



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN PINECREST

Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12  
2019-2020

**STAY CLOSE. GO FAR!**



# WELCOME TO PINECREST'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Pinecrest's strong property values are supported by the excellence of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) located in our Village. I encourage our residents with school-age children to take a close look at our neighborhood public schools as you evaluate your many fine educational options. I did, and I found Pinecrest's public schools were the best choice for my children's education. They are the foundation of our community and truly offer excellence in our own backyard.

There are five public schools in Pinecrest - three elementary schools, a middle school and a high school. They are traditional neighborhood schools where children go to school with their friends and neighbors. Living a short drive or walk away from your school fosters play-dates, and participation in after-school clubs and sports. While our schools are known for their strong gifted programs and extensive advanced placement courses, there are academic options for all children, including special needs, so that all students can develop to their full potential.

What's more, there is continuity of curriculum from elementary through high school. This is particularly useful in foreign languages and STEM/STEAM, where students can start early in an area of interest and follow it through graduation. At the same time, they are not restricted to the rigid curriculum constraints of magnet schools. Our students are free to explore a myriad of electives including performing and visual arts, music, business/entrepreneurship, technology, environmental and other sciences, new and traditional media and more. A full range of clubs, honor societies and teams complement classroom subjects for children to follow their passions or discover new ones.

Village students regularly compete in – and win – academic, arts, and sports competitions, locally and nationally, starting in the elementary schools. Field trip opportunities abound, including international experiences.

Strong parental involvement enriches our schools with impressive additional resources. The five PTA/PTSA's collectively raise nearly \$1 million annually, and contribute thousands of volunteer hours that substantially augment services, staffing and programming. The Village provides additional layers of support via a \$10,000 yearly grant to each school's PTSA, an Educational Advisory Council that meets regularly to bring parents, principals and school district representatives together, and an educational compact with the MDCPS district to facilitate creative approaches to working together.

Stay Close, Go Far is more than a slogan. Palmetto Senior High School's stellar college placements and storied alumni provide proof positive that Pinecrest's public schools are an outstanding choice.

Sincerely,  
Joseph M. Corradino  
Mayor, Village of Pinecrest

# GET TO KNOW US SCHOOL DIRECTORY

## PINECREST ELEMENTARY

Principal: Lynn Zaldua  
10250 SW 57th Avenue  
Pinecrest, FL 33156  
305.667.5579  
<http://pinecrest.dadeschools.net>  
FB: Pinecrest Elementary School Official

PTA President: Roberta Longman  
[robertalongman@gmail.com](mailto:robertalongman@gmail.com)  
[www.pinecrestpta.com](http://www.pinecrestpta.com)  
FB: Pinecrest Elementary School PTA

## PALMETTO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal: Jesus Gonzalez  
7351 SW 128th Street  
Pinecrest, FL 33156  
305.238.3911  
<http://palmettomiddle.com>

PTSA President: Erica Watts  
[ericapta@gmail.com](mailto:ericapta@gmail.com)  
[www.pmsptsa.org](http://www.pmsptsa.org)  
FB: Palmetto Middle School PTSA

## PALMETTO ELEMENTARY

Principal: Eric Torres  
12401 SW 74th Avenue  
Pinecrest, FL 33156  
305.238.4306  
<http://palmettoelem.net>

PTA President: Andrea Gonzalez  
[pesptapres@gmail.com](mailto:pesptapres@gmail.com)  
[www.palmettoppta.org](http://www.palmettoppta.org)  
FB: Palmetto Elementary School PTA

## MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH

Principal: Victoria Dobbs  
7460 SW 118th Street  
Pinecrest, FL 33156  
305.235.1360  
<http://palmettopanthers.org>

PTSA President: Gina Vinuesa  
[ginapta@gmail.com](mailto:ginapta@gmail.com)  
[www.palmettohighptsa.org](http://www.palmettohighptsa.org)  
FB: Miami Palmetto Senior High School PTSA

## HOWARD DRIVE ELEMENTARY

Principal: Deanna Dalby  
7750 SW 136th Street  
Palmetto Bay, FL 33156  
305.235.1412  
<http://howarddrive.dadeschools.net>  
Twitter: @howarddrive

PTA President: Jennifer Zika  
[jenn@fyistudio.com](mailto:jenn@fyistudio.com)  
[www.howarddrivepta.org](http://www.howarddrivepta.org)  
FB: Howard Drive Elementary PTA  
Instagram: howarddrivepta

## MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

[www.palmettohighalumni.org](http://www.palmettohighalumni.org)  
FB: Miami Palmetto High School Alumni Association

