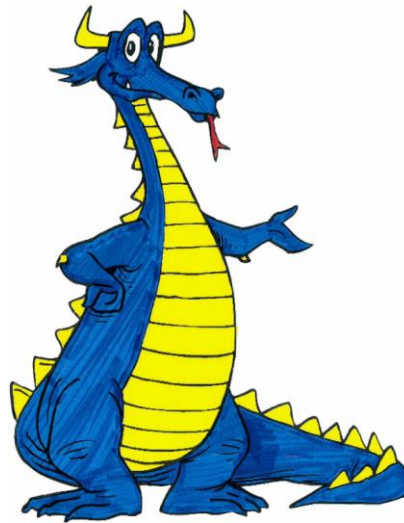


Pittsburgh Sunnyside PK-8



Student Handbook 2024-2025

*We are Pittsburgh Sunnyside.....
where intellectual curiosity is ignited, and we are on F.I.R.E. for learning!!!*

Sunnyside K-8
4801 Stanton Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15201
Phone: (412) 529-2040
Fax: (412) 665-2042
www.pghschools.org/sunnyside



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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME

Dear Pittsburgh Sunnyside Families,



As we embark on the 2024-2025 school year, I am excited to share Pittsburgh Sunnyside’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 Sunnyside’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 fostering

that partnership.

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 Sunnyside.

An electronic copy of the school handbook is also available on the school’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

Dear Pittsburgh Sunnyside Community,

On behalf of the school staff, we extend a warm welcome to our new and returning families at Pittsburgh Sunnyside. We are committed to providing our students with a safe and supportive



environment so that engagement and meaningful learning can take place. As a school, we are determined to create an environment where all our students know that they are seen, heard, and valued.

This will be demonstrated through building positive relationships with students, addressing racial and cultural disparities, fostering community in our learning environment, cultivating student voice, and celebrating our students. Our collective work in these efforts will provide our students with the opportunity to experience academic success. Communication with our students and families is essential for fostering a collaborative relationship between families and staff. We value your input and look forward to partnering with you in your child(ren)'s education. We are Pittsburgh Sunnyside, where intellectual curiosity is ignited, and we are on F.I.R.E. for learning!!! Thank you for choosing Sunnyside!

Yours in Service,

Ashanti Jones

Mrs. Ashanti Jones
Principal

SCHOOL VISION AND MISSION

Mission

At Pittsburgh Sunnyside we are dedicated to fostering a safe, supportive, positive, and equitable environment that embraces all learners while inspiring them to utilize their individual genius to ignite intellectual curiosity and develop a passion for life-long learning. Our mission is to create conditions for rigorous teaching and learning for all students and staff through culturally responsive and evidence-based strategies, practices, and resources that reflect the joy of teaching and learning.

Vision

All Sunnyside students will be prepared with a variety of knowledge, skillsets, and toolsets, to successfully embark upon any path they choose, while continuing to be lifelong learners, effective communicators, change agents, and advocates for social justice, equity, and inclusion for all.

SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION



Sunnyside PreK-8
4801 Stanton Ave

Pittsburgh, PA 15201
Phone: (412) 529-2040
Office Hours: 7:30AM-3:30PM
Fax: (412) 665-2042
[Website](#)

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

Effective and frequent communication is the foundation of a strong relationship. We welcome and encourage communication with the school.

For classroom issues, your first point of contact is always the classroom teacher. This could include absences, grades, behavior, class activities, field trips, etc. The best way to contact a staff member is via Talking Points or email.

For issues concerning attendance and social services, please contact the school social worker.

If you have a concern about a staff member, we encourage you to first attempt to resolve it with the staff, if that attempt is unsuccessful, then reach out to the principal for next steps.

Methods of communication with school:

1. Talking Points (The application version is best)
2. Email
3. Phone Call (412) 529-2040 (main office). The main office hours are 7:30AM-3:30PM.

- ❖ Communication in writing is best!
- ❖ Sunnyside and the school district will also communicate via robo calls. These are recorded messages. Please listen to any voicemails before contacting the school.

- ❖ The school may also mail communication home, so please be sure your contact information in the main office is accurate. If any changes occur during enrollment, please notify the main office immediately.

