



# PAUL R. SMITH MIDDLE SCHOOL

## HOME OF THE EAGLES

Joel Di Vincent  
Principal

Monique Garrison-Saylor  
Assistant Principal

Jennifer Bermudez  
Assistant Principal

Jimmy Rodriguez  
Assistant Principal

### Paul R. Smith Middle School "Our Eagles SOAR!"

Our staff at Paul R. Smith is committed to help every Eagle 'SOAR'. Your child's teachers will be working this year on creating engaging and exciting lessons that are directly aligned to the Florida State Standards. We plan on academically challenging our students and know we can count on you to support your child's learning at home.

Additionally, we have set very high standards of behavioral expectations for our students. During the first few weeks of school, we will review our district's student code of conduct as well as our school's expectations for a safe learning environment. We know we can rely on you to help us keep our school a safe campus for all.

We are excited to let you know that our school offers a free and healthy breakfast every morning for every student. Students will be able to pick up a breakfast on their way to 'morning flight'. This class is provided every morning to provide academic support before the normal schedule starts. This will be an excellent opportunity for students to get the educational support they need to be successful at school.

We plan to communicate with you through a variety of methods including our school website, school connect phone messages and on social media through Facebook and Twitter. Please see our website for more information on our social media efforts.

Finally, I'd like you to know that I'm proud to be an Eagle and I hope you are too!

Sincerely,

Mr. Di Vincent

### SIGN UP FOR MYSTUDENT!

We are excited to offer the district's student information system myStudent to help parents and students check attendance and grades online. Attendance is posted and updated daily. Individual teachers update grades periodically. Their timeline for entering grades may be daily & weekly - depending on their course. Multiple students can be shown on one parent account, even if the students are attending different secondary schools within Pasco County. **All progress reports and report cards will be available through myStudent.** Sign up at:  
<https://launchpad.classlink.com/home>



### WEBSITES & SOCIAL MEDIA

Pasco County Schools: <http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/>

PRSMS Website: <http://prsms.pasco.k12.fl.us>



@PRSMS.Eagles



@prsms\_eagles



@prsms\_eagles



727-246-3200

### VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Parents and community members can apply online to become an approved volunteer after July 1st. The application can be accessed on our district website <http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us> and must be renewed each year. The link is located on the main page, entitled "Volunteer Application." Volunteers are still subject to a state criminal background check and a sexual predator/offender check. Our school's volunteer coordinator, Ms. Nantz, can advise you of your approval status once you have submitted your application. You can contact her at [jnantz@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:jnantz@pasco.k12.fl.us) or 246-3200.

## **SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Paul R. Smith Middle School will be hosting meetings the third Thursday of every month beginning in September. We are looking for parent and business/community partners to participate in this important committee. Nominations for the 2019 -20 School Advisory Council will be taken through August 30, 2019. Nominations can be made by contacting Ms. Nantz via email to [jnantz@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:jnantz@pasco.k12.fl.us) Contact Ms. Nantz for more information.

### **Lunch at the Nest**

**FREE & REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAM**

**Karen Ferro, Cafeteria Manager**

[kferro@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:kferro@pasco.k12.fl.us)

**727-246-3278**

Families are required to apply for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program yearly. Applications are open online. Sign up online at:

<https://www.myschoolapps.com/Home/PickDistrict>

#### **Current Meal Prices:**

Reduced Price Breakfast: \$0.30

Reduced Price Lunch: \$0.40

Full Price Breakfast \$1.50

Full Price Lunch \$3.00

**Sign up to pay for meals online at:**

[www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com)

## **SAFETY DRILLS**

Central to having a safe school is practicing emergency drills during the school day. Fire drills will be conducted during the first two weeks of school and monthly thereafter, in accordance with state law. A tornado drill will also be scheduled in the Fall and again in the Spring. An Active Threat Plan (ATP) drill is conducted once per quarter. These drills allow staff and students to rehearse the procedures that may be needed in the event of an emergency situation. Drills will be announced to students and staff in advance.



