

Dear Parents and Guardians of Parkers Prairie High School,

At the writing of this letter, the first day of school has started and classes are in session. It's wonderful to have the students back. They are the reason we got up this morning and we are so excited they are here!

There are a few changes this year, so this letter can hopefully clarify them for you. Please read below. As always, if you have questions or need clarification, please contact me directly. As a staff, we are dedicated to working together for all students. We are all on the same team: seeing our student through to graduation and developing skills for work and adulthood.

PANTHER HOUR

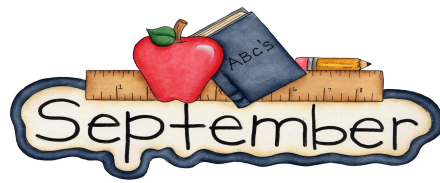
In the past, Panther Hour has been a midday assignment for students who were not passing classes. This year, we are working to allow Panther Hour to be less punitive and more available to all students. In the past, it has been evident that students were at times overwhelmed with coursework and stressed with daily expectations. **In an effort to offer students time to meet with teachers and stay caught up on their work during the school day, we have extended the lunch period for all students, creating a new concept for Panther Hour.** Panther Hour will now allow all students time to eat and meet with teachers, complete assignments, relax with friends, play in the gym, or take a breather before going to 5th hour. As always, proper student conduct will be expected. As a faculty, we are trusting that this is a good move to the benefit of students and they will take advantage of this time to decompress and meet their academic needs.

The details:

Panther Hour will be held each day for all students from 11:53-12:37. Students and staff are divided into 2 teams: Maroon and Gold. Gold (grades 7, 8, 9) will eat at 11:53 and Maroon (grades 10, 11, 12) will eat at 12:15. Opposite of their eating time, students are given time to meet with teachers and do whatever else is needed for their classes. Please discuss with your student your personal expectations for them during this time and reiterate that you, too, expect them to use the time appropriately. Advisory meetings, class meetings, student council, etc. can also be held at this time, eliminating the need for them during class or before school.

BACKPACKS (School bags)

This year, we have a higher enrollment in some of our classes than in years past, bringing their classroom seating to capacity. With regards to safety in the classroom, backpacks take a lot of space and can be a hazard in the classroom. Therefore, students are to leave their backpacks in their lockers. In some classes, getting around the backpacks during a fire drill or emergency would be hazardous.



Regular classroom traffic flow cannot happen with the amount of backpacks in classes. Also concerning, safety for all students regarding contents in backpacks has played a role in our decision to leave them in lockers. In order to ensure a safe environment for all students in the student body, all students will leave their backpacks in their lockers for the duration of the school day (8:20-3:06).

CELL PHONES

Cell phones are not allowed during class time. The one exception would be if the teacher allowed a student to use the cell phone for educational purposes. At no time will the school require students to carry a cell phone. We have devices for students to use for educational needs.

Noteworthy regarding cells:

- If you would like to contact your student during the day, Panther Hour would be the perfect time to connect (11:53-12:37). Students will have access to their phones at that time.
- Students are responsible for their own cell phones, as well as other valuables.

DRESS

As a faculty, we are committed to keeping the focus of the school day on school. Some clothing can be distracting for students. Students are expected to dress in a respectful manner without shirts that include innuendo, weapons or chemicals; no short shorts/skirts; no ripped clothing or shirts with ripped-off sleeves; strapless tops should have a jacket/cover; straps should be an inch wide. Students are to come to school with respectful, clean attire.

Thank you for your help in starting this year off on the right foot. We are so excited to make this the best year yet. Together, our teamwork will make this happen. Please let us know how we can help make this a great year for your student.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carey Johnson, Principal
Parkers Prairie High School
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