



# 211 NEWSLETTER

GARY STEIGER  
PRINCIPAL

July/August 2016

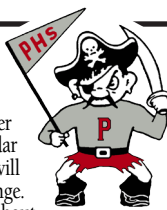
## From the principal:

### *Welcome to the 2016-2017 School Year!*

It was a quick summer this year, with so many students attending summer school, the typical summer construction season and our new school calendar and it really was a short summer. We are confident that our new calendar will be a great change for our students and their families as we adjust to this change. As we are planning for the start of school in the next few weeks I am excited about the possibilities that await our students. We continue to strive to get better and to provide our students with the opportunities and tools they need to be successful in the future. Some of the things we will be exploring over the next school year are a continued expansion or focus of our curriculum to provide students with the best choices for college and career readiness. We will continue to encourage students to use the career clusters as they consider additional coursework and to use the services that we provide to explore these choices, be it a career trek, a potential internship or a specific course such as Accounting for the future accountants out there, to gain a deeper understanding of their choice and the realities of that choice. We will continue to examine our grading practices and the scales we use to ensure that they best meet the learning and reporting needs of our students. Grades should communicate a student's performance and progress toward mastery of academic standards over a term. We want to ensure that our practices and beliefs align with this in a manner that is accurate and fair for our students. We will always continue our drive for academic excellence and encouraging students to take the most rigorous courses they possibly can and to get involved in extra-curricular activities here at school. All of this is targeted at providing students with a great foundation and many options as they continue their paths toward college and career readiness.

Parents often ask what they can do to ensure that their son or daughter will have a successful year. Though some parents believe that their involvement in school matters should diminish now that their teen is in high school, nothing can be farther from the truth. Your involvement may be even more important now than it ever was. High school is a time of great change for many students and with that change comes many questions and many challenges. Your involvement will help them meet those challenges and answer those questions in a positive, productive manner. When parents are involved in their child's education and active in the school community, it sends a clear message to your child that education is valued and should be a priority. Some of the ways to become involved include the following:

- Talk to your son/daughter about school. Ask them what they did, what is due, many of our teachers are using various digital resources such as Schoology or I-TunesU to manage their classroom information. Have your student show you how to log into these sites so you can follow along with them. Check their attendance and grades on our **Infinite Campus** portal. Provide a quiet place to study and do homework. We have several resources available to assist students with homework. The Media Center has after school hours, the Student Success Center is open all day and your child's teachers are always ready to assist. Students who have struggled in the past will be assigned to a guided study hall to help them achieve success in all classes.
- Encourage regular attendance, over 350 of our students missed less than one day of school this year and received letters this summer congratulating them on perfect or near perfect attendance.
- Attend an activity/event at PHS with your son/daughter. Encourage your child to join a club, activity, or team. Recent data indicates that students who are involved in one or more school



activities have a full point higher G.P.A than those who are not.

- Attend Open House which is scheduled for September 1, 2016. Regularly monitor your student's progress using the on-line gradebook in Infinite Campus. Call or e-mail your son's/daughter's teachers, counselor, or administrator when you have a question or concern.
- Attend College Night, hosted at PHS on October 19, 2016. This is especially important for juniors and seniors, but since it is right in our own building it is an opportunity for our freshmen and sophomores to see what options are out there and what they need to do to ensure admission into the school of their choice. If you are new to the college experience, we will also be hosting a First Generation College Night here at PHS on September 14th.
- Talk about possible career options. Is your student exploring multiple options? Are they focused in a single direction already and if so, have they explored the courses that will help them in that career path? Have they completed the Career Cruising application that is available through our Student Services web site? Have they discussed their career path with their counselor or our career advisor?
- Join the Booster Club. The Boosters provide many services to the school in addition to fundraising. The Pirate Booster website may be reached at <http://phspirateboosters.com>.
- Stay informed by reading the school mailings which are sent electronically every 4½ weeks.
- Visit the school's website at [www.phs.d211.org](http://www.phs.d211.org) for daily announcements and information. You can also follow @PalatineHS on Twitter or like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Palatine.Pirates>.
- Many of our classes, teams and clubs also have a variety of social media sites that you can follow along with as well.