## **IMPORTANT CONTACTS:**

**Main Office:** 727-246-3200

Mr. Joel Di Vincent, Principal

[jdivince@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:jdivince@pasco.k12.fl.us)

Mrs. Jennifer Bermudez, Assistant Principal - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

[jbermude@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:jbermude@pasco.k12.fl.us)

Mr. Jimmy Rodriguez, Assistant Principal – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

[jirodrig@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:jirodrig@pasco.k12.fl.us)

Mrs. Monique Garrison, Assistant Principal – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

[magarris@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:magarris@pasco.k12.fl.us)

Corporal Mills, School Resource Officer (SRO)

[dmills@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:dmills@pasco.k12.fl.us)

Ms. Wynn, School Counselor - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

[mwynn@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:mwynn@pasco.k12.fl.us) 727-774-7408

Mr. Cruz, School Counselor - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

[jcruz@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:jcruz@pasco.k12.fl.us) 727-774-7409

Ms. Lux, School Counselor – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

[jlux@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:jlux@pasco.k12.fl.us)

Mrs. Leeper, Graduation Enhancement

[kleeper@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:kleeper@pasco.k12.fl.us)

Mr. Ebert, SSAP – Behavior Supports

[bebert@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:bebert@pasco.k12.fl.us)

Mrs. Vergos, School Nurse

[evergos@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:evergos@pasco.k12.fl.us)

Ms. Young, Behavior Specialist

[sfalom@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:sfalom@pasco.k12.fl.us)

Ms. Harris, Student Discipline

[kharris@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:kharris@pasco.k12.fl.us)

Mrs. Hammond, Attendance

[jhammond@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:jhammond@pasco.k12.fl.us)

Mrs. Rulison-Lange, Athletic Director

[klruliso@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:klruliso@pasco.k12.fl.us)

## Bell Schedule



### PAUL R. SMITH MIDDLE SCHOOL

# *Flight Schedule 19-20*

## SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

A 6th Grade	B 7th Grade	c 8th Grade	D Infinity, Cambridge
MORNING FLIGHT* 8:35- 8:58	MORNING FLIGHT* 8:35- 8:58	MORNING FLIGHT* 8:35- 8:58	MORNING FLIGHT* 8:35- 8:58
PERIOD 1 9:01- 9:51	PERIOD 1 9:01- 9:51	PERIOD 1 9:01- 9:51	PERIOD 1 9:01- 9:51
PERIOD 2 9:55- 10:45	PERIOD 2 9:55- 10:45	PERIOD 2 9:55- 10:45	PERIOD 2 9:55- 10:45
LUNCH 10:49- 11:19	PERIOD 3 10:49- 11:39	PERIOD 3 10:49- 11:39	PERIOD 3 10:49- 11:39
PERIOD 3 11:23- 12:13	LUNCH 11:43- 12:13	PERIOD 4 11:43- 12:33	PERIOD 4 11:43- 12:33
PERIOD 4 12:17- 1:07	PERIOD 4 12:17- 1:07	LUNCH 12:37- 1:07	PERIOD 5 12:37- 1:27
PERIOD 5 1:11- 2:01	PERIOD 5 1:11- 2:01	PERIOD 5 1:11- 2:01	LUNCH 1:31- 2:01
PERIOD 6 2:05- 2:55	PERIOD 6 2:05- 2:55	PERIOD 6 2:05- 2:55	PERIOD 6 2:05- 2:55

\*Morning Flight locations rotate in order from day-to-day

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

A PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST NOTIFY THE SCHOOL IN WRITING AND JUSTIFY THE ABSENCE WITHIN 3 DAYS OF YOUR RETURN TO SCHOOL. THIS CAN BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH EMAIL OR ON PAPER.

UPON REVIEW OF YOUR NOTE, THE ATTENDANCE SECRETARY WILL MAKE THE CHANGE FROM UNEXCUSED IN YOUR ATTENDANCE TO EXCUSED.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT PROPER DOCUMENTATION WITHIN 3 DAYS WILL CAUSE THE ABSENCE TO BE RECORDED AS "UNEXCUSED."



## ACCEPTABLE REASONS FOR ABSENCES

- 1) ILLNESS OF STUDENT
- 2) MAJOR ILLNESS IN THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF THE STUDENT (IMMEDIATE FAMILY IS DEFINED AS PARENTS, BROTHERS, SISTERS, GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS, UNCLES, LEGAL GUARDIANS, OR PERSONS IN LOCO PARENTIS, OR A MEMBER OF ONE'S OWN HOUSEHOLD)
- 3) DEATH IN THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF THE STUDENT
- 4) RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY OF THE STUDENT'S FAITH
- 5) RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION (BAR/BAT MITZVAH, CONFIRMATION, ETC...)
- 6) RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES, CONFERENCES, OR WORKSHOPS (WITH PRIOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL)
- 7) ABSENCES FOR TRIPS OR OTHER PARENTAL REQUESTS THAT ARE DETERMINED TO BE EDUCATIONALLY RELEVANT FOR THE STUDENT BY THE PRINCIPAL (WITH PRIOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL)
- 8) OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION
- 9) SUBPOENA OR FORCED ABSENCE BY ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY. A COPY MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL

