

PHS SCHOOL COUNSELING *Newsletter*

Term: Spring Issue: #3 Date: May 6, 2020



Peekskill High School

1072 Elm Street, Peekskill, NY 10566
914-737-0201

Mr. Rodney Arthur, Principal
Dr. Margie Daniels, Asst. Principal
Dr. Jenna Ferris, Asst. Principal
Ms. Naima Smith Moore, Asst. Principal
Dr. William Toro, Asst. Principal

PHS Motto: Building Bridges of Excellence

2019-2020 Counselor Assignment

MR. CABASSA

ENL Students
OOD Students
12th Grade - A

MS. ELLIS

10 Grade – A-F
11th Grade – A-H
12th Grade – B-H

MRS. GILCHEST

10TH – O-Z
11TH – O-Z
12TH – O-Z

MS. RIOS

PACE/RISE
10th Grade –G-N
11th Grade – I-N
12th Grade – I-M

MS. DORADO

9th Grade
TASC

MRS. GORDINEER

Scholarship Advisor

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Dear PHS Students and Families,

We hope you are continuing to be well and staying safe at home. With remote learning moving into the second month, we have seen changes in our routines and how we engage with one another. As always your school counselors at Peekskill High School are available during the school day to help and we encourage you to email us (click on the link: [school counselor](#)) directly. In addition, if you have any questions or need advice on anything school or personally related, we are here for you. Lastly, please review our [form page](#) for: working paper, BOCES applications and other counseling related forms.

Throughout this newsletter there is grade level specific support for our students during this time. In addition to what is listed in this newsletter, you are encouraged to visit the [PHS District Website](#) and [PHS Counseling Website](#) for resources. Please check your email regularly for updates, as we will send emails that may be time sensitive in nature and may require action on your part. We will continue to support you, wherever you are, in this self and post-secondary exploration process.

For all students & families: Most important, make sure that you are taking care of yourself and those around you. With remote learning beginning you may have to adjust your daily routine. Make sure you take a walk outside, play a game or cook a meal together, read a book for pleasure, be creative with some crafts, dance to some lively music!

For Seniors: Many of you are making final choices on post secondary decisions, please contact Mrs. Khan with a copy of your acceptance letters and final decision, gkhan@peekskillschools.org.

~PHS Counseling Department!



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[The College Board \(SAT & AP Exams\):](#)

For AP Students: As you now know, the [College Board has announced](#) that traditional face-to-face exam administrations will not take place. Rather, students will take a 45-minute online free-response exam at home. **This will be “open book/open notes”** focusing on skills & thematic understanding and applying content learned. We have compiled the pertinent information given by the College Board, and will continue to share updates as we get them

- Test dates will be May 11-15, 18-22 with make-up exams being June 1-5.
- Please check your personal email for your admission ticket from the College Board.
- These exams will still allow students to pursue college credit.
- The content of the exam has been altered due to the fact that there has been a loss of instructional time. To see the content covered on each exam, please refer to the [College Board’s announcement](#).
- Even with these circumstances, no new registrations will be accepted.

Next steps: Check out the [free online resources](#) that will be provided by the College Board to help prepare for the exams.

[The ACT:](#)

Test Optional Institutions:

To view the most current list of colleges not requiring SAT and/or ACT test scores as part of the admission process, go to [the Fair Test website here](#).

NCAA Student-Athlete Eligibility:

For information on changes to NCAA eligibility, click [here](#).

New York State Education Department (Regents Exams):

For information on updates to Regents Exam and graduation requirements from New York State, click [here](#).

The NCAA’s response to the COVID and remote learning:

In response to questions regarding schools that have moved to distance or e-learning environments, the Eligibility Center will not require a separate review of distance or e-learning programs utilized by schools with NCAA-approved core courses that have moved to distance or e-learning environments for Spring/Summer 2020 terms due to school closures related to the COVID-19 situation. Students are encouraged to complete their NCAA-approved core courses through the channels of instruction provided or recommended by their school, district or state department of education. For information on COVID-19, please visit [ncaa.org/COVID-19](#) and continue to monitor for more information from the Eligibility Center at [on.ncaa.com/EC_COVID](#).



