

Meet the GLIC and Phoebe, and a ton of attendance, yearbook information



Thank you to our community

Our kids, our colleagues and our families have been incredible: gracious and grateful, intentional and patient. From Chromebook repairs to connectivity issues, we are all figuring this out as we move along. Like we all keep saying, we will be better at this a month from now than we are today. And we will learn, together.

Attendance

Attendance procedures during Phase 4 are going to be quite different than what we're all used to. As a parent or guardian, here is what you need to know about reporting absences and appointments:

- If your student is learning from home:
 1. He or she should reach out to his or her teachers to inquire about make-up work.
 2. Unless your student is going to be absent for an extended period, there is no need to call our attendance line.
- If your student is learning from our building:
 1. He or she should reach out to his or her teachers to inquire about make-up work.
 2. As a parent or guardian, you should contact the Main Office at 323-5259 to let them know if your student was signed up for in-building support, but will be absent or needs an early dismissal.

Also, you may start to see a new attendance code in Skyward: "V - Virtual Interaction." This code indicates that your student was not in class during most of the class period, but made contact with a teacher on that day at another time or for a short amount of time during class. You also might see that code on a Friday, when the students don't have synchronous class, but might have some extra contact with a teacher.

And just a reminder...

Signing up each week for in-building support

This Thursday by 5 p.m. we ask that you please sign up for whatever days next week you would like to virtually learn in our building rather than at home. Here is the link to sign up for next week:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftHv2y1GRNcxlag1NhBTq8xYOBmdGnF81fB-df_Mevr7XaOA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Too, this sign-up link is posted to our school's website. Thanks!

Google profile images

A profile picture is an extension of identity. And, we also know it gives teachers and students a way to develop not only a recognition of one another, but it can also help to build relationships. As students heard in the announcements this week, we are asking our students to use a school-appropriate profile picture of themselves. Thanks for helping us to spread this message by reminding your students to change their school Google profile pictures.

Meet the GLIC

Over the course of the past few weeks, we have been developing a website dedicated to providing students with easy access to information related specifically to their grade level. We call it the GLIC, or, the Grade Level Information Center. You can find the GLIC by navigating through our school website, or by going directly to www.pcglic.com. We hope that you find this resource helpful as you support your student's organizational skills from home. And we think the class videos in the GLIC would be especially helpful for you as parents; there is a great deal of useful information, from off-campus lunch privileges for juniors and seniors, to code of conduct and parking. Thank you for your patience as we continue to add information to this site throughout the school year.

And meet Phoebe too!

Fifteen years ago, Portage Central High School began working with Interquest Detection Canines to help keep our campus drug free. This year, thanks to a generous grant from the Portage Education Foundation and on-going work from our counseling department, we are partnering with Interquest in a different capacity as we welcome a new member, Phoebe, to our Mustang family.

Phoebe is a professionally-trained Counseling Assistance Dog. This friendly Golden Retriever has learned to sense the emotional state of students, and can respond in ways that diffuse tension, calm anxiety, and encourage a positive mood. Taking cues from trained members of our counseling staff, Phoebe will provide another way for us to reach out to our students as we seek to meet their emotional needs. There is no doubt that anxiety is going to be high this year for many of our daughters and sons. Portage Education Foundation Board President Bill Burhans acknowledged this truth with these words: "The PEF recognizes that this coming school year is bound to look and feel different in a number of ways and agrees that the program can provide a level of social and/or emotional support to students as they return for the school year. We



are excited to see how this program comes together--and the impact it ends up having across the district.”

Phoebe will have an office in the counseling department, but will also make visits to classrooms as requested. That being said, we are mindful that some students have allergies or fear of animals. Phoebe will live with one of our staff members who will ensure that she is groomed appropriately, and steps will be taken to keep pet dander to a minimum. When we are back together, students will be able to make counseling appointments and visit with their counselor without coming in direct contact with the dog and accommodations can be made for classroom visits. As is always the case, please feel free to reach out to your child’s counselor or to me if you have specific questions or concerns.

Truly this school year is going to be a challenge in many ways. We’re asking students to adapt to a very different learning environment. But no matter what the school day looks like, we will continue to remind them of all the good things we have at Portage Central because it’s *still* and *always will be* “A great day to be a Mustang.” Our hope is that Phoebe will be one of those bright spots for our students in the years ahead, and we’re excited for everyone to meet her soon.

Textbooks and Other Class Materials

If your son or daughter has still not had an opportunity to pick up his or her textbooks, please reach out to us at (269) 323-5200 and we’ll work together to get those books in your hands.

We have a great deal of yearbook information to share with you!

Mustangs, the PC *Roundup* yearbook staff wants you to know that we are BACK -- like never before. In this year that is sure to be like no other, don’t miss out on the opportunity to get your chronicle of the 2020/2021 school year. Order your 232-page, full-color yearbook online today at yearbookordercenter.com for \$65. Use school code 3604. The price increases to \$75 October 6 and \$80 December 26. Last day to purchase is April 24. Got questions? Email Mrs. Alburtus at aalburtus@portageps.org.

9th, 10th, and 11th graders: We need you to take your own school picture by Nov. 6!

Yes, you read that right! Unfortunately, there will be no school pictures taken this fall, so we need your help! Snap a photo at home and submit it for your class composite in the yearbook. To upload, go to www.hjeshare.com and use school code 3604. Your photo must be a vertical, head-and-shoulders shot only. No hats or hoodies, please -- and no selfies. Outdoor shots with the subject facing the sun work well. Using “portrait mode” on your cell phone is also a smart way to take a great-looking photo. Please name the .jpg or .jpeg or .png file with LAST NAME, FIRST NAME before uploading.

Seniors and parents of seniors, you can order a Senior Book too!

When you order a yearbook for \$65, purchase a Senior Book for just \$12. This 24-page full-color book will showcase special senior features and moments. Go to www.yearbookordercenter.com. Use school code 3604.

Parents of Seniors: Senior Memory Ads on Sale!

Parents of seniors, here's one way you can make this unusual senior year extra-special for your son or daughter: Design and purchase a senior memory ad online with your computer or cell phone. It's easy! Go to www.yearbookordercenter.com and use school code 3604. Click on "Buy a Yearbook Ad" to get started.

Senior Memory Ad Pricing:

1/8 page (business card size) ad – \$75

1/4 page ad – \$125

1/2 page ad – \$180

Full-page ad – \$250

Seniors: Upload your Senior Photo for the Yearbook by Nov. 6.

Go to www.hjeshare.com and use school code 3604. Photos must be vertical. Please name the .jpg or .jpeg file with SENIOR'S LAST NAME, FIRST NAME.jpg before uploading.

Seniors: Upload your Senior Quote by Dec. 18.

Choose a quote that is 240 characters or fewer. Include the name of the person it's attributed to. Keep it school appropriate. Make sure you are logged into your school email and go to <https://forms.gle/m3vcTp5NC9Gig3sa7> to submit.

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 calburtus@portageps.org. Mr. Hosler is away from school right now, so we are all pitching in to help.

Attention 9th Graders who attended CMS

There will be an opportunity for students who need to pick up locker items, yearbook, and fundraiser prices on Thursday, September 10 from 3-5 p.m. and Friday, September 11 from 10-1 p.m. Weather permitting, items will be organized in alphabetical order on the sidewalks on our parent loop. Students and parents will be able to retrieve these items. Masks will be required for pick-up. You can also drop off any textbooks that you have from last year.

Thank you for the wonderful first week,

Eric Alburtus

calburtus@portageps.org