

# Pope John Paul II

# Pope John Paul II High School Weekly Newsletter

**CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE 2024-2025 CALENDAR** 

# Office of the President

#### Welcome

Dear PJP Families: Welcome to the 2024-25 school year. I would especially like to welcome to the PJP community the 216 students who make up the Class of 2028 and the 34 transfer students. Below is your first edition of the PJP Weekly. It is distributed each Sunday at noon. I encourage you to read it each week as it contains important information about what's happening at PJP. Tomorrow, I will be sending you a separate President's Update. I look forward to the start of what I believe will be a very successful school year.

# **Principal's Office**

We are excited to welcome 801 students to the building beginning on Wednesday, September 4th for the start of the 2024-2025 school year. Where has the summer gone??

We are thrilled to have a full complement of teachers ready for this new school year. As we continue to grow, we have added quite a few teaching/support positions. We would like to welcome the following new faculty, and staff to PJP:

Mrs. Jeannine Will (parent) Academic Support Coordinator

Mrs. Rebecca Houchins (parent) Mental Health Coordinator

Mrs. Amy Kleine (parent) Administrative Assistant Student Affairs

Deacon Gregg Hoyer (parent) Theology Department

Mrs. Stephanie McLaughlin (alum spouse) Art Department

Ms. Kristen Mahoney (alum) Math Department

Mrs. Sara Wagner Math Department

Mrs. Kathleen Smith Science Department

Mrs. Sloane Moffa English Department

Mrs. Kristen Sanfrancesco Long term sub - Social Studies

Mr. Jim Algeo Part time- Social Studies

Ms. Becca Derstine MCIU Reading Support (Mon, Tues, Wed)

The Fall Sport Season has already begun. Please encourage your students to attend events to support their fellow classmates and enjoy the spirit of PJP!

#### First Week Schedule

As a reminder, the schedule for the first week of school is as follows:

Wednesday, September 4th Freshmen Only report
Thursday, September 5th Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors only report
Friday, September 6th All students report

#### **Attendance**

PJP is an in person educational experience. We respectfully request that you make an effort to limit early dismissals, late arrivals, and missed days for non-medical reasons. Early dismissals and late arrivals are very disruptive to the flow in the classroom. We appreciate your support and cooperation.

#### **Dress Code**

It is important to us that our students look their best each and every day. Please take a minute to check that your student is in the correct uniform. Students in violation of the dress code will be notified at the beginning of the school year and will be given time to purchase the correct items to comply. Parents will also be notified.

#### Cell Phone/Electronic Devices Reminder

In an effort to create an atmosphere conducive to learning, and in accordance with our student handbook, students will NOT be permitted to use their cell phones during the school day, including in the hallways during change of class. Cell phones must be kept in their backpacks or locked lockers during this time. Cell phones are permitted to be used during lunch in the cafeteria and study halls with moderator permission. Earphones and air pods are not permitted to be used or worn during the school day unless specifically allowed by an individual teacher. Cell phones observed or smart watches being used in the classroom setting without permission will be confiscated and demerits will be issued for a cell phone policy violation. A third cell phone policy violation will require a parent to pick up the phone in the Student Services Office at the end of the school day.

We ask that parents refrain from texting or calling students unless in the case of an emergency during the school day.

We are looking forward to a wonderful and successful school year!

# **Academic Affairs**



WELCOME to all of our new and returning students! We hope that you have had a wonderful summer filled with adventure and laughter and we are so excited to see you!!

Wednesday, September 4th, 2024 is the first day of school for all new students!

Thursday, September 5, 2024 - grades 10, 11, and 12 will report to school.

Friday, September 6, 2024 will be the first day that ALL Golden Panthers report to school.

PLEASE check in with your students to be sure that they completed their summer assignments!



Please remember to connect to your PowerSchool account to monitor your child's academic progress. If you are having an issues accessing your account, please contact Mrs. Maureen Gray at <a href="mailto:mgray@pjphs.org">mgray@pjphs.org</a>

We look forward to hosting each grade level on their specific "last day" for the year to conclude with an awards ceremony and prayer service.

Last week we shared our selection for One School One Book this year: *Carlo Acutis: The First Millennial Saint by Nicola Gori*. There are also Summer Reading Assignments and suggested Math Assignments through the Khan Academy that will be shared with students and families next week.

