



 **CATCH THE WAVE**
of Customer Service Excellence

Middle School Parent Information Session



Copyright 2025 by School District of Palm Beach County, Department of Multicultural Education

High-performing A-rated District

AGENDA

- **Middle School Grades & Report Cards**
- **Florida Statewide Assessments**
- **Promoting Student Success**
- **Attendance Matters**
- **SIS Information**
- **Resources for English Language Learners (ELLs)**
- **Mental Health & Wellness**

Copyright 2025 by School District of Palm Beach County, Department of Multicultural Education



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



Middle School Grades

How are Middle School course grades calculated?

A final grade for a year-long Middle School course is calculated by averaging the grades from each of the four nine week marking periods. A final grade for a semester-long middle school course is calculated by averaging the grades from the two nine-week marking periods. The final grade is calculated on a 4.0 system and converted to a letter grade.

A = 3.5, B = 2.5-3.49, C = 1.5-2.49, D = 1.0 -1.49, F = 1.0

When a student has attained a final average of 1.0 or higher, the final grade is determined by rounding to the nearest whole number and converting to the A, B, C, or D as appropriate. The final course grade earned is what is used to determine promotion.



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



Middle School Grades & Report Cards

- Students receive quarterly grades (4 times a year)
- Grades are based on a 4.0 point grading system (A, B, C, D and F)
- Grades, report cards and additional information can be viewed in student portal and on SIS Parent Gateway
- Paper report cards are available upon parent request

Quarter	Report Card Distribution
1 st Quarter 08/12/24 - 10/11/24	Oct 21, 2024
2 nd Quarter 10/15/24 - 12/20/24	Jan 14, 2025
3 rd Quarter 01/07/25 - 03/21/25	Apr 07, 2025
4 th Quarter 04/1/25 - 05/30/25	TBD

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



FLORIDA STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM 2024–2025 SCHEDULE

Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST)	
Dates	Grade Levels and Subjects
First Administration (PM1): August 12–September 27, 2024	Grades 3 - 10 FAST ELA Reading & Grades 3 - 8 FAST Mathematics
Second Administration (PM2): December 2, 2024–January 24, 2025	
Third Administration (PM3): May 1–May 30, 2025	



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



Promoting Student Success

Here are some actions parents can take to ensure their students obtain their academic goals:

Communicate with school staff regarding homework, assignments, and health and safety protocols

Talk with your child about strategies to stay healthy and safe

Encourage students to talk about school, social activities, and their interests

Homework: Set clear expectations, provide a set place and time, and regularly review homework

Teach standards of right and wrong and set an example

Monitor where your children go and encourage them to seek friends who will be helpful to them

Get acquainted with teacher(s) and share your child's social, emotional, mental, physical, and academic strengths and needs

Try to do something enjoyable with your student *at least* once a week

Talk to your child about tobacco, drugs, alcohol, gangs, and violence

When possible, attend school functions and encourage your participation in school-related activities

Consistently enforce household rules

Monitor your child's choices of TV programs, video games, and music



Attendance Policies & Procedures

Excused Absences

Tardiness

Unexcused Absences

The following qualify as “excused” absences:

- ❖ Student illness
- ❖ Medical appointment
- ❖ Death in the family
- ❖ Observance of a religious holiday
- ❖ Subpoena by a law enforcement agency or mandatory court appearance
- ❖ Students on field trips
- ❖ Extreme weather conditions
- ❖ Unforeseeable circumstances

❖ When a secondary student misses fifty percent (50%) or more of the instructional day or of the identified instructional class period due to late arrival or tardiness, the student shall be considered absent.

❖ An unexcused absence is any absence that does not fall into one of the listed excused absence categories.

❖ **Policy 5.09** mandates that each school in the District determine if any absence or tardiness is excused or unexcused according to the criteria established.



