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ISSUE

Inside PPS

AUGUST 2011



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Portage Public Schools

THE FUTURE LEARNS HERE

News from the Food Group

The Food Group and Chartwells School Dining Services have exciting plans for your school meal programs this year. Our mission is to serve nutritious, well balanced meals that appeal to our students and school community!

Meal prices for this school year can be found on the Portage Public Schools website at the [Food Group Department](#) link. Breakfast service begins on Tuesday, Sept. 6, at all Portage Public School buildings.

Free and Reduced Meal Benefits

In an effort to reduce administrative costs, the Food Group Department will not be sending meal benefit applications to each student household in the district this year. We are asking families to apply for meal benefits at www.lunchapp.com

This website provides a step-by-step guide to assist you with applying for meal benefits for your family. Once you click on the submit button, your completed application is forwarded to our application processing software. The website is very user friendly and accelerates the approval process for your children by eliminating common errors such as incorrect Food Stamp numbers, missing income and missing Social Security numbers.

Paper applications will also be available on the [PPS website](#), at the Administration Building, and at the school building offices. Remember, meal benefit levels from the previous school year will carry over for the first 30 days of school unless a new application is processed and your meal benefit level changes.

Pre-Payments

Pre-payments on student accounts can be made at your child's school beginning on Sept. 6. To ensure proper credit to your child's food service account, please use the envelopes provided at the school cafés. If you use your own envelope, include the student's full name, ID number, date and amount enclosed on the front of the envelope.

If you are prepaying by check, please make sure to include your student's full name and ID number on the face of the check in the memo line. All checks should be made payable to Portage Public Schools. You may also use a debit or credit card to place money on your child's food service account at www.sendmoneytoschool.com. (Please note there is a \$1 convenience fee charged to your credit/debit card when placing money on your child's account.)

Please contact the Food Group office with any questions at 323-5155.

Complete free and reduced meal benefit applications online at www.lunchapp.com



Important Notice About Your Personal Information

Portage Schools Annual Notifications Disclosure to Third Parties: Personally identifiable information from the educational record of the student shall not be released without the prior consent of the parent or eligible student. Information may be released to certain individuals or agencies as permitted by law.

Directory Information: The District provides directory information which includes: name, address, and telephone. Directory information may be released unless parent or eligible student refuses such release. The refusal must be made to the Principal's Office of the school which the student attends within 10 days of the publication of this notice.

Special Education and Section 504 Notifications: It is the policy of the District to actively find and provide services to students with disabilities. The District will provide appropriate evaluations, identifications, and services for all eligible students under Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or current Special Education laws.

Civil Rights Legislation: For information about various Congressional Acts and Titles impacting education, including discrimination, please see the article online at portageps.org. (Departments, then Community Relations).

ON THE COVER: The new Central High School will open in time for the 2011-2012 school year. The school's Grand Opening is scheduled for Aug. 26 (see more on page 3).

•Inside PPS is published monthly during the school year and it is edited by Communications Specialist Molli Templin: 323-5166 or mtemplin@portageps.org.

News for New Families

Enrollment Continues -

It's not too late to enroll your child in Portage Public Schools! For detailed instructions on how to enroll your students and to obtain the necessary paperwork, go to www.portageps.org and click on, "Enroll Now." You can also pick up an enrollment packet from the Administration Building (8111 S. Westnedge Ave.)

New Student Orientations -

For New Student Orientation information, check your school's website.

Stay Connected -

Sign-up for News & Links, the District's twice weekly informational emails sent directly to subscribers. Go to the [News & Links](#) webpage to register.

What time does school start?

Kindergarten	Grades 1 - 5
8:30 to 11:35 a.m. (morning)	8:30 a.m. to 3:46 p.m.
12:35 to 3:46 p.m. (afternoon)	Grades 6 - 12
	7:45 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.

Transportation Schedules Sent; Safety Tips for Drivers

The Transportation Department has sent postcards with estimated bus assignments to all K-12 students eligible for transportation services and who signed up for these services. Information includes the bus number, the bus stop location, and the estimated times for both pick-up and drop-off.

A Bus Safety Reminder

When you see our bus fleet on the road, please remember:

- When yellow lights are flashing, use caution and prepare to stop.
- When yellow hazard warning lights are flashing, proceed with caution.
- When red lights are flashing, stop no closer than 20 feet from the bus.
- When the red lights are turned off, you may proceed.

Please Join Us for the Grand Opening of Central High School

Portage Central High School will hold a grand opening celebration on Friday, August 26 from 4 to 6:50 p.m. to officially open the new school to the community.

The celebration, sponsored by Cole Automotive Group, will also include self-guided tours, classroom technology demonstrations, food for purchase from A Pizza Yen and Red's Grill, and sign-up information for The Mustang Association, the school's new alumni association.

In addition, there will be Portage Central historical DVDs and T-shirts on sale with the proceeds benefitting ongoing special projects.

The event will conclude across Westnedge Ave. at McCamley Field with the kickoff of the first home varsity football game against Battle Creek Harbor Creek at 7 p.m.

