

# Jaguar Journal

**Pembroke Pines  
Charter Schools at  
Academic Village  
Campus**

## Administrative Team

### Principal

Peter Bayer

### Assistant Principal

Robin Battle

Alma Llanos

Cindy Velez

### Behavior Specialists

Steve Bruns

Dan Capiro

## Our MISSION

The Pembroke Pines Charter Community will provide a challenging educational foundation to prepare students for college success and responsible citizenship.

## Our VISION

Pembroke Pines Charter Schools in collaboration with students, parents, and the community, endeavor to create a challenging and supportive organization of lifelong learners. It is our vision to actively engage in a continuous process of intellectual, emotional and social growth that is unified in direction, yet diverse in approach and instruction.

A SACS/CASI Accredited District

February 2026 Volume 25, Issue 3

**College • Citizenship • Community**

## Spring Testing Windows

**SAT School Day: March 4th**

All Juniors have been pre-registered to take a FREE SAT exam during the school day. Test schedule and room assignments will be sent via email.

**PSAT: March 25th**

Grades 8-9

**BEST Writing Assessment: April 1st & 2nd**

Grades 9-10

**FCLE Exam: April 14th & 15th**

12th Grade  
Government  
Students

**FAST, Algebra 1 EOC, Biology EOC,  
Geometry EOC, US History EOC**

Check online  
calendar for specific  
grades and dates

**Senior Final Exams: May 19th-21st**

12th Grade

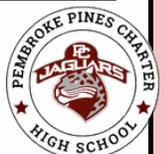
**Underclassmen Final Exams: May 29th - June 2**

Grades 9-11



## Testing Schedule

See Calendar posted on website for  
[Spring Testing Schedule](#)



**Empowering Students for the Possibilities of Tomorrow!**

## Important High School Announcements

### Absences/Tardies

When a student is absent, a parent must complete the google form located on our school's website (<http://academicvillage.pinescharter.net/416/Attendance-Tardy-Information>) within 2 (two) school days of absences. Google form must include the full name, 06# number, grade of the student, date of absences, reason for absences, and parents name and email. Failure to do so within 2 (two) days will result in an unexcused absence.

To excuse a tardy, also complete the google form located on our school's website (<http://academicvillage.pinescharter.net/416/Attendance-Tardy-Information>) within 24 hours of the tardy. **STUDENTS MUST HAVE CHECKED IN/ARRIVED TO SCHOOL BEFORE A TARDY CAN BE EXCUSED.** Do not complete the form until the student has checked in/arrived.

In the event the student will be absent for three (3) or more consecutive days or attending a special event, a Request for Absence Form must be completed and emailed or brought in to the attendance coordinator for administrative approval. The form is also located on our website and can be accessed using the link above. At the bottom of the web page, you will find the [Access the Absence Request Form Here](#) link.

Makeup work for credit is allowed for all excused absences. Students have 2 class days to make-up work for each class day absent. Previously assigned work is due the day of return.

It is the student's responsibility to reschedule missed quizzes/tests within the allotted period for make up work.

### Parent Advisory Meetings

Our parent advisory meetings are held at 6:00 PM on the second Monday of each month. Parent volunteer hours are given for attending the parent advisory meetings. **See page 9 for dates.** Mark your calendars!

### Uniforms

In order to maintain a safe and orderly campus, all students must be in proper uniform. On-Campus Supervision On-campus adult supervision is provided from 6:45 AM-2:30 PM.

### Parent Volunteer Hours

It is the parent's responsibility to keep track of their hours. Please note the following dates for your records: The commitment of 30 parent hours must be completed by May 29, 2026 for parents grades 9-12. **Senior students whose parents have not completed the volunteer commitment will not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony.** In the event the parent volunteer commitment is not completed, your son/daughter will not be registered for the 2026-2027 school year.

### Drop-Off Policy

Parents are responsible for contacting their children and ensuring students know to pick up all items during their lunch time or between classes. Office personnel will NOT contact students as this disrupts the learning environment.