## SCHOOL TOUR DATES 2019-2020

### PINECREST ELEMENTARY

8:45 a.m.  
October 22, 2019  
November 19, 2019  
January 21, 2020  
February 18, 2020  
May 19, 2020

### PALMETTO ELEMENTARY

10:00 a.m.  
October 18, 2019  
November 15, 2019  
January 24, 2020  
February 21, 2020  
March 13, 2020  
April 17, 2020  
May 15, 2020

### HOWARD DRIVE

9:00 a.m.  
November 1, 2019  
December 6, 2019  
January 10, 2020  
February 7, 2020  
March 6, 2020  
April 3, 2020  
May 1, 2020

### PALMETTO MIDDLE SCHOOL

10:00 a.m.  
November 5, 2019  
January 6, 2020  
February 3, 2020  
March 2, 2020  
April 6, 2020  
May 4, 2020

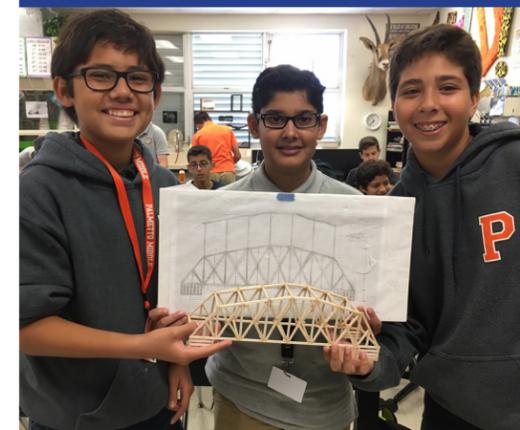
### MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH

8:00 a.m.  
November 12, 2019  
November 26, 2019  
December 10, 2019

\*Dates are subject to change

## BEFORE AND AFTER CARE

All three elementary schools offer on-site before-school care beginning at 7:00 a.m., and after-school care until 6:00 p.m. for Pre-K to 5th grade. After-care includes homework assistance, athletics, computer time and arts & crafts.



# FROM YOUR PTA/PTSA PRESIDENTS: STELLAR SCHOOLS TAKE A VILLAGE

A warm welcome from Pinecrest's Public Schools Parent Teacher Association (PTA) presidents! Each of our five schools has a PTA or PTSA - secondary schools add the letter "S" to represent student participation.

As part of the nation's largest volunteer child advocacy organization, Pinecrest's exceptional PTAs mobilize parents and community members to add substantial funding, programs and services to our schools.

We have a role for you, regardless of time constraints, talent or financial resources. As a bonus, the PTA creates opportunities to be more involved in your child's school life and introduces you to a network of friendly neighborhood parents. Please join and support your PTA.

Village PTAs raise over \$1 million annually and provide various volunteer opportunities - from helping at carnivals and college fairs to providing administrative help. All Village PTAs are registered 501(3)(c) non-profit organizations managed by highly professional boards and volunteers. It is noteworthy to mention that we have numerous local business and alumni sponsors.

Please join us!

Miami-Dade County is the fourth largest school district in the nation with many resources and programs available to students. The array of choices can be daunting. The following program descriptions will help you understand the educational options your child has in our Village. If you need additional information, please contact your local PTA president or school representative.

See you at a PTA meeting soon.

Roberta Longman  
Pinecrest Elementary PTA

Andrea Gonzalez  
Palmetto Elementary PTA

Jennifer Zika  
Howard Drive PTA

Erica Watts  
Palmetto Middle School PTSA

Gina Vinueza  
Miami Palmetto Senior High PTSA

# PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

**Cambridge Primary Program:** Program offers elementary students academic rigor in English, Mathematics and Science and a global focus that promotes cultural sensitivity with a flexible curriculum encouraging critical thinking skills. (Howard Drive Elementary, Palmetto Elementary)

**Cambridge Academy:** Focusing on mathematics, science and language arts, the Cambridge Secondary 1 curriculum follows a rigorous approach to inquiry-based learning. The strategies, skills and rigor of the Secondary 1 program is fundamental in preparing students for Advanced Placement courses in high school. (Palmetto Middle School)

**Challenge (Gifted) Program:** Students that meet intellectually gifted criteria are eligible for an academically accelerated language arts, mathematics, science and/or social studies program. (All five schools)

**Extended Foreign Language Program (EFL):** Program offers dual language (English and Spanish) education. (Howard Drive Elementary, Palmetto Elementary, Pinecrest Elementary)

