



PHS High School

September 2011

Principal: Todd Whitmire
1750 Harbor Street
Pittsburg, CA 94565
(925) 473-2390

Assist. Principals: Eileen Chen
Brian Wilson
Will Dunford
Justin White

From The Principal's Desk and other important information you should know!

Welcome! This is our second year in our new high school! We are very pleased to welcome you and your child to Pittsburg High School. One of our goals this year is to improve our communication with you. This includes making more parent phone calls, scheduling parent/teacher conferences, updating Edline on a regular basis and using our autodialer program. You are also welcome to visit with us ANYTIME. In fact, we encourage you to come and sit in your child's classes to understand what they go through on a daily basis. In return, we would like you to stay in touch with us! We value you as a partner and recognize we need your support and assistance with ensuring your child is successful during their four years at PHS!

Seniors – what you need to do!!

The beginning of your child's last year in high school, their senior year, is a critical one. If your child has not signed up for the SAT and/or ACT exam that, typically, is required by most colleges as part of the admission process please do this immediately! Your child's counselor can help you and, in addition, we have fee waivers (the exams are approximately \$80 each) for students' whose families meet the income criteria (over 100 of our seniors last year received fee waivers for the SAT exam). The counselors have been asked to meet with all senior students by the end of October. These meetings will include parents or, at the very least, a phone call home explaining their child's graduation status. The senior student meetings also included information on the financial aid process, the common application, helping your child identify 2-3 colleges they are interested in attending and assistance in applying to these colleges. Our counselors are:

MR. MIKE GLASS ~ (A-FLE) ex 7522
MS. TANYA VOQUI ~ (FLO-MARC) ex 7526
MS. DANNI LE ~ (MARG-REA) ex 7524
(Puente 9th / 11th)
MS. JASREEN RAI~ (REE-Z) ex 7525
(Puente 10th / 12th)
Ms. Desiree Anderson, Counseling Secretary
(473-2390 ex.7504)

College Info Night for Seniors – Thursday, Sept. 29th, from 6-7 p.m. in the PHS library

CAHSEE Intervention Class

Juniors and Seniors, we are offering a CAHSEE math class after school for students who need support with the CAHSEE exam coming up for in October and November. If you have any questions please see Ms. Bussey in G204 or Mr. Wilson in A202.

Using our Phone System

1. Dial (925) 473-2390.
 - You will be connected to an Auto Attendant.
2. Listen to Prompts carefully. The message will tell what number to press in order to be connected to your desired location.
 - Teachers **DO NOT** have direct phone numbers to their classroom.
 - You must **ALWAYS** dial the **MAIN NUMBER** 473-2390 in order to get in touch with a teacher.
 - You may dial the teachers extension at any time during the Auto Attendant prompt
 - If you dial "473" followed by the teacher's extension, you will not reach the teacher.
3. If you are uncertain how to get in touch with a teacher, call the main number and press "0" in order to talk to the office.

We Tip Program

We are participating in a program to reduce vandalism, crime and improve school safety at Pittsburg High School. This program is an anonymous phone hotline that ANYONE can call and report a crime, vandalism, etc. This program offers a reward up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of anyone involved in a crime in our school. The reward is paid anonymously and anyone who contacts the hotline is guaranteed anonymity (your identity will not be shared with ANYONE including the police). We have implemented this program to enhance school safety, reduce vandalism and theft. The number is (800) 78-CRIME.

Academic probation

As you know Pittsburg High School students must maintain a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) in order to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities (including the Junior Prom and Senior Ball, for example). Students who earn BELOW a 2.0 GPA for the most recent grading period, or quarter, may apply for academic probation. A student may apply for academic program TWICE during their four year career at Pittsburg; 1) once during their 9th grade year and 2) once during grades 10, 11 and 12. In order to apply for probation a student must have a minimum GPA of 1.5 and pass at least four of their six classes with a D or higher. Students who do not meet both these requirements is not eligible for probation. Students who need to apply for academic probation must do so within the first two weeks after the end of the grading

period. The probation application may be picked up from the student services office (Ms. Belleci-Brown) or from our athletic director, Mr. Hurtado. Below is the calendar of dates students should follow when applying for academic probation.

- **Oct 31** – End of Grading Period
- **Nov. 1-10** – Probation Paperwork Available
- **Nov. 10** – Last day to submit Probation paperwork
- **Nov. 14** – Date of Determination

Work Permits

Work permit applications are available in the main office before school, brunch, lunch and after school. Students must be at least 14 years old and meet the following requirements; 1) a minimum grade point average of 2.0, 2) good attendance (no more than one unexcused absence per quarter and no more than three tardies) and 3) good behavior (no more than two referrals and no suspensions during the previous and current academic quarter). A work permit is required to apply at any area merchants including Home Depot, McDonalds, etc.

