



The 2026-2027 Blueprint for Student Success

An empowering guide for Paterson Public Schools
parents to navigate the year ahead.



**Your partnership is the foundation
of our shared success.**

Our Shared Foundation: Mission & Core Values

Excellence & Equity:

High standards and fairness for all.

Integrity & Accountability:

Honesty, moral principles, and taking responsibility.

Community & Collaboration:

Belonging, cooperation, and working together.

Innovation & Inclusivity:

Forward-thinking approaches that embrace diversity in all forms.

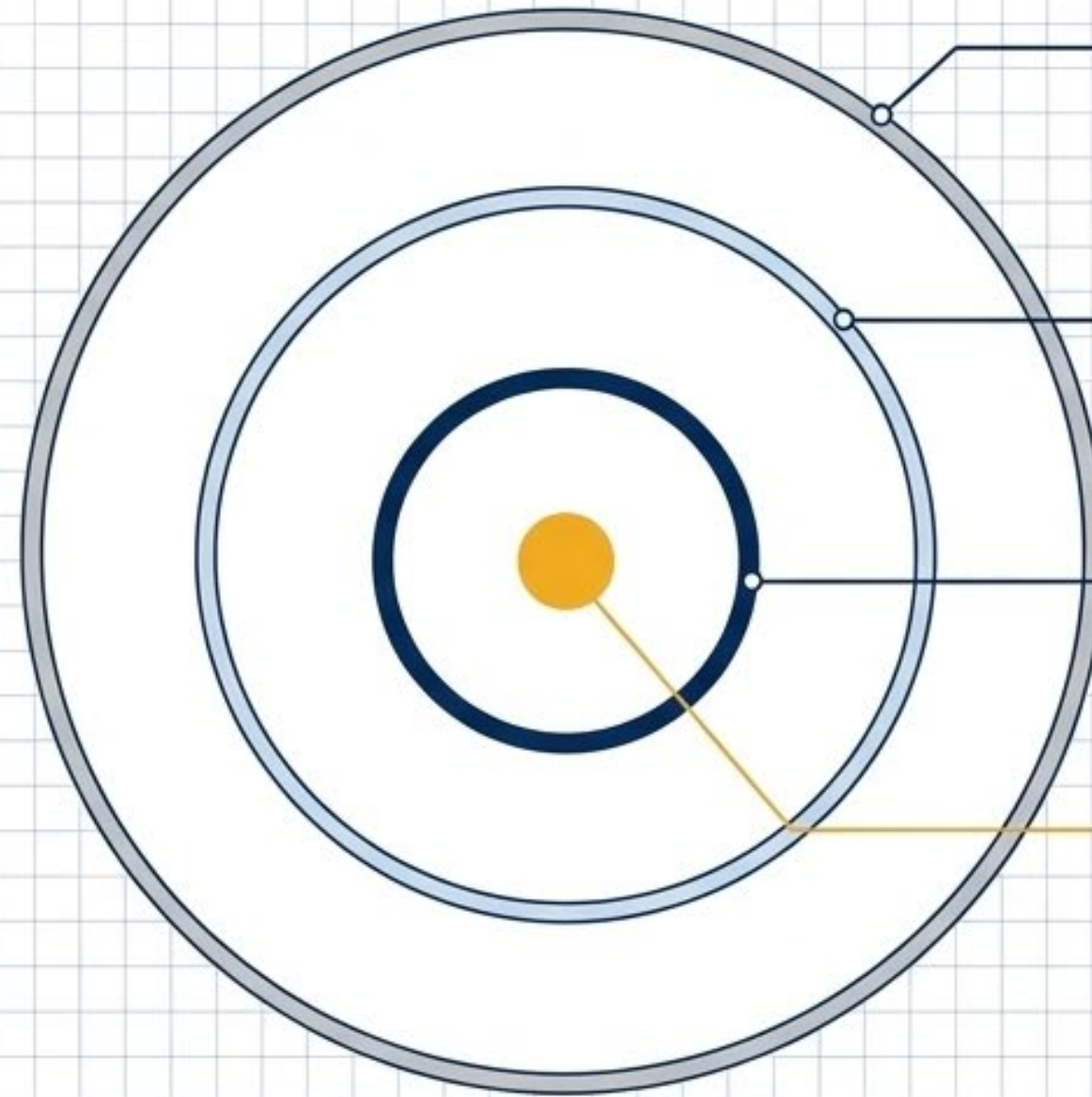
Our Mission: To promote the holistic development of each student, ensuring they acquire the critical skills necessary for future success and become active, engaged citizens.



