

Q&A About Pomperaug High School

Sorry that we didn't get to all of your questions at the presentation. Here are the answers to all your questions. If you have any more, PLEASE email me at arcambra@hotmail.com. See you in the hallways next year!

Thanks, Alexandra Cambra.

Schedule:

- **Where do you go on the first day of school?** Your homeroom. It will be clearly marked on your schedule.
- **How am I supposed to understand the schedule?** Honestly, don't worry about it. Just look at the order of your classes, and where they are. The teachers/other students will tell you when to go to your next class.
- **When do you get your schedule?** It is hard to say because it varies every year, but you should get your schedule by Late July/August.
- **How much time do you have to transition from class to class?** 4 minutes.
- **Why are periods 4/5 or 5/6?** The overlapping class blocks were created to increase the amount of teacher-student interaction and teaching time.
- **Are periods 4, 6, 8, and 10 still only 30 minutes if you don't have lunch?** Yes, those periods are only 30 minutes, but remember that a class will be that block and a short 15 minute block, making classes 49 minutes (passing time) and lunches 30 minutes.
- **How many days are in the rotation in high school?** 5 days are in a rotation, and if we miss a day of school (planned or not, the days don't skip.)
- **Can you visit the high school during the summer and see where your classes are?** YES. The school is open during the summer, and you are welcome to walk your schedule. It is much easier to see where your classes are when no one is trying to rush to their classes as well.
- **How long does it take to get used to PHS?** It takes from about 1-3 weeks, usually more like 1-2 weeks. There is nothing to worry about.

Map/Getting Around the School:

- **What do we do if get lost?** If you get lost, the best thing to do is ask a teacher or upperclassman that is walking by which way you are trying to go. If you ask multiple people around you and they don't know (because some kids just know their schedule), just go ask the office.
- **Have you ever gotten lost?** YES! I can guarantee that every Pomperaug student has gotten lost AT LEAST once.
- **Is Pomperaug BIG?** It is big, but it is just a big rectangle, so don't worry about it.
- **Is it hard to find your way around?** It may seem to be difficult at first, but with time and experience, it gets easier. Just pay attention to what locker bays are near each of your classes.
- **What are the bays on the map?** The locker bays, though a lot of the upperclassman call them by their color name, are the official names of the locker bays.

Courses:

- **What courses are available at Pomperaug?** The course catalogue should have been presented to you when you decided on your schedule for freshman year; however it is also available on the Pomperaug website.
- **What electives are available, and what are they?** I would love to list all the different electives in the booklet, but there are so many that they wouldn't all fit. Look at the course catalogue, or ask an upperclassman about a class.
- **What is the difference between AP, Honors, Academic, and Core level classes?** The main difference is the speed of the course; how much material the course covers and how fast it does so. At each level, there is also a varying amount of self-teaching/homework. All levels give a good amount of homework, they are just different types. For example, academic-level classes may give a lot of worksheets, but honors/AP classes give a lot of projects and large assignments. It really depends on the class and teacher.

Lunch Blocks:

- **When is recess and snack time?** Unfortunately, there is no more recess or official snack time. You are only allowed to eat in the cafeteria or AP room, unless a teacher says it is ok. However, there is a new opportunity that you can go outside during lunch; it's not recess, but it's better than nothing.
- **How long is the lunch block?** 30 minutes
- **What is for lunch?** The lunch menu is written on a large wipe-board in the cafeteria every day, so take a look! There is also a deli bar offered every day.
- **Are we able to switch lunches?** Lunches are not determined by grade, but by your schedule and you can't switch lunches because you have a class or study hall (where attendance is taken, so you have to be present) when other people have lunch. Since there is no recess, you can't switch lunches like did in middle school because it doesn't exist. When you are having lunch, there isn't a group of students at recess that you can switch with; other students are in classes.
- **Will I get beat up in high school?** No. Absolutely not. Unless you challenge another student to a fight, WHICH I DO NOT RECOMMEND, you will be completely fine.

