



# **Welcome Future Blue Marlins!!!**

**Respectful, Responsible, &  
Ready to Learn**

# **Our Agenda**

- **Welcome**
- **Transition to 6th Grade**
- **School Policies & Supplies**
- **Blue Marlin Life**
- **6th Grade Health Screenings**
- **Family Involvement Opportunities**



# How Do I Access ALL of This Information?

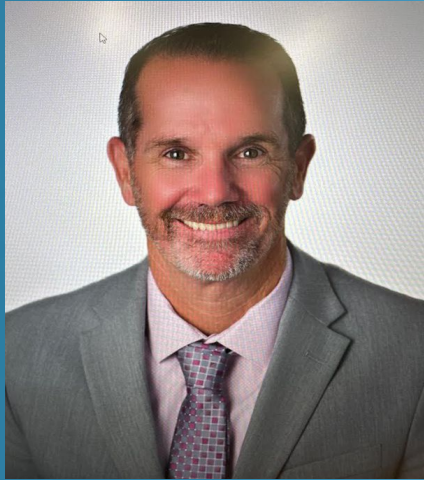
- This presentation with links, etc., will be sent to your elementary school for the principal to post on the school's website.
- It will also be posted on Conniston Middle School's website.

[www.palmbeachschools.org/ConnistonMiddle](http://www.palmbeachschools.org/ConnistonMiddle)





# School Administrators



**Mr. Thomas  
Principal**



**Mr. Gatlin, 6th Grade  
Assistant Principal**



**Ms. Rivera, 7th Grade  
Assistant Principal**



**Mr. Ortolaza, 8th Grade  
Assistant Principal**



**Mr. Widerman, 6th - 8th A - E  
Assistant Principal**



**Ms. Vaughan  
Dean of Student Services**





# School Counselors



**Ms. Nicolaas, 6th Grade**



**Ms. McWatt, 7th Grade**



**Ms. Del Valle, ESOL**





# Program Coordinators



**Ms. Crespo, ESE Coordinator**



**Ms. Medero, After School Director**



**Ms. Zephyr, ESOL Coordinator**



**Judith Vincent, AVID Coordinator**



**Andrew Lopez, Band**



**Eileen Aviles, SGA/LiA/SWPBS**



**Coach Q(uaranta), Athletics**

# **Transition to 6th Grade**

**Respectful, Responsible, &  
Ready to Learn**





# The Blue Marlin Way

## " A Shared Commitment"

**Vision** - To be a world class IB & AVID Middle School

**Mission** -To prepare students for college by ensuring high school readiness through our four pillars:

Standards, High Expectations, Personalized & Engaged.

A Collaborative Effort in Progress.....

## Blue Marlins Are...

- Respectful
- Responsible
- Ready to Learn





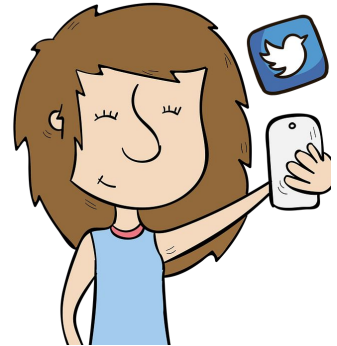
# Where to Get Up-to-Date Information

- [www.palmbeachschools.org/ConnistonMiddle](http://www.palmbeachschools.org/ConnistonMiddle)
- Twitter: @ConnistonMiddle
- Bilingual Parent Link Emails
- Bilingual Parent Link Robocalls
- (NEW! in SY25) Bilingual Parent Newsletter Sent Via

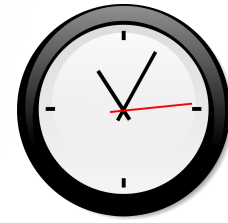
Email by Lanie Simpson

**\*\*\*Please make sure your phone & emails are updated in SIS.**

[\*\*Update My Contact Information - Conniston MS\*\*](#)



# Blue Marlin Time



- School District Calendar English:

**[2025-2026 School District Calendar](#)**

- School District Calendar Spanish:

**[2025-2026 School District Calendar](#)**

- Campus opens & free breakfast is served at 7:30 a.m.

