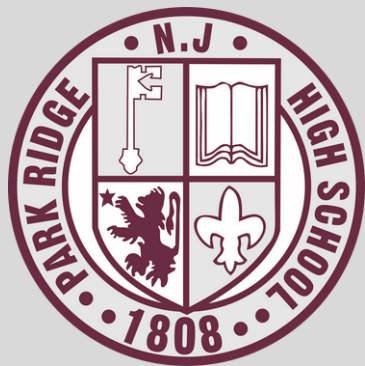




PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK 2025



Welcome to the 2025-2026 School Year!



Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome Back!

I hope each of you enjoyed a summer filled with rest, laughter, and a little adventure, whether that meant traveling somewhere new, enjoying time with family and friends, or simply taking a well-deserved pause from the fast pace of the school year. You've earned it!

Now it is time to welcome in the 25-26 school year! There's nothing quite like the energy of a new school year, the buzz in the hallways, the hum of classrooms coming alive, and the anticipation of the great things we will accomplish together.

Before we dive in, I want to extend heartfelt thanks to the many people who worked tirelessly this summer to ensure our school is ready for students to walk through the doors on Day 1. The Building and Grounds department, Special Services office, Technology team, Guidance counselors, and Main Office staff all went the extra mile to ensure the 2025-2026 school year can be our best one yet.

We are excited to welcome new families to our school community and look forward to reconnecting with those who have already been part of our journey. Our team is dedicated to creating a supportive and collaborative atmosphere where everyone feels valued and motivated to succeed.

In this mailing, you will find information that will contribute to a successful start to your school year, as well as a calendar of academic events for the month of September. I encourage all parents and guardians to stay engaged with our school community. Your involvement is crucial to our students' success and enriches their educational experience. Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Back to School Nights. High School Back to School Night will be Thursday evening, September 18th, and Middle School Back to School Night will be Thursday evening, September 25th. Back to School Night is a great opportunity for you to meet your child's teachers and learn more about the year ahead.

Welcome New Staff Members:

This year, we have several new team members. Please be sure to give them all a big PRHS welcome:

- Andrew Gunther – Social Studies Teacher
- Keri Koch – Special Education Teacher
- Brooke Lehrer – Special Education Teacher
- Tomasina Schwarz – Special Education Teacher
- Elena Sgambati – Spanish Teacher
- Alyssa Weissman – Science Teacher

"Owls Together – Community, Friendship, Kindness"

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL – School opens on Tuesday, September 2nd, for all students. For security purposes, the only access points to the building each morning will be the main entrance and the middle school wing entrance (located on the far side of the building, behind the BOE office). Those two entrances will be manned with greeters and will be available for access from 7:00 am until 7:50 am. Following the start of school at 7:50 am, all students, parents, and visitors entering the building will be required to be buzzed in through the main entrance and visitor vestibule.

STUDENT DROP-OFF – For students who will be driven to school, the best way to drop off is by following the traffic pattern down Wampum Road. Students can also be dropped off by using the parking spaces along Park Avenue. Please do not allow your child to cross the road on their own. There is a crossing guard stationed in front of the school building. Students should walk to the crossing guard where they can be crossed safely to enter the building. Please do not use the Post Office parking lot to drop off or pick up students. Police will be stationed there and will give tickets for the improper use of that lot.

HALLWAY LOCKERS – Every student at PRHS is assigned a hallway locker for the school year. Student locker numbers can be found at the top of their class schedule. Students will need two locks for use during the school year. One can be placed on their hallway locker, and the other will be used to secure their belongings in the locker room during physical education classes. Students are required to lock their hallway lockers during the school day.

LUNCH – Students can purchase lunch as well as additional snacks and drinks from the cafeteria. Families are encouraged to join the PRHS Online Cashless Payment Option for lunch. Details and directions for the program can be found on the High School website. As always, students are welcome to bring their own lunch from home if they prefer. Information on the school's cafeteria and applications for the free and reduced meals can be found on our district website under "nutrition programs."

UNDERCLASS/STAFF YEARBOOK PHOTOS – School photos will be taken for students in grades 7 – 11 on Thursday, September 4th, during their physical education class.

HEALTH/MEDICAL INFORMATION – Please contact our school nurse, Mrs. Jeanne Russell, with any student health or medical information we should be aware of. She can be reached at 201-573-6000 ext. 5005.

LAPTOP DISTRIBUTION – For those who are not aware, the new student laptops are in and ready for distribution. Students are encouraged to pick up their laptops before the start of school. Laptop distribution is taking place in the High School Technology Office (located on the second floor above the library), Monday – Thursday from 9 am - 2 pm through August 28th. Students who are unable to pick up their machines during these dates and times will have to pick them up after school from 2:45 – 3:15 pm on September 2nd or 3rd. Please be advised that wait times after school may be long, and pick up during summer hours is preferred.

There's so much to look forward to in 2025–2026 — new opportunities, continued traditions, and countless moments that will remind us why PRHS is such a special place. Enjoy these last few days of summer, and let's get ready to make this year one of achievement and growth!

Can't wait to see you!

Troy Lederman

Principal, Park Ridge Jr./Sr. High School

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August & September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25 9am-2pm – Passport to Middle School (A-J) 7pm – BOE Meeting (Theater)	26 9am-2pm – Passport to Middle School (K-Z)	27 Staff Only	28 Staff Only Transition Project Orientation & Training 1	29 SCHOOL CLOSED – LABOR DAY WEEKEND	30
31	1 SCHOOL CLOSED – LABOR DAY WEEKEND	2 Opening Day for Students 12:44-1:08pm – Internship Meeting (Theater)	3 Class Meetings (Theater): • Period 3/4 – Grade 11 • Period 5/6 – Grade 9 • Period 9/10 – Grade 12	4 Underclass Portraits	5 Class Meetings (Theater): • Period 1/2 – Grade 8 • Period 14/15 – Grade 10 • Period 16/17 – Grade 7 Transition Project	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Transition Project Training 2 7pm – BOE Meeting (Theater)	16	17 Transition Project Outreach 2	18 7pm – HS Back to School Night	19	20
21	22	23 SCHOOL CLOSED – RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY	24 SCHOOL CLOSED – RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY	25 Makeup Senior Portraits 7pm – MS Back to School Night	26	27
28	29	30 7pm – Financial Aid Night (FLYER with more info)				

Welcome
BACK

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"You don't have to be great to get started. But you have to get started to be great."

-Les Brown

