

Student Handbook 2024-2025

South Brook 6-8

779 Dunster Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15226

Phone: 412-529-8170 Fax: 412-572-8177

www.pghschools.org/soutbrook





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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME

Dear Pittsburgh Clayton Academy Families,



fostering that partnership.

As we embark on the 2024-2025 school year, I am excited to share Pittsburgh Clayton Academy's School Handbook with you. This comprehensive guide is designed to provide essential information about our district's policies, procedures, and expectations, ensuring that we create a safe, supportive, and effective learning environment for all students. The school handbook is a valuable resource for understanding Pittsburgh Clayton Academy's daily operations, including attendance policies, academic standards, code of conduct, and extracurricular activities. We believe that clear communication and mutual understanding between the school and families are crucial for student success, and this handbook is a key tool in

We encourage all families, parents, students, and caregivers to review the handbook thoroughly and discuss its contents with one another. Familiarizing yourselves with these guidelines will help reinforce the values and standards we uphold at Pittsburgh Clayton Academy.

An electronic copy of the school handbook is also available on Clayton Academy's website.

Your involvement and support are vital to our students' success, and we are grateful for your partnership in their education. If you have any questions or need further clarification on any aspect of the handbook, please do not hesitate to contact the main office.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. We look forward to a fantastic school year ahead.

Sincerely,

Dr. Wayne N. Walters Superintendent

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Greetings Pittsburgh South Brook Community:

On behalf of the faculty, we would like to welcome you to Pittsburgh South Brook 6-8 for the coming year. We are looking forward to assisting you in fulfilling your educational goals. South Brook has a history of fine academic and extracurricular accomplishments. We expect you to meet the goals which have been set, to carry on the tradition, and to make our school a better place. You can benefit from everything South Brook has to offer by being actively involved in your classes and the programs offered. This handbook is intended to help provide you with school information, procedures, and expectations for South Book 6-8. If you encounter difficulties, seek out any of our teachers and staff, and we will do the best to help you. We are here to make your middle school experience as successful, yet educationally challenging, as possible. We are proud of our school community and welcome the opportunity to help you as you proceed through your middle school career, making it an academically challenging, socially

Sincerely,

Jennifer McNamara, Principal

SCHOOL VISION AND MISSION

OUR MISSION:

The mission of Pittsburgh South Brook is to provide all students with world-class educational opportunities in a safe and supportive school environment. Our mission is to prepare all students for life as productive citizens and life-long learners.

OUR VISION:

At Pittsburgh South Brook our focus is to RAISE our South Brook Titans in an environment that celebrates diversity and shows mutual respect for students, staff, and the learning community, through positive attitudes, practicing integrity, placing safety first, and putting in the very best effort every day. It is through these focuses that our students will achieve to their highest academic and social potential, providing them with the necessary tools to achieve success in their future college and career goals.

SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Main Office: 412-529-8170

FAX: 412-572-8177

School Office Hours: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Principal – Mrs. Jennifer McNamara Secretary – Mrs. Amanda DeJohn SDSS – Mrs. Lisa DeRose Counselor – Dr. Nena Hisle Security – Officer Paul Tomasko Head Custodian – Mr. Shawn Mason Cafeteria Manager – Ms. Leslie Walker

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

Talking Points has proven to be a valuable tool for communicating with school staff. Parents and guardians can download the app to their mobile devices and search for South Brook to receive messages about school events, classroom updates, and more.

For urgent matters or if you need to reach your child during the school day, please contact the main office. We are here to support and relay messages to your students. Since our teachers have full teaching schedules, please allow up to 48 hours for a response to phone call requests. If you do not receive a call back within that timeframe, please contact Mrs. McNamara, Principal, through the main office for further assistance.

In addition to Talking Points, we use various communication methods, including the Alert Now phone system, Talking Points app, and South Brook's Facebook page. Please make sure you are registered for and receiving these important announcements.

Thank you for staying connected!

