



# Welcome to Panther Creek High School

2023-2024 New Student Orientation!  
August 10, 2023



# Official Welcome & PCHS Student Council

Dr. Gregory Decker - Principal

Tanya Chathey, Student Council President

Jean-Luis Gracia-Arroyo, Student Council Vice President

## 10th - 12th

9th  
A-L

Ms.  
Monica  
Click

(New)

9th  
M-Z

Mr. Kenon  
Crumble

Mr. Michael  
Smith

A-F

Mrs.  
Casey  
Otten

Mr. Mario  
Jones

G-L

Mr. Dion  
Mapp

Mrs.  
Akanksha  
Jain

M-Ri

Mr. Grey  
Mangum

Ms.  
Langley  
Hoeferkamp

Ro-Z

Ms.  
Crystal  
Locus

Ms. Erica  
Pendergraft

Mrs. Shernita  
Telfair  
Dean of  
Students

Ms. Jasmine  
Iverson  
SAP  
Counselor

Mr. Stefan  
Katsanos  
Admin Intern

Administrator

Counselor

Administrator and

Counselor Assignments

Administrator and Counselor assignments  
are based on the last name of the student as  
is written on their official record.

*Josh Field*



# What does it mean to be a Catamount?

Character traits of WCPSS & PCHS

- Courage
- Good Judgement
- Integrity
- Kindness
- Perseverance
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Self-Discipline





# What does it mean to be a Catamount?

Demonstrate character and represent PCHS in all areas:

- Classrooms
- Hallways
- Lunch
- School Activities
- Extracurricular Activities
- Athletics
- Cyberspace

