



211 NEWSLETTER

November 2019

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

HELLO PIRATES!

The month of October was an incredible month with many opportunities for our students to engage in conversations about their future plans. Our homeroom theme of "Future Ready" provided students with information about Palatine's college and career resources, as well as special presentations from various industries to discuss what "soft skills" companies are looking for in their candidates. Another highlight included District 211 College Night where we hosted nearly 200 colleges and universities. It was another incredible experience for our students and families to engage with institutions of higher learning. We are hopeful that these experiences led to some engaging conversations at home.

Throughout the month of November, we are focusing on mindfulness as a school. With final exams right around the corner we want to make sure we provide students with insightful thoughts on how to manage their time and stress. If you feel that your child needs more support, please feel free to connect them with our student services department.

In addition, at the end of this month, students will begin communicating with counselors regarding their schedules for next year! If you have any questions regarding your child's course selection process, please be sure to talk to your student as well as their counselor.

Scheduling Dates by class:

- Sophomores (to-be-Juniors): 12/2-12/6
- Juniors (to-be-Seniors): 12/9-12/13
- Freshman (to-be-Sophomores): 1/13-1/16

A few other things to keep in mind for course scheduling:

Take the challenge of meeting the Power of 15: The Power of 15 is the challenge that District 211 has for all of our students to graduate from high school with at least 15 credits at the college level. Research suggests that students who engage in college-level coursework while still in high school are more successful in college and are more likely to graduate in four years. Students may earn college level credit in a variety of ways, through our many Advanced Placement or AP classes, or through dual credit classes, which are available in many of our departments.

Explore our Career Clusters Website at <http://www.d211careercluster.org/about/>. Current trends suggest that most jobs in the future will require education and training beyond high school. Students should explore our many career ready classes, some of which offer them an opportunity to earn industry or professional certifications in a variety of fields based on student interest. Students should meet with our Career Advisor, Ms. Peggy Bryne, where students can obtain more information on various careers and participate in Career Treks to help them learn more about their possible career options. Students should use the career clusters website to assist them in choosing electives that



may match their potential career choices.

I am hopeful that you have found this information helpful in guiding your student not only in selecting their courses but also in planning for their future.

Sincerely,

Tony Medina
Principal

dates to remember

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|------------|---|
| Nov. 27-29 | Thanksgiving Holiday (No School) |
| Dec. 20 | Winter Vacation begins at close of school |
| Jan. 6 | Report Cards Mailed/Emailed |
| Jan. 7 | School Resumes after Winter Vacation |

Attention Parents/Guardians of Seniors:

The FAFSA application (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) was made available on October 1, 2019. You will use your 2018 tax information when completing the FAFSA application. I would encourage ALL eligible families of senior students to complete this application regardless of your financial profile; individual colleges/universities use this information for potential institution based aid or scholarships. Additionally, direct student loans are given through the completion of the FAFSA (all college freshmen are eligible for a direct student loan of \$5500 with a completed FAFSA). It is recommended that families complete this application ASAP to be fully considered for potential aid. The application is free by using this link: www.fafsa.ed.gov.

***Before you complete the FAFSA application one parent and the student should obtain a FSA ID# in order to electronically sign the FAFSA application. The site to create an FSA ID is: <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>.

***Scholarship information is posted on the Student Services website. From the PHS homepage click on the "Academics" tab at the top and then click on "Student Services" link, there is a "Scholarships" link on the left side of the page. Once you click on the "Scholarships" link it will direct you to a new page, find the "[2019-2020 Scholarship List](#)".

If you have any questions please contact your son's/daughter's counselor or Mrs. Castro on the White Team.

Semester Exams are December 18, 19 and 20

Final Exam Information

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

8:15 – 9:45	Wed., Dec. 18	Thurs. Dec. 19	Fri., Dec. 20
9:55 – 11:25	Period 1	Period 6	Period 4
11:35 – 1:05	Period 2	Period 7	Period 5
	Period 3	Period 8	

- Morning buses will run at the normal time.
- Return runs will leave school at 11:33 and 1:13.
- There will be no late or activity buses on exam days.
- Exams will not be given early.
- Students with three exams in one day may rearrange their exams by seeing their administrator the week before finals.
- Students may use the café or SSC for study during exams.
- Students may also use the gym or go off campus during their free periods.
- PE and study hall will not meet during exam periods. Unless otherwise noted, all other classes will meet. Truancy to a final exam results in an automatic zero on the exam. Students who will be missing finals with excused absences will make up their finals on January 6.

