

Tarpon Springs High School
1411 Gulf Road
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
www.tshspinellas.k12.fl.us

September 29, 2011

SPONGER NEWS SPLASH

Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

As we approach the end of the first six weeks of the school year, there are many challenges that we face. Economic issues have continued to impact our district and our schools as we work with less resources. However, we are excited about our goals, our school-wide initiatives and continuing to provide a safe learning environment for everyone as we work toward highest student achievement.

We made dramatic improvements in our test scores, some of the highest increases in Reading and Math in the district. We already know that we have made enormous gains in many areas to improve our school-wide grade.

Of course, we continue to focus on all of our students as we work with our community, volunteers, staff and students to provide an enriching atmosphere, academically, for everyone. Parents, you can help us by continuing your positive support and supporting our initiatives every day.

No doubt, statistics demonstrate that parents involved in their child's education truly make a difference. Please join the PTSA or our SAC organizations as they work to benefit the goals and objectives of your children in a multitude of ways.

We will also be providing you with new technology as we work on updating our website with relevant information.

We also wanted to remind everyone about the importance of stressing the rules and regulations of our district discipline plan and our school dress code. If you are not sure of the dress code, please go to the Pinellas County Schools Website and click on the "Code of Student Conduct" website. If you do not have access to the web, each student will receive a Code of Conduct Handbook to take home during the first day of classes.

It is always exciting to seek new challenges. We look forward to the challenges that we are facing, but we will work with everyone to move forward as a school and give your sons and daughters the best possible high school experience. Thank you for your support and outstanding commitment to our school and our community.

Best wishes,

TSHS Administration Team



Announcements

Extracurricular Activities

Many opportunities are available for students to participate in activities. Service and interest clubs are open to all students. Special talents or interests may be served through the music and drama departments where students participate in both school and public activities throughout the year. Membership on the yearbook or school newspaper staff provides opportunities in writing, advertising and photography. Varsity and Junior Varsity sports are open to all students in grades 9 – 12.

Driving License Privileges

A student who has fifteen (15) or more unverified absences during a term (90 days) may lose his/her driving privileges. This may include suspension of a driver's license or learner's permit. Students who have not yet obtained a permit or license will be unable to get one. Driving privileges may be restored once a student is in compliance with the State of Florida School Attendance Law.

Florida Bright Futures Changes

Florida Bright Futures received some adjustments for the incoming 2011-2012 school year. Below are the changes made to the program.

- * Florida Academic Scholars-no additional money for books.
- * Vocational Gold Seal-only covers 90 credit hours-does NOT convert to Florida Medallion Scholars.
- * Students must pay back to the state any money they receive for classes they drop or withdraw from after the drop/add period.
- * Students must earn at least 24 credits for the year if full-time student and prorated number of hours if enrolled less than full time.
- * Sets an exact amount per credit hour for the three Bright Futures awards rather than the 100% or 75% of tuition costs.

High School Credit Recovery

FREE HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT RECOVERY CLASSES AT PALM HARBOR COMMUNITY SCHOOL!

Are you behind in credits towards graduation? Do you want to improve a D or F grade? If you are motivated and like to work at your own pace, Palm Harbor Community School, located on the campus of Palm Harbor University High School, has classes to meet your needs. If you are highly motivated, most of our classes meet Monday through Thursday nights from 6-8 PM and students are required to attend a minimum of two nights a week. Students may choose, except for math, the option of taking courses either on Novanet (online courses) or with a textbook. Our popular Keyboarding and Computer Skills classes are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Make an appointment with your counselor for more information about available courses and registration. We look forward to assisting you in meeting your goals!

Veterinary Academy

The Tarpon Springs High School **Veterinary Science Academy** welcomes all new and returning students for the 2011-2012 school year. As always, there will be exciting, hands-on learning for students. We encourage Academy parents to join our active Booster Club which helps to support the program.

Old yearbooks for sale!

