



PENNCREST

EMPOWERING LIFE-LONG LEARNERS

August 12, 2019

Dear PENNCREST Families:

It is our hope this correspondence finds your family enjoying summer activities. Our 1st day of school for the 2019-2020 school year is August 28, 2019.

The PENNCREST faculty, staff, administration, and Board of Directors has spent a great deal of time and effort this past school year and summer planning for a successful year. This year we are implementing numerous changes to improve our academic programs, home-school communication, and school safety. The following information is an overview of changes from the previous school year. Please visit our website (www.penncrest.org) for all of our updated information.

Important Dates

August 21	Student schedules and class rosters available via PowerSchool
August 26	Open House at all schools 6:00pm-7:30pm
August 28	1st Day of School
September 2	Labor Day - No School

Transition to [PowerSchool](http://www.penncrest.org/powerschool) (www.penncrest.org/powerschool)

On August 21, 2019, our new student information system, PowerSchool, will be operable. Powerschool is a comprehensive records management system that includes an electronic gradebook, report cards, student registration, emergency notifications, and more. **Each family will need to complete the online registration prior to viewing student schedules and teacher assignments. Over the next few days, you will receive a letter from your child's school. This letter will have the information needed to set up your account.**

Any parent who would like assistance with PowerSchool is invited to his or her child's school on August 22 from 7:00am - 3:00pm and on August 26th from 7:00am - 7:00pm.

We appreciate your cooperation and patience during this transition.

Transportation Updates

We have made several changes to the [procedures for student arrival and dismissal](#).

[Transportation guidelines](#) for safe student travel were also updated to increase school bus safety. Bus stop times, locations and assignments will be available the week of August 19. The majority of our bus stops and times have not changed. The transportation office will contact those families that will see a change of stop or time.

This summer we worked with a traffic engineer to review our campus traffic patterns and parking maps to improve safety and increase efficiency. All of our schools have some changes to the 2019-2020 traffic pattern and parking areas. New traffic patterns are clearly delineated with line striping and signage. We are asking for your patience during the first few weeks of school while parents and visitors familiarize themselves with changes.

[2019-2020 Traffic Flow & Parking Maps](#)

[Cambridge Springs Campus](#)

[Maplewood Jr/Sr High School](#)

[Maplewood Elementary School](#)

[Saegertown Campus](#)

[Elementary Program of Study](#)

PENNCREST is dedicated to the academic, social and emotional development of every student. At the elementary level, this is achieved through a team approach. Your child's learning path will be developed through positive classroom instruction combined with instructional, behavioral and school counselor supports and interventions. Students are instructed on a continuum of skills and application of knowledge that are aligned to the required PA standards and focused on 21st century skills. Classroom activities and assignments are engaging and challenging. Instruction is differentiated to meet students where they are and help them grow in their ability to learn and apply skills and knowledge. Our classrooms are positive learning environments where all students can be involved and participate in the learning process.

[Secondary Program of Study](#)

This guide has been designed to provide every student with course descriptions as well as course requirements, electives, and credits needed to graduate from the PENNCREST School District. This information is supplied to assist with creating an informed career path schedule for the current school year and beyond.

[PENNCREST Cyber Academy](http://www.penncrest.org/academics/penncrest-digital-academy) (www.penncrest.org/academics/penncrest-digital-academy)

We are excited to offer PENNCREST students a comprehensive cyber option. Beginning this year, we have dedicated time and resources to operating a separate and distinct cyber school. The PENNCREST Cyber Academy (PCA) will operate from the PENNCREST Central Office and is separate from our school campuses. PCA offers an array of electives and opportunities for students, and permits students opportunities to participate in extracurricular and co-curricular activities at their home campus.

School Safety & Security

We consider student safety a top priority. Please know we have ongoing efforts and activities to ensure a safe and secure learning environment. All PENNCREST staff have received [ALICE](#) training. ALICE is widely considered the best practice for school threat response. We annually review our Emergency Operations Plan, procedures, and physical facilities with emergency management. District personnel regularly attend safety seminars and workshops to ensure best practices are implemented. Ongoing efforts are in place to enhance our physical security and provide staff with relevant training. Please contact any school administrator if you have any safety concerns. *School safety is everyone's responsibility.*

What else is new?

Facility Improvements

- Cambridge Springs High School gymnasium renovation
- Cambridge Springs Elementary School library renovation
- Maplewood Elementary School entrance flooring
- Maplewood High School library renovation and signage
- Saegertown High School gymnasium renovation and signage
- Saegertown Elementary School roof replacement
- Technology network upgrades and wifi enhancements
- VOIP phone system that includes classroom phones and teacher extensions

Programmatic Updates

- Breakfast in the Cafeteria at elementary schools
- After school activity buses at the Junior/Senior High Schools, to begin September 3rd
- Student iPads and cases
- PA SMART Makerspace at Maplewood Elementary School
- Drone Study Program at Maplewood High School
- Graphic design and Printmaking improvements at Cambridge Springs High School
- Virtual Reality equipment and software at Maplewood High School
- Scientific technology upgrades at Saegertown High School

Robotics equipment at Maplewood Elementary School
LittleBits STEM equipment at Cambridge Springs Elementary School
Padcaster studio equipment at Saegertown Elementary School
New Technology Education equipment in all three high schools
STAR ELA assessment in all grades K - 6
Grant funded PSAT for tenth grade students and AP test reimbursements
English Language Arts novels and educational resources for K - 12
New band instruments for the classrooms
Increased instructional time through a hybrid schedule
Saegertown High School is site for the [Northern Pennsylvania Regional College\(NPRC\)](#)
Classes are from 3:30pm - 9:30pm and open the public.

We are here to help you support your child(ren)!

Sincerely,

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