



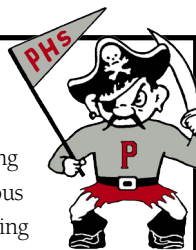
211 NEWSLETTER

November 2017

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Student course selection begins soon.

In the coming weeks students will be selecting their courses for the upcoming year. I want to take a moment to encourage all of our families to have a serious and careful conversation about what classes your students select this upcoming year. As a school and a district we have a goal to insure that all students graduate and are college and/or career ready. To assist students in their journey to be college and career ready when they leave us we have several suggestions.



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

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 Counselor, 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 interests. Students should use the career clusters website to assist them in choosing electives that may match their potential career choices.

Get involved in extracurricular activities: Encourage your student to join a team or a club. They not only provide students with an opportunity to engage with others and be a part of something they enjoy, but research again shows that students who are involved and are a part of the school community are more successful in school. Our goal would be that all students participate in at least two different extra-curricular options before they graduate.

High School gives our students a great opportunity to discover themselves and their passions. We hope that students take advantage of this opportunity to challenge themselves to take a wide variety of elective classes, to try new things, to challenge themselves to take difficult and challenging course work, but also to take time to enjoy their experiences and to be an active part of the school community.

The Holiday season is fast approaching and will be over by the time our next newsletter reaches you. On behalf of all of us here at Palatine High School, have a safe and happy holiday season as you enjoy one of the most precious gifts of all – time with family and friends. Thank you for letting us spend time with your children.

Gary Steiger
Principal

dates to remember	
Nov. 22-24	Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)
Dec. 1	Winter Choir Concert, 7:30 PM
Dec. 7	Winter Band Concert, 7:30 PM
Dec. 12	Incoming Freshman Curriculum Night, 6:00 PM
Dec. 22	Winter Vacation begins at close of school
Jan. 9	Report Cards Mailed/Emailed
Jan. 9	School Resumes after Winter Vacation

SEMESTER EXAMS ARE DECEMBER 20, 21 AND 22

FINAL EXAM INFORMATION

Final Exam Schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 20

- 8:15 – 9:45 — Period 1
- 9:55 – 11:25 — Period 2
- 11:35 – 1:05 — Period 3

Thursday, Dec. 21

- 8:15 – 9:45 — Period 6
- 9:55 – 11:25 — Period 7
- 11:35 – 1:05 — Period 8

Friday, Dec. 22

- 8:15 – 9:45 — Period 4
- 9:55 – 11:25 — Period 5

- 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 failure.

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 9, 2018

HOMECOMING COURT

Freshman Attendants

Michael Jaggars and Rebecca Padilla

Sophomore Attendants

Mossimo Vardamaskos and Amanda Logan

Junior Attendants

Eduardo Gil and Mary Gilsenan

Senior Attendants

Justin Davis and Acacia Ramirez

Queen and King

Angel Serna and Grace Goodwin

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

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: Sweatshirts (Pullover, Zipper, Button Down), Hooded Sweatshirts 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, Bandannas, Caps, Headbands, Wristbands, 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.

I-COMPETE PROGRAM

The 11th 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 40 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 eighth 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 and basketball games, gymnastics and swimming events, the dance show, service club, orchestra concerts, improv shows, foreign exchange 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.

Kris Stary

I-Compete Sponsor

Family, Career & Community Leaders of America Sponsor

Future Educators of America Sponsor

ACADEMIC CORNER – ESL DEPARTMENT

This year, we started the year with a parent outreach event in September. Parents, students and teachers faced off in a soccer game organized by ESL teacher Jaison Varghese and Coach Filian. Prior to the game, parents were able to learn about various school and community organizations.

Level 1 and 2 students will complete presentations about an influential Hispanic American in order to learn about positive role models and immigrants who are successful in America. They will share the information in a visual/oral presentation to their classmates.

In Level 4, the department is piloting a program that promotes social emotional development. The program is designed by Mawi Asgedom, a renowned motivational speaker, who is an immigrant and a product of an ESL education. As part of the program, students read Asgedom's memoir that details his remarkable journey to America from Eritrea.

