

# NORTHSIDE NEWS

**PLAINFIELD NORTH HIGH SCHOOL**

**FEBRUARY 2021**



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Tigers,

We are approaching the return date for our first large group of students the week of February 1st. Even with all the required PPE, procedural changes, and smaller groups of students coming in, I am absolutely thrilled to see kids walking through the door. It has been a long road since last March and probably a long road ahead, but at least we are moving towards something we can call “normal”.

Thank you for your patience and support along the way and I ask for it to continue as we start the next phase of navigating the uncharted waters of hybrid in-person instruction. I want to remind parents that the instruction model will remain the same since 75% of students will still be learning remotely, 4 out of 5 days a week. In-person students will be learning in the classroom, but the teachers will also be Zooming the instruction to students at home in the same manner they are now.

In a “normal” school year, this is the time of year we recognize staff for their dedication, efforts, and commitment to students. I could not think of a better time to recognize them after what they have accomplished over the last several months. Please take a minute to recognize staff for our annual District 202 CAPE awards. I have included below the link to access the survey.

### [CAPE Nominations](#)

During the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup>, staff will be contacting parents by email or phone if students have a D or F at the 6-week mark of second semester. The purpose of this is to provide communication to parents so any potential concerns can be addressed before they become a bigger issue. This communication will happen again at the 12-week mark. Between the parent contacts and parents monitoring the Home Access Center (HAC), our goal is to put students that may be struggling in a position to have success before it is too late.

I want to remind you that we do not have the traditional parent-teacher conferences in spring across District 202. Even though we do not have a formal process, I encourage all parents to reach out to specific teachers to address any questions or concerns throughout the semester. You can access our staff directory on the Plainfield North website under the “Quick Links” section.

Go Tigers!

Ross Draper, Principal  
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815-609-8506



## UPCOMING DATES

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**February 1st**  
**School Improvement Day**  
**No Teacher Office Hours**

**February 15th**  
**President’s Day—NO SCHOOL**

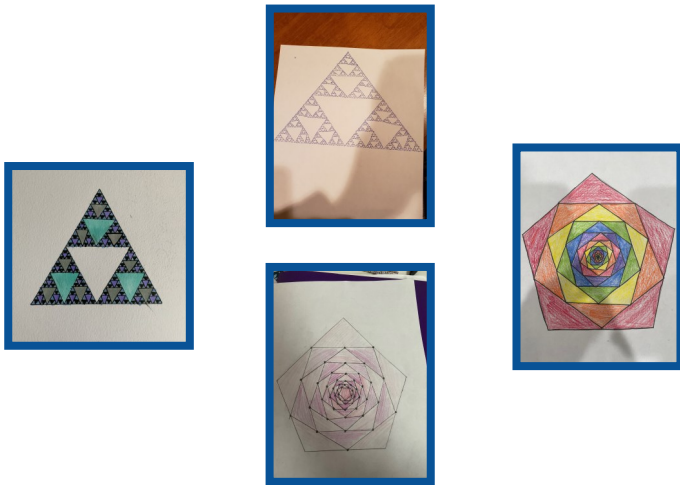
**February 26th**  
**Teacher Institute**  
**No Student Attendance**

## SCIENCE & MATH

The math/science division teachers are excited to welcome students into their classrooms! They are all busy planning lessons that will engage both in-person and remote learners. Please continue to support teachers and students as we all move through this transition.

### Math:

Below are fractals drawn by students, Nathan Stadler, Kylie Jennings, and Kelly Lynch in Math 127 from our study of math in nature.



Honors Geometry and Geometry will begin Semester 2 in the middle of Springboard Unit 3 – Similarity and Trigonometry. The first lessons we will cover include: Pythagorean theorem and its converse, special right triangle ratios, and right triangle trigonometry. In Honors Geometry, students will also cover law of sines and law of cosines to wrap up the unit.

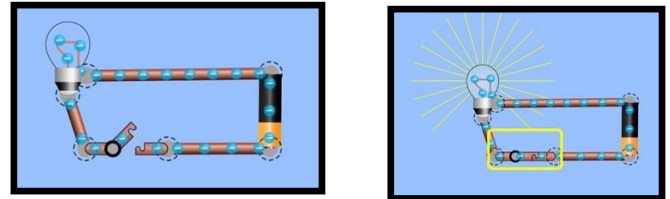
### Science:

Honors Biology students are beginning their study of DNA. The semester begins with Molecular Biology – the structure of DNA, and proceeds through cell division. Teachers are providing a variety of videos and virtual activities to supplement their class notes and discussions.