# **Panthers' Learning Center**

The Panthers' Learning Center team is so excited for this new school year and to work together with students and families to promote academic success! We would like to take a moment to introduce ourselves and the support we provide to our students.

Mr. Joseph Rogers - Director of Academic Support (jrogers@pjphs.org)

Mrs. Jeannine Will - Academic Support Coordinator (jeannine.will@pjphs.org)

Mrs. Maureen Gray - PAWS Program Advisor (mgray@pjphs.org)

Mr. Steve Faella - Testing Coordinator (steve.faella@pjphs.org)

Located in the main corridor near the chapel and Campus Ministry, the Panthers' Learning Center is the home of academic support and is an active resource for students including:

- A quiet study space from 7:00-7:40am, lunch periods (after students eat), and 2:30-4:00 pm
- National Honor Society tutoring throughout the day
- MCIU math and reading support classes taught by Mrs. Mulligan and Ms. Derstine
- Individual meetings between students and academic support staff
- PAWS program classes and advising
- Extended-time testing
- Chess and Games Club on Fridays

The Panthers' Learning Center staff, along with school leadership and guidance, checks the grades of all students weekly as part of Academic Intervention. Students who are failing two classes during a week are asked to spend two lunch periods or after school sessions in the PLC to focus on their studies, study for tests, and submit missing homework.

If there is anything we can do to support your student this year, please feel free to reach out anytime.

# Office of School Ministry

Welcome back, we hope that your summer was relaxing and filled with joy! The Office of School Ministry is excited for another school year as we accompany our students to have a lived relationship with Jesus. The Office of School Ministry is housed in our Chapel, a few doors down from our Panthers' Learning Center and the center of our school. Mr. Koz, Director of School Ministry (kkoz@pjphs.org) and Fr. Wilson, our School Chaplain (father.wilson@pjphs.org) are here to assist in any way with all things Faith. Throughout the year we offer opportunities for your son's and daughter's to come to know Christ through the following:

- **-Morning Prayer and Muffins:** Daily in the Chapel @ 7:30am. Prayer Morning prayer from the liturgy of the hours and then enjoy some great muffins afterwards.
- **-Lunch Time Prayer Services:** Daily in the Chapel @ All Lunch Periods. Come together for student led prayer prior to heading to lunch. This is an opportunity to pause in the middle of your day and reconnect with God.
- -After School Novena: Daily in the Chapel @ the end of the school day. Join in praying either the novena to Fr. Bill Atkinson or Blessed Carlo Acutis as we ask for their intercession for the healing of sick members of the PJP Community.
- **-Mass:** Every Tuesday @ Different Lunch Periods (<u>Schedule</u>). Receive the source and summit of our faith: The Eucharist on Tuesdays at rotating lunch periods.

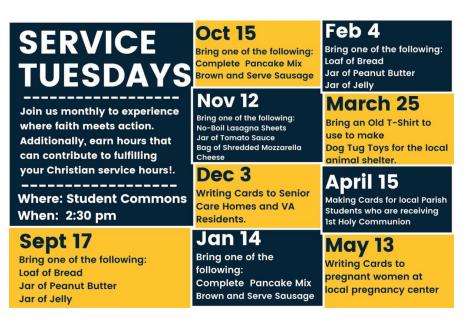
### **Christian Service**

-Our Ministry Office will be meeting with students during their Theology classes the first month of school to go over the guidelines for the Christian Service requirement for this school year. You can find the updated guidelines on the School Ministry page of our website.