- **Instruction begins at 8:00 a.m.**



# Blue Marlin Time



- **7:30 a.m. - 7:50 a.m.: Enter the campus via front gate (walkers/car riders) or the bus loop entrance (bus riders).**

**\*Parent/Family drivers please be patient.**

- **Students and staff should enter wearing their School I.D. Badge. This is Conniston Middle School, SDPBC, FLDOE policy.**
- **Hoods, hats, headphones must not be on heads, and headphones should not be in/on ears while on school campus.**

**\*This is to support safety and learning.**



# Blue Marlin Time

- Conniston operates on a rotating schedule:

## CMS Sliding Bell Schedule

### Schedule

1st 8:00 - 8:50

2nd 8:54- 9:44

3rd 9:48 - 10:38

4th 10:42 - 1:02 (Marlins meet and lunch)

5th 1:06 - 1:56

6th 2:00 - 2:50

Times	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
8:00-8:50	1	2	3	4	5	6
8:54-9:44	2	3	4	5	6	1
9:48-10:38	3	4	5	6	1	2
10:42-1:02	4	5	6	1	2	3
1:06-1:56	5	6	1	2	3	4
2:00-2:50	6	1	2	3	4	5



- PE Dismissal: 2:45 PM
- Staggered Dismissal: 2:50-3:00 p.m.





# **School Policies & Provided Supplies**

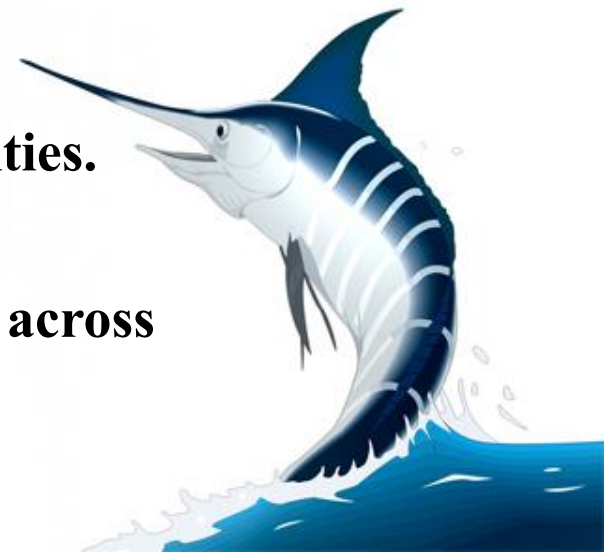
**Respectful, Responsible, &  
Ready to Learn**



# School District Universal ID Badges



- **Conniston MS, SDPBC & the FL Department of Education require universal ID badges.**
- **This is in an effort to do everything possible to keep our students & staff safe.**
- **Technology permitting, students will be scanned onto buses as well as into campus each morning.**
- **Students will need ID badges for the media center, the cafeteria, and certain school activities.**
- **This is a districtwide effort to increase safety across school campuses.**



# Mesh or Clear Backpacks

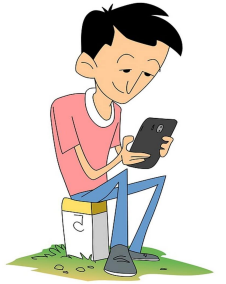


- Students must use a clear or mesh backpack.
- While Conniston MS provided backpacks two years ago for its students, we no longer have the funding to do so. As a result, families must provide a clear or mesh backpack for their students this school year. Conniston will be selling mesh backpacks for \$15 after July 20. Families may also purchase their own mesh or clear backpack elsewhere should they choose.
- Clear/mesh backpacks are not in response to any incident that has occurred on campus.
- They are an effort to do everything possible to keep our students & staff safe.



