

July 2025

Dear Pine Island Families,

Welcome to the 25 – 26 school year! Summer is always a time when families create lasting memories of fun; but we do hope our families have also found some time to just relax and move at a little slower pace! As we begin preparing for the 2025 – 2026 school year, we are thrilled to welcome our new families and new staff (staff and faculty) to the Dolphin family.

Please take a moment to read this letter in its entirety, as it contains essential information to help your family prepare for a smooth start to the school year.

Our school mission, the why of our work, ***Discovering Strengths & Pursuing Dreams***, reflects our deep belief in the potential of every learner. As the year begins, let's extend a warm welcome to everyone joining our community! We are honored to welcome new families, new staff, and the growth of returning staff.

At Pine Island, our foundation is strong because of the values we live by each day – The PIA WAVE:

- We are **Respectful**
- Always **Responsible & Safe**
- We **Value** ourselves and one another
- And we believe **EVERYONE** achieves!

These guiding principles shape the way we learn, lead, and grow together. Our students continue to exceed academic expectations in St. Johns and celebrating every learner along the continuum of learning is so important. Our commitment to *Learning for All* ensures that we recognize and nurture the individual strengths of each child. It continues to be my honor to lead a learning organization that proudly lives the mission and vision we created together as a community when we opened in 2021.

We also know that we won't reach a child's mind until we reach their heart. That is why we are committed to getting to know our students during the first few weeks, not just as learners, but as people. Nothing is more important to us than making sure every child – and every staff member, feel that sense of belonging.

Dolphin Families, we can't wait to begin another incredible school year alongside you. Thank you for trusting us with your child's education. Together, we will continue to build traditions of excellence!

Please continue reading the important updates and information below to help guide you through the start of the school year.

The information below has been included:

- a. Registration
- b. Bus Information(ALL FAMILIES) – IMPORTANT for ALL(new and returning) families with bus riders
- c. Kindergarten Orientation
- d. New Family Orientation
- e. Kindergarten **ONLY** Information
- f. Meet and Greet(ALL K – 8 Families)
- g. Middle School **ONLY** Information

I. REGISTRATION(on-going) - Please make sure you are encouraging those around you to complete registration ASAP. We know students are more successful when they are ready to start school the first day. To serve our families at the highest levels, making sure we are staffed is a priority and completing the registration is the only way to ensure we are fully staffed.

II. BUS INFORMATION(ALL FAMILIES – NEW and RETURNING) – All **hyperlinks** have been provided for easy access!

ALL FAMILIES who have students that ride the bus, **MUST** log-in to the [Bus Planner website](#) or [Chipmunk app](#) to create an account **now**!

This will be the ONLY WAY families will be able to access bus schedules when Transportation releases bus schedules the last week of July. Detailed instructions showing how to login to BusPlanner and Chipmunk, and **how to access your child's bus schedule**, are now available on the [school district website](#).

III. KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION – Presented by your Admin Team

I want to give our new families an opportunity to connect with our team and share important information about Pine Island.

All orientations will be virtual for easy access to all families. **TEAMS link will be sent to all families registered at Pine Island closer to the date of each orientation.** Orientation date and time listed below:

- **Kindergarten** – Wednesday, July 23 – 5:30PM

IV. NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION (1ST – 8TH GRADE) – Presented by your Admin Team

I want to give our new families an opportunity to connect with our team and share important information about Pine Island.

All orientations will be virtual for easy access to all families. **TEAMS link will be sent to all families registered at Pine Island closer to the date of each orientation.** Orientations date and time listed below:

- **1st – 8th grade New Family Orientation** - Wednesday, July 23 at 6:30PM(*Families with 1st – 5th grade students will be given the opportunity to leave the meeting when we begin presenting middle school ONLY information*)

V. KINDERGARTEN ONLY INFORMATION –

- a. **Kindergarten Placement** - ALL Kindergarten students will receive an email **from their teacher** by **Friday, August 1.**
 - i. **Staggered Start** – Teachers will include a sign-up for families to choose their preferred staggered start day in their placement email. Please plan ahead!
 - ii. **Staggered start dates will be August 11, 12, 13, & 14.**
 - iii. **ALL KINDERGARTEN** - Students will start their first full day together on **Friday, August 15.**
- b. **Pictures:** Pictures will be taken during **Meet and Greet** of Kinder friends **ONLY** to upload into our system to ensure the safety of all students.
 - i. **We will replace these pictures once we take fall pictures in September!**
- c. **Transportation** - During **Meet and Greet** our bus drivers will be available to answer questions and meet our newest Dolphins.

