

# Park High School

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Principal

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Principal

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To: Park High School Students and Parents

From: Lori Dust and Lynne Scalia

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! We are ready for a fantastic year at PHS. For students, please get involved in school activities! As a school of 425 or so, we have academic and extra-curricular options for all students. The research is undisputable – getting involved in school activities benefits people in their adult lives.

## PHS Focus on Literacy

We will continue the literacy work that our teachers have worked hard on throughout last year. Our students experienced tremendous growth last year and we are ready to build on the already established momentum. William Van Cleve, Tina Pelletier, and Danielle Thompson will be our national literacy consultants for the district again this year. William Van Cleve is the PHS consultant and your teachers will begin the year with two training days: the first day is *Writing Across the Curriculum* and the second day is on *Implementing Differentiated Instruction*.

This work is important to us as we define literacy broadly as:

*...the ability to read, write, speak, listen and view in order to communicate with others effectively.  
Literacy is also the ability to think and respond critically in a wide variety of complex settings.*

Additionally, an area of focus continues to be in helping all students grow academically. A peer coaching model (teachers working with teachers) will be further implemented as we help each other work on instructional practices that have the highest leverage for improving learning. For students, this means you will likely see more visitors in the classroom.

## PHS Focus on Social-Emotional Growth

We know that school culture and climate have a profound impact on our students' academic progress and their relationships with peers and adults. We continue to work in providing students with a supportive environment in which to grow both socially and academically. We view discipline as a teachable moment and while there may be discipline measures associated with inappropriate behavior, a variety of interventions, supports, and restorative practices are also utilized. Our goal is for students to be responsible for their behavior and to change behaviors that are causing problems for themselves and others.

## Coming to School

Attendance is a priority for student success. Chronic absenteeism, excused or unexcused, negatively affects students in reaching their potential and can affect their chances of graduating. As few as two absences per month (2 absences x 9 months = 18 absences) is considered chronic. Our attendance policy allows for no more than 7 absences per semester. Once the eighth absence occurs, loss of credit is highly likely. We encourage all of our students to be at school every day, but if absences happen, keep these fewer than 4 days per semester. Here are some attendance tips that will help our students establish healthy attendance habits:

- **Get your child to school on time, every day, prepared.**
- **Educate your child that taking advantage of “excused absences” is still developing bad work habits.**
- **Schedule medical/emotional appointments outside of hours as often as possible.**
- **Schedule vacations when school is not in session.**
- **Allow students to stay home sick only when contagious or in extreme discomfort.**

- Eating healthy, exercise, and plenty of rest sets your student up to reach their personal potential academically and emotionally.
- Give your child enough time to get ready for school in the morning. Prepare lunches, pack school bags, and lay out clothing the night before.
- Monitor your child's attendance through Infinite Campus.

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Cahoon or Donna Fairchild 222-0448.

### Park High School Supply List

Teachers will specify supplies needed for each class. The following is supplies to be shared. (We know school supplies get expensive, so if this is a hardship, please ignore. If you need assistance with basic supplies, please let Mrs. Fairchild or Mrs. Cahoon know and we will assist.

- 2 boxes Kleenex
- 1 package of lined paper
- #2 pencils
- 1 container of Clorox wipes
- 1 bottle hand sanitizer
- 1 box whiteboard markers

The following are dates and times that start our school year:

<b>Monday, August 12, 2019</b>	<b>Fall Student &amp; Parent Sports Meeting, 6 p.m., PHS Gym</b>
<b>Wednesday and Thursday, August 14 and 15, 2019</b>	<b>Centralized Registration High School Rec Plex Wednesday 8:30-4:00 Thursday 10:00-6:00</b>
<b>Wednesday, August 28, 2019</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> day for 9<sup>th</sup> graders Regular start time: 8:10</b>
<b>Wednesday, August 28, 2019</b>	<b>Back to School Orientation, 4-5:30 Parents/Guardians &amp; Students encouraged to attend!</b>
<b>Thursday, August 29, 2019</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> day for all students Regular start time: 8:10</b>
<b>Monday, September 2, 2019</b>	<b>Labor Day Holiday</b>

### Gaps in a Schedule

Students who have a gap in their schedule will need to contact their counselor during that specific period. For example, if 2<sup>nd</sup> period doesn't have a class assigned, come to the counselor's office during 2<sup>nd</sup> period only, attending all the rest of your classes.