Old yearbooks for sale! Looking for a Tarpon Yearbook from years ago? Perhaps you never purchased last year's book? Contact Ms. Anthony to buy archived yearbooks! Room 42-001

Teachers in Out-of-Field Areas

ESOL:

Ben Watson, Cindy Williams, Kristine Hindrichs, Carol Puniska, and Karol MacQuarrie

Volunteer Info

Volunteers Rock!

Tarpon Springs High School has always enjoyed a large population of parents, businesses, and community volunteers to assist with our many sports and clubs. We look forward to the same level of commitment and interest in the success for all of our students. This year we are focusing on volunteers who are willing to mentor a struggling student, be it social or academic. If you have an hour a week to share with such a student please contact me. Training for the mentoring is available.

TSHS also wishes to thank all of our business partners for their involvement and generosity, be it money, materials, or manpower. I will be contacting all of our business partners early this fall. Should you not hear from me please don't hesitate to call me.

Huge Kudos to the best PTSA ever!

Thank you all for your past and continuing investment in the education of the students of TSHS. We couldn't offer all the quality programs we do without your support. YOU are an important part of our school family, and your contributions have made a positive impact on student achievement. We hope you have enjoyed your experience as volunteers and partners and will continue to participate in our school activities. YOU are the best messengers of the good things that are happening at Tarpon Springs High School. We value what you bring to our students and school. We look forward to seeing you as the new school year begins.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

Contact Dianne Gary at 943-4900, ext. 2159. or garydi@pcsb.org

New Volunteer Sign-In and Adding hours Procedures

Step 1: Go to www.pcsb.org and sign into PCS Portal using your volunteer account

Step 2: Your user name is your last name and first initial. Your password is your last name (first letter capitalized) followed by your birth year.

User Name Example: v.smith Password Example: Smith1975

Step 3: Click on the volunteer icon. A dropdown menu will appear.

Click "Add Hours." Enter the following information:

Date	School	Hour	Description	Location
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Students: Choose the student you worked with individually or select "All Students"

Comment Box: Enter information you feel is important such as: subjects discussed.

Click "Enter Hours" to save.

Student Code of Conduct

Please note the changes in student responsibilities, dress code, discipline/misconduct, and electronic devices the Student Code of Conduct. Students will bring a copy of the Code of Conduct home during the first week of school.

Athletics Information

Mandatory Insurance

The Pinellas County School Board does not provide medical insurance coverage for students or visitors. Personal insurance carriers usually provide such coverage.

The school district has, however, selected **The Student Insurance Plan** to make affordable coverage available to parents. If you don't have other insurance, this plan may be a resource to consider. Additionally, even if you have other coverage, this plan can help fill expensive "gaps" caused by deductibles and co-pays. **The Student Insurance Plan does not contain a deductible provision.**

Coverage may be purchased at any time during the school year by visiting the Student Insurance Website. The Student Insurance address is: Student Insurance, PO Box 20132, St. Petersburg, FL 33742. The telephone numbers are 800-767-7000 (Headquarters) and 727-576-6080 (Local Office).

MANDATORY AND VOLUNTARY COVERAGE

The Pinellas County School Board, like most school boards in the state of Florida, requires students participating in certain school activities to purchase The Student Insurance Plan. The Board's policy concerning this matter may be viewed by accessing the following link: http://www.pinellas.k12.fl.us/planning/CHAPTERS/CHPTR_4.pdf and paging through until you reach policy number 4.10, titled "Extra-curricular Activities/Requirements."

