

HIGHLANDER HILLTOP 3/11

Good afternoon Highlander families,

There are a number of exciting components to this week's newsletter. Please take a few minutes to join us in celebrating some of our wonderful students. This includes our exceptional STAR Citizens, who were identified by their teachers for being exemplary representatives of our Highlander community during the month of February. Additionally, please enjoy a video of our Middle School Chorus, performing the long "Invisible" by Jason Robert Brown, arr. Ed Lojeski.

Another area of excitement for us, is that we will be inviting more students back into the building over the next few weeks, as a number of families are choosing to have their middle schoolers return to the full-in person school experience. Of course, as we have more students transitioning into the school, our class sizes will go up slightly. We will be very thoughtful in each of these transitions, and work to make the appropriate adjustments to maximize the social distancing possible in each classroom. Have a wonderful weekend.

-Chuck

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Chuck Hershon
Principal - Portland Middle School
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FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE: CT State Travel Advisory

Our school system follows the CT State Travel Advisory Executive Orders, which require quarantine in many circumstances. Please be aware of the following as you plan for vacation.

Students who spend more than 24 hours in any of the states or countries listed on the CT Travel Advisory List (see below) must quarantine for 10 days on return to CT.

You may choose to shorten the duration of quarantine by completing a travel form & obtaining a COVID test with a negative result. If you choose this option, please follow the steps below, and make sure to stay in quarantine until you get your results:

1. You must send the written test results to your school nurse at the email/fax of the school **and** DPH.COVID-Travel@ct.gov or fax to: (860) 326-0529.
2. Travelers can fill out the form online at [ct.gov/travelform](https://portal.ct.gov/travelform).

If anyone in the household tests positive, please notify the school right away, and have everyone stay home to await further follow-up

CT Travel Advisory locations: all states and countries except NY, NJ, RI

<https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus/travel>

FAQ from DPH:

What tests are acceptable for the testing option?

All COVID-19 tests, other than COVID-19 antibody tests, are acceptable for this testing option. If a test was obtained in the seventy-two (72) hours prior to arrival in Connecticut, or following arrival in Connecticut

If I have already tested positive for COVID-19 and have recovered, do I need to self-quarantine upon my arrival to Connecticut? A person who has tested positive for COVID-19 **within ninety (90) days** prior to his or her arrival in Connecticut and who has clinically recovered, or who has not been symptomatic for a period of ten (10) days since symptom onset is **not** required to self-quarantine upon his or her arrival to Connecticut. You must still complete & submit a travel form with proof of positive result no later than the day you arrive back in CT. If your COVID positive test results are greater than 90 days old, you will need to quarantine.

Fully vaccinated individuals (more than 2 weeks following 2nd of 2 (Moderna or Pfizer) or 2 weeks following single shot (J&J) at this time are not required to quarantine due to exposure for a period of 3 months following vaccine administration.

FROM OUR PMS CHORUS CLASS



"Invisible" By Jason Robert Brown, arr. Ed Lojeski, and performed by our Portland Middle Chorus.

We hope this song will inspire you to take on difficulties in the future head-on and without apology for who you are!

 [Invisible 2.mov](#)

Thank you for listening and we hope you all have a safe, healthy, and peaceful weekend!



This month's star citizens are Emily Bernard, Danny King and Megan Kasperowski. Emily signs in on her meets right on time if not early every day. She is a great collaborator, and always there to help. Danny is a great role model for others. He is always willing to help and share. He is thoughtful and kind to peers and adults. And Megan is kind to everyone, always mindful of doing her work and making the right decision. She has a positive and hopeful attitude.



Have snacks? Will Travel

Starting this week, the Student Council has teamed up with the cafeteria to bring snacks to your rooms during lunch! The snack cart will be coming around this Thursday! Thursday morning there will be a snack form to fill out. Please make sure you have the exact amount of money. Posters with prices will be posted outside of the cafeteria and throughout the school! Bring your money for snacks this Thursday!"



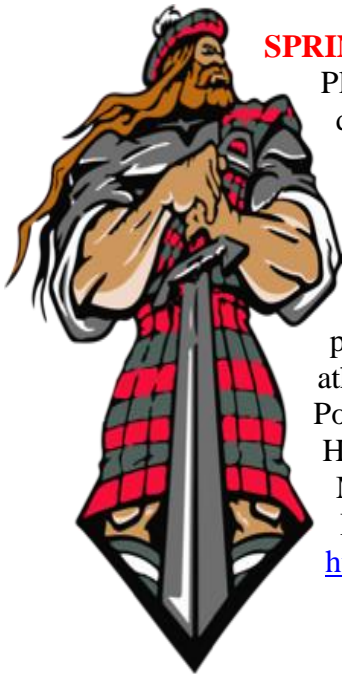
WE ARE thrilled to announce the launch of the
Portland Public Schools K-12 Virtual Tutoring Program

PHS Alumnus Rebecca Tripp (Class of 2019) has selflessly designed this program with the sole intent of helping PPS students who might be struggling with their learning.

I have worked closely with Rebecca over the past few months to fill in the finer details of the program, and we are now ready to go! We currently have sixteen current Portland HS students - all members of the National Honor Society - ready to tutor students in grades K-12 across all content areas.

Additional thanks to NHS coordinator Dylan Bernard for helping enlist these exceptional student tutors.

[Please click here for all the information you'll need to a\) learn about the program and b\) get students matched up with a tutor.](#)



SPRING SPORTS IS BACK!!!!!!!!!!

Please see the attached document for detailed directions on how to register your child. Registration for sports participation at Portland Middle School is facilitated in part by a web-based registration application. This application is used by parents/guardians to register student-athletes for all interscholastic sports at Portland Middle School and Portland High School. The window will close on March 20, 2021.

Please contact Michele Iannello at portlandad@portlandct.us with any questions.
<http://www.familyid.com/>



Save the Dates

March 12th No School
March 17th 2 hour delay
April 1st Early Dismissal
April 2nd Good Friday No School
April 9th Early Dismissal
April 12-16 Vacation Week
April 21st 2 hour Delay
May 26th 2 hour Delay
May 31st Memorial Day No School
June 16th Last Day of School

