

POLK COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2009-2010

7200 Highway 411 North

PO Box 188

Benton, Tennessee 37307

423-338-4514—phone

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www.polkcountyhighschool.com

Jason Bell

Principal

Assistant Principal

Grades 9 through 12

Home of the Wildcats and Wildkittens

This agenda belongs to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____ **ZIP CODE** _____

PHONE _____

**STUDENT
NO.** _____

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**POLK COUNTY SCHOOLS
OFFICIAL CALENDAR
2009-10**

August
4 Countywide In-service-- Required
6 Registration Day
7 Required Inservice Day- No Classes
10 Classes Begin
September
7 Labor Day- No Classes
11 PCHS Progress Reports Issued
October
8-9 PCHS 1st Nine Weeks Exams
15 PCHS Parent/Teacher Conference 4:00-7:00; PCHS Grade Cards available to
parents in attendance
16 PCHS Grade Cards Issued
19-20 Fall Break- No Classes
21 Staff Development Day- No Classes
November
4 PCHS PLAN Exams for all sophomores
16 PCHS Progress Reports Issued
23-27 Thanksgiving Break- No Classes
December
16-17 PCHS 2nd Nine Weeks Exams
18 Abbreviated Day; First Semester Ends
21-Jan. 4 Christmas Vacation - No Classes
January
5 Classes Resume
7 PCHS Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:00
PCHS Report Cards available to parents in attendance
8 PCHS Grade Cards Issued
18 MLK Holiday- No Classes
February
2 PCHS TCAP Writing Exams (Grade 11)
5 PCHS Progress Reports Issued
15 Presidents Day- No Classes
16 Winter Break- No Classes
17 Staff Development Day- No Classes
March
9 PCHS ACT Exam for all juniors
11-12 PCHS 3rd Nine Weeks Exams
17 PCHS Grade Cards Issued
29-April 5 Good Friday/ Spring Break - No Classes
April
5 Good Friday; No Classes
20 PCHS Progress Reports Issued
26-30 PCHS End of Course Exams
May
4-7 PCHS Gateway Exams
17-18 PCHS Underclassmen Finals
20 PCHS Graduation
25 Last Day of Classes; Abbreviated Day; All Grade Cards Issued

TO THE STUDENTS:

This handbook was developed by parents, students, faculty, staff, school board and administrators in an effort to better acquaint students of Polk County High School with school activities and to give information concerning matters which will be of interest to most students. You are required to read this book thoroughly and be familiar with its contents and sign the form on the back.

TO THE PARENTS:

Parents of students attending Polk County High School are required to read this handbook. In it you will find useful information about your child's school. This information will be a great aid in advising your child, and helping to make his/her school life a happy and useful one. Communication between the school, students, and parents is very important. To maintain effective communication, vital information regarding upcoming events and opportunities is printed on each student progress report. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please phone 338-4514 or write P. O. Box 188, Benton, TN 37307.

The form on the back page is to be read by parent and student and signed by both parties.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Polk County High School is to graduate students who will become responsible and productive citizens in a rapidly changing, diverse global society through the utilization of technology, the application of skills and essential knowledge, and successful completion of state requirements.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Polk County High School is to provide an environment whereby students, through measurable learning, become responsible and productive citizens in a rapidly changing, diverse global society.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY

Polk County High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, or disability.

ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS AND DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. Additional information may be obtained from the principal or school counselor. Directory information is addressed under FERPA. Directory information includes, but is not limited to, the student's name, address, telephone listing, birth date, and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight, and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended. This information will be disclosed to appropriate agencies or media unless parents make a written request to the contrary.

ARMED FORCES RECRUITER ACCESS TO STUDENTS AND STUDENT RECRUITING INFORMATION ACCORDING TO TITLE IX OF NCLB

- All LEAs are required to provide, upon a request made by military recruiters or institutions of higher education, access to secondary students names, addresses, and telephone listings.
- This also affects private schools unless they maintain a religious objection to service in the Armed Forces and the objection is verifiable through the corporate or other organizational documents or materials of the school.

- LEAs and private schools must annually notify parents that they may request that their child's name, address, and telephone listing not be released to military recruiters without their consent.

WELCOME

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff we welcome you to Polk County High School. We hope your high school career will be enjoyable and meaningful because we want these to be among the most important years in your life. The experiences you will have should promote understanding and intellectual development. We expect you to work hard and to conduct yourselves as ladies and gentlemen while you are students at Polk County High School.

DAILY CLASS SCHEDULE

First Period	8:00-8:55
Second Period	9:00-9:55
Third Period	10:00-10:55
Fourth Period/1st Lunch	10:55-11:30
2nd Lunch	11:30-12:05
3rd Lunch	12:05-12:40
Afternoon Break	12:40-12:50
Fifth Period	12:50-1:50
Sixth Period	1:55-2:52
Bus Riders Leave	2:58
Car Riders Leave	3:03

Times are subject to change as needed.

School Closing

In the event of severely inclement weather or mechanical breakdown, school may be closed or starting time may be delayed. The same conditions may also necessitate early dismissal. School closing, delayed starting time, or early dismissal will be announced over the following radio and TV stations:

- Channel 3 Chattanooga
- Channel 9 Chattanooga
- Channel 12 Chattanooga
- US 101 Chattanooga

WEATHER HOTLINE: 338-5497

If no report is heard in the morning by 7:00 A. M., it can be assumed that school will be in session on regular schedule. Please **do not call the school** regarding closings, etc. School phone lines must be kept open for emergency communication.

Rules and Regulations

Students are acquainted with the school's rules and regulations at the beginning of each school year. The principal and/or assistant principal meet with each class, review the current rules, and have students and parents to sign a statement that they are aware of the policies.

Note: This book is not intended to detail or answer all possible questions concerning Polk County High School and its activities. It is to serve only as a guide.

These policies and procedures are on file in the superintendent's office. Any student or parent can check out these policies or obtain a copy of them upon request to the superintendent's office. These policies can also be found on the following website: www.polk-schools.com.

Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying

Procedures for reporting harassment, which includes bullying, are posted in each school. Students must report any events as outlined by the procedures.

Schedule

The school year is divided into two semesters: fall and spring. A semester consists of 18 weeks with two 9 weeks tests. Within each 9 weeks, a 3 week progress report will be sent to parents with the student. Students may be exempt from 9 weeks tests if they have perfect attendance for that 9 week, at least a C average, and no in-school or out-of-school suspensions. Students are not exempt from final exams taken at the end of each respective course. This includes ½ credit courses that have their final exam at the end of the 1st semester.

Searches

Any school official who has probable cause has the right to search the locker, clothes, books, car, or other personal property on school grounds. Observe this and do not bring any substances to school that violates school rules. State law gives school officials the right to search school storage areas.

