

# Welcome Back

## PBL High School

January-February 2018

## Second Semester Begins

High school is a strange mix between elementary school and “the real world.” As I work with the high school staff to educate our high school students this idea is constantly on my mind as there is a necessary balance between the “hand holding” that occurs at the elementary level, and the rewards and consequences that are a reality of the “real world.” As we begin second semester this balance between elementary school and the “real world” plays out with a fresh start. Fresh starts are definitely a part of the “real world” but they are few and far between as we are often times expected to work with what has been done in the past and make it better. As we return to school for second semester, this is definitely true as first semester grades are finalized and on transcripts, but as of Wednesday, January 3 everybody in every class has the exact same grade. The first semester grades being finalized and the second semester grades being new is the fresh start; there is no missing assignment, or poor test score, or incomplete project that is pulling down a grade. At this point, everybody’s grades are completely new and it is up to you to take advantage of this fresh start. Whether your first semester experience was positive or negative, learn from it, move forward, and take advantage of the fresh start in front of you.

*Travis Duley*

Principal  
Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School

## SAT Prep Course Being Offered at PBL

As we continue to look for ways to help our students prepare for and perform better on the SAT, we have decided to offer a SAT Prep Course, which will begin on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> and run every Sunday thereafter until the last meeting on Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. During these

twelve sessions students will take two full practice exams and two partial practice exams. The additional eight Sundays will be spent working with teachers to better prepare for each portion of the SAT. The cost of this course is \$180 per student, and payment must be made in the

high school office by the end of the day Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.

Junior students that are interested in this course should see Ms. Stretimatter for more details or see the [“Sign Up for the SAT Prep Course”](#) link on the PBL Unit #10 website.

## Upcoming Events:

- January 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - School Resumes
- January 15<sup>th</sup>
  - MLK Day  
No School
- February 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Teachers Institute  
No Student  
Attendance
- February 19<sup>th</sup>
  - President’s Day  
No School

## Special Points: SAT Prep Leads to Increased SAT Scores

- Data shows studying for the SAT for 20 hours on free Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy is associated with an average score gain of 115 points.
- Data shows that the average student increases their SAT score by 60 points just by taking the exam a second time.

## Second Quarter Perfect Attendance

93 students had perfect attendance during second quarter. We are proud of all of these students as they are persevering and showing up every day, which is an important skill for all of us to learn in order to be valuable and reliable employees in the future. Each of these students will receive a certificate from Monical's Pizza for a free individual pizza in order to recognize this accomplishment. These students are:

Kayley Anderson	Mallorie Ecker	Samuel Johnson	Max Schoonveld
Marissa Arnett	Seth Forbes	Austin Jones	Emma Schuler
Cainan Bagwell	Calvin Foster	Mikayla Jones	Hannah Schwarz
Connor Beland	Levi Garrett	Keegan Lantz	Madison Shaw
Andrew Blackford	Ariana Gentzler	Natalie Larios	Carmen Shurr
Leah Brown	Brayden Geyer	Tanner Longest	Gabriel Shurr
Aubree Bruns	Kyle Goetting	Brock Marron	Charman Snow
Alivia Case	Aubrey Goodson	Adam McMullin	Daze Spencer
Aaron Caspers	Kalena Goudy	Richard McPherson	Hunter Stranz
Joseph Chickini	Patrick Griffin	Isaac Medler	Chelsey Tufino
Gunner Coe	Jarred Gronsky	Taylor Mennenga	Cristian Tufino
Tanner Coe	Rebecca Haile	Alyson Moore	Samuel Wade
Brianna Combs	Nicholas Harper	Amanda Muhl	Brooke Walder
Luke Cowan	Kody Harrison	Jonathan Muller	Anna Wesslund
Colton Coy	Clayton Hartman	Gavin Ogburn	Christina White
Dylan Crank	Benjamin Hernandez	Sam Penicook	Clarisa Wieneke
Race Crim	Clint Hopper	Kylie Piatt	Garet Williams
Alberto Cruz	Cori Hopper	Alexander Plott	Anna Wolken
Savanna Davis	Jalen Hutchcraft	Kyle Poll	Seth Wolken
Tammra DeGarmo	Rhiannon Jeffries	Erik Reck	Brian Woltz
Jordan Delaney	Sasha Jeffries	Andrew Riggleman	Lily Wood
Christian Duncan	Kirsten Jensen	Brittany Rock	Nathan Woodmansee
Dylan Durham	Bayley Johnson	Mikayla Roy	Kyle Yeary
Skyler Eaker			

