

9th Grade @ Pine View 101

Fitting the pieces
together



A
*Pine View
Survival
Guide*

January 2021

Dear Rising 9th Grade Students and Parents:

A student's high school years are filled with much excitement and incredible growth as learners in preparation for successful post-secondary education and careers. The educational experiences for high school students at Pine View are both challenging and rigorous. Pine View School is fortunate to have such wonderful students, parents, staff, and faculty members, and our strength as a school and educational community lies in our shared vision. That vision is one of going the extra degree in all that we do, of sharing the gifts we have been given to better our world, and of continuously improving ourselves, our school, and our world. We are committed to supporting all our students in a rigorous academic setting while developing personal and community responsibility. Our mission statement is:

"The mission of Pine View School is to provide a qualitatively different learning environment that nurtures a passion of intellectual curiosity, that encourages risk-taking, independence and innovation, and that is committed to a tradition of excellence and social responsibility."

Throughout your high school journey at Pine View, you will have ample opportunity to become involved in many activities which have a direct impact on our community, and allow Pine View students to make a real difference! It is our hope that, in addition to continuing to achieve success at highly rigorous coursework in the classroom, all high school students bring the 212 philosophy alive by going the extra degree in making the world a better place. With increased opportunity comes heightened responsibility, and Pine View students have consistently risen to meet that challenge- *and you will, too!* You are joining a long tradition of excellence at the high school level, since our founding in 1969, and you are becoming engaged and involved in building our community of learners.

As you know, you have wonderful teachers, counselors, and administrators who support and shape the academic climate at Pine View, and there is always someone with whom you can talk, ask questions, or from whom you may seek assistance. In this helpful booklet, you will find valuable information about maintaining balance in your life and suggestions on how to successfully manage the demands of highly rigorous coursework in preparing you for post-secondary success.

We look forward to partnering with students and parents to make your high school experiences rewarding and memorable. We hope that you embrace this opportunity to continue our tradition of excellence!

Stephen P. Covert, Ph.D.
Principal

"Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered with failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat."

-Theodore Roosevelt

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The Purpose and Benefit of This Guide

The purpose of this guide is to help 9th grade students transition smoothly into high school at Pine View. Created with input from 9th grade students, teachers, and parents as well as the 9th grade guidance counselor and assistant principal, it provides students and families with specific strategies to increase success while balancing tougher courses, more rigorous homework, and extra-curricular experiences. In addition, it offers ways students and parents can find help when needed.



For Parents

Even for students who have been enrolled at Pine View since second grade, 9th grade can be a challenging year. Parents play an important role in ensuring the most successful transition possible. We recognize and applaud that our parents and guardians have been involved in their child's education. We encourage parents and guardians to remain academically involved, especially during the transition to high school. Even though our students are becoming more independent, it is helpful to continue monitoring Family Access Portal grades and homework habits.



There are additional challenges to our students' freshman year in high school. There is a natural leap in teacher expectations for our 9th grade students.

Not only will the academic requirements become more rigorous, students will also become involved in a more varied list of extra-curricular activities. Students may pick up a sport or join a club and will also be able to begin their volunteer hours. These added activities may require students to re-establish how they spend their time with homework, chores and/or family commitments.

Points to Consider

- The first few weeks of freshman year consist of classroom discussion and activities based upon Summer Reading assignments. Students are expected to have read the required Summer Reading texts and understand the material within. Students should be prepared for these activities by refreshing their memories of summer reading the week before their return to school.

- Pine View teachers provide students with **Course Expectations** at the beginning of the school year. Read these documents carefully, as students are held accountable for understanding teacher expectations. Additionally, Pine View teachers maintain **classroom websites**. Most websites are updated weekly and include homework, projects, assignments and a variety of other materials and expectations. **Students should form the habit of accessing this resource on a regular basis.** When your child is absent, the website is a useful starting point for staying on top of assignments completed in class.
- 8th graders currently enrolled in Life Science will need to keep their science binder as this will assist them as they transition into high school Biology. Students should keep this binder in a safe place for the summer and bring it with them on their return to school as a resource.