Level 5 students have been researching careers as a means of developing reading and writing skills. They presented their findings to the class using a variety of creative apps on the iPad. Throughout the year, professionals from various fields will be invited to help students think about post-secondary options.

ESL students in International Club have been busy staying involved in school community service activities. They decorate a room for Pirate Pete's Trick or Treat Fest. They plan on going to Feed My Starving Children and on a cultural field trip to Chicago to see the holiday decorations.

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.

ATTENTION PARENTS/ GUARDIANS OF SENIORS:

The FAFSA application (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) was made available on October 1, 2017. You will use your 2016 tax information when completing the FAFSA application. I would encourage ALL 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" from the drop down menu.

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

ATTENTION FRESHMEN

Harper's Promise applications are due December 15, 2017. You can get them online or in the main 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.

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 will be allowed 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.

PALATINE HIGH SCHOOL PIRATE BOOSTER CLUB

Happy Holidays! We hope that you're enjoying this holiday season. We have some updates we would like to share with you:

Craft Fair, chaired by Jean Choi, was a big success! Many thanks to the volunteers, vendors and patrons. Great job!

With the holidays approaching, our Ways and Means Chairperson, Donna Schneberger, has been busy arranging Dine and Share nights, "2Clicks" purchase rebates and other fundraising programs. Many people holiday shop online, and if you use "2Clicks" (you can access it through the link on our phspiriteboosters.com website), the Boosters will receive a portion of the profits. We are all going to shop during this holiday season and this is an easy way to assist the PHS community.

Our school store is online! Most of the merchandise online are things that are not in the School Store, so check out our great inventory. Find your favorite Pirate fan the perfect Pirate gift! (http://www.waistup.com/PHS_Pirate_Boosters/shop/home)

Mark your calendars for March 9, 2018 for the 34th 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 www.phspiriteboosters.com to learn more and purchase tickets!

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 our goal of enhancing all PHS students' school experience. To learn more, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Joan Scovic, at volunteer@phspiriteboosters.com and she will find a role that suits your talents, interests, and schedule.

During this holiday season, we can't help but reflect on all the good work we've done. This makes us hopeful and excited to see what the rest of this school year brings! GO PIRATES AND GO PIRATE BOOSTERS!!

John Helminski and Jean Choi

Co-Presidents

PHS Pirate Boosters

TECHNOLOGY AT HOME AND IN THE CLASSROOM

We are committed to integrating technology into the classroom learning experiences using research-based instructional methods and ongoing professional learning. To date, our 1:1 Learning Program has equipped nearly 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. Freshmen, sophomore, and junior iPads are academically focused, meaning students don't have access to games, social media apps, and the app store. Underclassmen who complete their Digital Quest, an online digital citizenship course, and successfully complete their freshman year of high school in good standing become eligible to have restrictions reduced during their sophomore through senior years of school. Parents who would like options for reinforcing positive behaviors can leverage Apple's Parental Controls. If interested in this type of support, please contact your child's administrator for assistance.

In an effort to help 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. More information Parental Controls can be found here: <http://support.apple.com/kb/ht4213>
- Disable/restrict wi-fi access through the family internet router. Many wifi routers have the ability to setup 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 wifi password and only provide the new one when deemed appropriate and necessary. Consult the wireless manufacturer's or Internet providers 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 wifi 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.

5ESSENTIALS ONLINE SURVEY

High School District 211 will administer the 5Essentials Survey, a tool used to assess school climate and meet a survey mandate by the Illinois State Board of Education. The 5Essentials Survey will provide meaningful data to District 211, including people's perceptions about the effectiveness of school leadership, collaboration amongst teachers, involvement of families, environmental supports, and ambitiousness of instruction. Students and staff will be asked to complete the online survey while in school between November 27-December 8. Parents will receive information about accessing and completing the 10-15 minute online survey in late November.