All obligations must be met before students will be allowed to take exams. Students in semester long classes will be expected to return their textbooks on exam days.

SECOND SEMESTER BEGINS ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020

COAT AND HAT POLICY

Now that the weather is turning cooler your student will be required to keep hats and coats in their locker. The following is a list of articles of clothing that **ARE** and **ARE NOT** acceptable:

ACCEPTABLE:

SWEATSHIRT

(PULLOVERS, ZIPPER, BUTTON DOWN)

HOODED SWEATSHIRT HOODS DOWN

FLANNEL SHIRTS

WARM-UP JACKETS WITH MATCHING PANTS

(JACKETS MUST NOT BE LONGER THAN MID-THIGH)

PALATINE SCHOOL ISSUED TEAM/SQUAD WARM-UP JACKETS

HEADWEAR NEEDED FOR RELIGIOUS OR MEDICAL PURPOSES

NOT ACCEPTABLE:

HATS, BANDANAS, CAPS, DU-RAGS

WINTER COATS

OUTDOOR STYLE WINDBREAKERS AND JACKETS

HEAVY QUILTED FLANNEL JACKET SHIRTS

ANY TYPE OF JACKET THAT IS DESIGNED FOR OUTER WEAR

If you have questions regarding this policy or any special circumstances we need to be aware of, please contact your student's administrator for further information.

ICOMPETE PASSPORT PROGRAM

The 13th year of the I-Compete Passport Program has just begun its fall season and will continue doing activities through the end of second semester. We are excited to once again be working with members of the Palatine Opportunity Center, and our 25 high school mentors who have been selected to work with the I-Compete Passport Program Mentees this year. These mentees consist of about 50 first through fifth grade students from District 15 to attend athletic events, activity events, open gym nights, a Trunk or Treat event at Falcon Park this fall and other events throughout the school year. At the events, the grade schoolers are paired with a mentor and do activities to get to know each other and build positive relationships. They have and will attend football, volleyball, lacrosse, the dance show, service club, orchestra concerts, improv shows, cultural awareness club and more! All of the students in this program will start to learn more about the variety of programs offered here at Palatine and see what being in high school is really like! The best part about the program is the full circle aspect we now have; the mentors of the children in our community most often were once the mentees! It's a great joy to see so many high school students giving back to the community service program that once helped them as children.

ICompete Future Pirate School Program

This is our very first year of offering a new program to specifically work with our 5th-8th grade students in giving them hands on experiences with our clubs and activities at PHS. Two Wednesdays per month, a group of 50 5th-8th grade students from Jane Addams and Winston will be bussed to Palatine, meet with a Palatine High School teacher to talk about questions about high school. Then, they will spend an hour meeting with a club or activity to get a hands-on experience with participating with that group. This year, we already have meetings lined up with Debate, Speech, Color Guard, Fashion club, Chess, Science Olympiad, and more! We are excited that this opportunity will allow our future Pirates to figure out their interests so that they can start getting involved right when they get to high school!

Andrea Guthrie

I-Compete Sponsor

ATTN: FRESHMEN

Harper's Promise applications are due December 13, 2019. You can get them in the registrar's office. Fill out both the front and the back including a parent's signature. The forms need to be submitted to the PHS cashier by 4 p.m. for verification and a receipt.

For more information about the Harper's Promise Scholarship Program, please visit <http://goforward.harpercollege.edu/about/promise/index.php> or contact your child's school counselor.

HOMECOMING COURT

Freshman Attendants

Erin McGinn and Sam Millstone

Sophomore Attendants

Amelia Donlin

and Patrick Mclanahan

Junior Attendants

Bridget Anderson

and Michael Jagers

Senior Attendants

Valery Lopez and Patrick Angelaccio

Queen and King

Riley Larkin and Sam Adame

TECHNOLOGY AT HOME AND IN THE CLASSROOM

We are committed to integrating technology into classroom learning experiences using research-based instructional methods and ongoing professional learning. To date, our 1:1 Learning Program has equipped roughly 13,000 students and staff with an iPad tablet. District 211 understands that students are also using personal and household devices to enhance their learning. We believe connected, digital technology is an essential support for the modern learner.

At school, content filters, and restricted access measures, are in place to help keep academic endeavors prioritized on the iPads. Our iPads are academically focused, meaning students don't have access to games, social media apps, and the app store. Students who complete their Digital Citizenship Experiences, online digital citizenship courses, and successfully complete their freshmen and sophomore years of high school in good standing become eligible to have wider accessibility during their junior through senior years of school. Parents who would like options for reinforcing positive behaviors can leverage [Apple's Parental Controls](#), the newest of these controls is called Screen Time. [Screen Time](#) can provide real-time reports about how much time is spent on the iPad. Parents are able to set accessibility limitations within [Screen Time](#).

