

Dear Students:

The **Peer Group Connection (PGC)** program will begin next fall. This program trains older students to help freshmen make a successful transition into high school. We will be selecting 16 qualified students to be peer leaders.

Peer Group Connection Program Overview

Throughout the year, PGC peer leaders will work in co-leader pairs as group discussion leaders and positive role models for their younger peers. During weekly sessions, peer leaders will lead discussions and activities with the same small group of freshmen. Our goal is to help freshmen feel welcomed into the high school and develop the skills they need to handle everyday challenges.

We recognize that you can be very influential among your peers, and we encourage you to consider applying to become a PGC peer leader. PGC peer leaders will:

- take a year-long leadership course and receive course credit
- facilitate weekly discussions and activities with freshmen
- serve as positive role models throughout the school

Peer leaders are trained in teambuilding, group facilitation, problem-solving, decision-making, and communication skills. In addition, peer leaders will learn about specific content areas, including time management, academic pressures, relationships with family and friends, alcohol and other drugs, and other topics. PGC peer leaders are required to participate in an overnight weekend retreat, to attend all classes as scheduled, and to facilitate weekly discussions with freshmen throughout the year.

Commitment to Peer Group Connection

Participation in PGC requires a commitment of time, energy, dedication, responsibility and a desire to help and support others. Students who participate are role models in a position of leadership and develop a special bond with other students. Freshmen look up to their peer leaders and are influenced by their behavior and attitudes. Please apply only if you are interested in helping and supporting freshmen who are making the transition to high school. We encourage you to discuss the responsibilities of being a PGC peer leader with your parents and to contact us if you have any questions about the program.

Application Process

Please complete and return this PGC application **Ms. Gonzalez in room 3018 (Principal's office) by Friday, June 3, 2016.** Late applications will not be accepted. All applicants must participate in a **Group Interview scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, 2016 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 p.m. in room 3043.**

It is very important that all interested applicants participate in this activity. It will give us an opportunity to get to know you better and to give you firsthand experience participating in a PGC activity. When we have received your application, we will notify you of your interview date and time.

We look forward to receiving your application

Sincerely,
Peer Group Connection (PGC) Advisors

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Name: _____

1. If your best friend were asked what type of person you are, what five words would he or she use to describe you?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

2. List the leadership experiences you have had both in and outside of school. What extracurricular activities are you involved in this year (include sports, clubs, community service, etc.)

3. What do you think is the most important thing for freshmen to know as they begin high school? What would you tell them that could ease their transition into a new school?

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4. As part of the peer leader selection process, you will be observed in a group setting. What do you consider to be your strengths and challenges in a group? How would you describe your personality/behavior in groups *and* in one-to-one situations?

5. Why do you want to be a peer leader? What can you contribute to the program? How will you benefit from participating?

6. Applicants must realize that other students and faculty will expect peer leaders to be role models both in *and* out of school. How do you anticipate handling the responsibility of being a role model? Please be specific.

Your Signature: _____

Today's Date: _____