

# THE GATEWAY GAZETTE NEWSLETTER



*Dr. Meesha Downing-Townsend*

"An investment in  
knowledge pays  
the best interest."  
– Benjamin  
Franklin



## MEET THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year at Polk State Lakeland Gateway to College Collegiate High School! To our returning students and parents, welcome back! And to our new students and parents, we extend a warm welcome to our community.

We are excited about the new academic year and have many exciting plans for our students. It's imperative that all students check their Polk State College email FREQUENTLY and look out for Band messages. By now, everyone should have received the link to join their respective bands.

We are looking forward to a very successful and enriching year. Your active participation and engagement will be key to making this year a remarkable one.

Best regards,

Dr. Meesha J. Downing-Townsend  
Principal, Polk State Lakeland  
Gateway to College  
Collegiate High School



# Meet the Gateway Staff

Mrs. Tania Chandler,  
Assistant Principal



Dr. Renee Portfilio  
School Counselor



Mrs. Arthi Bonney  
TRST-Technology



Mr. Lawrence Shipmon  
Student Success Coach



# Meet the Gateway Staff

Mr. Juan Mendez  
Mental Health Facilitator



Cherie Murray  
High School Registrar



Millicent Whitehead  
Principal's Secretary



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# Gateway Collegiate Faculty

Mr. Jason Schwarze - Math

Mr. Patrick Jean - Math

Dr. Jeffrey Brown - Social Science

Mr. Ernest Joe, III - Social Science

Mrs. Jeanine Rodino - Reading/English

Mrs. Virginia Teppner - English

Mrs. Tiffany Clayton - English

Mrs. Darci Odom - Science



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# Orientation

**ATTENTION ALL GATEWAY  
COLLEGIATE STUDENTS & PARENTS**

**CLASS OF**

**25**

**TUESDAY, JULY 30  
4:30 P.M. | LTB 1100**

**CLASSES OF**

**26 | 27**

**TUESDAY, JULY 30  
6:30 P.M. | LTB 1100**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
PLEASE EMAIL US AT [GATEWAY@POLK.EDU](mailto:GATEWAY@POLK.EDU).**

**WE ARE POLK.**

[polk.edu/gateway](http://polk.edu/gateway)  
**863.669.2923**



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# MANDATORY MEETINGS

**ATTENTION ALL GATEWAY  
COLLEGIATE STUDENTS**

**THURSDAY  
AUGUST 1, 2024**

**LTB 1100  
8:30 A.M.**

**FRIDAY  
AUGUST 2, 2024**

**MENTOR CLASSROOMS  
8:30 A.M.**



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2024-2025 INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR FOR  
STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Dates are subject to change.

Events	Dates
Teacher Staff Development Days Teacher Workdays (Planning Time)	July 22, 2024 – July 26, 2024 July 29, 2024 – July 31, 2024
STUDENT ORIENTATION	TBD
PARENT ORIENTATION	Tuesday, July 30, 2024
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS (High School Courses)	Thursday, August 1, 2024
TEACHER WORKDAY	Thursday, August 8, 2024
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS (College Courses 16wk & Fasttrack 1)	Monday, August 12, 2024
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL	Friday, August 30, 2024
Quarter 1 Interim Report (High School Courses)	Distribute August 30, 2024 (via email)
HOLIDAY (Labor Day) – STUDENT, TEACHER, STAFF	Monday, September 2, 2024
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS (College Courses 12wk)	Monday, September 9, 2024
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL	Friday, September 20, 2024
FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) Student Attendance Window	September 24, 2024 – October 11, 2024
FTE Student Survey Week	Monday – Friday, October 7-11, 2-24
End of First Quarter Grading Period (High School Courses – credit earned)	Tuesday, October 1, 2024
Begin Second Quarter	Wednesday, October 2, 2024
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS – TEACHER WORKDAY (High School Only)	Friday, October 4, 2024
Distribute Report Cards (First Quarter) High School Courses only	Wednesday, October 9, 2024
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS (College Courses Fastrack 2)	Wednesday, October 9, 2024
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL	Thursday, October 17, 2024
Quarter 2 Interim Report (High School Courses)	Distribute November 6, 2024 (via email)
HOLIDAY (Veterans Day Observed) – STUDENT, TEACHER, STAFF	Friday, November 8, 2024
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL (Teacher Planning Time 3 of 6)	Friday, November 22, 2024
College Courses in Session	Monday & Tuesday, Nov. 20 and 21, 2023
HOLIDAY – No Classes (High School Only)	Monday – Friday, November 25-29, 2024
1 <sup>st</sup> Semester College Grades available in PASSPORT	Wednesday, December 11, 2024
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL End of Quarter 2 and Last School Day before Winter Break	Wednesday, December 11, 2024
WINTER BREAK BEGINS	Thursday, December 12, 2024
HOLIDAY (New Year’s Day) – STUDENT, TEACHER, STAFF	Wednesday, January 1, 2025
Begin Quarter 3 (High School Courses) STAFF & STUDENTS RETURN	Thursday, January 2, 2025
FIRST DAY OF CLASSES (College Courses 16wk & Fasttrack 1)	Monday, January 6, 2025
Distribute Report Cards (Second Quarter – High School and College grades)	Wednesday, January 8, 2025
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL	Friday, January 17, 2025