School Insurance

School insurances will be made available to all students. Different levels of coverage are available. All athletes are required to take the school insurance and have a physical exam before participating in any extracurricular activity.

Traffic in Halls

Please keep to the right. Do not run in the halls. Students are not to linger in halls, around lockers, drinking fountains, block the doors, or sit in the halls. Please put wastepaper in containers provided. Keep paper off hall and room floors and grounds. The halls must be cleared when the tardy bell rings. If a student is not in his seat when the tardy bell begins to ring, it will be an unexcused tardy. There should be no student public display of affection in the halls, and students are to walk without having arms around each other.

Cars at School

Those students who drive to school are to register their cars and license number in the principal's office on a form provided by the office. A ten-dollar (\$10) fee is required per year on all cars registered. Students will observe the following rules:

1. Park in designated areas. Do not block other cars.
2. Do not leave school grounds during school hours without permission.
3. You are not to sit in parked cars or return to your car until time to leave school.
4. Observe all laws. **Speed limit is 10 M. P. H.**
5. You must be properly licensed to drive to school.
6. Cars parked on school grounds are subject to search.
7. You are not to leave in your car until 3:03 P. M.
8. Failure to comply with these rules will result in loss of driving privilege.
9. Illegally parked cars may be towed at the driver's expense and student may receive a cash fine to be paid before he/she drives again.

Lockers

- Assignment of lockers will be made from the office.
- Slamming locker doors not only makes needless noise, but also may damage doors. Please be quiet when closing them.
- Students are expected to keep interior of lockers clean and neat at all times.
- Locker fees are \$5.00. Students furnish their own locks.
- The storing of valuables in a locker is not advised. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen articles. Students are expected to use their assigned locker. Sharing is not allowed.
- Because of the increasing concern about school violence and safety, backpacks or book bags must be stored in students' lockers as soon as they arrive at school. The packs or bags may be taken from the lockers only when the student leaves the campus. If book bags or backpacks are too large to fit in a locker, they will not be allowed at school.

Internet Usage

Student usage of the Internet must follow the acceptable usage policy adopted by the Polk County Board of Education. Severe penalties, including alternative school, suspension, or expulsion may be included for students intentionally accessing pornographic sites, terrorist's instruction sites, or drug or cult sites. Students are to respect the rights and privacy of other student's e-mail and directories. Students may not use another student's account without written consent from the student. Students accessing school records can also face the school's severest penalties. Students cannot use computers without signing a login & log-out sheet. Each teacher must have a log in sheet next to the computer and keep it updated. No student can access the Internet without a signed parental permission form on file.

DISCIPLINE

In general

You should conduct yourself as a lady or gentleman at all times. It is important that your conduct be such that it always reflects well on your school, your family, and yourself. When you apply for admission to college or for a job, the school or employer will contact us, not only for grades, but also for an evaluation of your honesty, dependability, cooperation, courtesy, influence, and other character traits. Don't take a chance with your future. This handbook speaks generally to many items of student discipline. The Polk County Board of Education has adopted a specific code of Student Discipline and Behavior that is available in the school library and principal's office. Each student is responsible for knowing and following its contents. Please familiarize yourself with the code. In compliance with state statute T. C. A. 49-6-4216, the Polk County School Board provides written notification to students and parents that policies and procedures in the following areas have been developed and adopted by the School Board and are now in effect in the Polk County School System:

Misbehavior & Discipline Level I

Minor misbehavior on the part of the student which interferes with the orderly operation of the school may be punished by the following: (1) verbal reprimand, (2) special assignment, (3) restricting activities, (4) behavior modification, (5) assigning work detail, (6) counseling, (7) withdrawal of privileges, (8) strict supervised study, (9) detention, (10) corporal punishment.

Examples of Level I misbehavior include but are not limited to the following:

1. Classroom disturbances
2. Classroom tardiness
3. Cheating and lying
4. Abusive language
5. Nondefiant failure to do work or carry out directions
6. Student driving violations
7. Library deficiencies
8. Failure to comply with homeroom requirements
9. Missing or late detention

Misbehavior & Discipline Level II

Misbehavior whose frequency or severity tends to disrupt the learning climate of the school may be punished by **Level I guidelines** and also by the following: (1) modified day, (2) social probation, (3) peer counseling, (4) referral to outside agency, (5) suspension from school-sponsored activities or from riding the school bus, (6) restricting the honors a student is otherwise due, (7) alternative school.

Examples of Level II misbehaviors include but are not limited to the following:

1. Continuation of Level I misbehaviors
2. School tardiness

3. Truancy
4. Using forged notes or excuses
5. Disruptive classroom behavior
6. Cutting class
7. Violation of the dress code

Misbehavior & Discipline Level III

These are acts directly against persons and property which do not seriously endanger the health and safety of others. They are punishable by: (1)detention, (2) corporal punishment, (3)restitution for loss, damage, or stolen property, (4) out-of-school suspension (exceeding 10 days), and (5) suspension from school activities.

Examples of Level III misbehaviors include but are not limited to the following:

1. Continuation of Level II misbehaviors
2. Simple fighting
3. Minor vandalism
4. Stealing
5. Threats to others
6. Leaving school without permission
7. Immoral acts

Misbehavior & Discipline Level IV

Acts which result in violence to another person or property or which pose a threat to the health and/or safety of others in the school are punishable by: (1) out-of-school suspension for more than 10 days, (2) suspension from school activities, (3) expulsion, (4) other Board action which results in appropriate placement.

Examples of Level IV misbehaviors included but are not limited to the following:

1. Continuation of Level I, II, III misbehaviors
2. Extortion
3. Bomb threat
4. Possession/use or transfer of dangerous weapons
5. Assault/battery
6. Vandalism
7. Theft/possession/sale of stolen property
8. Arson
9. Furnishing/selling/possession/use of unauthorized substances

Juvenile Citations

Offenses which constitute juvenile citations include but are not limited to (1) possession of use of tobacco products, (2) assault or the threat of assault, (3) disorderly conduct, and (4) truancy.

Detention After School

Detention is designed to take care of minor discipline and administrative problems and to serve as a mechanism for behavior modification. Students will be given at least 1-day notice as to when to report. Detention will be after school from 3:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Students must bring work to detention. Students who do not report to detention on the assigned day will have a day added each time they miss and will not be able to attend any school functions until the detention days are completed. Students who do not report to detention after a day has been added will receive in-school suspension. Detention will not be changed on the day it is to be served without special circumstances. Any student who receives more than 3 separate detentions in a 9 week period will be suspended or placed in an alternative setting.

