

## COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY NINTH GRADERS

Q: What should I do if my **locker** doesn't work?

A: Mr. Deckert in the Attendance Office can help you. You will be directed to a custodian to fix your locker or, if necessary, give you another one.

Q: What should I do if I **arrive late** to school or **late to a class**?

A: Before you go to your 1<sup>st</sup> block, you must go to the attendance office. You will be given a pass to give to your 1<sup>st</sup> block teacher.

Q: Can I lose credit in a course as a result of being **absent** from school?

A: Yes, you can. You will lose credit if you are absent more than 16 times (full year course); 12 absences (3/4 year course, such as PE); 8 absences (1/2 year course); 4 absences (1/4 year course, such as Health).

Q: Can I lose credit in a course if I arrive **late to school** or **late to a class**?

A: Yes, you can. Make sure to read and understand the Attendance Policy and the Late to Class sections in your handbook which outline the details of these situations.

Q: What is the procedure for **returning to school** after an absence?

A: Report to the attendance office with a note from your doctor or parent explaining the reason for the absence.

Q: What do I do if I will be **leaving early** from school?

A: Before school begins on the day you will be leaving early, report to the attendance office with a note explaining the reason for leaving early. Once you receive your Leave Early Pass, you do not need to return to the attendance office before you leave on that day.

Q: Will I get a lot of **homework** in 9<sup>th</sup> grade?

A: Yes, you will have homework on a regular basis. If you struggle or feel overwhelmed, talk to your teacher AND your counselor.

Q: Can I change a course in my **schedule**?

A: Once you have selected your courses, including electives, changes will be considered only if we have made a scheduling error, you have been placed in the wrong level of a course or you took the course over the summer and you are eligible to receive credit for it.

Q: Will my **counselor** tell my parents or teachers about what we discuss?

A: With a few exceptions, what you discuss with your counselor will always remain confidential. Your counselor can discuss those exceptions if you have any concerns regarding confidentiality.

Q: What do I do if I need **extra help** in a class?

A: The person who can help you the best in a course is the teacher of that course. Many teachers offer extra help before or after school. There is (free) tutoring available through the National Honor Society and the after school Homework Club. Your counselor can discuss this with you.

Q: Do freshman have finals? Do **freshman grades** count in my GPA? Will freshman courses and grades appear on my transcript?

A: Yes. Yes. And Yes!

Q: Does PHS have any programs to help me with my **college and career** plans?

A: Yes. In your freshman year, you will want to sign up for FamilyConnection by Naviance as you will be using this program extensively throughout high school. There are tons of information and tools to help you start making your long range plans for life beyond PHS. One of the really interesting tabs you can explore is "About Me" to jump start your career exploration! Our goal is to have every 9<sup>th</sup> grader signed up in Naviance by the end of their freshman year.

Q: How can I find out about my **grades**?

A: You can ask your teacher; however, Genesis is also a great way for you to keep track of how you're doing in a class or what grade you received on an assignment, test or project.

Q: What do I do if I have a problem with my **Chromebook**?

A: Someone in the media center (Ms. Cozin or Ms. Record) can help you when you have problems with your **Chromebook**.

Q: How do I find out about **clubs** at PHS?

A: On the PHS website, there is a link for Activities and Clubs. If there is not a club which reflects any of your interests, speak to your counselor or a teacher about starting one!

Q: How do I find out about **sports** at PHS?

A: There is a link to Athletics on the PHS website where you will find another link to the PHS Athletic Handbook. This contains information about the athletic program offerings, including fall, winter and spring sports. Mr. Mike DiBernard (x2327) is the Assistant Principal of Athletics.