### Freshman Family Communion Lunch

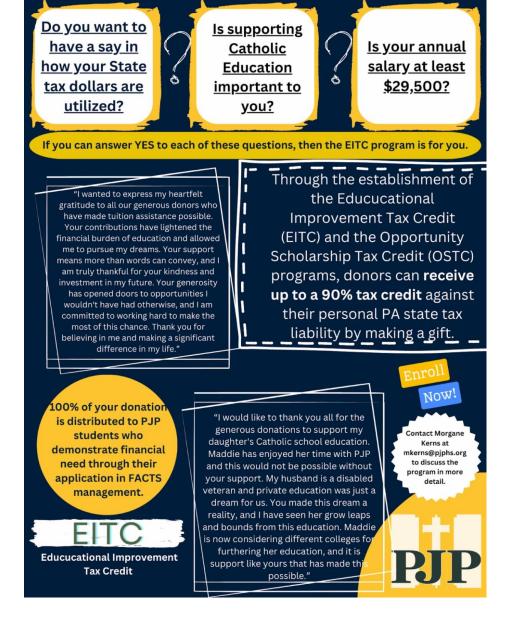
-Save the date: Sunday, September 29th at 11:00am. All Freshman families are invited to celebrate the Eucharist as a class! Afterwards, enjoy fellowship and a great lunch! RSVP required and will be sent at a later date.

Next week we will provide information on Clubs and Retreats! It is going to be a great school year and know of our prayers for all PJP families!



# **Advancement Office**

In tomorrow's President's Update, information will be shared about the success PJP has had with the EITC program and the need for support of this program is going to be even greater. Below is a flier about the program. If you can answer YES to each of the three questions, then the EITC program is right for you.



### **Heritage Golf Outing**

We invite you to join us for our annual Heritage Golf Outing, a wonderful day of golf, camaraderie, and community, all in support of the John Paul Fund. Your participation in this event helps to enhance the educational experience for our students. Sign up today and be part of this impactful fundraiser!

### **CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP**

### Savor the Flavor 2025

Interested in having a direct impact on the future of PJP? Join the Savor the Flavor 2025 Committee. We will be reworking our annual fundraising event to maximize our efforts and need YOUR HELP conceptualizing this event!

CLICK HERE TO FILL OUT INTEREST FORM

# **Student Services**

Transportation schedules for the 2024-2025 school year are established by each individual school district. Some school districts will post the schedules on their website, and others will send written communication by mail two weeks before the school year begins. If you are unaware of your student's bus schedule by August 30th, please contact Stephanie Rowland, Assistant Principal for Student Services, at srowland@piphs.org.

In June, PJP provided each school district with a list of PJP students who require busing.If you did not complete a transportation form to arrange transportation for the 2024-2025 school year please <u>click</u> <u>here</u> for further instructions. If these forms have been submitted late, transportation at the start of the school year is not guaranteed.

### **Early Dismissals**

There are several early dismissal days on our school calendar. All school districts provide transportation to school on early dismissal days, but not all school districts will provide transportation home.

We have provided an early dismissal transportation schedule under the Student Services, and Transportation tabs of our website.

### **CLICK HERE TO SEE THE TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULE**

### **Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures**

To maintain the safety of our school community PJP has established student Drop-Off and Pick-Up procedures. Please review these procedures here prior to the start of the school year if you plan on driving students to and from school daily. We kindly request that parents refrain from parking in our parking spaces for a student drop-off or pick-up because this delays the students, faculty, and staff assigned to the spaces from entering the building111. In addition, we request that all drivers maintain a 15 mph speed limit as they travel through the lot. Thank you in advance for following these protocols to keep our school community safe.

### **Parking Passes**

For those students who wish to drive to school daily, a new parking permit must be purchased annually. The fee is \$75 and is charged to your FACTS account.

All sophomore, junior, and senior students and parents were emailed a Google form on Monday, August 19th to register. Students interested in parking their car at school should complete the form by no later than Tuesday, August 27, 2024. Permits will be assigned in the order in which they are received. Parking space numbers will be shared with parents by email on Friday, August 30, 2024.

Students who get their driver's license later in the school year and wish to park at school are expected to purchase a parking permit. Students interested purchasing a parking pass later in the year may contact me by email at srowland@piphs.org or in the Student Services Office.

Cars not registered with the Student Services Office are subject to a fine or towing.

#### **School Lunch Account**

Lunch is available for all PJP students in the cafeteria. Students are permitted to pay in cash, however, if you are interested in signing up for a school lunch account please click here for additional details. You will need your child's student number to establish an account. Their six digit student number can be found in their FACTS account by clicking on student from the menu on the left.

#### **School Uniform**

We are looking forward to our students returning in September looking their best from the first day of school to the last. If there are special circumstances where a student can not be in full uniform, please contact Mrs. Stephanie Rowland, assistant Principal for Student Services (<a href="mailto:srowland@pjphs.org">srowland@pjphs.org</a>) for a dress code pass.

