



THE GRANT WEEKLY
Grant High School Newsletter
January 8, 2021



Also can be viewed on our [website](#)



Dear Grant Community,

The insurrection this week in Washington D.C. was shocking and painful to watch. This is another layer of stress that we wish our students did not have to endure. The fear and isolation of a pandemic, political unrest and an uptick of violence in our community weigh heavily on all of us. Despite the chaos, while visiting online classes and speaking with students this week, we found solace and optimism.

The challenges of the last year have been heavy but when I hear students speak about their lived experiences during this time, we sense a tremendous amount of maturity and growth. While distance learning is not the same as being in person, I have seen our students learn adaptability. We have seen students endure sacrifice and demonstrate empathy, supporting their friends and family. Their resilience leaves us with great hope and we look forward to seeing today's students become tomorrow's leaders, for the lessons they have learned will make them the next 'greatest generation.'

English Theologian Thomas Fuller is attributed the quote "the night is always darkest just before the dawn." It seems we are in the darkest days of the pandemic, yet vaccinations promise a sunrise on the horizon making a pathway back to school visible. Then our students will truly be able to shine.


Happy New Year,

Grant High School Administration Team

Go Generals!!

● **GRADING PERIOD ENDS JANUARY 28, 2021**

Just a reminder that there are 14 days left until the end of the grading period. In the 4x4 schedule students are wrapping up the second "semester" of the courses they are currently in. This term ends on January 28th and the grades that students end with will post to their official transcript. We will not be holding a traditional finals week schedule the last week in January. Starting February 1st, students will have four new classes which they will take until school ends in June. As we approach the start of February we will make sure to update students and families with more information. In the coming days, please take time to talk with your student to ensure that all assignments are turned in and have them update you on any assignments or assessments they may have coming up in the next few weeks.



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-9:00	Applied Learning				
9:15-9:55	Period 1	Period 1	P1 SGI/AL	Period 1	Period 1
10:00-10:40	Period 2	Period 2	P2 SGI/AL	Period 2	Period 2
10:45-11:25	Period 3	Period 3	P3 SGI/AL	Period 3	Period 3
11:30-12:10	Period 4	Period 4	P4 SGI/AL	Period 4	Period 4
12:10-12:40	Lunch				
12:45-1:55	Period 1	Period 2	Office Hours/Flex (12:40-1:55pm)	Period 1	Period 2
2:00-3:15	Period 3	Period 4	Applied Learning	Period 3	Period 4
3:15	Student Clubs may meet after school virtually				

● **PTA NEWS**

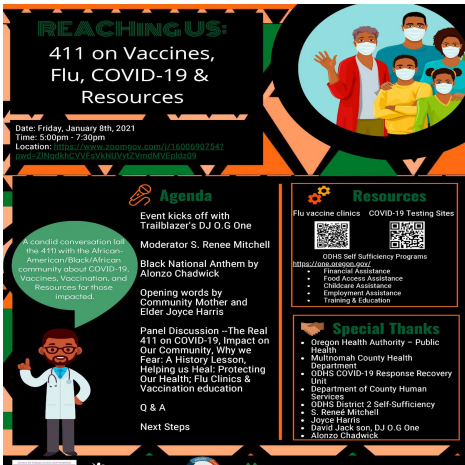
January PTA Meeting, Tuesday, January 12, 6:30-8pm

Focus: Student Mental Health and Well Being Please join us for our regular monthly meeting. We will begin, as always, with a school update from Principal McGee. Following that, Grant School Social Worker, Catrina Knoerzer, LCSW, LSSW and her intern Sophia DeNicola will join us for a presentation on student mental health and well being during these challenging times.

The Grant PTA welcomes your active engagement as we seek to serve and support the Grant community. If you are interested in getting involved, please email us at grantpta@gmail.com or just show up at a PTA meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. Our meetings and activities are always open to all.