Parent Action Callout

Partner with us: Use these core values as a shared vocabulary when discussing school expectations at home.

The Three Layers of a Safe School Environment



Building Security: Video surveillance managed by the **Director of School Safety**. All visitors must report to the Main Office and sign in.

Health & Wellness: Strict "no shared treats" policy to protect students with severe food allergies. All medications must be held by the nurse with a doctor's note.

Student Responsibility: High school students must wear \$5 replacement ID cards visibly at all times.

Lifelines: ID cards feature the NJ Hopeline (855.654.6735) and Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988) printed on the back.



Parent Action Callout

Ensure your child wears their ID daily, and register any necessary medications directly with the school nurse.

Cultivating Respect and Responsibility

Daily Expectations

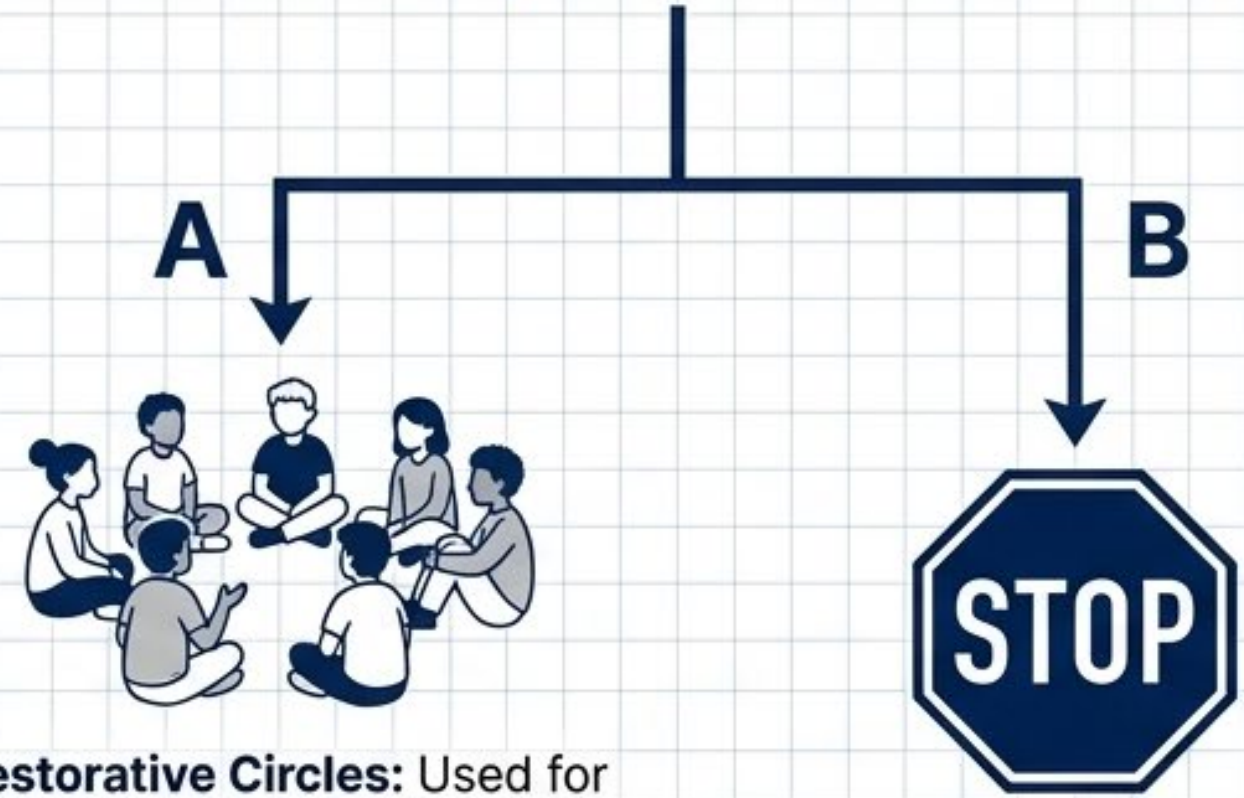


Dress Code: School uniforms are expected. Skirts/shorts must reach extended fingertips. Athletic footwear is required for PE. No revealing clothing or gang paraphernalia.