### **Uniform Exchange**

Thanks to the generosity of the PJP Community, PJP has a uniform exchange. The Student Services Office will continually accept gently used uniform items and uniform items will be available during the school day throughout the year.

### **School Supplies**

Each individual teacher will specify the supplies their students will need for class. It is best to buy supplies after your student has met with their teachers. If you are looking to take advantage of Back to School sales, students will always need the basics: school bag, pens, pencils, pencil case, notebooks, etc.

### **School Locks**

All students who are new to PJP will receive a school lock on the first day of the school year; this lock is to be used by the students for all four years. All locks placed on school lockers must be a school lock.

All returning PJP students must bring their lock to school upon their return in September.

Any student who does not have their school lock from last year must purchase a new one through the Student Services Office. The cost of a new lock is \$10 and will be charged through FACTS.

All school lock combinations are on file in the Student Services Office for those who do not remember their combination.

All students must have their school lock on their locker by Friday, September 13th. After that date, locks will be placed on student lockers not in use.

### **ID Cards**

All students will be provided with two cards. One will be a student ID card with their photo specifying their class year. Students are expected to wear their student ID on a PJP lanyard as part of their school uniform. Freshman and transfer students will receive a lanyard at the beginning of this year.

The second card is a building access card that must be kept with their student ID. Grades 10 - 12 will have their access card returned to them at the beginning of the year. A \$30 replacement fee will be charged to the FACTS account for any student who did not turn in their access card at the end of the year.

ID's and access cards will be collected at the end of the school year and will be returned the following school year.

Students missing access cards must report it immediately. The fee for a replacement access card is \$30. The fee for the replacement of student ID's is \$5.

#### **Before and After School Hours**

Students may begin arriving at school by 7:00 am. Between 7:00 am and 7:40 am all students must report directly to the cafeteria where they are moderated. After 7:40 am all students may report to their locker and homeroom.

Students are permitted to remain after school to visit teachers, participate in scheduled activities, or for transportation. If necessary, students remaining at school after dismissal must report to the Student Commons while waiting for their extra curricular activity to begin or when waiting for a ride home. All students must be picked up by 4 pm unless participating in an extracurricular activity that begins later.

# **Student Affairs**

### **Schedule for the Opening Days of School**

- Wednesday, September 4
  - All new students to PJP 9th grade and transfer students
  - Winter Uniform for portraits
- Thursday, September 5

- Only grades 10, 11, 12 report
- 10th & 11th grades wear Winter Uniform for portraits
- Friday, September 6 -All students report

All students are to report by 7:50 am on their respective day, and will be dismissed at 2:30 pm. Transfer students may report at 9:00am on Wednesday, September 4th for their onboarding day.

### **Picture Day is Coming**

Picture day for Grade 9 and new students will be held on Wednesday, September 4, 2024. Picture day for Grade 10 & 11 will be held on Thursday, September 5, 2024.

All students are required to be in the winter dress code for pictures; ladies may wear knee highs instead of tights.



Pre-order today on

mylifetouch.com

using your Student ID or

Picture Day ID:

EVTHD93KF

Order your perfect package— and don't worry about returning anything on Picture Day! Everyone will be photographed. If you do not purchase portraits now, your child will receive a proof of the portrait with ordering instructions.

### **New Student Orientation and Convocation**

The New Student Orientation will be held on Wednesday, August 28, 2024. During this day, students will have an opportunity to meet new classmates, tour the building, obtain their chromebooks, and learn about PJP. The Class of 2028 and new students are asked to arrive at 2pm and meet in the Cafeteria. Parents of the Class of 2028 and new students are asked to arrive at 4pm and meet in the Auditorium. Pizza DInner will be served at 5pm followed by a parent informational meeting at 6pm. The evening should end by 7pm. The Panthers' Den will be open, but gym uniforms will not be sold at this time. More information to follow.

# **Health Suite**

### **Wanted: PJP Substitute Nurses**

Pope John Paul II High School is looking for nurses who would be willing to substitute on an as needed basis. We are looking for caring, compassionate, professionals who love working one-on-one with high school students. A bachelor of nursing is required.

