

Welcome, Freshmen!!

Introductions to staff and services: 2011-2012

PORTAGE NORTHERN COUNSELING

THE COUNSELING STAFF

✘ By student last name:

- + Mrs. Shari Smith: A-D
 - ✘ ssmith@portageps.org 323-5527
- + Mrs. Krista Hovestadt: E-K
 - ✘ khovestadt@portageps.org 323-5420
- + Ms. Amy DiMaggio: L-Q
 - ✘ adimaggio@portageps.org 323-5472
- + Mrs. Cindy Figueroa: R-Z
 - ✘ cfigueroa@portageps.org 323-5424

THE COUNSELING STAFF

- ✘ Ms. Ruthie Connaughty: enrollment, appointments, registrar
+ rconnaughty@portageps.org 323-5475
- ✘ Mrs. Deb Beverly: transcripts, college applications, scholarships
+ dbeverly@portageps.org 323-5482

COUNSELING SERVICES

✘ ACADEMIC:

- + Creating a 4 year plan (EDP), selecting your classes, helping you stay on track for graduation and fulfilling graduation requirements

✘ COLLEGE PREPARATION:

- + Completing basic requirements for future college/university applications, helping determine which classes best prepare you for the type of college to which you will apply, helping you apply to college your senior year

✘ INDIVIDUAL/PERSONAL COUNSELING:

- + Counselors are always there for you to help with any question or concern you might have. We're here to listen and provide support and to help you seek outside resources, if needed.

✘ LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL:

- + If a four-year college or university might not be in your future, counselors are here to discuss many other options for after high school: the armed forces, Peace Corps, the workforce or travel.

MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM

✘ PNHS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

- + English 4 credits
- + Math 4 credits
 - ✘ Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Senior Year Math Related
- + Social Studies 3 credits
 - ✘ Modern American History, Gov/Econ, World History
- + Science 3 credits
 - ✘ Chemistry/Physics, Biology, Earth Science, Chem 2 or Physics 2
- + Health / Freshmen Focus 1 credit
 - ✘ Health is REQUIRED. Freshmen Focus is strongly recommended.
- + PE 1.5 credits
 - ✘ Can be “waived” with PNHS sport or marching band.
- + Fine Arts 1 credit
 - ✘ Recommended to be completed in grades 9 or 10.

MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM

✘ PNHS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

+ World Language

- ✘ At this point, World Language is not required by PPS; however, it is strongly advised that students take at least two years of the SAME world language to be considered “competitive” for colleges.

- All students must earn 26 credits while in high school to graduate from Portage Public Schools.
- Middle School credits do not count towards the 26.

PPS GRADUATION

- ✘ PPS requires 26 credits and certain core classes to graduate.
- ✘ PPS does not allow a student to be “held back” or “repeat a year”. You still move on to the next year and have to take all the required courses.
- ✘ PPS does not offer “free” summer school. Our summer school is an online program that is very costly.

WHAT TO EXPECT YOUR FRESHMAN YEAR

✘ Counselors will:

- + Give classroom presentations on the 4 year Educational Development Plan (EDP) and will create a 4 year plan with all freshmen.
- + Meet with each student individually in February to select classes for the next academic year.
- + Complete course audits to make sure that students are on track to graduate. If a student fails a required course, the counselor will immediately place the student back in that course the next semester.
- + Monitor your grades and speak with you directly if you have two + Es in one week.
- + Be a liaison between home and school for the student. We will help facilitate discussions and we will advocate for students.

TIPS FOR YOUR FRESHMAN YEAR

✘ Students should:

- + Ask questions and participate in class!
- + Take responsibility for your learning– for your homework, grades and communication with teachers.
- + Establish a solid GPA immediately...start your high school career strong!
- + **Contact your teacher first if there are concerns about grading or questions about the class content.**
- + Monitor your grades weekly through the PIV (Parent Internet Viewer). You will receive passwords in the mail. If you lose yours, see Ruthie in our office.
- + **Attend the ASSIST room (Mon-Thurs from 3-5) for extra help in classes. A teacher and many tutors will be available for free help.**
- + Get Involved! Begin participating in extra-curricular activities. Search our PN website for more info.
- + Listen to daily announcements (and they are posted in all offices).
- + Be respectful to all teachers, staff and students.

TIPS FOR PARENTS FOR FRESHMAN YEAR

✘ Parents should:

- + Contact the classroom teacher first if there is a concern about grading or content.
- + Stay in touch. Monitor daily announcements and read the monthly Huskie Tracks newsletter. Monitor PN website.
- + Monitor students' grades via the PIV.
- + Encourage students to seek academic support in the ASSIST room or from the classroom teacher.
- + Know the classroom teachers' policies and be familiar with the student handbook.
- + Communicate with counselors regarding changes in home environment or other personal concerns regarding students.

STANDARDIZED TESTS FOR 9TH GRADE

- ✘ The only required standardized test for freshmen is the 9th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES MEAPS.
- ✘ Oct. 19, 2011.
- ✘ FREE here at PNHS.
- ✘ Future tests:
 - + 10th grade: ACT Plan
 - + 11th grade: PSAT, ACT/SAT and MME
 - + 12th grade: possibly re-take ACT

STANDARDIZED TESTS FOR 9TH GRADE

- ✘ The testing coordinator for all standardized tests is Mrs. Phillips.
- ✘ For any questions about 9th Grade Social Studies MEAPS, contact her.
 - + sphillips@portageps.org
 - + 323-5433.

COUNSELING PROCEDURES

- ✘ If you would like to see your counselor, come to the office and make an appointment with Ruthie.
- ✘ You may also call or email your counselor at any time.
- ✘ If your counselor wishes to see you, she will send a “golden” colored pass to your class. Read the pass and report when requested.
- ✘ Be sure to “sign in and out” when you come & go from our office.

FRESHMEN REMINDERS

- ✘ Mr. Walker is your Assistant Principal: 323-5458.
- ✘ Mrs. Augustine is your 9th grade secretary:
323-5471.
- ✘ You must report to the grade office (3rd floor) anytime you come late or leave early. You must have a pass from that office to get into your class.
- ✘ A parent/guardian must call Mrs. Augustine for anything related to your attendance (absence, tardy, etc).

BE A “REAL” HUSKIE:

- × Respect
 - × Excellence
 - × Achievement
 - × Leadership
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- × Have a great, positive year!
 - × Get involved, have fun and succeed!