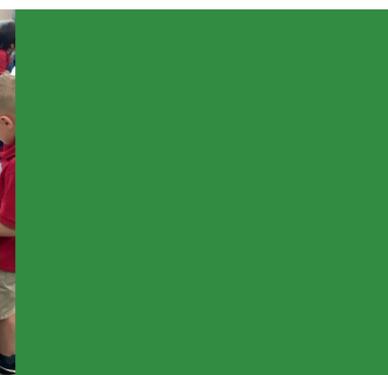
**Forensic Science Academy:** Students explore different modalities of forensic investigation through hands-on experiences as they relate to the application of scientific studies and physical evidence. (Palmetto Middle School and Miami Palmetto High School)

**Special Education Program (SPED):** Both the inclusion model and resource model are offered in Grades K-5. The delivery model is decided based upon the students' needs as determined by their Individualized Education Plan. (All five schools)

- **LEAP Learning Experiences:** Alternative half-day Pre-K program for students with autism. (Palmetto Elementary)
- **Role Model Program:** A full-day Pre-K program for children with varying disabilities. (Palmetto Elementary)

**STEAM Designation:** Program focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math taught through cooperative, collaborative, creative lessons that promote academic rigor and emphasize critical thinking skills with inquiry-based learning. (Palmetto Elementary, Pinecrest Elementary and Palmetto Middle)

**World Language Program:** Students are presented opportunities to listen, speak, read and write in various languages including Spanish (all schools), French (Miami Palmetto Senior, Palmetto Middle), Mandarin Chinese (Miami Palmetto Senior, Palmetto Middle, Pinecrest Elementary), Italian (Miami Palmetto Senior), and Japanese (Miami Palmetto Senior)





# PINECREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Pre-K through Grade 5

## Academic Programs

In addition to a robust general curriculum, Pinecrest Elementary offers the following signature programs for eligible students:

- Full-time Challenge (Gifted)
- Extended Foreign Language Program (EFL)
- Special Education (SPED)
- Mandarin Chinese Program

## Accolades

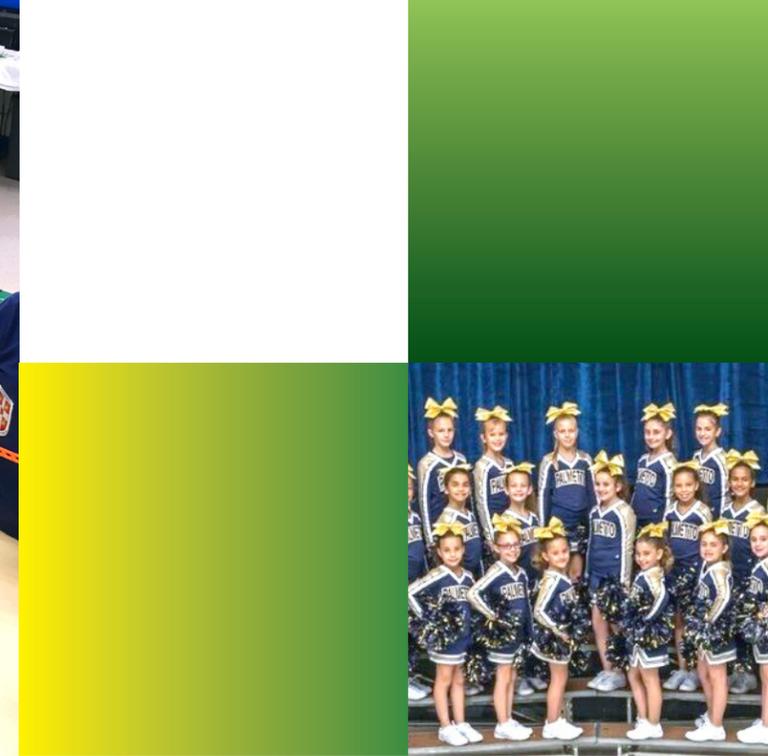
- Gold STEAM Designation – County recognition
- Five Star School Award - State recognition for exemplary community involvement
- Golden Apple School Award - National teaching excellence
- Silver Award Fairchild Challenge - Environmental science competition
- Spirit of Service Learning Award - Dream in Green
- Anti-Defamation League “No Place for Hate” Designation
- Miami-Dade County Youth Fair Winners in Orchestra and Spanish Poetry Interpretation
- District Winner in Reflex Math Challenge, MyON Reading Challenge
- 1st Place History Bee
- District Rookie Teacher of the Year
- 2nd Place Geography Bee
- 12 Students participating in Superintendent’s Honors Chorus
- VEX IQ Robotics – World Competition Participants

## Clubs

More than a dozen clubs, including Chorus, Strings Orchestra, WPEN News Team, Science, Coding, Lego Robotics, Cooking, Art, Baseball, Math, Student Council, and Safety Patrol.