### From the School Nurse

The Spring-Ford Area School District's physician has instituted a limit on the number of standing order medications (Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Tums) the school nurses can administer to any given student throughout the school year. While this will not affect most of our PJP students, some students have conditions that require more frequent use of these meds.

**How we will handle this:** If your student is approaching the 'max' allotment of med administration we will simply request that you provide a *private physician order* for the over-the-counter medications. If you know that your PJP student is likely to require frequent doses of Tylenol, Ibuprofen or TUMS, you are encouraged to ask for an order for these at your convenience so that we are all prepared. (*This can all be written in the same order*) You do NOT need to provide these medications - we will still use our med supply, it will just be documented under your private healthcare provider's order.

<u>How you can help limit medication requests:</u> Please encourage your students to treat any home illnesses and injuries at home prior to coming to school. We also encourage breakfast and hydration in the morning which prevents a multitude of symptoms!!

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but this plan will enable us to care for PJP students as we always have.

#### **Health Forms:**

Please note that *all health forms referenced below are located on the PJP website*—Parents tab, select Health and Wellness. These forms are to be completed and signed by BOTH the parent/guardian and physician. Drop off of medications instructions are also listed below:

- If your student requires administration of any medication during the school day, please submit the medication along with the completed *Authorization for School Medication Administration form.* The medication must be in the original over-the-counter or pharmacy labeled bottle.
- If your student has a severe allergy requiring an EpiPen: Please submit the EpiPen(s) along with the completed and signed *Allergy Action Plan*. Please check the expiration date on your EpiPen and bring in its original container.
- Students with asthma: Please complete and submit the *Authorization for School Medication form* with inhaler, if your student needs to carry his/her own inhaler while at school, be sure that the bottom section of this form authorizing self carry is signed by parent/guardian and physician.

Students with seizures: Please bring any required medication along with the completed and signed Seizure Action Plan to the nurse.

### **Instructions for Medication Drop Off to the Nurse**

- 1. Place the appropriate form and medication in a baggie marked with your student's name and grade. Please verify all medication expiration dates.
- 2. All medications must be in their original pharmacy issued container and in quantities of no more than 30 doses.
- 3. Only the nurse and parent can transfer pills due to the need for counting and obtaining signatures. Please do not attempt to drop pill bottles off with any other PJP employee.
- 4. Email nurse@pjphs.org to schedule drop off arrangements, but we are on-site between 8:30 am and 2:45 pm for med collection during school days.

### Attention Parents/Guardians of the Class of 2026 (JUNIORS)

The Pennsylvania Department of Health requires students to submit a physical examination by the beginning of Grade 11.

- \* If your student did not submit his/her 16 year physical with updated immunizations during sophomore year, please request it from your pediatrician as soon as possible.
- \* If your student has not yet had a 16 year well exam, please schedule an exam and use the Physical Exam form (located on the PJP website, under the 'Parents' tab, select 'Health and Wellness') to meet this requirement.

PIAA forms (the actual exam page with MD signature) dated after July 1, 2024, are acceptable, but you must send a copy to the PJP nurses along with updated vaccinations. We cannot access the trainer's forms, nor can she access ours. We apologize for any inconvenience.

\* If you have not already done so, please have this medical information ready to be turned in at the start of the 2024-2025 school year. Forms can also be emailed to nurse@pjphs.org or mailed to the "attention of the school nurse" during the summer.

Thank you for your assistance in obtaining this state-mandated health information.

### **Tuition Office**

#### **Welcome Back**

I hope you had an amazing summer and are all set for an exciting new school year!

**Great news—your tuition accounts are all up-to-date and good to go.** To make things even smoother, I highly recommend signing up for automatic withdrawals. It's a super easy way to avoid any late fees and stay on top of tuition payments without any stress.

Keeping your tuition current is really important, as it helps ensure your child can fully enjoy all the fun events, sports, activities, and everything else that makes school special.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm here to help! Let's stay connected and make this year amazing together.

