



Pirate PRESS

Good Evening Pirates! The Student Council is sponsoring a Winter Wonderland spirit week next week. We thank the great work our dedicated Student Council puts in year-round to support our school and to raise school spirit!! We want to celebrate all the students hard work and end this calendar year with a bang. Congratulations to our Pirate Football Team on their huge run in the Playoffs this year making it to the Regional Playoff Game - the State Semi-finals! We are so proud of their commitment to their sport, their team and their school! We hope that you will join us to watch a Basketball game or Wrestling match at our school over the next week! Additionally, check out our track and swim team action at locations nearby! All of our Winter Teams are doing a great job this season!! We want to give a shout out to our many clubs who are providing our local communities with needed assistance during this holiday season. From providing gifts for young children in our district, to hats/mittens/scarves, to coats, to food for needy families, to dog and cat food needed by our shelters - our Pirates are stepping up to show their #Commitment to our Community!

We have one week until our Holiday Break begins as our last day of school is on Friday 12/21. When our students return from break on Monday 1/7, we will have just one week until Final Exams begin on Monday 1/14. Please see the extensive information on final exams in this week's Pirate Press and please note that ALL students are required to attend exam and review sessions this year so that they are most prepared for their finals which account for 1/4th of their entire semester grade. Teachers will be providing all students with a study guide to review, but the Teacher-led Review sessions are very important to attend. There are very strict restrictions on dismissals, so please familiarize yourselves now. We appreciate your support in this area and in having your students attend all review sessions.

Students who have accumulated 8 or more absences in a course have been spoken to by Administration and provided with information on how to recover absences if they are able to. A copy of the letter was mailed home. Absences matter and students should be at school EVERY day. If you have a question, please call your child's administrator. In Advisory this week all 10th graders received their PSAT and Pre-ACT scores. Please ask them to see the scores.

Our Theatre Castaways present "The Trial of Goldilocks" tonight at 7:00 pm. Admission is free! Check it out!

This holiday season we want to thank our teachers and staff for the tremendous job they do in educating our students. Our amazing PTA is providing lunch for the staff on Wednesday, December 21st. The PTA is asking for your assistance in providing yummy desserts! See the link here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0845A5A72DAAFF2-teacher1>

Please take time to read over this newsletter. These newsletters allow our whole community to know about the great things our children and teachers are doing here at Porter Ridge High School. The Pirate Press, in addition to our website, facebook, and twitter, is the main form of communication from school to home. Go Pirates!!! Dr. Fisenne

The Porter Ridge Student Council Proudly Presents...

Winter Wonderland 2018

Dress-up Days

December 17th-21st

Summer vs. Winter



Holiday Movie Character Day



Woke Up Like This Wednesday



Ugly Sweater



Flannel Friday

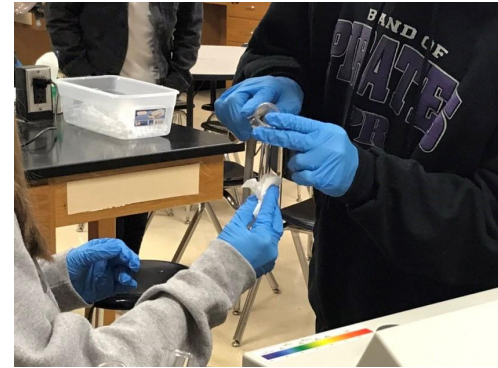


In-It 2
Win-It
During 4th
Block- \$1

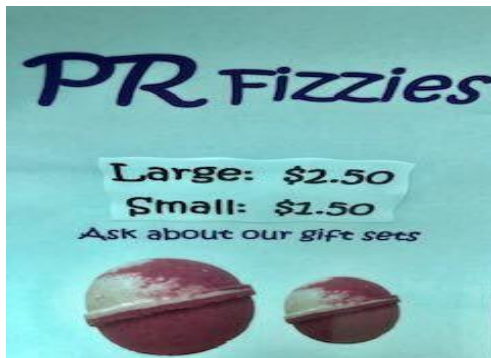


The health room is in need of supplies. Sign up to donate on the following link:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0845A5A72DAAFF2-supplies>

Check out our AP Chemistry Students learning about Molarity and Spectrophotome try!!! =>

