



PVPA Friday Notes

August 26, 2016

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School
15 Mulligan Drive * South Hadley, MA 01075
413-552-1580 * www.pvpa.org



Be sure to like our Facebook page to get immediate updates on timely matters.

QUICK LINKS

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Hello Again PVPA Families,

This is the first Friday Notes of the school year and I want to invite everyone to attend a "New Families Celebration and Pot Luck Dinner" on Wednesday night, September 7. During the past four years, PVPA held an opening-of-school Convocation that included a review of our past year's successes, student performances, and a parent/guardian open microphone. This year, our intent is to make sure all of our new families have a chance to mingle with one another, enjoy some student performances, and also have a question and answer opportunity with members of the PVPA administration. An open microphone will also be available because what's a community celebration at PVPA with an open microphone?

To our returning families, please come and help us welcome our newest school community members to PVPA. More specific information about the Celebration will be sent out next week.

On another note, we strongly request that parents/guardians of any students interested in playing soccer make sure that we have received the most recent up-to-date medical records on your student so they will be allowed to play soccer. Please see more detailed information below. Thank you for your cooperation!

Best wishes for a great start to the year!
Scott



New Student Orientation

8/29 & 8/30
8:30-2:50

Community Day All Students!

Wed. 8/31
8:30-2:50

First Day of Classes

Thur. 9/1
8:30-3:55

Labor Day

Mon. 9/5
NO SCHOOL

New Families Celebration

(formerly called Convocation)

Wed. 9/7 5-7:30pm
Raindate 9/8
PVPA Campus
Potluck at 5

Picture Day

Wed. 9/21

PVPA Open House

Thurs. 9/22
6:00-8:35pm

Indigenous People's Day

Mon. 10/10
NO SCHOOL

Octoberfest

Fri. 10/14
All-School
Daytime Event

Picture RETAKE Day

Mon. 10/24

Parent/Teacher Conferences**PVPA Teachers Team up with Hilltown Charter School**

As part of our teacher professional development work, our teaching staff combined forces with teachers from the Hilltown Charter School for a joint workshop on Differentiation and Accommodations. This all-day gathering led to collaborative conversations and a deeper understanding of the importance of meeting the needs of all learners. What a great opportunity to work side-by-side with other dedicated teachers from the community.

Student Schedules / Add Drop PE Alternate Credit / Off Site Courses & More! Please Read!**Student Schedules**

All families should have received an email on Thursday, August 25th that indicates how students can access their 2016-17 course schedules through the Student Portal. Any family that did not receive this email should contact Thom Vreeland at tvreeland@pvpa.org for assistance.

Add/Drop Procedures

After you have reviewed your schedule, please follow [PVPA's Add/Drop Procedures](#) to request schedule changes for either fall semester, year-long, or spring semester classes

Please be aware of the following important dates related to Add/Drop:

Wednesday, August 31st

Any student wishing to make a schedule change for either fall semester, year-long, or spring semester classes must sign up in person at their School Counselor's office on Community Day, August 31, 2016, by the end of the school day (2:50pm). Any email requests for an Add/Drop meeting will not be considered (to ensure equity of access). (see [Add/Drop Procedures](#))

Friday, September 9th

Any student who missed the Round 1 deadline to sign up for an Add/Drop meeting must sign up in person at their School Counselor's office by Friday, September 9, 2016, by the end of the school day (2:50pm). Any email requests for an Add/Drop meeting will not be considered (to ensure equity of access). (see [Add/Drop Procedures](#))

Friday, September 9th

All [Independent Study Forms](#), [Offsite Course Forms](#), and [P.E. Alternate Credit Forms](#) are due.

Tue. 11/1

No MS classes,
HS dismissed at
12:35

Thur. 11/3

ALL students
dismissed at
12:35

**Theater Senior
Thesis Show**

Fri. 11/4
& Sat. 11/5 @
7pm

Veteran's Day

Friday, 11/11
NO SCHOOL

**We Came to
Play Tour**

(music
ensembles to to
local schools)
11/17 & 18

**Dance Senior
Thesis Show**

Fri. 11/18
& Sat. 11/19 @
7pm

Curriculum Day

Mon. 11/21
NO SCHOOL

**Thanksgiving
Break**

11/22-11/25
NO SCHOOL

**PVPA Arts
Festival**

Sat. 12/3
2:00-6:00
Throughout PVPA

**Student Work
Day**

Fri. 12/23
12:35 dismissal

Winter Break

12/26-1/2



From L to R: Conner Seifel, Bridget MacNeill, Joe Mascis, Yael Benvenuto-Ladner, Emma McCurdy, Sammy Bush, Emmett Klitus-Flaim, Emma Fraizer

Welcome Back from Camp Anytown!

A delegation of PVPA students just returned from attending Camp Anytown, a social justice camp run by the National Conference for Community and Justice and attended by students from all over Massachusetts and Connecticut. They were joined by PVPA teachers Leigh-Ellen and Sasha Figueroa-Starr who served as advisors. Some of them came to PVPA bright and early this morning to talk about the important work they did this past week, and to discuss their plans to lead workshops for Community Day, and to bring their new-found knowledge and skills to the PVPA community throughout the coming year. We can't wait!