STAFF ROSTER

For the staff list and directory, please visit
<https://www.pghschools.org/about/directory>

BELL SCHEDULES

2024-2025 Bell Schedule

Breakfast	8:05-8:20
HR	8:20-8:37
Period 1	8:37-9:19
Period 2	9:19-10:01
Period 3	10:01- 10:43
Period 4	10:43-11:25
Period 5 (Lunch PK-3)	11:27-12:12
Period 6 (Lunch 4-8)	12:14-12:59
Period 7	12:59-1:41
Period 8	1:41-2:23
Intervention	2:26-2:56
Homeroom	2:56-3:05
Dismissal	3:05

- Students will be marked tardy after **8:35AM**.
- **Breakfast ends at 8:20.** Students arriving after 8:20 will not be able to receive the offered school breakfast.
- Please make every attempt to have your child(ren) to school by 8:20. While students are not marked late until 8:36, they will be missing our morning meetings in homeroom.

2-Hour Delay Schedule

Homeroom	10:20-10:30
Period 1	10:30-11:00
Period 2	11:00 – 11:30
Period 3	11:30 – 12:00
Period 4	12:00 – 12:30
Period 5	12:33-1:13
Period 6	1:16 – 1:56
Period 7	1:56 – 2:26
Period 8	2:26-2:56
Homeroom	2:57-3:04
Dismissal	3:05

- Breakfast is **NOT** offered on 2-Hour delay days. School begins at 10:20AM.

Half Day Schedule

Schedule	A	B	C
8:20-8:37	HR	HR	HR
8:37-9:19	1	4	7
9:19-10:01	2	5	8
10:01-10:43	3	6	FIRE Time
10:43-11:25	HR (Lunch)	HR (Lunch)	HR (Lunch)
11:25-11:35	Prepare for Dismissal	Prepare for Dismissal	Prepare for Dismissal

- Additional FIRE Time activities may be added to the school schedule

SCHOOL AND PPS CALENDARS

Pittsburgh Sunnyside follows the Pittsburgh Public Schools calendar. This includes days of school, school closings for holidays, and half days of school. Please be sure to review the

district calendar for all important dates. This can be located on the Pittsburgh Public Schools website [HERE](#). Sunnyside will send home monthly calendars for events that are specific to Sunnyside. This will also be posted on our school website monthly. For questions about events, please contact the main office.

Each month there will be a PSCC meeting where families and community members can learn more about what is happening in our school. Meetings will be offered in person and virtually via Microsoft Teams. All meetings will begin at 5PM unless otherwise noted. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

2024-2025 PSCC Meetings

September 24th	(9/24)	
October 14th	(10/14)	During Parent Teacher Conferences
November 26th	(11/26)	
December 17th	(12/17)	
January 28th	(1/28)	
February 25th	(2/25)	
March 25th	(3/25)	
April 29th	(4/29)	
May 27 th	(5/27)	

The Annual Title I Parent Meeting will take place during the Parent Teacher Conference Date on October 14, 2024.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

[PPS Policy 204](#)

Attendance

Regular school attendance is a good predictor of student success. It is expected that students will arrive at school daily, on time, and ready to learn. We understand that things occur and there will be reasons to miss school. You do not need to call the school when your child is absent. You must send a written excuse to the homeroom teacher within 3 days to for an excused absence. After 10 written parent excuses, the remaining absences must be from a medical professional. If you know in advance your child will be out for an extended amount of time, please notify the school social worker.

Key Attendance Terms:

Unexcused Absence - When Student is not in attendance at school and a written excuse is not provided within 3 days.

Tardy - Arriving after the posted start time for class or school without a written excuse.

Truant - Student has had 3 or more unexcused absences. Habitually Truant Student has had 6 or more unexcused absences.

School Attendance Improvement Conference (SAIC), a conference to discuss strategies to improve a student's attendance.

SAIP School Attendance Improvement Plan, the plan outlining efforts to improve student's attendance.

ACADEMICS

At Pittsburgh Sunnyside we offer the following related to academics:

- Core Subjects (reading, math, spelling, grammar, science, and social studies)
- Related Arts (physical education, music, art, library)
- Differentiated Learning and Small Group Learning Interactions
- Project Based Learning
- Departmentalized Teaching Staff for content expertise
- Cross-Curricular Planning & Teaming
- Focus on Writing & Vocabulary Across Grade and Content
- Culturally Relevant Instruction
- FIRE Time (Fun and Inquisitive Recreational Engagement)
- Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

DRESS CODE

[PPS POLICY 221](#)

School Dress Code

We encourage children to dress appropriately for school.