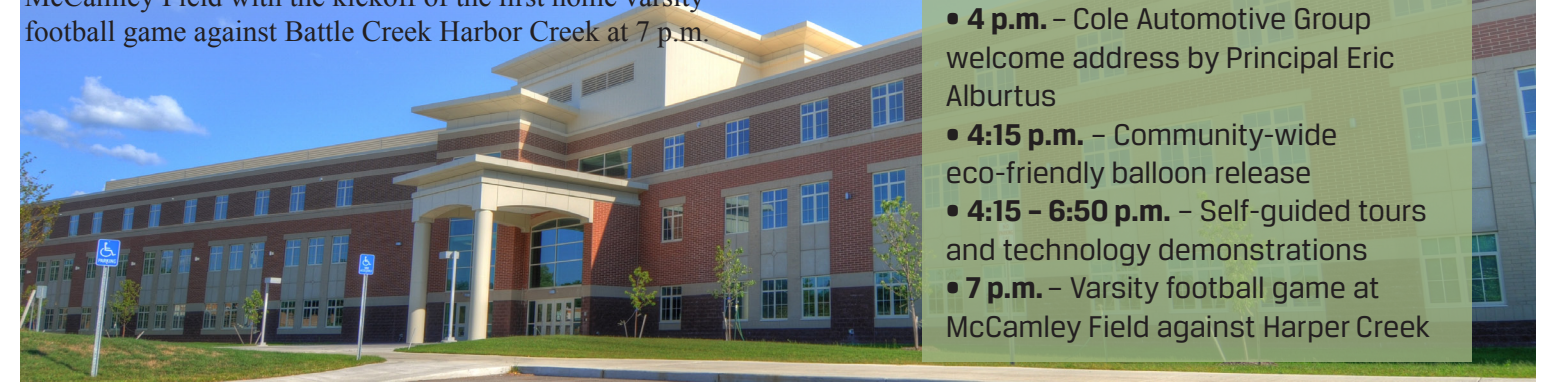
The \$41 million building broke ground on May 22, 2009, however, planning for the new high school started well before when voters approved a \$119 million bond program in 2007.

The building features a state-of-the-art media center, welcome center, large commons area for dining and upgraded classroom technology including display screens, touch-screen computers, and a sound-field system. The new school also provides non-classroom work space for yearbook, newspaper and student council groups.

Event Details

August 26, 2011

- 4 p.m. - Cole Automotive Group welcome address by Principal Eric Albutus
- 4:15 p.m. - Community-wide eco-friendly balloon release
- 4:15 - 6:50 p.m. - Self-guided tours and technology demonstrations
- 7 p.m. - Varsity football game at McCamley Field against Harper Creek



Clip & Save

District Phone Contacts

District Offices

- Community Relations...323-5166
- Curious Kids...323-6780
- Instructional Services...323-5140
- Human Resources...323-5150
- School-Closing Hotline...323-6800
- Special Education...323-5170
- Technology Systems...323-5100
- Transportation...323-5151

Elementary Schools

- 12th Street...323-6900
- Amberly...323-5900
- Angling Road...323-6000
- Central...323-6100
- Haverhill...323-6200
- Lake Center...323-6300
- Moorsbridge...323-6400
- Woodland...323-6600

Middle Schools

- Central...323-5600
- Guidance Office...323-5680
- North...323-5700
- Guidance Office...323-5777
- West...323-5800
- Guidance Office...323-5880

High Schools

- Central...323-5200
- Athletic Office...323-5361
- Attendance Office...323-5259
- Assist. Principal A-K...323-5262
- Assist. Principal L-Z...323-5281
- Counseling Office...323-5282
- IB Coordinator...323-5274
- Community High...323-6789
- Northern...323-5400
- Athletic Office...323-5561
- Auditorium Tickets...323-5470
- Assist. Principal 1st Floor...323-5562
- Assist. Principal 3rd Floor...323-5471
- Guidance Office...323-5475

Voluntary Student Accident Insurance Available for Purchase

Portage Schools will again make available for purchase a voluntary student accident insurance program for this new school year.

PPS offers this voluntary program because of trends in family health and dental insurance. Decreasing coverage levels with increasing deductibles and/or percentages of co-payments are common trends that families are facing today.

Furthermore, PPS does not provide any type of health or accident insurance for injuries incurred by students while in school, participating in school-related activities, interscholastic sports and intramural sports.

The voluntary insurance program has a variety of options

available including a Football-Only Plan for grades 9-12. Due to the risks associated with these ages for this sport, there is an additional premium for this coverage.

The comprehensive benefit option is described in the brochure to be distributed at the start of the school year. This option level was designed to respond to diverse family insurance needs. Coverage provided can help decrease the burden of unexpected medical and dental expenses, including those left unpaid due to family insurance deductibles and co-payments.

Enrollment forms are included with the brochures and will be distributed at the start of the school year.

School Year

HIGHLIGHTS

August 29: School offices open

September 6: 1st Semester begins, half-day

- Elementary School dismissal - 11:57 a.m.

- Middle/High School dismissal - 11 a.m.

Dec. 26 - Jan. 6: Winter Recess

April 2-6: Spring Recess

The full calendar will be available upon approval.

Citizens Always Welcome at Board of Education Meetings

Aug. 22*	Dec. 12*	April 16*
Sept. 12	Jan. 16	May 7
Sept. 26*	Jan. 30*	May 21*
Oct. 10	Feb. 13	June 4
Oct. 24*	Feb. 27*	June 18*
Nov. 7	March 12	
Nov. 21*	March 26*	

All Board of Education meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held in the Community Room in the Administration Building at 8111 S. Westnedge Avenue. The meetings with an asterisk, the Board's business meetings, are covered by Public Media Network on Channel 99.

The others indicate a work session, also held in the Community Room.

For more information about the Board, please visit the [Board page](http://www.portageps.org) at www.portageps.org (see Administration).



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www.portageps.org/information/news/insidepps



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