Pembroke High School

Program of Studies Presentation

March 2, 2026
6:00 PM

Presentation Agenda

- Introductions
- Program of Studies - What, Where, Why, How?
- Graduation Requirements - Classes of 2027 and 2028 v Classes of 2029 and 2030
- Grade Point Averages (two types)
- Course Selection Process and its Importance
- AP Offerings and New Courses
- Pathways Program
- Breakout Sessions (in cafeteria)

Introductions - Tonight's Key Players

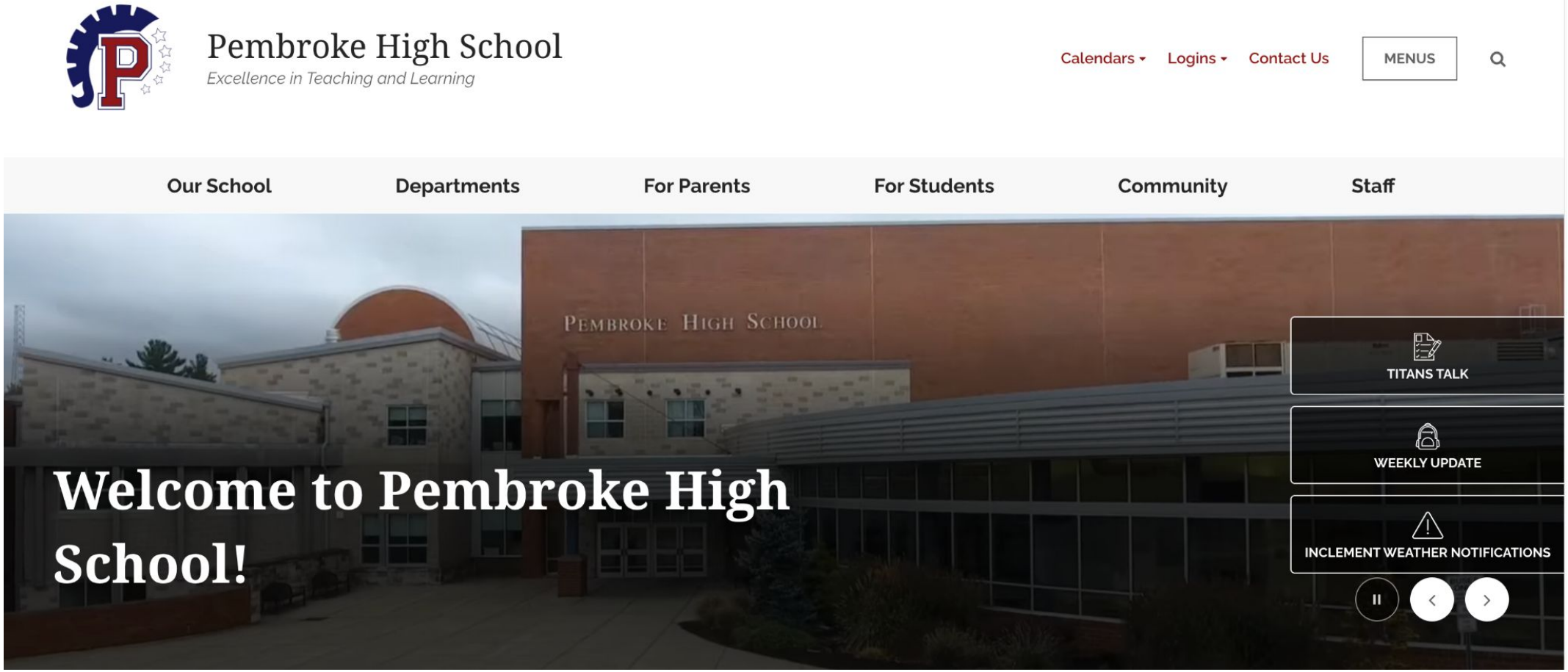
- Mrs. Robin Conathan - ***Lead Guidance Counselor***
- Mrs. Maryellen Gates - ***Pathways Coordinator***
- Dr. Mark N. Galligan, ***K-12 Humanities (ELA and Social Studies) Curriculum Coordinator***
- Mr. Jonathan Shapiro, ***K-12 STEM (Math and Science) Curriculum Coordinator***
- Ms. Saviz Safizadeh, ***7-12 World Language Curriculum Coordinator***
- Mrs. Gwynne Chapman, ***K-12 VPA Curriculum Supervisor***
- Ms. Kristen Kelley, ***Assistant Principal (10, 12)***
- Mr. David Rix, ***Assistant Principal (9, 11)***

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Program of Studies – What, Where, and How?

