

PBL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the 2016-2017 School Year

Upcoming Dates

Aug. 19th	No School - Teacher Institute
Aug. 22nd	First Day of School First Day of the 1st Qt. Early Dismissal 2:30pm
Aug. 23rd	Early Dismissal 2:30pm
Aug. 25th	School Picture Day
Aug. 26th	Due date for Student Handbook Forms & Acceptable Use Policy Forms-Signed & Returned
Aug. 29	Start of Fall MAP Testing
Aug. 30th	Early Dismissal 2:30pm
Aug. 31st	Open House for JH from 6-7pm <i>Ask the Principal</i> session in the JH Library 7pm
Sept. 5th	No School - Labor Day
Sept. 6th	Early Dismissal 2:30pm
Sept. 13th	Early Dismissal 2:30pm
Sept. 14th	Board of Education Meeting 7pm in Unit Office
Sept. 16th	1st Qt. Midterms

Welcome to PBL Junior High School. The junior high staff members and I are excited for the start of school. Starting junior high is a big change and a big opportunity for our students and families. Here are some brief thoughts on starting school at our junior high.

- Get to know our junior high and communicate early and often with teachers. If you would like to set a time to meet with me and tour the junior high just ask or stop by. You can also call or stop by the junior high office to set-up a conference or visit at any time with a teacher. We do a lot of communication by e-mail and text messaging. Be sure your e-mail address and phone numbers are current in our Skyward system or you can give the information to the main office to update.

- If your child is nervous, they are not alone. Most of the worries will soon be forgotten as they discover how great our school and staff is. On the first day of school students will learn about school expectations, their schedule, their locker, lunch, etc.

- One important key to success at the our junior high is to stay organized. On the first day of school students will receive an agenda where they can keep track of their homework, projects, important school dates, etc.

- Try something new at our junior high and get involved. We offer all kinds of sports, student government, band, chorus, academic clubs, etc.

- Another important key to success is to use time wisely. At our junior high we offer a rigorous curriculum and there will be homework and projects. Encourage your student(s) to set a regular time for homework, prepare the night before (not the morning of), and start early on big projects to avoid feeling overwhelmed.

- Know your son or daughter's friends, know what they are doing on their phone, and don't be afraid to ask questions and find answers. Being an active parent is the hardest and most rewarding task in life. Myself and my staff are here to work with you, answer your questions, and help you find answers. During the school year please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns you have.



Common Questions & General Information at PBL JH

1. *What are the office hours and other contact information for the junior high?* The office hours for the junior high are 7:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. (we are often here till 4:00 or 4:30). Our phone number is 217-379-9202. Our address is 700 W. Orleans St. Paxton, IL 60957.
2. *If I have questions where should I start?* If you have questions you can contact the main office at the junior high. Our secretaries (Ms. Peterson & Ms. Robbins) can get you in contact with the right person. If you have questions about Skyward access or information please contact Mrs. Johnson (Guidance Counselor).
3. *What time does school start?* Our front doors open at 7:45 a.m. each day and students are in the Commons Area until 8:00 a.m. During this time students can hang out with friends, eat breakfast, take care of office matters, etc. Our day officially begins at 8:05 a.m. with first hour and morning announcements. During arrival time students will not be allowed to bring in any open food or drink. They can bring in items for lunch, but they must remain unopened until lunch.
4. *What do I do when my child is absent?* If your child is absent from school you need to contact us by 9:00 a.m. If you call in you can also request homework. If families do not call in this gets recorded as an unexcused absence and the school will be contacting you.
5. *What is early dismissal and when is it?* We dismiss early at 2:30 p.m. every Tuesday starting Tuesday, August 23rd. Early dismissal is used for professional development with faculty, staff, and administration. If your child is in after school activity we do provide supervision from 2:30-3:15 p.m. until the practice or activity starts in the Commons Area with a supervisor. All other students must leave the campus.
6. *When is regular dismissal?* Regular dismissal is at 3:12 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Students that ride the bus will exit out their grade level wings. Students that walk home or ride their bike can also exit out the grade level wings or at the north exit. Students that are being picked up should dismiss out the north exit by the gym. Please note all students are held until all the buses have arrived at the front of the junior high for safety reasons.
7. *What is the junior high bell schedule?* Our bell schedule can be located at http://www.pblunit10.com/junior_high. Overall, we offer 80 minutes of Math and ELA each day. We also have 40 minutes of Science, Social Studies, PE, Intervention or Target, and Enrichments daily (9 week courses that change at the quarter). Students can also decide to take band, chorus, or both.
8. *What do I do for transportation?* We provide transportation between the elementary and JH/HS campuses. Schedules for these shuttles will be available at registration. We provide rural transportation for those students living further than 1.5 miles from any grade center. Once transportation is scheduled families will have to contact the school bus garage to make changes. The bus garage number is 217-379-4500. Even if there is a change for one day please contact the bus garage so they are aware.
9. *What policies should I be aware of?* For a complete review of our student handbook please go to the following link: http://www.pblunit10.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_488383/File/Junior%20High/Handbook/jbbb.pdf. The student handbook is now linked to a QR Code so you can download the student handbook to a personal technology device also. As a parent I think some key policies to review are: attendance/tardy policies, cell phones and electronic devices policy, and our grading policy.
10. *What supplies should child have?* During registration you can get a supply list. The following link will provide you with 6th-8th grade supply lists: http://www.pblunit10.com/junior_high/supply_lists. Our supply list is recommended, but you don't have to buy the name brands or specific brands listed.
11. *What do you do for lockers, locks, agendas?* Our school provides all three for free. On the first day of school (August 22nd) students will receive a lock, locker, and agenda from their 1st hour teacher. Students have to use a school issued lock and they cannot bring their own from home due to school safety policies.
12. *When will student schedules be released?* On the first day of school (August 22nd) students will receive their schedules when they arrive to school in the morning. We will have tables for 6th-8th grade students to pick up their schedules in the Commons. After students get their schedules we send them with their 1st hour teachers to get settled in and ready to start a great year.
13. *When is lunch at the junior high and can I come have lunch with my child?* Lunch times for the junior high are as follows: 6th grade is from 11:00-11:30 a.m. & 7th/8th grade is from 12:34-1:00 p.m. On Tuesdays all 6th-8th grade students eat from 12:12-12:47 p.m. If you would like to have lunch with your child simply stop in the main office to sign in as a visitor.

Yours in Education - Joshua M. Didier, Principal - PBL Junior High School - jdidier@pblpanthers.org