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For Both Juniors & Seniors: The landscape for both the Class of 2020 & Class of 2021 has changed. Rest assured that not only the colleges appreciate this; they are making adjustments so you can make your best decisions. While it may be challenging not to worry or be concerned, everyone is in uncharted waters and we'll navigate this together. After all, most of your parents did this the old fashion way: there was no internet, virtual tours or accepted students days. We relied on brochures, may have not had the opportunity to visit the campus prior to applying and each application was typed or handwritten. Sounds like fun, right?

With the changes in grading for Quarters 3rd & 4th know that colleges will also be making adjustments knowing that your transcript and application will not look as is typical. Linked here are [examples](#) to affirm this commitment on the part of colleges to support school's decisions of these practices. Please consider this affirmation that there will be a path forward in your respective admissions process.

SUNY Virtual Events

Utilize the links below to explore virtual offerings from the SUNY system in exploring SUNY colleges and universities. Additional information and instructions on how to register can be found at the full events and activities page on the [SUNY Virtual Events](#) site. For responses to Frequently Asked Questions, click [here](#).

- [SUNY Information Sessions featuring 40+ Campuses](#)
- [Which SUNY Are You? Information Sessions](#)
- [Financial Aid Information Sessions](#)
- [SUNY Virtual Tour](#)
- [SUNY FAQs Related to COVID-19](#)

For Freshman and Sophomores:

10th grade student interested in attending [BOCES](#) during the 2020/2021 please complete the BOCES application listed on the Counselor [Website](#)

Students might also find this [9th and 10th Grade Checklist](#) to be helpful.

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For Juniors:

Below is the most pressing information to be aware of:

- [The May & June SAT have been canceled.](#) Students who were registered for the March, May or June SAT will receive refunds.
- [The April ACT has been “rescheduled” for June 13th.](#) Students registered for April will be able to change their test date without a change fee, or receive a full refund.
- Many colleges are cancelling tours and open houses this spring. They will be offering alternative ways to get to know their institutions. Please check EACH INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL for any changes in programming and what they are offering instead.
- Juniors should start their college search with [Naviance](#).
- If you do not have a password please [email](#) your school counselor,
- Below are additional tools you can use to begin your search and plan your post-secondary timeline:
 - [Campus Tours](#)
 - [You Visit](#)
 - [ECampustours](#)
 - [Admissions 101](#)
 - [List of college virtual tours](#)
- **Study for standardized tests:** Most students take the SAT/ACT in their junior year and repeat the same test again in either the summer or fall. We encourage you to take advantage of the extra time to study and consider taking a couple of free, graded online SAT/ACT exams. [Kaplan](#), [Kahn Academy](#) and [Summit](#) have on-line resources as does [Engaging Minds](#) and [Princeton Review](#)
- **Learn about financial aid:** Once senior year rolls around, you'll be too busy doing college applications to research the financial aid process. So focus on understanding that (and taking note of deadlines!) now. To start, [here's a good primer on how college financial aid works](#), and [here's an explanation of the most important financial aid acronym: EFC](#) (Expected Family Contribution).
- **Teacher Recommendations:** As part of the admissions process you will need 1-2 teacher recommendations. Under these circumstances we are developing an equitable way to manage this process. Details on how this will be done will be forthcoming. In the meantime we ask that you please do **not** ask teachers at this time
- Students might also find this [Junior Year Calendar/Checklist](#) to be helpful.



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PHS laptop for students:

Students who DO NOT have access to a laptop can get a loaner laptop. Students can pick up a laptop at [Uriah Hill Elementary School](#) on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30am - 12:30am. Students must have a parent to sign off on the laptop and must enter via the lower level.

3rd Quarter Grade:

Parents and students can check 3rd quarter grades beginning Friday, May 1st on the district [Portal](#). These grades are reflective of work done on assignments put in place on or before March 13th, before school closure.

