



Dr. John Long Middle School
2025 Mansfield Blvd.
Wesley Chapel, FL 33543
Tel: 813-346-6200

LONGHORN SURVIVAL GUIDE

2017-2018

Welcome to John Long Middle School!

As your child begins to enter the teenage years, his or her educational needs and expectations will begin to change rapidly. Pasco County middle schools offer new and exciting opportunities for children in grades 6-8 specifically designed to meet those needs. Your child will experience school in a whole new way, from working with a team of teachers and traveling from class to class, to exploring technology and languages in electives.

Quick Facts:

- Assistant Principals and Guidance Counselors are assigned to a grade level and loop up with the student's grade every year.
- Assignments for all grades, including incoming 6th graders are assigned over the summer.
- All students have 6 classes each day. As a 6th, 7th or 8th grader, your child's core classes will include Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Science.
- Students are required to have one semester of physical education (PE) class each year unless enrolled in a remedial course, elective class or participating in physical activities outside the school day at least equal to mandated requirement.
- Accelerated Reading is provided for students who need extra support.
- All 7th and 8th grade students can participate in football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, track & field and cheerleading.
- There are clubs and activities available for all students.

JLMS PTSA Welcomes You!

PTSA would like to welcome all rising 6th graders and returning or new 7th and 8th graders. While the transition from elementary to middle school can be stressful for incoming students and parents, we are dedicated to making the move to middle school a successful one. This guide has been created with that dedication in mind, and is intended to inform you and your child about some of the new ideas you will encounter during these next, exciting three years.

As a PTSA, we are committed to providing parental and monetary support to enrich student experiences at John Long. Our support is important when faced with budget cuts and rising student population. As Parents, you can help by:

Becoming a PTSA Member. Your membership dollars will go directly back into programs and classrooms for our students and staff at JLMS.

Joining the PTSA Board. Be part of our committees and have an impact in the family/student events and programs that the PTSA brings each year.

Volunteer, promote and support our events and fundraiser. Please be sure to look for opportunities throughout the year.

Stay informed. PTSA is an excellent resource for what's happening at JLMS both socially and academically:

- Sign up for reminder texts messages. Send the text @jlmstp to 81010.
- Follow our Facebook Page www.Facebook.com/JohnLongPTSA
- Visit our website at www.jlmsptsa.org
- Get notified of volunteering opportunities throughout the year. Send an email to jlm volunteers@gmail.com and you'll be added to our sign-up genius database.

PTSA Board

Executive Committee:

- President
- Treasurer
- 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President
- 3rd Vice President
- Recording Secretary
- Corresponding Secretary
- Parliamentarian*

Standing Committee:

- Awards & Recognition*
- Cultural Arts/Reflections*
- Community Services
- Donations & Sponsorships*
- Environmental
- Family & Student Events
- Fundraising
- Health & Safety
- Historian*
- Hospitality*
- Legislative
- Membership
- Programs
- Public Relations/eNews*
- School Spirit
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Webmaster/Social Media

- Student Liaison*
- Teacher Liaison*

* Indicates positions still available. Please contact us at JohnLongPTSA@gmail.com if you are interested in learning more.

School Administration

- Principal Christine Wolff
- Assistant Principals:
 - 6th Grade Jill Briscoe
 - 7th Grade Shalonda Brooks
 - 8th Grade Debbie Collin
- School Counselors:
 - 6th Grade Christina Prince
 - 7th Grade Erin Troung
 - 8th Grade Jane Dobres
 - SSAP Timothy Hall



District School Board of Pasco County

7227 Land O' Lakes Blvd.
 Land O' Lakes, FL 34638

- Superintendent Kurt Browning
- District 4 Alison Crumbley

What to Expect for 2017-2018:

August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Orientation Day ▪ 1st Day of School
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Back to School Dance ▪ Reflections Kick-Off ▪ PTSA General Assembly/Open House
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reflections Entries Due ▪ All Pro Dad Breakfast ▪ Red Ribbon Week
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Great American Teach In ▪ Reflections 2019-2020 New Theme Idea Due ▪ Holiday Mail for Heroes ▪ All Pro Dad Breakfast ▪ Thanksgiving Break/Hurricane Make-Up Days
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Holiday Teacher Appreciation ▪ Winter Break
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All Pro Dad Breakfast ▪ PTSA General Assembly
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Florida State Assessments (FSA) - Writing ▪ All Pro Dad Breakfast
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FCA - Access Standards and Retakes Only ▪ All Pro Dad Breakfast ▪ Spring Break
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FSA - ELA/Math ▪ All Pro Dad Breakfast
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teacher Appreciation Week ▪ FSA - ELA/Math ▪ PTSA General Assembly

