

Good afternoon PHS families,

While we know everyone is eagerly anticipating the winter break, we also know you are anxiously awaiting information regarding your student's transition back to school for in-person instruction. You are in receipt of this email because you selected Option #1: Continuum of Learning for your student.

Parents/Guardians - Please read through this email carefully, as it contains important information that will help students understand the new bell schedule and what to expect when they return to school for in-person instruction.

Students – Information in this email has been sent to your Poquoson Gmail account (only the Parent/Guardian email contains the student's group assignment information).

All students will begin the new bell schedule, virtually, on January 4, 2021. Additional information will be coming to all PHS families in January with specific details about the start of in-person learning at PHS on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 (for "A" group students) and Thursday, January 21, 2021 (for "B" group students).

VIRTUAL LEARNING PERIOD AFTER THE WINTER BREAK

All PCPS students in grades PreK-12 will learn virtually from home the first two-weeks of the New Year - January 4 -15, 2021. This decision was made based on guidance from the Peninsula Department of Health. Having all students learn virtually from home during this time allows the division to mitigate the spread and impact of COVID-19. Anyone who may have been exposed to the virus over the winter holiday will have time to be tested and quarantine prior to the return to in-person instruction. Additionally, it provides time for the division to deep clean all buildings and office spaces before students return. During this time, the division will continue to evaluate the health metrics for Poquoson and the surrounding area and communicate information as needed to staff, students, and parents.

NEW BELL SCHEDULE

All PHS students will follow the new bell schedule on January 4, 2021. This schedule reduces the number of courses that a student must focus on each day. The bell schedule is available [here](#).

****IMPORTANT** MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021 - WHAT SHOULD STUDENTS DO?**

- At 7:20am on January 4, 2021, all students should log into their first period course.
- Students are expected to log into their classes on time each day.
- On Mondays and Thursdays, students will attend periods 1, 3, 5, and 7.
- On Tuesdays and Fridays, students will attend periods 2, 4, 6, and 7.
- On Wednesdays, students may receive remediation and support, as well as have time for completion of assignments.
 - New assignments will not be assigned on Wednesdays.
 - However, students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Enrollment (DE), and/or Honors courses may have additional assignments and/or live sessions on Wednesdays.

RETURN TO IN PERSON LEARNING

- All students who selected Continuum (Option #1) will return to in person learning during the week of January 19, 2021. Students are assigned to a specific “A” or “B” group designation.
 - **Group A:** These students will attend school in person on Mondays and Tuesdays beginning Tuesday, January 19, 2021 (Monday, January 18 is a holiday).
 - § They will participate in courses virtually on Thursdays and Fridays.
 - **Group B:** These students will attend school in person on Thursdays and Fridays beginning Thursday, January 21, 2021.
 - § They will participate virtually on Mondays and Tuesdays.

How will I know what group I am in?

- An email was sent directly to each student’s parent/guardian on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 identifying the “A” or “B” group designation.

What will daily instruction look like?

All PHS students will follow the daily bell schedule as follows:

- Students on the Continuum (Option #1) will attend their classes in-person on their assigned "A" or "B" day.
- Poquoson Online students will join their classes each day synchronously.
- Classes will be live streamed each day to those students who are learning at home (both our Poquoson Online students and our A or B group when not at school).
- All students are expected to be present for all periods of instruction, whether in-person or at home.

What about Food Services?

Students will have an opportunity to receive a free Grab-and-Go breakfast upon arrival at school, which is to be eaten in class. At dismissal, students have an opportunity to receive a free Grab-and-Go lunch to take with them. A snack break will be provided during the second block of the day (periods 3 and 4) and students are encouraged to bring a healthy snack from home (i.e, fruit, granola bar, protein bar, etc.). Food will not be available for purchase during the snack break and food drop-off and delivery will not be allowed.

As the water fountains and bottle filling stations are disabled, students are encouraged to bring water with them each day.

Beginning Monday, January 4, 2021, all students are expected to participate in learning five days a week following the updated [PHS daily schedule](#).

Thank you and we appreciate your continued support!

Happy Holidays!

Shelly Cihak, Ed.D.

Principal

Poquoson High School