Welcome New PVPA Staff

We are happy to introduce some new additions to the PVPA family, and bid a fond farewell to those staff who are starting new adventures elsewhere.

Departing Staff

Robert Brainin - CFO
Sarah Armstrong - Vocal Teacher
Miriel Cardona- Main Office
Pete Smith - Librarian
Lisa Page - Biology Teacher
Jacob Holzberg-Pill - Science Teacher

NO SCHOOL

School Reopens

Tues. 1/3

Paideia

1/9 - 1/26

Martin Luther

King Jr. Day

Mon. 1/16

NO SCHOOL

Curriculum Day

Fri. 1/27

NO SCHOOL

2nd Semester

Begins

Mon. 1/30

Terri Williams - Academic Support
Ashley Lepre - Substitute Teacher
Megan Hann - Academic Support
Christian Drake - Academic Support

New Staff

Caitlin Boulay - Science Teacher
Marcy Conner - CFO
Wendy Franz - Main Office
Deb Levheim - Librarian
Mara Levi - Vocal Teacher
Ken Mello - Math / Algebra Teacher
Megan Murphy - Biology / Math Teacher
Netania Shapiro - Academic Support - High School
Justin Turner - Academic Support - 8th Grade

Welcome to PVPA! It's going to be a great year!

First Week of School Schedule

Note: Buses will be running all week. Please note that if a school day ends at 2:50, the bus will follow our Friday drop off times.

Monday, August 29

New Student Orientation Day 1 (All NEW students attend)

8:30 - 2:50

All Students BRING LUNCH from home

Tuesday, August 30

New Student Orientation Day 2 (All NEW students attend)

8:30 - 2:50

Students bring lunch from home, but we also have cheese pizza available for purchase @ \$.75/slice

Wednesday, August 31

Community Day (ALL STUDENTS ATTEND)

8:30 - 2:50

School lunches begin (note: Fill out a lunch menu by clicking the link above - Quick Links - and download the menu and fill it out. Email the completed menu to Wendy Franz at wfranz@pvpa.org or bring it on the first day of school and put it in the "Lunch Menu" mailbox in the main office.). Pizza will also be available for purchase @ \$.75/slice

Thursday, September 1

First Day of Classes

8:30 - 3:50 (Note: This is the only day this week that ends at 3:50pm)

School lunches served. Pizza available for purchase.

Friday, September 2

Second Day of Classes

8:30 - 2:50 (regular Friday dismissal time)

School lunches served. Pizza available for purchase.

Second Week of School

Monday, September 5

Labor Day - NO SCHOOL

Tuesday - Thursday, September 6-8

Full school days - **8:30 - 3:55**

Friday, September 9

8:30 - 2:50 (regular Friday dismissal time)

Note: Pizza will be available for purchase every day except for Mondays. The source we use for pizza is not open on Mondays.

Fall Soccer!

We're excited for another great season of soccer at PVPA. Our coach will be Sam Slaby, who is also an apprentice teacher. Sam can be reached at cslaby@pvpa.org.

Health Information

Anyone who wishes to try-out for Fall Soccer must have had a physical in the past 12 months (from 8/30/15 - present) and have that documented, in writing, with School Nurse Mary Colwell. No exceptions! Questions about health requirements can be addressed to Mary at mcolwell@pvpa.org.

Practice Team and Varsity Team

Like last year, we will have a Co-ed Varsity team that competes in games and a co-ed practice squad that practices with the varsity. Typically, the practice squad is made up of younger players but the Varsity is chosen by skill level, physical and emotional maturity, and a positive, respectful, and helpful attitude towards one's peers.

Cost

Varsity Team - \$175.00 athletic fee prior to the first game. The fee must be paid in order to play and practice.

Practice Team - \$85.00 dollar athletic fee.

Try-Out Dates and Times

8/30 - 3:00 - 5:00pm

8/31 - 3:00 - 5:00pm (corrected time)

9/1 - 4:10 - 6:00pm

9/6 - 4:10 - 6:00pm

9/7 - 4:10 - 6:00pm

Players should plan come to all tryouts. If a student is not available for one or more of the tryout days, they should contact coach Sam Slaby at cslaby@pvpa.org.

Game Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Team</u>
Tuesday, 9/13/16	4:30pm	Hartsbrook @ PVPA
Thursday, 9/15/16	5:15 pm	@ PV Chinese Immersion
Wednesday, 9/21/16	5:15 pm	@ Buxton
Friday, 9/23/16	3:15 pm	BART @ PVPA
Wednesday, 10/5/16	4:30pm	Eagle Hill @PVPA
Thursday, 10/13/16	4:30pm	Buxton @ PVPA
Friday, 10/14/16	4:00pm	@ Hartsbrook
Tuesday, 10/17/16	4:30pm	4 Rivers @PVPA
Wednesday, 10/19/16	4:30 pm	PVCI @ PVPA

CALLING ALL DANCERS! Supplemental Auditions for PVPA's 3 Dance Companies

WOFA (African Dancers and Drummers)

- Sept 6th, 4-6pm, Wooden dance studio.
- Please fill out an audition form prior to audition (found on dance bulletin board). Come prepared to drum and dance!
- After-school rehearsals will be Tuesdays from 4-6pm, with Thursday rehearsals added after the soccer season ends.
- The WOFA show will be on February 17th & 18th.
- For more information, contact Bisko Kaba, akaba@pvpa.org.