## Extras

- Music and Drama Performances
- STEAM Showcase Night
- Books and Bagels with Dad
- Family FunFest Carnival and Silent Auction
- Italian Night
- Saturday Garden Days
- Lunch Bunch (K-2)
- Principal’s Honor Roll Breakfasts
- Movie Night and Career Day
- Key Biscayne Nature Center Field Trip
- Universal Studios (Safety Patrols)
- Animal Kingdom (5th)
- Numerous local field trips (K-5)



# PALMETTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Pre-K through Grade 5

## Academic Programs

In addition to a robust general curriculum, Palmetto Elementary offers the following signature programs for eligible students:

- Full-time Gifted
- Cambridge Program
- LEAP (Learning Experiences – An Alternative Program for Preschoolers and Parents) and Role Model
- Extended Foreign Language Program (EFL)
- Special Education Program (SPED)

## Clubs

Palmetto Elementary offers more than 15 clubs including Lego Robotics, National Elementary Honor Society, Future Educators of America, Palmetto Earth Program, Newspaper, Math Team, Weather Club, Art, Broadcast, and more.

## Accolades

- Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year – Oliver Diez
- Kindness Certified School
- PTA/PTSA Dade County Council Awards – Grandparents Award, Supermen of PTA, Environmental Award, Standards of Excellence
- Music Program – Music USA State Festival Chorus 1st Place, Jazz Combo 1st Place, Drumline 2nd Place.
- Carnegie Hall Concert Band/Chorus Performance by Invitation
- STEAM Designation - County Recognition
- PTA National School of Excellence
- Golden Shovel Award - Palmetto Earth Program State Recognition
- Anti-Defamation League “No Place for Hate” Designation
- Golden School Award - Volunteer Award
- Fairchild Challenge - County Recognition
- Green Apple Designation - State Recognition

## Extras

Field trips and extras: Everglades Hidden Lake, Shark Valley Everglades, St. Augustine Trip, Key Biscayne Nature Center, Deering Estates, Cooking Academy, Rock Odyssey, Math/Science/STEAM Night, Winter Social/Live Auction, Career Day, Musical Concerts, Movie Night, Watch D.O.G.S. – Dad Involvement, FunFest Carnival, Lunch Bunch, and more.





# HOWARD DRIVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Pre-K through Grade 5



## Academic Programs

In addition to a robust general curriculum, Howard Drive Elementary offers the following signature programs for eligible students:

- Cambridge Primary
- Full-Time Gifted Program (K-5)
- Extended Foreign Language (EFL) Program
- World Language Program
- Special Education Programs



## Clubs

More than 15 clubs, including Math Superstars, Broadcasting Production, Art, Dance, Safety Patrol, Recycling Club, Running Club, 5000 Role Models Chorus, Keyboard, Coding Club, Robotics, Garden Club, Guitar, Yoga and more.



## Extras

Field trips and events: Zoo Miami, Water Ventures Mobile Lab, Biscayne National Park, Port of Miami and Animal Kingdom, Family Fun Fair, Curriculum Showcase Night, Lunch Bunch (Pre-K - 5th), Donuts with Dad, Talent Show, Career Day, STEAM Day, Character Day, Family Socials, Movie Night, Hidden Lake Everglades overnight field trip and Principal's Honor Roll.



## Accolades

- Five Star School Award - State recognition for exemplary community involvement
- Golden School Award - recognition for outstanding volunteers
- Anti-Defamation League's "No Place for Hate" designation
- Miami-Dade County Youth Fair Winners
- 1st Place "Every Einstein's Young Women Inventor's" Contest
- Category 5 Dance Team - Superior Rating
- Participants in the Superintendent's Music Honors Festival
- Gold STEAM Designation
- PTA National School of Excellence
- Values Matter Award Recipient
- DigiCon Coding Award Recipient
- Creative Writing Poetry Award Recipient



# PALMETTO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades 6 through 8



## Academic Programs

In addition to a robust general curriculum, Palmetto Middle School offers the following signature programs for eligible students:

- Forensic Science Academy: Program articulates seamlessly into the Forensic Investigative Academy (FIA) Program at Miami Palmetto Senior High
- Cambridge Academy
- Gifted Program
- Special Education Programs
- High School Courses
- 4 by 4 block schedule allowing for extra electives for students
- New Electives: Photography, Edge, Global Perspectives



## World Languages

- Spanish
- French
- Mandarin Chinese



## Clubs

14 clubs, that include Mad Science Program, Spanish, National Junior Honor Society and Drama



## Athletics

Cross Country, Track and Field, Basketball, Bowling, Soccer, Tennis, Golf, Volleyball, Swimming, Wrestling and Lacrosse



## Field Trips

New York (Drama), Orlando (Dance, Green Team, Spanish, 8th grade), Service field trip (NJHS), Close Up (Washington, D.C.), Orchid STEM Mobile, Fairchild Gardens, Deering Estate, Texas and Ohio National Competitions (Science ten 80).



