

# Welcome Back

## PBL High School

August 2017

### Upcoming Events:

August 7<sup>th</sup>

- 1<sup>st</sup> Football Practice

August 8<sup>th</sup>

- Registration  
12:00-7:00

August 9<sup>th</sup>

- 1<sup>st</sup> Volleyball, Cross Country, & Golf Practice

August 15<sup>th</sup>

- Freshmen Orientation  
11:00-1:00

August 17<sup>th</sup>

- 1<sup>st</sup> day of school

August 18<sup>th</sup>

- Pork Chop Kick-Off

### Special Points: Being Involved

- PBL High School offers 27 different extra or co-curricular activities.
- According to a College Board study, students who participate in high school extracurriculars scored 45 points higher in math and 53 points higher on the verbal portion of the SAT.
- Research conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics found that participation in extracurricular activities has a positive correlation to a student's attendance, GPA, test scores, and expected educational goals.

## 2017-2018 School Year

As principal of Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone back for another great year at PBL! We are all excited to have students back in our classrooms and hallways. At PBL it is our vision to achieve excellence through rigor, relevance, and relationships, and each day we will work together to achieve this vision. I truly believe that our building is filled with great teachers. Each summer many of these teachers attend trainings and workshops in order to be able to return to school and offer our students even more than we did the previous year by utilizing research-based best practices when educating our students. This summer was no different in that aspect, so I look forward to seeing the improvements that we will make in both student engagement and achievement as we work our way through the 2017-2018 school year.

Additionally, as we begin the year I want to make sure all of you realize the importance of staying involved and staying up-to-date with all that is going on at the school. I hope that you will find our website and this bi-monthly newsletter useful. These are just two of the many ways that PBL communicates information to students, parents, and the community. In addition to checking our website and reading this newsletter, I encourage all of you to follow us on Twitter for the most up-to-date information. @PBLUSD10 will provide you with district information and @PBL\_AD will provide you with high school athletic information.

In closing, I am honored to serve as the principal of Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School. It is truly a privilege to be a part of a community where parents, teachers, and students work together. Once again, welcome back! Let's make it a great year to be a Panther!

Your Partner in Education,

*Travis Daley*

Principal  
Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School

### High School Registration Date Set

Registration for all returning students enrolling at PBL High School for the 2017-2018 school year will take place from 12:00-7:00 on Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> in the high school office and

Little Assembly area. Any student who attended PBL schools last year may register on this day. Any new student to the district should come into the high school office with your

parent/guardian anytime between the hours of 8:30-2:30 from Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>.



*During the 2014-2015 school year students and staff earned Bronze Medal recognition from U.S. News & World Report as one of America's Best High Schools.*

## Freshmen Orientation

All incoming freshmen are encouraged to join us for our freshmen orientation on Tuesday, August 15th from 11:00 a.m. until approximately 1:15 p.m. Among other things, this time

will be dedicated to learning about important procedures at the high school, walking through your class schedule, and having time to find your locker (and practice getting it open). For

those of you who need a little bit more enticement to attend, Monical's pizza will be provided for lunch. I hope to see all of you there!

## New Staff Members Join the High School

As we begin the new school year we are excited to welcome four new staff members to our PBL High School family. Additionally, several staff members have changed rolls.

1. Eunsun Choo – Paraprofessional – Mrs. Choo will be a full time paraprofessional at the high school and junior high school. She joins us after working as a paraprofessional in the Urbana school district for several years. Mrs. Choo also served as the accompanist for our junior high and high school chorus department during the 2016-2017 school year, which is a role she will continue to fill.
2. Suzanne Christenson-Price – ELA – Mrs. Price-Christenson will be teaching English 101 & 102 and is joining us after having taught the previous two years at Central Middle School in Muscatine, Iowa.
3. Kim Goble – Principal's Administrative Assistant – Mrs. Goble should be a familiar face as she has worked for five years as an administrative assistant in our guidance office. Mrs. Goble's new role will be to work as the administrative assistant in the main office.
4. Deb Kennedy – One-on-One Aide – Mrs. Kennedy has worked as a paraprofessional and one-on-one aide throughout the PBL school district for several years now. Mrs. Kennedy now joins the high school staff where she will work in our Life Skills program.
5. Nathan Lawler – Head Girls Basketball Coach – Mr. Lawler will take the reins of the girls basketball program with several years of experience, including one year as a volunteer assistant coach at Millikin University and one year as head girls basketball coach at Argenta – Oreana High School.
6. Brock Niebuhr – Athletic Director & Head Baseball Coach – Mr. Niebuhr will continue his role as one of our high school physical education instructors, but he will also take over as Athletic Director and Head Baseball Coach.
7. Jill Schrodt – Guidance Office Administrative Assistant – Mrs. Schrodt is another familiar face as she has worked as a paraprofessional at the high school for the past nine years. Mrs. Schrodt will now move into the guidance office and work as an administrative assistant.

*"The difference between stumbling blocks and stepping stones is how you use them." --Unknown*

## Drivers Education Behind-the-Wheel Eligibility

A significant change for students in Drivers Education during the 2017-2018 school year is the need to be passing all classes before being allowed to complete the Behind-the-Wheel portion of Drivers Education. This new policy will be implemented as follows:

- Grades will be checked by the Behind-the-Wheel instructor the Friday before a student is to begin driving.
- Any student with an "F" in any course will not be allowed to drive until the next available driving

opportunity. The next student on the list, with passing grades in all courses, will drive in his/her place. The Behind-the-Wheel instructor will contact the parents/guardians of any student not allowed to complete this instruction due to grades.

