



Pirate Press

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June 5, 2025

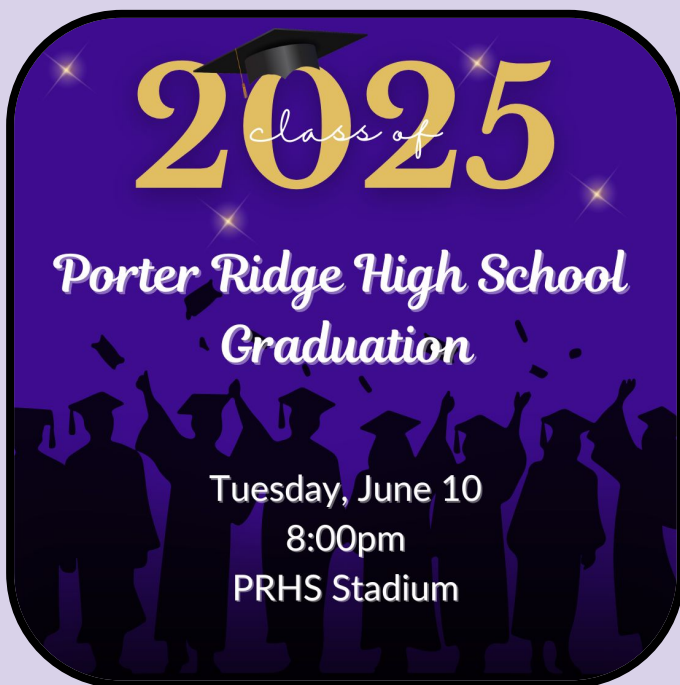


[Click here for the Senior Letter with important information for Graduation](#)

[Click here for All Graduation Information](#)

[Graduation Attendee Video](#)

[Graduation Informational Video](#)



Graduation Ticket Pick Up



Wednesday 12:30-3:00

Thursday 12:30-3:00

Friday 9:00-12:00

Counseling Suite

Chromebook/charger turned in and all fees paid



Click the Live Stream Ad or [here](#)
for the Live Stream link.

Click the Accessible Parking Ad
or [here](#) for Accessible Parking
Info.



PRHS-Graduation Accessible Parking



<https://bit.ly/45zl5rH>

Click the QR Code or use the link to learn
about Accessible Parking and Seating at
graduation. Fill out the form if needed.

Exam Information

IMPORTANT - about exemptions AND attendance recovery.....

- Teachers will share tentative exam exemption status with students on 5/27 and final status on 5/30. If you are unsure – ask your teacher. Remember you can exempt a course if your final average is a 90% or higher AND the exam is a teacher-made exam. All State CTE exams and State EOC exams canNOT be exempted.
- The information that teachers (or Admin) will share with you is accurate for the day that they give you the information - HOWEVER if your grade average changes because of work submitted or tests taken - your exemption status will change.
- Your attendance is REQUIRED all the way up through final exams. If you have completed all of your required exams you are not required to come to school on the makeup exam day – it will be coded as an excused absence- it will not affect your exam exemption or whether you pass/fail a course due to attendance. IF you are a student-athlete - these absences may affect your eligibility so please be sure that you are well under the 12 absence limit.
- Your grades all count - all the way through the end of the grading period.
- You are REQUIRED to do attendance recovery if you have more than 8 absences. If you have accumulated more than 8 unexcused absences you have received emails from Ms. Elliott about recovery. You should be checking your email. The Principal, Dr. Fisenne, typically waives your excused absences as long as they are not excessive – so it is usually your unexcused absences (this includes suspensions) that you need to recover so that you end up with less than 8 unexcused absences. You have had this opportunity all semester at The Study Cove, or by attending your teacher's tutoring – you have very limited opportunities remaining. You should go see your counselor if this applies to you.
- If you are still confused at this point, please see Dr. Fisenne or any administrator during lunches so that she can explain to you directly

• **Schedule for A day B day Final assessments** – Students will report to their Aday class each morning (based on schedule below) and will take both their Aday and Bday exams in that Aday classroom.

• **Final Exam Schedule Information:** All students will test on campus. Buses will depart at @12:30

- Monday 6/2 First Block exams
- Tuesday 6/3 Second Block exams
- Wednesday 6/4 Third Block exams
- Thursday 6/5 Fourth Block exams

• **Students missing an exam day will come in on Day Five for the makeup day: Friday 6/6 (Buses depart at 3:05 on 6/6).**

• **Exam Reviews:** Review for all final exams on Friday 5/30 in class.

