



# Pinellas Education Foundation

## 2025-2026 TSIC Middle School Agenda

### Semester 1

#### Back to School Workshop & Semester 1 Review

**Program stats** of TSIC Results and how the program makes a difference in student's lives:

- High school graduation rate for TSIC is **98%**, non TSIC are at 72%
- TSIC college enrollment rate is **91%**, non TSIC are at 52%
- TSIC college graduation rate is **73%**, non TSIC are at 29%

#### How to Stay Organized:

Being organized isn't just about having a neat backpack or clean locker. It helps you:

- Save time
- Feel less stressed
- Be ready for anything: tests, projects, even fun stuff like field trips!

Some ideas to help you stay organized are:

- 1. Use a planner or calendar** – write down your homework and test. You can use an app on your phone or a paper planner. The key is to check it daily.
- 2. Create a system for your stuff** – Keep your backpack and folders in order. Try color coding subjects and clean out your bag once a week.
- 3. Set routines** – Have a regular time for homework, packing your bag, and checking your planner. Routines make things automatic, like brushing your teeth.

#### Clubs, Activities, Sports, & Volunteering

Being involved in clubs, volunteering, tutoring, or participating in athletics, band, chorus, or theater can show leadership and is often considered when applying to college or university. It also helps when applying for other scholarships.

Having leadership experience:

- Shows a willingness and ability to take on responsibility
- Indicates that your peers believe in the student's success and leadership ability
- Revels confidence and courage to be a leader
- Demonstrates dedication and commitment

## Semester 1 continued

**Did you know the TSIC Students' Responsibilities are developed to help you form better habits and to be more responsible?**

These habits that you are developing, help you when you are an adult, in college, and in the workforce. Besides meeting with your mentor, you are learning how to manage your responsibilities. This is why our TSIC students have a much higher rate, than the state average, with receiving their degree!

### Students' Responsibility:

- Maintain C's or better
- Meet with Mentor 2x a month & Attend required coaching sessions each semester
- Remain Crime & Drug free
- Refrain from receiving referrals
- Miss no more than 5 days of unexcused absences each quarter
- Check email regularly and respond to coach

### Mentor Meetings: In person, TSIC App, or virtual options

As a TSIC student, you are expected to meet with your mentor during your lunch period at least twice per month. We understand that sometimes students may miss a meeting or may not yet have a mentor assigned.

For students who are not attending a traditional Pinellas County Schools campus, or who need additional support, we also offer virtual group mentoring sessions after school. These sessions are a great way to stay connected, ask questions, and continue working toward your goals.

### **TSIC Virtual Mentoring Options are available for:**

1. Full time virtual students.
2. Students who don't attend a traditional PCS school.
3. Students who do not have a mentor **temporarily** assigned to them.
4. Students that missed a meeting or have fallen behind mentor sessions.

**\*The virtual sessions are not meant to replace a currently assigned mentor.**

[Virtual mentoring link - CLICK HERE](#)

### Your Future Career & High School Academy

Go to <https://roadtripnation.com/edu/careerfinder> to explore career options and start planning for college. You can create a username and password to save it throughout your middle and high school career.

Take a 5 minute FREE career test at Career One Stop! <https://www.careeronestop.org>

### Explore Colleges

Explore colleges and different areas of study that interest you; visit [www.floridashines.org](http://www.floridashines.org) , <https://gettherefl.com/> , or <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

**For 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students** If in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, be sure to attend meetings about special programs at high schools to see if you want to apply to an academy to learn a career trade while in high school. Discovery nights open as early as late October. Applications open January 6<sup>th</sup> and close on January 16<sup>th</sup>. **Review next page for the academies.**

## **Pinellas County Schools High School Career Academies**

### **Architecture, Construction and Electricity**

[Dunedin High](#) - Academy of Architecture, Robotics and Construction Technology (ARC)

[Lealman Innovation Academy](#) - Building Trades and Construction

[Richard O. Jacobson Technical High](#) - Construction Technology and Electricity

[St. Petersburg High](#) - Center for Construction Technologies

### **Arts – Digital, Performing and Visual**

[Clearwater High](#) - Fine Arts and Media Education Academy (FAME)