# **NEW Classroom Supplies & Backpack Policy**

- Teaching in the smartphone era has become incredibly challenging for educators.
- Teachers are competing with TikTok, YouTube, social media, video games, texting & air dropping while trying to meet rigorous standards and teach students complex concepts.
- At Conniston, students are required to place what they need for class on their desks and place their backpacks in an area designated by the classroom teacher.
- Presently, students are not permitted to take cell phones into the restrooms or lunches.





# Dress Code/School Shirt Sizing

## Pre-Orders



- Dress code was updated in 2024 and permits hoodies without zippers (no hoods on heads), joggers, and sweatpants.

### **SY26 Dress Code**

- That said, the dress code will be enforced and parents should communicate and, if necessary, monitor students for dress code daily.
- PE shirts will be sold in August for \$10 each.

#### Physical Education Shirt Order Form

\$10/each (includes lock and locker)

Payment collected in class in August.  
(cash or check)

Open your camera app and hover the camera  
over the code.



#### Formulario de Pedido de Camisetas de Educación Física

\$10/cada una (incluye candado y taquilla)

El pago se realiza en clase en agosto.  
(efectivo o cheque)

Abra la aplicación de su cámara y coloque la  
cámara sobre el código.



# Dress Code/School Shirt Sizing

## Pre-Orders



- Parents will be able to size school shirts this evening and will receive a flyer to pre-order shirts through school cash online. Parents may order/purchase in person this summer as well. Orders begin the end of July. Parents will be notified when SchoolCash is available.
- Please look for messages after July 20 pertaining to school shirts and general school information.



# Textbooks & Devices

## TEXTBOOKS

- Students are provided with a consumable text/workbook for the core content classes (Language Arts, Math, Science, & Social Studies).
- If a replacement is needed, the student will need to purchase the book.
- Specific information will be provided by the classroom teacher at the opening of school.



## CHROMEBOOKS

- Each student is issued a device.
- Students are expected to bring their fully charged device to school daily.
- Loaner devices and chargers may be available in emergency situations.



# Student Chromebooks

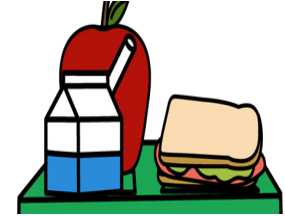
- Chromebooks are the property of the school and SDPBC & will be distributed to students the week of August 11.
- Please charge chromebook nightly and leave charger at home.
- Do not lend or give your chromebook, charger (or cell phone!) to your classmates.
- Chromebooks cost \$280 each. Chargers are \$28. Charge nightly and do not bring chargers to school.
- If you have any issues with your chromebook, please see Ms. Simpson or Mr. Maseda in the media center.
- Students are responsible for their chromebooks.





# Cafeteria Service

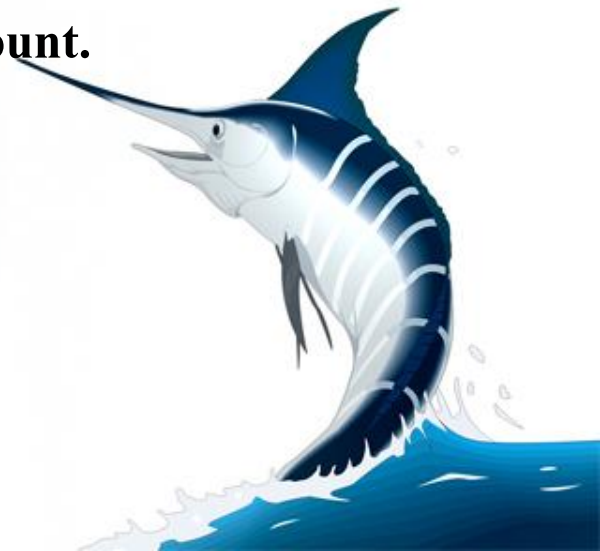
- **Breakfast-** 7:30–7:50 a.m.
- **Lunch-** During lunch block
- **Snacks and Dinner-** After school



- Students who qualify for assistance will receive Free/Reduced Lunch.
- Snacks can be purchased during lunch.
- Use School Cash Online to upload funds to student account or students can bring money to cafeteria manager to put into their account.
- Free Breakfast to ALL students this school year.

