

August 5, 2019

Hello everyone. It is a good time to be a Blue Bomber! We have taken a number of positive steps in the last few months to improve things at the Palmerton Area Senior High School.

Please know that you can always count on one thing from me. All of my decisions are made with the best interests of our students in mind.

There are a number of cosmetic changes being made to our facilities. More importantly, I also sense that the climate is slowly, but surely, changing for the positive. We have been looking for that Bomber Pride again and it seems that we might be finding it. When you alter the overall climate of a school building, you also alter teaching and most importantly, learning. At the high school, we have quality teachers. And the administration is constantly looking to improve our programming. A high school is also what the students make of it. I am asking everyone to challenge themselves to make this year our best year ever.

Communication with parents is an essential aspect of a successful education process. The first formal opportunity for you to get involved in things is our Back to School Night on September 11. Please mark that date on your calendar as we are looking forward to seeing you there.

Arrival at School

Our first day of school is Monday, August 26. It is really hard to believe that this date is right around the corner. Please make note of some scheduling items for the first day of school. If you have a child in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade, your child's schedule is enclosed. The 9th grade students will meet in the auditorium on that first day after they are dismissed from bus hall.

(Also note that we will officially welcome our 9th graders and new students on August 15 with our orientation program.)

On August 26, all high school students will report at the regular time for a full day of school. If students arrive prior to 7:10 AM, they should wait outside. **When our doors open at 7:10 AM, students should move to the cafeteria. When the bell rings at 7:30 AM, the students in Grade 9 should go to the auditorium. Students in grades 10, 11, and 12 should report to their first block class.**

Schedule Changes

You will have the opportunity to get a jump start on schedule changes from Noon to 3:00 PM on August 15 and 4:00 to 6:00 PM on August 14. Once school starts, schedule changes can be made by appointment only from August 27 through August 29. (Students in grades 9 and 12 should meet with Ms. Vicki McHugh. Students in grades 10 and 11 should meet with our new guidance counselor, Mrs. Maria Schaffer. After the Labor Day holiday, schedule changes will be addressed on an individual basis by appointment only.

Paperwork

On the first day of school, a great deal of paperwork will be sent home with your son or daughter. It would be much appreciated if you promptly read and sign the appropriated documents. As you complete this paperwork, please make sure that you note all of the appropriate telephone numbers where you can be reached. In case of any emergency, we really need to know how to contact you. If your numbers should change during the school year, please let us know.

Student Lockers

Students will receive their locker assignments on the first day of school.

Student Handbook

There are also many changes in the student handbook. Please review that book with your children. The changes are highlighted / identified with a graphic image.

Dismissal

The regular dismissal schedule will be in place on the first day. The first day of school is a full day of school. There is no school for students on August 30 and September 2 is the Labor Day holiday.

Pick Up and Drop Off

All students driving to school or being dropped off at school should enter the building on the west side driveway. This is the side closest to the stadium. When dropping off students, please loop around the lot and get in line. The actual drop off point is along the curb closest to the building - five feet from the stop sign. Drop offs are not permitted on the Junior High School side.

Parking

Students may purchase parking permits at the main office from August 26 to September 6. Students must have a current driver's license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance. We have added six additional parking spots to the east side parking lot. However, space is still limited. Therefore, only junior and senior students will be able to park. The cost of a parking permit is \$10.

Parking regulations will be strictly enforced after September 6. Your parking permit must be clearly displayed at all times. (If you switch vehicles one day, please swap the permit as well.) Please review the student handbook for changes to our parking process. All student vehicles should be facing one particular way - facing the building. We are hoping this will help with safety when exiting at the end of the day. The only parking spots where this will not be enforced is the very last row of parking spots closest to the stadium.

Transportation

George's Busing provides our transportation. They have asked me to point out something important. Students must be alert at the bus stops. Phones, headphones, and earbuds can all serve as a distraction. Students should always be alert and watch traffic. Make sure a car has stopped before crossing the road. Drivers can also get distracted so please pay close attention. Do not just assume that people will stop. Please take good care of yourself that is a priority, unfortunately the world will not always do it for you.

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast and lunch will be provided on the first day of school. Your child's passcode for the cafeteria is the same one that was used last year. (This also applies to the incoming ninth grade students.) Please note that your child's account balance ... positive or negative ... will carry over from last year. New students will receive their passcode for the cafeteria on the first day of school. You can have your child bring in a check to apply to their account balance or use the on-line service to add funds to their account. If you want to get a jump on things, please do this now.

Please note that a copy of the free and reduced lunch form can be found on our website. ***A new form must be completed each year.*** The deadline to apply is September 30.

Nurse's Office

The Pennsylvania Department of Health requires that all 12th grade students have a second dose of the MCV (meningitis) vaccine or proof of religious, philosophical, or medical exemption prior to the first day of school. This vaccine has to have been given on or after the student's 16th birthday. You may e-mail or fax these medical records to the school nurse. (E-mail: lthomas@palmerton.org or Fax: 610-826-4929.) Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this requirement.

If you have a child that needs a vaccine, the related information is on our website. We also shared this news with an automated Connect-Ed telephone message. If your child has not received the vaccine yet, they are not permitted to start school. This is a commonwealth / state requirement. In order to seek an exemption to this requirement for religious, philosophical, or medical reasons, please see our website under Health Services – Latest News.

Welcome New Staff Members

We welcome two new Blue Bombers: Mrs. Maria Schaffer (Guidance) and Ms. Kristen Perdew (Teacher). We are sure that they will prove to be valuable assets to our already excellent staff.

Final Note

I encourage you to take advantage of the fact that the start of a new school year is a great time to establish new family routines. Even though the excitement and change can make life somewhat hectic for the first few weeks, this is a great time to begin new and positive steps. I also ask that you encourage your child get involved in school activities. We offer a number of clubs, activities, and sports for the students.

If you have any questions or concerns now or throughout the school year, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am available and happy to help in any way that I can.

Sincerely,

Paula A. Husar
Principal

cc: Mr. Thomas McLaughlin – Interim Superintendent