

# Kindergarten Orientation 2025-2026



# PIA SUPPORT TEAM

Laura Marshall  
School Counselor  
Grades K, 1, 2



Amanda Riedl  
Principal



Haley Vogel  
Vice Principal



Ruth Cortes  
Assistant Principal



Kimberly Lippo  
Assistant Principal



Michelle Jackson  
Assistant Principal



Jennifer Landorf  
School Counselor  
Grades 4, 5, 6



Shayla Stoughton  
School Counselor  
Grades 3, 7, 8



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# Front Office Team

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- Amy LeVasseur & Katie Cobb, Front Office Team
- Kathleen Tompkins, Confidential Secretary/Bookkeeper
- Danielle Gartz, Bookkeeper
- Holly Nieves, Elementary Data Entry Operator
- Sandra Hood, Middle School Data Entry Operator
- Nurse Danielle Ieraci & Nurse Sandra Ernst
- Tina Major, Extended Day Coordinator



# Pine Island Academy

## Mission

DISCOVERING STRENGTHS &  
PURSUING DREAMS



# Pine Island Academy

## Vision

ONE POD, MAKING WAVES ...FINS UP

**F**ocusing on building an

**I**nspiring

**N**urturing

**S**afe Environment

**U**nlocking **U**nlimited

**P**OTENTIAL in EVERY student!



# Bell Schedule

## MON/TUE/THURS/FRI

7:40 Student arrival begins

7:55 Warning bell sounds

8:00 Learning begins

Students arriving after this  
time must obtain a tardy slip  
from the front office

2:20 School dismissal

## WEDNESDAY

7:40 Student arrival begins

7:55 Warning bell sounds

8:00 Learning begins

Students arriving after this  
time must obtain a tardy slip  
from the front office

1:20 School dismissal



# Arrival

## Student Drop off/Pick up

- Student drop off/pick up is located in the loop closest to the front office.
- Please follow the appropriate signs when dropping off.

## Walk/Bikers/Carters

- Crossing Guards will be on duty from 7:30 – 8:00.
- Students SHOULD NOT cross Pine Island WITHOUT the Crossing Guard's direction. Students will cross Pine Island Rd. starting at 7:40
- All student must be dropped off through the front office if arriving AFTER 8:00AM.
- All visitors that need to visit campus before school should use the visitor parking to access the front office.
- No golf carts are allowed on campus
- **Visitors will not be permitted to use the walker/biker/carter entrance.**

## Bus Riders

- Bus Riders will unload at 7:40.
- Bus information will come to families the last week of July.





A decorative border of various colored pencils (red, purple, blue, teal, green, yellow, orange) is arranged around the central text area.

# Attendance

- Learning starts daily at 8:00 am.
- If your student is absent, send a note or complete the PIA Absentee form on our website.



# Getting Started at PIA

## Kindergarten Staggered Start:

- On **August 1st** parents will be sent a welcome letter and link to sign up for one staggered start day.
- Each kinder student will attend **only 1 day** (Aug. 11, 12, 13, or 14) and then all kinder students will attend on Friday, August 15.
- On your **student's staggered start day**, we will ask you **arrive at 8:15am** and park in the parent parking lot to walk them up.
  - **If you are a Carter/Walker,** you will be able to walk your student across at 8:10 **ONLY for staggered start and August 15.**
  - **Starting Aug. 18** – No parents will be allowed on the path.
- Staff members/Safety Patrol will be available to walk students from bus/walker/carter/biker area and drop off areas to their classrooms.
- Parents may **walk students to their classrooms on their staggered start morning only.**
- On **August 15th** after dropping your Kinder off at 8:15 at the 100 doors, please join our PIA Welcome breakfast hosted by the PIA PTO in the Dolphin Cafe.
  - **Please make sure you RSVP and Complete your School Access.**



# Getting Started at PIA

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## Supplies:

- Please label all supplies on your Kindergarten Supply list with your child's first and last name.
- In addition, please label jackets, water bottles and lunch boxes.
- Please make sure to have a pair of extra clothing, including under garments, in your child's backpack should those be needed.

## Classroom Activities (i.e. birthday treats, etc):

- We love to celebrate students. All treats must be pre-packed with ingredient labels for our friends with dietary restrictions. We highly encourage non-food items for classroom celebrations.



