

HUSKIE Tracks



Jim French - Principal • Kevin Riggs - Assistant Principal • Mike Huber - Assistant Principal • Chris Riker - Athletic Director

NOT A TAX INCREASE - Countywide Millage Renewal on May 3 Ballot

Voters throughout Kalamazoo County and the nine school districts will see a school funding renewal question on the upcoming May 3 ballot. This millage brings approximately \$3 million a year to Portage Schools, or about \$340 per student.

In our District, these funds support a variety of instructional offerings and help limit class sizes. The ballot question is for a three-year renewal of the existing 1.5 mill property tax. Taxpayers will be paying the same rate for this millage as they have paid for the past six years.

Absentee voting is available if you will not be able to visit your polling location on Election Day; contact your city or township clerk to request a ballot: Portage City Clerk: 329-4511; Texas Township Clerk: 375-1591; Pavilion Township Clerk: 327-0462; Kalamazoo City Clerk: 337-8793.

The millage was first passed in 2005 in response to State cuts to per-pupil funding and renewed by voters in 2008. It is important to note that operations spending, which supports instructional programs, is separate from funds raised through bonds for construction and renovation of facilities.

Financial Stewardship

Portage Schools has made more than \$5 million in cuts since 2003 in response to reductions in state funding, while working hard to ensure minimal impact to instruction and student achievement. During these years, the District has kept necessary cuts as far away from the classroom as possible.

According to a recent bulletin from the Michigan Department of Education, the administrative operational costs of Portage Schools ranks among the lowest 11% in the State. The District also continues to be recognized for financial reporting from the Association of School Business Officials and the Government Finance Officers Association.

Last year, to help balance the budget and avoid layoffs, all employees in the District agreed to a pay cut, along with increased insurance costs. To help balance the budget for the 2011-2012 school year, the Portage Schools administrative team has agreed to an overall 6% cut in compensation.

For More Information

Read more online at www.portageps.org (see the Vote May 3 link), call 323-5167, or read the Q&A at www.kresa.org.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we near the end of the 2010-11 school year the accomplishments of our staff and students are continuing to amaze those around the state! We have many students that are being honored at many banquets and receiving scholarships as a result of their hard work and dedication. In addition, Northern High School is very fortunate to have an exceptional staff that is dedicated to our students and has a keen focus on increasing student learning! Their work this past year has translated to more than a 30% reduction in failing grades and that is not possible without a continued focus and effort to connect with students! Without their efforts to increase student achievement we wouldn't see these results. Not only are teachers connecting with our students, but the connection our teachers are making with parents is also another key element to our continued success. Remember as the year wraps up please encourage your child to finish the year strong! Have a great summer!



Portage Northern Parents



Keeping You Connected with Information Parents Need to Know!

PNHS Will Make \$20 for Every Test Drive It's benefits PNHS Sports - ALL SPORTS

250 test drives could raise \$5,000!

On Saturday May 14 in the McCamley Field parking lot, Vicksburg Dodge & Chrysler will have 6-8 vehicles to be test driven during the Matt Thrasher Lacrosse event. For each test drive taken by an individual 18 or older, Dodge will donate \$20 to PNHS athletics. Ask any sport booster group - we need money for athletics.

Dodge representatives will be on site from 4-7:30 p.m. with cars that you will enjoy driving. The more people we can get to test drive the more money we make. No obligation to purchase, no strings attached. And, anyone who drives can put the name of their student athlete on form so that they are entered to win prizes. And, we will keep track of the sports groups that come to help us raise money for athletics. Please mark the date on your calendar.

In these tough economic times, the athletic department can use every dollar we can raise. Please show up and drive a car and help us raise some funds. By the way, this is far better than having to sell cookie dough, raffle tickets, or anything else you can think of and it is no money out of your pocket-just a few minutes of your time. Bring your friends, relatives, neighbors, or anyone to help the cause!

Grad Bash 2011...We're on Facebook!

FACEBOOK GRAD BASH! Yes, Grad Bash 2011 has a Facebook Page - PNHS Gradbash. All of the Grad Bash chairs will use this site to update Senior Parents on the final details. It will start to get busy and this is one way to stay in touch. Like us, it's your link to information.

The next Grad Bash meeting is Monday, May 2 at 7 p.m. in the New Community Room. Everyone is welcome and we could use your help.

Grad Bash Chairs:

Jeanne Trompeter | jmtmrc@gmail.com

Andrea Teff | andrea.teff@yahoo.com

Volunteer Parents needed for Grad Bash!

We need volunteers for Grad Bash! If you are a senior parent, please consider joining us for a shift. There are multiple volunteer jobs, and the shifts are: 9:30 pm until 11:00 pm and then the entire night which will last until about 5 am. Sounds horrible, doesn't it? But, it's not and the reward is watching your senior have a fantastic time celebrating their last memories with their friends. The party is all-night and the jobs are easy. If you can, please sign-up and contact Andrea Teff at andrea.teff@yahoo.com.



Academic Awards - May 12

PNP helps to coordinate the Academic Awards Program on May 12. Invitations to students have been mailed. PNP needs available parents to help with the event for both daytime(am or pm shifts) and evening programs, along with donations(about 20 people) of 2 dozen home made-style cookies. If you've not already signed up to help, contact Terri Novaria at 345-2404 or Novikazoo@aol.com

Thank you from the Tummies of the Teachers!

Thank you to all the volunteers who donated food and time ...our Staff Appreciation Luncheon on March 31 was "UN-COMMONLY GOOD" and the PNHS staff truly felt appreciated. A big round of applause to Mary Beth Henry and Katie Stryker Clark for their coordination and decorating savvy. Thank you too to Olive Garden and Tina Louthan!

Seniors.....You still have time!

Order Your Grad Video Now!

This fantastic Class of 2011 Grad Video will include a photo montage of pictures submitted by seniors, video footage from the graduation ceremony and from Grad Bash. All these unforgettable memories on a DVD for just \$35! Simply go to: www.absolutevideo.com/go/pnhs-grad - a new and improved easy to click on link.

Questions?:

Contact: Julie Kieser (343-9811) or gradvideo11@gmail.com

PNP Meeting - May 11 at 11:30 a.m. - Help us Welcome our New 2011-2012 Board!

Attend our monthly PNP meeting and be "filled" with great information. The meetings are a great place to learn about things at school before your student even hears them. PNP meetings (held the second Wednesday of the month) are held in the Media Center; they start at 11:30 am and end by 1 pm (or earlier). As always, if you are not able to attend regular meetings, the minutes are posted to the PNHS website within about 10-15 days of the meeting date.

Portage Public Schools
Portage Northern High School
1000 Idaho
Portage MI 49024

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
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PERMIT NO. 36

A NEW WAY TO SIGN UP FOR EMAILED DAILY HUSKIE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE HUSKIE TRACKS

In an effort to improve our communication to you, we are gathering parent e-mail addresses. Having your e-mail address will help us send announcements and information to you quickly and easily. This is a different listing than the district's email list. Also please note, the August issue of the Huskie Tracks is the ONLY issue mailed home. Subsequent issues will be available via our web page or emailed to you.

If you would like to be included on the NHS parent e-mail list, please visit our webpage and scroll to the bottom and fill out the form.

Our webpage can be found at: <http://www.portageps.org/schools/high/nhs/>