

Fall sports, the SAT for our seniors, the PSAT for our juniors, and far more



**Now that fall sports are up and running again...**

There will be new regulations for the number of spectators at events that are gate controlled this fall: football, soccer, volleyball, and swimming and diving. As of this point, there will be no general admission. We are allowed two spectators per participant (athletes and coaches). Our plan is to distribute two ticket vouchers per student-athlete and coach, and they will determine who they give those ticket vouchers to. The ticket vouchers are essentially an opportunity for the holder of the voucher to pay at the gate. Mask wearing and social distancing will be an expectation at all of our events moving forward.

**Seniors, please put October 14 on our calendar for the SAT**

Obviously we were disappointed that we could not give to the class of 2021 the SAT last spring, before you started the college-application process. Now the College Board has started administering the SAT and other exams again, and we are grateful that we have a firm date for all seniors to be able to take the exam: Wednesday, October 14.

We will send you more information in the days and weeks ahead, on how to sign up for the test and other important elements. So stay tuned!

*Speaking of useful tests...*

**Juniors, mark Thursday, October 29 on your calendars for the PSAT/NMSQT**

This is a great way to get ready for the SAT that you will be taking in the fall, plus there are scholarship opportunities directly associated with this test. One thing we have learned over the years: the more times that students take these exams, the better they do. And success on the SAT has opened the door for a lot of our kids over the years. Again, more information to come soon, so keep watching your email.

### **Developing a better sense of what Fridays will look like for our kids**

This has been an on-going conversation in our district among all colleagues: elementary, middle school and us at the high school. We have a plan for this Friday and for the weeks ahead. And, we would sure like your feedback, as we work to make changes and improvements in the weeks ahead. The mornings will be focused on learning for teachers. As a 28-year and amazing teacher told me last week, “This year we are all first-year teachers.” So we are working to share ideas and strategies to make our online teaching as strong and as thoughtful as we can make it. The afternoons are student focused. Students will not be attending live instruction. Instead, students and teachers will be reaching out to one another for additional support. The approaches for support below are not intended to be exclusive or exhaustive, but they are to give a sense of what we will be working on together, on Fridays from 11:30 to 2:45, during Phase 4.

- Reaching out to students who need extra help or support
- Working to connect with students who are chronically absent by email, phone, or other means
- Supporting the social and emotional needs of students
- Leading small-group or individual-study sessions for re-teaching or pre-teaching
- Providing opportunities for students who have work to make up and who have questions to be answered
- Working with students to complete lab work in science, art, etc.

Like everything this year, Fridays will be a work in progress. So thanks for your patience and feedback.

### **Yearbook information**

Parents and students! It's time to order your yearbook AND to upload your school picture to eShare! Please visit the PC Grade Level Information site for more information by going to [www.pcGLIC.com](http://www.pcGLIC.com). Find information about all things yearbook under any grade-level tab. Got questions? Email Adviser Ann Alburtus at [aalburtus@portagesp.org](mailto:aalburtus@portagesp.org).

### **Want to learn more about our Phoebe, our new counseling dog?**

Here's the instagram link to the marvelous world of our own counseling dog, Phoebe:

<https://www.instagram.com/pc.phoebe/?r=nametag>

Phoebe has already loved her time with some in-person learners, PC staff, and even meeting a few virtual friends too. Follow along for more adventures!

### **Another student tested positive for the virus**

The student and the student's father both tested positive, after spending a week-long vacation together. The student is doing well, showing little to no symptoms right now. The father was hit harder but is feeling a lot better this week, and we are so glad to hear that. The student and the father handled everything just as we all would hope: they quickly got the test, they thoughtfully self-quarantined and made sure not to come to school or interact with friends. Obviously it would

have been better for these folks, and the three other students here who have recovered from the virus this summer, to never have gotten the virus. And they all responded so well, to keep the rest of us safe. We as a whole community are grateful.

### **Talking with all our kids about how we interact with one another online**

Every new school year has new situations to work through -- and that is doubly so this year. We are fortunate to work with our students, and we know that when we talk with them honestly and openly, they consistently respond well. So yesterday Jason Frink, Sara Brown and Tama Salisbury talked with all our kids online, about how we can build the community we want here, despite not being next to one another. When you have a minute, take a listen:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Troim0Uoh6c>

### **Our PC Library is still checking out books to students!**

We are excited to offer this opportunity to provide physical books for checkout to our students.

The process for book checkout and return is as follows:

1. Go to [destiny.portageps.org](https://destiny.portageps.org) and choose Portage Central High
2. Students will need to login with their school credentials
3. Search for a book by title, author, subject or go to library collections or ideas from the librarian. (Collections can be found by selecting the three stacked bars at the top, left of the screen. Once in collections, choose "see all.")
4. Click on the book title to read a summary and description and to see if the book is available
5. Once you find a book you want, select the "Hold" button
6. Check that you have no other books outstanding (You can view your checkouts in the drop down menu after selecting those three stacked bars referred to above. If you do, please return them when picking up your new books)

Book requests must be in by 10 a.m. Wednesday morning for pickup that same week. You may have up to three outstanding books at a time. You can pick books up at your convenience between 12 p.m. Wednesday and 3 p.m. on Friday. They will be in the front vestibule on a table at the left side, labeled with the student's name. The due date for the book will be written on the inside cover. Books can be returned during school hours. There is a gray bin labeled "library returns" on the right side of the entrance.!

### **Thanks again for submitting to our start-of-the-year FAQ!**

So many students and parents contributed so many thoughtful questions, and we are grateful. Not only was this FAQ helpful for healthy communication, it really did guide our work here for weeks. By you all asking these questions, we learned what we knew -- and more importantly, what we did not know, so that we could focus on our work. Now that the year is underway, it seems this FAQ

has served its purpose, and we will no longer be updating it. But, it will continue to be around if you need to refer to it; here is the link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/16H4rEhLtR9h6woRFdzS89-rNmiitrLZBVSrPJ-ehf3c/edit#>

And as we work through the year ahead, we will likely use this approach for challenges ahead, so as always, please keep sending me your thoughts and ideas. Thanks for this!

Grateful to be working with your daughters and sons,

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