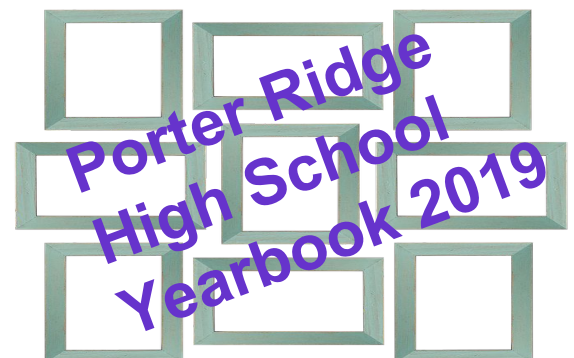


Mrs. Ortiz's Transition to Adulthood (TTA) classes are making and selling the PR Bath Fizzies



Gift Sets starting at \$10.00

Yearbooks -- \$80. Prices will increase. You can order yearbooks online (www.jostens.com) by clicking below or get an order form from Ms. Watson in G205.
Senior Yearbook Ads are on sale now to be featured in the yearbook. Order forms are available in the front office, in Ms. Watson's room (G205), and online @ (www.Jostens.com).





Fall Semester Exam Information 2018-2019

Early Dismissals During Testing

Week: NO student may be dismissed during the four hour testing window. NO notes will be accepted for this. In order to best support the success of all of our students - **ALL students are required to attend the**

Teacher-led Review Session, but may leave prior to the Student Study Time with a documented Parent Note. ALL parent notes must be given to the exam teacher prior to the exam starting. NO notes will be accepted via email or phone call during exam week. Parent Notes will be verified for dismissal as needed. If the note cannot be verified it will not be approved.

Testing Window: All exam testing must be completed between January 14 and January 18. This is true for ALL types of exams: EOC, NC Final Exams, CTE State Assessments, and Teacher-Made.

Score Results: All high school exams count 25% of a student's grade for the semester.

Type of Exams: We have four types of exams at the end of each semester – EOC, NC Finals, CTE State Assessment, and Teacher-Made. Teachers will address which type of exam their students will take.

Exam Exemptions for Teacher Made Exams ONLY: High School students will not be required to take a teacher-made final exam in a course in the following situations:

- The student has an average of 90 or above the week prior to the administration of the exam and has no more than 3 absences (excused or unexcused) in the class; or
- The student has an average of 80 or above the week prior to the administration of the exam and has no more than 2 absences (excused or unexcused) in the class.

Students will be required to turn in cell phones during testing sessions. If they do not want to do this, they should not bring their cell phone into the school.

Friday, January 11

1st period review during class

Monday, January 14

8:00 – 12:30 1st period exams in all classes

12:35 – 2:55 2nd period review**

1st Lunch: 12:40 – 1:05

2nd Lunch: 1:10 – 1:35

3rd Lunch: 1:40 – 2:05

****Exam Reviews 1/14-1/16: Teacher-led Review is required for all students** from 12:35–2:15. This will be followed by Student Study Time from 2:15–2:55. Students wishing to leave prior to Student Study Time must turn in a parent-written note to their exam teacher prior to the start of the exam. See add'l info on dismissals below.

Students exempt from a Teacher-made exam are not required to attend the Review or Exam Session for that course.

Exam Study Tips: Be on time! Students should be in their testing locations before 7:50 a.m. They will not be admitted to exams once testing has begun. Students are encouraged to sleep well each night (8 hours), and have a healthy breakfast each morning.

- Create a study calendar and stick to it
- Ask your teacher for a study guide and USE IT
- Use your notebook to guide you through a review of the course
- Attend all review sessions offered and go to tutoring for extra support
- Make a study group, assign each person a topic to re-teach, and discuss each topic
- Have your parents ask you questions
- Use diagrams, graphs, pictures, and drawings in your textbook to serve as a talking point for you to review
- Make flashcards on your computer or phone to practice important vocabulary words
- Look at your scores from the semester and identify topics you struggled in – ask your teacher or a friend for help
- Stay after school to study – you may study in the café until 5:00 each day
- Rewrite important points, the act of writing or typing helps some people remember specific information
- Create an acronym, or a funny saying, or song to remember specific information
- Draw a quick sketch to help with definitions or concepts
- Practice math problems

Tuesday, January 15

8:00 – 12:30 2nd period exams in all classes

12:35 – 2:55 3rd period review**

1st Lunch: 12:40 – 1:05

2nd Lunch: 1:10 – 1:35

3rd Lunch: 1:40 – 2:05

Wednesday, January 16

8:00 – 12:30 3rd period exams in all classes

12:35 – 2:55 4th period review**

1st Lunch: 12:40 – 1:05

2nd Lunch: 1:10 – 1:35

3rd Lunch: 1:40 – 2:05

Thursday, January 17

8:00 – 12:30 4th period exams in all classes

12:35 – 2:55 Community Building & Lunch

Friday, January 18 is a makeup exam day – students needing to make up an exam should report to school by 8:00 to start.