- More information about [Screen Time](#) can be found here: <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT208982>

If interested in these types of iPad support, please contact your child's administrator for assistance.

In an effort to assist parents, District 211 endorses the following list of strategies to support a safe digital learning environment at home.

- Have a family discussion about digital devices and come up with expectations for timely and appropriate use. Suggestions might include: "technology free" mealtimes; device used only for learning activities during the week; video games only allowed on weekends; limited social media use during "family time".
- Set guidelines for appropriate social media use. Inappropriate or misguided use of social media and the Internet can have long-term unintended consequences. Encourage your child to provide access, namely passwords, to their social media

accounts and help guide the posting of appropriate information.

- For younger family members, the iPad allows for enabling an option called Guided Access. This "locks" the device into a single application of the parents' choice keeping younger children focused on a single task as well as preventing the ability to get into any other app until the Guided Access is removed or modified. More information on Guided Access can be found here: <http://support.apple.com/kb/HT5509>
- Additional limitations can be placed on an iPad through the use of Restrictions (parental controls). This feature is built into iOS and can be accessed through the iPad Settings app. The Restrictions feature can limit the ability to install apps and make in-app purchases, as well as enabling rating controls on websites and media content. It is best to work with your child's guidance counselor and administrator if a more restrictive policy needs to be set on the student's iPad. More information Parental Controls can be found here: <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201304>
- Disable/restrict wi-fi access through the family internet router. Many wi-fi routers have the ability to set up automated access "timeframes" for wireless access to the internet. The wi-fi router then turns on and off internet access according to that schedule. Other options would be to simply change the wi-fi password and only provide the new one when deemed appropriate and necessary. Consult the wireless manufacturer's or Internet provider's support site for information on whether the wi-fi router owned is capable of setting up automatic Internet access timeframes or for instruction on changing the wi-fi password/key.
- Parental control solutions are available for parents to manage internet access on the home network. Such solutions can give parents the ability to filter Internet content to all devices that connect to the home network. There are free versions and paid services that will provide more robust control. A good place to start is with your internet provider.
- More information about parenting in a digital age can be found on Common Sense Media's "Resources for Parents" page: <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>

PLANNING A VACATION?

As the holiday season is approaching, this is a reminder that if you are planning a vacation which will affect your student's attendance, please call the school at 847-755-1600 at your earliest convenience to pre-arrange absence(s). A pre-excused pass will be issued and the student can pick up the pass the following morning. The student must procure signatures of all instructors and return the signed pre-excused pass to the attendance office at the end of the same school day.

OFF CAMPUS, PARKING AND STUDY HALL

Students have the opportunity to earn many privileges at Palatine High School; some of these include the ability to park on campus, have an option study hall period and off campus permission. All of these privileges are earned through academic performance, attendance and behavior. Any student who has passed all of his/her classes, demonstrates good attendance and overall good student citizenship may apply to apply for these privileges. Students not meeting expectations may lose these privileges and will be assigned to a study hall where they can receive assistance and instruction to help them meet expectations.

If you require assistance while visiting our school, please contact the principal's office at (847) 755-1610.

ILLINOIS YOUTH SURVEY

Since 1990, the State of Illinois has supported schools' use of the Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) to gather information about a variety of health and social indicators including substance abuse patterns and attitudes of Illinois youth. The IYS is given every other year to students in grades 8, 10, and 12 during the school day and takes approximately 45 minutes for students to complete. During the second semester, Palatine High School will be participating in this school year's administration of the IYS which will provide us with important information about our school's students and the specific types of supports they may need. Parents of current sophomores and seniors will receive more detailed information about the IYS in the coming weeks.