## Accolades

- Silver Steam Designation
- National PTA designation as a School of Excellence 2019-2021
- Florida PTA recognition for Literacy 2018-2019
- Dade County Council PTA Award, Standard of Excellence Award 2018-2019
- Literacy Award 2018-2019
- Legislative/Advocacy Award 2018-2019
- Silver Award for Fairchild Challenge
- Second Place, Green Schools Challenge
- Green Apple School
- Ten 80 Second Place, National Competition
- Second and Third place Drones National Competition
- First Place, National winner Data Driven Design
- Second Place, Nationals Aerospace Design
- Second Place, Nationals Drag Racing
- Second Place, Nationals Enterprise
- Second Place, Nationals Graphic Design
- First Place, SECME winner Math
- Second Place, SECME Science Brain Bowl
- Second Place, SECME Generator
- Five Broadcom Masters Science Fair recipients
- Drama Thespian Competition Critics Choice and Superior Awards
- Band and Orchestra Superior Rated performances





# MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Grades 9 through 12

## Academic Programs

- 312 courses, with 71 Honors and 33 Advanced Placement (AP) classes
- 47 performing arts and 41 music classes
- Over 1,000 students take AP classes
- Top 10% 2019 class GPA 4.8+
- Dual Enrollment programs with Florida International University and Miami Dade College (on and off campus)

## Academies *(courses open to all)*

- Environmental and Science Masters (Compatible with AP Capstone)
- Business including entrepreneurship, internships and on-the-job training
- Visual and Performing Arts: Art, Band, Dance, Drama, Orchestra, and Photography
- Vocational: Industry Certification in Early Childhood, Technical Design/AutoCAD and Health Science

## Magnet Programs *(by application)*

- AP Capstone – This program is a popular alternative to IB that offers advanced academics, independent research and collaborative teamwork. Students can earn a year or more toward college credit.
- Forensic Investigative Academy – Within AP Capstone, this FBI collaboration explores different science and technology-based modalities for criminal and forensic investigation.
- iPrep – This program is a technology-based new approach to 21st century learning.

## Athletics

- The most interscholastic sports offered in Miami-Dade County
- Varsity Sports: Football, Baseball, Softball, Volleyball, Swimming, Diving, Golf, Bowling, Cross Country, Basketball, Soccer, Wrestling, Badminton, Lacrosse, Water Polo, Tennis, Track & Field
- State Champions Special Olympics
- New Weight Training Facility
- Coaching staff pioneers in concussion-reduction techniques



## EXTENSIVE RENOVATION AHEAD

\$43 million in improvements will be completed in 2019, providing a complete update to the historic, 59-year-old facility.

## World Languages *(\*Level 1-AP)*

- American Sign Language
- French
- Italian
- Japanese
- Spanish
- Mandarin Chinese

## College Placements

- Multiple Ivy League admissions every year
- Class of 2019 students were admitted to 45 out of the top 50 colleges and universities, according to US News and World Report
- All Florida state schools, including Honors Programs at UF, FSU, UCF, FIU and Miami Dade College
- Over \$25 million in scholarship offers in 2019

## Accolades

- \$50,000 private grant to further develop STEAM program equipment and encourage female participation
- 3 National Merit Finalists 2019
- 6 Hispanic National Merit Finalists 2019
- High AP exam pass rates that exceed state and national averages
- State level awards in Thespians, Band and Orchestra

## Extracurricular

- 10 Honor Societies
- 43 interest and service clubs, including nationally competitive academic teams such as Mu Alpha Theta, Italian Honor Society, Science Competitors, History Bowl, Model UN
- Music and Performing Arts competitive groups

## SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI

Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon.com, graduated from Miami Palmetto Senior High in 1982. He is one of many graduates that have gone on to national and international prominence.





# Village of Pincrest

Village Council  
Joseph M. Corradino, Mayor  
Anna Hochkammer, Vice Mayor  
Katie Abbott  
Doug Kraft  
James E. McDonald

Yocelyn Galiano, ICMA-CM, Village Manager  
Guido H. Inguanzo, Jr., CMC, Village Clerk  
Mitchell Bierman, Village Attorney

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#Pincresting