Attendance: Attendance during exam days is required for all students, for both exam sessions and review sessions (only students who are excused from exam and review sessions for a course are those who are exempt). Our normal school hours apply, but the schedule and lunch times are adjusted.

January 18 is an important day for any students who have missed an exam earlier in the week due to illness. We regret that family vacation plans are not excused, and students cannot take exams early. We apologize that any requests for exceptions cannot be honored.

Exam review: All teachers are expected to help students with review during class time and to distribute a review guide to students prior to testing. Students should begin organizing and reviewing material.

Academic Integrity: Please remind students of the need to prepare well for the exams and to make sure that they make ethical decisions when taking exams. The penalty for cheating of any kind is a “0” on a final exam.



“Academy Pathway Applications for 2019-2020”

Academy applications for the 2019-2020 school year will open on December 1, 2018. To learn more about the academies UCPS has to offer and for the application, please visit the [UCPS Career Readiness](#) page on the UCPS website under the Departments section or see your Career Development Coordinator, Mrs. Webb in guidance.

“Pre-Apprenticeship Program Applications for 2019-2020”

Attention Rising 12th graders, are you interested in getting paid to go to college while in high school; if so, then you should apply to the Pre-Apprenticeship Program. The Pre-Apprenticeship Program is partnered with Greiner Bio-One, South Piedmont Community College, and Union County Public Schools. If selected for the Pre-Apprenticeship Program; the student will take morning classes at PRHS while their afternoon is split between classes at SPCC and working at Greiner Bio-One, as well as, being paid for approximately 20 hours per week which is a combination of training, attending classes and work. While in the Pre-Apprenticeship Program, students will receive High School Credit for their Community College courses and it provides a potential opportunity to be selected for the Registered Apprenticeship Program, as well as, providing hands on training to develop technical skills. In order to qualify for the Pre-Apprenticeship Program students must be a rising high school senior, have a current GPA of at least a 2.5, with a minimum GPA of 2.8 at Graduation to be considered for the Registered Apprenticeship Program, have enough high school credits to allow community college courses in their senior schedule and be able to attend a 3-4 week summer program. There will be a Pre-Apprentice Information Session held at the SPCC Tyson Family Center for Technology 3509 Old Charlotte Highway Monroe, NC 28110 in the spring. For more information about the Pre-Apprenticeship program, please visit the [UCPS Career Readiness](#) page on the UCPS website under the Departments section or see your Career Development Coordinator, Mrs. Webb in guidance.



Our Pirate Swimmers!!! Ahoy!!!



ACT & SAT Dates

ALL Juniors at PRHS will take BOTH the ACT on Feb. 20th and SAT on April 9th during school, for free, this year!!

National SAT Dates - students must register at CollegeBoard.org

- March 9th register by 2/8, with late fee until 2/27
- May 4th register by 4/5, with late fee until 4/24
- June 1st register by 5/3, with late fee until 5/22

National ACT Dates – students must register at ACTstudent.org

- February 9th register by 1/11, with late fee until 1/18
- April 13th register by 3/8, with late fee until 3/25
- June 8th register by 5/3, with late fee until 5/20
- July 13th register by 6/14, with late fee until 6/24

(students who receive free or reduced lunch or have a financial need should see their counselor about a fee waiver)

Ports of Information for Pirates === Follow us on social media...

2018-2019 - weekly electronic newsletter emailed to families and students. Sent through connect-ed, posted on facebook and on our website - The Pirate Press!!

If you need to update your email at school, please send your updated email to arolyn.lawwill@ucps.k12.nc.us

Follow us on Facebook: @PorterRidgeHS.NC

Follow us on Twitter: @PorterRidgeHSNC @PRHSCounseling !

@PRHSCareer @prhs_athletics

Follow us on Instagram: porterridgehs



got Questions?

Introducing Counselor Drop-Ins
We know that college applications can be overwhelming!

No appointment.
No slip.
No email.
Just show up with your questions. A counselor will be available to help you!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
7:30-8:00 James	7:30-8:00 Ponder	7:30-8:00 Burgess	7:30-8:00 Davison
3:00-3:45 Davison	3:00-3:45 Burgess	3:00-3:45 James	3:00-3:45 Ponder

The counselor's name is listed in case you have a counselor preference but you are NOT limited to meeting with your assigned counselor. Drop in any day and get your questions answered by any counselor.



ACT WorkKeys

Seniors...

If you have or are in the process of completing four Career & Technical Education (CTE) courses, you will be taking the ACT WorkKeys assessment during the weeks of Dec. 3-14, 2018. Students that need to take ACT WorkKeys assessment were given a letter on Thursday, Nov. 15th from their 1st block teacher.