### School Hours

School hours are from 7:15AM-2:00PM. Students must be in their classrooms before 7:15AM. Any tardy students must report to the front office. Students will NOT be able to sign out after 1:30PM.

### Late Policy

Maximizing instructional time is critical for student success. As such students must arrive to school on time as well as arrive to each class on time.

### Early Pick Up/Sign Outs

Parents may pick up their children no later than 1:30PM or 30 minutes before the 2pm dismissal time. The person(s) picking up the student(s) MUST be on the Emergency Contact Card AND MUST have a picture ID.

If the student is a driver and needs to be excused for early sign-out during the school day, please email the Attendance Clerk at [hsattendance@pinescharter.net](mailto:hsattendance@pinescharter.net). Please include the following in your email:

- Student's First and Last Name
- Grade
- Date and Time of Release
- Parent/Guardian Contact Number for verification
- Method of Transportation (driving self, Uber, etc.)

The Attendance Clerk will verify the email with a phone call. Students will not be released until the email is verified. Students are to come up to the front office in between classes (students will NOT be called out of class) to confirm the email has been verified. This information can be found on our school website on the Attendance and Tardy Information page. Please remember students are not permitted to be signed out after 1:30pm on regular school days. **ONLY 3 EARLY SIGN OUTS VIA EMAIL ARE PERMITTED PER SEMESTER.** Once the 3 Early Sign Outs via email are reached, the parent or guardian will need to come to the front office window to physically sign out the student.

The Broward County Code Book for Student Conduct & Discipline Matrix is available on:

<https://www.browardschools.com/codeofconduct>.

For additional information about PPCHS policies and procedures, please review our Parent and Student Handbook: [Parent & Student Handbook 2025-2026](#)

### Teacher of the Year of the Year 2026



### Darlene Laffler PPCHS Teacher of the Year 2026

Talk about a powerhouse teacher for providing students with hands-on activities to prepare them for a world of innovation and possibilities! No one dedicates more out of school hours to provide our students with opportunities for our students to showcase their work nationally and globally! Her outstanding dedication to helping the student community, especially through her contribution as the Robotics Sponsor inspires students to be innovative and achieve greater things.



### High School Counseling Department

➤ **National School Counseling Week:** February 2-6. We thank our wonderful school counselors for being the heart of our school. Thank you for your outstanding hard work and support to our students and families: Ms. Henriquez, Ms. Maycock, Ms. Plaskett, Ms. Scott, Ms. Perez, and Ms. Moses.

School Counseling Department
Maribi Henriquez-Grade 9
Gianna Scott-Grade 10
Lissette Plaskett-Grade 11
Krystle Maycock-Grade 12
BRACE Advisor: Idania Perez
Dana Ostendorf-ESE
Pearl Moses- School Counseling Director

- **Course selections for the 2026-2027** school year will begin in February 23rd. Counselors will visit classes and meet with each student to review selections and enter courses in FOCUS.
- **Please visit the PPCHS SCHOOL COUNSELING 9-12 CANVAS COURSE** and click on the course selection icon for all information pertaining to selecting classes for next year. A copy of the course selection card and course descriptions will be available on this portal. No paper copies will be distributed this year.

**SPAR**  
 The 2024-2025 School Accountability Report can be found by visiting <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/accountability-reporting/school-grades/>



Powered by a group of talented student writers, the CHAT newspaper is back for another new year! Editors, staff writers, and contributors from all across the Charter campus have chimed in and spoken up to make these new updates possible. Visit now on [ppchsnews.com](http://ppchsnews.com) to catch bi-weekly updates on school and community news, with even more on the way.