- No bare stomachs
- No see-through clothing, which shows undergarments.
- Students should not wear any apparel or jewelry that promotes sexual activity, violence and/or the use of drugs/alcohol, or gangs.
- Hats, full face/ski masks are not to be worn in the building. They must be placed in lockers.
- Appropriate shoes must be worn. No flip-flops or slides. Shoes must have a back strap for security.
- Students are not permitted to carry book bags in the building. Book bags must be stored in their locker.
 - Hooded sweatshirts and jackets are permissible, but the hood cannot be worn inside the building.

If a student is not dressed appropriately, a parent will be notified, and the student will be asked to change the apparel. We may have some items on hand for the student to choose from. If these do not fit or the student doesn't feel comfortable, a parent will be asked to bring a change of clothing. A student will not be permitted to class without the appropriate attire.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

[PPS POLICY 216](#)

Students in grades 3-8 will have their cell phones collected daily. Cell phones **MUST** be turned into the homeroom teacher or a trusted adult. The devices will be locked away and returned at the end of the day. Students are **NOT** permitted to have their cell phones out or visible during the school day. If a student is caught with a cell phone in their possession, it will be confiscated, and a parent must come to the school to retrieve it. It will be held until a parent/guardian can pick it up from the school. If the cell phone use violates the code of student conduct, the appropriate action will be taken.

Violation #1 - phone confiscated, parent contact, and student written reflection

Violation #2 – phone confiscated, parent contact, and after school conference with principal or teacher

Violation #3 – phone confiscated, parent contact, and suspension of field trips, assemblies, other special privileges, exclusion from extracurricular activities

Violation #4 - phone confiscated, parent contact, and exclusion from special events or promotion exercises (where applicable)

Violation #5 – parent will be contacted, and the phone will be confiscated and held for the remainder of the school year

*****Through progressive discipline measures, we hope to avoid reaching violations beyond #1. Please help us in this effort to minimize distractions and keep our schools safe.*****

Rationale for Policy: Pittsburgh Sunnyside believes that safety and education are priorities for student success. By offering to collect cell phones, students and teachers can focus on teaching and learning without the distractions of cell phones. Disruptions have been caused by students and parents that take away from the systems within the school that were established to keep ALL safe. Students being able to access social media outlets, communicate with peers and others outside of the school can create distress for students that takes their focus away from instruction. Taking cell phones also reduces sharing premature and inaccurate information to families before hearing from school staff. We also want to prevent unauthorized recording of other students and sharing it on social media. We take cyberbullying seriously. In addition, some students may view things that are not appropriate and will allow other students to view it on their phones that other parents would not approve of their child seeing or knowing. We cannot control what our students are exposed to outside of these walls, but we would like to minimize negative influences while they are with us. Our desire is to provide a safe and supportive environment as best as we can while they are in school. Our school has a supportive staff and that will allow students to use the main office phone when needed.

EXTRA CURRICULAR OFFERINGS

[PPS Policy 119](#)

Middle School students have an opportunity to try out for the following interscholastic sports:

Fall: Volleyball, Cross Country

Winter: Basketball

Spring: Soccer

For Coaching Staff Information, please contact Mr. Adzima, the activities coordinator at (412) 529-2040 ext 81160.

Physicals are required for each sport.

Elementary students in 4th and 5th grade have an opportunity to participate in Intramural track and other various sports offered after-school.

GRADING

[PPS Policy 209](#)

Pittsburgh Sunnyside follows the grading policy and guidelines of the Pittsburgh Public School District.

Students in grades 1-8 will receive quarterly progress reports and report cards. These will be sent home with students. Only the final report card will be mailed. A notification reminder will let you know that these reports are coming home. Please review these with your student to discuss strengths and opportunities for growth. In addition, please reach out to any teacher to discuss concerns about your student's progress.

Utilizing [The Home Access Center \(HAC\)](#) to proactively monitor student performance is strongly encouraged. You can view and monitor your student's performance in real time and any time. You can access The Home Access Center on the parent portal on the PPS webpage.