## In the Cafeteria:



- Students may only sit at their teacher's assigned table.
- Students must return with their teacher and class.



# School Supplies

- A recommended 6th grade school supply posted onto our website.

## SY26 Conniston Supply List

**CONNISTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
SUPPLIES LIST / LISTA de ÚTILES


\*The following items should be brought to school by each student every day throughout the school year. You may choose to purchase packages and replenish your student's binder/pencil case as necessary.

\*Los siguientes artículos se deben traer todos los días durante el año escolar. Usted puede elegir comprar paquetes para tener en casa y reponerlos en la carpeta/estuche de lápices cuando sea necesario.

- 1 Standard Backpack / Mochila Escolar
- 1 Three-Inch 3-Ring Binder / Carpeta de 3 Pulgadas y 3 Argollas
- 1 Set of 6 Tab Dividers / 6 Divisores de Cuaderno
- (8) 1 Subject Spiral Notebook / Cuaderno Espiral de 1 Asignatura
- 1 Three Hole Punch Pencil Pouch / Estuche de Lápices con 3 Argollas
- 1 Three Hole Punch Ruler / Regla con 3 Agujeros
- 2 Sharpened #2 Pencils / Lápices #2
- 2 Magic Rub Erasers / Borradores Blancos
- 2 Black Pens, 2 Blue Pens, 2 Red Pens / Lapiceros Azul, Negro, Rojo
- College Ruled Notebook Paper / Papel para Cuaderno de Línea Delgada
- Reinforcement Labels / Etiquetas de Refuerzo
- 1 Glue Stick / Barra de Pegamento
- Highlighters / Resaltadores

Please Note: These are basic supplies required for all grades. Individual teachers may have specific supplies requests which will be sent home during the first week of school.

Tenga en Cuenta: Estos son los útiles básicos requeridos para todos los grados. Cada maestro puede tener requisitos específicos que enviará durante la primera semana de clase.



A detailed illustration of a Blue Marlin leaping out of the water. The fish is shown in profile, facing left, with its long, pointed snout and open mouth. Its body is silver with dark blue vertical stripes. The dorsal fin is large and dark blue, and the tail is also dark blue with a forked shape. The fish is emerging from a splash of dark blue water at the bottom right. The background is a light blue gradient.

# Blue Marlin Life

Respectful, Responsible, & Ready  
to Learn



# Blue Marlin Excellence



- **The ONLY AVID National Demonstration School in PB County**
- **One of only 4 IB Middle Schools in PB County**
- **Positive Behavior School - Highest Ranking in PB County**
- **Award-Winning Green School Program**
- **“Seven Year” Parker Corridor Band Program w/Forest Hill HS**
- **PB County 2022, 2023, 2024 Flag Football Champions**
- **2023-2025: Playoffs in girls volleyball, boys volleyball, boys soccer, , boys basketball, & boys/girls track.**
- **Top 2 in Reading & Math Growth in 2024**
- **One of two MS to improve in reading, math, science, and civics in 2024.**
- **Increase of at least six more points in reading in 2025.**
- **Large menu of clubs, athletics & activities.**
- **New to CMS in 2024: Latinos in Action Leadership Program**





# Blue Marlin Life



- **July 29: Blue Marlin Summer Splash**  
**For 6th graders only. (*Get to know your new school!*)**



## **July 29 Conniston Blue Marlin Summer Splash Registration**

- **August 11: 1st Day of School (Independence Day)**
  - ➔ **Syllabus in every class**
  - ➔ **SY26 Dress Code**
  - ➔ **Backpacks: Mesh/Clear**
  - ➔ **Electronic Devices not in sight while in class, restroom & lunch**
  - ➔ **Hallway Expectations including passes**
  - ➔ **We Are Here to Be Safe & Learn**



# Attendance/Tardy Policy

- On time & ready to learn
- If absent, a signed parent note may be turned into the main office to create an excused absence for the student.
- Parents may also email our data processor Ms. Callei

**[debra.callei@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:debra.callei@palmbeachschools.org)**

- **BIG ADJUSTMENT** - four minute minutes to get to next class. Detours are not permitted.