**TENTATIVE 2024-2025 INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR  
FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS**

Dates are subject to change.

Events	Dates
HOLIDAY (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) – STUDENT, Teacher (Paid) and Paraeducator	Monday, January 20, 2025
FTE Attendance Window	Friday, January 24 – Friday, February 7, 2025
FTE Student Survey Week	Monday-Friday, February 3-7, 2025
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS (College Courses 12wk)	Monday, February 3, 2025
Third Quarter Interim Report (High School Classes only)	Distribute February 12, 2025 (via email)
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL	Friday, February 14, 2025
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS (College Courses Fastrack 2)	Tuesday, March 4, 2025
End of Third Quarter Grading Period (High School Courses – credit earned)	Thursday, March 10, 2025
Quarter 4 begins (High School Courses only)	Monday, March 11, 2025
TEACHER WORKDAY	Friday, March 14, 2025
SPRING BREAK WEEK – NO SCHOOL	Monday-Friday, March 17-21, 2025
Distribute Quarter 3 Report Cards (High School Courses Only)	Wednesday, March 26, 2025
NO SCHOOL TEACHER WORKDAY (High School or College)	Friday, April 11, 2025
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL	Thursday, April 17, 2025
Fourth Quarter Interim Report (High School Only)	Distribute April 23, 2025
Last Day Seniors Class of 2025	Wednesday, April 30, 2025
Polk State College Graduation (AS, AA, BAS, Certificates)	Thursday, May 2, 2025
2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester College Grades available in PASSPORT	Tuesday, May 7, 2025
Gateway Collegiate High School GRADUATION @ 1:30PM	Tuesday, May 7, 2025
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL	Friday, May 16, 2025
STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL Last Day for students (non-seniors)	Friday, May 23, 2025
Last Teacher Workday (196-Day Contract)	Thursday, May 29, 2025
Distribute Quarter 4 Report Cards (High School & College Grades)	Wednesday, May 28, 2025 (via email)

**Student Early Dismissal Dates (10)**

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Friday, August 30, 2024*    | Friday, January 17, 2025   |
| Friday, September 20, 2024  | Friday, February 14, 2025* |
| Thursday, October 17, 2024* | Thursday, April 17, 2025*  |
| Friday, November 22, 2024   | Friday, May 16, 2025       |
| Thursday, December 12, 2024 | Friday, May 23, 2025       |
- \*Designated for Teacher PLC's

# Bell Schedule 2024-2025 School Year

## High School Classes Only

1st period 8:30 am – 10:00 am

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Mentoring 10:00 am – 10:15 am **Mentoring does not meet on Friday's**

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2nd period 10:15 am – 11:45 am

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3rd period 11:50 am – 1:20 pm

