

Freshman Parent How to Guide

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357-5013 ext 153

Class of 2022 & 2024

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Welcome to High School

Your child is beginning their career as a High School student! As your student makes this transition from grade school/junior high, we want to help you navigate PCHS and answer some questions you might be having.

We, the school counselors, are available to assist in any way possible. You can contact us via email, phone call, or make an appointment for an in person meeting.

How To...

- **Keep Track of Your Student's Progress**
 - You can monitor your student's grades and assignments through our student management system, TeacherEase. There is also a FREE TeacherEase App available for both Apple and Android. If have difficulty accessing your TeacherEase account, please inform Ms. Heather Wilkin (ext 153) and she will update your email address.
 - Final grades are posted and report cards are available only after the completion of each semester. A report card will only be mailed out to you if you request one from the high school office.
- **Contact Your Student's Teacher**
 - Email is the most effective way of contacting your student's teacher. You may also leave a voice message that they can return during their planning period or after school.
- **Stay Connected**
 - Announcements are read to the students on a daily basis. Announcements for upcoming events and happenings at PCHS can be found on our website, pchspanthers.com, and/or on our FaceBook page. We also have a PCHSPanthers App available for both Apple and Android. Emails are often sent regarding events and opportunities so make sure you check your email! You will also receive important announcements via the "all call" phone call.
- **Report Absences**
 - To report your student's absence due to illness or other reason, you can call 357-5013 and press #1 to leave a message for the attendance secretary.
 - If your student needs to leave school during the day for an appointment, you can contact Ms. Launius (ext 161) to inform her of the appointment date and the time they need to leave school. Your student can then sign themselves out and meet you in the parking lot.
- **Pay For Meals and Other Fees**
 - All fee payments can be made online through TeacherEase. Payments can also be brought to the District Office either to Ms. Corn or Ms. Restoff. These payments can be made in person by you or your student or you can send a check to PCHS in the mail.
 - Lunch options include regular hot lunch for \$3.00 or a la carte ranging in price for each item with the meal costing \$3.50. Menus can be found outside the cafeteria. (If your student qualifies for free/reduced lunches and eats off the a la carte line, they will accrue charges!)
 - Breakfast is also served daily for \$2.00.
- **Complete Student Service Hours**
 - No service hours will be required during the 2020-21 school year!
 - Volunteering is always encouraged and looks great on resumes!
- **Miscellaneous**
 - The 2020-2021 PCHS Handbook can be found on pchspanthers.com. Students and parents are asked to sign off that you have reviewed the Handbook during registration.
 - Please encourage your students to advocate for themselves. If they have any concerns, encourage them to talk to their teachers, the counselors, social worker, or our principal, Mr. Wilson. The only way to resolve issues is for your student to make us aware of them.

Other Useful Information

CLASS OF 2024 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to earn a total **28** credits. (Students earn .5 credit for each course each semester by passing the course with 60% or above.)

The following classes are required for graduation from PCHS. These requirements meet both state and local mandates.

1. Four (4) resident credits in Language Arts (Reading or English)
2. Three (3) credits in **each** of the following areas: Math, Science, and Social Studies
3. Satisfy the Consumer Education requirement (Resource Management - 0.5 credit)
4. Four (4) credits in Physical Education/Health/Drivers Education.
5. One (1) credit in Fine Arts
6. One (1) credit in Career Technical Education (CTE)

Special Note: Students will be allowed to earn up to three credits toward graduation requirements from outside sources. Students may only receive one credit per subject area from outside credit sources towards graduation requirements. (Example: Only 1 credit for Language Arts may be obtained from outside sources, all other Language Arts credits must be obtained in house.) Students must obtain pre-approval from the principal and work with the counselor to make appropriate arrangements. If you have any questions, ask first. Credit is given for classes taken off campus if used to make-up for courses failed. This will not count toward GPA. Make-up classes taken during the summer will not count toward GPA.

Freshman Academy

Your child will be enrolled in Freshman Academy 8th hour. We created this program to assist the freshmen transition to high school and develop skills necessary for academic and real world success. There has been an improvement in freshman grades since the inception of the program! All the Academy teachers have agreed to a list of behaviors that all students need to avoid. Any time a student does not live up to our expectations, the entire class will be issued a point. Their goal is to receive the fewest points possible as a group to earn a reward. Also as part of the academy your student will bring a progress report on Monday for you to review, sign, and return.

STUDY TABLES

No Study Tables will be held at this time. Information will be sent out should they be reinstated.

Study Tables is an after school tutoring program for all PCHS students. However, if your student is receiving a "D" or "F" in a class and has missing assignments, they will be assigned to attend study tables until all missing work is turned in. Study tables occur on set days for 1 hour after school dismisses for the day. Students must arrange transportation home after study tables.

Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment

Students can obtain college credit through Rend Lake College while they are still in High School. They must be 16 years of age and have finished their sophomore year. Currently, PCHS is offering College Algebra, Trigonometry, Calculus, English 1101, English 1102, Ag Business Management, Ag Science, & Spanish IV as **dual credit**. As a senior, a student can take, Psychology, Child Psychology, Sociology, Biology, and Music Appreciation at the Murphy Wall Campus in the afternoons if they meet the placement requirements. Other **Dual Enrollment** courses are available after the regular school day at the Murphy Wall campus during the Fall, Spring, & Summer semesters. Students must pay half of the tuition rate to take **Dual Enrollment** Courses. Most Dual Credit courses continue to have only a \$10 fee per book. If interested, contact Heather Bauersachs at 357-3742.

PICTURE DAY

Yearbook pictures will be taken on **WEDNESDAY, August 19** during the school day.