Stay up to date and visit us often at www.jlmsptsa.org

2017-2018 Pasco Teacher Student Calendar

<p>August-17</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>*</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table>		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	*	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31		<p>September-17</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>Ⓟ</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> </table>					1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	Ⓟ	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29	<p>October-17</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Ⓟ</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13		16	17	18	19	20		Ⓟ	24	25	26	27		30	31				
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Academics at JLMS

Students must complete the exit criteria below in order to be promoted to high school:

- Middle school students must successfully complete Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies each year to be promoted to high school. Successful completion of these courses require the earning of a grade of "D" or higher.
- Maintain at least a 2.0 GPA.
- Maintain appropriate behavior.
- Maintain regular attendance.

Required Courses

- Each year, all 3 grades are required to pass 4 core courses: Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies. Contingent upon FSA Reading score, students may also be required to take an additional Reading course.
- Students must complete one course in career and education planning to be completed in the 7th or 8th grade.
- Physical Education (PE). Middle school students are required to take one semester of PE in each grade level unless waived. Students can rent a locker during their PE semester. Uniforms can be plain white or JLMS spirit shirts with plain black shorts. JLMS shirts can be purchased from the PE department or during orientation day.
- PE may be waived for students for the following criteria:
 - The student is enrolled or required to enroll in a remedial course.
 - The student is enrolled in another elective, if it is available at that grade level and upon parent request.
 - The student is participating in physical activities outside the school day, which are equal to or in excess of the mandated requirement.

Electives for Grade Levels

In addition to the 4 core courses, students in each grade level take 2 other periods of elective courses. These courses include, but are not limited to: Art, Spanish, Chorus, Band, Orchestra, Health and Career & Technical Education.

Peer Program. The Peer Program allows 8th graders to assist teachers, the media, the office or special needs classrooms. This is an elective that students apply for and are chosen in the 7th grade.

Honor Roll

Each semester, using the scale below, grades will be averaged. Those students averaging a 3.2 - 3.9 will be on the honor roll. Those students averaging 4.0 will be on the all A honor roll (*Scale: 4.0 = A; 3.0 = B; 2.0 = C; 1.0 = D; 0 = F*).

Dress Code

Students shall wear modest clothing. Sexually implicit or explicit clothing, bikinis, tank tops, leggings, jeggings, sleepwear including pajamas, spandex clothing are not appropriate for school.

- Students may wear shorts and skirts as long as they are no more than 4" above the knee. The same rule applies to jeans with holes, leggings and dresses.
- Students' clothing shall be worn appropriately with pants worn securely at the waist and with no abdomen/back, side skin or underwear exposed.
- Blouses, shirts, and sweaters cannot dip below a line formed between the right and left armpit. Muscle shirts, tank tops, shirts with spaghetti straps, and strapless tops or see through tops are not acceptable. Tank tops underneath see through or lace shirts are not permitted
- Tops must be long enough to clearly overlap the belt line or stay tucked in during the course of normal movement throughout the school day. NO underwear should be exposed.
- Students shall not wear hats or head coverings on the school campus during the regular school day unless previously approved for medical or religious reasons or special school activities by the Principal.
- Students shall wear shoes for foot protection and hygienic reasons while on school grounds or on school transportation. Slippers are not acceptable.
- Decorations, symbols, mottos, or designs imprinted or attached to the body or clothing which are offensive to good taste or the maintenance of decorum, or which advertise tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or which identify them as members of secret antisocial groups or gangs shall not be worn to school or school functions. Facial piercing (nose, mouth, lip, tongue and eyebrow) are not appropriate at JLMS.
- Wallet chains or dog collars shall not be permitted.

The Principal, or designee, shall determine the appropriateness of dress and appearance and will make the decision if a student's appearance meets the dress code standard. The Principal or designee's decision on the appropriateness of dress is final.

Attendance

JLMS does not have an attendance line. Please send in a note for your child regarding their absence on the first day they return to class. Allow 1-2 weeks for absences to show EXCUSED in myStudent.

Bus Information

The District School Board of Pasco County provides free transportation to and from school for students who live more than two miles away from school. Students will be provided with bus pick up and drop off times on Orientation Day.

Drop Off & Pick Up

To reduce the amount of cars trying to get in and out of the school, the school encourages parents to carpool. Drop off and pick up from the outer right lane only (left lane is for exiting) and please pull all the way up. NO dropping off on Mansfield Blvd.