[Gibbs High](#) - Pinellas County Center for the Arts (PCCA)

[Hollins High](#) - Academy of Entertainment Arts

[Richard O. Jacobson Technical High](#) - Commercial and Digital Arts Program

[Tarpon Springs High](#) - Leadership Conservatory for the Arts

### **Automotive, Manufacturing, and Marine Technology**

[Largo High](#) - Automotive, Welding, & Drafting Academy

[Northeast High](#) - Automotive Academy Automotive Service Technology

[Richard O. Jacobson Technical High](#) - Marine Service Technology

### **Business Management & Technology and Finance**

[Boca Ciega High](#) - Business and Design Academy

[Clearwater High](#) - Career Academy for International Culture and Commerce

[Clearwater High](#) - Sports, Hospitality, and Recreational Education (SHARE)

[Dunedin High](#) - Academy of Business, Art and Technology

[Dunedin High](#) - Junior Achievement 3DE Program

[East Lake High](#) - Academy of Business Careers

[Gibbs High](#) - Business, Entrepreneurial, Technology Academy (BETA)

[Largo High](#) - Academy of Business, Entrepreneurship, Finance, Insurance, Technology

[Northeast High](#) - Academy of Finance

[Palm Harbor University High](#) - Career Academy of Business Administration and Management (CABAM)

[Pinellas Park High](#) - Academy of Graphic Design and Business

[St. Petersburg High](#) - Junior Achievement 3DE Program

### **Communications, Journalism, and Multimedia Studies**

[Lakewood High](#) - Center for Journalism and Multimedia

### **Cosmetology**

[Dunedin High](#) - Cosmetology

[Hollins High](#) - Cosmetology

### **Culinary Arts**

[Hollins High](#) - Academy of Culinary Arts

[Lealman Innovation Academy](#) - Culinary Arts

[Northeast High](#) - Culinary Arts Academy

[Osceola Fundamental High](#) - Culinary Arts Academy

[Tarpon Springs High](#) - Jacobson Culinary Academy

## **Education and Leadership**

[Boca Ciega High](#) - Principles of Teaching

[Countryside High](#) - Early Childhood Certification Program: Countryside Little Cougars Program

[Gibbs High](#) - Early Childhood Education

[Largo High](#) - Exploring Careers & Education in Leadership (ExCEL)

[Seminole High](#) - Center of Education and Leadership

[Tarpon Springs High](#) – Early Childhood Education: Tarpon Little Spongers Program

## **International Studies**

[Clearwater High](#) - Career Academy for International Culture and Commerce

[Clearwater High](#) - Cambridge Program: Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE)

[Hollins High](#) - Cambridge Program: Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE)

[Tarpon Springs High](#) - Cambridge Program: Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE)

## **Medicine, Public Safety and Law**

[Boca Ciega High](#) - Center for Wellness and Medical Professions (CWMP)

[East Lake High](#) - Academy of Biomedical Sciences

[Palm Harbor University High](#) - Center for Wellness and Medical Professions (CWMP)

[Pinellas Park High](#) - Criminal Justice Academy

[Pinellas Park High](#) - First Responders: National Guard Center for Emergency Management

[Richard O. Jacobson Technical High](#) – Nursing

## **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics**

[Boca Ciega High](#) - Academy of Emerging Technology

[Clearwater High](#) - Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering, Aerospace, and Mathematics (STEAM)

[Countryside High](#) - Institute for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (ISTEM)

[Countryside High](#) - Biotech Academy

[Dunedin High](#) - Academy of Architecture, Robotics and Construction Technology (ARC)

[East Lake High](#) - Academy of Engineering

[Gibbs High](#) - Business, Entrepreneurial, Technology Academy (BETA)

[Lakewood High](#) - Academy for Aquatic Management Systems and Environmental Technology (AMSET)

[Lakewood High](#) - Center for Advanced Technologies (CAT)

[Lealman Innovation Academy](#) - Diversified Career Technology

[Northeast High](#) - Academy of Information Technology (AOIT)

[Osceola Fundamental High](#) - Center for Technology, Entertainment, and Design (CTED)

