

The Freshmen Experience

A Cheatsheet for Freshmen Year at PTHS -or- A Guide to Your Best Year Ever!

Who is My Counselor?

Students with the last names starting A-K will have [Mrs. Meyer](#) as a Guidance Counselor. Students with last names starting L-Z will have [Mr. Flott](#) as a Guidance Counselor. Students, however, may visit which ever counselor they feel comfortable speaking with.

What Options Do I have for Courses?

Course options can be found online in the [Curriculum Guide](#). Freshmen elective options are included.

How Many Classes Will I take Next Year?

Students must take six academic subjects each year plus physical education. They may take seven subjects plus physical education with their counselor's approval if space is available. This means that they would not have an Academic Learning Center (Study Hall).

What is Required to Graduate?

1 Credit	American History
4 Credits	English
3 Credits	Math
2 Credits	Science
1/2 Credit	Social Studies
1/2 Credit	Civics
1/2 Credit	Health
1/4 Credit	Driver Education
1/2 Credit	Consumer Education*
2 Credits	Music, Art, Foreign Lang, or Career Ed
26	Total Credits

Students are required to be enrolled in physical education (Health and Driver Education included) every semester that they are enrolled in school unless exempted by Board of Education Policy.

* Consumer Education, Economics, Ag Business, or Interrelated Cooperative Ed may be taken to meet the consumer education requirement.

How are 8th Grade Aspire Scores Used?

Course placements in mathematics, science, and English were determined from students' Aspires taken in October. Aspire scores can also give you an idea if you are or are not "on track" to be successful at the college level.

When Will I Get My Schedule for Next Year?

Schedules may be picked up and fees paid at the high school during registration on Thursday, August 11 from 10 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Course Verifications

We will mail a course request verification letter to each student after we have completed the registration process. Any changes in course requests must be made by April 4, 2016.

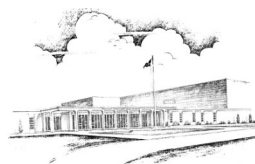
Do I Need a Physical to Start High School?

ALL STUDENTS ENTERING 9TH GRADE MUST HAVE A PHYSICAL EXAMINATION PRIOR TO REGISTRATION IN AUGUST. Examinations may be completed any time now. We suggest you make the appointment soon to avoid the last minute rush. Complete health records with up-to-date immunization may be returned to the high school office.

Is Foreign Language Required?

Foreign language courses are NOT required for graduation from PTHS.

Most four year colleges and universities encourage applicants to have completed at least two years of the same foreign language in order to be admitted. The more selective the college or university, the more it is expected that applicants have three, or even four years of a foreign language to be admitted. Many colleges and universities will admit a student without two years of the same foreign language provided the student has completed multiple years of art, band, or chorus. Please refer to the At a Glance handout for more information.



What Coursework Should I Take to Prepare for College?

The [“At a Glance”](#) chart gives you a solid idea of what the MINIMUM requirements are for admission to the public universities in Illinois.

In general, students are encouraged to take as challenging classes as they are able to successfully handle. College bound students are strongly encouraged to take at least 4 years of English, 3 years of mathematics, 3 years of laboratory science, 3 years of social studies, and 2 or more years of foreign language, music, or art.

Please note that higher requirements, above the minimum, are needed to be admitted into certain programs of study at many schools.

Highly selective colleges and universities such as the University of Illinois may have more rigorous entrance requirements. While all colleges are different, to be competitive with other applicants, students should plan on taking four years of college preparatory classes in English, mathematics (Algebra I and higher), laboratory sciences, social studies, and three or more years of a foreign language. Taking Advance Placement courses during sophomore, junior, and senior year will make students more attractive as an applicant to selective, elite, prestigious four year colleges and universities.

What Extra-Curricular Opportunities are There?

Pontiac Township High School provides a wide variety of activities which address the physical, social and academic interests of its students. The student activities program consists of two school publications and twenty-three clubs and organizations. Most activities are open to all students. [Mr Brunner](#) is the athletic director and [Mrs. Rebholz](#) is the Athletics Department Assistant.

Please see the handout for specific clubs and organizations.

When Can I take Drivers Education?

Ninth grade students are placed in classroom Drivers Education by birth date. A Ninth grader needs to be 15 years of age in order to begin Driver Education. The state law requires that prospective Driver Education students must have earned 8 academic credits during the two semesters prior to their start in Driver Education.

