Ponaganset High School

137 Anan Wade Road, Glocester, RI 02857 (401) 710-7500

Mrs. Amanda Grundel
Principal

Ms. Karlene Murray
Associate Principal

August 2023

Dear PHS Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! All of us at Ponaganset High School are looking forward to welcoming our students on their first day of school, which is on **Wednesday, August 30, 2023**. The beginning of each school year is filled with great anticipation. The faculty and staff have been busy preparing the school and classrooms for an exciting year of learning and growth. We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our students can achieve their highest potential. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from adults both at home and at school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for student success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities.

Welcome Back:

At PHS, we are extremely proud of our student-led, inclusive culture. We will be kicking off the school year with culture building activities, tours for new students, and our culminating school-wide assembly! Our purpose is to start in a positive way with a strong foundation by establishing relationships and highlighting the importance of academics. Our process will include extended time in Homebase for grade-level activities and informational sessions. The first three days will be structured with a blend of team building activities, understanding school expectations, and focusing on promoting the habits of academic excellence.

Student Schedules

At PHS, we have a schedule which allows for longer blocks of instruction as well as a personalization period. Our students should be able to view their schedules in Aspen shortly before the start of school. Any adjustments made to the schedule must be done through the student's school counselor. Please contact the school counseling office if you have any questions at 401-710-7500 ext. 3199.

Laptops

PHS has an updated one-to-one policy. We believe that guided technology usage can play an important role in enhancing the learning experience for our students. We will provide all students, grades 9-12 with a laptop to use during the school year. Laptops will be distributed during school in Homebase within the first couple of days.

Communication

Our ability to communicate with you will ensure our success as a team in preparing and educating your child in both social and academic success. Canvas, our learning management system, will house assignments, postings and grades for your child. Teachers and students regularly communicate through this system so we encourage you to become familiar with this program. Here is a link that can assist you with this process: ***Parent Information: Canvas***. We encourage you to use our district website which can be found at www.fg.k12.ri.us. Also, please visit our Facebook page at Ponaganset High School Chieftains. In addition, we send newsletters and other information through our email system so please be sure we have an updated email address.

Traffic pattern

Due to the increased traffic volume in the morning and afternoon, and to ensure the safety of our students, we will follow a drop off/pick up route for parents. Parents who are dropping off or picking up their students *must do so at the north building entrance only. This is the side of the building near the fieldhouse.*

We will be utilizing a staggered dismissal strategy again this year. Students who ride a Foster or Glocester bus as well as students who drive or get picked up will exit the building **first**.

Mission Statement

Empower future-ready graduates with passion, purpose, and proficiency to Start Here and Go Big!

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All students who ride a Statewide bus (out-of-district students) will exit the building **second** and should wait in the hallway by the cafeteria until their bus pulls into the circle.

The following safety measures must be followed in the parking lot by all:

- Student drivers must have their parking passes displayed on their vehicles when in the school parking lot.
- Students cannot cross between the buses.
- Students must wait until the buses leave to cross over to their rides.
- Parent and student drivers cannot drive past a bus that has a stop sign up nor should they weave between buses.

Student Parking

We have a limited amount of parking spaces available for students and staff due to lack of space and local fire codes. To obtain a student parking pass, the Ponaganset Vehicle Registration form must be completed and signed by both the driver/student and parent, which can be found **here**. Students must show a valid license, updated registration and updated insurance card. Beginning on August 16, 2023, **seniors** can come to the main office to register their car, select their spot and obtain a student parking pass. They must have all necessary paperwork to obtain their pass.
Juniors may register beginning on September 1, 2023 during lunch, before school or after school.
Please note: As of September 11, 2023, all student vehicles **MUST** have a parking pass hanging in their rearview mirror.
Students who have a pattern of poor attendance, excessive tardies, and/or disciplinary infractions may need to meet with an administrator regarding the ability to keep a parking pass.

School Calendar and Information

All students and parents are strongly encouraged to regularly view the District Calendar on our School Website for updated information and upcoming events.

Back to School Night

Our Back to School Night is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2023 from 6-8:00 PM. Save this date in your calendar as it is your opportunity to tour the school, meet your child's teachers, and to learn about academic and extracurricular activities. There will also be an opportunity to get further assistance with setting up Canvas during this event.

School Improvement Team

We are committed to partnerships with our parents and community members. During the month of September, we will be reaching out asking for participants who will represent the parent community as members of our School Improvement Team. More information will be sent out with respect to this committee's work, the purpose and members.

Schedule for the First 3 Days:

Tours for new students will take place on Wednesday morning
***Senior mentors will be in the hallways to assist new students with questions. They will be holding signs to identify themselves!**

When students arrive at school on Wednesday, August 30, 2023, they should wait in the cafeteria until the bell rings for the school day to begin. From there, they will all report to Homebase, which can be found on their schedule in Aspen. Further details about the schedule for the first

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three days can be found by clicking the link below. On Friday, there will be an assembly outside. Please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

Click here: 2023-2024 First 3 days schedule

Student Handbook:
It is important that you review the student handbook with your child. This handbook outlines the expectations for Ponaganset High School students. It can be found here: **2023-2024 PHS Student Handbook**

Honors for All 9th and 10th Grade Information
Honors for All Informational Letter

Student Assistance Counselor Information
Student Assistance Counselor Letter

Canvas
This course, Passport to Canvas, provides everything you need to know about using Canvas in your class(es). Canvas helps you:

- Keep track of the work you are assigned by your instructor, grades and feedback
- Organize all of the learning material your instructor has created
- Help you stay in touch with other members of your class

Click this link to access Canvas directions: https://fgschools.instructure.com/courses/12230
Here is another resource for students to access: Canvas Resource for Students

Final Thoughts:
Lastly, a number of documents will be sent home and/or emailed the first few days of school. Be sure to ask students for these documents so you can complete all necessary forms. Please have students return the forms by **September 6th to their Home Base teacher.** I would like to thank you for positively supporting us in our endeavor to have all of our students reach their academic and social potential. I am proud to be a part of a school community with a legacy, history and commitment to student achievement. I am proud of the students, teachers, and staff of Ponaganset High School. We will all continue to build on the strong traditions of this community to appropriately prepare our students for their lives after the high school experience. I look forward to meeting and greeting you soon!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Amanda Grundel, M. Ed., M. S.
Principal

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