To view the Program of Studies go to the PHS Website and Select Departments and then **Guidance Department**



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Graduation Requirements

- All students must earn total of 88 credits, earn a Competency Determination, perform 40 hours of community service
- Schedule has room for 7 credit-bearing classes
  - Full year course - 4 credits
  - Half year course - 2 credits
  - potential to earn a max. of 28 credits per year - if no study hall
  - must be scheduled to earn min. of 24 credits - if study hall
  - must earn a min. of 22 credits each year for promotion
- Most students graduate in excess of 88 (112 possible).
- 40 Hours of Community Service
  - Think 10 hours a year for pacing
  - NHS - A commitment to service means exceeding the minimum.

Graduation Requirements

- Classes of 2027 and 2028 (rising Seniors and Juniors) Graduation Minimum Requirements
  - **English:** 4 years/16 credits
  - **Mathematics**: 4 years/16 credits (Geometry and Algebra II)
  - **Science**: 3 years/12 credits (Biology and either Chemistry or Physics)
  - **Social Studies**: 3 years/12 credits (World History, US History I, and US II)
  - **Physical Education/Wellness**: 4 Semesters/8 credits
  - 64 out of 88 credits are prescribed

Graduation Requirements

- Graduation Minimum Requirements - Classes of 2029 and 2030 (rising sophomores and freshmen)
  - **English:** 4 years/16 credits
  - **Mathematics**: 4 years/16 credits (Geometry and Algebra II)
  - **Science**: 3 years/12 credits (Biology and either Chemistry or Physics)
  - **Social Studies**: 3 years/12 credits (World History, US History I, and US II)
  - **Physical Education/Wellness**: 4 Semesters/8 credits
  - ***NEW* - World Language:** 2 years/8 credits (consecutive, same language)
  - ***NEW* - Visual and Performing Arts**: one semester/2 credits
  - 74 of 88 credits prescribed

Graduation Requirements

- NEW Competency Determination
  - successful completion of 9th and10th grade coursework in courses to which MCAS was previously aligned:
    - Genre Studies (Grade 9 English) and either World Literature or AP Seminar (Grade 10 English)
    - Algebra I/AIM I and Geometry/AIM II
    - Biology, Chemistry, or Physics
    - US History I***

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Grade Point Average - What's New?

Grade	AP	HONORS	CP I	CP II
A+	5.3	4.8	4.3	4.05
A	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.75
A-	4.7	4.2	3.7	3.45
B+	4.3	3.8	3.3	3.05
B	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.75
B-	3.7	3.2	2.7	2.45
C+	3.3	2.8	2.3	2.05
C	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.75
C-	2.7	2.2	1.7	1.45
D+	2.3	1.8	1.3	1.05
D	2.0	1.5	1.0	.75
D-	1.7	1.2	0.7	.45
F	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

- A weighted grade point average will be calculated for all Pembroke High School students.
- The grade point average is calculated by converting grades to their corresponding numerical equivalent according to the GPA chart.
- This PHS GPA will be used for all things PHS (NHS, Val., Sal. Top 10% and other deciles, transcripts)
- Students/Families will also receive an "Estimated College GPA."
  - Colleges will calculate GPA differently
  - Five core subjects and any AP classes are factored in.
  - Only seen in PowerSchool
  - To be used as a datapoint by families as they see fit

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Course Selection Process

- Teachers have been making course recommendations throughout February.
- Window closes Friday, March 6
- Teachers try to balance ability vs. current performance
- For core courses - can only select a course for which they've recommended.
- Disagree with recommendation? Have conversations with the teacher (Empowered Learners and Effective Communicators)
- Still no agreement?
  - Select the course for which you are recommended
  - Fill out Level Override Form by ***Friday, April 17***

Course Selection

- Students will select their courses during Guidance Scheduling Seminars during TT
  - Sophomores: March 10 - 14
  - Freshmen: March 17 - 20
  - Juniors: March 24 - 27
  - 8th Grade: March 30 - April 2 (21st Century)
- Each grade's course selection portal will close on Friday of the following week (ex. soph.portal closes 3/20)
- Students should review their course selection with their parents.