Early Dismissals

A parent/guardian may need to request an early dismissal from school for their child (such as for a doctor's appointment or other important business). The procedure for obtaining an early dismissal is as follows:

- The student must present a note, signed by the parent, requesting the early dismissal. The note should contain the reason for the dismissal, the time of the dismissal, and a phone number where the parent can be reached to confirm the request. The note should be brought to the office before homeroom period.
- Students will receive a note that they will show to their teacher so that they can be waiting in the main office for pick up at the designated time.
- The parent is responsible for any transportation needs.

STAFF ROSTER

TEACHERS/STAFF	GRADE/SUBJECT	Email	Room #
BANDERINKO,		abanderinko1@pghschools.or	161
ANNETTE	6th / 7th Grade ELA	g	
BASINGER, MATTHEW	6 th / 7 TH Science	mbasinger1@pghschools.org	208
BLANDA, JAIME	6-8 Learning Support and 7 th /8th Grade Math	jblanda1@pghschools.org	204
CARLIN, SUSAN	6 th – 8 th Grade Art	scarlin1@pghschools.org	115
,			Main
DEJOHN, AMANDA	Secretary	adejohn1@pghschools.org	Office
,			Main
DEROSE, LISA	SDSS	lderose1@pghschools.org	Office
2211002, 21071	6-8 Grade Learning	iddiodd C pgnsenoois.org	202
DIXON, RACHELLE	Support 7 th /8 th Grade ELA	rdixon1@pghschools.org	202
	8th Grade Math, Food		202
DRESMICH, JENNIFER	pantry	jdresmich1@pghschools.org	001
	8 th Grade Soc. Studies and 8 th Grade Team		201
DUGAN, JEREMIAH	ITL/Finance/Trips	idugan1@pghschools.org	
	8th Grade Science/	Judguiii e pgiiseiloois.org	204
GECHE, LORI	Science ITL, Student Envoy	lgeche1@pghschools.org	204
,	8th Grade ELA, 6-8		209
	Library, GSA.		
GRIMES, JOEL	Newspaper	jgrimes1@pghschools.org	
			Upstai
HISLE, DR. NENA	Counselor	nhisle1@pghschools.org	rs Office
JAMES, AMY	ELA Coach	ajames1@pghschools.org	
	6 th Grade Science/Soc.	ajames i Spaneonesisiong	162
	Studies and Faculty		.02
KOVACS, ALBERT	Manager, GSA	akovacs1@pghschools.org	
KOVACC LAUDEN	8th Grade ELA, ELA	111 @111	211
KOVACS, LAUREN	ITL,GSA, Yearbook	lkovacs1@pghschools.org	447
LISTA-BRINZA, LUIGI	6-8 th Grade Learning Support and 6 th /8 th ELA	llista-brinza1@pghschools.org	117
	7 th Grade Math and 7 th	mote prinzer e prinserioois.org	117
	Grade Team ITL,		'''
MAJESKI, BILL	testing coordinator	wmajeski1@pghschools.org	
MASON, SHAWN	Head Custodian	smason1@pghschools.org	
MCNAMARA, JENNIFER	Principal	<u>imcnamara1</u> @pghschools.org	Office
O'BRIEN, LUKE	6th / 8th Grade Math	lobrien1@pghschools.org	160
OLIVER, CHARNICE	Nurse	coliver1@pghschools.org	170
	6 th Grade Math and	CONTOUT C PERIODIOUS.OIZ	165
POSA, ANTHONY	Math ITL, School Store	aposa1@pghschools.org	
01141 50 140111	7 th Grade Soc. Studies,		207
SMALES, MICHAEL	tech liaison	msmales1@pghschools.org	

TOMASKO, PAUL	Security	ptomasko1@pghschools.org	Hall
	6 th Grade ELA, 6 th		164
	Grade Team ITL,		
TRIPLETT, KRISTEN	Educational Partnership	ktriplett1@pghschools.org	
WATKINS, GERALD	Music/Instrumental 6-8	gwatkins1@pghschools.org	005
	Physical Education / 7 th		Gym /
WOLFE, WILLIAM	Math	wwolfe1@pghschools.org	210
YANCEY, LYNETTE	7 th Grade ELA	lyancey1@pghschools.org	163
	6th- 8th Grade Learning		
	Support and 6th / 8th		160
YURCHO, JOSEPH	Math	jyurcho1@pghschools.org	100