Stay safe, Jags!  
-CHAT staff

# High School Athletics Department

**Athletics Dept.**  
**Steve Bruns,**  
**Athletic Director**  
**954.538.3725**  
**sbruns@pinescharter.net**



Date	School	Time/ Destination
Feb 17	Monarch	3:45 PM - Away
Feb 19	Somerset Palmetto Bay	6:30 PM - Home
Feb 20	Somerset Pines	6:30 PM - Home
Feb 24	Cooper City	6:30 PM - Away
Feb 27	American Heritage	6:30 PM - Away
Mar 3	Cypress Bay	6:30 PM - Away
Mar 5	Coral Glades	6:30 PM - Home
Mar 10	Pompano	4:00 PM - Away



**Pembroke Pines Charter**  
Academic Village Campus

**Check out our Athletics page for all schedules.**

<http://academicvillage.pinescharter.net/169/Athletics>




## A Season to Remember: Basketball and Soccer Teams Shine

Congratulations to our PPCHS Basketball team-Kingdom of the Sun Champions!

The boys Jaguar basketball team continued their success with consecutive victories over nationally ranked teams. After defeating St. Thomas Aquinas (ranked 24th nationally), 73–70, the Jaguars faced off against the Villages Charter High School, ranked 31st in the nation, in the 30th annual Wally Keller showcase in Punta Gorda. The Jaguars overcame a 12 point deficit in the second half to notch the victory at 67–58. Over the Winter Break, our Jags put in the work and came up winners of the Kingdom of the Sun Tournament. The Jags are currently ranked #1 in the state in Class 5A.



Congratulations to our Boys' and Girls' Soccer teams on an outstanding district tournament run!

The Girls' Soccer team defeated Archbishop McCarthy in a thrilling shootout to capture the District Championship, knocking off the No. 11 team in the nation. The Boys' Soccer team battled until the final moments and finished as District Runner-Up in a hard-fought match that went down to the wire. Both teams will advance to regional play which starts February 5th for the girls and February 6th for the boys. Way to go, Jags!

## Scholarship Search Engines



**Going Merry:** <https://goingmerry.com>

**Fast Web:** <https://www.fastweb.com>

**College Board Big Future:** <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

**Appily:** <https://www.appily.com/scholarships>

**Scholarship Owl:** <https://scholarshipowl.com/>

**General Scholarship Search Niche:** <https://www.niche.com/colleges/scholarships/>

**Scholarship.com** <https://www.scholarships.com/>

**Scholarship Guide for Black Students:** <https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-type/minority-scholarships/scholarships-for-black-students>

**Scholarship Guide for Hispanic Students:** <https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-type/minority-scholarships/hispanic-scholarships>

**Scholarship Guide for Asian-American Students:** <https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-type/minority-scholarships/asian-pacific-islander-scholarships>

## High School Club & Campus News

### National English Honor Society

The Pines Charter Chapter of The National English Honor Society was happy to recently host its annual Poetry Slam after school in the Library Auditorium on January 27th. Attendees enjoyed free Starbucks coffee, free cookies, and free entertainment, including performances by 6 members of the PPCHS jazz band, 33 students who shared their own original poetry, and the top 10 finalists from November's Recite Night poetry recitation competition. We're proud of all of our talented students and are excited to announce that this year's PPCHS Poetry Out Loud champion is Faith Banossian, who will receive \$100 from NEHS and advance to the state competition in March for the 2nd year in a row!



### HOSA Getting Ready to Make History!



HOSA will be competing in our Regional Competition-Winter Leadership Conference on Feb 7, 2026. Part 1 of Regionals happened in January and 70 out of 91 members advanced to Part 2 of regionals. Students will complete their skills competition or presentation on Feb 7 at American Heritage High School. We are eager to find out who places and is eligible to make it to the State Leadership Conference in Orlando in April.

HOSA will be participating in competitive events such as, Health Sciences Terminology, Math, Clinical Specialty, Life Support Skills, Forensic Science, and more!

### Jag Shack Gets a Boost!

Jag Shack hosted its first special internship training event. This event was the first of its kind and allowed students in other Marketing classes at Pembroke Pines Charter High School to join the SBE. The event consisted of a 2-hour program where students worked with others already in the program to discover what they wanted to specialize in. All of the applicants at the event have now enrolled as interns for the remainder of the school year. Through this process, they will gain the experience to become fully-fledged staff members in the following year, as well as building confidence, time management, and responsibility.

