

Panther Nation,

It is THAT TIME of the YEAR!! Where does time go? It seems like we were just putting the finishing touches on the "Welcome Back" message for last school year.

On **Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup> 2016** we will begin the next chapter in the history of PCHS. This year marks the fifth year in the new building. Where does time go? We will again welcome another Freshman class to our PCHS family and do our best to help our Seniors gather the tools they will need to blaze the pathways to their futures and prepare them for the inevitable goodbye at the end of this school year. At the pace we are on it will seem like a few short days instead of months away.

There are many exciting things to look forward to as we embrace the new school year. As always, the energy in the building can be felt as soon as you walk in the doors. The custodial staff has been working hard to prepare the building and teachers have been busy in their classrooms anticipating the start of the school year. We also begin the year with new faces in the PCHS family. Ms. Brigid McCann (art) and Mr. Reed Recker (music) will begin writing their own chapters in the story of PCHS. We look forward to having them as vibrant members of our school family.

Unless you are around the school during the summer months it is hard to comprehend how much activity actually goes on each and every day when we are not "in school". This place is jumping at some point or another on a daily basis. The numbers of students participating in all types of academic, athletic, and music camps and practices is outstanding. PCHS is a 365 days per year facility! Seldom does a day go by when there isn't a group of some type working hard to improve and prepare. The amount of hours invested by all involved, outside of the regular school year, is staggering. It is inspiring to watch the dedication of our students, faculty and staff as they make preparing for the new year look so normal. PANTHER PROUD!

In keeping with the "TIME" theme, it is important that each of us take the time to recognize how fast this period in our students' lives actually is. According to statistics and averages, high school comprises approximately 5% of our entire lifetime. Imagine that. Transitioning from adolescence to adulthood and preparation for the rest of our lives is packed into five percent of our time on the planet. We owe it to ourselves and our children to make every moment count. Senior parents, reflect! Freshman parents, take note! We do not have TIME to get around to it. It is extremely important to get the year off to a strong start and not fall behind in the expectations for success.

Parents, please get to know what your student's day looks like and what the expectations are for them to succeed in each and every aspect. Encourage them to work hard and have high expectations, to set goals and strive to achieve them. Most importantly, encourage them to persevere. Nothing worth having comes easily. The best rewards most often come with hard work.

However, our parents should also take the time to recognize the importance of this transition period in your student's life. The high school years serve the function as the bridge between youth and adulthood. Our role as parents during this time is to move from **protector/preparer** to **support/guidance**. Sometimes we just need to pick them up, dust them off, and point them back down the right path. Sometimes we just need to get out of the way and encourage them to navigate challenges on their own, with proper advice of course. Time here is short and we must remember that we need to "Prepare the Child for the Road, not the Road for the Child". Tackling every difficult situation for them does nothing to prepare them. Without struggle, there can be no progress.

As always, your individual support and collective support of Panther Nation is greatly appreciated and vital to our success as a community.

Let's have an outstanding 2016 - 2017 school year. There are GREAT THINGS happening at PCHS!!!

***In every conceivable manner, the family is link to our past, bridge to our future. Alex Haley***