BELL SCHEDULES

South Brook Bell Schedule 2024-2025

Student Arrival	8:20
Breakfast	8:20

Homeroom	8:20-8:37
	0.20 0.37

Period 1	8:39-9:24
Period 2	9:26-10:11
Period 3	10:13 - 10:58
Period 4 – Grade 6 Lunch	11:00 - 11:45
Period 5 – Grade 7 Lunch	11:47-12:32
Period 6 – Grade 8 Lunch	12:34 - 1:19
Period 7	1:21-2:06
Period 8	2:08 - 2:53

P.M. Announcements/

Homeroom 2:53-3:05 end day dismissal

Teacher Dismissal 3:10 (M-F)

^{**}Each period is 45 minutes with a 2-minute transition between.

South Brook Half Day Bell Schedule 2024-2025

Teacher .	Arrival	7:40 ((M-F))

Student Arrival	8:20
Breakfast	8:20

Homeroom/Silent Reading 8:20-8:35

Period 1	8:35-9:20
Period 2	9:20-10:05

Period 4 – Grade 6 Lunch 10:05 – 10:35 Period 5 – Grade 7 Lunch 10:35 – 11:05

Period 6 – Grade 8 Lunch 11:05-11:35 (students stay in their

lunch or recess area)

Dismissal 11:35 end day dismissal

Teacher PD 12:05 – 3:05 Lunch 11:35-12:05

South Brook 2-Hour Delay Bell Schedule 2024-2025

Teacher Arrival /.40 (M-r	Teacher	Arrival	7:40	M-F
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Student Arrival 10:20

Homeroom/Silent Reading 10:20-10:58

11:00-11:45
11:47-12:32
12:34-1:19
1:21-2:06
2:08-2:53

Announcements 2:53-3:05

Teacher Dismissal 3:10

^{*}Depending on how many delays, we will rotate periods 1,2,3,7,8 at the end of the day)

SCHOOL AND PPS CALENDARS

2024-2025 District Calendar

Commencing August 26, 2024 and concluding June 12, 2025





ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

PPS Policy 204

Regular school attendance is crucial for student success. At South Brook, we adhere to the Pittsburgh Public Schools' attendance policy (see link above). For any concerns regarding your child's attendance, please contact Dr. Hisle, our school counselor.

If your child has a morning appointment, we encourage you to have them come to school afterward. For students who arrive late, they should report to the main office. There, they will be marked as present and directed to their classroom.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring your child's consistent attendance.

ACADEMICS

Course Offerings

Grade 6

Communications/ELA

Math 6

Advanced Math 6

Science

Social Studies/Ancient Cultures/Geography

Physical Ed./Health

Music

Art

Library/Research

Math Lab

Social Emotional Learning

Grade 7

Communications/ELA

Math 7

Advanced Math 7

Science

Social Studies/World History

Physical Ed. /Health

Music

Art

Library/Research

Math Lab

Social Emotional Learning

Grade 8

Communications/ELA

Algebra I

Math 8

Science

Social Studies/US History

Physical Ed./Health

Music

Art

Math Lab

Social Emotional Learning

All Pittsburgh South Brook students who meet the criteria for the gifted program attend the Pittsburgh Gifted Center one day per week.

ATHLETICS

South Brook Athletics		
2024-2025		
Fall Sports	Co-Ed Cross Country	
	Co-Ed Flag Football	
	Girls Volleyball	
	Boys Volleyball	
Winter Sports	Girls Basketball	
	Boys Basketball	
Spring Sports	Co-Ed Wrestling	
	Girls Soccer	
Boys Soccer		
Physicals are required for all sports.		

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

PPS POLICY 226

Purpose

The Board seeks to encourage the full participation of all students in a system of academic integrity which precludes any form of academic dishonesty, and seeks to foster positive parental involvement in promoting evaluation based upon the student's efforts and accomplishments.

Authority

The Board adopts a system-wide policy to promote academic integrity and will not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating during examinations or on lab, homework and other assignments; plagiarism; pre-exam access to test forms; and unauthorized use of aids during examinations and assignments.

