

Keeping you in the loop on the state, district changes



*For Tuesday, November 17*

### **Hit the GLIC!**

The [Grade-Level Information Center](#) has information that is relevant for each class.

An archives for this year's weekly [Mustang Minutes](#)

### **Our Daily Announcements to our students**

[Our website](#)

[Our YouTube channel](#)

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### **In-Building access changes at PC**

By now you have likely heard about the Emergency Order given by Director Robert Gordon of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services on Sunday evening. The order specifically prohibits in-person instruction in 9-12 schools beginning tomorrow, November 18, due to the rise in outbreaks and cases among high school students. And, yesterday afternoon, our Superintendent, Mark Bielang, announced that PPS students at all grade levels would be transitioned to remote learning beginning Wednesday, November 18, with the “intention to return to our current schedule on December 9.”

**As a result of these directives, we will be entering a three-week pause on the in-building support component of our instructional program until Wednesday, December 9.** No students or parents will be able to enter the building during this three-week period. Academic instruction will continue remotely from home using our same schedule: students will attend classes synchronously from 7:40 to 2:45 on Mondays through Thursdays, and will work asynchronously on Fridays. We have identified students without internet access and are working with those families to ensure all of

our students have access to instruction for the next three weeks. We know that there are some families whose internet access is limited due to the number of users or other considerations. We know that we will need to have flexibility both at home and at school to work through those challenges. And, our amazing support staff are still here to assist students and families during this time. Reach out to us at 323-5200 if you need support or if you have questions or concerns during this time.

### **Things will be different for teachers too...**

The order from the DHHS tells us that if we can work from home, we must, so most of our teachers will be teaching from home. Too, many of our teachers' elementary-aged children are also home now, and teachers are needing to be creative to make sure that they are taking care of their kids in the classroom while also making sure that their kids at home have supervision. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we find even more new ways to keep moving forward over the next few weeks.

### **In-person extracurricular activities and athletics on hold, virtual activities continue**

As you read in Sunday evening's email from Superintendent Bielang, all in-person extracurricular activities and athletics are suspended during the pause. That said, we are proud to say that many of our activities are continuing on virtually thanks to the leadership of our creative students and staff advisers! We encourage all students to find ways to get involved at PC outside of their classes and clubs are such a great way to do that. You can check out the Activities Calendar [here](#) and reach out to Activities Director Nikki Smith ([NSmith@PortagePS.org](mailto:NSmith@PortagePS.org)) with any questions.

### **School breakfast and lunch service over the next three weeks**

Although in-building access has paused for the time being, meals are still available – for free – to all Portage Public Schools students. Meals are available for pick up here at Portage Central High School on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. They can be ordered through the [www.sendmoneytoschool.com](http://www.sendmoneytoschool.com) website, and more information about our food service breakfast and lunch programs at the secondary level can be found at the following link:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QzX1tJhPkE2bwjXoH3jJnhrUNCZIFNnaynWuQSk\\_AGI/edit?ts=5f45bed0](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QzX1tJhPkE2bwjXoH3jJnhrUNCZIFNnaynWuQSk_AGI/edit?ts=5f45bed0)

### **Our Picture Day is canceled, live instruction happening on November 30**

Previously scheduled for November 30, our school Picture Day must be canceled due to the building closure. We had planned for this day to be a day of asynchronous instruction to accommodate for picture-taking, but we are now back on for a full schedule of synchronous instruction that day.

Although Picture Day is canceled, we still have a way to include students in our school yearbook! More than 50% of our students now have submitted their photos for the yearbook and we are grateful. And, we want everyone in this year's school yearbook, which will definitely be one

of a kind! Visit the GLIC to learn more about how to submit student photos to our yearbook staff:  
<https://sites.google.com/portageps.org/pchsglic/yearbook-information>

**And finally...**

Today's *Mustang Minutes* was a special edition this week, given all of the news related to the MIDHHS order. We will be sending out another edition of *Mustang Minutes* later this week, with more information related to the upcoming school board decision on November 23.

Grateful to be still standing alongside all of you, during these trying times,

Eric Alburtus

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**And if you want even more PC news...**

[Athletics](#)

[Activities](#)