



Pequannock Township High School

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Richard M. Hayzler, Principal

Jennifer K. Mildner, Assistant Principal

Brian Silipena, Director of Athletics

August 2025

Dear PTHS Students, Parents and Guardians:

It is with Golden Panther Pride and genuine excitement that I welcome you to the 2025–2026 school year! Like all of you, I am trying to hold on to the remaining weeks of summer, soaking in the sun and trying to figure out how it is “Back to School” time once again. (The TV commercials in mid-July were a quick reminder!) However, as the summer sunsets give way to the sunrise of a new academic journey, I find myself both humbled and energized by the opportunity we have to shape lives, strengthen our community, and continue building a culture of excellence at Pequannock Township High School.

It has become a tradition to ground each school year in a theme that becomes our shared focus, a compass that guides our decisions, shapes our culture and inspires our work. In support of our summer reading program, I reread one of my favorite books, “The Alchemist.” In the novel, a young shepherd named Santiago leaves behind the comfort of home to pursue a treasure he has only glimpsed in a dream. Along the way, he discovers that the true reward lies not just in reaching the horizon—but in the courage, growth, and wisdom gained through the journey.

That same spirit is at the heart of this year’s theme: **“Chase Your Horizon.”** A horizon is not a fixed point—it moves as we move, expands as we grow. It reminds us that there is always more to explore, more to strive for, and more to discover—both in our students and in ourselves. “Chasing your Horizon” is about embracing the possibilities ahead, daring to take that next step, and encouraging our students to do the same.

This theme speaks to three core ideas I hope we all hold close this year:

Vision: Chasing your horizon begins with seeing beyond today. Whether it's imagining the future for a student who has yet to discover their voice, or reflecting on our own growth as educators, we each carry a vision that stretches beyond what is, toward what could be.

Courage: Horizons are not reached without bold steps. Change, challenge, and uncertainty will always be part of the journey. But so too is courage—the courage to try a new approach, to learn from setbacks, to lift each other up, and to keep moving forward together. Last year was a prime example of that, as we navigated a new schedule together adapting, evolving and excelling

Purpose: As Golden Panthers, we come together not just to do the work, but to make a lasting impact. We serve, we lead, and we inspire. Each lesson, conversation, and interaction is a chance to move one step closer to the horizon we envision for our students and our school community.

The faculty and staff help define the standard of excellence that has been set for our community. The administration is pleased to welcome new staff members to our PTHS team this year and look forward to helping support them as they work with the eager young minds of tomorrow. The collective collaboration of our world-class faculty is what helps make Pequannock Township High School a special place to learn, to work and to grow. Joining the Golden Panther community are the following new staff members:

Angel Cabrera III	– Allied Health (Leave)	Anastasia Monda	– Art (Maternity Leave)
Katie Carbone	– Mathematics	Dana Scillieri	– Physical Ed/Health
Adriana Contreras	– Spanish	Troy Van Orden	– Social Studies
Jomarie Figueroa	– Spanish		

We will have a familiar face with us as Ed Kopp is returning in a new role as the Work-Based Learning/Academy Coordinator. The district is excited to welcome Mrs. Janine Barboza as the new Supervisor of Science, STEM and Aviation.

I would like to thank our custodial, IT and maintenance staff for the hard work they have put in to ensure that the school is ready for our staff and students. They have worked tirelessly to prepare for the opening of school and have the classrooms looking great! Thank you to Mrs. Miller, Ms. McLaughlin, Mrs. Tabakman and Mrs. Hummel, who have done an amazing job getting all of the supplies and necessary paperwork ready for your arrival. Mrs. Mildner and Mr. Silipena have been actively communicating with our partner schools, coaches and teams to make sure everyone stays up to date to ensure a smooth opening for our Vo-Tech students and our student-athletes. Our Guidance/CST staff have worked hard to ensure our schedule and classes can accommodate the students and staff. Our Supervisor Team has been busy preparing to support our students and staff for a year filled with learning and growth. It has been a true team effort!