Dress Code

Students at PCHS are expected to follow the following guidelines:

1. All shirts, tops, and dresses must have sleeves and a modest neckline.
2. All shirts and tops must be long enough to tuck in.
3. No see-through shirts are allowed
4. All pants/shorts are to be worn fitting at the waist.
5. All pants must not be excessively wide-legged.
6. All pants and shorts must not have any holes above the knee. Any patches must be sewn on the outside of the garment.
7. All shorts/skirts/skorts/dresses must be no shorter than 3 inches above the knee. Any leggings worn are not a replacement to shorts/skirts/skorts/dresses being no shorter than 3 inches above the knee.
8. No cut-off shorts of any length are allowed.
9. Shoes must be worn at all times.
10. Piercing jewelry may be worn only in the ear.
11. Body and face pierced jewelry is prohibited.
12. Excessively large chains are prohibited.
13. No bandanas are allowed at PCHS.
14. Hats, caps, or other head coverings will be taken up and not returned.
15. The American flag may not be worn in an unpatriotic manner.
16. No article of clothing may be worn which implies or otherwise mentions alcohol, tobacco, drugs, sex, or offensive language.

Students at PCHS are expected to dress and groom in a clean, neat, and modest manner so as not to distract or interfere with the operation of the school.

This policy is in effect for all school activities both on and off campus. The only exceptions are for formal dress at such occasions as the Prom and Homecoming. Clothing for these occasions is also expected to be in good taste and modest.

If PCHS athletes practice in uniforms not conforming to the dress code, they must change clothes before entering the building except for water breaks and in the event of an emergency.

Any dress considered disruptive to the school environment will be prohibited and the administration may administer appropriate punishment.

Leaving School Grounds/Check Out Procedures

A student who plans to leave during the school day must follow the following procedures:

1. Bring an authorized note from home to the office before 8:00 A.M. for early dismissal
2. Have a parent call the school verifying the authorized note.
3. Sign out in the office giving destination and time of departure.

In case of an emergency that would require a student to leave during the day, the student may leave if proper permission from a parent or guardian can be given by phone.

If a student leaves during the school day following the proper procedure and returns later in the day, he/she must sign in with office giving the time of return to campus.

Students may not check out for lunch. Time missed due to “checking out” is accumulated and may be considered as truancy.

Zero Tolerance

To ensure safe and secure learning environments free of drugs, drug paraphernalia, violence and dangerous weapons, including any knife or instrument with a blade of any type, and to impose swift, certain and severe disciplinary sanctions on any student:

- Who brings a drug, drug paraphernalia or a dangerous weapon, including any knife or instrument with a blade of any type, onto a school bus, onto school property, or to any school event or activity
 - Who, while on a school bus, on school property, or while attending any school event or activity:
 1. Is under the influence of a drug,
 2. Possesses a drug, drug paraphernalia or dangerous weapon, including any knife or instrument with a blade of any type,
 3. Assaults or threatens to assault a teacher, student, or other person.
- The School Board also has a zero tolerance policy toward any student who engages in such misconduct. Such misconduct will be promptly reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities and many also provide for deployment of law enforcement officers and/or school safety and security personnel, and use of dogs trained to detect marijuana and other drugs.

Prescription and Nonprescription Forms

All prescription and nonprescription medication must be delivered to the office by a parent or guardian in the original bottle or container. The parent or guardian must complete the appropriate paperwork before medication is allowed to be left at the school or taken by the student. No medication is allowed to be carried throughout the school by a student unless an authorization to assist competent student with self-administration form is completed and on file in the office. Failure to properly check-in ANY medication will result in the school personnel administering an appropriate punishment.

Dear Student and Parent,

According to Polk County Board of Education Policy, we are required to give a written notice to students concerning the STUDENT AND ALCOHOL AND DRUG TESTING POLICY. The policy uses the descriptor code 6.3071 in the Board Policy Manual. This policy gives the School Principal authority to order drug tests for individual students when there is a reasonable cause to believe that: (1) The school board policy on alcohol and drug use has been violated; (2) A search of lockers produced evidence of the presence of drugs and/or alcohol; (3) A search of persons and containers produced evidence of presence of drug and/or alcohol; (4) A search of vehicles produced evidence of the presence of drugs and/or alcohol; or (5) Through observation or other reasonable information reported by a teacher, staff member or other student that a student is using drugs and/or alcohol on school property.

If the need for testing arises, the parent(s) will be notified and due process to the student will be given. The results of the test are confidential. If necessary, appropriate punishment, which could include a zero tolerance (365 days) suspension, will be handed down.

If you have questions regarding this policy, feel free to contact me at the school at 338-4514.

Sincerely,
Joel E. Cox, Principal

Attendance

It is the belief of the school system that students are best served educationally when they are in attendance every day possible. The following guidelines govern excused absences:

- Present a note (parent/professional) within five (5) days of returning to school after absence.
- Students will be allowed five (5) days to makeup work after they return to school from an absence or teachers may allow makeup work before the ending of a semester.
- Three (3) excused absences (3 days) per semester will be allowed on a parent note using the reasons listed in the board policy (personal sickness, family sickness, death in family, religious holiday, extreme weather conditions, circumstances beyond the control of the student).
- Any unexcused absence can be considered truancy and could result in disciplinary action. Truancy is a citable offense in juvenile court. A student is considered truant when he/she has missed 5 unexcused absences in a semester, 10 unexcused absences during the year, and/or has excessive tardies. Truancy conditions are set by state laws, not by schools or school officials and are subject to change.
- Administration will be notified by the teacher upon the student's third (3rd) absence, fifth (5th) absence, and seventh (7th) absence.
- Homebound (for eligible students) is available upon receipt of doctor's completed homebound form.
- Official school business (OSB) is not considered an absence.
- The Tennessee Department of Safety will take a student's drivers' license for having 10 consecutive unexcused absences or a total of 15 unexcused absences.
- A doctor's excuse is required for 9 weeks and 18 weeks make-up test. (T. C. A. 49-6-4216; T. C. A. 49-6-3002).

The laws of Tennessee recognize only the following as legitimate excuses for temporary absence from school:

- Personal illness
- Illness of immediate family member
- Death in the family
- Religious observances regularly observed by persons of a certain faith
- Circumstances, which in the judgment of the principal, create emergencies over which the student has no control.

Late Arrivals

Students who are late arriving to school or class must report to the office for an admit to class and must sign in. Students missing twenty (20) minutes or more of a class will be counted absent from that class. Three unexcused tardies in a class will result in 1 day of detention.

Make-up Work

Students will be allowed five (5) days to make up work after they return to school from an absence or teachers may allow make-up work before the ending of a semester. Students returning to school after absences must check with their teachers on the day they return regarding any work missed. Scheduling make-up work is totally the responsibility of the student and failure to fulfill this obligation will result in a loss of credit for the work missed.

Hall Passes

Students who are in the halls during class periods must have a pass from an authorized staff member. The public telephones are not to be used during class time. Students are to use the telephone designated for student use. Students are not to use telephones in the office, vocational offices, gym, special education classes, etc.

