PUTNAM COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #535
400 E Silverspoon Avenue - Granville, IL 61326
(815)882-2800 x 5

January 30th, 2026

Dear PC #535 Families & Community:

We are past the midway point of the school year, which is a natural time to reflect on our learning goals and make adjustments to promote continued improvement. As we look back on the first half of the 2025–2026 school year, students have demonstrated exceptional academic growth, particularly as teachers and staff have implemented new and refreshed strategies aligned with our School Improvement Plans. These plans are intended to address each school's areas for improvement and align the collective efforts of our staff. Kudos to our teachers and staff for their focus and commitment to this work, and we look forward to continued growth and improvement in the second half of the year!

Important Dates

Wednesday, February 4th, 2026	Early Dismissal (1 PM)
Monday, February 16th, 2026	No School (Presidents' Day)
Monday, March 2nd, 2026	No School (Pulaski Day)
Wednesday, March 4th, 2026	Early Dismissal (1 PM)

Class of 2026 Graduation Dates

The Board of Education has set graduation dates for the Class of 2026 as follows:

- PCJH - Thursday, May 21st, 2026 – 6:00 PM - PCJH Gym
- PCHS - Sunday, May 17th, 2026 – 2:00 PM - PCHS Gym

Updated 2025-2026 Calendar

Due to the use of an emergency day for weather on Friday, January 23rd, 2026, the last day of school has been moved to Tuesday, May 26th, 2026.

The updated District calendar can be found on the PC #535 website or by visiting the following link:
Updated 2025-2026 Calendar

Please note that if additional emergency days are used during this school year, the last day of school will be adjusted accordingly.

Facilities Update

The Board of Education continues to make progress in addressing facility needs at Putnam County Elementary School (PCES) in Hennepin and Putnam County Junior High (PCJH) in McNabb.

A comprehensive facilities assessment was conducted during the summer of 2025 and shared with the community in September. The assessment helped identify priority improvement projects, which are now in the planning phase with the District's architectural firm, Larson & Darby Group. Current projects include the construction of new secure entrances at PCJH and Putnam County High School (PCHS), a new exterior wall for the PCHS media center, the installation of a new HVAC unit to serve the north hallway classrooms at PCHS, and replacement of the wastewater treatment plant with a septic system at PCJH.

The next phase of the process focuses on developing long-range, large-scale plans to address the needs of PCES and PCJH. In addition to the facilities assessment, faculty, staff, and administrators from both schools met with the architect to share their perspectives on building improvements that would enhance teaching and learning. Select students also participated in these discussions to provide additional insight. Using this feedback, the architect is currently developing multiple conceptual designs for each school that address both infrastructure needs and instructional considerations.

The Board of Education anticipates hosting a community information session in Spring to share these conceptual plans and gather feedback prior to implementation.

Superintendent Search

The Board of Education has partnered with the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) to conduct the search for the next Superintendent of PC #535. The application opened on January 14th, 2026, and will close on February 15th, 2026.

Candidate interviews are scheduled to take place throughout March, and the Board anticipates the announcement of the new Superintendent in April 2026. Additional information regarding the vacancy and search process is available on the IASB website.

Inclement Weather Notices

We want to share important information about inclement weather and school decisions. When advisories or warnings are issued, we monitor multiple sources and consult with county departments and the bus company about road conditions. While snow days can be fun for students, we also consider the challenges they create for families.

Decisions prioritize student and staff safety. If school is canceled or dismissed early, **families will receive a text**, and notices will be posted on the PC website and shared with local media.

If you have questions about snow day or cancellation procedures, please contact me.

Thank you for your continued support of all students and their learning at PC #535!

Dr. Clayton J. Theisinger, *Superintendent*