

Dear Future Freshman,

We look forward to getting to know you over the next few years as you journey towards your high school diploma. Our aim is to help you transition smoothly from middle school, find success, and have fun while you are here and make progress towards your college and career plans. This letter provides some basic information to help you get started and give you some ideas to think about for the upcoming years.

### **Freshman Orientation Calendar**

- March 3**        *6:00 pm- 8<sup>th</sup> grade Parent Night at the Sunridge Commons*
- March 4**        PHS Counseling Staff will meet with you during your PE class at Sunridge Middle School to discuss your forecasting choices, answer questions, and input your requests in the computer.
- March 5**        6:00 pm & 6:30 pm Tours of PHS for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents. Meet in PHS Auditorium.
- August 31**      Link Crew Day—Freshman only orientation day at the Pendleton High School.

### **Yes, it's true...grades do matter**

For some students, the most intimidating part of going to high school is knowing that the grades you earn will stick with you and accrue as part of your G.P.A. (Grade Point Average). Your current teachers recommend which level of course will provide you with the appropriate level of support and challenge, but you and your parents can still work with the staff at PHS to make sure you have the right fit. PHS offers some academic support classes if you need extra help to master content as well as advanced courses that provide a more rigorous academic experience. As important as grades can be to you and your family they are even more important to college admissions, scholarship committees, and future employers. It is very essential that your high school transcripts and experiences paint a picture of a student who has worked hard and is preparing for his/her future.

### **Thinking ahead**

As part of earning a diploma, Oregon requires all students to develop a personalized plan and profile that details the exploration and preparation you have done to plan for your future. PHS offers a number of opportunities and courses to help you do just that, including:

- Success 101 (Freshman) and Success 201 (Junior) courses
- Spanish -Two years of foreign language are required for entrance into Oregon's Universities and many others. PHS also offers a full-range of Language Arts, Math, Sciences, and Social Studies and college counseling to help students prepare and meet college admissions requirements.
- Career, Technical Education, and Fine Arts programs that provide pathways for students to explore their interests and talents and consider their postsecondary options as well as future careers.
- College credit—as you progress through high school some of the classes you take may provide an opportunity to start earning your way to a postsecondary certificate or degree.
- Athletics and activities to extend your learning opportunities and interests outside of the classroom.

So, get ready. You have four great years ahead of you at PHS and a building full of people who want to help you. Your job is to show up every day and do your best, so that in your future you can be your best. In Pendleton, we call that "Buck Pride"!