If you would like to support the Grant PTA by becoming a member and/or making a donation, please follow this link: <https://grantpta.new.memberhub.store/>

● **HAPPENING TONIGHT AT 5:00PM! A CANDID DISCUSSION ON VACCINES**



REACHING US:
411 on Vaccines, Flu, COVID-19 & Resources

Date: Friday, January 8th, 2021
Time: 5:00pm - 7:30pm
Location: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1600690754?pwd=MTI5aDZlYUJlUWVZd0dMcE9lZjZkdz09>

Agenda

- Event kicks off with Traillblaze's DJ O.G One
- Panel discussion led by the 411 with the African-American/Black/African community about COVID-19, Vaccines, Vaccination, and Resources for those impacted.
- Opening words by Community Mother and Elder Joyce Harris
- Panel Discussion - The Real 411 on COVID-19: Impact on Our Community, Why we Fear, A History Lesson, Helping us Heal: Protecting Our Health: Flu Clinics & Vaccination education
- Q & A
- Next Steps

Resources

- Flu vaccine clinics
- COVID-19 Testing Sites
- ODHS Self-Sufficiency Programs
- Financial Assistance
- Tanf Access Assistance
- Childcare Assistance
- Employment Assistance
- Training & Education

Special Thanks

- Oregon Health Authority - Public Health
- Multnomah County Health Department
- ODHS COVID-19 Response/Recovery Unit
- Department of County Human Services
- ODHS District 2 Self-Sufficiency
- S. Renee Mitchell
- Joyce Harris
- David Jackson, DJ O.G One
- Alonzo Eshelrick

REACH Oregon Department of Human Services Multnomah County <http://www.multco.us/health.org>

Here is the Zoom link: [https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1600690754?](https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1600690754?pwd=MTI5aDZlYUJlUWVZd0dMcE9lZjZkdz09)

- **YOUTH RESOURCE APP NOW AVAILABLE FOR APPLE AND ANDROID USERS**
Search "youth resource app" in the Apple app and Google Play app stores. The Youth Resource App is a free resource for all Portland area youth, funded by PPS and created by the PPS mental health advisory team along with 100+ PPS students. PPS does not specifically endorse any of the listed agencies. Each organization has their own independent mission and vision. We know the app is likely missing some information. Consider this the 1.0 version.

If a student does not have a phone, they can access the same information on their chromebook at [this URL](#). Email us to give feedback. youthresourceapp@pps.net

- **FAMILY SUPPORT**

We are aware that parenting during a pandemic presents it's own challenges. If your family is in need of financial or food support, please reach out to our social worker, Catrina Knoerzer: cknoerzer@pps.net Below is a form to assess if there is interest in parent support services. Please help us figure out how to best support you!

<https://forms.gle/4a5anaU1BHBt9vVf9>

- **CLASS OFFERED FOR BLACK & AFRICAN AMERICAN PARENTS/CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN WITH MENTAL HEALTH BARRIERS**

This life changing 6-week course is being offered for free by NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) starting January 14, 2021. Here is the [flyer](#) for more information. To register call [503-228-5692](tel:503-228-5692)

- **UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS**

> *Grant Softball Tree Recycling this weekend!!*

Do you still have a tree you need to get rid of? Please consider taking it to the Grant softball team's annual tree recycling fundraiser this coming weekend, January 9th and 10th from 9:00am to 3:00pm at the Beverly Cleary Fernwood campus (33rd Avenue parking lot). A \$5 donation is suggested and greatly appreciated. If you've already disposed of your tree please consider a donation to Grant Softball. Due to Covid restrictions we will only be able to take drop offs by car or on foot. All drivers and passengers must stay in their vehicle. Drivers and walkers must wear a mask while on the school grounds. Walkers need to adhere to 6 ft. social distancing. Please email Coach Engelstad at dengelst@pps.net with any questions.

> *Unified Sports Takes The Plunge!*

Grant Unified Sports and Team Together Club will be participating in the BRRR...tual Polar Plunge and 5k in February. Since all events are virtual, there are far fewer barriers to joining the team this year! Invite all your friends and family to participate! Proceeds benefit Special Olympics Oregon and the Grant Unified Sports program. This event is not just for Grant Students/Staff, anyone can join and/or donate at the following [link](#). For further questions, please email me at abrooks1@pps.net

> *Screenprinting Student Group Fundraiser to benefit Blanchett House*

A group of students in Ms. Yarne's Screen Printing program has designed a T-Shirt, which they will be producing and selling with all proceeds to benefit Blanchett House, a local social service agency supporting homeless people. PTA is happy to support this project by hosting the sale link on our store site. The sale begins on Monday, Jan 11th and all orders should be placed by the end of the day on Friday, Jan 22nd. <https://grantpta.new.memberhub.store/>

- **PICTURE RETAKE DAY RESCHEDULED TO FEBRUARY 24TH!**

Due to the pause mandated by Gov. Kate Brown we have rescheduled our Picture Retake Day to February 24th. We will share more information as we get closer to the date.