What is ACT WorkKeys?

ACT WorkKeys Assessments are the cornerstone of ACT workforce solutions. The assessments measure foundational skills required for success in the workplace, and help measure the workplace skills that can affect job performance. The WorkKeys assessment is a multiple choice test that will be given to seniors that have or are in the process of completing four Career & Technical Education (CTE) courses in a specific career cluster and consists of three sections (Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, and Workplace Documents).

Why is ACT WorkKeys Important?

These are skills that employers feel are critical to job success and can help students understand how they can improve their skills for better paying jobs. Students who take the ACT WorkKeys tests have a clear way to demonstrate their abilities to future employers. A large number of students are entering the workforce without adequate skills to qualify them for the jobs they want. By increasing their skill levels while they are still in school, students increase their opportunities for higher salaries in the future.

What do your ACT WorkKeys Scores mean?

Students who successfully complete the three WorkKeys assessments (Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, & Workplace Documents) can earn the WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate, a valuable credential for students and job seekers seeking to verify foundational workplace skills. A certificate is provided at the platinum, gold, and silver levels. Students can use their results to identify jobs for which they are qualified for and improve on areas where their skills are weak.

How can you Prepare for it?

To prepare for the WorkKeys assessments students can login to the WorkKeys Curriculum website.

- The website for the WorkKeys Curriculum is: <http://workkeyscurriculum.act.org>
- Student Username is: school email address
- Student Password is: 8 digit date of birth (MMDDYYYY – March 3, 1997) (ex. 03031997).

For more information about the ACT WorkKeys Assessment and the Career Readiness Certificate, visit:

www.act.org/workkeys/



Huntington Learning Center-Weddington is partnering with UCPS to provide our students with test taking tips and tricks for the ACT and SAT. Students who attend earn participation points toward their school's #UCPSCollegeReady goal!

UCPS will be administering the ACT and SAT to all juniors for free.

- UCPS ACT administration date: February 20, 2019
- UCPS SAT administration date: April 9, 2019

Date	Time	Location	Registration Link	Test(s) Addressed
Saturday, November 17, 2018	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	CATA 600 Brewer Drive Monroe, NC 28112	SOLD OUT	SAT & ACT
Saturday, February 16, 2019	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	CATA 600 Brewer Drive Monroe, NC 28112	http://bit.ly/blitz2-16-19	ACT
Saturday, April 6, 2019	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Porter Ridge High 2839 Ridge Road Indian Trail, NC 28079	http://bit.ly/blitz4-6-19	SAT



Counseling Department

Scholarships- Where to find

- Naviance under Colleges Home – District list of scholarships and scholarship search engine
- Websites of colleges you are applying to
- Parents work or other organizations they may belong to
- Free Search Engines:
 - www.raise.me
 - https://www.cfnc.org/paying/schol/info_schol.jsp
 - www.bestcolleges.com/financial-aid/education-scholarships/
 - www.freecollegescholarships.net
 - www.fastweb.com
 - www.finaid.org
 - www.studentawardsearch.com
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
 - www.scholarships.com
 - <https://www.unigo.com>

Seniors- Please make sure you notify Mrs. Ponder of any scholarship you are offered even if you do not plan to attend the college

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Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM)

The North Carolina State Board of Education is continuing to allow successful students in grades 6-12 to accelerate their learning. Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM) affords accelerated students the opportunity to earn high school course credit by a demonstration of mastery in the course curriculum without requiring the student to complete classroom instruction for 135 hours of seat time.

More information about this opportunity can be found at the following website <https://www.ucps.k12.nc.us/Page/5702>. Interested students should see Mr. James in the counseling office by December 21st.

Counselor Information

- The counseling office has started 2 groups to support students. One for how to deal with anxiety and a grief & loss group.
- During lunch the Counseling Department began the verification process with Seniors for spelling of names on diplomas. The names must match the name and spelling from the birth certificate.
- Reminder from Mr. James that the Credit by Demonstrated Mastery deadline is fast approaching-Dec. 21st must have completed applications submitted to him by that date.
- Counselors began academic meetings with students who are struggling to help improve their success in the classroom.
- Each Counselor visited with Senior homerooms to discuss scholarships search information and how to apply for scholarships. These meetings will be on going until the Winter break.
- Counselors received updated information during a countywide counselor meeting that the Porter Ridge Cluster will be receiving a full-time Social Worker in January to meet the needs of our students.
- Counselors met with any senior that had not ordered cap and gowns to discuss the process and ensure they were ordered. If you have questions or issues with the ordering process please let us know.
- Every Wednesday Ms. Burgess offers a free Yoga class to PRHS Staff to help reduce and manage stress.
- Counselors shared PSAT and Pre-ACT test results with all Sophomores through Pirate Advisory with teachers and explained the importance of each test.

