

Freshman Parent's Guide for High School

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Class of 2024 & 2026

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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 once school resumes in the Fall, 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 your student needs to leave school. Your student can then sign themselves out and meet you in the parking lot.
 - Students who accrue 5% or more absences of the previous 180 regular attendance days shall be defined as "Chronic or habitual truant" and be required to provide a medical note for all further absences.
- **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 \$3.00. Menus can be found outside the cafeteria. (If your student qualifies for free/reduced lunches and eats more than ONE meal from either line, they will accrue charges!)
 - Breakfast is also served daily for \$2.00.
- **Complete Student Service Hours**
 - Individual Service hours are no longer required for graduation, however seniors are required to participate in a group service project organized by PCHS administration & staff.
 - Volunteering is always encouraged and looks great on resumes!
- **Miscellaneous**
 - Our school day starts at 8:00a and ends at 3:00p. Students are released at 2:00p on Tuesdays.
 - The PCHS Handbook can be found on pchspanthers.com (updates later this summer). 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/superintendent, Dr. Wilson. The only way to resolve issues is for your student to make us aware of them.

Other Useful Information

REGISTRATION & PICTURE DAY

Registration for the 2022-23 school year will be held in-person on July 26th 11am – 5pm and July 27th 8am – 3pm. Yearbook pictures will be taken during registration times.

CLASS OF 2026 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)

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 home a progress report on Monday for you to review, sign, and return.

Pre-Approved Absences

A pre-approved absence must be presented to and approved by the principal, dean of students or superintendent at least **TWO DAYS** before the absence, or it will be termed unexcused. Examples of such absences are: Farm work at home, other work at home, attendance at a funeral of a friend with parental approval, and vacations trips with parent's approval. Students are required to obtain a pre-approved absence form in the attendance office. Students are not allowed to have more than five days of pre-approved absences during the school year. Days exceeding the five day limit will be unexcused.

Dress Code/Cell Phones

Students must be properly clothed from shoulder to knee. Student's shorts, skirts, dress, etc. shall be no shorter than 4 inches above the top of the knee when standing. Shirts must properly cover back and chest. No deep V-neck or plunging neck-line shirts or tops; no tank tops, spaghetti straps or off the shoulder tops. Students must wear their pants at their appropriate waist height. Pants should be worn at the top of the hips and above. Pants should have no holes above the knees. Caps, hats, or any type of head covering are to be removed upon entering the school.

Students are not allowed to use or have turned on inside the building any electronic signaling or cellular radio-telecommunication devices while at Pinckneyville Community High School during school hours. Cell phones may be used before school hours, during the designated lunch periods, or after school hours. Cell phones may not be used during passing periods throughout the school day.

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, have finished their sophomore year, and meet the placement requirements. Currently, PCHS is offering a variety of **dual credit** courses during the regular school day at PCHS and at the Murphy Wall Campus during the junior and senior year (see the Course Description guide for complete listing). Other **dual enrollment** courses are available after the regular school day through RLC during the Fall, Spring, & Summer semesters. Students must pay half of the tuition rate to take **dual enrollment** Courses. Most **dual credit** courses have only a \$10 fee per book.