In General Biology, Mrs. Longmire students started our DNA unit and will be looking at its structure, function, and how proteins are made. Next week, students will be abstracting DNA from a strawberry.

Mrs. Sicinski is excited to begin this new unit. Biology students will be learning about the most beautiful, mysterious, and sophisticated molecule of all, DNA. Learning about the molecule that makes every living thing distinctly unique is a fascinating topic that teachers and students both enjoy. Mrs. Sicinski's favorite lab is the DNA extraction lab and most students really enjoy it too. Semester 2 is off to a great start!

Physical Science students are starting a new unit looking at electricity. They will be using a variety of simulations and activities such as: John Travoltage and static charges. We will also be building circuits and testing with them.



Mrs. Longmire's Physics students are investigating the conservation of energy and how it is transferred back and forth between kinetic and potential energy. Students have done various online simulations demonstrating that the total mechanical energy of a system is conserved.

## WORLD LANGUAGES/FINE ARTS/ CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

### World Languages:

**ASL 1**—Students are continuing to build the foundational blocks of a world language. This semester starts with Unit 4 talking about family. This is a great unit to ask your student about because they should be able to describe and teach you signs that are meaningful to you both. Ms. Pomrening loves teaching this unit because of the connections the student can make to the material. No two families are identical, and we hope the students learn to express their own personal narratives with each other.

**ASL 2**—It's time for the Price is Right! Ms. Pomrening has always loved finding ways to include games and pop culture into the classroom. Semester 2 starts with learning how to communicate money and the cost of items. Students have spent time learning vocabulary and developing receptive skills of how much items cost. As we continue in the unit, students will get to pick an item and see who can guess the closest price without going over of course.

Find the price:



## WORLD LANGUAGES/FINE ARTS/ CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CONT.)

**ASL 3**—While ASL feels like a language close to home, as it is American, we are learning about all the countries of the world in Unit 15. While continuing online learning, students have been developing clues for world countries and sharing them with their classmates. Now is a great time to talk about your family’s nationality and heritage. See if your student knows how to sign where you are from.

Where in the world is Carmen Sandiago?



**ASL 4**—Our seniors will be experiencing so many exciting things this spring as they head toward graduation and the end of their time at Plainfield North. We are so proud of the work that they continue to do. Life takes many different paths and sometimes there are accidents along the way. We start Semester 2 by studying accidents and big life events. We hope to build complex language structures in expressing the detail of what can happen if life throws you a lemon every once and awhile.

**French 1** is off to a great start in the new semester. We are studying Unit 4, where we have learned how to talk about going to a soccer game. Now we are learning about Parisian café culture and how to order food in a café. We will finish the unit by learning about French cinema and various movie genres. In order to practice our new vocabulary, we are learning the verbs *prendre* (to take, or order), and *voir* (to see). To demonstrate their French speaking skills and their understanding of French café culture, French 1 students will be creating café skits.

**French 2H** is off to a great start studying Unit 4 in which we are discussing the olden days, farm life, agriculture in France, professions of times past, and university life. We are learning the *imparfait* mood to describe past events and discussing the difference between the *passé composé* and *l'imparfait*. To demonstrate what students have learned, they will be interviewing a family member or older adult to write about that person’s life in French, using our new verb tenses.

**French 4/AP** is starting the semester studying the AP theme Personal & Public Identities (La Quête de Soi). We will have our first Café Classe for second semester in February where we will discuss societal issues that affect us. In class, we will be analyzing the song “Les Emigrants” by Charles Aznavour, interpreting various Francophone news articles and excerpts, and starting the novel, *Le Petit Prince*. We are continuing to hear new Francophone music as each student prepares a song to discuss. We are also continuing to learn practical tips for taking the AP exam and practicing our communication skills using College Board’s AP online.

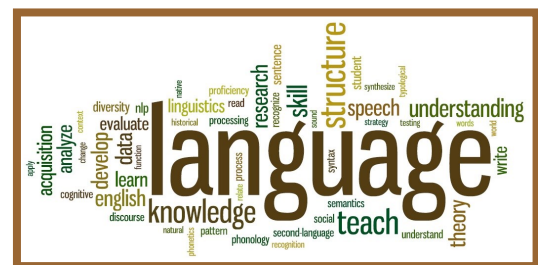
**German 1** is going to be learning about shopping and asking about prices, in addition to learning clothing items and colors. Students will be given a virtual €100 to use at various German clothing stores. Students will also be setting up a shopping experience within the classroom where students will be given paper money and have to negotiate the sales. The unit will culminate with skits, where students will create authentic conversations between waiters and guests.