A student shall not engage in, participate in, nor knowingly provide another student with the opportunity to engage in academic dishonesty related to examinations, as well as laboratory, homework and other projects and assignments, whether done during or outside of school hours.

Academic dishonesty shall include, but not be limited to, all forms of cheating, plagiarism, preexam access to test forms, representing someone else's work as your own, and the unauthorized use of aids during examinations, projects and assignments.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement uniform procedures for the enforcement of this policy, which shall be binding upon all students and staff within the School District of Pittsburgh.

This policy shall be included in the Code of Student Conduct and distributed annually to students, staff and parents/guardians.

DRESS CODE

PPS POLICY 221

Pittsburgh Public Schools has an exclusionary dress code. No student shall wear any apparel or jewelry that by words, signs, pictures or any combination thereof appearing on said clothing or jewelry advocates or promotes sexual activity or violence, or the use of alcohol or drugs, or demeans or degrades another because of race, sex, religious persuasion, national origin, handicap or disability.

Students are expected to wear appropriate clothing at all times while at school. Clothing must not be of any style, length or fit that is of a provocative nature. Revealing attire that permits the exposure of undergarments or private body parts is prohibited. This prohibition shall be in effect during regular school hours and at any school-sponsored event whether on or off school premises.

A prescribed dress code or uniform policy is defined as a policy, either in writing or declared verbally by a given school principal, that requires the student to wear a certain mode of dress during school time, or at any school-sponsored event whether on or off school premises.

Individual schools within the District may adopt a prescribed dress code or uniform policy in accordance with the Board's policy.

We take pride in the appearance of our students. All students are expected to dress and groom themselves neatly in clothes that are suitable for school activities. Parents should monitor their children's dress using the following guidelines:

- 1. Shorts/skorts/skirts <u>must</u> be of appropriate length.
- 2. No bare stomach or midriffs.
- 3. Shoes must have a strap in the back behind the heel.
- 4. Pants must be worn at the waist. Underclothing cannot be visible. Pants with excessive rips are not permitted.
- 5. Clothing which promotes drug/alcohol use, weapons, gangs, hate crimes, or profanity is prohibited.
- 6. Hoods on "hoodies" must be down at all times. The hood must not be covering the head.

On gym days, students should wear appropriate clothing and shoes (tennis shoes) for physical activity. The school will not be responsible for clothing that may be soiled, ripped, or damaged as a result of any activity or misbehavior in school. Students are not asked to change for gym class.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

PPS POLICY 216

Students are not permitted to carry cell phones during school hours. Upon arrival, all cell phones must be collected and stored in a designated bin in the homeroom. These bins will be kept in the main office, and students will retrieve their phones at dismissal.

If a student is found with a cell phone during the school day, it will be confiscated and held in the main office. Parents or guardians will be notified in such cases.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a focused learning environment.

EXTRA CURRICULAR OFFERINGS

PPS Policy 119

There are activities that will be available to students, both after school and during the school day:

Field Trips and Special Days: Each grade level team plans several activities for students. Some educational field trips are planned that correspond to activities that go on in class. Other trips such as skating parties are meant as an incentive.

In-school Activities: Club day every half day, newpaper, yearbook, intramurals, African American History Challenge Bowl, Student Envoys, GSA, SECTEM, and other opportunities

School-wide Activities: School dances several times a year, Ceder Point trip 8th grade, overnight trips for all grades: 6th and 7th rotate with Baltimore/Hershey Park and Cincinnati/Kings Island and 8th grade will take a three day trip to New York City (fundraising occurs throughout the year).

GRADING

PPS Policy 209

Report cards are a key tool for communicating student progress and are issued four times a year at approximately nine-week intervals. Academic performance is indicated using letter grades: A, B, C, D, and E. In addition to these grades, students receive a citizenship mark for their behavior in each class. Citizenship is assessed with the following marks: O for Outstanding, S for Satisfactory, and U for Needs Improvement.

To keep parents informed, progress reports are provided halfway through each report period. Parents can also monitor their child's grades and progress through the Home Access Center.

HOMEWORK PROCEDURES

PPS Policy 115

Homework

Effective homework assignments play a crucial role in enhancing a student's overall educational experience. By extending learning time and providing additional practice, homework reinforces classroom instruction and fosters independence, self-discipline, and strong work habits. As such, it is an integral component of both the evaluation and learning process.