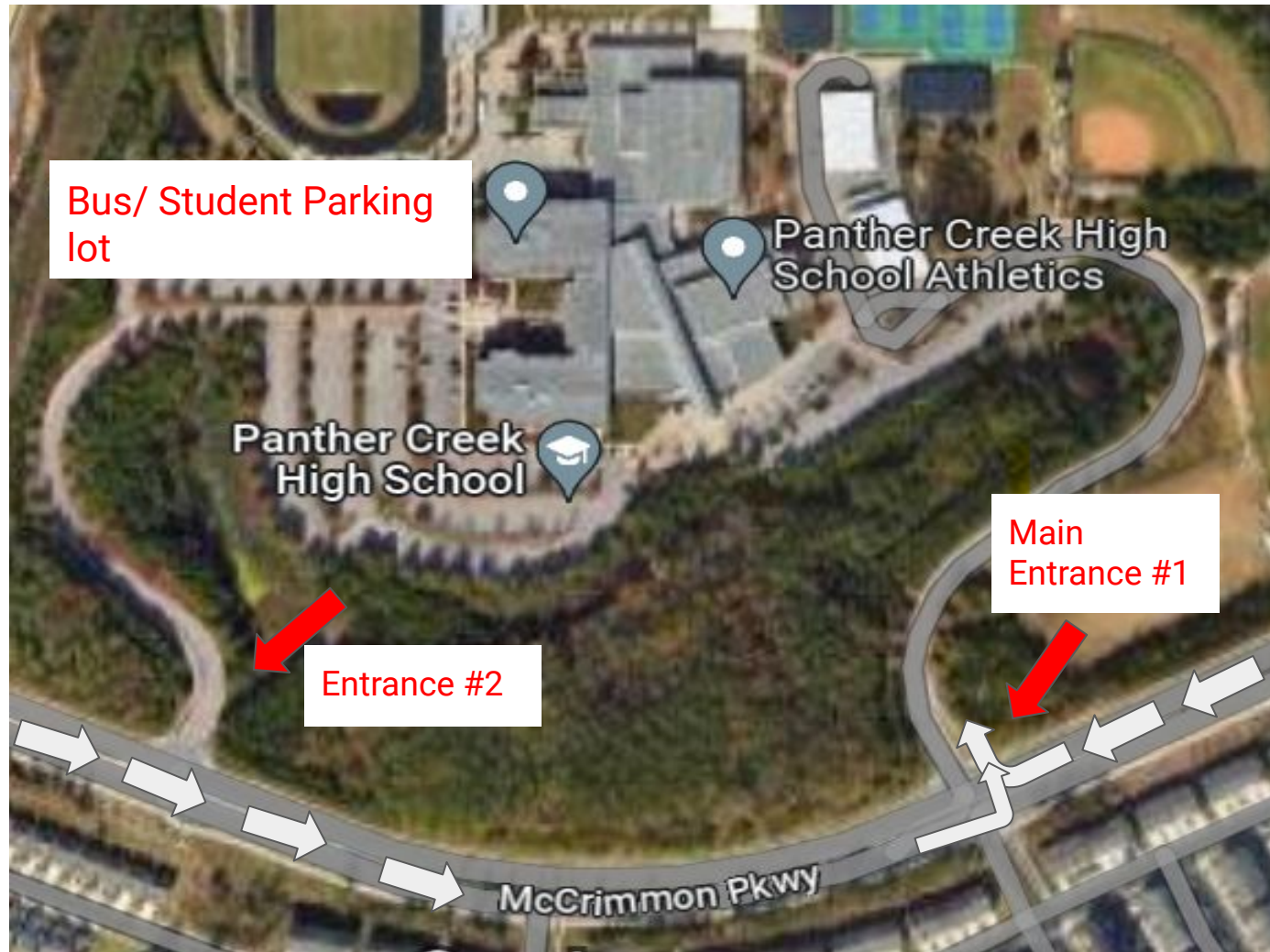
# Getting to School

## Carpool Information

Cars enter the main entrance (first entrance from McCrimmon) and 2nd entrance (from Green Level) for the carpool drop off. Carpool students can not be dropped off using the Bus/Student Parking entrance (Entrance #2).

When entering Main Entrance #1, only use the right lane. The middle lane is off limits.

Carpool drivers should move efficiently through the carpool lanes to expedite student drop off. Exercise caution!