Porter Ridge High School's Castaways Present



Time: December 14th 7:00 PM

Tickets: Free



Athletics

Fri 12/14	Basketball AT East Meck 6:00; Swim AT Queen City Relay TBD
Sat 12/15	Indoor Track AT NCRunner Holiday Meet 8:00 am TBD; Wrestling 9:00
Tue 12/18	Basketball vs Butler 6:00
Wed 12/19	Wrestling AT Weddington 5:00
Thu 12/20	Basketball VS CATA 6:00; Indoor Track VS Cuthbertson 4:00

Congratulations to our Pirate Football Team on their huge run in the Playoffs this year making it to the Regional Playoff Game - the State Semi-finals! We are so proud of their commitment to their sport, their team and their school!

We hope that you will join us to watch a Basketball game or Wrestling match at our school over the next week! Additionally, check out our track and swim team action at locations nearby! All of our Winter Teams are doing a great job this season!!



Pirate Events

Fri 12/14	Trial of Goldilocks auditorium 7:00
Mon 12/17	GSA Meeting F108 3:00; FCCLA Meeting D101 3:00; Choral Concert Auditorium 6:30
Tue 12/18	Government Studies Club F106 7:30
Wed 12/19	Graphics Design Club E105 3:00; Spanish Club F102 3:15; Hemby Bridge Choral Concert Auditorium 5:00
Thu 12/20	Gaming Club E102 3:00; PTA Membership Night 5:30; High School Band Concert Auditorium 6:00

Please considering sponsoring a student or sibling from the PRMS Giving Tree this holiday season! We have several tags that still need a home, and your generosity directly goes back to our Porter Ridge families and community. Please stop in our front office or contact any of the counselors if you are interested! Also a great opportunity for clubs! Thank you so much for considering and happy holidays!



PR

Announcements

- Congratulations to **Caroline Kramb** who created a World Free of ITP Instagram page to raise awareness about this auto-immune blood disorder. She also organized a donation drive to provide children in the hospital with activity bags!! Way to go!!
- Students with 7 or more absences that were not excused will need to complete **recovery process** and be at school to recover those absences. You must complete the work assigned during the recovery periods that are available. They are described in the letter that you will receive when called. Having more than 7 absences can cause you to fail a course due to absences, so if you think you fall in this category see your counselor or administrator. Again -there are multiple options on how to recover the time, but the recovery must occur with a staff member at school as described in the letter you will receive.
- **TTA classes** will be selling during all four lunches their lollipops, pins, lanyards and now their new Bath fizzies! Our TTA kiddos will be making these Bath Fizz balls from scratch with all natural products. Products include essential oils like Lavendar, Eucalyptus, Peppermint and Rosemary. Don't forget to ask about their gift sets for the upcoming Holidays!
- The Spanish Club "**Mundo Unido**" **will be collecting canned food** to help local low-income families for the holidays, Heart for Monroe is a local nonprofit organization that help the community during their time of need with food and other services. Collections will be taking place during First block with the aid of all PRHS students and club members. Donations can be drop-off in Mrs. Koonce classroom F102 or the school main office during their office hours.
- Come join Porter Ridge High School's Castaways as they present Goldilocks on Trial December 14th at 7:00 PM. Tickets are free.
- FCCLA Meeting Dec 17, Collecting Hats, Scarves, Gloves by Dec 19 to D101, Sign up outside room for cookie exchange
- Yearbook prices have increased to \$80. Be sure to grab yours today before prices increase again! Books can be purchased through Jostens.com or by an order form in G205.
- Senior Ads have increased in price- grab yours before Winter break to take advantage of lower 2018 prices. Visit Jostens.com or email Ms. Watson for any info.
- Seniors please stop by the table in the cafeteria and verify your name for diploma this week.
- There will be a creative writing club meeting this Friday afternoon in G112.
- All FFA Members: Please join us in E203 on Friday, December 14th from 4 - 6 pm for our Holiday Gathering! We will have snacks, games with prizes, an ugly Holiday sweater competition and more! Feel free to bring a friend with you, and please come sign up in E203, or let Ms. Starnes know that you plan on being there.
- FBLA members in need of community service hours the permission forms and payment for the FBLA - Department of Social Services Christmas Bureau field trip on Wednesday, December 19th are due by end of school day this Friday, December 14th to Ms. Ellis in F100.
- HOSA members please come by E212 to sign up for gifts for Porter Ridge Elementary students