# **6th Grade Health Screenings**

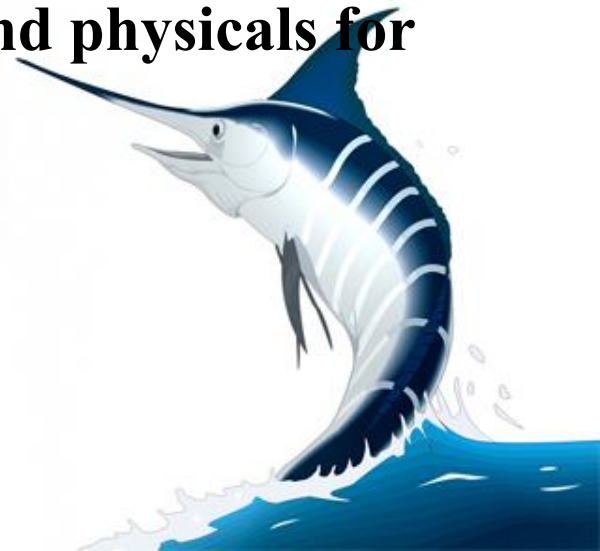
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Ready to Learn**



# 6th Grade Health Screenings



- Health screenings to be conducted in school will be available in the fall for all 6th grade students. *(Vision, Hearing, BMI, and Scoliosis)*
- Prior to the screening, more detailed information will be sent home via flyers, Parent Link emails and robocalls.
- Students will need updated vaccinations and physicals for 7th grade.



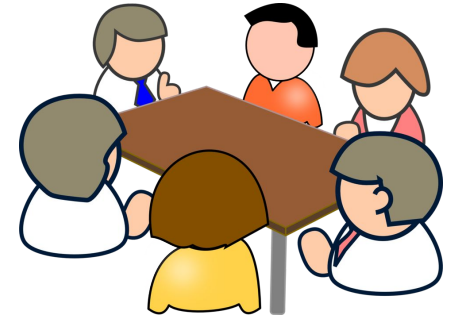


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# **Opportunities for Parents & Family Members**

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Ready to Learn**

# School Advisory Council (SAC)



- **SAC is an advisory council made up of parents, teachers, staff, students, and community members with the goal of improving student engagement, learning, growth and achievement.**
- **How to Get Involved: All community members are invited to participate. We look forward to seeing everyone.**
- **First Meeting: August 26 at 5:30 p.m.**
- **Regular Meetings: Third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.**

Mariana Nicolaas (SAC Chair): [mariana.nicolaas@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:mariana.nicolaas@palmbeachschools.org)

Eileen Aviles (SAC Secretary): [eileen.aviles@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:eileen.aviles@palmbeachschools.org)



# Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)



- **PTO gives parents and teachers the opportunity to work together to supplement and enrich the educational experience for teachers and students.**
- **First Meeting: August 26 @ immediately following the SAC Meeting.**
- **Regular Meetings: Third Tuesday of the month immediately following the SAC Meeting.**



# Open House/Curriculum Night



- Parents will be able to follow their student's schedule to visit all six classes, meet teachers, and learn about about the curriculum and classroom expectations.

**September 18, 2025**

**6:00 P.M.**

**(Parking on the athletic fields)**



# Title I Annual Parent Meeting



- Parents will learn how Conniston Middle School utilize federally-funded Title I monies toward student academic growth and learning.