Catalyst (Concert Dance) & Senior Dance Thesis Show

- [Sept 8th, 4-6pm](#), Large dance studio.
- Please be prepared to learn and perform a range of combos (ballet, modern, jazz and improvisation).
- No solo required.
- After-school rehearsals will be on Mondays & Tuesdays from 4-6pm for both Catalyst and Senior Thesis.
- Senior Thesis Show will be on November 18th & 19th.
- Catalyst Show will be March 31st, and April 1st.
- Please fill out an audition form prior to audition (found on dance bulletin board).
- For more information, contact Felice Santorelli, fsantorelli@pvpa.org

Funkadelic (Hip Hop)

- [Sept 9th, 4-6pm](#), Large dance studio.
- Please be prepared to learn and perform hip hop combos.
- Please prepare a one-minute solo.
- After-school rehearsals will be Wednesdays 4-6pm. Beginning in February, rehearsals will be on Wednesdays and Thursdays 4-6pm.
- Please fill out an audition form prior to audition (found on dance bulletin board).
- For more information, contact Shakia Johnson, sjohnson@pvpa.org

Grades 7, 8, 9 & 10 - Have you completed your Summer Work?

All students in grades 7, 8, 9, & 10 have summer ELA assignments. If you need a reminder of what the assignments are, please click the link below. Also, we have copies of some of the required reading books which can be borrowed. They are in the main office.

[Summer ELA Assignments](#)

PVPA's Grading System

PVPA uses a grading system that focuses deeply on students' learning. Learn more about our approach to grading by clicking the link below, and be sure to reach out to teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators with any concerns or questions.

[PVPA's Standards-Based Grading](#)

Thank you for voting PVPA the best Alternative School in the Pioneer Valley!

Thank you to everyone who voted for PVPA in the 2016 Reader's Choice Awards in the Hampshire Gazette poll. To see all of the winners, click the link below.

[2016 Reader's Choice Awards](#)



Free and Reduced Lunch Program

PVPA families who are enrolled in certain government programs will be automatically certified by PVPA to receive free or reduced fee school lunch. If you have NOT been notified by PVPA that your family has been automatically certified to receive free or reduced fee lunch, and you believe your family may qualify, please submit a paper application (link to download form is below) as soon as possible to the PVPA Business Office. Please direct any questions regarding this program to Robin Fordham at rfordham@pvpa.org.

[Free & Reduced Lunch Application](#)

Off-Campus Lunch Privilege Application

If a student is 17 or older and is a junior or senior, they may be eligible to leave campus during lunch. Very strict rules apply, and a student must have the permission of their parent/guardian, in addition to the approval of the Director of Student Affairs. Students who do not follow the off-campus guidelines may have their privilege revoked.

You can download a form by clicking the link below, or you can pick one up in the main office. Please be sure to read through this carefully before submitting.

[Off-Campus Lunch Privilege Application](#)

Late Arrival / Early Dismissal from School

If a student is interested in coming in to school late (allowed if they have a Reading Room first block), or leaving school early on a regular basis (due to having an off-site class or lessons, or by having a Reading Room as their last block), please fill out the form below and submit it during the first week of school.

Note: The Director of Student Affairs must approve before the student can sign in/sign out on their own.

Once approved, the student's schedule will be changed to reflect that they will not be in the building during those blocks. Students who have classes during the first or last blocks of the day are not eligible for late arrival/early dismissal from these classes.

[Late Arrive/Early Dismissal Form](#)

Are you still looking for a Carpool?

Do you want to connect with other PVPA families to see if you can find a good fit? Fill out our PVPA Carpooling form to be added to the carpooling spreadsheet which is shared with other families looking to connect.

[PVPA Carpool Form](#)

PVPA Master Calendar

- PVPA Performances & Events
- Rehearsals
- Field Trips
- Athletics - Games & Practices
- Committee Meetings (Board, Finance, etc.)
- Lunchtime Meetings (clubs, etc.)

Check it out! We will do our best to make sure this calendar is kept up to date.

[PVPA's Master Calendar](#)

PVPA is open to all students on a space-available basis. Per MA General Laws, Chapter 76: Section 5, PVPA shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, athletic performance, special need, proficiency in the English language or academic achievement.

If you are attending a PVPA event or have a meeting and you have a handicap that requires individual accommodation, please notify us prior to the event or meeting by calling Brent Nielsen, ext. 419, or the main office at 413-552-1580.

PVPA Charter Public School, 15 Mulligan Drive, South Hadley, MA 01075

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