I encourage you to read the information below carefully as it pertains to the beginning of the school year for the faculty and community at large. While there may be a lot of information, it is important to review the policies, procedures and expectations that will help the students **(and you)** get off to a strong start. I also encourage you to visit the school website at www.pequannock.org and follow PTHS on Instagram at @pthsnation for updates and information.

As we prepare to welcome new students and reunite with familiar ones, let us commit to making this year one where we dream big, act boldly, and support one another in the chase. Our students await. Their horizon begins here—and so does ours. Enjoy the remainder of the summer!

Let's Go Panthers!

Sincerely,



Richard M. Hayzler
Principal

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

- The first day of school for students is **Thursday, September 4th**. *The first block begins at 8:05. Please plan on dropping your child off prior to 7:55 am.*

MASTER SCHEDULE

- In 2024-2025, PTHS moved to a drop rotation schedule. The school day runs from 8:05 am to 3:04 pm. For information about the schedule, click on the link here: [Master Schedule](#)

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

- Back To School Night will be held on **Thursday, September 18th at 7:00 P.M.** More information will be forthcoming regarding the format of the night.

LUNCH PROCEDURES

- PTHS has a Unit Lunch between blocks 3 and 4. Students will have the opportunity to eat in the cafeteria, small gym or at the designated tables in the lobbies. The pavilion will also be available when the weather is appropriate.
- Pomptonian will continue as our school lunch provider. The cost of a standard lunch will be **\$4.75**. **A featured favorite lunch will be \$5.50. Parents can still utilize www.myschoolbucks.com to place money on their child's account. Accounts used last year should still be available.**
- Students must remain in the designated dining areas throughout the lunch period unless assigned a pass by a teacher.
- The senior courtyard will be available for seniors during Unit Lunch, weather permitting.
- Student Clubs will be able to meet during Unit Lunch under the supervision of the club adviser.
- ***As per Board of Education Policy #8500, there will be no delivery of food from outside agencies unless previously approved by the Building Principal. Food items brought into school for students by family members will be kept at the security vestibule until Unit Lunch or after school. Students will not be called down to pick up items.***

SCHOOL FORMS

All information regarding different notifications and permission forms can now be located in the Realtime Parent Portal. When you log into the Realtime Parent Portal, please go to "Parent Questions" to give permission on different items and click on "Documents" to view certain items when necessary. In some instances, you may be prompted to view a document before clicking yes. Please be sure to review and click yes/no to the following items:

- Chromebook 1:1 Agreement (Parents and Students)
- Photo/Video/Internet Use Permission
- Random Drug Testing Letter and Consent to Test
- Google Apps Permission
- Student Handbook Acknowledgement
- Military Connected
- Military Opt Out
- Vo Tech Opt Out

Health Forms for Medications must be accessed on the website here: [Medical Forms](#) Please have your child bring them into school and drop them off in the main office or email to olga.avagyan@pequannock.org

All forms are due by September 12, 2025

1:1 CHROMEBOOK PROGRAM

Once again each student at PTHS will be provided a Chromebook that will be used in their classes to access educational resources, produce authentic digital content and collaborate with peers and teachers.. PTHS sees this 1:1 initiative as an opportunity to increase engagement for all learners, strengthen student achievement across the curriculum and provide students with the 21st century skills and digital citizenship they will need to succeed in a global economy. **There will be a \$25.00 technology use fee that will cover all expenses related to accidental damage, theft, loss, repair, and/or exchange of the Chromebook. All 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade parents must pay the \$25.00 technology fee each year.** Payment options are available on the District Website under the “Parents” tab or by clicking here: [Technology Fee](#)

ATTENDANCE/TARDINESS PROCEDURES

- If your child is going to be absent or tardy please contact the attendance office at (973)-616-6007 or email attendance@pequannock.org. Written medical documentation must be submitted for any tardy or absence to be excused. Up to three days per year will be excused for College Visitations for Grades 11 and 12 ONLY.
- Frequent absence from classroom learning experiences disrupts the continuity of the learning process and limits the ability of students to complete the prescribed curriculum requirements successfully. Students who exceed sixteen **(16) unexcused absences, twelve (12) for Physical Education and four (4) for Health** will be in danger of not receiving credit for the school year. If you have questions about the attendance procedures or if you ever find yourself in a position where circumstances impede your ability to get your child to school on time, please contact the administration immediately.
- Please note that Board of Education Policy 5200 outlines the district attendance policy. The attendance and tardiness procedures can be found in both the Student Handbook as well as on the district’s website.