**September 18, 2025**

**5:00 P.M.**

**(Parking on the athletic fields)**





# Registration for New School Year



- **All incoming students should complete a NEW registration form in August to make sure all contact information is updated and current.**
- **Conniston will send the forms home with students in August and send reminders to parents and families.**



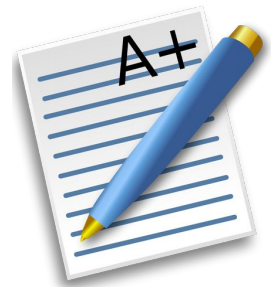
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# **Blue Marlin Nation**

**Respectful, Responsible, &  
Ready to Learn**



# Positive Behavior Initiatives and Rewards



- **Quarterly Family/Student Honor Roll Celebrations (A's / B's; 3 / 4's)**
- **NJHS Membership**
- **Monthly Outstanding Attendance Recognition**
- **Monthly Character Awards**
- **Positive Behavior Rewards...**
  - **Twice Monthly Popsicle Invasion with Coupon**
  - **Quarterly Fun events such as:**
    - **Field Day**
    - **Carnival Day**
    - **After School Dances**
    - **AstroSkate Event**
- **Clubs and Sports Teams Participation**



# Sports, Clubs & Activities

(teams, field trips, dances, and celebrations)



- **Participation Requirements:**
  - No more than 5 tardies in one quarter
  - No more than 2 level 1 disciplinary referrals
  - No (ZERO) level 3 o 4 disciplinary referrals



# Sports Teams

- 10 district sports teams
- flag football
- cheerleading

**1st Season - GIRLS' SOFTBALL & BOYS' BASEBALL**  
**(August - October)**



**2nd Season - GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL & BOYS' SOCCER**  
**(October - December)**



**3rd Season - BOYS'/GIRLS' BASKETBALL & GIRLS' SOCCER**  
**(January - March)**



**4th Season - BOYS' & GIRLS' TRACK & BOYS' VOLLEYBALL**  
**(March - May)**



- \*Cheerleading **(October - February)**
- \* Intramural Flag Football (boys and girls) **(Oct-Nov or Feb-Mar)**





# Clubs

- **Student Government**
- **National Junior Honor Society**
- **Green Club**
- **Art Club**
- **Battle of the Books**
- **Morning News**
- **Anime Club**
- **Drama Club**
- **Math Club**
- **Garden Club**
- **Orchid Club**
- **Academic Games**



# Boys & Girls Club and After School Program

- **Boys & Girls Club:**
  - Monday-Friday
  - 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.
  - No transportation provided



- **After School Program:**
  - Monday-Thursday
  - 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
  - Bus provided.



**Afterschool Registration**

**Tentative Start Date: August 25, 2025.**



# Boys & Girls Club

## FREE Summer Program/Programa de Verano Gratuito

**FREE CAMP!** 



**CAMP-TASTIC SUMMER 2025 AT CONNISTON MIDDLE SCHOOL!**

Get ready for a **CAMP-TASTIC SUMMER** with sports, adventures, outdoor games, meals, **FIELD TRIPS & MORE!**

**Incoming 6th graders reserve your spot now for FREE!**

June 2nd - July 25th  
Monday through Friday  
7:30 AM - 6:00 PM  
**AT CONNISTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED\***  
Parent/Guardian  
Scan here to begin



**\*PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO MEMBERS ATTENDING THE AFTERSCHOOL BOYS & GIRLS CLUB!**

Questions? Contact  
Ms. Blake  
blake.robinson@bgcpbc.org



**CAMPO GRATIS!** 



**CAMP-TASTIC SUMMER 2025 EN CONNISTON MIDDLE SCHOOL!**

¡Prepárate para un verano **FANTÁSTICO DE CAMPAMENTO** con deportes, aventuras, juegos, comidas, **EXCURSIONES Y MÁS!**

**Alumnos de 6to grado entrante Reserva tu campo ahora GRATIS!**

Del 2 de junio hasta el 25 de julio  
De lunes a viernes  
7:30 AM - 6:00 PM  
**EN CONNISTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**SE REQUIERE REGISTRO\***  
Padres/Tutores  
Escanea aquí para comenzar