Conduct: Avoid profanity, act non-violently, and respect school property.

The Discipline Framework



Restorative Circles: Used for conflict resolution and repairing harm through equal opportunity sharing and respectful listening. Focuses on social-emotional well-being.

Category III Offenses:

Mandatory strict discipline (including up to 10 days suspension or expulsion) reserved for severe infractions like weapons, substance abuse, and assault.

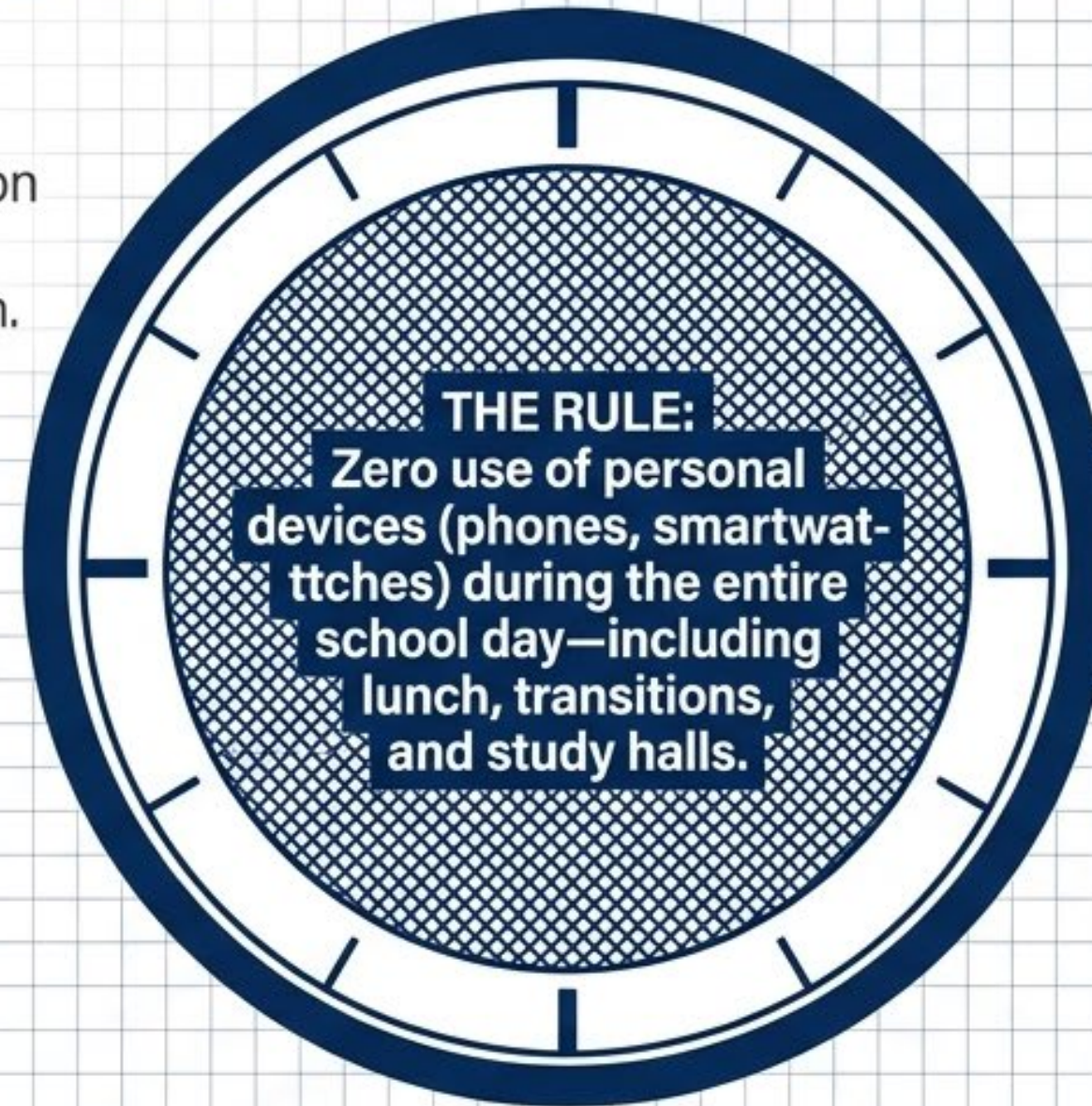


Parent Action Callout

Check your child's uniform before they leave, and encourage them to actively participate if invited to a restorative circle.