Middle school students may be assigned homework up to four nights per week. To support academic success, students should aim to complete at least 80% of their homework assignments for each subject within a reporting period, as this contributes to their overall grade.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding homework, please do not hesitate to contact your student's teacher for further assistance.

HEALTH SERVICES

PPS Policy 206

Office of Health Services: Supporting Health and Wellness

The Office of Health Services is dedicated to providing high-quality care that promotes, maintains, protects, and improves the health of students, employees, and the community. Our services focus on disease prevention, health promotion, and mandated care in collaboration with the Department of Health.

South Brook is fortunate to have Mrs. Oliver as our school nurse. You can reach her at 412-529-8219 or via email at coliver1@pghschools.org.

We are committed to ensuring that all students have equal access to top-notch health services, prevention education, and early intervention. Students benefit from school health physicals, screenings, and related services designed to support their overall health and academic success.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/ACCEPTABLE USE

Pittsburgh Public Schools Office of Information Technology Acceptable Use Form

Please review the Pittsburgh Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy by following the link above. After reading the policy, kindly complete the form provided. If you have any questions or need further assistance, Mr. Smales, our tech liaison, is available to help.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Meet Our Counselor: Dr. Nena Hisle:

At South Brook, Dr. Nena Hisle is our dedicated counselor and the primary point of contact for a wide range of support services. Whether you need assistance with attendance, 504 plans, mental health concerns, work permits, social-emotional learning, or other support needs, Dr. Hisle is here to help. She is committed to supporting all students throughout their middle school journey. If you or your child require any assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to Dr. Hisle.

Student Expectations/Procedures

Policy 212
PPS Code of Conduct

*Respect *Attitude *Integrity *Safety *Effort





Positive Behavior Interventions and Support

Titan Points

Titan Points will be given to students to encourage positive behavior and responsibility. Students can earn points for a variety of reasons such as being on time to class; bringing books and necessary materials to class; completing homework; class participation; and exemplary behavior in and out of the classroom. Students earn points from staff for many other reasons. Who knows—you could even earn a point for simply being kind!

Titan points are your responsibility.

Here is how the program works:

- 1. Earn a point.
- 2. The teachers will be able to place a point into the computer system for you.
- 3. The PBIS rewards system will keep a record of all the points received.
- 4. The day of the school store students will receive a check with their name, grade, and point total for that period.
- 5. Students will then purchase their items from the school store using their check that will be collected and the points deducted from the system.

Don't miss out! Earn Titan Points to win exciting rewards!

At South Brook we expect...

Students:

- 1. Recognize that academic, behavior, and attendance success is primarily your responsibility. Parents, teachers, staff, and administrators are here to support your efforts.
- 2. Promote a positive school climate by following the school expectations every day, all the time! Stop and think before making a decision. Always do what you know is the right thing to do.
- 3. Be a leader and not a follower!
- 4. Participate in the positive school climate program in order to earn Titan Tickets to win exciting rewards.
- 5. Respect yourself, your teachers and staff, your classmates, and your parents. Recognize that this is a journey we are taking together!

Parents:

- 1. Become familiar with the school expectations and the positive school climate program in order to be participating partners in establishing the best possible learning environment for all students.
- 2. Review the Student Code of Conduct and the Parent/Student Handbook with your child periodically.
- 3. Encourage your child to maintain academic, attendance, and behavior standards that will keep him/her focused on becoming a part of the positive school culture.

4. Support school-based efforts, expectations, and policies to increase achievement, attendance, and learning opportunities for all students.

Teachers and Staff:

- 1. Recognize and understand that effective behavior and student achievement is the responsibility of the entire school staff.
- 2. Recognize that every staff member must consistently apply the expectations and procedures to all students.
- 3. Use Titan Points every day and in a consistent manner. Promote school activities, which are part of our positive school climate program.
- 4. Encourage student participation in the positive school climate program. Compliment and recognize when students are reaching behavior, attendance, and academic goals.