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Lunch 1:20 pm – 1:45 pm

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4th period 1:50 pm – 3:20 pm  
(high school is virtual and college hybrid meets once a week 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm)

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# Early Release Bell Schedule 2024-2025 School Year

## High School Classes Only

1st period 8:30 am – 9:15 am

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2nd period 9:20 am – 10:05 am

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3rd period 10:10 am – 10:55 am

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4th period 11:00 am – 11:45 am

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**2024-2025 ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS**

**Dates are subject to change.**

<b>Events</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Parent Orientation @ 4PM in LTB1100	July 31, 2024
MANDATORY ALL Student Orientation	August 1, 2024 & August 2, 2024
Mandatory ALL Student Meeting @ 11AM in LTB1100	August 20,2024
State Testing (FAST Retakes)	September 9, 2024 – October 4, 2024
State Testing State ( FAST Retakes, BEST Alg. 1, US Hist. EOC, Geo EOC, FCLE)	December 2 – 20, 2024
Mandatory ALL Student Meeting @ 11AM in LTB1100	September 20,2024
Homecoming Dance @ 7PM – 11PM in LTB1100	October 5, 2024
SAT School Day (Seniors Only)	October 1-31,2024
PSAT/NMSQT	October 12,2024 & October 26,2024
CLT Test	October 16, 2024
Mandatory ALL Student Meeting @ 11AM in LTB1100	October 17,2024
CLT Testing	November 7, 2024
Mandatory ALL Student Meeting @ 11AM in LTB1100	November 22,2024
National Honor Society Applications Distributed (By Invitation Only)	January 6,2025
Mandatory Student Meeting @ 11AM in LTB1100	January 17, 2025
National Honor Society Applications Due (By Invitation Only)	January 30,2025
Mandatory Student Meeting @ 11AM in LTB1100	February 14,2025
National Honor Society Induction @ 6PM in LTB1100	February 25,2025
Digital SAT School Day	March 3,2025 - April 30,2025
Mandatory Student Meeting @ 11AM in LTB1100	March 14,2025
Prom 2025 @ Lake Eva Center – Haines City, FL	April 5, 2025
Grad Bash 2024 (Seniors Only) Universal Orlando	April 11,2025
Mandatory Student Meeting @ 11AM in LTB1100	April 17,2025
College Graduation @ RP Funding Center	May 1, 2025
SENIOR WEEK	April 28, 2025 – May 2, 2025
SENIOR College, Career and Military Signing Day @ 6PM in LLC2188	April 29, 2025
State Testing (FAST Retakes, BEST Alg. 1, Geo EOC, Bio EOC, FCLE, US Hist. EOC	May 1 – 30, 2025
Class of 2025 Awards Ceremony @6:30PM Center for Public Safety	May 6, 2025
Class of 2025 Graduation @ 1:30PM Location TBD	May 7, 2025
Mandatory Student Meeting @ 11AM in LTB1100	May 22, 2025



All students will receive one school meal.

They will have a choice of the high school breakfast or the high school lunch, not both.

This will begin on August 12, 2024 in the cafeteria.

**ALL students will need an ID to get their meal.**

We will provide lunch August 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9. **NO SCHOOL ON August 8, 2024. Students will need to check their emails to complete the survey to select their meals.**

August 1, 2024 - Asian Cuisine - **Deadline for survey will be Tuesday July 30, 2024.**

August 2, 2024 - Pizza - **Deadline for this survey will be Thursday, August 1, 2024**

August 5, 2024 - Wendy's - **Deadline for this survey will be Thursday, August 1, 2024**

August 6, 2024 - Subway - **Deadline for this survey will be Thursday, August 1, 2024**

August 7, 2024 - Chick-Fil-A - **Deadline for this survey will be Thursday, August 1, 2024**

August 8, 2024 - Pizza - **Deadline for this survey will be Thursday, August 1, 2024**

**ALL Meals have a vegetarian option.**

**Surveys will be sent to students Monday, July 29, 2024. If you will not be on campus, please do not order a lunch.**