The “Bell to Bell” Focused Mind Initiative

In response to a January 8, 2026 law signed by Governor Murphy, Paterson Public Schools is enacting a strict ban on personal internet-enabled devices to maximize learning and minimize distraction.



The Only Exceptions (with documentation):

-  1. IEP / 504 Plan accommodations.
-  2. Documented health plans (e.g., medical monitoring).
-  3. Translation services for non-English speakers.



Discuss the ‘Blackout Zone’ with your child. If you have an emergency during the day, **please call the Main Office directly rather than texting your child.**

Navigating the Digital Ecosystem

Personal Devices 	District Chromebooks 
Status: Powered off and stored. Network: No access to the District network. The school assumes no responsibility for lost or stolen personal devices.	Status: Daily educational requirement. Must be brought to school fully charged. Monitoring: Protected by GoGuardian (filters explicit material, tracks misplaced devices) and Gaggle (monitors emails/Drive for inappropriate use or self-harm). Compliance: Subject to the Anti-Big Brother Act. Browsing history is reviewed, and data is archived for up to seven years to ensure safety.



Review and sign the **Equipment Loan Agreement**, and establish a routine to ensure the Chromebook is charged at home every night.

Academic Integrity in a Changing World

The AI Traffic Light - Policy #5701



Enhance: Using AI to brainstorm ideas, practice skills, and receive feedback.

Verify: Fact-checking AI outputs, as they can be inaccurate or incomplete. Protecting privacy by never sharing personal data.

Replace: Using AI to complete work on your behalf or replace independent critical thinking.

Grading & Promotion Checkpoint



Grades are based on effort, participation, and proficiency across multiple assignment types.

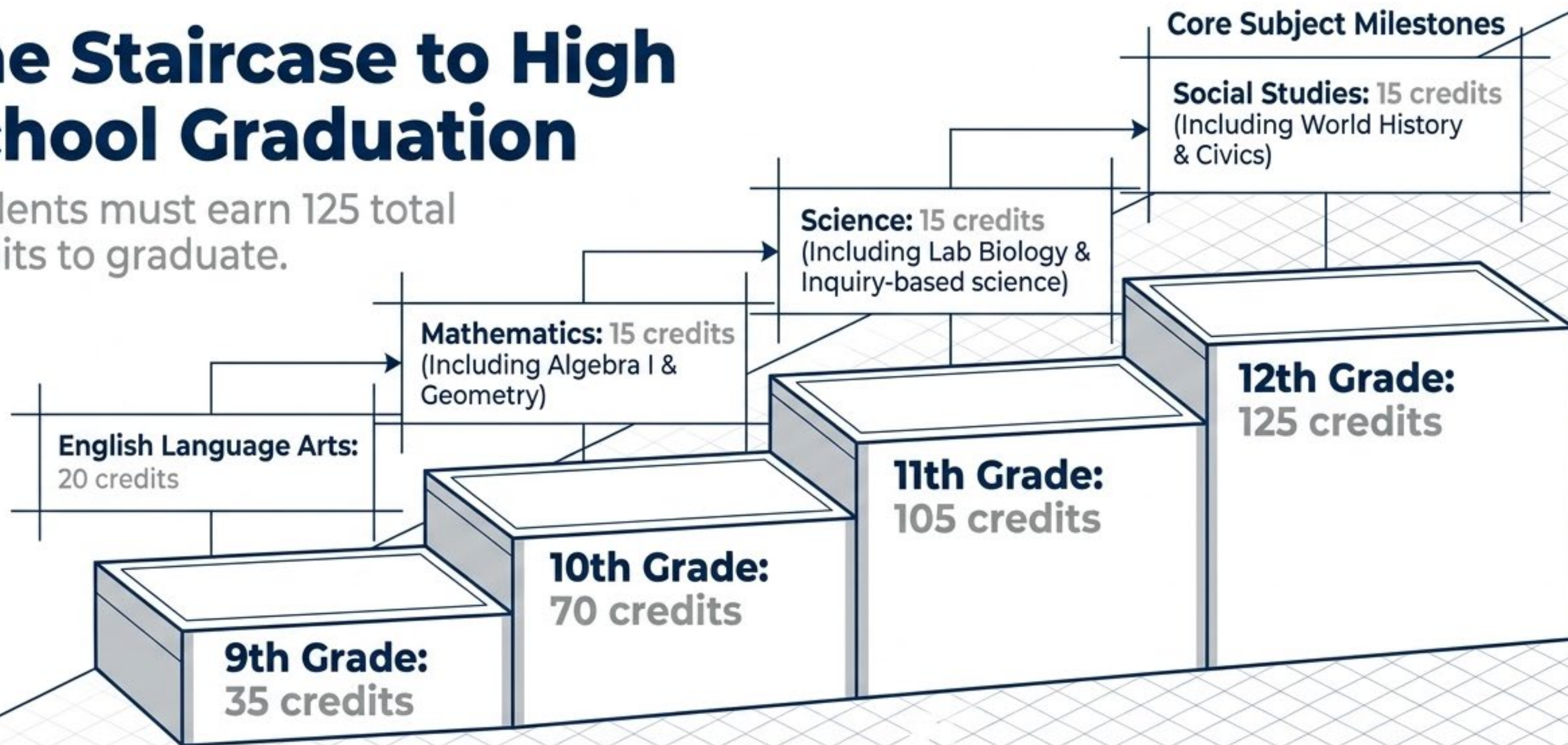
No Social Promotion: Students who do not demonstrate sufficient educational growth will be retained and required to attend a mandatory summer school program.



