



Pirate PRESS

Dear Pirate Community,

From all of us at Porter Ridge High School we wish all of our Pirate Families a happy, safe, and enjoyable holiday season. While our office will be closed until January 7, 2019, please know that you are all in our thoughts during this holiday season. We hope that you will join us to watch a Basketball game or Wrestling match at our school when we return from break! All of our Winter Teams are doing a great job this season!! Shout out to our student section this week for their incredible turnout! 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!

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 25% 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. So that we can ensure a safe and orderly school environment there are very strict procedures on dismissals during exam weeks, so please familiarize yourselves now. We appreciate your support in this area and in having your students attend all review sessions.

This week in Advisory students and teachers talked about the importance of gratitude. We hope that you will take the time to talk with your children about what you as a family have to be grateful for. At Porter Ridge HS we are grateful for our students who work hard in the classroom and throughout our school. We are grateful for the challenging times as well because it helps us to support our students growth and development. We are grateful for our parents that care for our children and provide them with the best that they can. We are grateful for our parent groups that work to support our school whether through the PTO, the Band Boosters or the Athletic Boosters! We are grateful for each other as we support each other to become better educators and people.

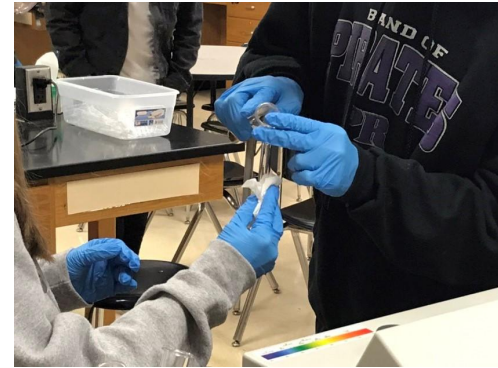
Please take time to read over this newsletter. These newsletters allow our whole community to know about the great things our children and teachers are doing here at Porter Ridge High School. The Pirate Press, in addition to our website, facebook, and twitter, is the main form of communication from school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





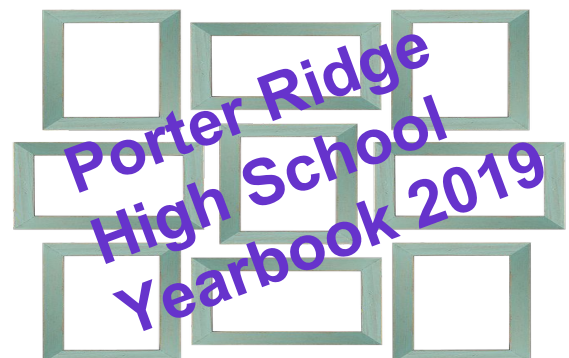
The health room is in need of supplies. Sign up to donate on the following link:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0845A5A72DAAFF2-supplies>

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



Culinary Arts Class making sandwiches for Sandwich Day!!

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.



“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.



Thanks to the PTO for providing lunch for our PRHS Staff!!



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.



School Counseling

Seniors and Scholarships!

Keep researching. Keep applying. Parents of seniors, here is the presentation counselors gave to your students about scholarships. Your student can view this through their school Google account.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Mt1wSgI8_tUMlrZ_qsnYMHnt1ygEoHdQujl7vEppC_4/edit#slide=id.p

If you have questions, please contact your school counselor. Please let Ms. Ponder in counseling know if you have received a scholarship.

College Classes: Students taking college classes, heads up! Spring classes start on January 7. Pick up books from Ms. Davison on Friday or on January 7.

Counselors at work: The weeks before a holiday break are a busy time for counselors. Counselors support students emotionally and sometimes with resources. This year counselors have gathered food pantry donations for families in need. Families who rely on school meals for this kids can struggle during long breaks from school. Freshman counselor Sydney Burgess spear-headed a gift card collection for a Pirate family who lost their home in a fire.

Counselor concerns: Counselors have ongoing concerns about student’s vaping and over-using technology. Here are some parent resources on both topics for consideration.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/18/health/vaping-nicotine-teenagers.html>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/more-feeling/201712/can-t-fight-feeling-technology-and-teen-anxiety>

Happy holidays



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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Counselor Information

- The counseling office has started 2 groups to support students. One for how to deal with anxiety and a grief & loss group.
- 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.

Varsity times listed here; [see Athletic website for all JV times](#)



Athletics

Thur 12/27-28	Wrestling -Holy Angels Tourn. Bojangles Arena
Fri 1/4	Basketball AT Independence HS
Sat 1/5	Wrestling Dual Tourn at PRHS
Tue 1/8	Basketball vs Garinger 6:00
Wed 1/9	Wrestling AT Rocky River 6:00
Fri 1/11	Basketball AT Rocky River 6:00
Sat 1/12	Wrestling AT Piedmont 9:00



Pirate Events

Tue 1/8	Latin Club Meeting G111 3:00
Wed 1/9	Spanish Club F102 3:15
Thu 1/10	Gaming Club E102 3:00; National Art Honor Society Inductions Auditorium (TBD)



Announcements

- Students - this is our last week before our break and then one week of classes after break and then we have finals. Please be focused in class and start reviewing now for your finals. To help you with this all teachers will be supplying you with a study guide before our break so that you can start to review. Final exams count for 25% of your whole semester grade and it is important to review and to study for these exams. The day prior to your final exam for each course your teacher will have a Teacher-led review session that is required for all students to attend. After that teacher-led review there will be a Student Study Time that you can be dismissed from if your parent sends in a note.
- 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 in the morning. 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.
- 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.
- Shout out to Interact Club for providing holiday gifts to our students at Walter Bickett Education Center. Our young students were able to play with their toy, meet Santa, and spend time reading and playing with on of our Pirate Teenagers! Way to go!!
- An interest meeting to join Quidditch club will be on January 23rd, at 3:00 pm in Ms. Lukasik's room G211.
- Congratulations to FCCLA members who helped to collect hats, scarves, gloves and coats to donate to Friends of the Homeless. 72 cookie boxes were also donated along with 2 pairs of socks, 18 pairs of gloves, 29 hats, 15 baby clothes, 21 scarves, and 36 coats.
- Students taking SPCC classes for the spring semester will be able to pick up books from Mrs. Davison in the counseling office this Friday.



Mrs. Burgess and Mrs. Ponder showing school spirit Wednesday for pajama day!



Animal Science class learning about small animals