### Cell Phone Guidelines

We thank parents, students and teachers for their input on cell phone use during Spring 2019! Your input influenced the rewriting of this guideline. Our goal as a school is to help do our part in guiding adolescents in the healthy and educationally responsible use of cell phones.

Give others your full attention during class, a conversation, or a presentation. In classrooms, phones are used only for instructional purposes as directed by the teacher. When you walk into a classroom, phones are turned off (off means turned off not silence or vibrate) and put away in the door holder during class. Keep your phone in your locker if your teacher does not allow phones in the classroom.

Cell phone use is permitted in the hallways during passing times and lunch, or times when class is not in session. In the hallways, walk with your head up and without ear buds. Ear buds interfere with social interaction and communication. Look where you are going and address people politely.

Remember that cell phone/electronic device usage is a privilege, not a right, at PHS. Please respect these guidelines so that you may continue to bring your cell phone to school.

### Fall Sports

It is not too late to join fall sports at **PHS**. Cross country, cheer, football, golf, soccer, and volleyball are our fall sports. Contact Mrs. Wood if your child is interested in participating, [regina.wood@livingston.k12.mt.us](mailto:regina.wood@livingston.k12.mt.us). For all Ranger sports schedules and to sign up for any schedule changes, please go to [www.centralaconference.com](http://www.centralaconference.com) and click on Park High School on the right. Here are important fall sport dates:

<b>Fall Sports Parent Meeting</b>	<b>8/12</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>Main Gym</b>
<b>Golf Practice Begins</b>	<b>8/15</b>		
<b>Fall Sports Practices Begins</b>	<b>8/16</b>		

Completed sports physicals need to be turned into Regina Wood or Melissa Cahoon before the first practice. We also are looking for the following positions for fall, winter, and spring sports:

<b>Announcer</b>	<b>\$10/hour</b>
<b>Scorekeeper</b>	<b>\$10/hour</b>
<b>Ticket Taker</b>	<b>\$10/hour</b>

### Ranger Clinic

Just a reminder that **The Ranger Clinic** will be running once again this year with Paula Coleman, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, from Livingston Health Care. The clinic hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8-11:30 am with the first clinic on Thursday, August 30. Paula is able to see students at Park High School, to help avoid missed class time, for issues such as chronic disease management, mental health issues, physicals and immunizations, ADHD management, acute illness treatment, concussion management and return to play clearance, reproductive health counseling, and more. You may schedule an appointment for your student by calling the hospital at 222-3541, or contacting the PHS school nurse, Holly Sienkiewicz, at 222-0448 x210 or [holly.sienkiewicz@livingston.k12.mt.us](mailto:holly.sienkiewicz@livingston.k12.mt.us) or the SGMS school nurse, Sue Harriman, RN at 222-3292 x154 or [sue.harriman@livingston.k12.mt.us](mailto:sue.harriman@livingston.k12.mt.us).

It is a good idea to remind your student of a few basic habits which might help them avoid the common viruses/illnesses which come with the start of every new school year. Wash your hands frequently, avoid touching your face, get enough sleep, drink plenty of water, get regular exercise, and eat well! Please remember to keep your student home if he/she has a fever over 100 degrees or has vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours. By doing so helps to decrease the spread of illnesses in our schools. Here's to a healthy 2019-20 school year!

We are excited for what this year will bring to us. Thank you for your continuous support. Please contact us if you need anything.



Home of the Rangers