Meal Information

You can set an account to pay school meals anytime, anywhere from your computer or smartphone by using www.myschoolbucks.com. It is the most convenient way to manage payments.

Full Prices:

- Breakfast: \$1.50
- Lunch: \$2.60 - \$3.00

School menus and information about reduced meal prices can be found on the district website.

Families needing free or reduced lunches for their children must apply each year. Information can be found on the Pasco County School website www.pasco.k12.fl.us.

Orientation Day

Tuesday, August 8th. You and your student will be able to pick up his or her class schedule on Orientation Day. Please be prepared to pay for any school or book fees. 6th graders should proceed to the JLMS cafeteria. 7th and 8th graders pick up their schedules in the gymnasium.

School Times

- 8:30 am - 2:50 pm JLMS official time.
- 8:10 am - 8:25 am Grab-and-Go breakfast available.
- All classes are 50 minutes long
- Lunch is 30 minutes long.

Shot Requirements

Please make sure your student is up to date with his or her immunizations when the school year begins.

6th through 8th grade students:

- DTaP 4-5 doses
- Polio 3 - 5 doses
- Measles-Mumps-Rubella 2 doses
- Hepatitis B 2 - 3 doses

7th and 8th grade students ONLY:

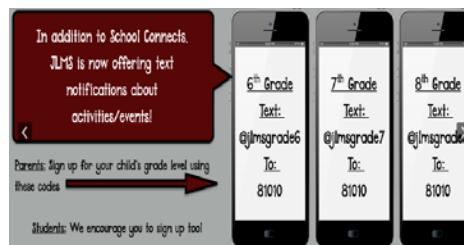
- Tdap

Go to: www.pasco.k12.fl.us/ssps/programs/ immunizations for more information.

Stay Informed

Remind 101. Sign up for reminder text messages for upcoming events and information. We encourage you to subscribe with the school and PTSA.

To stay up to date with your child's grade:



To stay up to date with JLMS PTSA:



Facebook. Follow our pages and you will get updates on your Facebook feed:

School Page

[www.facebook.com/Dr. John Long Middle School](http://www.facebook.com/Dr.JohnLongMiddleSchool)

PTSA

Page www.facebook.com/JLMS

[PTSA/JohnLongPTSA](http://www.facebook.com/JohnLongPTSA)

Pasco Sheriff School Safety

www.facebook.com/pascosherriffschoolsafety.

This page is for parents and students attending school in Pasco County and a resource for safety information. Corporal Patrick Cottrell is our School Resource Officer (SRO) from the Pasco County Sheriff's office.

Summer Reading Assignment

For Incoming 6th graders: Choose either "*The Sign of the Beaver*" or "*Among the Hidden*" to read over the summer. Write a brief summary (2-3 sentences) for each chapter of the book. Entries should be handwritten. Due on the 3rd day of school (8/16/2017).

For Dreamcatchers and other grades: Students reading assignments can be found under Students on <http://jlm.pasco.k12.fl.us/>

Supply List

Supply lists for students can be found on the school website www.jlms.pasco.k12.fl.us.

Volunteers

If you are interested in volunteering with JLMS or PTSA, you must first complete the background screening each school year with the county school district at www.pasco.k12.fl.us. Submit early (starting as of July 1st) in order to avoid any delays. Once the background check has been approved by the district and you have received confirmation, please notify the JLMS PTSA Volunteer Coordinator at JLMSVolunteers@gmail.com.

Yearbook Purchases

Yearbooks can be pre-ordered and paid online as early as October on the school website. Please be on the lookout for announcements.

Online Resources

myLearning and **myStudent** are web-based grade books that allow students and parents to view grades, attendance and set up notifications. To sign up, you need your child's student ID, birth date, social security and an email address.

<https://ryu.pasco.k12.fl.us/canvas/pr e-login/select-user.html>



<https://pasco.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/?skipSAML=true>



Note: myLearning and myStudent do not necessarily include all assignments that are due or reflect all upcoming tests/quizzes. It is the student's responsibility to use their planner to keep track of upcoming tests and assignment due dates.

The **Pasco County School** website has information about our district. Registration requirements, school bus schedules, back to school information and graduation requirements are just a few things that can be found on this site.

<http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/>



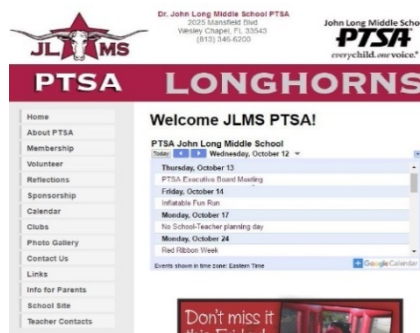
The **John Long School** website has information for students and parents with staff contacts, upcoming events, information about athletics and much more.