Education is a partnership that requires the work and support of the entire community. Palatine High School is privileged to have caring, active students and parents who are involved and encouraging. We are also fortunate to have a dedicated and professional staff that is here to help your son or daughter get the best education possible. They are ready and willing to help in any way they can. Please don't hesitate to call them if you have a question.

It has been a busy summer preparing for our upcoming year; we have made several changes that will be very visible as our students return. The most obvious will be the new entrance way that is designed to help us eliminate some of the confusion and backups that occurred with our old configuration. In addition, we continue to examine the impact that the implementation of the iPads has had on our students and their educational experience. District 211 staff are working together to develop conditions by which all students will be able to optimize the iPad's instructional value while minimizing its potential as a distractor, both in the classroom and at home. We are also examining if the iPad is the right tool for the learning experiences we want our students to have. I would also like to remind parents that if you have any questions or concerns or would like information on how you can manage your student's iPad use, our technology department will always be happy to assist you.

I look forward to seeing all of our returning students in a few weeks and welcoming the Class of 2020. Enjoy the rest of your summer. I hope you can take advantage of some time to spend with friends and family in these last few weeks of summer.

Gary Steiger, Principal

## **One-to-One iPad pick up information**

Incoming freshman students (class of 2020) who are fully registered for the 2016-2017 school year will be eligible to pick up their One-to-One iPad devices during the first week of August. Distribution for all returning students is on August 10. Each student has the opportunity to obtain optional District 211 iPad insurance at a cost of \$25.00, which provides repair and replacement cost coverage and protects the iPad on and off school grounds. Information about iPad pickup will be updated on the PHS website before July 15.

### **Walk-In Registration**

Will take place at the Palatine High School Auditorium beginning on Monday, August 1 through Friday, August 12, 2016, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
 Except for Friday, August 5, 2016 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
 We will have extended hours at the Palatine Opportunity Center, 1585 N. Rand Road, Palatine, IL 60074 on Thursday, August 4, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

*This Principal's Newsletter is computer-designed and photocopied at school on recycled paper for Palatine High School parents.*

Palatine High School 1111 N. Rohlwing Road, Palatine, IL 60074-3777 (847) 755-1600

## **Important Information for You and Your Student**

1. **Cell phones** – Students are allowed to possess cell phones and other electronic communication devices while on school property. However use of such devices during the school hours is limited to the cafeteria and other designated areas, and will not be allowed in instructional areas, except at the discretion of the classroom teacher. With the exception of these areas, these devices must be turned off and stored out of sight during the school day. Additionally, such devices shall not be used for or associated with any unlawful activities. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary consequences.

2. **Attendance** – Daily attendance at school is required by State Law. Success in school can be closely linked to being in the classroom and actively participating in class activities. There's no way to duplicate the classroom experience after a student has been absent, so it is important for all students to attend school regularly. Please continue to make education a priority in your home and insist on daily attendance. If your student is absent, please be sure to call the attendance office on the day of the absence. The attendance office phone numbers are; 755-1670, 755-1671, or 755-1672. We also have a bilingual extension for the attendance office, 755-1632.

## **Test Prep Course for College Entrance**

A preparation course for the P.S.A.T. test will be offered this fall at Palatine High School. It will consist of five sessions, covering test-taking strategies, reading comprehension, and mathematical applications. There is no fee for this valuable experience! More information will follow when school starts.