Telephone

No student will be called from class to answer calls unless the call is of an emergency nature. Please inform parents and others not to call the school to speak to you nor to give you messages unless there is an emergency.

Electronic Devices

Students may not possess personal communication devices such as pagers, cameras, and IPODS on campus during the instructional day. Tape recorders, radios, and CD players are also not permissible. Cellular phones are allowed if they are out of sight and in the off mode. They are not to be used during the instructional day for any reason. The instructional day is defined as when students arrive at school until the bell rings for students to report to the bus. If discovered, these items will be confiscated for a period of six weeks from the date confiscated. Laser light pointers will not be allowed at school or school activities and will not be returned to the student.

Visitors

In order to maintain the condition and atmosphere suitable for learning, no person shall enter onto the school grounds or into the buildings of public schools during the hours of student instruction except students and other persons with lawful and valid business on the school premises. Parents and all other visitors are always welcome at P.C.H. S., but they must always report to the principal's office to sign in and obtain a visitor's pass and sign out when leaving the campus. Any person improperly on the school premises of a school shall depart upon the request of the school principal or other authorized persons.

The principal or other authorized person has complete authority to exclude from the school premises any persons he has reason to believe are disrupting the educational programs in the classroom or in the school and/or are disturbing the teachers or children on the premises for the purpose of committing an illegal act. Law enforcement officials may be called if the situation warrants such measures.

Students of other schools and children not of school age will not be issued passes unless accompanied by parents.

Out of County Students

Students who do not live within the Polk County School District must apply for permission to attend Polk County High School and must pay a tuition fee. Both the application and the tuition fee must be submitted by June 15 of the year in which the student plans to attend. Application must be made for each year a student attends Polk County High School. The director of schools and the principal of Polk County High School decide which applicants are admitted based on quotas and on the students' records at previous schools. Those who apply and are denied admission will have the tuition fee refunded.

School Fees

Some courses have nominal fees for materials and/or equipment necessary for the meeting of course objectives. These fees have been approved by the Polk County Board of Education. Teachers of courses with a fee inform students of the amount at the beginning of the semester and set a reasonable deadline for fees to be paid.

Personal Checks

The office at Polk County High School will accept personal checks. If checks are to be used, they must be made out to the club or person in charge of a fundraiser. If you need to pay for lunch with a check, the check must be made payable to Polk County High School Cafeteria and be approved by the cafeteria staff.

Tobacco Policy

Tennessee Code Annotated 39-17-1504 Youth Access to Tobacco Act

A law enforcement officer or school principal who has evidence of the violation shall issue any person who violates this section a citation. The citation shall require the person to appear in the Juvenile Court for the county in which the violation is alleged to have occurred. A violation of this section shall be a civil offense, the penalty for which is a civil penalty of not less than ten dollars (\$10) or more than fifty dollars (\$50). Upon its determination that the person has violated this section, the Juvenile Court shall determine the amount of the civil penalty. The Juvenile Court may in its discretion also impose community service work not to exceed fifty (50) hours for a second or subsequent violation within a one (1) year period.

Students 18 years and older who use or possess tobacco products on school property or at school functions will be suspended or otherwise disciplined by the principal.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures

Fire, tornado, emergency, and disaster drills will be held at regular intervals. These are to be taken seriously at all times since they are necessary safety precautions. It is essential that all students follow instructions when the signal is given. Talking is to be limited during drills.

Counseling Services

The counseling staff provides services to students in the areas of curriculum planning, college information, test interpretation, scholarship applications, career awareness, and problems with which students may need help. Counselors are available from 8:00 a. m. to 3:00 p. m.

Driver's License or Permit

Students under age eighteen who wish to apply for a Tennessee driver's license or learner's permit must show proof of satisfactory school attendance and academic performance. Students must pass at least four academic subjects in the most recent term and have less than ten consecutive or a total of fifteen unexcused absences. Violations are reported to the Tennessee Department of Safety and will result in license denial or revocation. The Compulsory Attendance Form can be obtained in the school office.

Withdrawals

Students who transfer to other school systems must officially withdraw from Polk County High School on the last day of attendance. A parent must contact the school. The withdrawal form is obtained from the office and must be signed by each teacher and the librarian to indicate that all accounts (books, fees, equipment, etc.) are clear. The form must then be brought back to the office for final processing.

Cafeteria

Federal Lunch Program applications are distributed at the beginning of the school year. Under this program, students who qualify by family income may receive free or reduced lunches. If the family income status changes at any time during the school year, a new application may be filled out from the school office. Breakfast will only be served from 7:30-7:55 A.M.

The School Board has approved a five-day limit on lunch charges. Students should not have lunch charges exceeding \$12.50. Students cannot charge ala carte items on their account. Unpaid balances may be subject to collection through court proceedings.

Library

The Polk County High School Library offers students materials for research and recreational reading. The Internet and CD-Rom technology are available as well as books, magazines, and newspapers. The library is a place for quiet study and reading. Hours are from 7:30 A. M. to 3:00 P. M. A fine of twenty-five cents (\$.25) per day for each overdue book will be charged to the last person checking out the book. The student to whom the book has last been checked out shall pay for lost books. Detention will be assigned for library deficiencies. If the overdue book and/or fines have not been returned/paid after serving 3 detentions, the student will then be assigned to court. Seniors will not be allowed to participate in graduation if they have a library deficiency. Students will be charged 25 cents per page for using the copy machine.

Textbooks

All textbooks are furnished by the State of Tennessee and Polk County Board of Education. Students shall be expected to take care of these books and return them at the end of the course. Students and their parents shall be held responsible for books that are lost, stolen, or otherwise unaccounted for. Students will be charged for books that are damaged or defaced, other than normal wear, according to the extent of the damage. Students are to use only those books issued by the teacher.

Athletics

Several sports are available for students who have the ability and drive to compete at varsity or junior varsity level. Participation in interscholastic athletics requires that students be enrolled full-time and pass at least five subjects in the term preceding participation in the sport. Student athletes must comply with TSSAA rules and regulations.

All players must have a physical exam before participating in any extra curricular activity.

Polk County High School has always been extremely proud of our tradition of fielding outstanding sports programs. Students interested in playing sports should make plans in the fall so that their schedules can be adjusted accordingly. School letters are awarded by the school to those who have earned them. PCHS follows TSSAA regulations relative to participation in athletics. To be eligible to participate in athletic contests during any semester, a student:

1. Must pass 5 credits the preceding year.
2. Shall be regularly enrolled in 5 credit producing classes and in regular attendance
3. Who drops out of school before the end of the term shall be ineligible to participate in secondary school athletics until he has been in school a term and has passed at least five full unit subjects.

By participating in school athletics, students are subject to random drug testing according to Polk County School Board Policy.