<http://jlms.pasco.k12.fl.us/>



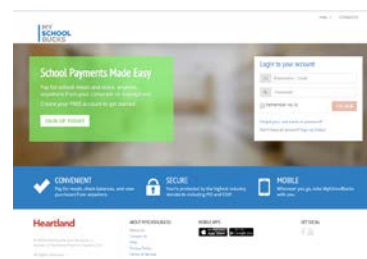
Our **PTSA** site has information about upcoming events, pictures of events, membership and information of interest to parents and students.

<http://www.jlmsptsa.org>



MySchoolBucks is the best way to manage paying for meals. Create an account and don't worry about your child carrying cash. If you established an account for your child during elementary school, you can continue to use the same account.

www.myschoolbucks.com



Florida Virtual School

Florida Virtual School is an online public school that is free and available for 6th graders and up that can support and enrich student's academic plan. Parent and student can register for a course, along with the permission from their John Long Guidance Counselor. Students can take an introductory middle school course, such as Spanish during summer break or take a high school elective course prior to entering high school. The student's academic plan is very unique and individual so it is highly suggested to have open communication with the guidance department. For more information visit www.FLVS.net.

For more online resources, click the student link on the JLMS school website
<http://jlms.pasco.k12.fl.us/>

Athletics

Sports Participation Requirements

To participate in a sports team at JLMS, a student must:

- Be in 7th or 8th grade
- Have a 2.0 or higher GPA*
- Must maintain a "C" average or higher throughout the season

**Based off of the previous semesters' grade point average*

- Turn in the following completed forms (available at the JLMS website):
 1. FHSAA Clearance for Participation Form
 2. FHSAA Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation
 3. FHSAA Consent and Release Form Liability Certificate
 4. Pasco County School Athletic Participation Form (notarized)
- Pay participation fees:
 - 1st sport - \$45
 - 2nd sport - \$30
- The following caps apply:
 - \$75 Individual athlete
 - \$120 Family at the same school

Football Tryouts:
Boys August

Volleyball
Girls August

Soccer
Boys October
Girls January

Basketball
Girls Oct
Boys Jan

Cheerleading
Girls May

Track March

Summer Sports Camps

The following camps will be available at JLMS:

- Sports Camp June 12th - June 15th
June 19th - June 22nd
July 10th - July 13th
- Basketball July 24th - July 27th
- Football July 31st - Aug. 3rd
- Volleyball July 31st - Aug. 3rd

Go to <http://jlms.pasco.k12.fl.us> for pricing, forms and dates.

Clubs at John Long

There are several clubs that students can take part in. If a student has a special interest in starting a new club, he or she needs to find a teacher willing to be a sponsor. Students will be given instructions about how to register for clubs during the first few weeks of school.

The following is a list of clubs from the past school year. They are not guaranteed to be available in the 2017-2018 school year.

Best Buddies. The students in the Best Buddies Club help offer social mentoring while improving the quality of life and level of inclusion for a population that is often isolated and excluded. Through their participation, people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities form meaningful connections, gain self-confidence, share interests and activities. 7th and 8th graders only as Peer Buddies.

Debate Team. The debate team is more than an after school club. It's an opportunity for students to find their voice and become effective communicators. Team meets once a week and work closely with the Land O' Lakes High School JSA chapter to learn the art of debate, to become aware of real-world issues, advocate for what they believe and to become leaders in our society.

Fellowship of Christian Students (FCS). Fellowship of Christian Students is a group designed to equip, empower and encourage students to make a difference for Christ. The club meets twice a month in the afternoons.

Healthcare Occupations Students of America (HOSA) Club. HOSA is a national student organization and a club for students who have a desire to learn all about the health occupation. Students also participate in health competitions against other schools.

News Crew. Every morning at 8:30 you can count on the JLMS News Crew to keep you up to date on all the latest Longhorn events. The news crew finds all the controls, transitions and anchoring duties every morning.

Odyssey of the Mind. OM is all about students putting their minds together to creatively solve different tasks. With different problems to choose from, the students are allowed to develop their own teams and can move forward to state competition held at UCF.

Photography Club. Promotes creativity through photography, to share and critique the photographs of peers, to educate and improve skills and to spread the love of photography throughout the Longhorn community. A camera of any kind - cell phone cameras are just fine. Meets once a week.

Step Team. A form of dance where the members' entire body is used as an instrument to create complex sounds and rhythms through a mixture of footsteps, spoken word and hand claps. Tryouts are in August.

