

September 8, 2024

Dear Potomac Community,

It's hard to believe we're starting our 4th week of school this week! Thank you for a fantastic Back to School Night. Please find Potomac Senior High School updates below:

BACK TO SCHOOL PACKETS:

This year's Back To School Packet is now available in ParentVUE. Instructions for completing the packet can be found [HERE](#). Please complete the Back To School Packet by September 13th. The information you provide will allow school staff to have the most up-to-date contact information and ensure the safety of your student this school year.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH: Recent studies show that 20% of national high school students reported using e-cigarettes or "vapes" in 2020. While it is well known that nicotine harms developing brains, there are also troubling links between vaping/edibles/nicotine negatively affecting memory, concentration, learning, self-control, attention, mood, lung functioning, and worsening symptoms of depression and anxiety.

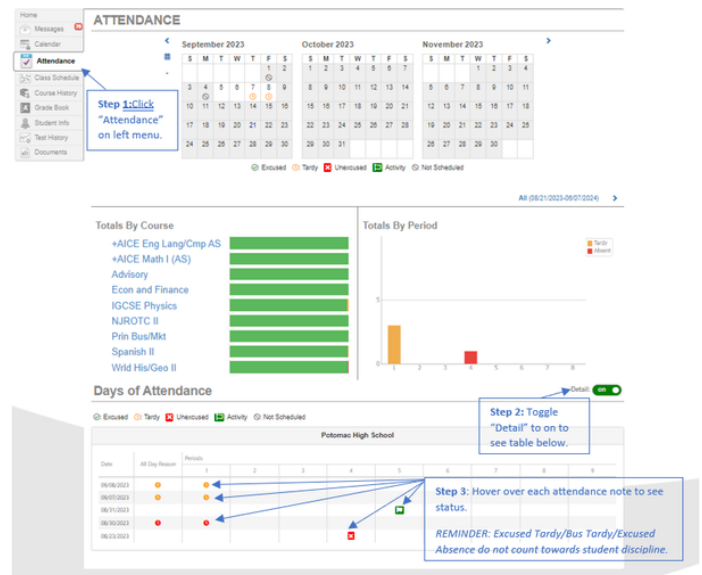
At Potomac, we take vaping very seriously due to the negative physical and mental health effects vaping can have on our students and we often find that our parents are not aware of the facts surrounding vaping. Please see the attached infographic, [A Parent's Guide To Vaping](#), from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with valuable information.

As a reminder, vaping, edibles, and all other forms of substance abuse are prohibited by the [PWCS Code of Conduct](#) and [Potomac HS Student Handbook](#), student use will result in disciplinary consequences. Please contact your student's Administrator or School Counselor for questions or to request more support.

ATTENDANCE CHECK:

School attendance remains one of the strongest indicators of student academic success at Potomac. Our schoolwide Continuous Improvement Plan also includes action steps to reduce chronic absenteeism for student learning to occur at optimal levels. With 3 weeks down, please see the graphic below and take time to review student attendance data which is available 24/7 in ParentVUE/StudentVUE. If your student has missed 2 or more full days of school or has 2 or more unexcused tardies to class, a reminder of expectations and school consequences listed in the Potomac Student Handbook may be helpful.

*Student tardiness due to bus transportation issues will never be held against the student. Yellow "Bus Tardies" indicated in ParentVUE/StudentVUE do not count towards student discipline.



We will continue schoolwide efforts to reduce tardies/absenteeism throughout the year which could impact student ability to attend extracurricular functions and events. Your student should expect regular tardy sweeps.

POTOMAC ATHLETICS TICKETS:

Fall sports are here! Throughout the 24 – 25 school year, all HOME game tickets, and athletic passes will be sold online only! Tickets will be available via Hometown Ticketing and can be purchased beforehand by clicking [HERE](#).

PWCS has a NO BAG POLICY-no backpacks, purses, fanny packs, etc. Clear bags permitted for diaper and medical ONLY.

Spectators for varsity football games must go through EVOLV detection scanners when entering the stadium.

GET INVOLVED:

Do you have ideas for student events? Want to provide feedback or ask questions about school activities or current instructional practices? Want regular updates on class events like Homecoming, Prom, Graduation, etc.? Please join our Potomac PTSO by using [THIS](#) link to pay yearly membership of \$20/family or \$10/faculty member and visit our 1st PTSO meeting on Thursday, September 19, at 7pm in the library.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 19: PTSO Meeting @ 7p (Potomac Library)

Thank you for your continued support of Potomac Senior High School!

Stacy Norwood, Acting Principal

norwoosm@pwcs.edu