

Moving the date for your Semester 2 Decision



*Monday, November 30*

### **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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### **The date to make your decision for Semester 2 moved to next Friday, Dec. 11**

As you know, last Monday our school board voted to approve the Preparedness Plan for the second semester, and since then we have worked hard to communicate this plan out with families. And from those communications we have had a lot of healthy conversation -- with kids, parents and colleagues, including today at 7 a.m. at our first informational meeting. Today we took that communication further, as middle-school and high-school principals met again to compare notes, to share feedback we have received from parents and students, and to look at the steps ahead. From that important discussion, we made some decisions:



- Previously we had asked that you share your decision with us this Wednesday. **We are moving that date to next Friday, December 11.**

- If you have already put your decision into Skyward, that's no problem. And if you change your mind in the days ahead, that's okay too; just go back to Skyward to make that change. Just hit this [link for Skyward](#). Then, complete the "20/21 Student Learning Participation Form for 2nd Semester" found at top of the message wall. Just like before, this form is not available in the mobile app and must be completed using a web browser. You will complete one form for each student you have enrolled in 6th-12th grade; we understand that the decision for one might not be best for another. This communication is being sent to all guardians associated with each student, but please note that due to the nature of Skyward the form is only available to be completed by Family 1, Guardian 1. Please refer to this [guide](#) for assistance with completing this form.
- We chose to shift this date **to look again at some really important questions that students and parents have raised**. Here are just a few:
  - Let's say a student and family chooses for the student to take online classes. But let's also say that by this spring, things are looking better. Can the student then move to taking classes face to face?
  - My son is going to take classes face to face. But let's say he comes in close contact with someone who has the virus and needs to self-quarantine and will miss school for up to 14 days. I know he can access Google Classroom. But can he also access his classes virtually somehow?
  - Is there a way that Portage Central can make all this work for the second semester and not disrupt my daughter's schedule?

The only answer to these questions under the current plan right now is, No. So we are talking more to see if we can turn those *no's* into *yes's* by creating a more flexible response to the challenges we all face ahead. Two common themes have emerged from the initial feedback we're receiving that has caused us to pause: maintaining student schedules, as is, to the best of our ability and creating more flexibility within the proposed instructional models.

- We are taking some time to reflect upon the feedback we are receiving prior to hosting the next informational meetings. This additional time will allow us to best communicate a cohesive plan and to provide answers to your most pressing questions. Here are the new dates and times:
  - Monday, December 7, 7 a.m. - Join us via [Google Meet](#)
  - Tuesday, December 8, 7 p.m. - Join us via [Google Meet](#)
  - Wednesday, December 9, 7 p.m. - Join us via [Google Meet](#)

Having said that, just because we are moving these informational sessions to next week, that does not mean that we can't talk before then. In fact, we *need* to keep these healthy conversations going; it's the only way to make the best decisions possible for all our kids. So please reach out to us anytime.

- And also just as you have for the past few weeks, we encourage you to continue to [submit your questions](#) and review the information we've published in our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page (knowing that some of that information will change) and in [previous Mustang Minutes](#).

I am so grateful to work with terrific parents and great colleagues. And sometimes I am fortunate to talk with all of them on the same day. Today was one of those good days. I am hopeful that we can find the best path ahead like we always do: Together.

### Five more students tested positive in the past week

We were anxious that the Thanksgiving break might bring an increased number of COVID cases, and that seems to be the case. Again, we are grateful to parents for keeping us in the loop, and we are grateful to hear that our kids are doing okay.

And on a personal level, the virus hit my family just before the break as well. Just for context, my mom was German, so all my extended family still lives there. My cousin, her husband and their two daughters caught the virus they think from a customer, despite the thoughtful precautions they were all taking. I am so grateful that they all seem to be through the worst of it; four days were awful for them.

### Might you want to contribute to a Christmas dinner for a PC family?

So far we have had many PC parents contribute money for us to go shopping for Christmas dinners for those families, and we are so grateful. If you would like to help, send an email my way. Too, we are also continuing to take food contributions in the Community Garden (located on the east side of the building) for the Portage Community Center. Thanks for considering these ways of supporting our community!

*How about one last reminder?*

**Last chance to get your picture into the yearbook is this Sunday!**

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. The deadline is almost here: December 6. So far



**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](mailto:aalburtus@portageps.org)

more than 800 students have submitted their pictures; only 600 more to go. Thanks so much for this!

Grateful to continue the conversations and work ahead,

Eric Alburtus

[calburtus@portageps.org](mailto:calburtus@portageps.org)

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

[Athletics](#)

[Activities](#)