



ACTIVITIES & CLUBS

- After-school Chess Club
- After-school instrumental music
- Battle of the Books Club
- K-Kids Civic Club sponsored by Seminole Kiwanis Club
- RCTV – televised school news program
- Science Fair
- Spanish Club
- All Pro Dads
- Music is Ageless
- Mad Scientist Club

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Award-winning Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Business/classroom partnerships
- Partnership: Greater Ridgecrest YMCA
- Volunteer tutors and mentors
- Partnership: Authentic Martial Arts

SCHOOL MISSION

The mission of Ridgecrest Elementary and the Center for Gifted Studies is to provide quality educational experiences that challenge and allow each child they serve to make maximum academic growth and prepare for a life in a global, multicultural society.



www.pcsb.org

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School Board of Pinellas County

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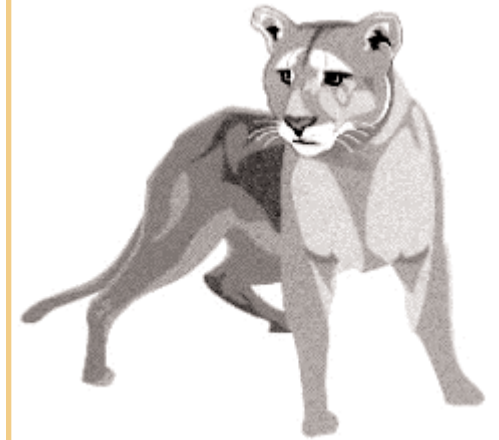
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Brochure information is subject to change.

Ridgecrest

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2009-2010



A school where all students strive to excel

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LARGO, FL 33778
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WWW.RIDGECREST-ES.PINELLAS.K12.FL.US

QUICK facts

Principal: Donna Benkert

Grade Levels: K-5

Enrollment: 749

School Hours: 8:35 a.m.-2:50 p.m. (Early release on Wednesdays – 8:35 a.m.-1:35 p.m.)

Attractor/focus: Partial Spanish Immersion Program, Center for Gifted Studies magnet

Uniforms: No

Before/after-school care: R'Club, 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Phone: 578-5437

Average Class Size: The class-size reduction amendment requires that each elementary school have a primary grades (K-3) average of 18:1 and an intermediate grades (4-5) average of 22:1. These averages include all programs providing services to students in each school.

Teaching Staff: Approximately 30 percent of faculty members have advanced degrees.

Exceptional Student Education:

Full time: Gifted, Independent Varying Exceptionalities (IVE)

Part time: Varying Exceptionalities (VE), Speech Impaired (SI), Language Impaired (LI), Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH), Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT) and Gifted

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program: No

Academic Information: Visit www.pinellas.k12.fl.us/schools

Computers and Technology: Mobile computer labs

SCHOOL BACKGROUND

One of Pinellas County's best-kept secrets is that "gem of a school," Ridgecrest Elementary School and the Center for Gifted Studies. This modern facility sits in a quiet, unincorporated area just north of Ulmerton Road and south of Taylor Park. Ridgecrest Elementary is home to approximately 700 students from kindergarten through 5th grade, plus a full- and part-time staff of approximately 100. With many volunteers assisting daily, this school community becomes an active center for learning and living for almost 1,000 people, each one woven into the pattern of learning, teaching, supporting and assisting.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- Full-time gifted magnet program for qualified grade 1-5 students (call for selection process)
- A schoolwide culture that takes ownership in every student's success
- Home/school partnership that supports every child
- 2005 Grade 5 FCAT math NRT scores – first in the state of Florida
- A large team of volunteers to support the academic and social needs of our students
- Daily student-produced news show
- Educationally rich community partnerships
- Professional Learning Community
- Annual Spanish celebration

POINTS OF PRIDE

- Gifted Collaborative Curriculum Challenge Grant recipient, 2006
- First-place, 5th-grade team and individual awards at the Gifted Math Meet, 2008; overall elem. school winner, first place in Mighty Mu Math Competition, 2008
- Second place in the district Battle of the Books competition, 2006
- PTA Reflections state and national finalist, 2007, 2008 & 2009
- Several student works published in *Cross Creek Chronicle*, 2006, 2007, 2008 & 2009
- Charter member, National Elementary Honor Society
- State Finalist in National Geographic Bee, 2009



CURRICULUM

- Subjects include math, reading, language arts, science, health and social studies
- Physical education daily
- Extra subjects on a weekly basis – art and music
- Teacher partners
- Library/media center
- Character education
- Full-time gifted students receive a differentiated curriculum.

SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

- Panther Pal mentor program for struggling students
- Literacy Success – extra reading help
- Computer-based instruction for struggling readers
- Math Mondays