

A different kind of Friday, a positive COVID-19 test and more info on the SAT, PSAT



This Friday is a district professional-development day for all teachers...

... and as a result, teachers will be in training sessions instead of working with students on that day. Too, teachers will not be sending out assignments for that day. We hope our kids get a little chance to rest and to breathe then on this three-day weekend.

A colleague tested positive for the COVID-19 virus

Last week one of our teachers had some flu-like symptoms. Very thoughtfully she stayed home for a couple of days, felt better and got back to teaching. But when symptoms returned, she took the next thoughtful step and got tested for the COVID-19 virus. On Tuesday we learned that the test was positive. She is now isolated at home, to make sure she does not spread the virus. Plus, students and colleagues she worked closely with are now in a self-quarantine at home, to check to see if symptoms develop and to contain a potential spread of the virus to others.

I am so grateful to our teacher, for acting promptly and for communicating so effectively. I am also incredibly thankful for our students and parents; they took this very seriously and are taking all the necessary precautions for their kids and, by extension, for all our kids. And I continue to be so appreciative of the high-quality work done by our county health department. I am now on first-name basis with all of them, and Becky, Ashley and all the rest are tirelessly working to keep our entire community as safe as possible. From the beginning we knew we were in for an intense school year. And with the help and support of kids and colleagues, parents and community members, we are figuring out and working through the challenges, together.

Does your son or daughter need some additional academic support?

Tutoring is now available for students who may need a little extra help with their classes! Link Crew and National Honor Society students have put together a great group of tutors who are ready to help out their classmates. Tutoring for students can either be in person or virtual with a variety of

subjects to choose from. To sign up, please fill out the Google Form listed below. If you have any questions, contact the Activities Office!

Tutoring Google Forms link: <https://forms.gle/G6qvr7z4SD8eG3hCA>

SAT Prep Series for Seniors: The Final Session

It is hard to believe, but tomorrow is the final session in our SAT Prep Series for Seniors who signed up to take the SAT on October 14th. Like last week, Ms. Tama Salisbury and other PC staff and volunteers will provide individualized support to students. At these sessions, students should come prepared with areas of focus, so that we can make the most out of the hour we are spending together. Interested seniors are asked to sign up in advance on the SAT page of the Grade Level Information Center at www.pcGLIC.com so that we have the space and materials ready to go. New attendees will receive a printed copy of a full length practice test (with answers) for practice at home and for use at the session and at home. Not a senior? We are working on reimagining our SAT preparation program for juniors, so stay tuned! And, remember that Khan Academy has individualized practice for the SAT online at www.khanacademy.org/sat.

Instruction on the SAT and PSAT dates

On October 14th many of our Seniors will be taking the SAT, which will tie up our entire teaching staff. We will still have instruction on that day, but it will be asynchronous, meaning that students will have work to do but will not be logging in at a specific time with their teachers. We will continue to offer in-building support on that day for those who need it. (Make sure you fill out this form each week if you plan to use in-building support: <https://forms.gle/me95mTvaeEcP42GP9>) We will follow a similar process instructionally when our Juniors take the PSAT/NMSQT Oct 29th.

Get a Library PASS, the PDL/PPS Student Library Card

PPS and the Portage District Library are proud to announce our latest collaborative initiative; Library PASS (Portage Access for Student Success). The goal of this initiative is to give every PPS student a Portage District library card and therefore access to all of the great resources at both institutions. To make this as seamless as possible your child's PPS student ID will now act as a PDL card. More information can be found right here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Fu3qz7Fi4ky8q4Kb7QcuGJkZaz25XCG/view?usp=sharing>

Just a reminder...

Seniors taking the SAT, do you need a calculator?

If you already have a calculator that is approved by the College Board, great -- please bring that with you for the test on Wednesday, October 14. If you are not sure if yours is approved, no worries: take a look at this link to find out.

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/taking-the-test/calculator-policy>

If you do need a calculator, please sign up through the link below by noon on Monday, October 12. (If you don't sign up for one by the deadline, we will not be able to give you on the day of the test.) On the day of the test, your proctor will give you the calculator, so you will be ready to go. Thanks for this!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfslDxdOhFfM3V1DI7zKooajHkNYIXu-xFR7eAZ7ByeByWz_Q/viewform?gxids=7628

Hey, Juniors, how about you?

Juniors taking the PSAT/NMSQT, do you need a calculator?

If you already have a calculator that is approved by the College Board, great -- please bring that with you for the test on **Thursday, October 29**. If you are not sure if yours is approved, no worries: take a look at this link to find out.

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/taking-the-test/calculator-policy>

If you do need a calculator, please sign up through the link below by noon on Monday, October 26. (If you don't sign up for one by the deadline, we will not be able to give you on the day of the test.) On the day of the test, your proctor will give you the calculator, so you will be ready to go. Thanks for this!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf_JNRIKsjCPl3cfFWIpmC5UPqX6rbJni_GQHEyBmlxW-MBKg/viewform

State news and its impact on our work

As you likely already heard, the state's Supreme Court ruled that the governor did not possess authority under the Emergency Management Act to declare a state of emergency based on the COVID-19 pandemic after April 30 this spring. As a result some great parents and friends reached out to me wondering whether kids and colleagues need not wear masks at school any longer. The answer is, We will.

The district informed community members that, "... for the safety of our students and staff, at this time, PPS is not altering the health and safety protocols within our board-approved Preparedness Plan, which is posted on our school district's website. To be clear, face coverings will still be required for face-to-face students and staff." Our goal continues to be the same: to do everything we can so that our kids are safe and feel safe. This has always been our highest value here, and this is even more important in these unsteady times. So thank you so much for your continued diligence anytime you are on campus and at PC events.

Are you signed up to receive notifications from Skyward?

Skyward (our online student information system) offers parents electronic access to their children's academic records, including things like attendance and grades. It is a great tool for communicating with your son or daughter about how things are going academically. When you create an account, you will also be able to sign up for notifications and alerts that you can adjust based on your needs.

Conveniently, Skyward has a mobile app as well. If you haven't already signed up for parent access, visit the link here: <https://portageps.org/parents/skyward-access/skyward-first-time/> And, if you already have an family account and need technical support for Skyward, reach out to our Help Desk at help@portageps.org

Especially after an intense week like this, continuing to be grateful to our community,

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