Jag Shack has already posted a new commercial on our new YouTube page under PPCHS Jag Shack. For more information about the internship project or anything else, feel free to contact us at [jagshack@pinescharter.net](mailto:jagshack@pinescharter.net).



## More High School Club & Campus News

### Science Olympiad

On Saturday, January 24th, our high school Science Olympiad team and our AVM middle school team competed in the USF's tournament. Our high school team placed 3rd overall and our middle school team placed 4th overall. Up next on 2/28 all the teams will be competing in Regionals at FAU.



**Wheels n Rides** INITOY CAR CLUB

**CAR SHOW**  
Benefits Pembroke Pine Charter High School  
**Sunday, March 1st, 2026**  
Registration: 9:30am - 11:30am  
Show: 11:00am to 4:30pm  
17195 Sheridan St.  
Pembroke Pines, FL 33331  
[tickets.thefoat.com/Wheelsnrides/](https://tickets.thefoat.com/Wheelsnrides/)

**\$25**  
\$30 DAY OF SHOW

**TOP 25 STUDENT CHOICE AWARDS**

**BEST OF AWARDS**

**SCAN TO REGISTER!**

**CAR CULTURE UNITED**  
MARCH 1ST, 2026  
HOSTING  
PEMBROKE PINES  
CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL  
PRESENTED BY  
Wheels n Rides

RAFFLES • FOOD TRUCK • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT • VENDORS • FAMILY FRIENDLY CHARITY EVENT

### Senior Corner

Congratulations, Seniors! PPCHS is behind the scenes finding ways to commemorate this awesome achievement during this unique time. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

- Grad Bash: Grad Bash will be Saturday, April 18th.
- Prom: Prom will be held May 9th, 2026 at the Fort Lauderdale Marriot. Theme Announcement coming soon!
- Senior Dinner: May 27th.

### Graduation Assessment Fee:

ALL Seniors (12th graders) are assigned a Graduation Assessment Fee. This fee assessment is used in an effort to defray some of the cost of the graduation arrangements and the printing costs of diplomas.

🎓 The assessment fee is \$60.00. Seniors can pay this fee via their MyPaymentsPlus account ([www.mypaymentsplus.com/welcome](http://www.mypaymentsplus.com/welcome)) under "Events & Activities".

🎓 The deadline to submit your payment has been **extended** to February 28, 2026. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Capiro at [Dcapiro@pinescharter.net](mailto:Dcapiro@pinescharter.net). Thank you for your continued support!



### Cap & Gown:

At this time, all Seniors should have ordered their cap and Gown on [www.Jostens.com](http://www.Jostens.com). Students will receive their Cap, Gown, Tassel, Custom Graduation Medallion and Diploma Plaque the week of graduation. You will retain all items including the gown. Graduation announcements will be delivered approximately 1 month before graduation.

Any student who has not yet ordered a cap and gown through Jostens should contact Mr. Capiro as soon as possible to ensure their order is placed in time for graduation.



@PPCHSCLASSOF26

**Graduation Day**  
 is  
**May 29, 2026**



**Class of 2026 Sponsor**  
 Carmen Blanco  
[cblanco@pinescharter.net](mailto:cblanco@pinescharter.net)

**Visit the Class of 2026 Instagram page for up-to-date information**

## Parent Volunteer Opportunities

**HELP NEEDED!!**

**PHP**

Who Are We?  
Check out our Instagram!

**HELP SUPPORT THE PROMOTE HER, PERIOD CLUB SUPPLY YOUR CHILD WITH BASIC NEEDS BY DONATING MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS SUCH AS**

- **TAMPONS**
- **PANTYLINERS**
- **PADS**

**1 PARENT HOUR FOR EVERY \$10 SPENT!!**

Promote her, Period is a nonprofit organization whose mission is hygiene access, education and advocacy. The PPCHS Promote Her, Period (PHP) Club is seeking donations of menstrual products. Parents can earn 1 parent hour for every \$10 spent. Help us make sure these basic needs are met!

Check out the PPCHS PHP Instagram for more information on this amazing organization.