Graduate Spotlight - From the UCPS Website

As a little girl, Gabriela “Gabby” Alegria walked the halls of Fairview Elementary as a student. This spring, as a senior at Porter Ridge High School, she returned to those same halls—this time as a future educator, working alongside third-grade teacher Misty Tarlton and learning firsthand what it takes to lead a classroom.

“It was very nostalgic,” Gabby said. “Everything that used to seem so big to me looked tiny. I was walking the same halls, but now the kids looked up to me. It felt like a full-circle moment.”

Gabby is part of Union County Public Schools’ **Next Stop: Teach UCPS** initiative, which provides high school students with multiple pathways to explore and prepare for a career in education.

She chose the Pre-Apprentice Pathway, a part of **Career and Technical Education** (CTE) offered at Porter Ridge and Weddington High Schools. Through coursework, job shadowing and an in-classroom internship, Gabby gained early insight into teaching—and confirmed that it’s exactly where she belongs.

“I always loved working with kids,” she said. “My family calls me a ‘baby magnet.’ I used to play school with my friends and insist on being the teacher.”



MORE OF THE STORY ON THE NEXT PAGE

Graduate Spotlight

Her internship gave her the chance to live out that childhood dream in a real classroom. Gabby said the most fulfilling part was building relationships with the students and helping them grow academically and emotionally.

“They were still full of curiosity and energy, but they were also becoming more independent,” she said. “It was rewarding to see that shift and know I was helping them build confidence.”

Next year, Gabby will begin working full-time as an instructional assistant in a first-grade classroom at East Elementary while earning her associate degree in teacher preparation from South Piedmont Community College (SPCC). After that, she plans to transfer to Wingate University to pursue her bachelor’s in education.

“The fact that I can graduate from high school and immediately start working in a classroom feels like a dream come true,” she said.

Financial barriers won’t stand in her way. Thanks to the Gateway to Wingate Scholarship, her tuition at Wingate will stay under \$2,500 a year. Gabby also earned a \$5,000 scholarship from **Participate Learning**.

“Gabby is one of the best examples of why we are so passionate about Next Stop: Teach UCPS,” said Marlowe Newsome, her Teaching as a Profession instructor. “She has been able to grow her teaching and leadership skills. Now, she is able to keep gaining valuable experience working while also pursuing her degree. As her teacher, I am proud of all she has accomplished and excited to see her journey moving forward.”

Gabby traces her passion for teaching back to her own elementary years. She credits two former teachers—Kelly Taylor and Cindy Helms—for inspiring her career path and empowering her with a sense of confidence she still carries today.

“They were both so supportive and always used their words to lift me up,” she said. “Ms. Helms once told me, ‘You’ve grown into such a strong young woman,’ and I’ve carried that with me ever since. I want to be that person for someone else.”

In high school, Gabby also served on the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council, where she advocated for student voices and helped shape district decisions. That leadership role only deepened her belief that every child deserves to feel seen, heard and supported—something she hopes to offer her future students.

“I want to be a teacher who makes students feel safe and seen,” she said. “Someone who believes in them before they believe in themselves.”

Gabby’s mentor and cooperating teacher saw that same spark in her from the very first day.

“She is going to be an amazing teacher,” Tarlton said. “I know she loves the phrase ‘Be Kind,’ but when I think of her, I think... Be the LIGHT. She was always a ray of sunshine in my classroom.”

Gabby’s story is proof that Union County Public Schools doesn’t just talk about preparing future educators—it delivers. By investing in students early, breaking down barriers and providing real opportunities, the district is shaping the next generation of teachers who will transform classrooms and communities.

This is more than a pipeline. It’s a legacy of excellence — and it starts with leaders like Gabby.

Who is your counselor?

Ashley Lawson- last names A-Cou
ashley.lawson@ucps.k12.nc.us

Tanisha Anderson- last names Cov-Hek
tanisha.anderson@ucps.k12.nc.us

Bryan James – last names Hel-Mc
bryan.james@ucps.k12.nc.us

Cassidy Jarrett– last names Me-Sao
cassidy.jarrett@ucps.k12.nc.us

Alexandra Green– last names Sap-Z
alexandra.green@ucps.k12.nc.us

The counselors are here to support you with school. You can set up a meeting to speak to your counselor about academic, career, college, post high school plans or personal needs. If you have any questions please feel free to send your counselor an email.

Need Career advice or direction?

Talk to your Counselor or Career Development Coordinator, Ms. Sarah Webb today to see all of the pathways and academies PR has to offer!

[Click here for more info...](#)

Attention Class of 2026!

Thank you to all those who came to our Junior night on April 14th. Below is the link to the presentation if you were not able to attend:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1g2ILHIVnzxvnDTZo2ADhOxFbQz0EgoD2JFQit8KQGwU/edit?slide=id.p#slide=id.p>



Infinite Campus Parent Information

Infinite campus will be the new gradebook and student information application replacing Power School next year. Click below for parent information.

