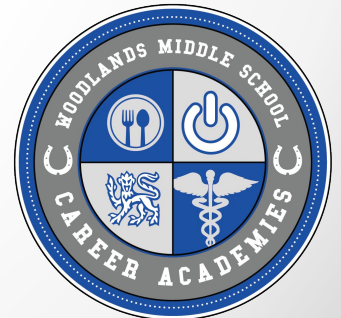


# Woodlands Middle School

## Orientation

For Parents and Students New to  
Woodlands Middle School



# Mrs. Jen Kuras, Principal



**Welcome to Woodlands  
Community Middle School!**

**Home of the Mustangs!**

# Our Mission Statement

*Woodlands is a Cambridge International school dedicated to **connecting, supporting, and accelerating** each of our scholars to **succeed and serve others**.*

# BEING A CAMBRIDGE SCHOLAR

**CONFIDENT**

**RESPONSIBLE**

**INNOVATIVE**



**REFLECTIVE**

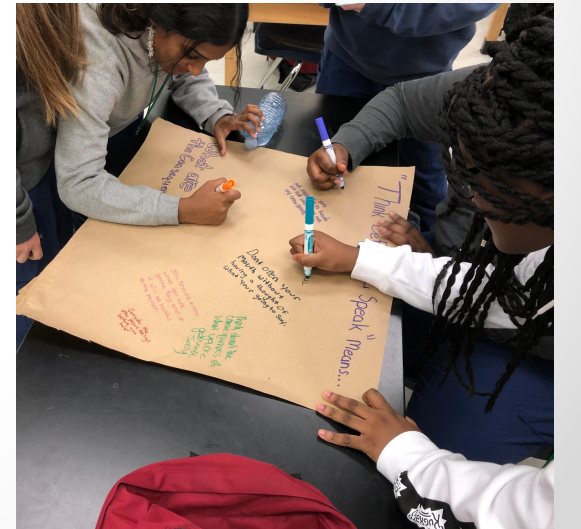
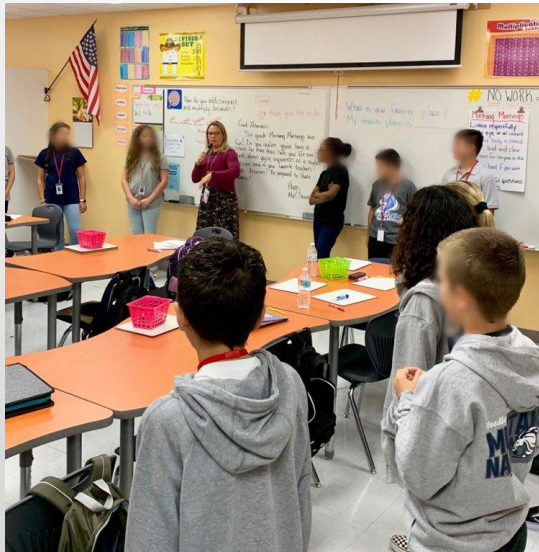
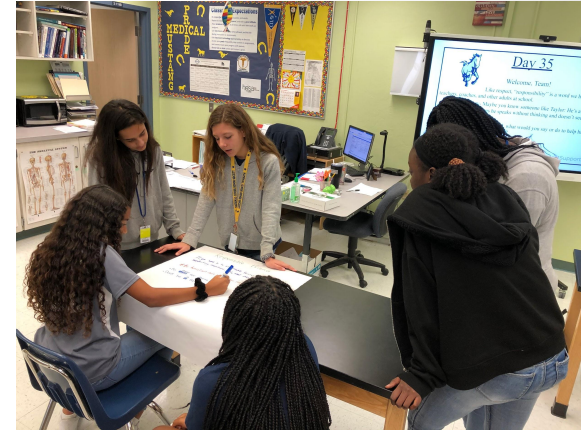
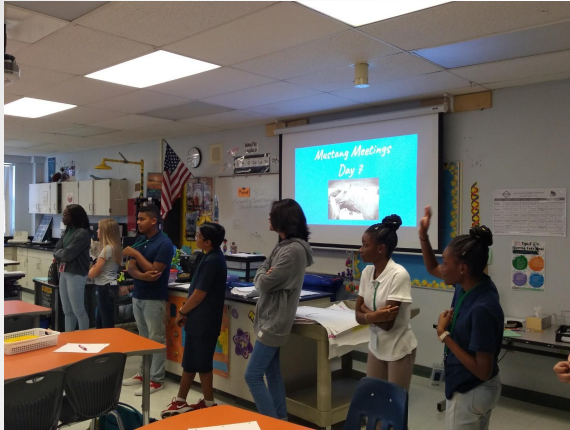
**ENGAGED**