ACADEMIC CORNER – WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

This school year the World Language Department at Palatine High School is excited to continue offering AP Spanish Literature as a course where last year we had 97% of students earn a passing grade of three or higher on the AP Spanish Literature Exam, as well as our AP Spanish Language Exam. We also hired a recent PHS graduate, Karla Robles, who has been outstanding and has proven that hard work does pay off. She is teaching AP Spanish Language and Spanish for Heritage Speakers. We wish Karla the best of luck this year. We also continue morning tutoring daily, Monday thru Friday, from 7:45 to 8:15 a.m., in room 293. In our 6th year running a Spanish Advanced Topics (L476) class, we have been triumphant in collaborating with Virginia Lake Elementary School. Students in advanced topics Spanish classes go to Virginia Lake every Wednesday to read and work with students in bilingual classrooms. This offers our high school students an opportunity to enhance their reading exposure, use their Spanish outside of our high school walls, and practice their reading, speaking and listening as they work with Spanish Native/Heritage students. It builds a community approach and relationships that make Palatine a special place to live. We also continue our Honors Induction Program given to students who have maintained and earned

a B+ average in all of their language classes. This student induction will take place the second Friday in March. We feel that, as a department, we are connected and continue our tradition of offering upper level Spanish classes to purchase “Internado Shirts” as part of our unity, while we view the video series “La Laguna Negra - Internado.” If you come on Fridays, you will see our students wear their Internado shirts proudly. One will also see Spanish 4 classes start their day with Zumba and Spanish dances enhancing various Spanish cultures. Both Spanish 4 and AP teachers took students to Chicago’s Art Institute and then culminated at a “Tapas” Spanish restaurant in Chicago. The French also participated on a separate date and finished at a French Restaurant in Lake Zurich to bring real life experience and culture to their learning. Students also visited the French market at Ogilvie train station as part of their cultural experience. Foreign Exchange Club meets weekly and we continue to strive to meet our goals to learn about new cultures, interact with our international peers, and raise money for our fellow students to experience world travel. These meetings take place on WEDNESDAYS from 3:30-4:30 p.m., in Room 283. We have plans this year to continue with volunteerism with I-compete, homecoming events and our annual Chicago field trip where

we will provide care packages for the homeless in Chicago. We plan to help bag food items at Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg this spring and hold a ZUMBA-thon in both the fall and spring to help fundraise money for Blessings in a Backpack, a PHS initiative to aid our PHS families. Our very own Jamie Stirlen co-led the Zumba-thon. We were excited to host 14 students and 2 faculty from our sister school in Marienschule Krefeld, Germany. They were here from October 5 through October 20. We look forward to our next group in the spring when we will host our French exchange students and our summer trips to Costa Rica, Germany and France where our Palatine students will be part of an unforgettable exchange trip. One of our teachers, Ms. Stephanie Eide (formerly Werme), has embarked on a new class format where language acquisition is taught organically and with comprehensible input. All teachers are beginning to adapt to new ways of acquiring language and mixing in strategies that have worked to produce students who can comfortably speak at an intermediate mid and high level of speaking and making progress towards the advanced level based on the ACTFL standards. Our department overall is happy and delightful and because of our engagement to the program our students always come out ahead.

FROM THE PIRATE BOOSTER CLUB

Craft Fair, co-chaired by Jennifer Tomkins and Rose Breitzman, was a great success! We appreciate the volunteers, vendors and patrons that made this event happen. Thanks for your support of the Boosters! With the holidays approaching, our Ways and Means Chairpersons, Danielle Smith and Christina Huber, continue to arrange Dine and Share nights at Culvers and Pizza Bella. You do not need to ask our families twice to skip cooking for a night during this busy season to support our Boosters. Watch for date reminders on Facebook and in Booster emails.

Our school store is online! The merchandise online includes items that are not available at the School Store. Check out our great inventory. Find your favorite Pirate fan the perfect Pirate gift! (http://www.waistup.com/PHS_Pirate_Boosters/shop/home). Remember Pirate gear makes a great holiday gift.

Mark your calendars for March 6, 2020, for the 36th annual PHS Pirate Booster Dinner and Auction Event. This event takes place from 5:30-11:00 at The Cotillion Banquets in Palatine. Visit our website at

<https://phs.schoolauction.net/phs2020/> to learn more and get your tickets! Special, limited edition Pirate Pride t-shirts are back and available for the banquet. Make sure to check it out!

With a New Year approaching, consider a resolution to get more involved with the PHS Pirate Booster Club. Together, we form friendships while working towards a common goal of enhancing the school experience for all PHS students. To learn more, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Laura Lazicki, at volunteer@phspirateboosters.com and she will find a role that matches your talents, interests, and schedule. Or sign up here: <https://phspirateboosters.com/volunteers/>

We are so grateful for all the support that families give to our students through supporting our Pirate Booster Club. We hope we will be able to thank you personally at the PHS Booster Dinner and Auction on March 6. Until then, GO PIRATES AND GO PIRATE BOOSTERS!!

Jean Choi and TerrieAnn Jones
PHS Booster Co-Presidents