## TARDY POLICY

***We want you at school and in your classes on time EVERY day!***



### Acceptable reasons for being tardy:

- 1) Student illness with a note from parent and/or doctor
- 2) Medical and dental appointments - Provide a doctor's note
- 3) Legal appointments - Provide official legal documents
- 4) Unforeseen circumstance such as traffic due to an accident or power outages

**Excessive tardies to school & during school will result in progressive discipline.**

## Rules of Dress and Appearance

In order to promote an orderly learning environment in our schools while preparing all students for later success in the world of work, the District School Board of Pasco County has established the following guidelines for student dress:

The principal, or designee, shall determine the appropriateness of dress and appearance in accordance with the guidelines distributed by the school, school board policy and guidelines contained herein. The principal, or designee, will make the decision if a student's appearance meets school and community standards. *The principal's decision on the appropriateness of dress is final.*

- Students shall wear modest clothing of such style and design as shall be consistent with community standards as determined by the school principal or designee. Refer to specific guidelines distributed by the school. Sexually implicit or explicit clothing, bikini and tank tops, and spandex clothing (kinds of clothing usually worn at beaches and while engaging in recreation activities), are not appropriate wearing apparel for school or school functions.
- Students may not wear leggings, yoga pants, tights or similar clothing *unless* they are covered by a shirt or skirt that is no more than 4" above the knee.
- Students may wear shorts and skirts as long as they are no more than 4" above the knee.
- Blouses, shirts, and sweaters cannot dip below a line formed between the right and left armpit. Muscle shirts and tank tops are not permitted. Spaghetti straps and strapless tops are not acceptable. Tops must be long enough to clearly overlap the belt line or stay tucked in during the course of normal movement throughout the school day.
- Students shall keep their clothes, bodies, and hair clean and well groomed.
- Students shall not wear hats or head coverings on the school campus during the regular school day unless previously approved for medical or religious reasons or special school activities as determined by the principal or designee.
- Students shall wear shoes for foot protection and hygienic reasons while on school grounds or on school transportation. Slippers are not acceptable.
- Decorations, symbols, mottos, or designs imprinted or attached to the body, clothing, accessories or student vehicle which contain profanity in any form, violent images, are considered vulgar, offensive to good taste or the maintenance of decorum, or which contain sexually suggestive words, phrases or images, advertise tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or which identify them as members of secret antisocial groups or gangs, or which cause an inherent risk of substantial disruption to the educational program, shall not be worn to school or school functions. Offensive designs imprinted on the body must be covered.
- Jewelry shall be worn in a way that does not present a safety or health hazard or cause a major disruption to the educational process.
- Wallet chains or dog collars shall not be permitted.
- If issued, student must be in possession of school badges during all school activities and must present the badge to school officials upon request.
- While on any District School Board of Pasco County schools or campus, at any school function or on any school sponsored transportation, students are prohibited from wearing clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner or that disrupts the orderly learning environment. Students' clothing shall be worn appropriately with no abdomen skin or underwear exposed.
- Schools may not require a student to remove or discipline a student for wearing clothing that depicts a firearm or weapon or expresses an opinion regarding a right guaranteed by the Second Amendment (F.S. 1006.07)



### DRESS CODE CONSEQUENCES

#### FIRST OFFENSE

Students in violation of the dress code will be required to change into appropriate clothing. Inappropriate clothing will NOT be allowed to be covered up with a jacket or other garments. Failure to comply will result in parent contact and may result in a consequence.

#### SECOND OFFENSE

Each subsequent violation will result in the student being required to change and serve detention, or may result in the student being sent home. Acts of defiance and argumentative behavior could result in more severe consequences, including out-of-school suspension (OSS).





## What is a Wireless Communication Device (WCD)?

For purposes of this policy, "wireless communication device" includes computers, tablets (e.g., iPads and similar devices), electronic readers ("e-readers"; e.g., Kindles and similar devices), cell phones (e.g., mobile/cellular telephones, smartphones (e.g., BlackBerry, iPhone, Android devices, Windows Mobile devices, etc.), telephone paging devices (e.g., beepers or pagers), and/or other web-enabled devices of any type.

## Wireless Communication Device Policy

Technology including, but not limited to, WCDs intended and actually used for instructional purposes (e.g., taking notes, recording classroom lectures, writing papers) will be permitted, as approved by the classroom teacher or the building principal.

The use of a WCD to engage in non-education-related communications during instructional time is expressly prohibited.

Students may use WCDs provided such uses do not create a distraction, disruption, or otherwise interfere with the educational environment at the following times:

- **Before and after school**
- **During their lunch break**
- **In between classes**
- **During after-school activities (extra-curricular activities)**
- **At school-related functions**
- **While on the school bus**

Distracting behavior that creates an unsafe environment will not be tolerated.