In summary, the Board, with assistance from the Risk Management & Insurance Department, has determined that the following activities will require students to have coverage, as provided by **The Student Insurance Plan**:

	High School		Middle School
Athletic Team Support Groups	FFA/Hero	Track	Basketball
Band Ensembles	Flag Football	Varsity Football	Bowling
Baseball	Golf	Volleyball	Cheerleading
Basketball	Intramurals	Weightlifting	Intramurals
Bowling	Junior Varsity Football	Wellness & Medical	Special Olympics
Cheerleading	Majorettes	Wrestling	Tennis
Choral Music Groups	Marching Band	Special Olympics	Track
Color Guard	Medical Magnet Programs	Swimming	Volleyball
Cross Country	Orchestra	Tennis	
Dance Team	PCCA		
Diving	Powder Puff Football		
Drama	ROTC		
Drill Team	Soccer		
Executive Internships	Softball		

The Student Insurance Plan coverage is required even if the student is covered by another medical plan or program. There are no exceptions to this as it is board policy. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding this program may be found by accessing the following link: <http://www.k12studentinsurance.com/FaqParent.aspx>. Access to claim filing procedures and forms may be found at the following link: <http://www.k12studentinsurance.com/ClaimInformation.aspx>.

2011-12 SPONGERS BOYS BASKETBALL

Anyone interested in playing basketball this season: Please see Coach Woodka in the gym. We are playing in a fall league & will be conditioning very soon. You must complete paperwork!!

Sports Hall of Fame

Calling all Sponger Parents and Alumni!!

If you are interested in helping with the Tarpon Springs High Sports Hall of Fame, Contact Eric Robles at robleser@pcsb.org

Swimming

To Tarpon Springs Sophomores and incoming Freshmen!! I am looking for guys and girls to become great divers with the Tarpon Springs Swim and Dive Team. No experience is necessary, just lots of courage to try new things on the diving board. Any gymnastics or tumbling background is a plus! As part of the swim team we have seven dual meets and three championship meets during our fall season that runs from August to November. For your first practice you will need a physical, school insurance, and parental consent signatures. Come out – have fun – earn a varsity athletic letter. For questions or additional information call or text Coach Dave Williams at 727-204-9422, or e-mail at williamsda@tampabay.rr.com.

General Info 'Hotline'

Should you have any questions about the athletic programs available at Tarpon Springs High School, please contact Ms. Talley at 727-943-4900. Also, for additional information concerning athletic eligibility and scholarships, or regarding athletic programs available at various colleges, please visit the NCAA or the NJCAA websites.

Knology Players of the Week

Congratulations to Louis Pappas and Dondre Daley as they have been selected Knology Players of the Week for weeks one and two of the season. They were chosen by athletic administrators from all 16 PCAC high schools as the winners for the first two weeks of the season.

5517.01 Policy against Bullying/Harassment (Grades K-12 and Adults) **5517.03 Teen Dating Violence and Abuse Policy (Grades 7-12)**

In response to the state law, the Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for all Students Act, the School Board adopted a policy that prohibits bullying and harassment. The policy ensures that all students, employees, and volunteers learn and work in an environment that is safe, secure, and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. Florida is now one of 47 states with a law regarding bullying in schools.

The Policy defines Bullying as systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees and may involve but is not limited to: teasing, social exclusion, threat, intimidation, stalking, including cyberstalking, physical violence, theft, sexual, religious, or racial harassment, public humiliation, and destruction of property.

The policy defines harassment as any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or employee that: Places a student or employee in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

The School Board strictly prohibits any act of Teen Dating Violence and Abuse committed by one student against another on school property, during a school-sponsored activity, or during school-sponsored transportation. This policy applies only to students in grades 7-12. "Teen Dating Violence and Abuse" is a pattern of emotional, verbal, sexual, or physical violence and/or abuse by one person in a current or past relationship of a romantic nature to exert power and control over another when one or both of the partners is a teenager. Abuse may include insults, coercion, social sabotage, sexual harassment, threats and/or acts of physical or sexual abuse. The abusive partner uses this pattern of violent and coercive behavior to gain power and maintain control over the dating partner. To be subject to this Policy, Teen Dating Violence and Abuse committed by one student against another must occur on school property, during a school-sponsored activity, or during school-sponsored transportation.