HOMEWORK PROCEDURES

[PPS Policy 115](#)

Homework may be assigned daily or weekly. We ask that you oversee your child's homework. Please check over the work before it is turned to school. This will give you insight into what they are learning and how you can support. Homework is important. It is an extension of the learning that takes place during the school day. Homework can provide practice that reinforces classroom learning and can provide opportunities for independent study, research and creative thinking. Please help your child get into the habit of completing work in a timely fashion by creating routines and appropriate workspaces. Homework is part of the overall grade.

Students or their parents are responsible for requesting make-up work immediately upon the students return to school. If the dates of the student's absences are known in advance, the teacher should be notified at least 24 hours in advance, and planned assignments may be given.

HEALTH SERVICES

[PPS Policy 206](#)

Health and wellness are important at Pittsburgh Sunnyside. Our school does have a school nurse that is able to assist with students' medical needs. To best assess and treat your student, an emergency care form must be completed each school year. This form will be sent home at the beginning of the year. Please complete and return this form immediately. Please be sure to have accurate medical information on file with the nurse and contact information.

School Nurse: Gloria Enright

Phone: (412) 529-2043 or (412)529-2040 ext 81043

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

[PPS POLICY 813.1](#)

Technology Procedures

Parents must review and sign off on the PPS Acceptable Use Policy.

Please use the link and address below to complete the Acceptable User Policy:

https://pghboe.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3sbuKDIeUwV1eS

Students are required to bring their district issued device and charger to school daily. This device supports instruction in the classroom and access to virtual learning in the event of a building closure. To maintain the device's life span and performance we ask the following:

- No food, drink, candy or snacks near the device
- Refrain from accessing and altering another person's files or folders
- Use equipment properly
- Work only on directed activities
- Stay in assigned area with the device
- Do not distract others
- Listen carefully, follow directions
- Show respect to everyone at all times

All students are expected to follow the Pittsburgh Public School System's Technology Acceptable Use Policy. The entire policy can be found on the Pittsburgh Public Schools website in addition to the opening school mailer or welcome packet. Appropriate discipline will be administered for violations of this policy.

Because there may be an emergency or unexpected school closing students should transport their device and charger to and from daily. If we need to implement remote instruction, students will follow their normal school schedule. Teachers will issue links for live remote instruction. Students are expected to be present in class, just as if they were in school. Students that are not present will be marked absent.

If a student misplaces, breaks, or has a device stolen, they should contact the school immediately.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The mission of the Pittsburgh Public Schools Comprehensive System of Student Services is to provide a coordinated system of services to enhance student learning by addressing barriers that impact the cognitive, physical, emotional, and social well-being of students.

We attempt to consistently utilize a child-centered team approach to plan and deliver needed services to students, staff, and families.

At Pittsburgh Sunnyside Pre-K-8 we provide the following:

- Classroom presentations on anger management, bullying, decision making skills related to drugs and alcohol and stranger danger
- Comprehensive Health Services
- Support counseling
- Instructional Support /Student Assistance Program
- Appropriate education placement
- Gifted referrals
- Mediations
- Appropriate referral to agencies or community programs
- Partnerships with mental health providers and out of school time programs

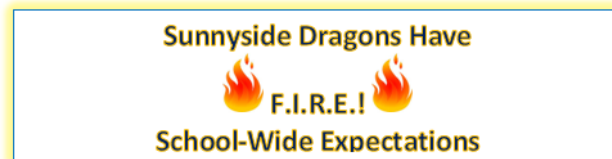
We promote school, family, and community collaboration to ensure that every student receives the necessary support to enhance their cognitive, physical, social, and emotional growth and development. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to call the school social worker at 412-529-2062.

Student Expectations/Procedures

Policy 212
PPS Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct

At Sunnyside we teach, model, and encourage positive behavior. Our students and staff should be on F.I.R.E. (Friendly, Involved, Responsible, and Eager). However, there may be times when students do not uphold this expectation, as such teachers have the authority and responsibility to issue discipline in the classroom. School discipline policies will be established and consistently enforced in accordance with the school district's Code of Student Conduct. When a student is exhibiting an undesired behavior, the teacher may confer with the student, confer with the parent/guardian, use classroom disciplinary procedures, or refer the situation directly to the principal. The desired behavior will be expected from the first day of school to the last.