BUILDING SECURITY

- PTHS is pleased to welcome back Ron Lucas who will serve as the District Security Supervisor. Our district security team will assist with student drop off and will be responsible for supervising security in all of our district schools.
- Be aware that video surveillance cameras are installed in the building as well as on the perimeter of the campus to increase the degree of safety and security.
 1. According to state guidelines, access to the building will be denied to visitors during all fire drills, emergency evacuation drills, secure-in-place drills and active shooter drills.
 2. Parent and community involvement in the school is always encouraged. Kindly call for an appointment whenever possible. Upon entering the building, all visitors will be asked to identify themselves, state the reason for their visit and provide their driver’s license or other government issued ID such as a passport. All visitors will be required to wear a Visitor’s Pass while in the building.
 3. All doors, including the main entrance, will be locked during the school day. Students are required to remain in the building at all times unless given authorization to leave.
 4. An attendance officer will be at the front kiosk until 4:00 pm each day.
- Our district will again be participating with the Morris County Prosecutor’s Office in a program called ***Operation Proceed***. The mission of this program is to “form a pact between the Morris County

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schools and the law enforcement community, working together to discourage drugs from entering the schools and to maintain and foster an environment that promotes health, safety and the welfare of the students, faculty and staff.” As part of this program, **random** searches of lockers and classrooms may be performed. This program may include the use of K-9 searches.

CALENDAR

- The Pequannock Township District Calendar will be available on the district website www.pequannock.org. The calendar is a resource that will serve to remind you of the important activities and upcoming dates throughout the school year.

CELL PHONES

- Cell phones are permitted for use by students in the hallway during passing time and in the cafeteria during lunch only.
- Cell phones are **not permitted** to be used during class time. Failure to adhere to the cell phone policy will result in disciplinary action.
- Cell phone holders have been added to each classroom for use by the classroom teacher. Students are required to put their cell phones in the holders during instructional time.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

Students and parents are instructed to use the following chain of command in addressing discipline, grades and school policies.

1. Classroom Teacher/Staff Member
2. School Counselor and/or Case Manager
3. Supervisor
4. Assistant Principal/Director
5. Principal
6. Superintendent of School

CODE OF CONDUCT

- The possession or use of smoking and tobacco products (including cigarettes, snuff, snus, electronic cigarettes/hookahs/hookah pens/vape pens, and chewing tobacco) are prohibited on all school grounds, buses, buildings, and during any school sponsored function, according to State Law and BOE Policy 5600 and 5533 Pupils/Smoking. Items will be confiscated. Mandatory drug testing is a requirement for students found using an electronic cigarette/vape pen.

DRESS CODE

- Student dress is an important part of a culture of excellence. The school guidelines for dress code can be found in the Student Handbook. All shorts, skirts, dresses, etc, must be at least mid thigh length. Students will be provided with a cover up if they are inappropriately dressed. (“Soffe” shorts and one piece rompers are not considered appropriate attire.) Parents may be required to bring in appropriate clothing if necessary.

DROP OFF/PICK UP PROCEDURES

- To avoid traffic, it is recommended that students are dropped off prior to 7:50am.
- Students will be let into the building at 7:55 am
- In the event of rain, students will report to the AUDITORIUM prior to 7:55 a.m.

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS/ACTIVITIES

- Clubs and Activities will be meeting in person before or after school and during unit lunch. A schedule of club meetings is available on the school website and will be listed in the morning announcements that are posted each morning to our website and social media feeds.

FINAL EXAMS

- Students will take Final exams in all departments at the conclusion of their course. These exams will focus on the priority standards addressed during the school year. There will not be midterm exams. The final exam counts for ten percent (10%) of a student's final grade.