# Resource Classes

Kindergartners will rotate resource classes each day with their class.

- Music Ms. Derr
- Art Ms. David and Ms. Tarquinio (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> only)
- PE Coach Anderson/Coach Janowiak/Coach Bouaziz
- STEM Ms. Simmer
- Media/CL Ms. Myers, Ms. Cuyler, & Ms. Herbst
- Computer Ms. Harpe
- Reach Ms. Marshall
- TECS (Teaching Essential Career Skills) Ms. Trimble



# Dolphin CAFÉ

## (Lunch time)

- Teachers and staff are on hand to assist students in the café.
- Menus are available online.
- **PayPams** is the online system St. Johns County Schools uses for lunch money. You can deposit money and view purchased items on their website.
- For café info including menus and prices, visit the Dolphin Café webpage under the Parent **Information tab on our website.**
- Kindergarteners can also bring a healthy snack to have in the afternoon.
- Each student has an ID used to purchase their café items.



# Please consider:

- Items in lunchbox should be easy for students to open without support.
- Begin practicing with your students now if they will be bringing a lunch from home.
- We will make sure every student has the support they need.

## Dear Parents

(of elementary school aged kids)

When your kids come to school we will have to help them open LOTS of the things you pack for lunch.

**PLEASE HAVE THEM PRACTICE OPENING THINGS BY THEMSELVES.**

These are EASIER to open. If I help them open it, I won't be putting my hands on parts that will go in their mouth.




These are HARDER to open. If you send these PLEASE have them PRACTICE opening it. If I help them open it, I will be putting my hands on parts that will go in their mouth.




If your kiddo can open everything in their lunch, it means less time waiting with their hand up, more time eating and less germs!! (even though we are washing our hands and disinfecting)





# Learning and Behavior Expectations Catch the **WAVE** of Success!

**Pine Island Academy**



**W**e are respectful

- Use your manners
- Use Level 2 voice
- Listen to your CAFÉ Leaders

**A**lways responsible and safe

- Ask for help if needed, by raising hand
- Remain seated
- Be in control of your actions

**V**alue each other and ourselves

- Make room for others
- Use your CAFÉ manners
- Use kind words when talking with friends


**E**veryone achieves/succeeds

- Clean up after yourself
- Pack up all your belongings before leaving the CAFÉ

Catch the **WAVE** of Success

**CAFÉ**





# Learning and Behavior Expectations

## Catch the **WAVE** of Success!

## PIA WAVE

**We believe** that a positive school atmosphere will result in a more effective and meaningful learning environment for all students.

**We are committed** to providing opportunities for students to learn concepts, practice skills, display good citizenship and experience academic success.

**We believe** that highly effective schools are the result of the teamwork and commitment between school staff, students, and their families.

**Our commitment** to our students is to celebrate their accomplishments and success when they show **The PIA WAVE – We are respectful, Always responsible and safe, Values each other and ourselves, where EVERYONE ACHIEVES!**

# Dismissal – Safety is our priority

**Critical Reminders** – To maintain the safety of our students:

- Parents/families **ALWAYS remain in their vehicles during dismissal**.
- Parents/families SHOULD NOT be on sidewalks during arrival or dismissal; this impedes the safety of our students
- Kindergarten families will be permitted to escort students to class on their staggered start day only.

**Early Release Wednesday** – All students are dismissed at 1:20 on Wednesday.

- Please make arrangements for your child to be picked up at this time.

## Dismissal Changes

- Please notify the school in writing using the transportation email located on the PIA Website @ [piatransportation@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:piatransportation@stjohns.k12.fl.us) of any change to a student's transportation routine.
- We strongly discourage any transportation changes after 1:30 (12:30 on Wednesdays). This is for the safety of the child.



# Dismissal - Safety is our Priority

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## IDENTIFICATION

- Any person who picks up a student needs to be listed as an emergency contact on the Student Information Form.
- Contact information is extremely important. If we cannot reach a parent, we may not be able to release the student.
- **ID's are ALWAYS required when checking out students.**

## PM PPU


Families that choose Parent Pick Up will be given a colored card during meet and greet.

- Families should write their last name and child's first name on card.
- To ensure safety, signs should be placed in the driver's side front window.
- Each family will only be given **one** PPU card. This ensures that the person picking up is verified to pick up.
- Additionally, please have ID's available when picking up at all times.