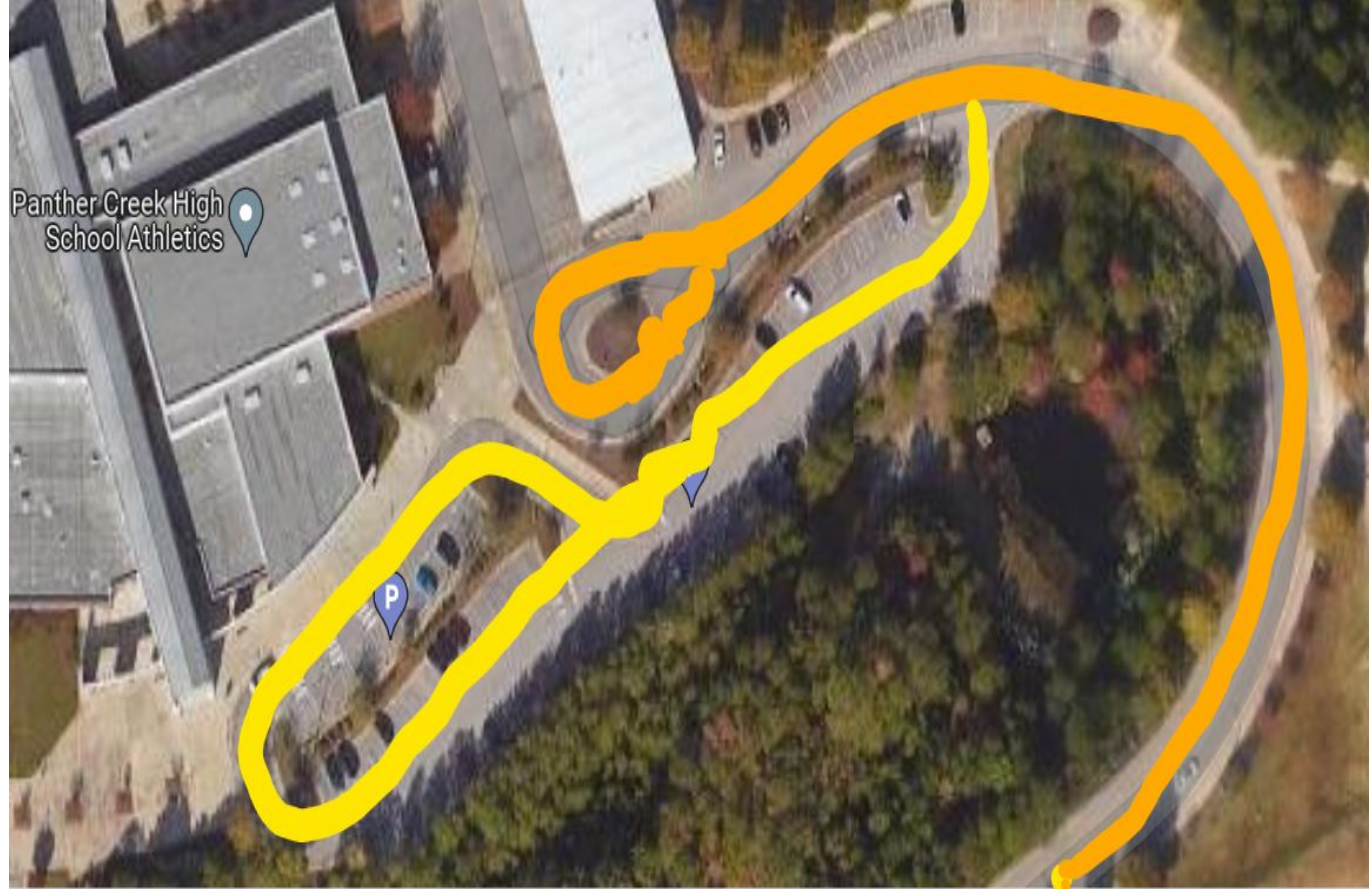




# AM/PM Carpool Flow

There are two carpool lane options, which are shown here in orange and yellow. The orange lane can be used to drop students off near the modular units and the yellow lane leads to the school's main entrance.

Students carpooling are subject to the Tardy Policy. To ensure prompt arrival, students can exit cars once on school grounds and begin to walk towards classes.



Daily Bell Schedule	
1 <sup>st</sup>	7:25 - 8:49
2 <sup>nd</sup>	8:55 – 10:19
SL	10:25 – 11:19
3 <sup>rd</sup>	11:25 - 12:49
4 <sup>th</sup>	12:55 – 2:18

A Lunch 10:25 – 10:50

B Lunch 10:54 - 11:19

## **A day at Panther Creek....**

**Students arriving before 6:55 am will wait in the commons.**

**After 6:55, all students report directly to 1<sup>st</sup> period.**



## Block schedule...

Each course is taught in less than 90 days

Absences significantly affect learning

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- **First Semester**

- August 28 – January 23
- Final Exams – January 17-19, 22

- **Second Semester**

- January 25 – June 12
- Exams: June 6-7, 10-11



Exams are always given during the last 5 days of each semester.



Exams are worth 20% of the course grade in most courses. Some courses have state EOCs, other courses have teacher-made exams/projects



Please do not book school visits and vacations, etc., during the exam window until you know the exact schedule.

**Important Note**

**For Final Exams**

## Senior Exam Exemption

Per WCPSS policy, students in **Grade 12** may be exempt from exams based on the following criteria:

- Students must have a projected final grade of B or higher AND
- Students must have 10 or fewer absences (excused or unexcused) in the course.
- Students cannot be exempt from state testing including field testing.

To provide some clarification to the guidelines above:

- Absences will all count equally when considering eligibility for exam exemptions. **College visitations will count as part of the 10 days.**

## Attention New Catamount Seniors!

Class of  
2024!



**Important Information!**

# Antler Creek Student Services



- Provides a variety of support services that positively impact the personal/social, academic, and career development of the student
- Resources include individual counseling, small group counseling, consultations, and referrals to community agencies.
- Students must use WCPSS student account to email teachers and counselors. We cannot respond to personal email. Check with Media Center staff for help (Sharon Purucker and Nelda Smith).
- **Appointments with Counselors** – You can email your counselors. Once on campus, you can go into Student Services and make an appointment at the desk.
- Parents can contact counselors directly via email or phone with questions (if it is a question about a class, contact the teacher first).



# Transitioning to PCHS in 2023-2024...

- Some uncertainty...“what ifs”...
- New Social Environment...
- Independence from their families...
- Peer relationships...
- Search for identity...

Occurs by developing:

- ☐ Values
- ☐ Pride in one's achievements
- ☐ Close relationships with peers
- ☐ Getting involved in clubs, athletics, and extracurriculars

why?  
how? who?  
WHEN?  
Where?