- Any student not allowed to complete the Behind-the-Wheel instruction due to grade issues will remain first on the list of students needing to drive, but he/she will not be allowed

to complete the Behind-the-Wheel portion at PBL High School until they have earned a "D" or above in all current classes.

- If, due to grade issues, a student is not allowed to complete the Behind-the-Wheel of Drivers Education during the current academic year, the student will be allowed to complete the Behind-the-Wheel instruction during the summer following the academic year when he/she completes the classroom portion of Drivers Education.

## New Academic Integrity Policy

Another change this year will be how academic integrity violations will be handled. When a student makes a decision to cheat, they must be held accountable for their actions; however, the punishment must fit the crime. Previously, teachers have been responsible for creating their own policy and handling these situations on a case-by-case basis; however, moving forward

we will have one unified policy that all teachers implement in all courses. Our new school wide policy is as follows:

Engaging in academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help, and wrongfully obtaining copies of any item considered a “major grade” will be handled as follows:

- Student placed in at least one Saturday School.
- Student will re-do the assignment in a time frame determined by the teacher and the administration.
- Once completed, the assignment will be graded and 10% will be deducted from the grade earned.

## Exam Exemptions for Juniors & Seniors

Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, PBL High School offered incentive based semester exam exemptions to juniors and seniors. Exemptions are based upon grades, attendance, and behavior. These same exemptions will be offered again this year, and criteria are as follows:

Exemption criteria for seniors:

- The student cannot have been suspended or placed in redirected study at any point during the semester AND
- The student must have an A or B in the class, have 4 or fewer absences for the semester, and have 4 or

fewer tardies for the semester in the class OR

- The student must have a C in the class, have 2 or fewer absences for the semester, and have 2 or fewer tardies for the semester in the class.

Exemption criteria for juniors:

- The student cannot have been suspended or placed in redirected study at any point during the semester AND
- The student must have an A or B in the class, have 3 or fewer absences for the semester, and have 3 or fewer tardies for the semester in the class.

Please note that all absences except school related absences and college visit days, that follow the districts college visitation procedures listed in the handbook, will count toward a student’s total number of absences. Administration reserves the right to approve additional absences in extenuating circumstances.

Teachers of juniors and seniors may still require the student regardless of grade to take an exam in the class at the discretion of the teacher.



## Dress Code

As we begin the school year I am sure the building will be extremely warm. Because of this students are encouraged to dress so that they can be as comfortable as possible at school; however their attire must still meet our school dress code.

The entire dress code can be found on page 28 of the high school handbook. The basics of this are that students must be dressed in a reasonable manner and not disruptive to the educational process. Specific items that seem to be fashionable

this year that I can foresee causing issues are off the shoulder and midriff revealing shirts. Both of these items should be avoided at school or the student will be asked to change.

## Important Links

Need specific school related information?

Below you will find links that will take you directly to important PBL web pages.

Want to be as up-to-date as possible with all things PBL... follow us on Twitter @PBLCUSD10 to get district information and @PBL\_AD to get high school athletic information.

Need to know what supplies to buy your student for their high school classes...[visit our supply list.](#)

Need to know about an athletic event...[visit our athletic schedules page.](#)

Need to know about a band competition...[visit the Panther](#)

[Regiment page.](#)

Need to know what’s going on around the high school...[visit our school announcements page.](#)

Need to know if your child had homework or has an upcoming major grade...[visit our homework central page.](#)

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pblunit10.com

**“Excellence through Rigor,  
Relevance, and Relationships.”**



## Our Mission & Vision

It is the mission of Paxton-Buckley-Loda Community Unit School District No.10 to prepare each student to be a successful citizen as demonstrated through strong character, responsible actions, and a passion for life-long learning. PBL students will be empowered with the skills that allow them to read with comprehension, communicate clearly, utilize technology, think critically, work effectively with others, and use information to solve problems. PBL is committed to a systematic approach of support and intervention to assist each individual in reaching his or her full potential. We are dedicated to providing a safe environment while fostering a climate of high expectations for our students, staff, and the communities we serve.

**Rigor:** PBL is dedicated to providing a rigorous curriculum, coherent across grade levels, where students learn, think, comprehend, and communicate analytically.

Due to a rigorous curriculum:

- I can achieve anything by giving maximum effort, using my academic skills to think critically, to solve problems, and to communicate with others.

**Relevance:** Relevance is reinforced at PBL by making curricular connections between learning objectives and real life experiences. Students will prepare for adult roles by learning and applying fundamental skills and competencies.

My educational experiences are relevant to me because:

- I can be a self-motivated, life-long learner.
- I can be accountable to myself and others.
- I can plan for the future by adapting easily to change and managing new technologies and information.

**Relationships:** Positive relationships are the foundation for all learning experiences at PBL. Students, staff, parents, and community members will collaborate to create and foster a safe environment where respect for others and tolerance of individual differences are modeled and expected at all times.

To build positive relationships:

- I can be tolerant and accepting of individual differences.
- I can demonstrate responsibility through good decision making.
- I can display good citizenship by representing myself, my school, my community, and my country with pride.
- I can achieve my goals through self-motivation and by encouraging and working with others.