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

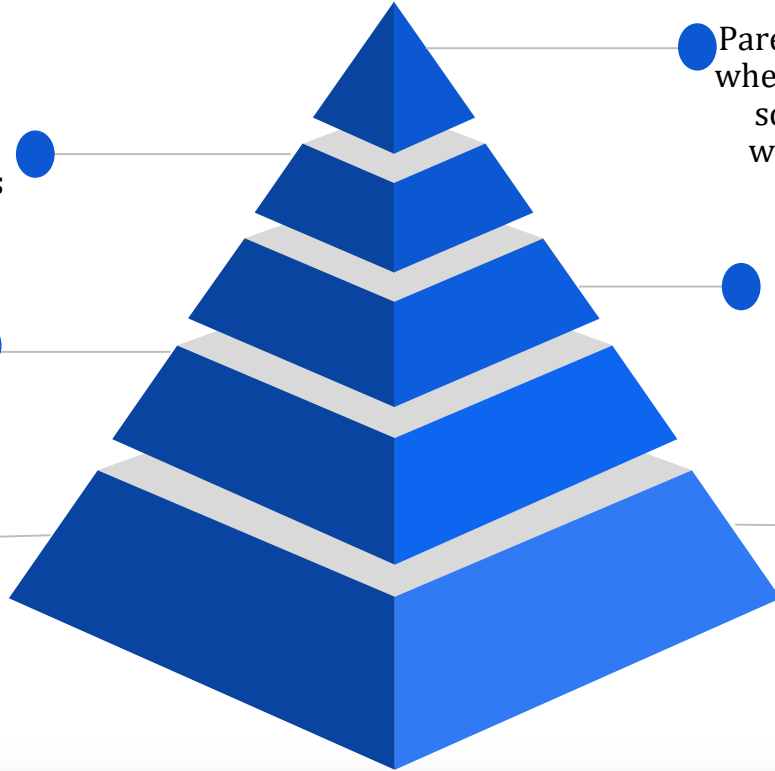


Attendance Policies & Procedures

Students must be in attendance for a minimum of 90% of the class time to earn a passing grade in a *middle school course*.

School officials may require medical verification of absences.

Students must attend school every school day of the school year until their 16th birthday.



Parents are expected to notify the school when their child is absent and inform the school of the reason for the absence within 24 hours by written or verbal communication.

Students who are absent more than 10% of class time may earn a passing grade by earning a minimum grade of "D" for the quarter, *and* passing the quarterly assessment with a minimum grade of "D"

It is the responsibility of the student to make-up work missed because of absences.



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



Attendance Matters

Missing 2 days of school per month from Kindergarten - 12th Grade
= 108 hours per year
= 11 months
= over 1 school year lost

By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of the three signs that a student may drop out of High school.

Missing 10% of school days make it harder to learn to read.

Students can fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.

Mandatory School Based Team referral when determined there is a pattern of non-attendance,



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



Attendance Matters

ACHIEVEMENT

Keep up with daily lessons, assignments, quizzes, tests, and pass reading and math assessments

BELONGING

Develop valuable social and citizenship skills

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EXPOSURE

Increase in language acquisition

IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

Learn that going to school is critical to academic success



SIS GATEWAY

The Student Information System (SIS)

REGISTER FOR SIS GATEWAY

- GO TO YOUR SCHOOL'S WEBSITE
- SEARCH UNDER THE PARENTS TAB
- CLICK ON SIS GATEWAY
- ENTER: STUDENT ID, STUDENT'S BIRTHDATE, PIN (ON LETTER YOU RECEIVED)

QUESTIONS?... CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL'S SIS GATEWAY MANAGER

DOWNLOAD THE SIS GATEWAY APP

RECEIVE REAL-TIME NOTIFICATIONS OF GRADES, ATTENDANCE, UPCOMING ASSIGNMENTS, TEST SCORES, AND MORE.