F.I.R.E.	Cafeteria	Recess	Hallway	Bathrooms	Bus/Vans	When I feel upset...
FRIENDLY	-Use kind words -Help peers -Sit and talk quietly	-Include everyone -Take turns	-Respect the personal space of others -Keep your hands to yourself	-Waiting your turn -Knock on the door before you enter a stall -Be patient	-Share your seat with others -Use kind words	-Ask for space -Tell someone how you're feeling
INVOLVED	-Help others -Stay in your place in line -Be patient	-Participate in each activity	-Be mindful of those walking around you -Keep it clean	-Help keep the bathroom clean -Let the teacher know of problems	-Pay attention and be sure to get off at the correct stop -Be a helper	-Use calm down strategies to remain in the classroom
RESPONSIBLE	-Keep hands & feet to yourself -Touch only your food -Stay seated -Clean up	-Be safe while playing -Clean up when the whistle blows	-Remain with your class -Stay in your place in line	-Use soap and towels to wash & dry hands -Clean up after yourself	-Listen to the driver -Always remain in your seat -Be patient entering and exiting	-Identify how you are feeling -Calmly tell your teacher why you are upset
EAGER	-Eat: Use your time wisely	-Have fun!	-Be a good role model to others -Please walk	-Keep bathroom visits quick	-Be at the bus stop on time -Be ready to leave when the bus arrives	-Find a trusted adult to talk with
STAFF EXPECTATIONS	-Escort class -Tend to student needs -Line up class -Clean up	-Actively monitor & engage students	-Be in the hallway during transition times to monitor students	-Be in the hallway -Remind students to wash their hands and throw away their trash	-Remind students of bus expectations -Escort students to their bus/ -Buckle van students	-Actively listen to student concerns -Model appropriate calming strategies

VISITOR POLICY

[PPS Policy 1104](#)

Visitors

If you are visiting Pittsburgh Sunnyside, you must first ring the bell and state your reason for entry. You must have a valid form of identification. Proceed to the main office to attain a visitor's pass. You must sign in and out during your visit. This is for the safety and protection of everyone. Please do not be offended if someone asks you for your pass, they are only following mandated guidelines. Please remember that we are happy to have you visit Pittsburgh Sunnyside! If you would like to meet with a staff member, please email the staff member to schedule an appointment. Visitors are not permitted to roam to unauthorized areas while in the building.

ADDITIONAL PPS DISTRICT POLICIES

- 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 \(pghschools.org\)](#)