[Osceola Fundamental High](#) - Pre-Engineering - Manufacturing Academy

[Pinellas Park High](#) – Drone Academy

[Richard O. Jacobson Technical High](#) – Game and Simulation Academy

[Richard O. Jacobson Technical High](#) – Veterinary Assisting Academy

[Seminole High](#) - Academy of E-Commerce

[Seminole High](#) - Sustainable Engineering Academy

[Tarpon Springs High](#) - Veterinary Science Academy

## Semester 2

### What Is Grade Point Average and Why Is It Important?

The most common GPA structure is the 4.0 scale, in which an A equals 4.0 and an F equals 0.0. With a weighted GPA, a student can earn higher than a 4.0 by performing well in AP or honors classes. A student's GPA is calculated by dividing grades earned across the total number of courses taken. The table below shows how a 4.0 GPA scale corresponds to numeric and letter grades.

POINTS	GRADE	GPA
90-100	A	4.0
80-89	B	3.0
70-79	C	2.0
60-69	D	1.0
Below 60	F	0.0

### **Why is it important to have a high GPA?**

- In high school, a student's GPA can make them eligible to take AP, IB, or dual enrollment classes.
  - Which are all opportunities to begin earning college level credit while still in high school.
- The better a student's GPA, the better chances a student has of getting into their college of choice.
- High GPA can help to receive additional scholarships.

### Find a Community Service or Volunteer Opportunity

Community service or volunteering is work done by a person that benefits others.

It is often done near the home where their community reaps the benefits of the volunteer service. A person does not get paid.

### **Why is Community Service Valued?**

- Colleges appreciate seeing that their applicants engage in volunteer opportunities because it not only gives them a more complete understanding of the applicant, and it shows them that the student is likely to contribute to the campus community. To them, it means that students will be more engaged and involved outside of the classroom. <https://collegeinitiative.net/>
- Students can learn leadership, problem-solving, time management, communication, and collaboration skills while volunteering.
- It shows a college where a student shares the school's values or mission.
- Ask your school counselor for a suggestion of where to volunteer.
- It can assist with winning future scholarships such as Bright Futures and many others.
- Be sure to log your community service hours.

## Semester 2 continued

### Staying academically competitive

Staying academically competitive can help with:

1. **Skill Development:** It fosters essential skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and time management, which are crucial for future academic success.
2. **Preparation for High School:** Middle school serves as a bridge to high school. Staying competitive helps students build a strong foundation that can lead to advanced courses and better opportunities.
3. **Motivation:** A competitive environment can motivate students to push their boundaries, aim for higher goals, and take ownership of their learning.
4. **Collaboration and Social Skills:** Engaging in healthy competition can enhance collaboration skills as students often work in groups or teams, developing communication and interpersonal skills.
5. **Resilience:** By facing challenges and striving to succeed, students can develop resilience and a growth mindset, learning to view setbacks as opportunities for growth.
6. **Future Opportunities:** Academic achievements can influence scholarship availability, extracurricular opportunities, and college admissions down the line, making competitiveness a valuable aspect of their education.
7. **Middle School Resume:** Create or update your middle school resume with your awards, achievements, volunteer work, activities, and technical skills.

### Bright Futures Scholarship

Bright Futures is a Florida scholarship that helps pay for college if you do well in school and complete volunteer or work hours. Starting in 7th or 8th grade, you can begin volunteering in your school or community—these hours can count toward the scholarship once you're in high school! Learn more and track your progress at [floridastudentfinancialaidsq.org](http://floridastudentfinancialaidsq.org).

## Semester 2 continued

### Student Resume

A student resume is a record of a student's accomplishments, extracurricular activities/club involvement, hobbies, and volunteer history.

Why it is important to create a student resume while in middle school:

- It offers the student practice in creating a resume.
- It is helpful for a student to have a resume when applying to special academic programs or academies offered by high schools. These programs/academies often want to see a list of a student's academics, school involvement, and accomplishments in middle school.
- A resume can include sports inside and outside of school, any officer positions held in a club, community or religious organizations activities, and any award, academic achievements, and work experience (if applicable).
- Leadership positions or activities should be highlighted.

Create a middle school student resume. Information on how to create a student resume can be found at the following link: [Create a Student Resume](#)

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