

Last call to sign up for the PSAT, more SAT prep for seniors and a few reminders



### **SAT Prep Series for Seniors Continues!**

It was wonderful to see students here asking good questions of us at our first SAT prep session last Friday. Tomorrow, our SAT prep series continues with, *More than Content: Six Essential Test-Taking Strategies to Improve Your Score*. In this session, Ms. Tama Salisbury will share six (and probably more) minimal effort strategies using a practice exam as a model. Our series will continue for two more Fridays, each of which are focused-support sessions based on the needs of individual students in attendance. Seniors are asked to sign up in advance on the SAT page of the Grade Level Information Center at [www.pcGLIC.com](http://www.pcGLIC.com) so that we have the space and materials ready to go. Each student who attends will receive a printed copy of a full length practice test (with answers) for practice at home and for use at our weekly sessions. 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](http://www.khanacademy.org/sat).

### **A student and a colleague test positive for the COVID-19 virus**

The student was exposed to the virus from a colleague at the student's workplace, so the family responded quickly to get a test and to start self-quarantine -- and we are grateful. The student has not exhibited any symptoms up to this point. Our colleague started experiencing some cold symptoms and stayed away from school right away, and we have reached out to appropriate families. And of course with both situations, we have had a lot of contact with the county health department for direction and guidance. As I have mentioned before, the professionals at the health department have worked intensely and thoughtfully now, to keep our infection rates in Kalamazoo County low, which helps all our families.

*One last friendly reminder...*

**Signing your junior up for the PSAT/NMSQT, which will be given on Thursday, October 29**

Deadline to sign up for the PSAT/NMSQT is Friday, September 25. As we mentioned in the email last week, we recommend that you sit down with your student and talk about taking the PSAT. Then, if you choose to have your student take the PSAT, complete the sign-up by going to this link: <https://forms.gle/29iXpPDxyZKx8xZx8> Your son or daughter needs to be signed in to his or her Portage Public Schools Google account to access this link. Thanks for considering this!

### **Absences during Remote Learning**

Although the 10th Absence Rule is suspended during Remote Learning, we are still required by the state to track absences. Absences will appear on a student's report card but do not appear on their transcript.

*Just a reminder...*

### **9th Grade/New Student Welcome Guide**

Below is a link for the 2020-2021 9th Grade/New Student Welcome Guide. You can also find it on our website in the 9th Grade GLIC or under the Information tab. It has lots of information about Portage Central High School and will hopefully help answer any questions you may have. Enjoy! <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kRj0XtpjH0o0PIbLTKz7QyplyUnUtpt/view?usp=sharing>

*Just one more reminder...*

### **Summer community-service hours are due by the last day of September**

Many students already dropped off their forms to us over the summer, and we appreciate that. But if you have not, no worries! Outside of the student entrance there is a secure, blue mailbox with a Mustang on it. Feel free to drop it in there anytime before September 30. Or, you can scan and email it to me at [ealburtus@portageps.org](mailto:ealburtus@portageps.org). Mr. Hosler is away from school right now, so we are all pitching in to help.

*And, finally, please...*

### **Watch your email on Friday for a Pulse-Check Survey from Portage Public Schools**

A survey is going to parents, students and staff, to help the district get data on what is working well and how we might improve. Please note this is different from a recent questionnaire sent to elementary parents about how they would like to see their child learn (in-person or virtual) during the second marking period. Middle and high school families can expect more communication by early next week about plans leading up to the second marking period. Thank you for your understanding as we continue to navigate these challenging times.

Grateful for all you are doing to support our kids and community,

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