Administrators:

- 1. Recognize that you are key to establishing and maintaining school-wide positive and effective behavior.
- 2. Work in tandem with staff, parents, and students in making sure that all students are reaching academic, behavior, and attendance standards.
- 3. Provide the necessary supports staff needs in order to guarantee the success of our school-wide positive climate program.
- 4. Recognize that positive school climate is a process that must be monitored and evaluated periodically. Changes in our program should be made based on data and not be made just for the sake of making changes.

RAISE

- *Respect Treating people in a positive manner that acknowledges them for who they are and/or what they are doing. Being treated or treating an individual in a dignified manner.
- *Attitude A state of mind or a feeling; disposition: had a positive attitude about work.
- *Integrity Doing the right thing even when nobody is looking.
- *Safety The condition of being safe from undergoing or causing hurt, injury, or loss.
- *Effort The use of physical or mental energy; hard work.

South Brook Middle School Positive School Climate Raise the Bar

	Hallway (Classroom	Restrooms	Bus	Recess	Cafeteria
	-Be a positive	-Listen when other	-Allow others their	-Use a quiet voice and	-Use a quiet	- Eat with good table
	role model	speak.	privacy	kind words	voice	manners
	-Always stop	-Quiet voice when	-Take care of school	-Keep hands, feet,	 Respect others 	- Follow adult
R	when directed	talking	property (soap	and objects to myself	and use kind	directions
Respect		- Use kind words			words	- Use quiet voice

	-Walk on the right side		dispensers, sinks, toilets, etc.)	- Listen to and respect the driver		
A Attitude	-Accept the redirection without giving feedback	-Always do your best - follow directions the first time given - Take responsibility for your actions	-Use kind words - Get in and get out — not a place to socialize	-Follow redirection -Ignore negative behaviors	-Include others to play -Share and take turns - Avoid confrontation	-Eat only your own food -Say please and thank you
I Integrity	-Keep hands off walls -Keep your hands to yourself -Keep your feet on the ground (no jumping)	-Be truthful and honest -Respect all members of the learning community - Practice academic honesty	-Keep area clean -Respect 10:10 rule 8th period closed - Report issues to staff	-Respect others property -Report suspicious behavior -Wait your turn	-Take responsibility for your actions -Be honest -Be helpful - Play fair	-Avoid confrontation -Respect others property -Report suspicious behavior
S Safety	-Go directly to your destination -Walk at all times -Keep hands to yourself -Listen and watch for teacher's directions - Keep your eyes forward	-Stay in assigned area/seat -Sit properly -Keep hands, feet, and objects to myself. -Follow classroom procedures	-Flush toilet -Wash hands with soap -Dry hands after washing.	-Stay in seat -Keep items out of aisle -Keep body and objects inside of the bus	-Follow recess rules -Tell an adult if you have a concern -Keep hands, feet, and objects to myself	-Be patient in the lunch line -Respect people's space -Touch your food only
E Effort	-Keep area clean - Pick up your garbage if you drop it	-Always do my best work – Effort creates ability -Ask for help when needed. - Get make-up work when you miss class	-Use bathroom only when necessary - Clean up after yourself	-Be on time - Keep the bus clean	-Get involved - Keep the gym clean	-Pick up your own garbage -Respond to teacher signals immediately - Consume all food and beverages in the cafeteria

VISITOR POLICY

PPS Policy 1104

School Visitors

Parents and guardians are welcome at Pittsburgh South Brook. All visitors must report to the main office, identify themselves, and sign the visitor register. All visitors will be issued and must display a visitor's pass while in the school building.

Parents wishing to observe their child's class must first obtain the permission of the principal. Parents should not expect to confer with teachers during class time. All parent-teacher conferences should be scheduled in advance.

ADDITIONAL PPS DISTRICT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

- Please click on the link below to learn more about our District's Code of Conduct
- Code of Conduct
- Please click on the link below to learn more about our District's Non-Discrimination Policy
- Non-Discrimination Policy
- Please click on the link below for information about Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness
- Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

 Please use the link below to find out more about Special Education Services and Programs, Services for Protected Handicapped Students (504), and Services for Gifted Students: PSE (Special Education) / Child Find Annual Notice (pghschools.org)