GET IT ON Google Play

GET IT ON the App Store

- Access schedule, assignments, assessment reports, grades, and attendance
- Email teachers
- Students access to *SIS Gateway* via the icon available on District's student portal
- Parents register for their *SIS Gateway* account using an active email address with an activation code provided by the school
- Parents are encouraged to review the information on *SIS Gateway* on a regular basis to prevent minor academic problems from becoming major ones



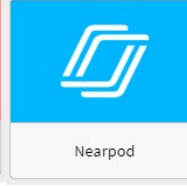
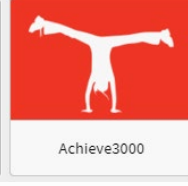
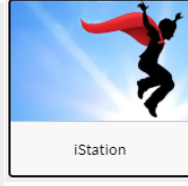
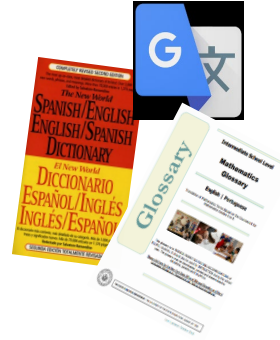
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



Supports & Resources for English Language Learners (ELLs)

Appropriate services are provided for all ELL students based on each student's language proficiency in accordance with an individual's ELL Plan

- School-based language support embedded into lessons.
- Collaboration with ESOL teachers, Community Language Facilitators (CLFs), and general classroom teachers ensure students receive accommodations and targeted skills per ELL Plans.
- Online technology-based literacy and language practice.
- Access to Word-to-Word Glossaries.
- Students may access the various content-specific online learning activities below by logging in to their portal.



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY





Who to turn to.....

- **ESOL Coordinator** - Registration, ESOL Program and placement, grade level curriculum
- **School Counselor** - Academic, personal, and social/emotional issues; request for parent conferences
- **Community Language Facilitators (CLFs)** - Language interpretation
- **Welcome Center** - All questions regarding registration, student placement, physical and immunization services and resources



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

Copyright 2025 by School District of Palm Beach County, Department of Multicultural Education





Social-Emotional Support

The School District of Palm Beach County keeps the safety of students at the forefront by providing behavioral and emotional supports for students and families to ensure success.

Programs include Mental Health Services and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) that assist students to receive the services they need in order to be lifelong learners.

Our School and District staff is trained in youth mental health to recognize the early signs of mental illness and distress in order to conduct a compassionate conversation with a young person in need of assistance.

Palm Beach County has multiple Community Resources to assist with Behavioral and Mental Health needs:

- 211 HelpLine
- Florida Department of Children and Families
- Agencies with Behavioral Health Cooperative Agreements with the School District
- Mental Health Association of Palm Beach County
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



Warning Signs of Social & Emotional Concerns

- Avoiding or missing school
- Persistent sadness — two or more weeks
- Withdrawing from or avoiding social interactions
- Hurting oneself or talking about hurting oneself
- Talking about death or suicide
- Outbursts or extreme irritability
- Out-of-control behavior that can be harmful
- Drastic changes in mood, behavior or personality
- Changes in eating habits
- Loss of weight
- Difficulty sleeping
- Frequent headaches or stomach aches
- Difficulty concentrating
- Changes in academic performance



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



Bullying & Suspicious Activity

See Something, Say Something!



Bullying:

If you or someone you know is a target of bullying, abuse, mistreatment, harassment, threat or intimidation, report anonymously:

- Alert the teacher and/or administration immediately
- Call District Bullying Hotline: (561)434-8200
- Complete Bullying Report online: <https://sites.google.com/palmbeachschools.org/bully>

Suspicious Activity:

- Access, <https://getfortifyfl.com/> a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.
- Provide description of the threat, share pics and videos.
- Access your previous tips, and submit updates and additional information.



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



Because our customers matter, our customer service matters!



**CATCH
THE
WAVE**



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

Copyright 2025 by School District of Palm Beach County, Department of Multicultural Education



EDUCATE • AFFIRM • INSPIRE