FIRE/SECURITY DRILLS

- Throughout the year the Pequannock Township School District conducts fire drills and security drills with our students and staff. Preparation and planning for unforeseen emergencies is critical to the safety and welfare of our students. PTHS will conduct at least one fire drill and one security drill each month. Please discuss the importance of these drills with your child. If you have any questions concerning the drills, please do not hesitate to contact the main office.

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH

The Federal Free Lunch Application Form and the Student Insurance Information Flyer can be found on the district website: www.pequannock.org. If you wish to apply for either of the above, please download and complete the appropriate form and return it to the **Board Office**.

FOLLOW PTHS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

You can follow Pequannock Township High School on Social Media on the following accounts:

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|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Pequannock Township High School | @pthsnation | Twitter, Instagram and YouTube |
| • PTHS Athletics | @athleticspths | Twitter and Instagram |
| • PTHS Guidance Department | @pths_counselors | Twitter and Instagram |

GRADING POLICY

Board of Education Policy 2624 outlines the grading policy for students. Students in the district shall be considered to have passed a subject/course if a minimal grade of 63 has been achieved. Therefore, students must receive a 63 or higher to pass a course for the marking period. The grading scale at PTHS is as follows:

A+	97-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A	93-96	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	65-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	63-64
						F	62 and below

GRADING EXPECTATIONS

The following grading procedures are in effect at Pequannock Township High School:

- Grading is done on a point system with assignments having a set point value.
- There is only one grading category. Homework assignments are included as part of the overall grade.
- Assignments are to be reported on Realtime by the teacher in a timely manner. If there is a concern regarding your child's grade, please reach out to the classroom teacher.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING (HIB) POLICY

Pequannock Township High School will continue its campaign to eliminate harassment, intimidation and bullying from our school community. Our students will be provided with opportunities to learn about the dangers of bullying and coping strategies if they feel they are bullied or feel like "an outsider."

Board of Education Policy 5512 defines harassment, intimidation or bullying:

"Harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, as defined in N.J.S.A 18A:37-14, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents:

- 1. Is reasonably perceived as being motivated by either any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability; or*
- 2. By any other distinguishing characteristic; and that*
- 3. Take place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or off school grounds, as provided for in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15.3, that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other pupils, and that*
- 4. A reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, that the act(s) will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a pupil or damaging the pupil's property, or placing a pupil in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property; or*
- 5. Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any pupil or group of pupils; or*
- 6. Created a hostile educational environment for the pupil by interfering with a pupil's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the pupil.*

"Electronic communication" means a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device, including but not limited to, a telephone, cellular phone, computer, or pager.

Parents are advised to review the Board of Education Policy for information regarding reporting procedures, consequences/remedial actions and investigation findings. If there are questions regarding the HIB policy, please contact the District HIB Coordinator, Daniel O'Keefe at daniel.okeefe@Pequannock.org

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

It is important that support is provided to our HSA throughout the year as they provide excellent programs and support for our students. You can contact the HSA at PAWS@pthshsa.org and follow them on Facebook at Pequannock Township High School HSA. You can also see all the things going on by visiting the new HSA website at <https://pthshsa.com/>

"Promoting Growth Through Education"

All families are encouraged to pay the membership dues each year. Families who pay the membership dues for four years will enable your child to be able to apply for a scholarship when they are a senior.

LOCKERS

All students will be provided with a locker and a lock. Lockers are to be locked at all times. We highly discourage students from bringing expensive electronic devices to school as they are often lost or damaged. The school is not responsible for the safe return of these devices; especially if stored in unlocked lockers. The main office will have copies of the locker assignments and combinations. Students are required to purchase a gym lock (\$5.00) from their physical education teacher prior to the end of year. If a school lock is lost or is not returned at the end of the school year, a \$5.00 fine will be owed. All lockers and desks are school property and therefore, are subject to inspection (18A:36-19.2).

MEDIA CENTER

The media center will be available during the school day for students and staff by appointment to limit the number of people using the media center at one time. The media center will be available before and after school for students to complete schoolwork.

