

Making important decisions for Semester 2, and more



For Thursday, November 19

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](#)

Our office hours over the next few weeks

Although students and parents may not enter the building, our vestibule will remain open from 7:00 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. for students to drop off or pick up forms, books, and other materials, and we have staff in person to take your calls and get you the information and support you need. There is also a small drop box (for paper forms or documents only) outside of the student entrance doors that is accessible 24 hours a day. Please give us a call at 323-5200 with any questions or concerns.

More information for the important decision your family may make in the weeks ahead

I mentioned in last week's *Mustang Minutes* that we would be sharing our [Semester 2 Understandings](#) of the plan that our school board is voting on this Monday, November 23. This is one step in our effort to give you an overall sense of some of the elements



that might go into your own family's decision. This is not a comprehensive take on the road ahead.

I would like to call special attention to some factors out of our control, and those could affect what next semester looks like. These factors could prevent or delay a move to the face-to-face mode of instruction, and if in the face-to-face mode, could necessitate a move back to virtual or virtual with in-building access. Of course we have seen one factor this week. As COVID infection rates have increased, along with hospitalization rates, high schools across the state are closed -- with the hope that our numbers come down. If these rates in fact decline, we will have reason for optimism. If they don't, we could be using our fully online approach longer.

Too, staffing considerations, and the outcome of families' decisions by December 2 are other factors that could impact our offerings. Right now we have several colleagues who are going through treatments for cancer, and they could not be in the building if we return to face-to-face instruction. So a student may choose to be here in person but may be taking his class online from a teacher who is away from the building. And in terms of decisions made by our families, for example, if 75% of our families were to choose face-to-face learning, we will be unable to meet safely to provide this mode or we will need to limit the option in some way.

You can also access the Semester 2 Understandings document here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1u1RQ9SUUZJlYl0oFuHf_VbIS-RsqhTOhFqiGhiDzh_Q/edit?usp=sharing

Too, if you are like me and you like hearing more than reading, check out this video:

<https://youtu.be/7E25ij220Xc>

Here we walk you through the resources we are pulling together to give you the information you need. Lastly, please check out our website -- <https://portageps.org/chs/> -- where we will continue to give you more information so that you can make the best decision for all our students. So thanks -- a great deal -- for engaging in the conversations ahead.

After you look over the Semester 2 Understandings...

If you have a question, please share it for our FAQ for Semester 2

We were blown out of the water by the incredibly productive and positive response to our FAQ at the start of the year. Not only was it a helpful tool for communication, truly your questions guided our thinking and work. After you have read "Semester 2 Understandings and Implications," we hope that you will contribute questions here at this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf4qKyorqAqT3JlVcUtGSFqcybUU473wsoBXiCuNlw3mwXGK0g/viewform?usp=sf_link

The questions you submit will be added to our Semester 2 FAQ, which you can find at the link below. We will respond to any questions that we have answers for now, and will also let you know which questions we will have to wait to answer later, when we have more definitive information to share. Thank you again for contributing your questions.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/17WSVbSQq9hH2FaGkoUm32t5YcGDsHGjMOEjV_g6HuCg/edit?usp=sharing

A Note from Susan Livingston, our PPS Food Service Director

Students and parents can pick up meals during our Tuesday and Thursday distribution days at PCHS or PNHS. Times for meal pick-ups are 6:45 am - 9:00 am. During the 3 week closure period, a bus will stop at the Milham Meadows laundry facility and another at the Colonial Acres office from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays (not on Thanksgiving Day) to distribute meals to those who can't make it to one of the high schools. Meals can be pre-ordered using your www.sendmoneytoschool.com account. Please contact your school office if you have any questions.

The yearbook staff is still accepting (and NEEDS) your school picture or senior photo!

With our November 30 School Picture Day canceled, the yearbook staff has extended the deadline to submit photos for the class composite pages to December 6. This weekend or during Thanksgiving break is a great time to snap a photo of your son or daughter (smartphones take great photos, especially in "portrait mode") and upload it for the 2021 yearbook.

We need a vertical head-and-shoulders jpeg image with no props, hats, hoodies or animals in the picture. Upload it to www.hjeshare.com using school code 3604. When finished, you will not receive a confirmation email. Instead, look for the "Success! We have the images you just uploaded!" banner at the top of your screen. Got questions? Please email yearbook adviser Ann Alburtus at aalburtus@portageps.org.

Just a reminder...

Collecting food donations at the Community Garden -- again

We have so many families in our community that need additional support during the Holidays -- and especially with the challenges we are facing together. For at least the next two months, we will be collecting non-perishable food and other items at our Community Garden, which is located on the east side of PC. In the Garden will be one or two large bins where you can drop off items anytime. We will be sure to empty the bins at least once a day, and each week we will get the items over to PCC. We will be so grateful for anything you can give! And if you have any questions or thoughts, please let me know anytime.

Collecting funds for holiday meals for PC families

Many have inquired about helping our families in needs during the holiday season. (For example, two incredible PC families just donated \$500 to provide Thanksgiving meals for some of our families that have been hardest hit by the COVID-19 crisis -- and we are so grateful.) If you would also like to help in this way, we will be accepting donations to provide meals to those in greatest need. If you would like to donate, please reach out to me, and we will make arrangements. Thank you!

State of Michigan financial aid information for our seniors

For those seniors with college plans after high school graduation, the State of Michigan has announced some financial aid programs and opportunities. Please check out the letter attached [here](#),

that includes helpful information, deadlines, and websites. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your senior's counselor.

Need a work permit?

Students in need of a work permit during this pause should go to the Administration Building. The public building hours are 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If someone simply cannot come during those hours, contact Chris Augustine directly at (269) 323-5165 to set up an appointment.

From the Athletics Department...

Update on finishing fall sports and transitioning to the winter season

The MHSAA sent out communication yesterday to all member schools outlining a way forward for fall and winter athletics after the pause from the MDHHS. Assuming that we will be able to come back together after the three-week pause, the following will occur:

1. All remaining fall sports will be able to resume practice on **Wednesday, Dec. 9th**.
 - a. Our volleyball program is scheduled to compete in the MHSAA State Quarterfinals on Tuesday, Dec. 15th with the Semi-Finals and Finals scheduled for Dec. 17th - Dec. 19th. Times and locations are yet to be determined.
 - b. Our girls swim and dive team state qualifiers would compete in the MHSAA State Meet on Wednesday, Dec. 23rd. Time and location is yet to be determined.
2. All winter sports would be able to resume or begin practices on **Wednesday, Dec. 9th**, but not compete until after the winter break with competitions starting as early as **Jan. 4th**.

Some of our winter sports had yet to have their first day of practices/tryouts: boys basketball, wrestling, bowling, alpine ski, and boys swim and dive. Information regarding new start times and locations will be found on the www.pcmustangsports.com announcements page as soon as that information is determined. Check out the [MHSAA Reopening Center](#) for all the specifics from the state.

Our student club of the week!

Optimist Club has been meeting every Friday morning this semester! The objective of Optimist Club is to provide opportunities for members individually and collectively to participate in community-service activities, to develop leadership abilities and to prepare for responsible roles in society. The group has done activities such as painting rocks to scatter around the community, raking leaves at Ramona Park, and writing sweet notes on bananas to hand out to the staff. Make sure to follow @pchsoptimistclub on Instagram to see what they are up to next! And reach out to the adviser, Theresa Mills, if you want to join

Contact: theresakmills@gmail.com



Grateful to be working alongside you to figure out the path forward,

Eric Alburtus

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And if you want even more PC news...

[Athletics](#)

[Activities](#)