

Food drives, parent-teacher conferences and yearbook info



Looking at the school year ahead

As you probably know, the Portage Public Schools had an important board meeting this past Monday. Administrators presented ideas of what the future may hold for middle- and high-school students in the weeks and months ahead. More discussion of a potential plan will occur at the November 9 board meeting, and the board may make some important decisions at the November 23 about where we are going from here.

Our commitment to you is to keep you in the loop every step of the way. Ever since we went into lock-down last March, we all knew there was so much that we could not control. But what we could do is communicate. As a mentor taught me years ago, honest and healthy communication is always important; during unsteady times, it is essential. Much the same way we worked with you this summer and fall, we will provide weekly updates about what is going on as it happens. We will be asking for your feedback and questions to compile into an FAQ document to be shared with all. Too, look for more information related to parent -informational sessions in the months ahead. All of this is essential in order for you to make the best decisions for your daughter or son -- and for your whole family. So thank you. Thank you for staying engaged. Thanks for reaching out. Thanks for talking and thinking and talking some more. We will figure out the future just as we have done everything else: Together.

Parent-teacher conferences coming November 9, 11 from 3:30 to 7:15 p.m.

And obviously this year will be a lot different in that we cannot have these face to face. But we are fortunate that we have colleagues who have learned a great deal about how to use Google really effectively so that we can have open and productive communication. When you have minute, hit this link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aUTAE2a7Mlk1gmknSZ4chdGk1C_e6JEYZgtCPJxBHjA/edit?usp=sharing

It will walk you through how to sign up for conference sessions with your daughter or son's teachers. Keep in mind -- the sooner, the better. The sooner you sign up for sessions, the better chance you have of making it all work out for your schedule. Thanks for connecting with colleagues here, so we can work together to support all our kids and their success.

Might you be able to donate to the Portage Community Center?

All businesses and non-profit organizations have struggled since March, and the PCC is no exception. Food donations are down a great deal -- and this is a real concern as we head into the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. So our Student Council and Portage Northern's Student Senate are joining forces and at the same time competing, to bring in the most food donations as possible.

Student Council members will collect all non-perishable foods (such as soup, canned vegetables, mac and cheese boxes, etc) at the Drive-in Movie tonight and at the home play-off football game tomorrow, Friday, Oct 30th. Bringing items to the Drive-In movie will count towards your class's Spirit Week Points. The Student Senate at Northern will be doing the same at their women's football game Thursday night and at their home play-off game on Friday. So please bring all you can.

Then, starting next week, we will have additional ways for you to donate, so stay tuned!

Yearbook needs your help!

Senior portraits are due November 6. Please upload a vertical head-and-shoulders shot (no hats or animals in the photo, please) to www.hjeshare.com using school code 3604.

School pictures for students in grades 9-11: Your school photo is also due November 6.

Underclassmen, please ask a friend or family member to take a photo of you using a smartphone or camera. Make it a vertical head-and-shoulders shot (no hats or animals in the photo, please) and upload it to www.hjeshare.com using school code 3604.

Order your 2021 yearbook now for \$75. This 232-page full-color book will be one like never before -- capturing forever the story of this unusual year. Purchase your copy today at www.yearbookordercenter.com, using school code 3604. Price increases to \$80 on December 26. Senior Books are also available for \$12.

Parents of Seniors: Order a Senior Memory Ad for your graduate! While ordering your student's yearbook, you can design your own memory ad. It's easy! Design right from your smartphone or



computer and make it exactly the way you want it! Visit www.yearbookordercenter.com and use school code 3604 to get started.

Surveys for the yearbook

Students, please consider sharing your opinions with the yearbook. Click on the links below. Note: You must be signed into your PortagePS account to complete each.

Do you have a job?

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSegnftdbjRVmq7A7xfkZsfjva_Qop59S0FNun3jreGFvB0fZQ/viewform

Fall Festivities Survey!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScY0PCt97p7-54WspT'ZLTFig1BuqUF5DPegAeAf0hbCrlAIDQ/viewform>

Yearbook Wants Your Opinion on Social Justice Issues and COVID-19

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSevwtNMVHoYUkIGxBE8FQDyecAm8rWcNbo3JAoNavix4YpQug/viewform>

Got questions regarding the yearbook? Email adviser Ann Alburtus at aalburtus@portageps.org.

IB, AP test registration ends this Saturday

The PC IB & AP testing schedule and registration pages are located on our registration website at www.portagecentralexams.com. Payment is expected at the time of registration.

For IB test registrations, please go to the 2021 IB Test Registration tab on www.portagecentralexams.com. Fill out the personal information and identify which IB tests you are registering for. Read all the directions before submitting please. IB Tests are \$119 per test.

For AP test registration, you will need a class join code for each AP test you are taking. These are located on the 2021 AP test registration tab at www.portagecentralexams.com, and you will need to enter this join code on the College Board website linked to the registration page. You will need your College Board login information to register for AP tests. Follow the directions on the AP Test Registration page to register and pay for AP tests. AP Tests are \$95 per test. You will find a link to directions for AP test registration here.

If you have questions about registration please email Mr. Lancaster at elancaster@portageps.org

Grateful to be working with you on whatever path lies ahead,

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