MILITARY RECRUITMENT

- The federal government “No Child Left Behind” Act required all schools to release the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the students enrolled in the building to military recruiters, college recruiters, or prospective employers if they request it. If anyone does not want this information released, you must submit this request in writing to Mrs. Diane Hummel in the Guidance Department by **Friday, September 19, 2025**

RANDOM DRUG TESTING

- The program information and sign-up form can be found on the website. If your son/daughter is involved in a sport, extra-curricular activity, applying for a parking permit or volunteering for the RDT program, please read the information and return the form to your period 1 teacher on the first day of school.

REALTIME PORTAL

- Realtime is a comprehensive Student Information System that can be accessed from any computer, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When you, as a parent or guardian, log-in you have access to information about all of the students for which you are associated. Realtime will be used for you to monitor your child’s attendance, grades, homework, and report cards.

SCHEDULING

- Course schedules for the 2025-2026 school year can be found in Realtime. No course schedules will be changed at this time unless there is a mistake. Please contact your child's guidance counselor should you have questions or concerns.
- All information about our schedule can be found on our website under the Parents Tab or by clicking [here](#).
- The fall athletic schedule can be found here: [Athletic Schedule](#)

SCOIR

This year PTHS will be using [Scoir](#) to complete all elements of the college application process. This will include letters of recommendation and other pertinent information needed for students to complete the Common Application. Parents can use this program to track their child's progress in the college application process. Scoir has replaced Naviance. Any information previously saved in Naviance will be uploaded into Scoir. Training will be provided to all staff and students at the beginning of the year. Please contact your child's guidance counselor if you need additional assistance (973) 616-6010.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

The Pequannock Township School District is pleased to work with **Detective William Juliano** as our School Resource Officer. Det. Juliano has been a member of the Pequannock Township Police Department for sixteen years. He will be working with our students in the health classes as well as visiting the schools on a regular basis. Members of the Pequannock Township Police Department will also be making building visits throughout the year as part of their partnership with the Pequannock Township School District.

SMARTPASS

PTHS will once again be using SmartPass as our electronic hall pass system. SmartPass is a digital hall pass system that monitors student movement throughout the school. Students must fill out a pass on their Chromebook using the SmartPass app. Students without authorized passes are not to be in the halls during class periods.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

When considering insurance coverage, please be aware that the student insurance coverage provided by the district only supplements individual health insurance coverage and our accident insurance only covers the student for injuries sustained as part of the daily school program or associated after-school activities and interscholastic sports.

STUDENT PARKING

Seniors who wish to park on school grounds must fill out the parking application, submit copies of documents, and sign the Random Drug Testing form. These forms are available on the [website](#). Parking rules can be found in the Student Handbook and on our website. Contact the Assistant Principal's office with any questions.

STUDENT YEARBOOK PHOTOS

This year we will be doing underclassman student photos on **September 17th and 18th** in all Physical Education classes.

SUPPLIES

There is no supply list for Pequannock Township High School. Students will receive information from their individual teachers regarding what supplies are needed. The following is recommended:

- Students should have a 3-5 subject notebook, pens and pencils for the first day of school

STUDENT HANDBOOK

A copy of the 2025-2026 Student Handbook can be found here: [Student Handbook](#). Please take time to read the handbook and stay informed on policies and procedures.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION BADGES

Students are required to have their student ID badges with them at all times. In the event of an emergency, field trip or competition, students must have their ID badges with them. Students can use their badges from a previous year until their new school pictures are taken.

TRAFFIC

Please read the letter from Mr. Lucas, the Director of Security, about the [traffic procedures](#) at Pequannock Township High School. If visiting the high school, please park in the visitor spots in the front row of the main parking lot.

IMPORTANT LINKS
[Back to School Information](#)

Attendance Information	Medical Forms
Daily Rotational Schedule	Bell Schedule Information
District Calendar	Student Handbook
Free and Reduced Lunch Information	Student Parking
Home and School Information	Technology Fee
Lunch Ordering	Traffic Procedures