# dates to remember

- August 1-5 PHS Marching Band Camp 1:00-9:00 p.m.
- August 9 Freshman Welcome Day 4:00-5:00 p.m.
- August 10 Sports begin
- August 11 Teacher Institute Day (no classes)
- August 12 Teacher Institute Day (no classes)
- August 15 Opening Day of School
- August 17 Red/White Soccer game, 5:00 p.m.
- August 19 Red/White Football game, 6:00 p.m.
- September 1 Parent Open House, 7:00 p.m.
- September 5 Labor Day – No School

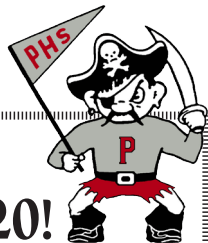
## HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

14 exchange students in the 10th and 11th grades from Krefeld, Germany will be in Palatine from October 2 to October 16, 2016, to spend 2 weeks with PHS students and their families. We are always in need of families to host these students. Because most students have studied English for six or seven years, it is not necessary for host students to be studying German. PHS has had this exchange program with the Marienschule in Krefeld for 35 years – interrupted only by the events of 9/11. Over the years, numerous lasting friendships have been made and often students revisit each other in future years. A host family's responsibilities mainly consist of providing meals, a place to sleep and a warm family atmosphere. Week-day activities and field trips are organized by the school. If you are interested in this wonderful cultural experience or would like more information, please contact Bob Kuechenberg at [rkuechenberg@d211.org](mailto:rkuechenberg@d211.org).

High School District 211's Mobile App is available for smartphones and tablets and provides direct access to some of the District's and schools' most frequently used online tools. The Mobile App is available for download at the App Store and Google Play by searching "District 211." Get the D211 App today!

## Fall Sports

All fall sports will start on Wednesday, August 10, 2016, except Football and Cheerleading which start Monday, August 8. Every athlete wishing to participate must have a current physical on file with the school nurse. Physicals are valid for 13 months. Please check the Palatine High School Athletics website for more information and to register for fall sports. For additional information contact the athletic office at 847-755-1771.



## Attention:

# Class of 2020!

Join your fellow PIRATES for  
**FRESHMAN WELCOME DAY**

Tuesday, August 9 • 4:00 p.m.

## Please mark your calendars

### EARLY DISMISSALS

September 1, 2016 (Parent Open House) Early Dismissal 12:35 p.m.; October 19, 2016 (College Night at PHS) Early Dismissal 12:35 p.m.; February 17, 2017 (Girls' State Gymnastics Meet at PHS) Early Dismissal 12:35 p.m.; May 19, 2017 (In-service Day) Early Dismissal 12:35 p.m.

**INSTITUTE DAYS** Thursday, August 11, 2016; Friday, August 12, 2016; Monday, October 10, 2016; and Monday, January 9, 2017.

## 2016-2017 Bell Schedules

(L = Lunch period)

### Regular Bell Schedule

Period 1	8:15 - 9:03
Homeroom	9:07 - 9:19
Period 2	9:24 - 10:12
Period 3	10:17 - 11:05 L
Period 4	11:10 - 11:58 L
Period 5	12:03 - 12:51 L
Period 6	12:56 - 1:44 L
Period 7	1:49 - 2:37
Period 8	2:42 - 3:30

### Bell Schedule:

#### Early Dismissal Days

Open House, College Night,  
½ Day for Institute Day,  
Girls State Gymnastics

Period 1	8:15 - 8:45
Period 2	8:50 - 9:20
Period 3	9:25 - 9:50 L
Period 4	9:55 - 10:25 L
Period 5	10:30 - 10:55 L
Period 6	11:00 - 11:30 L
Period 7	11:35 - 12:00
Period 8	12:05 - 12:35

### Late Starts

#### Morning Work

Session	75 min.	8:15 - 9:30
Period 1	40 min.	9:35 - 10:15
Period 2	40 min.	10:20 - 11:00
Period 3	40 min.	11:05 - 11:45 L
Period 4	40 min.	11:50 - 12:30 L
Period 5	40 min.	12:35 - 1:15 L
Period 6	40 min.	1:20 - 2:00 L
Period 7	40 min.	2:05 - 2:45
Period 8	40 min.	2:50 - 3:30