English: <https://youtu.be/noYbSQxz6m0>

Spanish: <https://youtu.be/3UELvzz-Cgs>

Russian: <https://youtu.be/h0AtWziCKho>

Ukrainian: <https://youtu.be/qBibr6Dxpoo>

COLLEGE BOARD RESOURCES



SCAN FOR AP CLASSROOM
RESOURCES AND MORE!

<http://share.bigfuture.org/739mSz>

College Readiness Student Opportunities

Teaching as a Profession

*Join Today
See your Counselor*



LOOKING TO START A CAREER?

MACHINE OPERATOR MATTHEWS, NC

**DO YOU LIKE TO WORK HARD?
DO YOU WANT TO LEARN
SOMETHING NEW?**

**WE WILL TRAIN YOU IN THE
SPECIALIZED AND UNIQUE
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1118**

Teaching as a Profession is in search of more awesome students to join our program. See your counselor today!
Why join?

- * Learn more about becoming a teacher
- * Opportunities for college credit
- * Ability to be a peer tutor
- * Teach UCPS Pathway- SPCC & Wingate
- * Weekly school observations

Parent Information

Parents, would you like a chance to be more involved with the students and teachers at PRHS? We are seeking parents willing to support the PTO's work, to donate items for teacher appreciation, PTO, and school events, and willing to volunteer at PTO or school events. Please email Amy Dieffenbach at amy_dieffenbach@yahoo.com or Alana White at alanahwhite@gmail.com if you're interested in helping with the PTO in any capacity. We'd love to hear from you and look forward to serving together at our wonderful school!

JOIN OR DONATE USING QR CODE

Click the QR
Code to get to
the Venmo
account or
use the QR
Code below



Follow the PTO
Instagram Page at
[prhs_pto](https://www.instagram.com/prhs_pto)



PRHS_PTO
@PRHS_PTO



venmo

Please help the PRHS PTO raise money to support teachers, staff, and students by allowing us to link your Harris Teeter VIC Card to our organization! Your card can be linked to more than one organization and you'll multiply the rewards that go toward education. By providing your last name and phone number below, you give us permission to link your VIC card for you. [Click here](#) or on the link above.

PIRATE ATHLETICS

Sign Up now for the annual Golf Tournament to support the Porter Ridge Athletic Booster Club!



PORTER RIDGE ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

2025 GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025



EAGLE CHASE GOLF CLUB

3215 BRANTLEY RD

MARSHVILLE, NC 28103



CLICK ON THE AD FOR MORE INFO

PIRATE ATHLETICS

PRHS

LITTLE PIRATE

CHEER CAMP

SHIRT AND
SNACKS
INCLUDED

Tuesday
June 24

9:00-12:00

Wednesday
June 25

9:00-12:00

Thursday
June 26

9:00-12:00

PRHS Cheer is **EXCITED** to host Little Pirate Cheer Camp this summer!! Please click [here](#) to sign your Little Pirate up!! They will learn cheers, chants, dances, and participate in stunting. On the last day there will be a Cheer Showcase to show off all their new moves. Anyone ages 5 to 13 is eligible to attend. Please contact Coach Lawson with any questions.



2025 PIRATES BASKETBALL SUMMER CAMP

INFORMATION

- June 16th-18th
- 8AM-12PM
- Porter Ridge HS Gymnasium
- Ages 8-14
- \$100 Per Camper
- Bring a Snack/Lunch
- Register Today!

TO REGISTER VISIT:

[HTTPS://OSP.OSMSINC.COM/P/BH054-476](https://osp.osmsinc.com/P/BH054-476)



PRHS LAX CLINIC

@ Porter Ridge

JUNE 16-18

PORTER RIDGE HS STADIUM
• Rising 8th Graders - Seniors \$200

ABOUT THE CLINIC

- 🎯 Skill-focused drills
- 👤 Position-specific coaching
- 🏆 Player Development


FORMAT

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Open to all rising 8th-12th grade girls interested in playing lacrosse for PRHS.

Join us for 3 days of skill development, tactical training, and game prep led by top coaches and players from **Wingate University**.

CLICK TO REGISTER



704.728.2658 deevo@thebrandstoryteller.com



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Ports of Information for Pirates:

Follow us on Facebook: [PorterRidgeHS.NC](https://www.facebook.com/PorterRidgeHS.NC)

Follow us on Instagram: #Committed #InItTogether #WeRPR
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@prhs_humanities @growinggreen_prhs @Prhs_pto @prhs_spanish.club
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(we post very limited info on Twitter)