When can I do Behind-the-Wheel?

Students generally do BTW hours during their Academic Learning Center after they have completed classroom Drivers Education. BTW preference is generally given to the oldest students available during a ALC. Students who do not have an ALC often have difficulties completing their BTW requirements prior to their 16th birthday. Generally the schedule is:

Classroom Dr Ed	BTW
1st 9 weeks	3rd 9 weeks
2nd 9 weeks	4th 9 weeks
3rd 9 weeks	1st 9 weeks soph year
4th 9 weeks	2nd 9 weeks soph year

Is there a Fee for Drivers Education?

Yes, there is a \$50 fee to participate in classroom Drivers Education, and there is a \$50 Behind-the-Wheel fee.

Is there a Summer School Option for Drivers Education?

PTHS has been fortunate over the last decade to be able to offer a Summer School course in classroom Drivers Education. However, there is no guarantee going forward that PTHS will offer classroom Drivers Education every summer. Students must be 15 years of age by the start of Summer School to participate in classroom Drivers Education and must be academically eligible.

Daily Schedule

PTHS has a unique schedule. On Monday, Tuesday, and Friday there are eight forty-five minute class periods in a school day. On Wednesday and Thursday only four classes meet for 90 or 95 minutes with an activity period scheduled at the end of the day.

Periods	(Monday, Tuesday & Friday)
1	7:55 - 8:44
2	8:45 - 9:30
3	9:35 - 10:20
4	10:25 - 11:10
5A	11:15 - 11:40
5B	11:45 - 12:10
6	12:45 - 1:30
7	1:35 - 2:20
8	2:25 - 3:10

Periods	(Wednesday & Thursday)
1/2	7:55 - 9:30
3/4	9:35 - 11:10
5A/6A	11:15 - 11:40
5B/6B	11:45 - 12:10
5C/6C	12:15 - 12:40
5D/6D	12:45 - 1:15
7/8	1:20 - 3:10
Activity	2:50 - 3:10

Is Tutoring Available?

Tutoring is available for any student in the library both before and after school.

A.M. - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

P.M. - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Where Can I Find the Daily Announcements?

Announcements are posted to the [PTHS homepage](#), emailed daily, and also on TVs outside the Guidance Office and in the Learning Center. Announcements are not read in the morning.

Where Can I Find the Student Handbook?

Student Handbooks are available online on the [PTHS Website](#).

What Do I Do if I am Sick?

PTHS has a Student Health Center located in the building. All students may use the Student Health Center provided they have parental or guardian consent.

If you are too sick to attend school, parents or guardians are to notify the school. Students are responsible for collecting work that was missed. They could email teachers the day they are absent or see the teacher before school the following day.

How Does Lunch Work?

The Lunch hour (5th hour Mon, Tues, Wed, and Fri and 6th hour on Thurs) are divided into "A", "B", "C", (and on Wednesdays and Thursdays "D" lunch). Lunch is not specifically listed on your schedule. You eat during the open hour (e.g. if you have 5A, 5C, and 5D listed on your schedule, your lunch is 5B).

How Do I Login to Skyward?

Skyward is the school's student information systems. Students and parents can login to view attendance, grades, schedules and calendars. If you have difficulty logging in, contact Mrs. Fogarty at fogartyk@pontiac90.org.

October Testing Day

Every freshmen will complete the ACT Aspire test the Monday following Parent/Teacher Conferences. Students will need to leave their netbooks for updating over the weekend preceding testing.

What Do I Have to Wear for PE?

The PTHS PE uniform is navy blue shorts, shirt with Pontiac PE emblem, socks, and non-scuff sole tennis shoes. Clothing can be purchased at the General Store, Lambert Designs, or PST Express. Swim wear will also be required.

Homecoming Week

Sun	Hall Decorating
Mon	Dress Up Day Penny Wars starts
Tues	Dress Up Day Wear your favorite college apparel Penny Wars
Wed	Class Color Day – Let's see those class colors! Seniors- Green Juniors- Red Soph- Yellow Freshman- Purple Float Construction
Thurs	Dress Up Day Volleyball – Pack the Place!
Fri	Orange and Blue Day Pep Rally Announcement of Court and King & Queen Parade Homecoming Game
Sat	Homecoming Dance