- **TESTING**

Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions and the timing of the January PSAT/NMSQT test date, our school district has determined that January testing will not be possible in PPS this year. This is a hard decision, but we needed to make it based on ODE state guidance.

We know we have students who were looking for this opportunity to qualify for the scholarship program. Fortunately, there is an alternative method for students to qualify. For juniors wishing to qualify for the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program, follow [this link](#) for additional instructions and an alternate application process. An SAT test is required as part of the alternate application process.

PPS is continuing to plan for a spring SAT test opportunity for juniors in March or April. State guidelines and restrictions, and local health metrics will determine whether PPS will be able to offer this opportunity to students. All students have access to the free Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy at khanacademy.org/sat.

For additional information from the College Board about Coronavirus updates, related testing opportunities and closures, go to pages.collegeboard.org/sat-covid-19-updates.

Advanced Placement tests will be offered in May 2021.

Registration for Fall AP students has closed, but you may contact [Anna Lortz](#) at the PPS District office to register. There is a \$40 late order fee. AP testing provides the opportunity for students to earn college credit for a course in addition to their high school credit. See AP courses offered at Grant [here](#). In order to receive the college credit, the student must show proficiency on the College Board's AP test for that subject. AP tests take place across the world the first two weeks in May. The possible scores on these test range from 1-5, if a student scores a 3 or higher, higher education institutions will often recognize this and accept it as college credit. This can be a money saver when a student goes to college as it usually reduces the courses they are required to take to graduate. A student receives their high school class credit as long as they pass the class; taking the AP test is not required.

If you have any questions please contact Joe Mitacek at jmitacek@pps.net or April Martin at amartin2@pps.net.

- **SCHOOL MATERIALS PICK UP/DROP OFF**

If you need to pick up or drop off textbooks, library books, classroom materials, or technology, or purchases from the Student Store, a staff member will be able to help you Monday through Friday from 3:15pm to 4:00pm. Please go to the front doors. Masks are required.

- **GRANT STUDENT STORE IS NOW ONLINE!**

We are pleased to announce our brand new online Grant Online Store! We would like to offer you a limited selection of brand-new items. There will be more items and specials posted as we navigate our new setup, as the in-person student store is currently closed. Thanks for your school-spirit and for supporting the Grant High School community." [Start shopping now!](#)

- **THE ROSE FESTIVAL COURT TRADITION MUST GO ON!!**

The mission of the Rose Festival Court program is to provide scholarships for higher education, to promote community outreach and volunteerism, to offer networking and mentoring opportunities to outstanding young women in a program that perpetuates an appreciation for Rose Festival history and tradition. The program is open to all 11th and 12th

grade female identifying students. For more information visit the [Rose Festival Court page](#). [Applications](#) are due by February 24, 2021. If you have any questions please contact Sue Davis at sdavis@pps.net. Below are several opportunities to learn more about the Rose Festival Court Program:

Topic: Rose Festival Court Info Session - Join the Court!

- * Thursday, January 28, 6:30pm
- * Saturday, January 30, 1pm
- * Tuesday, February 2, 6:30pm

Parent/Student Court Program Overview - Q&A about judging, and the benefits of the program

- * Tuesday, February 9, 7pm
- * Thursday, February 18, 7pm
- * Saturday, February 20, 1pm

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84089401010?pwd=VTJhL1VoUGxubzEwYlZNTkhFZEZsZz09>

Meeting ID: 840 8940 1010

Passcode: 186284

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,84089401010#,,,*186284# US (Houston)

- **SENIOR DEADLINES**

2020/2021 Yearbooks on sale now in SchoolPay!! \$65

Seniors: Class of 2021. What you need to know: **THERE IS STILL TIME! Currently accepting late senior portraits/quotes. Upload ASAP!** All Yearbook Submissions must be submitted electronically. Click on the links below for submission information.