Use of WCDs, except those approved by a teacher or administrator, at any other time is prohibited and they **must be stored out of sight**.

Using a WCD to capture, record and/or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual without proper consent is considered an invasion of privacy and is not permitted (This includes all areas of the school including the cafeteria).

The use of WCDs that contain built-in cameras (i.e. devices that take still or motion pictures, whether in a digital or other format) is prohibited in locker rooms, shower facilities, and/or rest/bathrooms.

Students shall have no expectation of confidentiality with respect to their use of WCDs on school premises/property.

Students are also prohibited from using a WCD to capture, record and/or transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, cheating, or academic dishonesty. Likewise, students are prohibited from using WCDs to receive such information.

Possession of a WCD by a student at school during school hours and/or during extra-curricular activities is a privilege that may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy, or otherwise abuses this privilege.

## Parent Involvement Matters!

To help students succeed, parents/guardians are asked to:

- Develop an understanding of school requirements and policies.
- Support your child in meeting these requirements.
- Visit the PRSMS website regularly at [prsms.pasco.k12.fl.us](http://prsms.pasco.k12.fl.us)
- Follow the PRSMS Facebook page, Twitter account, and Instagram
- Check myStudent regularly and sign up for an account.
- Participate in parent/teacher conferences, school meetings, and related activities.
- Check myStudent for progress reports and report cards.
- Communicate with the school regarding concerns, questions, or suggestions.
- Be involved by attending Parent Nights, after hours, and sporting events.
- Join the SAC and volunteer whenever possible.

## Fortify Florida

<https://www.getfortifyfl.com>

*FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tools that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.*

## Academic Integrity

Students at all levels are expected to pursue their studies with integrity and honesty in all school settings. All work that a student submits will be the original and authentic work of the individual student unless otherwise specified in the assignment. Students have the responsibility to:

- ✓ Uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work
- ✓ Refuse to participate in or tolerate violations of academic integrity in the school community
- ✓ Foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility in the school community

Students who fail to show academic integrity will be subject to disciplinary interventions.

## **AVID Program**

### **What is AVID.....**

The mission of AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is to ensure that all students, especially those who find themselves “in the middle,” will succeed in rigorous curriculum, will complete a college prep path, and will become educated and responsible participants and leaders in society.

**Relational Capacity** – schools today include students of diverse cultures, languages, and backgrounds. Our teachers employ relationship building techniques designed to engage and encourage all students.

**High Expectations** – promoting the skills necessary for all students to have access to rigorous content that prepares them for a college track.

**Collaboration, Inquiry, and Organization** – implementation of specific learning strategies that assist students in finding success in the academic content, the opportunity to develop teamwork skills, and the ability to stay organized as they make academic progress.

**College Awareness** – providing a school culture that promotes interest in higher education, provides opportunities to explore college campuses, and to encourage all students to strongly consider a post-secondary opportunity.

To learn more, please go to [www.avid.org](http://www.avid.org)

## **TDAP - 7<sup>th</sup> Graders Shot requirements**

***All 7<sup>th</sup> graders must have their TDAP shot up to date and bring proof of vaccination prior to entering school. Florida Certification of Immunization (DH680 form) must be provided to the school nurse prior to the first day of school. All Pasco County students are required to be fully immunized.***

## **PRSMS Athletics**

All middle school students with an eligible GPA may participate in the middle school athletic program. Students must have a valid physical form submitted prior to tryouts. Upon making the team, the following participation fees apply:

- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> sport is \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> sport is \$30.00
- ❖ Family cap per school is \$130, Individual cap is \$80



## **Fall Sport Tryouts**

Football Head Coach: TBA

- ❖ Tryouts August 7-9; 3:00 – 5:00 pm
- ❖ Tryouts August 12-16; 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Cheerleading Head Coach: Sara Young

- ❖ Tryouts August 5-8; 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Volleyball Head Coach: Kerri Rulison-Lange

- ❖ Tryouts August 20-22; 3:00 – 5:00 pm

## **Asbestos Notification**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a final rule, 40 CFR Part 763, Asbestos Containing Material in Schools, commonly referred to as AHERA. This rule requires all Local Education Agencies (LEA's) to identify asbestos containing materials (ACM) in their school buildings and to take appropriate actions to control the release of asbestos fibers. All inspections for Paul R. Smith Middle School have been completed and a Management Plan describing the results of the inspection and the action plan to control any asbestos found during the inspections, where applicable, has been submitted to the Governor for approval. Copies of this plan are located in the administrative office of the school and at the District School Board of Pasco County Maintenance/Facility Operations Department. The report is available for review upon request.