Yearbook Club. The yearbook club is made up of 7th & 8th graders who must apply to be in the club at the beginning of the school year.

Students: Watch the morning news for information about signing up for this year's clubs!

Supporting JLMS is Simple!

Box Tops

We are looking forward to a great year collecting Box Tops. Box Tops funds our technology here at JLMS. It's fast and easy to do. If you have some Box Tops collected during the summer, you can still send them in. Each box top is worth 10¢. Box Tops can be dropped off in the front office or students can give them to their homeroom teacher.



Campbell's Labels for Education

For almost 40 years, Labels for Education has been awarding educational equipment to schools in exchange for proofs of purchase from the Campbell family of brands. It's a fun, easy program where students, families and members of the community work together for a common goal.



Green Fiber Recycling

We are very lucky to have the Green Fiber Dumpster available to our community right here at JLMS located near the bus loop. This allows us to bring in our paper goods to be recycled and allows John Long to earn money in the process. Please remember that this dumpster is for paper/ cardboard goods only. Do not place trash or any other items in the dumpster. Thank you for your continued support and for keeping our planet green!



Battery Recycling

Did you know JLMS participates in the Household Battery Recycling Contest? Bring in your batteries from home and place them in the battery recycling container located in the Media Center.

Sneaker Recycling Program

gotsneakers? provides an opportunity to recycle used sneakers and make a difference in the world. This fundraising program helps our school earn money while contributing to environmental sustainability and economic development by reducing waste and playing an active role in job creation. For every pair of sneakers collected, the school gets \$1.00. Be on the look-out for the campaign kick-off and end of the collection drive dates. Simply drop off in the containers located in the front or back office.

JLMS Spirit Wear

The PTSA has a number of items for sale that will show off your school spirit and help the PTSA reach its goals at the same time. Items are on sale at most school events or contact JohnLongPTSA@gmail.com for more information.

Reflections Program



Reflections is national PTA contest that allows students to create an original art, literature, photograph, dance or film piece and tie it with a theme. Each year brings a new theme. This year it's "**Within Reach**".

Reflect on the theme. Create an original work. Be recognized!

Entries are judged locally and the winning pieces advance to county, state and national levels. **JLMS submissions due: October 6, 2017.**

Students can also participate in the *Theme Search for 2019-2020*.

Visit the JLM PTSA Reflections page for more information:
www.jlmsptsa.org/reflections/html



ABC Program

The Pasco County School District supports struggling families in difficult economic times through its **Assist, Believe and Care (ABC)** Program. If your family is in need, contact the school to find out more information on how you can get some assistance which can help your child's success in the classroom. Families needing free or reduced lunches for their children must apply each year. Information can be found on the Pasco County School website, www.pasco.k12.fl.us.

This Survival Guide was brought to you by JLMS PTSA to help new parents and students with the most frequently asked questions. Best intent was made to provide information as accurate as possible and JLMS PTSA cannot be liable for any inaccuracies in this Guide.

Membership Perks!

By becoming a PTSA member, you help support the programs, students and family events sponsored by the PTSA – and most importantly you are supporting the school. Once a member, you will be kept up to date as to what is happening at the school and PTSA. With your membership, you also receive a valuable discount card that can be used all year long at our local community businesses. Other Member Perks are also offer via Florida PTA so be sure to check them out at www.floridapta.org/member-perks.



LEGOLAND Florida offers exclusive PTA member discounts. Deeply discounted tickets can be purchased for more than 50% off the regular price. Must be reserved and pre-paid online by credit card and you must have the JLMS ID# found on your PTSA card.

Stop by and see us on Orientation Day OR send the Membership Form with a check to the school with your student.

2017-2018 JLMS PTSA Membership Form

\$5 Member Name: _____ M F

Mother Father Student (Grade _____) JLMS Teacher JLMS Staff Grandparent

Please provide your email address to receive PTSA news, events and volunteering opportunities:

\$5 Additional Member Name: _____ M F

Mother Father Student (Grade _____) JLMS Teacher JLMS Staff Grandparent

Please provide your email address to receive PTSA news, events and volunteering opportunities:

\$5 Additional Member Name: _____ M F

Mother Father Student (Grade _____) JLMS Teacher JLMS Staff Grandparent

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\$5 Additional Member Name: _____ M F

Mother Father Student (Grade _____) JLMS Teacher JLMS Staff Grandparent

Please provide your email address to receive PTSA news, events and volunteering opportunities:



Checks must be payable to JLMS PTSA and include student ID/phone #

Date: _____ Total Amount \$: _____ Cash Check