VI. Elementary(K – 5) MEET and GREET

Students and families are invited to visit classrooms, meet the teacher, and drop off school supplies. **This time will not be dedicated to discovering classroom expectations** but simply becoming acquainted with the classroom and meeting the teacher. Learning routines and schedules will be discussed during Curriculum Chat Night the last week of August(please see PTO calendar).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION for MEET AND GREET:

- Teachers will send placement emails to families on **Tuesday, August 5 at 3:00PM, except kindergarten – please see above for placement details.**
- Meet and Greet times have been scheduled alphabetically **by last name** to ensure families have parking available.
- **Kindergarten students ONLY are invited to come 30 minutes early** to avoid the large crowds during their scheduled time. **This is optional**
 - **Friday, August 8 – A – L (LAST NAME)**
 - **A – L (KINDERGARTEN ONLY)** – 8:30AM – 9:00AM
 - **A – L (Last Name)** – 9:00AM – 10:00AM
 - **Friday, August 8 – M – Z (LAST NAME)**
 - **M – Z (KINDERGARTEN ONLY)** – 11:00 – 11:30
 - **M – Z (Last Name)** – 11:30AM – 12:30PM

MIDDLE SCHOOL ONLY UPDATES

VII. Middle School Schedules –

- a. Middle School schedules will be available to view through HAC during the month of July.
- b. A communication will be sent to families regarding the date schedules go live soon.

VIII. Middle School schedule walk – August 7 – 8:30AM – 11:00AM

- a. 6th, 7th, & 8th grade
- b. Please use the sign-up genius below to schedule a time to pick up and walk schedule.
 - a. [Middle School Schedule-Walk Sign Up](#)
 - Please join us to walk your schedule, receive locker information, & drop off your school supplies if you choose. I have found that this gives our students a way to move around the campus without pressure and even visit with friends while walking their schedules.
 - Middle school teachers **WILL NOT** be available on this day. This day is solely to give our students an “additional” opportunity to spend time walking their schedules and becoming acquainted with their locker.

IX. ACADEMIC LOCKER UPDATES – Academic lockers will be **OPTIONAL** again this year at PIA. We understand not all students want to use a locker. For this reason,

- a. The **deadline to request an academic locker to be issued on Schedule-Walk Day is 5 PM on Friday, August 1.**
- b. For students that do not request prior to 5 PM on August 1, they will have an opportunity to request an academic locker beginning **August 8 during Meet & Greet with Dean Lawhorn.**
- c. These lockers will be issued at the start of school.
- d. To sign up for a locker please click on this link: [Academic Locker Sign-Up](#)

X. MIDDLE SCHOOL MEET & GREET – Should students want to meet their teachers, they can visit teachers during the scheduled times below(**these days/times are the same as K – 5**)

i. Friday, August 8 – A – L (LAST NAME)

1. **A – L(Last Name) – 9:00AM – 10:00AM**

ii. Friday, August 8 – M – Z (LAST NAME)

- M – Z(Last Name) – 11:30AM – 12:30PM**

Should families not have access to email or do not receive an email by Tuesday, August 5 or for **Kindergarten ONLY** Friday, August 1, please call the front office for assistance – (904)547 – 4300.

Although the next few weeks may become extremely busy, we are never too busy to answer your questions. Please contact the front office if we can be of any assistance.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer and I cannot wait to see you real soon!

*******Please make sure you have joined the PIA PTO facebook page for current information from the PIA PTO! You don't want to miss what they have planned for our families as we kick off the 25 - 26 school year!**

Sincerely,

Amanda L. Riedl, Learning Leader