Late to Class/Bus Issues:

- **What happens if you miss the late bus?** You should call a parent, and/or ask an upperclassman who drives to come and get you. The school doesn't close until about 9pm, so you don't have to worry.
- **What happens if you get on the wrong bus?** Just get off at someone's house you know, or tell the bus driver where you live and see what they can do to help you.
- **What happens if you are late to class?** If you have a pass, your teacher just marks you as an excused tardy, however if you don't have a pass, you get an unexcused tardy. If you are late to class too many times, excused or not, you may be sent to the office. Don't worry though, on the first day, teachers understand you are probably lost.

Miscellaneous:

- **How strict is PDA?** It isn't as strict as Middle School. I.e. you are allowed to hold hands. But let's be honest, no one wants to see much more than that anyway, so don't do it.

- **Do girls carry purses?** Yes, but they cannot be too big. Backpacks and large purses are not allowed because they take up too much space in the hallways.
- **Are you allowed to have someone shadow you?** Yes, but the student is seriously considering attending Pomperaug. The parents of the interested student must contact the Counseling Department at 203-262-3238 to make arrangements.
- **Which places don't smell like smoke?** Most of the high school honestly. The best bathrooms are in cafeteria, but none of them are that awful.
- **Are the rumors about the school being full of drugs true?** NO! The issue is blown drastically out of proportion. If you just follow your schedule and do what you are supposed to, you will never see anything.
- **Are the dances separated by grade?** Only the freshman orientation dance, after that dances are for all PHS students. Prom is for Juniors and Seniors, unless invited.
- **When is homeroom held?** Homeroom is held in the morning on the first day of school, but it is not everyone morning. When the school year gets going, homeroom is held once or maybe twice a month after period 2.
- **What is Freshman Friday?** It used to be on the Friday of spirit week and the upperclassman would show school spirit on the bodies of their underclassmen friends, however this no long exists because students were too immature to handle the privilege.
- **How many students are in each grade?** About 300-400 varying every year.

Balancing:

- **How much homework do you get?** Depends on the classes you take. But honestly, it doesn't matter how much you get, you will always find a way to complain about it. Just make sure you make time to do everything and don't get sucked into distractions.
- **Is it hard to get used to?** The first week or two may seem difficult, but after that you feel like you have been there for years.
- **How do you balance sports, clubs, and work?** The best way to balance it all is use your study halls (and lunch block if needed) wisely and get work done. In addition, a sport/club is supposed to be fun and relaxing. After them, you can't relax for 3 hours and expect your work to magically get done; you have to chunk out your time.

Clubs/Sports:

- **Why can't we do a sport outside of school while we are doing one in school?** You can play a sport outside of school; it just can't be the same sport. For example, if you play field hockey with the school, you can play soccer with a local team. You can't play the same sport at the same time because it is an unfair advantage. Trust me, you don't want to anyway; you will be exhausted.
- **How many clubs can you participate in?** As many as fit in your schedule, and don't conflict with the other clubs.
- **What is the Peanut Butter and Jelly Club?** It is a club that meets every Monday that makes sandwiches for the local shelters.
- **What is the best club?** Depends on your personal interests.
- **Can freshman try out for any level sport?** Depends on the sport and the coach. Even if you can't try-out exactly, some coaches may see you practice and decide they want you

on a different level. If you want to contact high school students who participate in your sport to find out more information, let me know.

- **How do you do two activities (i.e. a club and a sport) if you participate in the both every day?** Most clubs aren't held after school every day, and sports are only 2-3 months, not full year. However, if you come across this problem you have to talk to you coach and club advisor to see what they think you should do.
- **Is there a special donation program like penny wars?** Many of our clubs raise money for charities. Just look in the corner of the cafeteria to see who is running the current drive.
- **Is there a ski/snowboarding team?** Yes. There is a ski team. To find out more about it, look on the website. There is also a high school skiing/snowboarding trip.
- **Is there a kung-fu class?** No, but if you wanted to and had the means, you can start a club.
- **What is AFS?** What do you do in it? American Field Service. It is an international exchange program.
- **What is F.C.C.L.A club?** It is a Home-Ec club. They make food and sell it two days after school. It is delicious.
- **Is there an ice hockey rink in the school?** Unfortunately not, our ice hockey team plays with the Watertown High School students.
- **Is there a Quiddich club/team?** Not yet, but make one!