# Skills for Learning and Life

## SKILLS FOR *Learning* & *Life*

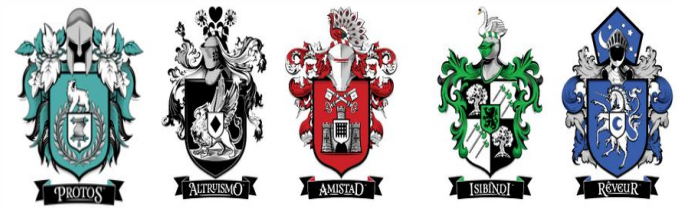


The School District of Palm Beach County





# Woodlands House System





# What is the House System?



- ❖ Houses make up smaller communities within each school where all staff and students belong to one so everyone feels a sense of membership at school.
- ❖ Each house represents different traits, history, and traditions.
- ❖ Houses are not teams.
- ❖ Houses offer...
  - Competition (Healthy)
  - Comradery
  - Collaboration
  - Communication
  - Connection





# **Crew with a Cause**



**Every child needs an  
environment where personal  
sacrifice contributes to the  
collective experience.**





# Why the House System?



- ❖ Fosters a **culture of belonging** because houses are composed of **every student and staff member in the school**- allowing students to socialize with one another across grades and with positive adult role models beyond just their classroom teachers.
- ❖ Builds **character** and **school-wide community**.
  - The **traits of each house** represent traits that you want all of your students to embody: *"5 houses -1 Mustang family"*
  - Each student's **personal accomplishments** are rewarded with points that **collectively count toward his/her House**. This gives students an opportunity to be recognized and thanked by their peers for their individual contributions to the overall team.
- ❖ Promotes a **culture of healthy/constructive competition** through House competitions- students learn how to be team players, contribute their efforts toward a group, and learn that those who work hard and stick with it are often the ones rewarded.





# **Social Well-Being**

## **How we relate to others (How we act)**



- ❖ **Belonging**
- ❖ **Relationships and Social Connections**
- ❖ **Sense of Purpose**
  - **Studies have shown that identity and purpose can be some of the strongest predictors of well-being, significantly predicting greater life satisfaction, positive effects, and outcomes.**

THOSE WHO HAVE  
A STRONG SENSE OF  
LOVE AND BELONGING  
HAVE THE COURAGE  
TO BE IMPERFECT.

BRENE BROWN





# House Points



**Win House Points and Earn the House Championship at the end of the year!!!!**

- ❖ **Being a leader in your classroom**
- ❖ **Consistently displaying MUSTANG PRIDE**
- ❖ **Achieving Academic Excellence**
- ❖ **Schoolwide Top Achiever in Reading Plus**
- ❖ **School Spirit**
- ❖ **Teamwork**





# **How can you help as a parent:**



- ❖ **Ask your student about their house, learn about the house along with them.**
- ❖ **Encourage your student to participate in house activities such as house spirit dress up days**
- ❖ **Come and participate in family house activities. You are a part of the house with your student.**
- ❖ **Would you like to be a financial partner? You can be a business partner and be specific to saying you would like to support this initiative. Please contact Mrs. Hartman for more information.**





# 5 Houses, 1 Mustang Family



# Sports and Intramurals



## Boys and Girls: Soccer Volleyball Softball Baseball Basketball Track & Field

- Tryouts will be announced
- All students are required to have an athletic packet turned in with a physical
- Athletic packets may be picked up in the main office



# Clubs & Activities

National  
Junior Honor  
Society

SADD & SWAT

HOSA

SECME

Art

Chess



Jazz Band

Robotics

Cheerleading

Step Team

Campus Life

Student Council



# Morning and Aftercare

## WHEN:

**Morning Care:** Monday - Friday, 7:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M (Starting 2nd day of school)

**After School Program:** Monday - Thursday, 4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M (Starting the 2nd week of August)

**WHERE:** Cafeteria / Classroom

**TRANSPORTATION:** Activity Bus (beginning 21st) / Parent

**COST:** Free for free/reduced lunch students & minimal monthly payments accepted

**ACTIVITIES:** Homework help, tutorial sessions, computer lab, culinary, robotics, step, & other activities

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Mustang  
PRIDE



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Home of Cambridge,  
Medical, Culinary & IT  
Academies

# Parent Pick-Up and Drop-Off

## Aquarius Gate:

- Is not a designated drop-off or pick-up area.
- Only students who live in the designated area will receive an Aquarius ID and be allowed to enter and exit through this gate.

## Lyons Road:

- The entrance to the car-line is at 5200 Lyons Road.
- All students should be dropped-off and picked-up in the car-line.
- Upon entering the car-line students should be ready to depart their vehicle when they arrive at the front of the school.
- Drivers are to be hands-free and refrain from using their Cell Phones while in the car-line to ensure the safety of our students and staff.
- We ask that you continuously move all the way to the front of the car-line following the orange cones.
- Students are not to be dropped-off or picked-up on Lyons Road.

