

PANTHER PRESS

Parishville-Hopkinton
Central School

September 5, 2017
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Dear Families,

Welcome back to all PHCS students and their families! Our staff is looking forward to another wonderful year with our students. This year, we welcome a few new staff members - Ms. Amara Pascuito and Ms. Amy Goldberg, SUNY Potsdam Reading Interns, as well as Mrs. Tara TenEyck and Ms. Liz Hudson, to our team. Mrs. TenEyck will be teaching Kindergarten in Room 115 and Ms. Hudson will be teaching 3rd grade in Room 105. We hope this first edition of our Panther Press finds all our staff and students as excited about the coming year as we are.

As a reminder - PHCS will continue to run our "double dismissal" schedule this school year. Please expect your child to be dismissed a bit earlier this year - **2:27 p.m.** unless a 10th period assignment has been made. You may recall that 10th period is reserved for special activities and academic intervention services. Please anticipate that services for children demonstrating an academic need in any content area will take place 10th period and that this time is considered part of the regular school day. Students who are reaching grade level benchmarks and in good academic standing will be dismissed at the end of 9th period (2:27 p.m.). Those who stay for academic services will be dismissed at 3:10 p.m. Both dismissals will offer bussing for students. I ask that parents also keep in mind that teachers will often provide enrichment or homework assistance during 10th period. **Permission slips will be sent home if children are to stay after for any 10th period activities.**

Once again, this year we will operate on a **four-day cycle** with the instruction of special area classes and supplemental services being provided based on this rotation. **Gym shoes are required on P.E. days**, and in the intermediate grades, students will be expected to change for P.E. class. Physical Education classes are held on an every-other day basis and you will be notified by teachers of your child's P.E. and special area class schedule.



This year our school will be participating in a nation-wide initiative known as the Positivity Project. You will likely hear your student discussing "character strengths" and the important concept that "other people matter". We are excited about this project and plan to incorporate this philosophy into our **Panther**

Pride Program. We will continue to recognize Very Important Panthers weekly and celebrate strong character at assemblies each month. In addition, there will be an increased classroom emphasis on individual character strengths, the building of positive relationships and the development of social skills. We are very excited about where this project will take us!



IMPORTANT BUSSING REMINDERS:

- **Please notify the Elementary Office prior to 12:00 p.m. (noon) of any bus changes for the day.** *Changes made later in the day are very difficult to accommodate, as bus passes are written in the morning hours. Late changes to "after-school plans" should be avoided as they pose a safety concern for our students. In addition, all deviations from regular bus routines should be made in writing. Thank you in advance for addressing this important aspect of home-school communication. Our students benefit from routines that are as consistent as possible.*

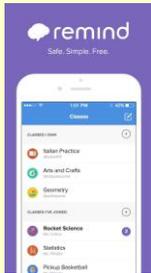
- **A note must be written by a parent if a child is permitted to get off the bus without adult to adult contact at the time of drop-off.** *In most cases, visual contact is enough to ensure that a child is safely in the hands of an adult at home. In the event that the driver does not see an adult, the child will most likely be brought back to school for pick-up. We appreciate your understanding and collaboration with this procedure.*

- **All students should follow our general school rules and safety procedures while on the bus.**

- **PLEASE NOTE:** *Students who reside within the hamlet of Parishville with sidewalk access are required to walk to school. 1st-6th grade students who reside across the bridge on State Highway 72 are entitled to district transportation. All UPK and Kindergarten students will be bussed regardless of location.*

(Continue on next page)

During the first few weeks of school I encourage you to log-on and follow our school on **Facebook** at [Parishville-Hopkinton Central School District](#) and to utilize our district **website** [phcs.neric.org](#). Often we will use these sources to keep the community informed and highlight our students' achievements.



In addition, I have set-up a **Remind Group messaging system** for parents to receive text messages regarding emergency school closings and special school events. Please refer to the directions for being included in this group provided in this edition of the Panther Press. It is as simple as texting an access code to a specific number. It only takes a minute to sign-up! **Just text the message @8h7d6 to the number 81010** or use the steps outlined on the included "directions page" to sign up for updates from Ms. Reid.

To answer some of the questions you may have regarding our school day, each student will be provided with a copy of the **2017-2018 Elementary Student Handbook**. Keeping this document on hand throughout the year is a good idea. When you receive it, please take a moment to read through and discuss the contents with your child/children. As school begins, I also encourage you to complete our **Recess Ticket Agreement** as well as review the **Notice of Passive Consent for Media Coverage**. These are important pieces of information for every parent! Copies of these documents have been sent home by your child's classroom teacher. As always, we will happily address any questions you may have after reading these important documents.

On Friday, September 8th, **Code of Conduct Assemblies** will be held with each grade level. Students will be reminded of the expectations, procedures and the rules in place at school. They will also be informed of our Panther Pride Character Trait and Very Important Panther program, the Positivity Project and learn about Recess Tickets during this assembly. A copy of the district's Code of Conduct will also be distributed to the oldest child in each elementary family. While certain areas or classes may have unique rules which apply to students, there are four basic expectations in our Elementary at PHCS and one overarching theme. These will be introduced and reinforced throughout the school year.



*Listen to the adults around you.
Be kind to one another.
Make safe choices.
Work hard!*

#otherpeoplematter

The Golden Rule:
*Treat others the way
You want to be treated.*

In closing, please note that on **Thursday, October 12th** we will host a school-wide **OPEN HOUSE** in the evening. Elementary classrooms will be open from **6-7 p.m.** and we hope all parents attend! Our students love to show off their classrooms! Once again, welcome back to school and thank you for your positive support of our school. We truly appreciate our community!

Sincerely,
Ms. Brooke Reid
Elementary Principal



Elementary Lunch - \$2.25
Elementary Breakfast - \$1.35
Milk - .50

Snack items are available from the cafeteria throughout the school day for those students who would like or need to purchase one.

The Parishville-Hopkinton Central School community strives to instill in all students the knowledge and skills necessary to become caring, conscientious and creative citizens.