Polk County High School offers participation in the following sports:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Baseball | Spring sport for boys |
| 2. Basketball | Available for boys and girls |
| 3. Cross Country | Fall sport for boys and girls |
| 4. Football | Fall sport for boys. Out-of-season conditioning is required. |
| 5. Girls' Softball | Spring sport for girls. |
| 6. Golf | Fall sport for boys and girls |
| 7. Volleyball | Fall sport for girls |
| 8. Cheerleading | Cheerleaders and alternates are selected each year. They direct cheering sections of all football and basketball games. Any student interested in becoming a cheerleader is eligible to tryout, provided they have an acceptable attendance and conduct record. They must meet the same eligibility rules as players and abide by additional rules as outlined by the sponsor. |
| 9. Managers | Managers must meet the same eligibility requirements as players. |

School Activities and Athletic Events

All athletic events are under the supervision of the school, and the TSSAA regulations hold the school responsible for the conduct of these events. Students are subject to regular school policies at **ALL** games. Poor sportsmanship and bad conduct may result in a school being suspended from any athletic event.

At all school activities, the faculty member in charge shall have full authority and the rules of good conduct and cooperation should be observed at all time. Misbehavior at activities or during the school day may result in suspension from extracurricular attendance for an extended period of time.

OFFICIAL SCHOOL BUSINESS (OSB)

Official School Business is a privilege granted to students who are representing our school in an official capacity. Such absences should not adversely affect a student's grade in any way as long as the student make a sincere effort to make up all work.

1. Official School Business is determined by the administration. Faculty will abide by the decisions.
2. Faculty sponsors will make every effort to notify teachers when students are to be absent for OSB.
3. Students should realize that academics are their first priority and should use discretion in choosing OSB.
4. Each student must consult with each teacher BEFORE going on OSB.
5. Students on OSB will have all make up work privileges
6. If a student is absent more than 1 / 2 day on the day before OSB activity, he/she will not be given OSB status and will remain in the regular classroom.
7. Students wanting 1 day OSB must be passing all classes they are currently taking or have the teacher they are failing give special permission to receive the OSB.

Field Trips and Extracurricular Activities

Students who are absent during the major portion of the day may not participate in extracurricular activities that day or night. School rules and regulations apply to students participating in a school-sponsored activity off campus or after school. In addition, homebound students are not eligible to participate in ANY extracurricular school activities. Also, to help deter the dropping out of school, students who drop out will not be allowed to attend functions such as the prom until two events following what should have been their senior event.

Deficiencies

Students must pay or clear all obligations in a timely manner. Accounts not cleared result in deficiencies on the students' records. This could result in a loss of privileges for the offending student, such as not having report cards released, not having transcripts sent, not having textbooks assigned, or not receiving athletic equipment. Punishment may also be administered to students with outstanding debts.

Grading Scale

93 to 100	= A	4.0 quality points
85 to 92	= B	3.0 quality points
75 to 84	= C	2.0 quality points
70 to 74	= D	1.0 quality points
0 to 69	= F	0.0 quality points

Our school's grading scale adheres to Tennessee's Uniform Grading Scale that was adopted for the purpose of determining eligibility for the HOPE scholarship.

Weighting for Honors Courses, National Industry Certification Courses, and Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Courses

Honors courses and NIC courses will substantially exceed the content standards, learning expectations, and performance indicators approved by the State Board of Education. These classes will include the addition of **3 points** used to calculate the semester average.

Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses will meet the standards established by their respective governing agencies and these classes will include the addition of **5 points** to the grades used to calculate the semester average.

Honors and Awards

Gold Honor Roll	All A's (93 and above)
Silver Honor Roll	93-100, A average, no grade below B (85)
Bronze Honor Roll	85-92, B average, no grade below B (85)

Testing

In addition to tests given by classroom teachers, Polk County High School administers all tests mandated by the state of Tennessee as well as others which benefit students.

Gateway Tests

Students graduating in the year 2010, 2011, or 2012 are required to take and pass 3 Gateway Exams in order to graduate. These tests include:

1. Algebra I
2. Biology
3. English 10

The scores on these tests count 20% of the student's grade.

End of Course Test

The state of Tennessee currently requires end-of-course testing for:

1. Foundations II Math
2. English 9
3. Physical Science
4. U. S. History

Other tests will be added as the state mandates.

The scores on these tests count 20% of the student's grade.

PLAN Test

All sophomores will take the PLAN-ACT Test in October. This is a state mandated test that provides an early indication of readiness for college or work. Results will indicate if the student is gaining the knowledge needed to enter their desired field of study or work. More information is available at www.planstudent.org

ACT and SAT Tests

University Path students and Technical Path students are encouraged to take the ACT or SAT assessments in the spring of their junior year. A one-time voucher will be given to students for the ACT or SAT testing fee. This will allow students to take the test at no cost and will be issued by the counseling staff during or after their eleventh grade year.

Non-Mandated Test

1. PSAT/NMSQT: Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
2. ASVAB: Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery
(Helps students identify strengths, abilities, and career interests.)

Scholarships

The school counseling staff works with colleges and local organizations to help students with their applications for scholarships. Announcements are made over the public address system, and notices are posted in various places to make students aware of available scholarships. Scholarship announcements are also given to the Senior English teacher. Also, computer programs and books are available in the guidance office and the school library to aid students to locate scholarships for which they may qualify. Scholarship winners are usually informed by announcements made during the awards program.

Financial Aid

The counseling staff provides services to students in applying for financial aid for college. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms is made available in November or December of the senior year. Students may apply for financial aid after January 1 of their senior year. To apply, income tax information from the previous year must be available for both parents and students (if applicable).

A financial aid workshop is held in February to familiarize students and parents with the financial aid process. The school counseling staff will also help students file their FAFSA's electronically.

NOTE: State and federal financial aid is based on the family's ability to pay for the student's post-secondary education. A student who makes more than \$2200 will be expected to contribute half of any earnings over \$2200 toward education expenses. This should be taken into account when deciding how much a student should work.

Diplomas

Requirements for the different types of diplomas are as follows:

TENNESSEE SCHOLARS

The Tennessee Scholars Program is a course of study that encourages students to take more demanding courses in high school. The curriculum provides an education that better prepares students to enter a technical school, a community college, a university or the work force. It is a business-led campaign to increase the percentage of high school students who complete a defined set of rigorous academic courses students need to succeed in today's workplace or higher education.

TENNESSEE SCHOLARS COURSE OF STUDY

- 4 English courses
- 4 Mathematics (Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and one higher level math)
- 3 Sciences (Biology I, Chemistry, and Physics recommended)
- 3 Social Studies (Elective History, U.S. History, & U.S. Government/Economics)
- 1 Business/Computer Course (now included in CTE [Technical] classes)
- 1 Wellness
- 1 Fine Arts
- 2 Foreign Language Courses in the same language
- 2 Technical Courses in the same technical track

*Dual enrollment credit and online courses are acceptable.