¿Preguntas? Contacte a  
Ms. Blake  
blake.robinson@bgcpbc.org

**\*SE DARÁ PRIORIDAD A LOS MIEMBROS QUE ASISTEN AL CLUB DESPUÉS DEL COLEGIO DURANTE EL AÑO ESCOLAR!**





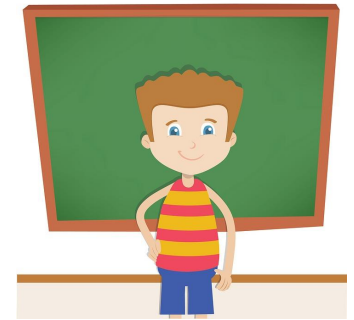
# Boys & Girls Club FREE Summer Program



# **Blue Marlin Summer Splash - 6th Grade**

## **Student Orientation**

- **Experience a day in the life of a 6th grader.**
- **Meet Blue Marlin staff and support team members.**
- **Participate in team building activities.**
- **Participate in positive behavior activities.**
- **Learn and review school policies.**
- **Develop organizational strategies and acquire skills to promote academic independence.**



**July 29, 2025**







**Pre-Register Today!!!:**

**Blue Marlin Summer Splash**  
**Registration**



# **Blue Marlin Counseling & Support**

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to Learn



# Blue Marlin School Counseling Team



- **Role of School Counselor-** We are here to support you academically (inquiring about how to be promoted), emotionally (if you are just having a bad day and need someone to talk to), and socially (if you need to resolve a conflict or need some advice on how to recognize a true friend). Helping students process their problems and plan goals and action is another way we support you. We also mediate conflict between students and as well as be an advocate for their success.
- **How to Schedule a Parent Conference-**To set up a parent/teacher conference (PTC), parents may reach out to the specific grade level counselor via phone, email or in person and request a conference. Conferences are held from 7:30 am to 8:00 am.





# School Counselors



**Ms. Nicolaas, 6th Grade**



**Ms. McWatt, 7th Grade**



**Ms. Del Valle, ESOL**



# Behavior Health Professional

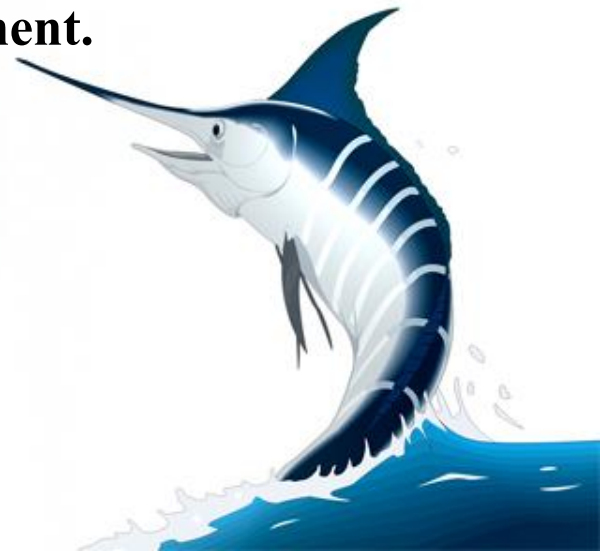
Ms. Amber Christon



- Works closely with our school counseling department.
- Promotes the personal, social/emotional, and academic development of all students.

**Caring First**

**211 Helpline**







# **Are you ready for 6th Grade?**



- ☐ **Submit elective course request (at elementary school)**
- ☐ **Attend Incoming 6th Grade Orientation May 14**
- ☐ **Attend Boys & Girls Summer Camp**
- ☐ **Purchase school shirts after July 20**
- ☐ **Attend Blue Marlin Summer Splash July 29**
- ☐ **Student Registration Updates in August.**
- ☐ **Be an amazing Blue Marlin student starting August 11!**





**Independence Day!!**

**August 11, 2025**



**We Can't Wait to See You  
in August!!!**

**Respectful, Responsible, &  
Ready to Learn**