We are committed to providing a safe learning environment and will not tolerate Bullying/Harassment or Teen Dating Violence and Abuse of any kind. Incidents can be reported to the principal or any staff member or reported online at one of the below links:

<http://bullying.pcsb.org>
<http://harassment.pcsb.org>
<http://teendatingviolence.pcsb.org>

Anonymous reports can also be made using the District Electronic Reporting Form, or by calling the Campus Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-873-8477, or by texting keyword TIP144 plus your message to CRIMES (274637). For more information about either the Policy against Bullying and Harassment or the Teen Dating Violence and Abuse Policy, please visit the Prevention Office by going to www.pcsb.org, then go to Parents and Students, then to Programs and Resources. To learn more about Bullying/Harassment and find out what adults can do to help prevent it, visit the Stop Bullying website at www.stopbullying.gov. For more information on Teen Dating Violence and Abuse go to www.cdc.gov/chooserespect.

Tarpon Springs High School **SAT/ACT Testing Schedule 2011-12**

SAT

Register at www.collegeboard.com

Test Date	Regular Registration	Late Registration (fee)
Oct 9	Sept 10	Sept 24
Nov 6	Oct 8	Oct 22
Dec 4	Nov 5	Nov 14
Jan 22	Dec 23	Jan 7
March 12	Feb 11	Feb 25
May 7	April 8	April 22
June 1	May 6	May 20



ACT

Register at www.act.org

Test Date	Regular Registration	Late Registration (fee)
Sept 11	Aug 6	Aug 7-20
Oct 23	Sept 17	Sept 18-Oct 1
Dec 11	Nov 5	Nov 6-19
Feb 12	Jan 7	Jan 8-21
April 9	March 4	March 5-18
June 11	May 6	May 7-20

All the above dates are held at Tarpon Springs High School. Please arrive no later than 7:45 with picture ID, Calculator and #2 pencil.

Message from **Guidance**

Beginning in the fall of 2011, all 10th grade students in Pinellas County Schools will take the PLAN pre-collegiate entrance exam aligned to the ACT college entrance exam. The test is free of charge for 10th graders. The exact date is yet to be determined. The PLAN will replace the PSAT as the mandatory 10th grade test. The PSAT will continue to be administered in all Pinellas County Schools as an additional option for any student attempting to qualify for National Merit Scholarship or to prepare for the SAT college entrance examination. The charge to take the PSAT will be the \$13 test fee in grades 9, 10 and 11. Fee waivers can be provided for economically disadvantaged students.

District staff compared the curriculum content, the career interest inventory, and the student, school and district level score reports of the PLAN to that of the PSAT. During this process, many benefits of the ACT assessment system were identified leading to Dr. Jensen's decision to move from the PSAT to the PLAN.

More information will be provided as the 2011-2012 school year begins.

Thank you

Guidance Department



MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

Some things to keep in mind for the new school year:

IMMUNIZATIONS

Make sure your teens are up-to-date on their shots and consider getting Gardasil for girls, which protects them from genital warts, which causes 70% of cervical cancer. Also Menactra is a vaccine which protects against Meningococcal Meningitis and if your teen has not had Chickenpox, they can be protected by the Varacella vaccine.

Immunizations are free at the health departments for children up to age 18 years.

CONFERENCES WITH NURSE

The major goal of our health services is to prevent or decrease absences. We can do this if you keep us informed regarding illnesses, injuries, or surgeries that your teen had. We can then offer rest periods, administer medications & treatments, while they are attending school.

Do not hesitate to call me or request a conference to discuss the health needs of your teen, and if the doctor anticipates an absence of more than two weeks, notify their academic counselor, regarding the Homebound Program.



MEDICATIONS

Whenever possible, medications should be given at home, but if some doses are needed at school, we can administer them at school. The School Board requires that all medications given at school, need to be in their original containers, and have a special card filled-out for each medication.

Students can carry inhalers and emergency Epi-pens in their purse or backpack, but need special documentation from their physician.