From: Student Transitions From Middle to High School

# Managing Social Interactions, Friendships, Social Media, etc.

The reality of school (elementary, middle and high) is that friendships are fluid.

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- Discuss “healthy relationships” and the true meaning of being a ‘friend’.
  - Does a ‘true’ friend talk about you?
  - How should you respond to peer pressure?
- Discuss and monitor social media.
  - (Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, KIK, Ask.fm, text messages, TikTok, etc. )
- Encourage your child to seek out their school counselor when they have any concerns.

## Choosing the right level:

### Academic, Honors, AP, or CCP

#### Academic

- Meets the NC standard course of study

#### Honors

- Extends beyond standard course
- More application and rigorous learning

#### Advanced Placement

- Curriculum taught at college level
- Eligible for college credit through AP Exams

#### Career & College Promise

- Dual enrollment through Community College
- Courses taken on college campus for HS/College Credit

Academic	Honors	AP
A – 4	A – 4.5	A – 5
B – 3	B – 3.5	B – 4
C – 2	C – 2.5	C – 3
D - 1	D – 1.5	D - 2

- Personal and academic growth
- Rigorous courses look favorable for college admissions.
- Rigorous work helps improve SAT and ACT scores.
- Earn college credit in high school with AP exams.
- Students are exposed to college level work with high school support.
- Helps ease the transition from high school to college
- Weighted credit for final course grade
- AP courses available starting Sophomore year
- CCP courses available starting Junior year

## Benefits of taking Advanced courses...



## Sample GPA Calculation



Course	Grade	Quality Points
English III	A	4
American History I	B	3
Chemistry	A	4
Spanish I	B	3

Weighted GPA: 3.5

Course	Grade	Quality Points
English III Honors	C	2.5
AP Psychology	B	4
Chemistry Honors	A	4.5
Spanish I	B	3

Weighted GPA: 3.5

# Typical 9th grade schedule...

Variety of **core** and **elective** classes:

## Sample core classes:

- English I
- World History
- Intro Math, Foundations of Math 1 and 1B, Math 1, Math 2, Math 3
- Healthful Living
- Earth/Environmental Science or Biology

## Sample electives:

- Band
- Dance
- Chorus
- Theater
- CTE courses
- World Languages if available



# Preparing for Beyond High School

## Stay Focused...Start Strong

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Focus on Grades
- Participate in Volunteer opportunities
- Get connected with school extracurricular activities
- Take interest inventory test
- Create an CFNC account  
([www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org))
- Get to know your School Counselor

### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Focus on Grades
- Take Pre-ACT and PSAT Test
- Volunteer
- Extracurricular Activities
- Start Researching Schools
- Get to know your School Counselor

## Stay Focused...Continue Strong

# Preparing for Beyond High School

## Stay Focused...Stay Strong

### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Focus on Grades; Stay involved
- Visit Colleges/Universities
- Talk to admission counselors (attend college fairs, workshops)
- Take the SAT and/or ACT Test
- Connect with School Counselor and Teachers for recommendations
- Explore post graduation options
- Take ASVAB test, if applicable



### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Focus on Grades
- Stay involved
- Complete Application(s) (College, Work, Military, Trade School, 2-year College)
- Take SAT and/or ACT
- Apply for scholarships

## Stay Focused...Finish Strong



# What does the SMART in SMART Lunch mean?

**S** - Students

**M** - Maximizing

**A** - Achievement

**R** - Relationships &

**T** - Time

# SMART



# SMART Lunch Expectations

All students should be sitting in a seat. We have 936 seats in the commons.

Students will need to follow directions in the lunch line- including waiting patiently and not cutting in front of peers or pushing.

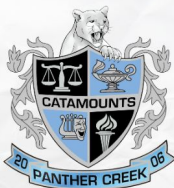
Students should clean up after themselves and leave tables without trash.

Seniors and Juniors should come back on campus from lunch ON TIME. Tardies and attendance will be monitored.

Students should avoid congregating between tables so others can walk in aisles.

Students will not be allowed to have outside food deliveries from food delivery companies etc (Uber Eats, Door Dash....)