Parents who do not have access to the portal please sign-up [here](#).

These grades do not go on the transcript. The school district will communicate adjustments and plans moving forward with the 4th quarter grades.

We want to encourage PHS students and families to keep working on short term goals. The best thing each family can do is to encourage and engage daily student learning. Please let us know how we can assist with these goals.

Tips to Get Through Each Day for Remote Learning

- **Daily Schedule/Route:** Students should maintain a daily schedule for route just as they were in PHS. Set an alarm, and don't sleep in all morning.
- **Be sure to move:** It is highly recommended that students get some exercise, outdoors if safety possible, each day.
- **Defined Learning Space:** If possible, carve out a defined learning space that can be used for completing school work.
- **Reach Out:** If you have questions or need further instruction, please email the teacher as soon as possible.
- **Continue to Collaborate:** Collaboration fosters learning and eases the sense of isolation. Form virtual study groups with friends through one of the meeting apps search as [Google hangout](#).



IMPORTANT UPDATES

Senior Class of 2020: Continue to check your **Naviance Account** daily, for important announcements on college and scholarship information.

Honor Societies Recognition: In the next few days, students and families will be receiving notification on acceptance and regrets from PHS Chapters of various Honor Societies. The notification will be sent via mail and to the student's email addresses. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Third Quarter Honor Roll Celebration: Due to the third marking period grading criteria and changes, the honor roll celebration will not take place for third marking period.

Course Selection for 2020-2021 School Year: Teachers are beginning to make course recommendations this week for the 2020-2021 school years. Due to our current climate some of the course pre-requisites have changed for 2020-2021 school year. Please see the **Updated Course Recommendation Guidelines**, which can be located on the PHS Counseling Department webpage.

In addition, **beginning the week of May 18th**, the Student Portal will be open so that students can make Elective Course Recommendations. Instructions and PowerPoint Presentations will be provided to students, as well as, posted to the PHS Counseling Department webpage.

NYS Regents Exam UPDATES:

PEEKSKILL CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

NYS REGENTS EXAMINATION UPDATE

The State Education Department announced the cancellation of June 2020 administration of Regents Exams and recently released guidance on modifications to requirements for students to graduate and earn their high school diplomas, credentials and endorsements. These modifications apply to **currently enrolled** PCSD students in grades 8-12 during the 2019-20 school year who were intending to participate in one or more of the June 2020 Regents Examinations. Below are some of the most common scenarios students may encounter.

SCENARIO #1
Are you currently enrolled in a course ending in a Regents Examination?
Yes: Is your final grade in the course 65 or over?
Yes: YES! You will be exempt from this Regents Exam.
No: This situation doesn't apply to you.
No: No, you will not receive credit for this regents.

SCENARIO #2
Have you passed a class that ended in a Regents Exam but was NOT successful in passing that Regents Exam?
Yes: Did you let your counselor know you intended on taking the regents in June 2020?
OR
Were you receiving academic intervention, supplemental instruction, or tutoring of some kind in preparation to take the exam?
OR
Did you take the exam in June 2019, August 2019, or January 2020 in an attempt to pass/better your score?
Yes: YES! You will be exempt from this Regents Exam.
No: This situation doesn't apply to you.
No: No, you will not receive credit for this regents.

SCENARIO #3
You fail a regents level course in June 2020
Yes: You registered for Summer School 2020 AND receive a passing score of 65 or higher for that course
Yes: YES! You will be exempt from this Regents Exam.
No: This situation doesn't apply to you.
No: No, you will not receive credit for this regents.

SCENARIO #4
Are you currently enrolled in a credit recovery course?
Yes: Will you have a passing final grade in the course of 65 or greater?
Yes: Are you signed up to take the Regents Exam in June 2020?
Yes: YES! You will be exempt from this Regents Exam.
No: This situation doesn't apply to you.
No: No, you will not receive credit for this regents.
No: No, you will not receive credit for this regents.

NYS has not issued guidance about the August 2020 Exams.
Should you have additional questions, please contact your school counselor