### Special Bell Schedule:

#### Recognition Assemblies

Period 1	8:15 - 9:00
Period 2	9:05 - 9:50
Assembly	10:00 - 10:25
Period 3	10:35 - 11:20 L
Period 4	11:25 - 12:10 L
Period 5	12:15 - 1:00 L
Period 6	1:05 - 1:50 L
Period 7	1:55 - 2:40
Period 8	2:45 - 3:30

### Special Bell Schedule: Pep Assemblies

Period 1	8:15 - 9:00
Period 2	9:05 - 9:50
Period 3	9:55 - 10:40 L
Period 4	10:45 - 11:30 L
Period 5	11:35 - 12:20 L
Period 6	12:25 - 1:10 L
Period 7	1:15 - 2:00
Period 8	2:05 - 2:50
Assembly	3:00 - 3:30

### Morning Work Sessions - Late Start - TUESDAYS

2016: August 23, September 6, September 20, October 4, October 18, November 1, November 15

2017: January 24, February 7, February 21, March 7, March 21

## Way to go Class of 2016!

205 students earned approximately \$4,100,000 in scholarship money.

The total amount of scholarship money includes one-year academic awards, full tuition awards, private scholarship awards as well as athletic scholarships.

## Food Service

More than 8,000 students participate in the lunch and breakfast programs at District 211 each school day. School lunch is still an incredible bargain with meals ranging in price from \$2.35 to \$2.90. A complete lunch includes low fat milk, two cups of fruit and vegetables, whole-grains, and lean protein. A la carte options are available daily. All items served in the cafeteria meet several nutrient requirements that monitor calorie, fat, sodium, and sugar content. Breakfast is served daily for \$1.45. Breakfast is a healthy meal that provides an entrée, milk, fruit, and juice. Menus are available online through the Food Service Department's webpage: <http://adc.d211.org/operations-2/food-service/>.

The food service prepayment option is a convenient way to ensure students have a nutritious lunch every school day. Parents or guardians can submit an online prepayment with a credit card through their Infinite Campus account. Account balances for underclassmen are carried over to the fall. Balances may be obtained in the cafeteria or by viewing online prepayment information by logging into the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

A parent or guardian may submit a meal application for free and reduced meals by contacting your school's food service department or by going online to [www.d211.heartlandapps.com](http://www.d211.heartlandapps.com) to fill out a school meal application. The online application for the 2016-2017 school year will be available on August 1, 2016. A new application must be completed each school year to qualify for meal benefits.

## PHS Pirate Boosters

With the 2016-2017 school year only weeks away your PHS Pirate Boosters have been busy putting plans in place for another successful year.

The PHS Boosters are a Not for Profit organization dedicated to the PHS community. The mission of the PHS Boosters is to support the students, staff and administration of Palatine High School in an effort to enrich every student's High School experience.

Last year the Boosters were able to award grants and scholarships totaling \$113,000.00. Grants were given for classroom instructional material, services and initiatives based on the input of faculty and administration. Scholarships were given to graduating students who personified our mission to strengthen the PHS community.

PHS Boosters support events ranging from Homecoming, Post-Prom, Sports Awards Nights, Pirate Treasure Store and Concessions. Major fundraisers include the Craft Fair and Dinner Auction.

The success of the Boosters is only possible through the involvement of parents. We invite you to join us in our mission to support the students, faculty and administration at PHS. Currently we have two open board roles (Corporate Contributions and Dinner Auction chairperson). To learn more about these roles, The Boosters in general and other volunteer opportunities, visit us at [www.phspirateboosters.com](http://www.phspirateboosters.com) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/phsboosters](http://www.facebook.com/phsboosters). You can also contact us at [president@phspirateboosters.com](mailto:president@phspirateboosters.com)

We are looking forward to another great year. **GO PIRATES!**

Sincerely,

John Helminski, President, PHS Pirate Boosters