken her from cruise ships and theme parks to national tours and one of the world's most famous stages.

But long before Broadway, Weaver was a Seminole student who simply knew she wanted to perform.

She remembers visiting the school as a middle school student to watch the production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

"Immediately, I was like, I want to do that," she said.

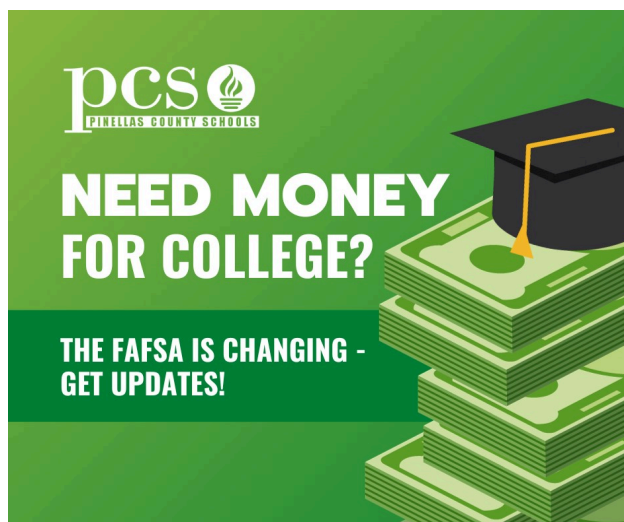
[Read the full article and watch the video](#)



ARE YOU A PCS ALUMNI?

We would love to hear what you've been up to! Share updates on family, career and life using the link below - you could be featured in TogetherPCS!

Submit your update to be featured



2027-28 FAFSA is open



**Bright Futures:
Did You Know?**

Last school year, Pinellas County graduates were awarded more than \$7 million in Pell Grant funds as a result of completing the Florida Application for Federal Student Aid. PCS also saw a 4.3% increase in FAFSA completions across the district this year, earning Pinellas County Schools the MVP for highest percentage of FAFSA completions among large districts across the state from the Florida College Access Network (FCAN).

Need Money for College or Career School?

We encourage all our students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. This application can help unlock free money from grants and scholarships, work-study (earned) funds and low-rate loans. Not completing a FAFSA could reduce eligibility for not only federal financial aid but also aid from colleges and universities.

Which FAFSA Application do you need?

Students planning to start college or career school in fall 2027 should complete the 2027-2028 FAFSA. Those who plan to start college in the summer term 2027 may also need to fill out the 2026-2027 FAFSA. The FAFSA you complete is for the academic year you are seeking funds.

Learn more about FAFSA

Ten minutes could help open the door to college.

Last year, Bright Futures awards for Pinellas County Schools students grew by 20%, with increases across every award category.

Are you a high school senior?

Completing the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) is an important first step toward consideration for Bright Futures and other state scholarship and grant programs. The application takes about 10 minutes to complete, and no financial information is required. Students can begin the FFAA on October 1 of their senior year.

Awards can be used at eligible colleges and universities throughout Florida, and students have up to five years after high school graduation to use their Bright Futures award.

Don't leave money on the table. Apply today to explore the opportunities available to you.

Learn more about Bright Futures

THE SUPERINTENDENT SAYS:

"At Pinellas County Schools, we believe every student should have the opportunity to find a path that sparks their interests and prepares them for the future. With nearly 100 educational options, families can explore programs designed around students' passions, strengths and goals, from neighborhood schools to District Application Programs and Career Academies. We invite you to 'unlock your potential.'"



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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!