## BUS INFORMATION

- All bus information will be communicated to families via transportation the last week of July.

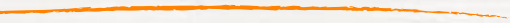
# Dismissal

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- Extended Day and Enrichment Activities - Released First
  - Bus Riders – Released 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - PPU/Day Care Vans – Released 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Walkers/Bikers/Carters – Released last AFTER buses have been dismissed (This avoids students mistakenly dismissing to either area)

\*All K- 5 students will have a backpack dismissal tag color coded to their regular dismissal location. If a student's dismissal should change in the year, families MUST contact the student's teacher before the school day starts (8AM) OR use the dismissal link.

No changes will be made via phone unless it is an emergency.

# Village Extended Day

**Village Extended Day** program provides before/after school care for our students at PIA. 

- Ms. Tina Major leads the program and has build a tremendous program for our students.
- All Extended Day information can be found on our website on the Extended Day tab.

## AM DROP OFF

- If using Extended Day before school, students **must be dropped off by 7:25am.**
- Extended Day drop off and pick up is located at the CAFÉ entrance.
- Please park in designated areas and walk your student to the Extended Day doors located at the back of the stage area.

## PM PICK UP

- Students may not be picked up BEFORE 3:15PM. This gives PIA plenty of time to get all students dismissed safely.
- Please see Ms. Tina's communication regarding pick up procedures.



# School Access Approval

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**All visitors and volunteers MUST** be approved through the School Access online screening application.

- Application available on our web site
- An email will be sent once approval has been granted
- Sign in through the Raptor system located in the front office
- Approval is required to visit any area of our campus during the school day.
- Visiting the classroom by appointment only
- Includes Chaperoning a Field Trip (Field Trip Chaperones will be chosen through a classroom lottery).
- Not necessary for PTO Events or Performances held outside the school day.





# Safety is our Priority – Field Study Chaperones

- No children, including siblings, relatives, or friends, may attend a field study unless they are part of the group for whom the trip was arranged.
- Only parents and guardians of children for whom the trip was arranged may serve as chaperones and must be approved and cleared through School Access.
- Chaperones are chosen using a lottery system to provide equity for all parents that want to be included throughout the year.
- Parents/Families will not be permitted to meet the school group at the designated field study location to ensure student safety.
- All participating students must ride the school bus to and from field study trips that begin and end during the regular school day.



# Parent Leadership Expectations

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- On time arrival is key to the success of our students
  - Play an active role in your child's education by communicating with teachers or staff members.
  - Support PBIS expectations and celebrate students for good character and always doing their best – The PIA WAVE!
  - Treat all citizens with respect. (Faculty, staff, students and other parents).
  - Have **HIGH EXPECTATIONS** for your child both behaviorally and academically.
  - PIA welcomes volunteers.



# Communication is Key

## **School Communication:**

- Teacher's Email
- Teacher Newsletters
- Pine Island Academy Webpage
- PIA NewSplash Weekly Update – view or sign up to receive on our website
- Parent Handbook: located on PIA webpage under Parent Tab.
- Peachjar: located on PIA webpage - communication of community activities
- School Messenger: Please make sure you have given approval to receive messages from school messenger: email, phone, text messaging system

## **PTO Communication:**

- Visit the PIA PTO webpage link on our school website.
- Updates for PTO can be found on the webpage.
- Make sure you visit frequently to stay updated on current events.

# Meet and Greet

*PLEASE SEE FAMILY LETTER SENT TO PARENTS FOR MORE INFORMATION*

**Friday, August 8**

- **8:30 – 9:00**      **A – L Kindergarten ONLY**
- **9:00 – 10:00**      **A – L Families (K– 8)**
- **11:00 – 11:30**      **M – Z Kindergarten ONLY**
- **11:30 – 12:30**      **M – Z Families (K – 8)**

**X** Kindergarten families can choose to come 30 minutes early and go to their student's kindergarten classroom ONLY.

**X** After visiting the Kindergarten classroom feel free to visit your other students' classrooms.

**CURRICULUM CHAT NIGHTS WILL BE HELD IN AUGUST**

# Questions and Answers

## Up Next:

- Email on **Friday, August 1** from your child's teacher with information about staggered start.
- Meet and Greet – **Friday, August 8** (bring supplies to drop-off in classroom).