Grade status

Students must earn a total of 220 credits in order to graduate from Pittsburg High School. Students are assigned six classes each year and may earn 60 credits per year. In order for a student to advance from 9th grade to 10th grade he or she must earn a minimum of 50 credits. A student advancing from sophomore (10th grade) to junior (11th grade) status must complete a minimum of 100 credits. A student must have a minimum of 160 credits in order to earn “Senior”, or 12th grade, status! A student’s progress toward graduation is not based on the number of years a student has been in school; it is solely based on the number of credits he or she has earned! We currently, for example, have over 900 freshman students even though only 700 are “true” freshman (i.e. those students who moved up from 8th grade last year); these “extra” 200 students are returning PHS students who have not earned a minimum of 50 credits to advance to sophomore, or 10th grade, status! Our counselors are meeting with every student this year and will review this information with them in addition to creating a “catch up” plan for any student who has fallen behind in their credits (options include attending summer school, taking a class online, attending LMC in the evening and, as a last option, attending evening classes at adult education during their senior year).

Afterschool programs

We currently offer an after school program through the STS (Success Through Self) program. The program is located on the “old” part of the Pittsburg High campus affectionately known as North Campus. Among the program offerings are; 1) fashion design, 2) computer repair, 3) driver’s education, 4) music recording and 5) tutoring. We also offer auto shop and wood shop as well. The auto and wood shop classes are taught by Pittsburg High teachers. Space is limited to the first 100 students who apply. The program hours are 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday, but many students take only one of two classes and may be enrolled for two days instead of all five days! The program coordinator is Australia Ratliff and she can be reached at 206-6806.

High School AND College requirements

The requirements to graduate from high school are different from the requirements to attend college. At a minimum the requirements to graduate from Pittsburg High include; 1) 2 two years of math (most colleges require a minimum of three years (the completion of Algebra II)), two years of science (most colleges require a minimum of three years of a lab science such as chemistry and biology), one year of fine arts, two years of physical education, three years of history and four years of English. This does not include the approximately 80 elective credits required for graduation. Taking 2-3 years of a foreign language is not required to graduate from Pittsburg High, but it is strongly encouraged and recommended since most colleges require, at a minimum, two years (but prefer three years). As a result we are insisting many of our students take three years of math, three years of science (lab sciences) and at least two years of a foreign language. Many technical programs (for example, the process technology (PTECH) program at LMC is one example) require a minimum of algebra II and chemistry to qualify for entry into the program!

Parent Conferences

Parent conferences are scheduled for November 17th from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. We are planning to contact the parents of students who are having difficulty with any of their academic classes as well as any behavior concerns to schedule conferences. However, ALL parents are welcome to either call and request a parent/teacher conference or drop-in for a conference. Our preference is for you to call and let us know you are coming, if possible, so we can ensure you are not waiting for a long period of time. Please call 473-2390 ext. 7504 and speak with one of our counselors to schedule a conference. We look forward to seeing you!

HOMEWORK HOTLINE

Dial the school phone number - 473-2390, then put in teacher’s extension. Please call it daily!

Parent Volunteers wanted!

We value having parents and community members visit our campus and classroom on a daily basis. You are always welcome.....please join our Parent Club and contribute to your child’s education during their four years at Pittsburg High! Your involvement makes a world of difference! Please call Will Dunford at 473-2398 to inquire further or sign up with our Parent Club or volunteer program! Please contact Parent Club President - Socorro ‘Shorty’ Duenas shorty96@hotmail.com. Meetings are Nov. 17, Jan. 19, Mar 15, & May 17 – In the library from 7:00p.m.-8:30p.m.

Medi-Cal/Healthy Families

For health, dental and vision insurance for children up to 19 years of age and pregnant women, you may qualify for low cost or no cost programs. This includes the Health Families insurance program and Medi-Cal. For more information please call 1-888-747-1222.

Site Council and ELAC Committees

We need parent volunteers to serve on our school site council (SSC) and English language advisory committees (ELAC)! Our next site council meeting is Oct. 3rd - 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the PHS library. The SSC has considerable influence over the discretionary funding that is available at our school. The SSC is a wonderful

opportunity to learn more about school programs, the extracurricular and to discuss any concerns you may have! All parents are welcome (along with community members) to attend any and all our meetings. The ELAC is a committee composed of primarily bilingual parents who help monitor our English Learner (EL) program and learn about services offered to our students in our EL program. Please contact Mr. Whitmire at 250-1932 if you are interested in participating on the SSC or ELAC committees.

What you need to know to play sports

Many students ask us what steps they need to take in order to participate in athletics at Pittsburg High. The first step is to have a physical exam completed to ensure your child is in good health. Physical forms may be picked up in any office during the school day. The second step is speaking with the athletic director, Al Hurtado, or the assistant athletic director, Maureen Mattson, to find out when tryouts are scheduled in the sport your child is interested in. In addition, tryout dates for each sport are publicized well in advance. We offer over a dozen sports which include, but are not limited to, football, basketball, soccer and wrestling. Students are encouraged to come out for at least one sport beginning their freshman year to help them develop the skills and knowledge that will make them successful, ultimately, at the varsity level.

Meetings & Events

November

Pirateer/Uglyman Dance	-	11-12-11
Big Little Spirit Week	-	11-07-11
Bonfire Rally	-	11-09-11
Car Parade	-	11-10-11
Veteran' Day	-	11-11-11
Conference Day	-	11-17-11
Minimum Day	-	11-17-11
Minimum Day	-	11-18-11
Thanksgiving Break	-	11-21 to 11-12