



# Forward Together

A Community Newsletter from the Portage Community School District

DECEMBER 2018

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Issue 2,

DECEMBER 2018

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Watch for additional District information on our website (<https://portage.k12.wi.us>); in the local newspaper; via emails, text messages and voice messages through Infinite Campus; and on our social media pages (Facebook *Portage Community School District*, Instagram *@Portagecsd* and Twitter *@Portagecsd*)

## Ready for winter!



Margaret Rudolph,  
District Administrator,  
Portage Community  
School District

As we head into December in Wisconsin, we are entering two distinct seasons: winter and tax season. I'd like to spend a little time discussing both inclement weather and school closures and the school tax levy.

Weather-related school closings: We have been relatively fortunate the past few winters with a minimal number of school closures due to winter weather events. If this is again the case this winter, that would be great. The decision to hold, delay or close school is difficult and is always focused on the safety of our students. Most mornings, the process starts around 4:00 a.m.

We examine the most current weather updates through a weather service in Madison. The weather updates provide an hour-by-hour forecast showing the temperature, wind speed, type of precipitation and the accumulated amounts throughout each hour for our area. This information is cross-referenced with the National Weather Service's forecast, the local television station forecasts and current conditions in Portage being reported at the Portage WeatherBug site.

Understanding better what the weather is like in our area, we receive a county road condition report, talk to our bus company, confirm with our staff who are out checking the roads, and communicate with other district administrators in the area to assess road conditions in Columbia, Sauk and Marquette counties to help make the decision. All of this information helps us decide whether we can safely have school, delay the start or close school for the day. The decision to close or start late is made by 6:00 a.m. Then the process of notifying families through our Infinite Campus notification system, area media, and our parochial school partners begins.

If we need to close school, whether for the entire day, a late start to classes or an early release, we will send notifications directly to district families via Infinite Campus emails, texts and/or telephone calls. The notifications for inclement weather closures will also be available through the local media: WBKY 95.9, WDDC 100.1, WPDR AM 1350, WOLX 94.9, WISC TV3, NBC 15, WKOW Channel 27, the Portage Daily Register, and our District Infinite Campus site.

Tax rate: As you may have heard, there will be a small increase in the school tax levy. The increase of an additional five cents per \$1,000 of property value is primarily because we have fewer students attending our schools this year than last year. More Portage students chose open enrollment (attending another

Wisconsin school) than anticipated and more students opted for the private voucher program. We also have smaller kindergarten classes compared to the graduating senior class. Unfortunately, we expect this trend to continue for a number of years. The District receives most of its funding to operate through state aid, which is based on the number of students attending our schools, and taxes. With the continued reduction in student enrollment, we will receive less state aid and need to rely more on the tax base.

In closing, I would like to invite you to attend any or all of our schools' winter concerts, programs and talent shows listed below. All of these events are free and open to the public. I would love it if you would join our students and their families in celebrating their talents.

Sincerely,

Margaret Rudolph  
District Administrator,  
Portage Community School District

## Calendar of Events ~

*Please note, event dates and times may change due to the weather or an unforeseen conflict. Please check the District website for any changes that may occur.*  
<https://www.portage.k12.wi.us>



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>December 6:</b> Portage High School Band Concert 7 p.m. @ PHS            | <b>December 20:</b> Endeavor Winter Concert 6 p.m. @ PHS                                   |
| <b>December 11:</b> 7th and 8th Grade Winter Concert 7 p.m. @ BMS           | <b>December 24–January 1:</b> No School—Winter Break                                       |
| <b>December 13:</b> Portage High School Choir Concert<br>6:30 p.m. @ PHS    | <b>January 10:</b> Middle School Talent Show<br>6:30 p.m. @ BMS                            |
| <b>December 14:</b> Lewiston Winter Concert 6 p.m. @ PHS                    | <b>January 18:</b> End of 1st Semester   |
| <b>December 14:</b> John Muir Winter Concert 1:30 p.m. @ John Muir          | <b>January 21:</b> District Inservice—No School  |
| <b>December 17:</b> Woodridge Winter Concert 6 p.m. @ PHS                   | <b>February 21 and 26:</b> Middle School Parent/Teacher<br>Conferences 4 p.m.—7 p.m. @ BMS |
| <b>December 18:</b> Rusch Winter Concert 5:30 p.m. @ Rusch                  | <b>February 22:</b> John Muir Talent Show 6 p.m. @ PHS                                     |
| <b>December 18:</b> Rise of the E-Cig and Juul Presentation<br>6 p.m. @ PHS |  |

## Contact Numbers within the District ~

Endeavor Elementary School (608) 587-2625	Classroom Hours: 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Lewiston Elementary School (608) 742-2524	Classroom Hours: 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
John Muir Elementary School (608) 742-5531	Classroom Hours: 8:00 a.m.—3:10 p.m.
Rusch Elementary School (608) 742-7376	Classroom Hours: 8:00 a.m.—2:55 p.m.
Woodridge Elementary School (608) 742-3494	Classroom Hours: 8:00 a.m.—2:55 p.m.
Bartels Middle School (608) 742-2165	Classroom Hours: 7:55 a.m.—3:15 p.m.
Portage High School (608) 742-8545	Classroom Hours: 7:55 a.m.—3:15 p.m.
Portage Academy (608) 742-7376 x6117	Morning Session: 8:30 a.m.—11:30 p.m.
Portage Academy (608) 742-7376 x6117	Afternoon Session: 12:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.
Gerstenkorn Admin. Building (608) 742-4879	
PCSD Food Service (608) 742-5531	
Go Riteway Transportation (608) 745-1501	