Ask your child which digital tools they use for homework, and check report cards every marking period via Infinite Campus.

The Staircase to High School Graduation

Students must earn 125 total credits to graduate.



Connect with the school guidance counselor early in the year to ensure your child's course selection aligns with this staircase.

The Crucial Commitment: Understanding Attendance

The Attendance Diagnostic Matrix

Excused Absences	Truancy	Chronic Absenteeism
Valid for religious observance, illness, or emergencies. Requirement: Must provide written documentation to the Main Office within 2 days of returning (Doctor's note required for 5+ consecutive days).	Unexcused absences or cutting classes. Consequence: At 10 unexcused days, the student is legally truant. Triggers home visits and mandatory court appearances.	 Triggered when a student misses 10% (18 days) of the school year. The Catch: This includes ALL absences, both excused and unexcused.



Missing just 2 days a month puts your child at risk of Chronic Absenteeism, which is strongly linked to lower reading proficiency and dropout risks. Prioritize daily attendance.

Daily Logistics & Student Voice

Arrival Protocols

Do not drop off students before the first bell; there is no supervision available.

Late arrivals must report directly to the designated sign-in location to avoid being marked absent.

Dismissal & Pick-up

Grades 3-12 can only walk home alone if parents submit an Unaccompanied Dismissal Permission Form.

Students will only be released to adults listed on the Pick-Up Permission Form (Photo ID required).

Student Demonstrations

We value student voice. Peaceful assembly is protected.