**German 2** students will be talking about cities and learn how to give directions. We will also be covering activities in nature and how to express feelings. Students will be writing stories about the cities that they live in and then will get to a city of their own.

**German 3** is moving in to a new unit about communication. In this unit they will get to listen to a radio show and analyze music. They will then learn all about German communication abbreviations like LOL, and will then receive the opportunity to create their own abbreviations. Lastly, students will learn about a service project and then discuss opportunities that they have in order to get more involved in the community.

**German AP** will be working through a unit on immigration and integration. Students will dive into the history of German immigrants in America, as they research the struggles in which these immigrants faced and compare it with situations in society today. We will also talk about immigration laws in Germany and Gastarbeiter.

**German Club** will be screening a movie in German on February 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. See Google Classroom to vote for your favorite movie.



## ***PHYSICAL EDUCATION/DRIVERS EDUCATION/HEALTH CLASSES***

### ***Health/PE & Driver Ed Department:***

Students in Driver Education are currently getting some behind-the-wheel (BTW) time for their required lessons before school and after school. Students must have their permit **first** before signing up. For students to obtain a driving license here are the following requirements:

1. Complete 12 lessons with an instructor (BTW lessons)
2. 50 hours of practice time with a parent/guardian.
3. Link to the 50 hour log sheet to fill out as you drive with your student:  
[https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf\\_publications/dsd\\_x152.pdf](https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/dsd_x152.pdf)
4. Hold their driving permit for nine months.
5. Pass the classroom portion of Driver Education (it includes the 30 hours of required seat time).

For the first two weeks of February driving times will be posted for you to schedule some BTW lessons. There are **many** openings still available. Students can sign up for one lesson **each** day (so there can be multiple BTW lessons each week).

Please know that there will be BTW lesson opportunities for the remainder of the school year. Summer is also a time that can be used to finish up BTW lessons for those that have not yet completed the 12 lessons.

There is no rush on completing the lessons! This should be done at a pace that the student is comfortable with.

**Practice is key! Please get your students with permits out driving as much as possible with you, to gain experience!!**

Here is a link to the BTW lesson sign-ups: <http://pnhs.psd202.org/page/driver-education>



## ***MEDIA CENTER***

### **Peer Tutoring available!**

Do you need help in a subject area? Tiger Tutoring is here! If you would like to schedule a peer tutoring session with a fellow tiger, visit [www.tigertutors.org](http://www.tigertutors.org) to sign up for an appointment. The website password is north. Tutoring sessions will take place 4th, 5th, and 6th hour and from 12:00–2:00pm Monday through Friday.

Please note, a parent/guardian form needs to be filled out prior to tutoring. This form only needs to be filled out once and can be found at: <https://tigertutors.org/permission>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Mrs. Zack at [kzack@psd202.org](mailto:kzack@psd202.org).

## ***COLLEGE & CAREER***

Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> semester everyone! Here are some updates from the College & Career Center:

### **JUNIORS, SOPHOMORES, AND FRESHMEN:**

Mrs. Hurst, College & Career counselor, and the counselors have been meeting with juniors during January to help them get started on the college and career exploration journey. We will be meeting with sophomores and freshmen in the next few months. Teachers will communicate the details as we get these scheduled.

Here are the things that we cover:

- A presentation highlighting some things students should be focused on by grade level in regards to college and career
- An overview of our [College & Career Center page on the PNHS website](#)
- A review of [Naviance](#) (our tool for managing college and career exploration/planning)

Also, mark your calendars for our third annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Awareness Night. This is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23rd from 6:00–8:00pm. More details about registration will be communicated through the PNHS daily announcements.

### **SENIORS:**

One more semester to go! Congratulations! While I know you are probably ready to be done with the process of planning for your future after high school, there's still much to be done. Be sure to check out the [College & Career Planning page on the PNHS website](#) for information about [requesting mid-year transcripts](#), [applying for scholarships](#), and [comparing financial aid packages](#).

If you are planning to apply to [Joliet Junior College \(JJC\)](#) and need help with your application for admission or scholarships, JJC is hosting a virtual help session for PNHS seniors on Thursday, February 18th from 12:00-2:00pm. More information will be coming soon in the PNHS daily announcements.

## ***CLUBS***

French Club has planned our activities for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Some of the things we will be doing this semester are learning how to bake another French treat, make crepes, watch a movie in French, celebrate Quebec's Carnaval, and Mardi Gras! Join us!