Amanda Riedl, Principal
Dr. Michelle Jackson, Assistant Principal
Kimberly Lippo, Assistant Principal

Pine Island Academy

July 2026

Dear Pine Island Families,

I hope your summer has been fantastic and you have been able to spend time making memories with friends and family. It seems almost impossible that I am already writing to you about important details to ensure we have another GREAT START at Pine Island.

Be sure to read through the entire letter as it includes all the important information needed to prepare families for the start of another GREAT year TOGETHER!

I am looking forward to continuing our "***Traditions of Excellence***" together in building an environment that reflects our Mission and Vision daily.

Mission(why we exist) – **Discovering Strengths and Pursuing Dreams**

Vision(what must we become) – **One Pod, Making Waves, FINS UP! –** ***Fostering an inspiring, nurturing environment, unlocking, unlimited potential.***

Although our students continue to achieve at HIGH levels, our greatest success is the relationships that we grow and nurture with every student, every need, every day. Our priority to know students personally as human beings and as learners drives everything we do. We know when students feel valued, they will value themselves and their learning environment. The very most important thing to me is that our students and staffulty feel valued!

We will continue using the **PIA WAVE** as a common language in how we treat and value each other every day –

W*e are respectful and safe,*
A*lways responsible,*
V*alue ourselves & each other,*
where ***E****VERYONE achieves.*

We know for students to thrive as independent learners they must feel connected to their community. Creating a sense of belonging with love and friendship will foster the environment our students described when they created the Pine Island Vision.

Dolphin Families – as we prepare for the 26 - 27 school year, we are committed to continuing our traditions of excellence in a learning environment that is full of love, compassion, hard work, and perseverance! It is great to be a Pine Island Dolphin!

With school beginning soon, I want to give you some information that may be helpful in the upcoming weeks

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

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I. **REGISTRATION** (going on NOW):

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 to create an account if you have not done so previously!

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 **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 Orientation– Monday, July 27 – 5:30PM**

IV. **NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION –** Presented by your Admin Team

We have prepared an orientation opportunity for our new families at PIA this year.

This is a way our Admin Team can share important information about Pine Island with all new families.

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 dates and times are listed below:

- **1st – 8th grade New Family Orientation – Monday, July 27 – 6:45PM**
  - *We will give 1st – 5th grade families the opportunity to exit the orientation when we move into middle school ONLY information*

V. KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION –

a. **Kindergarten Placement - ALL** Kindergarten students will receive an email **from their teacher** by **Friday, July 31.**
   i. **Staggered Start –** Teachers will include a sign-up for parents to use to choose their preferred staggered start day in their placement email. Please plan ahead!
   ii. **Staggered start dates will be August 10, 11, 12, OR 13.**
   iii. **ALL KINDERGARTEN** Students will start their first full day together **on Friday, August 14.**

b. **Pictures:** Pictures will be taken of our Kinder friends 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. K – 5th grade ONLY - MEET AND GREET DATES AND TIMES –

Students and families are invited to visit their student's classroom, 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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION for Meet and Greet

- Teachers will send placement emails to families on **August 4 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 7 – A – L (LAST NAME)**
  - **A – L (KINDERGARTEN ONLY)** – 8:30AM – 9:00AM
  - **A – L (Last Name)** – 9:00AM – 10:00AM

▪ **Friday, August 7 – M – Z (LAST NAME)**
  - **M – Z (KINDERGARTEN ONLY)** – 11:00 – 11:30
  - **M – Z (Last Name)** – 11:30 – 12:30

MIDDLE SCHOOL ONLY UPDATES

VII. Middle School Schedules –

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

VIII. MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE WALKT – August 6 – 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 Monday, August 3.**

b. For students that do not request prior to 5 PM on August 3, they will have an opportunity to request an academic locker beginning **August 8 during Meet & Greet with Dean Lawhorn.**

c. These locskers will be issued at the start of school.

d. To sign up for a locker please click on this link: ***Academic Locker Request 2026 - 2027 – Fill out form***

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 7 – A – L (LAST NAME)

1. **A – L(Last Name)** – 8:30AM – 9:30AM

ii. Friday, August 7 – M – Z (LAST NAME)

M – Z(Last Name) – 10:00AM – 11:00AM

XI. **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:**

- **Monday, August 10** – School Hours (**8:00 AM – 2:20 PM**)

We are currently working on class placement and are super excited about sharing this information with you soon. Should you not have access to email or do not receive an email by

- Friday, July 31 or for **Kindergarten ONLY**
- Tuesday, August 3, **1st – 5th grade**

please call the front office for assistance - 547 – 4300.

Although the next few weeks may become extremely busy, we are never too busy to answer your questions or listen to your concerns. 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!

Sincerely,

Amanda L. Riedl, Learning Leader

*****Please make sure you have read the information from the PIA PTO! You don't want to miss what they have planned for our families as we kick off the 26 - 27 school year!**