Course Selection – Must Do's

- When selecting courses:
  - Must select a total of 28 credits - enough for seven periods
  - Can do so using a combination of full and half year courses
  - Must select a Physical Education - Grades 10-12 have choices:
    - One of our courses
    - Bona Fide MIAA Team Sport*
    - All freshmen select one semester of Grade 9 Health and Wellness
  - Students in Grades 10-12 may select up to 2 Directed Studies (1 per semester)

Course Selection – Must Do's

- When selecting courses:
  - Select 3 elective alternates that are ***different*** from their primary elective choices
  - All duplicate requests will be deleted. They don't increase your chances
  - Course Selection is NOT first-come, first-serve.
  - We use numbers to determine which classes (and how many) to run.

Course Selection – Find the Right Balance

- Please select courses with care
  - Read course descriptions and level requirements.
  - Know what is expected.
  - Communicate to your teachers
  - Effective Communicators do so with an open mind.
- Find the balance between realistically challenging and creating a program for success.
- Courses that the students select will determine:
  - The master schedule
  - Number of sections that will be offered of each class
  - Class sizes
  - Teacher workload/equity
- Changes to student schedules can be difficult to accommodate due to scheduling restrictions.

Schedule Changes – The Placement Review Process

- When possible, schedule changes are made upon request in June & the week prior to the first day of school when the Guidance Counselors return.
- Once school starts, requests for schedule changes are entertained primarily if a ***student is misplaced : The Placement Review Process***
- Two windows to review placement:
  - After Term 1 Progress Reports (4 weeks)
  - After Term 1 Report Cards (8 weeks)
- Schedule changes occur when stakeholders agree that student is “misplaced.” The student is doing everything possible to achieve success but is still not meeting with success.
  - Making an earnest effort daily
  - Turning in all assignments
  - Consistently seeks extra help (before/after school & during Titan Time)

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AP Course Offerings (23)

Class of 2029

AP Modern World History
AP Seminar

AP Digital Photo
AP Computer Science Principles

Class of 2028

AP United States History
AP Pre-Calculus
AP Language and Composition
AP Chemistry
AP Biology

AP Seminar
AP Modern World History
AP Digital Photo
AP Computer Science Principles
AP Computer Science A
AP Statistics
AP Government and Politics
AP Psychology

Class of 2027

AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Pre-Calculus
AP Literature
AP Biology
AP Physics I
AP Physics C
AP Chemistry

AP United States History
AP Modern World History
AP European History
AP Seminar
AP Language and Composition
AP Digital Photo
AP Computer Science Principles
AP Computer Science A
AP Statistics
AP Government and Politics
AP Psychology
AP Studio Art
AP Spanish Language
AP Spanish Literature
AP French

New Courses

- ***Project Lead the Way Capstone***
  - final course in the Biomedical and Engineering Pathways
  - Honors and CP level
- ***AP Digital Photography -***
  - New AP course for students in grades 10-12 that have take Digital Photo (semester elective)
- ***Connecting Place and Page -***
  - Senior ELA Seminar focuses on the importance of place and its impact on literature
  - Honors and CP level
- ***Human Body Systems*** -
  - Not new but it replaces Honors Anatomy and Physiology
  - Uses the PLTW curriculum - hands on, real world learning opportunities
  - Do not need to be in the Bio. Med. Pathway
  - Honors and CP level
- ***AP Physics 1*** and ***AP Physics C***
  - Will run both

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Pathways Program

- Students who participate in a pathway experience an in-depth look at a specific career field of interest, engage in career planning activities, and enhance their experience through an industry-focused internship or certification during their senior year. Students have the opportunity to choose from the following pathways:
    - **Business and Entrepreneurship**
    - **Computer Science**
    - **Digital Arts**
    - **Biomedical Science**
    - **Engineering and Manufacturing**
    - **Music**
    - **Global Citizenship & Learning**
    - **Information Technology**
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