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

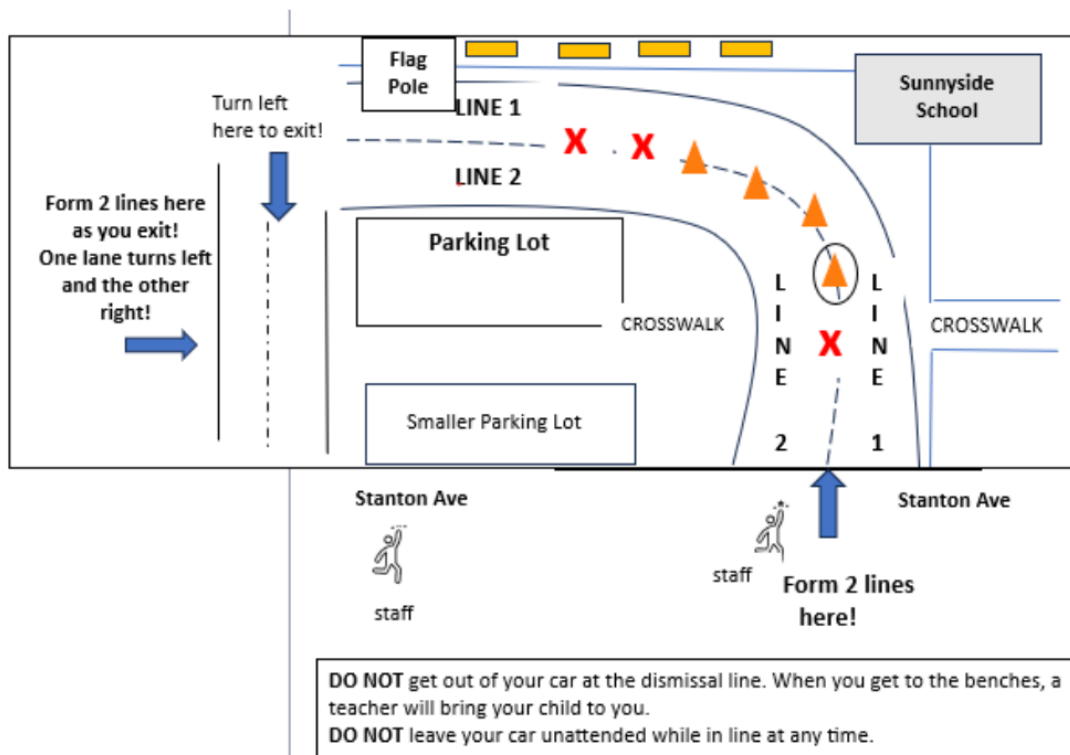
Student Drop off & Pick Up

Students should not be dropped off before the school day starts at 8:05. Students should be picked up promptly at dismissal at 3:05.

Please do not exit your car during drop off or pick up. If you need to get out, please park in a parking spot. Kindergarten students **MUST** be picked up from their classroom door. So, please park and walk to the door. Do not remain in the pick-up line. Students being picked up will get picked up in front by the benches. Any walkers will be released to walk home.

If your student attends an after-school program that picks them up at Sunnyside. Please contact the school to notify us of the arrangements.

*****The diagram is for illustration purposes. These are imaginary lines to help depict and visualize locations and procedures *****



Early Dismissal

We certainly recognize the need for an early dismissal for doctors/dental appointments, etc. Students must have written permission for an early dismissal from a parent or legal guardian. If someone other than the parent or guardian will be picking the student up, please put it in writing. Upon arriving at school, the student must bring the permission slip to the office for verification. Please pick up your child from the main office for an early dismissal. You will be required to sign your child out. Anyone picking up students will need identification.

****Early dismissals are not permitted after 2:30 for safety reasons. Early dismissals will not be granted after this time unless it is deemed an emergency by the principal or other lead staff. ****

Change of Dismissal

Any change of dismissal must be made in writing in advance to ensure student safety. If you need to change how your child will be dismissed or who will pick up your child you must put it in writing by either: sending a text message to the teacher, using Talking Points, or using the Change of Dismissal forms located at the main entrance or in the main office.

Loitering

For student safety, there is to be no unnecessary ‘hanging around’ before school or after school. Non-students are not permitted on campus during school hours at any time unless they have been registered as an official guest in the office.

School Closings/Delays

If the Pittsburgh Public Schools are closed or delayed (for reasons such as heavy snowfall or icy roads) an announcement will be carried over the local radio and television stations, a phone call will be made, or you may check the Board of Education’s website. When there is a 2-hour delay, school begins at 10:20 a.m., buses/transportation pick up two hours later, and no breakfast is served. All after- school activities are automatically cancelled. We ask that children do not arrive at school excessively early as there may be no supervision for them. No announcement means that school is in session.

Lunch/Breakfast

Breakfast begins at 8:05 a.m. in the school cafeteria. As soon as they finish eating, they must report to either the gymnasium (grades 1-5) or remain in the cafeteria (grades 6-8) to join their respective homerooms before school begins. Kindergarten will remain in the

cafeteria. Breakfast ends at 8:20. Please have your children to school on time. If they enter after 8:20, they may not receive breakfast. Children have one 45-minute lunch/recess period. They may either bring a lunch or receive one at school. During breakfast and lunch, children are expected to behave appropriately and interact with peers on a friendly basis. Inappropriate behavior is handled with according to the procedures outlined in the Code of Student Conduct. You will be notified if there is a significant problem during this time.

Illness or Injury

In the case of illness or injury a student will be cared for temporarily by the school nurse or a member of the school staff. School personnel will render first aid treatment only. An emergency phone number where parents can be reached must be on file at the school. Emergency medical responders will be notified if necessary.

Emergency Procedures

Emergency procedures are established and distributed to all staff at the start of the school year. In the event of necessary evacuation, the students and staff will move to the Steel City Arts Foundation, formerly the United Methodist Church facility on Stanton Avenue. Parents are notified via our automated phone system.

Fire Drill

When the fire alarm sounds, proceed as if it were a real fire. Fire drills are conducted once a month. The instructions are as follows:

- Absolute silence unless addressing a safety concern
- Move in quiet orderly lines to and from stations
- No running, pushing, shoving
- Be ready to use alternate routes.