### **Athletics**

### **Upcoming Events**

#### Monday, August 26th

- -JV Football vs Spring-Field Montco- 3:45 PM
- -Girls Tennis vs Phoenixville- 3:30 PM
- -Volleyball vs Mount St. Joe- JV at 5:30 PM, Varsity at 6:45 PM Purchase Tickets here)

#### Tuesday, August 27th

- -Girls Golf vs PV- 3:00 PM (Waltz)
- -Varsity Boys Golf vs PV- 3:00 PM (Bella Vista)
- -Field Hockey vs Harriton- Varsity at 3:45 PM, JV to follow (The Proving Grounds)
- -Girls Soccer vs Shanahan- 3:45 PM

#### Wednesday, August 28th

- -Girls Golf vs Owen J. Roberts- 3:00 PM (Rolling Turf)
- -JV Boys Golf vs Methacton- 3:00 PM (Bella Vista)

#### Thursday, August 29th

-Girls Soccer vs Mount St. Joe- 3:45 PM

### **Picture Day**

On Friday August 30th we will be hosting picture day for the rest of Fall sports. Picture forms will be given to the coaches to distribute to team members. Below is the schedule for pictures.

- 12:00 PM Boys Soccer
- 12:15 PM Girls Soccer
- 12:30 PM Cross Country
- 12:45 PM Field Hockey
- 1:00 PM Volleyball
- 1:15 PM Cheer
- 1:30 PM Girls and Boys Golf

### **Electronic Ticketing**

PJP, as well as all other Archdiocesan High Schools, will be switching to electronic ticketing starting this Fall season. For Volleyball and Football there will no longer be any cash sales. All home games, including Football, will be \$6 per person. PJP students will still get free admission to events.

### **CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS**

### **Sportsmanship and Fan Behavior**

As the new year of athletics begins please remember that even as fans we set the tone for how we are perceived in the league. Scream, yell, shout and cheer in support of your student athlete not against the other team or officials. There is a massive shortage of officials in most sports, so we need to do the best we can to not jeopardize officials choosing to officiate our games. They are humans, and many calls are subjective. There are going to be times they get it wrong, but we need to respect they are here when many others choose not to be.

### **Athletic Schedules**

The site at the link below gets updated in real time, and you can subscribe to receive alerts when there are changes made to games. Varsity and JV schedules can be viewed here. Go to the sport you are interested in (it automatically defaults to varsity), look for the toggle menu for Varsity and JV, select JV from the menu and click switch teams.

#### CLICK HERE TO SEE MOST UP TO DATE SCHEDULE

#### **Fundraisers**

#### **Football-Discount Cards**

Football is selling their annual discount cards. The card is \$10 and gets you various discounts at local establishments. Some of the discounts can be applied at Anna Marie's, Hilltop, Java's Brewin, Qdoba, SV Sports, Sweet Aloha and more. For a card see any football player, parent, or coach. You can also contact Tracey at <a href="mailto:tracey">tracey</a> at <a href="mai

### **Cheer-Ultimate Philly Sports Fan Raffle**

Cheer is selling raffle tickets for \$20. Winner of the raffle will receive 2 tickets to every home Flyers, Sixers, Phillies, Union, Wings and Eagles game. That's 200 pairs of tickets. Second prize is a Phillies Spring Training trip for 4. If you are interested in purchasing a raffle ticket see any cheerleader, or contact Coach Erin at cheer@piphs.org.

# **Guidance Office**

# **SENIORS-PJP Transcript Release**

Attention Seniors, this is a friendly reminder to submit your *Consent to Release Transcript & Letters of Recommendation Form*, if you have not done so already. This form was given to you last spring.

This signed form authorizes the Guidance Department to send your official transcript and letters of recommendation to all colleges and/or programs to which you have applied. These supporting application documents cannot be forwarded if a signed Consent to Release Form is not on file in the Guidance Office. Please note that standardized test scores (ACT, SAT, etc.) are NOT listed on a student transcript. It is the student's responsibility to send test scores to the colleges and universities to which they apply directly from the testing agency.

#### Consent to Release Transcript & Recommendations

Please email your completed form to Mrs. Bell, PJP's College and Career Coordinator, at dbell@pjphs.org.

## **SAT Registration for October Test**

- Test Date: 10/5/24

Registration Deadline: 9/20/24To Register: www.collegeboard.org

# Have a great week!

181 Rittenhouse Road | Royersford, Pennsylvania 19468 | **PHONE:** (484) 975-6500 | **FAX:** (610) 792-3082 | **pjphs.org** 

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