Monitoring Grades through Family Access Portal

- ◆ Family Access Portal accounts remain the same with the transition into high school. A new registration is not required. Remember to capitalize the letters in the username.
- ◆ First time users will need to complete the registration process utilizing the student's N# and date of birth. Please ask your child for their N#. Due to confidential policies, N#s will **not** be provided by front office staff. The same items are necessary for adding another child to an existing account.
- ◆ If the username or password have been misplaced, access the Family Access Portal and click on the "forgot" link. The information will be emailed to you.
- ◆ Trouble logging in? Please contact Pine View Registrar Susan Manders at: Susan.Manders@sarasotacountysschools.net
- ◆ If there are any questions pertaining to grades, please email or call the teacher and inquire about the specific assignment. It is important to note that some errors may be due to programming mistakes. While teachers make every effort to regularly update grades, there may be some lag time between when assignments are turned in and when they are posted.

What To Do If Grades Become a Concern

We encourage Pine View students to earn A's and B's. If a student is earning a quarter grade of a C or lower, it is time to 'round the wagons'.

- Ask your son or daughter to look at the grades with you on Family Access Portal. Are there missing homework assignments? Is your child having difficulty with the material? Does your child understand how to study for tests?
- Encourage your child to speak with the teacher. It is helpful for the teacher if the student can express specific concerns.
- Get in touch with your child's teacher. Contact teachers through their county email addresses or call the office. Phone messages are given to teachers by receptionists and administrative assistants. Parents can request a parent teacher conference if needed.
- Contact the school counselor, Mrs. Byington. Mrs. Byington will assist in navigating Family Access Portal, offer additional support and direction and has information regarding tutors.

Monitoring Your Child's Stress Level

Gifted students tend to be very active and involved students. Sometimes perfectionism goes hand-in-hand with the gifted child. Please keep an eye on your child's stress level throughout the year. Stress levels may peak at certain times of the year such as before the end of a quarter, during final exam week, or during a period of time when a particular club or sport is in full swing. We recommend you:

- Monitor, as best you can, their health, behavior, thoughts, or feelings.
- Watch for overloading or overextending.
- Encourage stress relieving activities, such as engaging in an exercise that he/she enjoys, listening to music, talking to friends, participating in family activities, or volunteering in the community helping others.
- Remind them of the importance of doing their personal best. Help them avoid comparing themselves to their peers.

For Students

Welcome to high school at Pine View! Get quotes daily. As you embark on your high school career at Pine View School, you will take on new commitments that will become more demanding of your time. The academic program becomes more rigorous and you will be adding clubs, sports and volunteer hours to your daily menu of activities. There are several key factors that can help you maintain your academic success. A few of the most important factors follow, but first and foremost it is important to remember your teachers want to help. Their goal is your success!



Maintain a Balanced Life

Remember to maintain a healthy balance between school, extra-curricular activities and home commitments. Try new activities and clubs but be aware of your own limitations. If you find yourself becoming overly tired or stressed it is time to take a moment to relax and re-evaluate your priorities. If you find that your grades are dropping, consider scaling back on the number of extra-curricular activities. Remember to include time with friends and family into your schedule.

Develop Routines

When faced with a busy schedule and a busy life, it is helpful to develop routines.

Consistently use your agenda book for keeping track of nightly homework as well as long-term projects.

Develop homework routines.

Step one: Find a location in your home where homework can be completed with as few distractions as possible.

Step two: Set up a homework center. Find a workspace where you can have all of your materials needed for homework completion handy and at the ready.

Step three: Establish a homework time that works best for you. Make good use of your time between activities. Times of transition are often perfect opportunities for homework completion.

Step four: Have a homework organizational routine. For example, place your subject area homework in separate folders and have a place in your backpack for your homework folders.