Field Trips

Throughout the year, field trips are planned and conducted for the students in all grades. These experiences are designed to reinforce or enrich the different aspects of the school curriculum. Through the efforts of the PTO and Pittsburgh Sunnyside funds, we try to provide each grade a field trip and keep student costs to a minimum. At times parents are welcome to volunteer to join us on field trips. Each adult that accompanies us must attain a child abuse clearance and undergo a criminal history check. These forms can be picked up in the school office. Clearances can take up to eight weeks to come back to the school, so if you are interested in volunteering, please fill out the forms right away.

Lockers

A locker is issued at the beginning of the school year and is the property of the school. Students are not to bring anything other than suggested school supplies (books, pencils, notebooks, etc.) to school. The school is not responsible for valuables left in the locker. If a lock is used, give the homeroom teacher a spare key or the combination. If valuables must

be brought to school, please give them to the office. Locks are available at school for \$5.00. Lost and Found Pittsburgh Sunnyside has a system for handling lost and found articles. Students who lose an article are to report the incident to the office. A lost and found box is kept outside the cafeteria. Money, jewelry, glasses or any other articles of value should be turned into the office. Students may claim them after proper identification. We recommend parents place names on boots, gym shoes, lunch boxes, book bags and envelopes containing letters or money.

Retention/Promotion

All schools operate under the guidelines of a Retention and Promotion Policy. In the elementary school, all students must pass both Reading and Mathematics in order to be promoted to the next grade. In addition, students in grades four and five must pass two of the following subjects: Spelling, English, Science and/or Social Studies.

A middle school student will be retained if he or she:

- Fails Reading or Math
- Fails Reading or Math and two other academic courses
- Fails any three academic courses
- Fails Communications (combination of Reading and Language Arts counts as two units) and one other academic course

Please note D/E grades on report cards and schedule a parent-teacher conference if they are received.

Library

Students circulate books once every 6-day cycle. Books should be returned on time. Books can be renewed by bringing the book into the library and requesting to have it renewed. Books that are lost must be paid for. Students with late or lost books will not be permitted to check out books.

Home Access Center

Students and parents are encouraged to frequently review grades and attendance in the [Home Access Center](#). This can be accessed on the PPS website. Students and Guardians have their own logins. If there are concerns, please contact the teacher.

Conferences

You are encouraged to speak with your child's teacher at any time if there are any questions concerning a grade, assignment, or any school-related situation. However, please call or write for a convenient time to meet so that the teacher may have grades, progress reports or other materials relative to the conference on hand. Any school-wide conference dates will be scheduled on the school calendar.

Afterschool Programs

Children are encouraged to participate in many activities offered after school. Look for notices, newsletter articles or letters that explain and offer opportunities for extended activities.

Before and After School Care

Before school and after school care is offered by Deakings Child Care inside the school. Please note that this private organization uses the building as a convenience to families. They have their own staff and all communication concerning the program should go directly to them. More information can be found in the main office. Please speak with your child's teacher or call the main office.

Instrumental Program

Pittsburgh Sunnyside has a very successful instrumental program for students in grades 4-8. The Pittsburgh Board of Education provides a limited number of orchestra and band instruments for each school in the city. The purpose is to enable some children to begin class lessons during school. The Board assigns an Instrumental Music Specialist to maintain the program. A rotating schedule is set up and followed weekly. Progress reports are given twice a year. The selection of instrumental students is based on interest, availability of instruments, attitude and responsibility of the child. At the start of each school year, a letter is sent home asking parents if their child is interested in enrolling in the program. The student's name may be placed on the waiting list until an instrument is available.

Sunnyside Student Pledge

- Sunnyside students are expected to strive and thrive. Sunnyside students will recite the student pledge daily and are expected to model those behaviors. We are on F.I.R.E.!



Sunnyside Pledge!



I pledge to be on **F.I.R.E.** every day:

Friendly:

- I will treat everyone with kindness and respect, so my actions can uplift others.

Involved:

- I will actively participate in my learning and school activities, contributing my best to our community.

Responsible:

- I will take ownership of my actions and learning, striving to make responsible choices.

Eager:

- I will approach each day with a spark of enthusiasm that shows I'm ready to learn and grow.

** I am a beacon of light, full of potential to ignite, ready to set the world ablaze. I will remain on F.I.R.E. to elevate higher because it's the Sunnyside way!" **