### Board of Education ~

Steve Pate  
Chad Edwards  
Connie Shlimovitz  
Matt Foster  
Fred Reckling  
Dan Garrigan  
Dan Brown



# Portage High School Winter Sports Athletic Schedule \***Bold type indicates games to be played in Portage.**

## BOYS BASKETBALL

11/24 Randolph  
**11/27 Stoughton \***  
 11/30 Beaver Dam  
**12/7 Baraboo \***  
 12/18 Poynette  
 12/11 Reedsburg  
**12/15 Sauk Prairie \***  
 12/21 DeForest  
**12/28 Wisconsin Dells \***  
**1/3 Lodi \***  
**1/8 Waunakee \***  
**1/10 Mount Horeb \***  
 1/15 Tomah  
 1/18-19 Badger Challenge  
 1/24 Beaver Dam  
 1/29 Baraboo  
**2/1 Reedsburg \***  
 2/5 Elkhorn  
 2/8 Sauk Prairie  
**2/12 DeForest \***  
 2/15 Waunakee  
 2/21 Mount Horeb  
 3/9 Tournament



## GIRLS BASKETBALL

11/16 Watertown  
**11/20 Reedsburg \***  
 11/29 Mount Horeb  
**12/4 Beaver Dam \***  
**12/8 Waunakee \***  
**12/11 Madison West \***  
**12/14 DeForest \***  
 12/18 Baraboo  
 12/20 Poynette  
 12/27-28 Lakeland Tournament  
 1/4 Sauk Prairie  
 1/11-12 Badger Challenge  
**1/15 Lodi \***  
 1/17 Reedsburg  
**1/22 Mount Horeb \***  
 1/25 Beaver Dam  
**1/29 Wisconsin Dells \***  
 1/31 Waunakee  
 2/5 DeForest



## GIRLS BASKETBALL CONTINUED

**2/8 Baraboo \***  
**2/14 Sauk Prairie \***

## HOCKEY

11/23-24 Kettle Moraine  
 11/27 Mosinee  
**11/29 Milton \***  
 12/4 Aquinas  
 12/7 Beaver Dam  
 12/11 Janesville Parker  
**12/13 Waunakee \***  
**12/15 Oshkosh North \***  
**12/18 DeForest \***  
 12/21 Sauk Prairie  
 12/28-29 Rhinelander  
**1/4 Reedsburg \***  
**1/8 Onalaska \***  
**1/10 Beaver Dam \***  
**1/12 DC Everest \***  
**1/15 Baraboo \***  
 1/17 Waunakee  
 1/19 West Salem  
 1/22 DeForest  
 1/29 McFarland  
 2/1 Reedsburg  
**2/7 Sauk Prairie \***  
 2/12 WIAA Regional



## WRESTLING

**11/30 Beaver Dam \***  
 12/1 Black River Falls Invitational  
 12/8 Adams-Friendship  
**12/21 DeForest \***  
 12/28 Holmen  
 1/4 Mount Horeb  
 1/5 Sycamore  
 1/11 Sauk Prairie  
 1/12 DeForest Invitational  
 1/15 Waunakee  
 1/18 Reedsburg  
 1/19 Wauwatosa West Invitational  
**1/25 Baraboo\***  
 2/2 Conference—Fort Atkinson  
 2/9 WIAA Regionals



## WRESTLING CONTINUED

2/12 and 2/16 WIAA Sectionals  
 2/21-23 WIAA State Championships  
 3/1-2 WIAA Team State

## BOYS CURLING

**11/27 Wausau West \***  
 11/30 Medford  
**12/1 Portage Invitational \***  
**12/4 Lodi \***  
 12/11 Poynette  
**12/18 Pardeeville \***  
 1/4-5 Tietge Invitational, Wausau  
 1/8 Lodi  
**1/10 Poynette \***  
 1/15 Pardeeville  
**1/22 Lodi \***  
 1/24 Wausau  
 1/26 Pardeeville Invitational  
 1/29 Poynette  
**2/5 Pardeeville \***  
 2/8-10 St. Paul Invitational  
 2/15-16 State Championships, Wausau



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 1/10 Poynette  
**1/15 Pardeeville \***  
 1/22 Lodi  
 1/24 Wausau  
 1/26 Pardeeville Invitational  
**1/29 Poynette \***  
 2/5 Pardeeville  
 2/8-10 St. Paul Invitational  
 2/15-16 State Championships, Wausau



Games are subject to change due to weather conditions. For start times, results and schedule updates go to: [www.BadgerConference.org](http://www.BadgerConference.org)

**Committed to the Success of Every Student**

Gerstenkorn Administration Building, 305 E. Slifer Street, Portage, WI 53901 (608) 742-4879