- [Senior Portraits](#)
- [Senior Quotes](#)

BABY AD'S ARE SOLD OUT!

Diploma Name Submissions.

Please fill out the name you want on your Diploma by going [here](#). Remember that only seniors can do this while signed on to a PPS site. Submissions will close on January 5, 2020. After that time your full legal name in Synergy will be used on your Diploma.

Borrowing a Cap & Gown:

I have a limited number of caps and gowns that can be borrowed (amartin2@pps.net). This is on a first come first serve basis. Most students usually borrow the cap and gown then buy a tassel of their choice. You can also buy just the Cap and Tassel if you wish to decorate your cap for graduation. You can contact Josten's directly at 503-255-7120 for these.

Remember there is lots of great information on the Grant Website about graduation. Go to <https://www.pps.net/domain/2618>. Please contact April Martin amartin2@pps.net if you have any questions.

- **MESSAGE FROM COUNSELORS**

Opportunity from U of O to participate in a virtual presentation on Wednesday, January 13th at 2pm for Grant High School. The program will run around one hour and students will see presentations from the Center for Multicultural Academic Excellence (CMAE) and a student panel. This program is presented by UO Connections, which is a college advocacy program designed for first-generation, ethnically diverse, or economically disadvantaged high school

students in ninth through twelfth grades. The program provides valuable college prep information. Register through the [University of Oregon](#) for this virtual event:

Join the Zoom meeting: <https://uoregon.zoom.us/j/95044340015>

Portland Evening Scholars Credit Recovery Program Spring Session Information:

- Registration for classes will open around February 1st.
- Pre-registration begins with each student's counselor
- Classes will tentatively run as 13 classes per course from 2/22-5/27.
- Spring term will be under comprehensive distance learning.
- No registration fee for PPS students.

Portland Summer Scholars Information:

- Very tentative dates for Summer Scholars are 6/25-8/31.
- The structure of the program has not yet been determined, so more details to follow.

FAFSA Help: Seniors and your families, do you still need help completing your FAFSA? You're in luck! PPS FAFSA Completion Help Night is Wednesday, January 13th from 6pm-8pm.

Please register in advance:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/january-pps-fafsa-completion-night-for-all-pps-senior-families-tickets-133377095483> Here is the link to the flyer:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AguVjZFQ-arx-IRcAWSD_kAOrj4S888g/view

- **COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER NEWS**

1. PPS Future you 2 Go Virtual Career Talks:

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 from 1:00pm-1:45pm: [Post-Secondary Presentation- PCC Swan Island Trades Center \(Salvador Castaneda\)](#) As the current population of individuals experienced in the trades nears retirement age, companies are scrambling to train and hire skilled workers. Apprenticeship describes a powerful training model in which aspiring tradespeople can learn from more experienced trades workers and earn a living while they also attend school and receive scheduled, periodic advancement.

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 from 2:00pm-2:45pm: [Career Presentation-Victor Villegas, Technology & Media Support Coordinator-OSU Extension Service.](#) Meet Victor, who is a Technology & Media Support Coordinator for OSU Extension Service. When Victor was in high school, he was interested in becoming a pilot. He started with college aviation courses, but soon moved to graphics technology. Learn about how his career grew through commercial printing, digital media production of technology support.

2. Additional Virtual Career Talks:

Wednesday, Jan 13, 2021 2:30 PM: [Public Health Student Organization \(PHSO\) is excited to announce their first event geared towards Portland high school students!](#)

This event is called "Paths to Public Health" and will offer a panel of undergraduate and graduate school students from the School of Public Health (Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) and Portland State University (PSU)). We will provide a brief intro into the many different education paths within public health, an opportunity for SPH undergraduate and graduate students to share about their personal experiences. We hope by exposing high school students to some of the future education opportunities will enable them to think about their future and interests, and explore the many careers and opportunities within public health. If you have any questions that you would like to submit ahead of the event to the panel, they are happy to receive them at this email address (phso@pdx.edu).