# PRSMS Events Calendar

\*Times, Dates and Events are subject to change

## August

6 Orientation Day  
 12 Students First Day  
 27 Open House  
 29 Fundraiser Kickoff

## September

2 Labor Day – No School  
 4 Home Football  
 11 Pasco County Schools Early Release Day  
 13 Quarter 1 Progress Reports  
 13 Fundraiser Final Sale Day  
 16-20 Spirit Week – See Dress Code Guidelines  
 16 Home Volleyball  
 18 Home Volleyball  
 24 Home Football  
 30 Home Volleyball

## October

1-11 Subject Area Quarterly Checks  
 7 Home Volleyball  
 7 School Picture Day  
 8 Home Football  
 9 Pasco County Schools Early Release Day  
 13 Quarter 1 Ends  
 14 No School – Teacher Planning Day  
 23 Quarter 1 Report Cards  
 25 Student Halloween Dance  
 29 Fright Fest/Monster Math Family Night  
 31 Spirit Day – See Dress Code Guidelines

## November

8 Quarter 1 Honor Roll Celebration – Students Only  
 12 Science Make ‘n’ Take  
 13 Home Girls Basketball  
 13 Pasco County Schools Early Release Day  
 14 Great American Teach In  
 14 Home Boys Soccer  
 15 Quarter 2 Progress Reports  
 18 Home Girls Basketball  
 18 Pasco Pathways Expo @RRHS  
 19 Home Boys Soccer  
 25-29 Thanksgiving Break

## December

1-11 Pasco Pathways Window  
 4 Cambridge Tours  
 4 Home Girls Basketball  
 5 Home Boys Soccer  
 5 Winter Band Concert  
 9-20 Subject Area Quarterly Checks  
 11 Home Girls Basketball  
 11 Pasco County Schools Early Release Day  
 12 Home Boys Soccer

16-20 District Finals  
 20 Quarter 2 Ends  
 20 PRSMS Talent Show  
 23-31 Winter Break

## January

1-6 Winter Break Continued  
 TBD PRSMS Student History Fair Competition  
 TBD Cambridge Writing Assessment  
 14 Quarter 2 Report Cards  
 15 Pasco County Schools Early Release Day  
 15 Infinity Information Night  
 20 MLK Jr. Day – No School  
 31 Quarter 2 Honor Roll Ceremony – Parents Invited

## February

3 Home Boys Basketball  
 4 Home Girls Soccer  
 5 Home Boys Basketball  
 6 Home Girls Soccer  
 7 Quarter 3 Progress Reports  
 7 Valentine Dance  
 12 Pasco County Schools Early Release Day  
 17 President’s Day – No School  
 18 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Activities Guidelines in effect  
 19 Home Boys Basketball  
 20 Home Girls Soccer  
 26 Home Boys Basketball

## March

2-13 Subject Area Quarterly Checks  
 4 New Cambridge Students Celebration Night  
 11 “Pi Night”  
 11 Pasco County Schools Early Release Day  
 13 Quarter 3 Ends  
 16-23 Spring Break  
 25 Spanish National Honor Society Induction  
 27 PRSMS TedX Event  
 31 Quarter 3 Report Cards  
 TBD Home Track Events  
 TBD Cambridge Lower Secondary Checkpoints  
 TBD National Junior Honor Society Induction

## April

1-11 FSA Writing Window  
 8 Pasco County Schools Early Release Day  
 9 Student Quarter 3 Honor Roll Celebration  
 10 No School  
 23 Take Your Child to Work Day  
 24 Quarter 4 Progress Reports



# **PAUL R. SMITH MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## **HOME OF THE EAGLES**

**Joel Di Vincent**  
Principal

**Monique Garrison-Saylor**  
Assistant Principal

**Jennifer Bermudez**  
Assistant Principal

**Jimmy Rodriguez**  
Assistant Principal

### **May**

TBD	Yearbook Signing Party
1-29	FSA Assessments – Reading, Math, Science
1-29	State End of Course Exams - Civics, Algebra, and Geometry
18-27	District Finals
2	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip
4	Spring Band Concert
13	Athletic Awards Ceremony
15	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Dance
22	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Field Day
25	Memorial Day – No School
26	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Ceremony 9:30am – 11:30am (Doors Open 9am)
27	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Awards Ceremony 9:30am – 11:30am (Doors Open 9am)
27	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Awards Ceremony 1:00pm – 2:50pm (Doors Open 12:30pm)
27	Last Day of School