Please contact my health technician, Jacque Davenport (ext112) for the necessary paperwork.

NUTRITION & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Proper nutrition is essential for the brain to work properly & efficiently. Teens notoriously skip breakfast, which can prevent them from reaching their academic potential. The school has breakfast items available at approximately 8:30am, but another option is for them to bring their own food i.e. bagel with peanut butter, muffin with fruit, cheese, breakfast bars, etc. (non-perishable items). Lunch offers many healthy choices from the cafeteria, free standing carts, or vending machines.

Encourage your teen to engage in some type of daily physical activity, which will help maintain good health. Taking a walk with your teen can also provide an opportunity to have that "special time" to allow him/her to express their hopes, dreams, worries, etc..



OVER THE COUNTER MEDICINES & PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Please be vigilant to what medications you have in your home medicine cabinets. Some teens are abusing cold & cough syrups to get a high and others may experiment with prescription medications. These activities can be very harmful and sometimes fatal, so the best practice is to keep prescription medicines locked and monitor any over-the-counter use. Discard all outdated

medicines.

CAFFEINE INGESTION

Be aware of the amount of caffeine that your teen ingests because it not only stimulates the brain, but can be addictive. It can create anxiety, trigger headaches including migraines, etc... Here are a few examples of what teens may be drinking:

Beverage	Caffeine	Calories
Classic Coke	23 mgm	97.3
Red Bull	77 mgm	106
Mountain Dew	54 mgm	165
Vault	118 mgm	298
Jolt	141 mgm	290
Monster	140 mgm	200
Rockstar	150 mgm	280



DEAR PARENTS AND TEACHERS,

“NO KNOWLEDGE IS MORE CRUCIAL THAN KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HEALTH. WITHOUT IT NO OTHER LIFE GOAL CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVED.” (THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION REPORT ON SECONDARY EDUCATION). THE SCHOOL HEALTH TEAM UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF A REGISTERED NURSE IS HERE TO DETER A CHILD FROM STARTING BAD HEALTH HABITS, ESTABLISH HEALTHY EATING HABITS, STRENGTHEN A POSITIVE SELF IMAGE AND FACILITATE CARE OF CHRONIC, ACUTE AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES. PREVENTION IS OUR BEST HOPE BECAUSE TODAY’S STUDENTS ARE TOMORROWS HEALTHY ADULTS. OUR NUMBER ONE GOAL IS TO KEEP THE CHILD IN SCHOOL WHERE THEY CAN LEARN. PLEASE RETURN YELLOW CLINIC CARDS AND MEDICATION CARDS TO THE HEALTH ROOM PROMPTLY.

**RESPECTFULLY,
ELLA DAVIS RN**

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance at school is a prerequisite for academic success. Accordingly, all students at Tarpon Springs High School are expected to be present in their classes every school day. For a list of valid reasons for excused absences, look in the Pinellas County Code of Student Conduct.

State law requires that parents/guardians notify Tarpon Springs High School for every absence. Students have 48 hours to have absences verified. Parents/guardians may write a note explaining an absence. When the absence is verified, an Absence Verification Form will be completed in the attendance office. It is the student's responsibility to pick up the form from the attendance office and then show all teachers for verification.

When calling or writing a note for absence verification, please provide the following information:

- The student's full legal name.
- When calling, please spell the student's last name.
- Give the parent/guardian name (first and last) and an accurate contact phone number.
- Give the correct day and date of the absence being verified. If this information is incorrect, the student will not be allowed to make up his/her work for credit.
- Students are reminded to pick up a copy of the attendance verification form from the attendance office immediately upon returning to school. The student must show this copy to each teacher before credit may be given for make-up work.

Remember...the student is responsible for the following:

- Making sure that all absences are verified within 48 hours upon returning to school.
- Showing the verification form to all teachers for credit for missed assignments.
- Asking for make-up work immediately upon returning to school.
- Completing all make-up work and turning it in on time.