ADDITIONAL EXPECTATIONS:

- 40 hours of Community Service
- Overall "C" Average in all Tennessee Scholars Courses
- 95% Attendance
- No Out-of School Suspensions
- Successful passing of all Gateway Exams

Tennessee Scholars will be recognized each year and will be recognized at graduation and at other educational and community incentives that will be announced each year. This program will be implemented in the 2006-2007 academic year. **Graduating seniors need to turn in paperwork for Tennessee Scholars Recognition by mid-December of the first semester of the senior year.**

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Dual enrollment is an opportunity to earn college credit before graduating from high school. In Dual Enrollment, high school credit and college credit is earned for a specific course. The general education program allows students to take a variety of courses to meet their future college curriculum needs in areas such as composition, mathematics, speech, and psychology.

DUAL ENROLLMENT ELIGIBILITY

- Recommendation from his/her principal or counselor and the approval of a parent or guardian
- Classified as a Junior or Senior
- Cumulative 3.0 high school GPA or 4.0 in the previous four semesters in the subject students wish to take
- Composite ACT score of 19 or higher and a 19 or higher on the subtest they wish to take (Math, English, Science, for a subject having no subtest the Reading score is considered.) Comparable SAT scores are accepted.

The student will be responsible for paying tuition and books at the beginning of class. Scholarships may be available to help reimburse tuition and book expenses.

In addition to dual enrollment classes, we also offer Advanced Placement Classes in United States History and Calculus. Students may receive college credit for these classes after paying an exam fee and successfully passing the AP Exam in each subject.

SPECIAL EDUCATION DIPLOMA

Complete Individualized Education Plan.

Diplomas for classes of 2010, 2011, and 2012

- Earn required units of credit
- Pass Algebra I, English 10, and Biology Gateway Exams
- Have satisfactory records of attendance and conduct

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

Meet all requirements for regular diploma but do not pass or take required Gateway Exams.

Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2013 and beyond

Current Basic High School Requirements	Requirements for Students Beginning High School in Fall 2009
Total Credits Required: 20	Total Credits Required: 22
Math: 3 Credits Including either Geometry or Algebra II	Math: 4 Credits Including Algebra I, II, Geometry and a fourth higher level math course
Science: 3 Credits Including one physical science course and Biology	Science: 3 Credits Including Biology, Chemistry or Physics, and a third lab course
English: 4 Credits	English: 4 Credits
Social Studies: 3 Credits	Social Studies: 3 Credits
Wellness: 1 Credit	Physical Education and Wellness: 1.5 Credits
	Personal Finance: .5 Credits
Elective: 6 Credits	Foreign Language: 2 Credits Fine Arts: 1 Credit May be waived for students not going to a University to expand and enhance the elective focus
	Elective Focus: 3 Credits Math and Science, Career and Technical Education, Fine Arts, Humanities, Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate

Six-year Plan

A six- year plan, which is required by the State Board of Education, includes courses to be taken during four years of high school and two years following high school. A plan must take into account the requirements for the path chosen and must be kept on file at the school. Parent and student are required to come in and develop student’s six-year plan.

Credit Recovery

Credit recovery is a new program at PCHS that allows students who have not successfully completed a course to have an opportunity to recover the course credit without taking the course over again. Students should check with the school counseling staff to get additional information and eligibility requirements for the credit recovery program.

Credit Requirements for Graduation

Classes of 2010, 2011, 2012—**21 credits**

Students will not be allowed to change yearlong credit- producing classes after completion of the 1st semester.

In addition, students entering high school 2005-2006 school year will be required to complete 3 credits of math that must include EITHER a Geometry OR an Algebra II type course. Therefore, ONLY ONE math credit can be received for courses that are BELOW an Algebra I level course. Of course, elective credit can be awarded for additional BELOW Algebra I level course.

For clarification, all students must now take one of the following:

- Geometry
- Technical Geometry
- Algebra II or Integrated Math II (Honors versions of these courses are acceptable as well.)

Foundations II is a math credit for those students on the Technical Path, but it is only a math elective for those on the University Path.

Students must pass the required Gateway Exams. Students are given grade cards and transcripts of the courses they have taken; therefore, they must share in the responsibility of taking classes required for graduation. Parents and students check the list of required courses and make sure the courses taken are the ones needed for graduation.

WILDCAT SCHOLARS

Meeting the following requirements **beginning with the Class of 2011** will make a student eligible for the honors recognition and ranking at graduation exercises:

- 4 English
- 4 Math (Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, & upper level math)
- 3 Science (Biology, Chemistry, & Physics recommended)
- 3 Social Studies (Elective History, U. S. History, & U.S. Government/Economics)
- 1 Business/Computer Class (now included in CTE [Technical] classes listed below)
- 1 Wellness
- 1 Fine Art
- 2 Foreign Language Courses in the same language
- 2 Technical classes (One full year credit must be a computer/keyboarding credit)

*Dual enrollment credit and online classes are acceptable.

In addition, students must complete:

- 20 hours of documented service learning
- have 95% attendance
- no out of school suspensions
- pass all required state tests

The student must have an overall grade point average of 93.000 at the end of 7 1 / 2 semesters during their senior year plus final averages of high school courses taken during

eighth grade year of middle school and have taken from the courses listed above four (4) honors or AP classes (or combination). If the student is in the technical program they may substitute three years of one technical field (state completer) for one honor class (3 honors classes + 1 completion of a technical track).

This will make a student eligible for the honors recognition and ranking at graduation exercises. Out of this group, the Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be selected as the students who have the top GPA and second top GPA.

For the graduating class of 2010:

Senior Honor Students and Class Rank

A student in the **Class of 2010** must have a 90.00 average to be recognized as a Distinction Honor Student and a 95 cumulative average for a High Distinction Honor Student. He/she must be a full time student. A student may be a Tennessee Scholar but not be eligible for High Distinction or Distinction.

At the end of seven and one-half semesters, senior averages will be calculated as follows:

All courses except athletics, driver's education, teacher's aide and the ACT PREP will be calculated into the average. For the senior year, year long courses should take the three grades in a single course, add and divide by three and round to the nearest whole number. For the first semester classes (1/2 credit is given at the end of the semester one) in the senior year, take the average for the course that is printed on the grade card, and this is that course's average. The second semester classes will stand on the average of the third nine weeks reporting. Add all the final averages from all four years together from the eligible courses and divide by the number of eligible courses. This is considered the average for the purpose of ranking for the graduation honors group. All work is expected to be turned in by the end of the third grading period. No makeup work will be allowed unless the student is under a doctor's care the week preceding the end of the term. Amendments to the list will only occur when it is determined to be the fault of the teacher or computer system. The office has the right to amend the list based on errors and the official list will be announced from the office.