# Dismissal Reminders:

- Woodlands Middle School Dismisses at 4:00pm. Per Florida Statute 1003.31, students are to be picked up no later than 30 minutes after school is dismissed. Please make arrangements to have students picked-up by 4:30pm.
- Aftercare is available beginning mid-August. Please contact Jean Jabouin ([jean.jabouin@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:jean.jabouin@palmbeachschools.org)) for details.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation as the safety of our students is our top priority.

# Bus Transportation:

To find out bus number, times and locations-

<https://www.palmbeachschools.org>

- Click on Students & Parents
- Quick Links: Click on [Register Your Ride](#) (available in August)




# Choice Transportation

- The School Board shall provide transportation for all students who are enrolled in Choice schools and programs who reside more than two miles from the choice school or program, and who reside within a designated choice transportation zone.
- **Bus stops for Choice schools or programs may be limited and may not be within walking distance of a student's home. Choice bus routes average a longer ride time than routes to a zoned school.**
- Additional bus stops will not be created for students who reside within the choice transportation zone regardless of the student's proximity to the nearest stop.
- **Visit "Register Your Ride" on district web page in August.**

# Registration / Course Selection

- If your current school does not feed to Woodlands Middle, you will need to complete a registration form and course selection sheet.

 <b>THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY</b> <b>New and Returning Student Registration</b> Complete <b>ALL AREAS</b> on both sides of the form. Correct any preprinted information. <u>Do not leave any area unanswered.</u> <b>ALL</b> students <b>MUST COMPLETE</b> a registration form <b>ANNUALLY</b> .	<b>OFFICE USE ONLY</b>		
	Student Number	School Number	Transportation
	Grade Level	EN CD	SAC Code
	Student Entry Date	TERMS Data Entry: Name/Date	
Student Legal name (last, first, middle)		Student Former Name or AKA (if applicable)	
Student Local Address (house number and street name, apartment number, city, state, zip code)		Housing Development (if applicable)	
Student Soc. Sec. # (optional)	Student Home Telephone #	Best Parent/Guardian Contact Telephone Numbers	

# Registration

- ❖ Contact Mrs. Watts in our Main Office for a registration packet and course selection form.
  - [costanza.watts@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:costanza.watts@palmbeachschools.org)
  - Main Office: 561-357-0300
  - or scan QR code:



- ❖ Hard copy registration packets are available tonight.

# Parent Organizations

## Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO)

meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month at 6:00pm

PTSO board meets 1st of each month

### PTSO Contact information:

General Email: [WoodlandsMSPTSO@gmail.com](mailto:WoodlandsMSPTSO@gmail.com)

Volunteer email: [woodlandsm volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:woodlandsm volunteer@gmail.com)

FB: [Woodlands PTSO](#) IG: [Woodlands MS PTSO](#)

Remind: [Text @ac2egb to 81010](#)

School Online Store: <https://woodlands-ptso.square.site>

Purchase Membership & Spirit wear

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PRIDE**



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Medical, Culinary  
& IT Academies

# Community Organizations

## School Advisory Council (SAC)

meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month at 6:30pm

## Volunteers and Business Partners

### Volunteers needed!

- Sign up through Main Office or PTSO

### Business Partnerships:

- Recognition on fence banner for \$350 donation
- Donations of supplies, discounts for services
- Mentorship, guest speakers
- SAC membership

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# Mustang Communication

- PBC School District App
- Weekly Principal Newsletter
- Callouts from ParentLink
- Emails (student and parent)
- Parent Conferences
- School Website
  - <https://wdms.palmbeachschools.org>
- Social Media
  - Instagram: [@Mustanghouses wms](#)
  - Facebook: [Woodlands MS](#)
  - Follow our principal Mrs. Kuras: X [@SDPBCJenKuras](#)
  - Follow our choice academies: X [@WoodlandsMSAcad](#) and IG [woodlandsms choice](#)



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# SIS (Student Information System)

## CHECK STUDENT GRADES & ATTENDANCE

<https://wdms.palmbeachschools.org>

- From the web page, click on the box that says **SIS Gateway** to register and get student grades and other reports.

A screenshot of the SIS Gateway website. At the top is a blue header with the district logo and name. Below is the "SIS GATEWAY" logo. A welcome message states the gateway provides access to student information. Two large red buttons, "REGISTER" and "LOG IN", are prominent. Under "REGISTER" are links for creating a new account, adding another student, and security instructions. Under "LOG IN" are links for all users, forgot password, and browser recommendations. A "Need Help?" section provides links for registration, adding students, and password resets. The footer contains contact information for the Educational Services Center and links to various site pages.