Develop study habits/routines. Thoroughly prepare yourself for the content of the test far in advance of the test. This allows your brain time to adequately absorb the material.

“Organization isn’t about perfection; it’s about efficiency, reducing stress and clutter, saving time and improving your overall quality of life.”

— Christina Scalise

Ask For Help When Needed

Teachers and staff at Pine View encourage students to ask questions and seek help when needed. Teachers will let their students know when they are available for extra help. Often teachers are available during lunch. If a tutor is needed, please ask the classroom teacher to help submit a request for a student tutor. This program is called “Scholars for Scholars.” If a student or parent would prefer an outside tutor, please ask for the “Tutor Reference Book” found in the guidance office.

Taking Class Notes

Ninth-grade students are expected to understand how to take ample and clear notes during lectures. It is recommended students use the following note taking suggestions to ensure they are capturing the most important points of any lecture. Follow the guidelines from the University of Illinois Academic Center for Excellence (2018) for taking notes before, during, and after a lecture. (<http://studentaffairs.uic.edu/ace/study-strategies/taking-lecture-notes/>)

Before a Lecture

- Read material assigned beforehand to get an overall idea of concepts to be shared in the lecture; it will assist in taking better notes.
- Read lecture notes previously recorded to refresh your memory before a new lecture or presentation.
- Print power point and lecture notes provided by the teacher ahead of time – bring these items and use them to add specific examples, anecdotes, and details while in class.

During a Lecture

- Most 9th grade teachers require Cornell Notes – use this format as the lecture ensues, or annotate printed power point slides.
- Do not write everything the teacher says; rather abbreviate and omit redundant or insignificant words.
- Use completed Cornell Notes to assess your understanding of the material later either individually or with a peer.
- Stay attentive and ask questions – this is especially helpful if the lecture is moving too quickly to capture every detail or if you “zoned out” momentarily.

After a Lecture

- Spend time immediately after class reading through your notes – try to summarize the main concepts you have learned.

Helpful Resources

Scholars for Scholars	Purdue Online Writing Lab
<p>Purpose: Assists students who are struggling with concepts in a specific course. Students' homework completion should be current. A Scholar is matched with the student and together they arrange times to meet conducive to their schedules.</p> <p>Contact: Classroom teacher or Ms. Melton</p>	<p>Purpose: Provides students with models for writing and citing in MLA style. This website should be referred to often.</p> <p>Website: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/</p>
Campbell Biology Online <p>Purpose: Students can access textbook supplements online (interactive tutorials, practice quizzes, and post-tests) to compliment instruction & prepare for assessments.</p> <p>https://study.com/academy/exam/course/campbell-biology-online-textbook-help.html</p>	
Pine View Homepage <p>Purpose: Keeps parents and students up to date; access teacher websites, learn about Pine View's mobile library Destiny Quest, read the daily announcements, and more.</p> <p>Website: http://sarasotacountyschools.net/schools/pineview/</p>	
Family Access Portal <p>Purpose: View your son or daughter's schedule, attendance, assignments, and grades for each class. Complete instructions for registering can be found on the website.</p> <p>** Parents can set up email alerts through Family Access Portal. A parent training will be scheduled at the beginning of the new school year. Please watch for the date.</p> <p>Website: https://parentportal.sarasotacountyschools.net/</p>	
Pine View College Resource Page <p>Purpose: Provides a college prep timeline as a reference for high school students as well as resources for colleges, funding and other resources.</p> <p>Website: pvcollegecounseling.com/</p>	
Florida Shines <p>Purpose: To empower all of Florida's 20,000,000 residents to earn a college degree and find a bright career.</p> <p>Website: www.floridashines.org/</p>	

9th Grade Contacts

Assistant Principal	Kate Marcotte	Kate.Marcotte@sarasotacountyschools.net
School Guidance Counselor	Ashley Byington	Ashley.Byington@sarasotacountyschools.net
High School Guidance Secretary	Gina Verdino	Gina.Verdino@sarasotacountyschools.net