# SMART Lunch



## Monday

English  
Special  
Education

Math

## Tuesday

Healthful  
Living  
Intramurals  
Social  
Studies

World  
Language  
Science

## Wednesday

Math  
Special  
Education

Career &  
Technical  
Education  
Fine Arts

## Thursday

Healthful  
Living  
Intramurals  
Science

English

## Friday

Career &  
Technical  
Education  
World  
Languages

Social  
Studies

# Process for Getting an Office Campus Lunch Pass

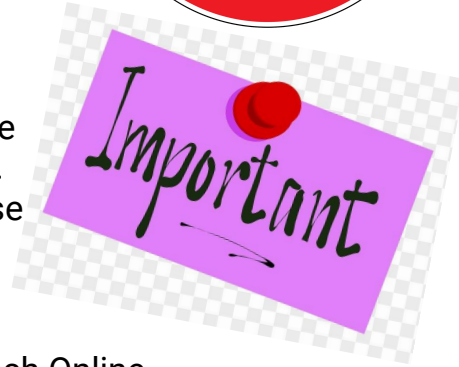
Juniors and Seniors ONLY

- To be eligible for a lunch pass, a student must be classified as a Junior or a Senior as outlined in the school and system policies. To qualify and to maintain the pass, a student must have passed all courses attempted in the most recently completed grading period. A student with any outstanding school debt(s) on file will not be eligible for a lunch pass until all debts are cleared
- Students/Parents will complete the Off Campus Lunch Pass Application located on the PCHS Website.
- Applications must either be notarized with a parent/guardian signature, or be signed by a parent/guardian in the presence of a Panther Creek HS school official.



# Process for Getting a Parking Pass

Juniors and Seniors ONLY



- Students/Parents will complete the parking application electronically by going to the 'Students' tab and click on '2023-2024 Student Parking.'
- You will need to upload a clear copy of your N.C. Driver License and the vehicle registration card(s) for the vehicle(s) you will be parking on campus (scanned or cell phone images are permitted). Please try to upload one image with the license and registration together if possible. A maximum of 2 vehicles can be registered. NO LEARNER'S PERMITS will be accepted. A temporary DMV issued paper license will be accepted as long as it shows the name and address of the student. The address in PowerSchool and on the license must match.
- Parking is \$200.00 and set by WCPSS. Payments will be made through SchoolCash Online only. All other class dues or any fines/fees must be paid before picking up the parking pass.
- Pick up for parking tags will be at one of the four MANDATORY parking meetings. Students will select which meeting they will attend when completing the application. If students do not attend a meeting, they will not be allowed to park on campus or pick up their parking pass until they attend the make-up parking session.



# Parking Expectations

- Drivers are expected to adhere to all WCPSS and PCHS regulations
- School Board Policy applies while in the PCHS parking lot. (ie: tobacco use, drug or weapon possession)
- Having a weapon or drugs in cars on school campus will result in automatically losing your parking pass along with other school board policy consequences.
- Excessive tardiness can result in loss of parking privilege.





# Attendance

## Excused Absences

Parents need to provide an email or the **Panther Creek Absence Form** within two days of their child's return to classes or the absences will be recorded as unexcused.

## Educational Opportunities

The **Request for Absence form** must be turned in a minimum of three days (preferably more) before the absence to allow time for processing. If the student is going on a college visit they must ask the admissions office for verification of the visit.

## Excused absences include:

- Illness or injury
- Death in the family
- Health care appointments
- Court appearances
- Religious observance
- Natural disasters
- Outside educational opportunities



ATTENDANCE

## PCHS Tardy Policy



### Procedures

- Students are considered tardy to class if they are outside of the classroom when the bell rings. (Students' personal belongings being placed in the classroom does not constitute student arrival to class).
  - Staff will admit tardy students to class and record the tardy.
  - After a students' 2nd unexcused tardy to that class, the teacher will contact the family.
- 
- If a student is tardy 3 or more times in a quarter, staff will follow the matrix below, depending on the tier.
  - Teachers will notify administrators of each unexcused tardy for that quarter, starting with Level 2.