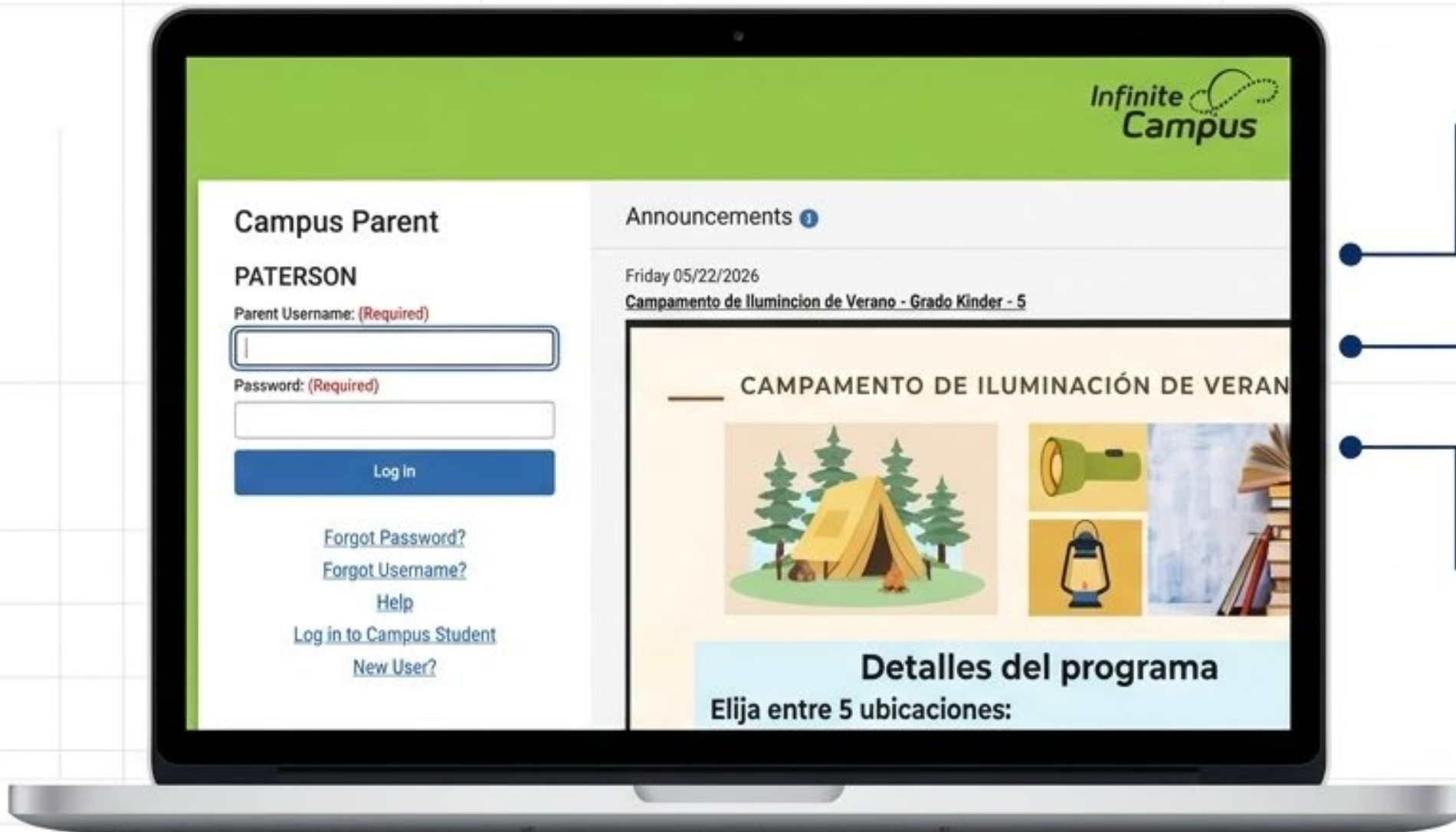
However, demonstrations must have reasonable advance notice, adhere to time/place/manner restrictions, and never block hallways or disrupt learning.



Submit your Unaccompanied Dismissal or Pick-Up Permission forms to the Main Office immediately at the start of the year.

Your Daily Toolkit: Infinite Campus

Infinite Campus is our web-based portal providing real-time access to your child's educational ecosystem. Monitor grades, check attendance, and view schedules instantly.



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1. Navigate: Go to the district homepage (www.paterson.k12.nj.us) and click the "Parents" tab.

2

2. Locate: Click on the 'Infinite Campus Parent Portal' icon.

3

3. Log In: Enter your credentials. If you are a first-time user, click 'New User?' to set up your account.

Troubleshooting: If you are locked out or need assistance, contact your school's main office. They will verify your identity and restore access.



Parent Action Callout: Log in to Campus Parent this week and **verify that** all your emergency contact information is current and accurate.

The Ecosystem of Student Success

No single policy exists in a vacuum. By working together, we create an interlocking support system that guarantees a safe, focused, and enriching year for every child.



Parent Action Callout: Keep this blueprint handy throughout the **2026-2027** school year. Together, we are learning today and leading tomorrow.