## Parent Read and Learn

Parents may participate in the Parent Read and Learn Program and earn 10 parent volunteer hours by reading a book on any one of the approved topics and completing a homework activity prepared by the school.

Only "one" Read & Learn book may be submitted per family. Deadline for earning Volunteer hours through our Read and Learn Program will be May 29th, 2026 for parents of students in ALL grade levels.

If you need any further information about this program, please email Destiny Tejada at [dtejada@pinescharter.net](mailto:dtejada@pinescharter.net). Books on any of approved topics can be found in the library. Please e-mail the Media Center at [AVMediaCenter@pinescharter.net](mailto:AVMediaCenter@pinescharter.net) for help locating books or get your Broward County Library e-card [here](#) for access to e- books.



For more information visit:

<http://academicvillage.pinescharter.net/250/Parent-Volunteer-Information>



# High School Calendar Important Dates



## February

- 09 - Parent Advisory (6:00 PM)
- 10 - Interim Reports Issued
- 13 - Early Release/Day of Service (Dismissal at 11:45 AM)
- 16 - Holiday: President's Day (No School)
- 26 - Charter Study Day (Dismissal at 10:30AM)

## March

- 09 - Parent Advisory (6:00PM)
- 12 - Early Release (Dismissal at 11:45 AM)
- 13 - Teacher Planning (No School)
- 16 - 1st Day of Spring Break
- 23 - Spring Break Ends - 1st Day Back

## April

- 03 - No School
- 06 - Teacher Planning (No School)
- 13 - Parent Advisory (6:00 PM)
- 28 - Interim Report Issued

## May

- 11 - Parent Advisory (6:00 PM)
- 22 - Early Release (Dismissal at 11:45 AM)
- 25 - Memorial Day (No School)

## June

- 01- Parent Advisory (6:00 PM)
- 03 - Early Release (Dismissal at 11:45 AM)
- 04 - Teacher Planning (No School)
- 30 - Report Cards Issued

## Faculty Members Broaden Their Areas of Expertise

All of our professional teachers are continuously upgrading their skills and developing increased levels on content expertise. We would like to recognize those teachers at Pembroke Pines Charter Schools at Academic Village Campus who are expanding their expertise beyond their current certification by pursuing college work and/or training sessions to become certified in another subject. While completing this work, they will be teaching those subjects to students. They have been approved by the School Board of Broward County to teach out of field.

The following teachers are out of field for the first semester of the 2025-2026 school year:

*Ryan Anglani (certified ESE K-12, Autism Spectrum, ESOL & Reading Endorsed) Out-of-field for Gifted as Gifted Coordinator, Alyssa Benitez (certified Social Science 6-12) Out-of-field for English and ESOL, Bianca Carbone (certified in English 6-12) Out-of-field for ESOL, Luz Marina Cordova (certified Social Science 5-9) Out-of-field for Dance, Patricia Jackson (certified in English 6-12) Out-of-field for ESOL, Heather James (Certified Social Science 6-12 & Reading Endorsement) Out-of-field for ESOL, Glorivette Ortiz-Sanabria, (Certified Spanish K-12 & ESOL Endorsement) Out-of-Field for Gifted as Gifted Coordinator, Lisette Ponce (Certified Elementary Education K-6) Out-of-field ESOL, and Kelsley Wilkinson (Interim Substitute Teacher) Out-of-Field for P.E. K-12.*

## Pembroke Pines Charter Schools at Academic Village Campus

### Home of the Jags!

**17189 Sheridan Street**  
**Pembroke Pines, FL**



School Website: [hs.pinescharter.net](http://hs.pinescharter.net)

Main Phone Line: 954-538-3700

Main Fax: 954-538-3715

### Governing Board Members

Angelo Castillo, Mayor

Michael Hernandez, Vice Mayor

Thomas Good, Jr., Commissioner

Maria Rodriguez, Commissioner

Jay D. Schwartz, Commissioner

Jonathan Bonilla, Pines Charter School Liaison and Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Charles Dodge, City Manager & Superintendent of Schools

Peter Bayer, Principal