Level	Tardy Range	Work Time Assignment Options	Staff Assigning
1	3	Contact Parent and Record in ECATS	Teacher
2	6	Lunch Detention Off-Campus Lunch Pass Suspension (1 Day)	Administrator
3	9	ALC (Half Day) Parking Pass Suspension (1 week) Off-Campus Lunch Pass Suspension (1 week)	Administrator
4	12+	ALC (Full Day) Parking/Lunch Pass Revocation (rest of semester)	Administrator

## **PCHS Tardy Policy (cont'd)**

## PCHS Tardy Policy (cont'd)

### Additional Information

- Any tardies caused by a disruption to district-provided transportation will be excused.
- Families should plan in advance for extended carpool times. Tardies due to slow carpool traffic will not be excused. If the line is slow, once students are on school grounds, they can exit cars and walk towards their classes.
- Students who are late to school due to an approved reason (listed in Board Policy 4400) may check in at the Attendance Office with his or her note and will receive a pass to class.

# WCPSS Student Device Program

- The Student Device Program provides every WCPSS student with a student device to use at school and at home. Students will receive a new student device every three to four years. To participate in the Student Device Program, students must sign an annual Student Device Program Agreement Form and follow the expectations outlined in the agreement.
- Schools will distribute and collect devices, however WCPSS Technology Services will provide annual guidance for distribution timelines, device life cycles, and student expectations.
- Students began receiving devices during the 2019-2020 school year.
- Any student who does not have an assigned device will be provided with a new device, and some students who have older model devices will turn those in for a new device.



# Devices/Phones in School Setting

## General Information

Students are allowed to bring their digital personal devices to school, however the school will not be liable for lost or misplaced items. While digital devices (personal laptops, cell phones, tablets, etc.) are welcomed, they should not be a distraction to student learning and instruction and should not be used for academic dishonesty or plagiarism of any type.

## In-Class Device Use Guidelines

Individual classroom teachers exercise their own discretion in regards to:

- how often phones can be used
- For which purposes phones can be used

Students are expected to follow their teacher's instructions regarding the use of cell phones in the classroom. Instructions may vary from class to class.

- Teachers will not be confiscating student phones



# Forms of School Communication

Parents should regularly check the following modes of school communication to be informed of things happening in classes and school. Please allow 24-48 hours for general communication responses from the school.

## Catamount Messenger

A weekly correspondence sent by email to all parents and posted to the PCHS Website under the Principal's Message.

## Talking Points

Texting application used by teachers and school officials to send very specific information to groups or individuals.

## School Website

[www.wcpss.net/panthercreekhs](http://www.wcpss.net/panthercreekhs)

## Email

Correspondence from teachers, administrators, and faculty.

## X (formerly Twitter)

@thepanthercreek

## Canvas

Announcements, calendar, and syllabus view for parents with observer accounts.

# What Now?

*Feel free to visit the following groups out in the Commons Area*

## PCHS Clubs/Organizations



### PCHS Athletic Boosters

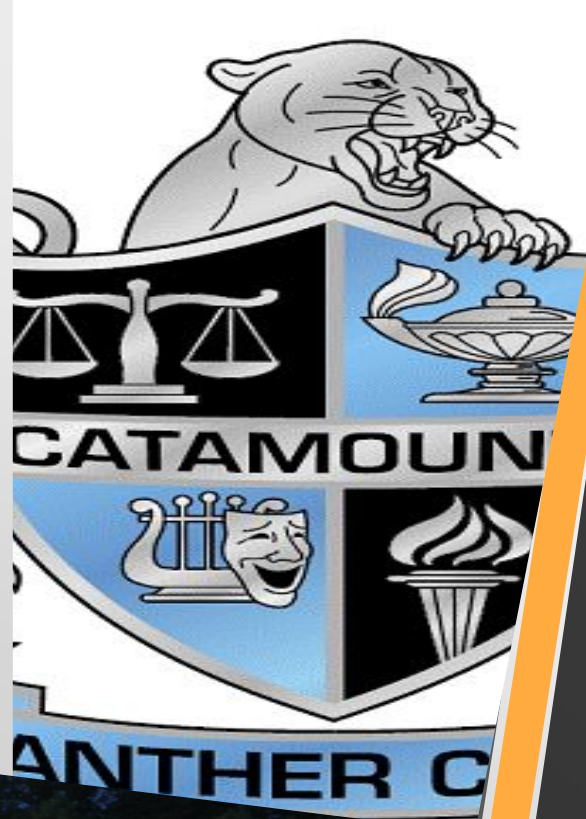
(Purchase your spirit wear)

### PCHS PTSA

(Join Today)

### PCHS Transportation Table





Welcome to the PCHS  
Community!  
#alwaysacatamount!