We hope to see as many as PPS students that can attend and look forward to this inaugural event! Join Zoom Meeting: <https://pdx.zoom.us/j/84840445141> Meeting ID: 848 4044 5141 Password: 029867

Friday, Jan. 15, 10:30AM: [PWA Career Talk in Architecture/Construction](#)

Hear from an architecture firm (Scott Edwards) and a construction company (Emerick Construction) as they share a look into working on a project together - the Oregon City Operations Center. See how architects and construction managers collaborate in real time; ask questions about how to get started in these career paths. (*About 45 minutes. Get a participation link by registering at the above URL.*)

- **[LIBRARY NEWS](#)**

Literary Competitions/Contests

10th 90-Second Newbery Film competition. Student filmmakers create movies that tell the stories of Newbery-winning books in about 90 seconds. Submissions are open worldwide to anyone 18 and under, and adult help is OK! Deadline for submissions is **January 15, 2021**; complete information is available at www.90secondnewbery.com.

Annual Jakob and Sala Kryszek Art and Writing Competition

This competition is open to middle and high school students. This year's prompt asks students to reflect on Holocaust history and create a piece of writing or work of visual art that considers the role that laws played in the discrimination against and persecution and genocide of Jewish people, and the importance of civic responsibility and engagement. The two Grand Prize winners — one for art and the other for writing — will win a trip to Washington D.C. to visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for themselves, a guardian, and their teacher! The submission deadline is March 19, 2021. You can find the prompt, guidelines, and other important information on this [website](#).

- **[ACTIVITIES AT GRANT](#)**

[Join the Grant Unified Team](#)

Unified Basketball will start the week of January 18th. If you are interested in being a Unified Athlete or Partner for basketball season, please email me ASAP at abrooks1@pps.net

[Student Clubs are Happening!](#)

It's not too late to start or charter your club! ALL clubs are required to submit a yearly [Club Charter](#). Students can view the first release of the club video by logging in to the "Advisory" course on Canvas. This is not a comprehensive list of clubs, the full list will be posted on the website soon and additional versions of the club video will be shared as we welcome newly chartered clubs. Stay tuned for an affinity group/student union specific video coming soon. Questions? Contact Erin McNulty (emcnulty@pps.net), Student Activities/Leadership. If you are interested in joining a student club, please visit the website [here](#) and contact club leaders directly using their provided information.

- **[ATHLETICS](#)**

[Athletics: OSAA Moves Start to February, Keeps Three-Season Plan. Please visit this link for the story and here for a revised calendar.](#)

For a letter from Grant's Athletic Director, on Covid-19 practices and registration information, please visit: <https://www.grantathletics.com/>

[Athletic Academic Requirements](#)

An athlete's eligibility to participate in OSAA sponsored sports depends, among other things, on:

- The student-athlete's grades AND

- The student-athlete making satisfactory progress toward meeting graduation requirements

For more information on athletics, clearance, academic requirements please visit our [website](#)

- **CONTRIBUTING TO GRANT**

Grant High School is able to offer enhanced learning opportunities for students because of your support and contributions. We are very thankful for your commitment to our programs and the success of our students. Families are not required to contribute.

To contribute: Please use [SchoolPay](#). This is a PPS online web tool that allows families to make contributions without having to make a special trip to the school or send a check. It also provides the convenience of paying by Visa, MasterCard or Discover Card online. There is no additional fee for using SchoolPay. If you do not see your student's class listed, please feel free to contribute to the **Grant Classroom Support link** in SchoolPay. There is also a **General School Donation link** to support student learning and engagement.

Here is the [link](#) to a list of suggested contributions. If you have any questions regarding SchoolPay, please contact our Bookkeeper, Darcie Papasadero, (darciep@pps.net).

- **PARENTVUE AND YEARLY VERIFICATION ASSISTANCE**

If parents have not completed the required Yearly Verification they will be unable to use ParentVUE. Here is the ParentVUE [website](#) for more information. If you need assistance please contact fmccarty@pps.net or sdavis@pps.net

- **HOP PASS INFORMATION**

If you have not received your Student ID and are in need of the HOP Pass, please contact the school. If your HOP Pass is not working please contact the school, not Trimet, to help you with any issues you may have with the card. If you have lost your card please contact Trimet's Lost and Found (503-962-7655) to see if they have the card. If they do not have the card contact the school to have another one printed for you. Also, if you have a new card made and then find your old card do not destroy it, hold onto it. If you lose the new one we can always reactivate the old one. Contact April Martin at amartin2@pps.net for all HOP Pass issues.