On time graduation students are only eligible for the honors ranking. Those who are allowed to attend graduation but lack two or fewer classes to graduate will not be considered for the honors ranking for graduation. Those who are taking longer than four years will not be considered for the honors ranking for graduation.

PCHS policy will take students who would meet college entrance requirements (UT system) first in rank order before other students' ranks are considered for **Valedictorian and Salutatorian**. The Valedictorian and Salutatorian must have attended Polk County High School at least two complete years immediately prior to graduation (junior and senior years).

Our ranking system from which the remainder of the honor students comes is based on courses that would lead to these students being admitted to a college or university under either the State Board or UT system without having to engage in remedial/non-credit courses or credit-elective only courses. A minimum ACT score will also be required by colleges but will not be considered by Polk County High School in ranking students.

College Entrance

Graduation from high school does not insure entrance to college. If you intend to enter college, business college, nursing training, or other vocational schools, get a catalog from the school you wish to attend and plan your high school course so as to meet the entrance requirements. Although colleges require certain courses, more and more emphasis is being placed on high quality work and commendable personal and activity ratings. Recommendations of students to any college or institution of higher learning will be based on character and conduct as well as grades. Whenever you have a problem or question of any sort, seek assistance from the counselors. They are available to help you with such things as your scheduling problems, career choice, educational planning, personal crisis, or simply answering questions or locating information. The counseling office and the library have files of career and educational information for your use. This includes college catalogs, applications and financial aid information. Internet connection is also available for information. All scholarship information that the school receives is passed on to the students through the principal's office, the counseling center, and Senior English teacher.

Requirements for Graduation

To meet the requirements for graduation, a pupil shall have attained an approved attendance, conduct, and subject matter record, which cover a planned program of education. This record shall be kept on file in the principal's office. Special Education students must attend school four years to participate in graduation exercises.

Graduation is a formal occasion. Therefore, a dress code is required.

- Boys must wear dress pants, white (pale) shirt with collar, tie and dress shoes.
- No shorts, jeans, tennis shoes, or sandals are allowed.
- Girls must wear dresses (within the dress code of the school) and approved dress shoes.
- No jeans, pants, slacks, shorts, skorts, sandals, flip flops, river sandals, or boots.
- White collars should be sewn on girls' graduation gown before graduation.

All seniors must be at practice on the designated day and time. This is always the day of graduation. Anyone who does not attend practice does not go through the graduation line.

Any student who adheres to any of the following will not be given the privilege of participating in graduation exercises:

- Any form of vandalism that occurs on school property
- Any violation of graduation dress code or practice exercise
- Any crimes such as but not limited to: theft, possession of firearms/weapons, possession of drugs and alcohol, and indecent exposure
- Verbal or physical abuse toward any student or faculty member

Clubs and Organizations

Involvement in extracurricular activities can be an enhancement to the high school experience for most students. Many clubs for students with different interests are available. Some clubs are associated with membership and grades in certain classes. Others are based on student interest or other factors.

All class and group activities taking place after the regular school day shall be approved by the sponsor of the group and be cleared through the office of the principal. This will apply to parties and outings, money raising projects, play and night programs, and other similar activities. All members of classes and clubs must make a passing grade during the preceding term (18 weeks) in at least three full unit subjects in which he/she has not previously earned credit to participate in any extracurricular activity.

Requirements for holding office

In order for a person to hold office in any club or class, he must meet the following requirements:

*Have an average grade of 80 or above for the preceding year with no failing average for either semester of the previous year. The only exception is if a class is retaken and passed in summer school.

*Have an approved conduct and attendance record, which will be determined by the school administration.

*It is strongly recommended that a student have prior approval of the club sponsor if he/she wishes to hold more than two offices.

*Class officers will be elected following a campaign for each office. Nomination of officers and campaign committees as well as campaign activities will be conducted as specified by the faculty sponsors in charge of class elections.

Organizational Descriptions

Clubs have developed with the interest of the students. If you find a club that interests you, you will have the opportunity to make friends, to use your hobby, and to develop socially. If you join one of the clubs listed, give it your best.

Beta Club—The Beta Club is an academic honor club, which believes that student effort and achievement should be encouraged and rewarded. The club emphasizes service and leadership in our citizens of tomorrow. The purpose of this organization is to promote the ideals of honesty, service, morality, ethical conduct, and leadership of our members; and to reward meritorious achievement and encourage and assist students in continuing their education after high school. Membership is open to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors who have and maintained an 85 average, and selection is made by the faculty based on certain criteria.

Coffee House – meets on Wednesdays after school from 3:15 – 4:30. This club is open to all students who support artistic expression through art, music, or writing. A student anthology is published each year.

Computer Club – Students interested in working with computers and having a possible career in computer technology are urged to join.

Spanish Club – Students taking a Spanish class or who have previously studied Spanish are eligible to join the Spanish Club. Officers are president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and student council representatives. The Spanish Club attempts to introduce its members to certain cultural aspects of Spanish-speaking countries, such as food, music, and customs. The Spanish Club is also a support group for the regular classroom activities.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) - is a nonprofit educational association of students preparing for careers in business and business-related fields. FBLA is the largest business career student organization in the world. If you are interested in developing leadership, communication, and team skills, or simply looking for an organization to meet and network with others at the local, state and national levels, then FBLA-PBL is the organization for you.

FFA—FFA is a club for students enrolled in vocational agriculture classes. To participate in FFA activities, a student must be enrolled in agriculture classes and be a member of FFA. A fee of \$10 is charged for FFA membership. This fee pays for dues in the Tennessee FFA Association and the National FFA Organization.

American Design & Drafting Association—ADDA is a professional membership and educational society dedicated to serving the professional growth and advancement of the individual working in the design drafting community. ADDA is the only membership organization dedicated exclusively to the professional designer/drafter in all disciplines. Any student enrolled in a drafting course is eligible to join.

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) – Students enrolled in A Family and Consumer Science Course (Interpersonal Communications, FACS I, Foods, Family Studies, Child Development, Consumer Education, Housing) or who have at least one credit in a Family and Consumer Science course are eligible to join Polk FCCLA. Students are expected to pay dues and will receive Teen Times magazine bimonthly. Members elect a set of chapter officers who serve a full school year. Active members are also eligible for participation in class, district and state activities such as Leadership Camp. All members can participate in Family Night and FCCLA/HERO Week, as well as monthly community service projects.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes – The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) is an international organization established in 1947 whose purpose is to present to athletes and coaches, and all whom they influence, the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church. All athletes are invited to join and be involved in the FCA.

Future Teachers of America – The Clemmer-Price Future Teachers of America Club is a national organization and is composed of students who are interested in teaching as a career. Members are chosen in the spring and the organization is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Membership is based on character, leadership, personality and scholarship. Each member will be required to pay a membership fee. A scholarship is given to an active graduating senior who plans to attend college and major in education.