*"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right." – Oprah Winfrey*

## 2018-2019 Class Registration

Shortly after returning from winter break, the guidance counselors will be meeting with all freshmen, sophomores, and juniors to discuss registering for classes for the 2018-2019 school year. Selecting classes for next school year is something that we urge all parents to talk to their children about. Course requests should be based on what a

student still needs for graduation and also what a student is interested in pursuing for their future career. It should also be noted that our general practice is that if a student requests a course and receives it, then they may not drop that course unless their personal circumstances significantly change beyond what they could have foreseen when

making class requests. Based on this, course selection should be made only after putting careful thought into what courses are truly needed and wanted. If you have questions about any courses, please contact the teacher that teaches that course, your guidance counselor, and/or visit our [guidance department website](#) to read the course description.

## Early College and Career Academy

All sophomores and juniors will be receiving information about the Early College and Career Academy being offered through Education for Employment System #330 and Parkland College. This will be the fourth consecutive year we have participated in this program and from our experiences it has been a total success. PBL students interested in this program are allowed to select from six

different academies, which are Automotive Technology, Computer Networking, CNA, Criminal Justice, Manufacturing, and Emergency Medical Services. Like a dual credit course, these academies allow students to earn credits at PBL High School and Parkland College. However, unlike a traditional dual credit course, which is taught at our school by one of our teachers, the classes for the academies will meet

from 7:30–9:30 each morning at Parkland College and will be taught by a Parkland College professor. As a school, we view this as a great opportunity for our students to have access to programs that we do not and in most cases cannot offer. If you are interested, please look for this information when you go through the registration process or visit the [Parkland College ECCA website](#).

## CNA Classes Offered at GCMS & GAHH

In addition to the ECCA program, another opportunity available to current sophomores and juniors, to consider during course registration, is the Certified Nursing Assistant program offered at GCMS High School and Gibson Area Hospital and Health Services. Due to the hospital being located in Gibson City, this is a program GCMS has offered for many years, but the past few years GCMS and PBL have worked together in order to offer this program to students at both high schools. Similar to the courses offered through the ECCA program, we view this as a great opportunity for our students to have access to an educational opportunity that we cannot offer on our own. If interested, speak to your guidance counselor during the registration process.

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## New Credit Recovery Program Offered at PBL

As we enter a new semester I am excited to announce that we will begin utilizing a new credit recovery program that will allow us to serve more of our students with a program and a process that is more cost effective and has more integrity.

For several years, students who failed a course could retake the course the following year or take the course on their own through Keystone Credit Recovery. Keystone served our needs, but it became very costly for students and over time we saw fewer students taking advantage of this way to earn a credit. Fewer students utilizing Keystone for credit recovery then caused an overcrowding issue in some courses the following year because a new group of students needed to take the course for the first time and another group of students needed to take the course again due to failing the previous year. Due to all of these reasons we will now be using Edmentum which is approximately half the cost of Keystone and allows us to use the same “seat” for multiple students at different times of the day, thus making a product that is already cheaper even more cost effective. Additionally, PBL will purchase this product and the completion of the work will be completed during a credit recovery guided study that is monitored by a staff member. Parents of students who need to take advantage of this credit recovery option, due to failing a first semester course, will be notified when their child is placed in the credit recovery guided study. These parents will also be given online access in order to monitor the student’s progress in the Edmentum credit recovery course.



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**“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.