- **MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCE INFORMATION:**

* [Catrina's Virtual Office](#) (Grant school Social Worker) For more information visit our [GHS Resource Center website](#).

[Drop In Social Emotional Support Group](#)

- [Reach Out Oregon Warmline](#) 1 833 732 2467

Monday-Friday 12-7pm

Parents know how lonely it is to care for a young person experiencing emotional, behavioral and mental health challenges. It can be frightening and isolating. It's hard to know where and how to reach out for help and information. As caregivers, we have experience navigating challenges on behalf of our children and families. And as a community, we have much to offer one another. This is what Reach Out Oregon is all about, a supportive community where you will find a support team: Parent to Parent.

- Conversations with Spanish Speaking Latinx Families on issues of mental health: Charlas Comunitarias sobre el Bienestar y la Salud Emocional <https://www.facebook.com/charlascomunitarias/> As a resource, here are the links to past recorded workshops:

- [Substance and Drug use in Latino Families & Adolescents during COVID-19](#)

- [Safe and Strong Helpline:](#) 1 800 923 4357

Available 24/7 with interpretation

A collaboration of Oregon Health Authority and Lines for Life

This is an emotional support and resource referral line that can assist anyone struggling and seeking support. Callers do not need to be in crisis.

- Student Success and Health Department

<https://sites.google.com/pps.net/ssh-covid19/home>

- Call to Safety: If you are an adult and worried about your safety at home, 888-235-5333. Interpretation line available.
- Proyecto Unica: Spanish version of Call to Safety, 503-232-4448
- Multnomah County Crisis Services: Call Center/Crisis Line, 503-988-4888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Interpretation services are available.
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: English, 800-273-8255; Spanish, 800-628-9454 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Interpretation services are available.
- Oregon Youthline: For youth to connect with other youth, text "Teen2Teen" to 839863 to instantly text with another person. Interpretation services are available.
- Trevor Project: Supporting LGBTQIA+ youth. Text "START" to 678678 or call TrevorLifeLine, 1-866-488-7386
- Trans Lifeline: Supporting trans community members, call 877-565-8860
- DHS Hotline (Oregon Department of Human Services) If you are worried about the safety of a child, 855-503-7233. Interpretation services are available.

- **HEALTH RESOURCE INFORMATION:**

- [Student Health Centers](#) Open

The [Benson Wellness Center](#) is a Certified School-Based Health Center. We are open and ready to serve all PPS students regardless of ability to pay. Important info:

- Students are seen by appointment only: Sorry, no walk-ins
- Hours for Primary Care (medical) visits:

In person:

Tuesday afternoons 1-5

Wednesday mornings 8-12

Thursday afternoons 1-5

Virtual visits Monday-Friday 8-5

- Step 1: New patients need to first register with OHSU by calling OHSU patient registration: 503-494-8505
- Step 2: Next, schedule your appointment by calling 503-418-0409
- Directions: Located at Benson High School: 546 NE 12th in the back of the building. Directions: From NE Irving st: head SOUTH on NE 15th Ave. Turn into the parking lot at the back of the school building. Look for signs marking the entrance to the Wellness Center.

● **One-Stop Resource for Food Needs.** NeedFood.Oregon.gov is a one-stop website for new and existing food needs during the pandemic.

Multnomah County [Student Health Centers](#) are open at David Douglas, Parkrose and Roosevelt high schools for in-person health services and mental health counseling this fall, while schools are engaged in distance learning. Phone and video appointments are also available. Any Multnomah County K-12 youth can access care at any center and there are no out of pocket costs.

Health and Human Services Resources Webpage of Community Resources. Check out the new Health and Human Services Resources web page---a "[one-stop resource shop](#)"

covering a wide range of topics to support the health and human services needs of the community.

- **NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSE** Flu vaccine and COVID-19 testing will be offered every Wednesday, Dec. 2 through March 31, 2021 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at PCC's Cascade Campus, near N. Albina and N. Killingworth. [Multnomah County Health/PCC partnership](#)

- **NUTRITION SERVICES**

Please visit the Nutrition Services [web page](#) for the most current information on meal services.