National Honor Society – To be elected to membership in this society is one of the highest honors to be achieved. The National Association of Secondary School Principals sponsors the Society, national in its scope. Its chief purpose is to encourage and promote high scholarship, which is the basis for eligibility in becoming a candidate for membership. However, high scholastic standing alone does not assure election to membership, because a candidate is chosen by a faculty council based on character (honesty, dependability, attitude, etc.), leadership (hold an office in a school club or activity), and service (at least 2 areas of documented volunteer work in the community). Membership is open only to juniors and seniors who are in the college prep program with a cumulative grade point average of 90 or above. Members who do not maintain this average will be dismissed. Membership dues are required.

Student Senate –The PCHS Student Senate is an organization that has been established so all members of the school community can have a meaningful voice in determining the policies of the school, can promote a positive school climate, and can help shape the future of Polk County High. The purpose is:

- To provide a forum for student expression.
- To further the understanding of self-government within the student body.
- To encourage more extensive participation within the student body.
- To coordinate club sponsored activities.
- To advance the spirit of cooperation between the faculty and the student body.
- To cooperate with the administration in all issues concerning students and the student body.
- To create and promote school interest, school spirit, and loyalty.
- To promote good relations between the school and others.

Technology Student Association (TSA) - The PCHS TSA aims to provide a chance for students to advance in today's technological society. If you are interested in our program explore our website to discover the opportunities that TSA has to offer. Our excellent

program contains ways to become familiar with creating websites or creating floor plans for a home. We can help you achieve scholarships or even become certified in drafting. Through our growing club we hope we can help you achieve all of your goals.

Skills USA (VICA) – The Polk County Skills USA Club is open to auto mechanic students who are classified as juniors and seniors. Statewide, it is open to all technical and vocational classes. There are six officers, and the auto mechanics teacher serves as an advisor. The Polk County Skills USA Club participates in several regional and state contests and has placed first in many of them.

Science and Exploration Club – Students who are interested in the field of science are eligible to join the Science and Exploration Club. Students in the Science and Exploration Club must be dependable and willing to participate in various activities to learn more about science.

Webmasters—Students interested in being designers, publishers, and administrative assistants to the school’s Internet connection must apply with the Network Supervisor.

H. O. S. A.—Health Occupation Students of America This organization is open to any student who is interested in exploring careers in the medical and health field.

Marching Band – Touch of Class – The music department of Polk County High sponsors these two groups that are very active at PCHS.

Drama Club – This organization assists in the production of theater events. Members may be involved in acting, stage craft, or theater management.

Pep Club – Open to all students who want to support athletics at Polk County High School. A membership fee is required and covers the price of T-shirts, pins, and other pep club items.

History Club – This is a new club open to history students who want to learn more about historical events and their leaders.

School Publications

Annual – The school annual, **POCOHI**, is a project of the annual staff. Orders for **POCOHI** are taken during the early part of the school term with a full payment being required. Copies of the annual will be distributed before school ends in the spring. Members of the annual staff are chosen in the spring before their senior year.

Senior Superlatives

Senior Superlatives are nominated and selected by the senior class and faculty members. Senior superlatives must be enrolled in 5 credit-producing classes.

Mr. and Miss PCHS

The student body elects Mr. and Miss PCHS. They must be seniors and be full time students and enrolled in 5 credit-producing classes.

Mr. POCOHI & Miss POCOHI

The annual staff elects Miss POCOHI and Mr. POCOHI. They must be seniors and be full time students enrolled in 5 credit-producing classes.

Class Favorites, Beauties and Beaus

Class Favorites and Beauties & Beaus are selected from their classes by members of the class involved. Ballots will be counted by class sponsors. Any class superlative must be enrolled in 5 credit-producing classes.

Awards

The school has an annual awards program at the close of each school year. Students receive medals for superior achievement in specific areas of study. These awards include areas of our academic program at Polk County High School.

Various departmental awards are given at the awards ceremony, and each student is encouraged to do his/her best and compete for these awards.

ALMA MATER

Where the peaks of old Chilhowee
Rear against the sky,
Proudly stands our Alma Mater
As the years go by.

Forward ever be our watch word
Conquer and prevail
For our hearts will love thee ever,
Polk County hail.

Green the boughs that rustle 'round thee
On the stately crest,
Dearer is our memory of thee,
Alma Mater blest.

Tennessee Protection and Advocacy (TP&A) is on the Internet at

<http://www.tpainc.org/>

416 21 st Avenue South
Nashville, Tennessee 37211

1-800-287-9636 (Toll free) or 615-298-1080
615-298-2471 (TTY) 615-298-2046 (Fax)

Tennessee Voices for Children is on the Internet at <http://www.tnvoices.org/main.htm>
East Tn Office 865-609-2490 Fax 865-609-2543

These are but a few of the organizations available to help with information, training, and advocacy. For a more extensive list visit the Tennessee Disability Services-Disability Pathfinder Database: http://mingus.kc.vanderbilt.edu/t_dir/dbsearch.asp

This information is provided as a service to individuals seeking additional avenues for help and information. The Department of Education does not intend this as an endorsement or recommendation for any individual, organization, or service represented on this page.

Tennessee Department of Education Contact Information

Answers to many questions and much helpful information may be obtained from the State Department of Education by calling 1-888-212-3162 or visiting <http://www.state.tn.us/education/speced/index.htm>

Legal Service Division
Division of Special Education, Tennessee Department of Education
7120 James Robertson Parkway
Andrew Johnson Tower, 5 th floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0380
Phone 615-741-2851
Fax 615-253-5567

East Tennessee Regional Resource Center
2763 Island Home Blvd.
Knoxville, TN 37290
Phone 865 594-5691
Fax 865-594-8909

Child Advocacy Group Contact Information

In addition to the state and local resources available to parents and children, there are many agencies and organizations that offer support, information, training, and help in advocating for persons with disabilities in Tennessee. A few of these organizations are listed below:

The ARC of Tennessee is on the Internet at <http://www.thearctn.org/>

44 Vantage Way, Suite 550
Nashville, TN 37228
Phone 615-248-5878 Toll Free 1-800-835-7077
Fax 615-248-5879 Email pcoper@thearctn.org

Support and Training for Exceptional Parents (STEP) is on the Internet at

<http://www.tnstep.org/>
712 Professional Plaza
Greeneville, TN 37745

East Tennessee 423-639-2464 karen.harrison@tnstep.org

I, _____,
certify that I have been given a copy of the PCHS handbook
and realize that I am responsible to read and follow the policies
set in it. My parents have seen it and agree that I will follow
its policies.

Signed (student) _____ Date _____

Signed (parent) _____ Date _____