The School District of Palm Beach County

### SIS GATEWAY

Welcome to the School District of Palm Beach County Student Information System (SIS) Gateway for Parents. The Gateway is a tool that provides parents/guardians timely access to their student's information including, but not limited to schedule, grades, discipline, and attendance.

**REGISTER**

Create a New Parent/Guardian Account  
Add Another Student to my Gateway Account  
\*Security PIN Required  
No PIN? Contact the school.  
\*\*Use Google Chrome or Firefox\*\*

**LOG IN**

All Gateway Users Login  
Forgot Password?  
\*\*Use Google Chrome or Firefox\*\*

**Need Help?**  
How to register  
How to add another student to my existing account  
How to reset your password

Fulton-Holland Educational Services Center  
3300 Forest Hill Boulevard  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406  
Phone: (561) 434-8000, (866) 930-8402

ABOUT US  
CALENDAR  
BOARD POLICIES  
COMMUNICATIONS  
CONTACT US

# Transitioning to Middle School



- Greater independence
- Letter grades instead of standards-based grades
- Greater academic responsibility; students will be cognitively challenged
- Time management
- Social influences
- Decision-making
- More activities & choices
- Most students adjust quickly
- Parents should stay connected and involved, while allowing kids to be accountable

# Grades / Progress Reports

## Grading Scale

### **A Outstanding Progress (100 – 90)**

Indicates thorough mastery of the subject

### **B Above Average Progress (89 – 80)**

Indicates above average mastery of the subject

### **C Average Progress (79 – 70)**

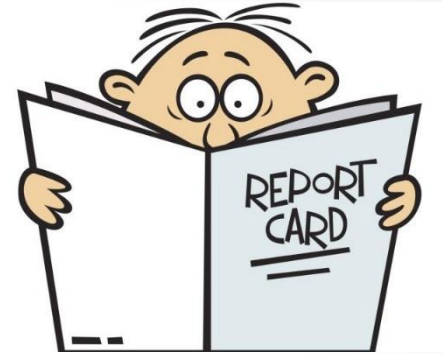
Indicates average mastery of the subject

### **D Lowest Acceptable Progress (69 – 60)**

Indicates below average mastery of the subject

### **F Failure (below 60)**

Indicates lack of mastery of the subject



## PROGRESS REPORTS

Sent home halfway through each quarter.

## REPORT CARDS

Pushed-out via SIS Portal at the close of each quarter.

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Academies

# Student Support Services

**Mrs. Aimee Goetz**

**ESOL Coordinator**

**English Speakers of Other Languages**



**Dr. Angela Anderson**

**ESE Coordinator**

**IEPs and EPs**

**Ms. Oleydis Iznaga**

**6th Grade Counselor**

**504's**

# Student Support Services



**School Counselors:**  
**Ms. Oleydis Iznaga (6th)**  
**Ms. Daiana Dias (7th)**  
**Mrs. Guillaume (8th)**  
**Mr. Paul Mathias (ESOL)**

**School Behavioral Health Professional:**  
**Ms. Monique Barrett**

**To schedule Parent/Teacher Conferences:**  
**Ms. Ashley Hickie**

# Summer “To Do” List

- Follow SDPBC on social media for latest updates
- Make sure your contact information is correct in SIS
- Purchase school supplies
  - [6th grade list](#)
- Purchase school dress code items

## IMPORTANT Dates:

### Schedule Release:

**Student schedules will be released via SIS Student Portal on Friday, August 8th, 2025**

### First Day of School

**Monday, August 11, 2025**

**First bell is at 9:00am, Tardy bell at 9:10am**

**Please plan for increased traffic!**

# Mustang Mini Camp

- Where: WOODLANDS MIDDLE SCHOOL
- When: Choose ONE of the dates July 29, 30, or 31, 2025.
- Time: 9:30AM-2:30PM
- What to expect: Fun activities to get to know your peers, get a feel for the school, meet your school counselors, information on what to expect in Middle School.
- Lunch is provided

**\*For incoming 6th graders only\***

[Mini Camp Form](#)



# Contact Us:

Principal, [Mrs. Jenifer Kuras](#)

6th Grade Assistant Principal, [Mrs. Dawn Hartman](#)

7th Grade Assistant Principal, [Mrs. Sharese Gillard](#)

8th Grade Assistant Principal, [Mr. James Harryton](#)

Cambridge Coordinator, [Mrs. Kayce Henning](#)

Choice Coordinator, [Mrs. Eileen Southwick](#)

PTSO President, Edith Ramos

Athletic Director, [Ms. Lori Motel](#)

ESE Coordinator, [Dr. Angela Anderson](#)

ESOL Coordinator, [Mrs. Aimee Goetz](#)

Registration/Course Selection: [Ms. Connie Watts](#)

[illegible]