- **STATE PROGRAM OFFERS FAMILIES HELP TO PAY FOR FOOD**

As our community deals with fallout of the coronavirus pandemic, we want to make Portland Public Schools families aware of a state benefit to help pay for food. The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer program, or P-EBT, is available to help families offset the cost of meals that would have been consumed at school. It is administered by the Oregon Department of Human Services.

The P-EBT benefit is available to families with a student who qualifies for free or reduced-price meals and any student enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school. For those families:

- Households who qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Association Program (SNAP), which offers food benefits to eligible, low-income individuals and families, will have benefits automatically deposited to their existing EBT accounts. There is no additional paperwork to submit to receive P-EBT benefits.
- Households who currently qualify for free or reduced-price meals or attend a CEP school will receive an Oregon Trail Card in the mail along with instructions on how to activate or refuse benefits. There is no additional paperwork to submit to receive P-EBT benefits.

For families not currently eligible and seeking benefits:

- Households financially impacted by COVID-19 may qualify for SNAP. See the program's website to learn more.
- Families who have experienced income loss may now be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Apply online at [pps.net/nutrition](#).

For assistance with submitting a meal application, please contact the PPS Meal Benefits Office: mealbenefits@pps.net or 503-916-3402.

For Pandemic-EBT questions, please contact the Oregon Department of Human Services.

- **THE SAFEOREGON TIP LINE**

In keeping with our commitment to student safety, last October PPS joined school districts across the state in using the SafeOregon Tip Line. We want to remind you about this important resource.

SafeOregon was funded by the Oregon Legislature as part of a statewide effort to improve school safety. **It provides a secure means for anyone to anonymously report suspicious or imminently unsafe situations, such as threats of violence, fights, drugs and alcohol, weapons, bullying, harassment, intimidation or self-harm.**

Anyone, from students to parents to community members, can access the system in a variety of ways, including:

> The "Report unsafe behavior" button found on every PPS school's website

> The [SafeOregon website https://www.safeoregon.com/](https://www.safeoregon.com/)

> A live call/text (844-472-3367)

> An email to tip@safeoregon.com

> The mobile app that can be downloaded from your Smart Phone via iTunes or Google Play

Trained staff are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to respond.

Please be sure to share this information with your friends and family. Remind your students:
If you see or hear something, say something – immediately.

- **PPS STUDENT AND FAMILY SUPPORTS**

With the challenging times we all find ourselves in, PPS is particularly committed to ensuring our students and families are supported in a variety of ways. Staff from across all Portland Public Schools departments came together this summer with our culturally specific community partner organizations to build a detailed plan that reflects the needs of those we serve. We are very pleased to share with you today the [PPS Menu of Student and Family Supports](#).

This menu shows what we are currently offering to students and families and is listed by school. The menu includes details about:

- Academic Supports
- Belonging and Connection Services
- Family Supports and Resources
- Culturally Specific Supports

The menu will be updated regularly. It is currently being translated and will be available soon in all PPS-supported languages.

- **GUN SAFETY FOR STUDENTS AND TEEN SUICIDE PREVENTION**

Encouraging families to securely store their guns can save a student's life, especially during times of social isolation. Parents can get free gun locks from the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and the Portland Police Department.

Information about gun safety:

<https://besmartforkids.org/>

<https://projectchildsafe.org/parents-and-gun-owners>

Information about teen suicide;

https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/PreventionWellness/SafeLiving/SuicidePrevention/Pages/pla_n.aspx

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/means-matter/>

- **2020-21 SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR**

Posted on the [district website](#)

- **ADDITIONAL COMMUNICATION TOOL**

PPS has shifted family, student and staff communication to a new tool that gives schools the ability to send texts about emergencies, closures, delays and other important news. To receive text notifications, you must opt in to the service. **You opt in by texting YES to 68453.** Parents and students should confirm their cell numbers listed in the student information system. Staff should confirm their cell numbers are the “primary” number in the PeopleSoft system. For more information about texting, go to www.pps.net and click on the “Mobile First” button.