

Your Semester 2 decision, and a great deal to be thankful for



For Wednesday, November

25

Hit the GLIC!

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

Our Daily Announcements to our students

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Our school board made an important decision Monday night -- and now it is time for you to make yours

On Monday night, our school board made the decision to approve the Preparedness Plan that was initially presented to them on November 9. As you know, that decision may have big implications on our second semester instructional program. Which is why we need

to hear from you, our families, so that we can begin to work together on the details of the road ahead. On Tuesday, we sent you a very important email message. In it, we list the dates and times of three virtual informational sessions we will hold next week. We also walk you through how to submit your decision for semester two, which we need by **Wednesday, December 2**. Below is a link to a copy of that email, in case you haven't had the chance to take a look:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10eKREnYmpfjoGWoUdoH44HaHnLEcc7hx/view?usp=sharing>



Before you make your decision, we encourage you to continue to [submit your questions](#) and review the information we've published in our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page and in [previous Mustang Minutes](#). We hope that all of the information we have provided, along with the important conversations you are having with your family, will help you make the best decision possible. Thank you again for your continued support and for your contributions to this important conversation.

Too, thanks to the thoughtfulness of one of our parents, we learned that we were having some issues with the Skyward form. (Thanks again, Kim!) But thanks to two wonderful colleagues, those fixes have been made, and the form should be working for everyone now.

Thanksgiving dinners provided to 12 PC families

A couple of PC parents reached out to me last week, knowing that so many families are going through a difficult time, and wanted to help in some way. Then some colleagues reached out to me, asking about the same. And then more parents. Meijer chipped in as well. So yesterday more than \$600 was raised, and colleagues went shopping for 12 of our families so that they had everything they needed for a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner. Too, now even more parents have reached out to me, offering their help, so we will now start to work on Christmas dinners!

Every time I think about how grateful I am for serving this community, parents and colleagues do even more to support one another.

Exams are canceled for semester 1

After a great deal of discussion, the high schools have canceled semester exams. To be clear, we very much value exams for a host of reasons, including preparing all our students for the exams they will have after they leave Portage Central. Having said, we were concerned about adding additional pressure to our kids who have already had a great deal on their plates this year. Too, as we looked at the numbers, for our kids who are doing well academically right now (and there are so many of you, which is wonderful!), exam grades would not help them much or at all either.

This means the semester grade will be determined by an average of the two marking-period grades. Too, we don't yet know yet what that exam week will now look like with no exams. So we will keep you posted after we talk all of the implications through.

Four more students tested positive in the past week

They seem to be doing pretty well, which we are all grateful for. Too, we so appreciate our kids and families reaching out to me and, most importantly, their teachers when this happens, so that we can continue to make progress in all our classes. Also, the father of one of our colleagues passed away this weekend as a result of health issues related to COVID. And three of our friends at another school were hit by the virus as well; one was really, really sick. This is as we expected: as the numbers increase around the state and country, more folks would be affected personally by the

pandemic. As always, take care of yourselves and one another. Stay safe, keep your masks on and your space distanced. And have a restful Thanksgiving weekend.

Just reminder...

With school pictures being canceled, we still want your picture!

The pictures you submit will be used first for this year's yearbook, and we also hope to use them for our school IDs when we are fortunate to be working closely together again at some point in the future. So if you have not already submitted your photo, this Thanksgiving weekend would be a great time to do so! The deadline is coming soon: December 6. So far more than 800 students have submitted their pictures; only 600 more to go. Thanks so much for this!

In thankfulness to our kids and colleagues, parents and community,

Eric Alburtus

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You are part of our Mustang FAMILY, and we need YOU in our 2021 yearbook!



Please upload a photo of yourself as your 20/21 school picture.



↑ **It can be a simple photo taken with your smartphone, but it does need to be a VERTICAL torso shot, like the ones above and below.** ↓

This applies to all SENIORS & UNDERCLASSMEN.



Final date to submit: December 6.

We have already extended the deadline once, so this is it!

Upload to:

**www.hjeshare.com
use school code 3604**

Got questions? Email aalburtus@portageps.org

And if you want even more PC news...

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