



Pittsburgh Westinghouse 6-12

Student Handbook 2026-2027

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SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME

Dear Pittsburgh Public Schools Parents, Students, and Families,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! Whether you are joining Pittsburgh Public Schools for the first time or returning for another exciting year, I am honored to welcome you to a community committed to helping every student learn, grow, and thrive.

At Pittsburgh Public Schools, we believe every student deserves access to a high-quality education in a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment. Our dedicated educators and staff are committed to preparing students for success in college, career, and life by fostering curiosity, creativity, critical thinking, and a lifelong love of learning.



This school handbook is an important resource designed to help you navigate the school year. Inside, you will find valuable information about District policies, school expectations, student supports, attendance, academic programs, extracurricular opportunities, health and safety procedures, and ways to stay connected with your school community. I encourage every family to review this handbook together and refer to it throughout the year.

A successful school year is built on strong partnerships between schools, families, and the community. We know that students achieve more when the adults in their lives work together to support their learning and well-being. We invite you to stay engaged by attending school events, participating in Parent School Community Council (PSCC) meetings, communicating regularly with your child's teachers, and taking advantage of the many opportunities to share your voice and partner with us.

As we continue implementing our PPS Future-Ready Plan, we remain focused on creating learning environments where every student feels welcomed, valued, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential. Together, we are building stronger schools and brighter futures for every child.

Thank you for entrusting Pittsburgh Public Schools with your child's education. We look forward to a school year filled with learning, growth, achievement, and meaningful connections.

On behalf of the Board of Public Education and the entire Pittsburgh Public Schools team, welcome to an outstanding school year!

Yours in Education,

Superintendent, Pittsburgh Public Schools

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

It is with deep gratitude and immense Bulldog pride that we welcome you to the 2026–2027 school year at Westinghouse. This marks Dr. Hill's third year as Principal and Mrs. Thomas' fourth year as Assistant Principal of this extraordinary school. It continues to be one of the greatest honors of our lives as educators, with Dr. Hill also serving as a proud Westinghouse alumna. Together, we are committed to working as a collaborative leadership team, supporting our students, families, staff, and community while building on the rich traditions and bright future of Westinghouse. Serving this community is more than a profession—it is a privilege and a responsibility that we cherish every day.

Westinghouse is more than a school. It is a legacy rooted in the strength, resilience, and excellence of the Homewood community and the City of Pittsburgh. For generations, remarkable leaders, innovators, artists, athletes, and changemakers have walked these halls, leaving behind a tradition of greatness that continues to inspire us. As **we** begin another school year together, **we** recommit ourselves to honoring that legacy while creating new opportunities for the students who will carry it forward.

This school year is especially meaningful as **we** prepare for an exciting new chapter in the history of Westinghouse. During the 2027–2028 school year, Westinghouse will transition to serving grades 9–12, making this year's eighth grade class the final class to complete middle school at Westinghouse. To our eighth graders: congratulations on being part of this historic milestone. You will always hold a special place in the story of our school. As you prepare for high school, **we** encourage you to embrace every opportunity, lead with confidence, and continue to represent Westinghouse with pride and excellence.

Whether you are entering sixth grade, preparing for graduation, or somewhere in between, each of you plays an important role in shaping our future. Our building may stand at 1101 North Murtland Street, but the true strength of Westinghouse is found in our students, families, educators, staff, and community partners. Together, **we** are continuing to build a culture rooted in excellence, accountability, and opportunity.



This year, **we** will continue strengthening our school culture through high expectations, meaningful relationships, and a shared commitment to continuous growth. **We** will deepen our work with Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), increase authentic student engagement, and continue developing leadership, character, and resilience through Wayfinder and our social-emotional learning initiatives. Our mission remains clear: to ensure every student graduates prepared for college, career, military service, or entrepreneurship while becoming compassionate, confident leaders who positively impact their communities.

Attendance, punctuality, and personal responsibility will remain at the heart of our work. These are more than school expectations—they are lifelong habits that reflect character, integrity, and respect. With the partnership of our families and community, **we** will continue creating an environment where every student arrives each day ready to learn, grow, lead, and succeed.

As **we** celebrate another year of learning and prepare for the exciting future ahead, **we** invite each member of our Bulldog family to approach this year with optimism, determination, and unity. Together, **we** will honor our past, embrace this historic transition, and continue building a Westinghouse that our entire community can be proud of for generations to come.

With Bulldog Pride,

Virginia R. Hill, Ed.D.
Principal

Tenille Thomas
Assistant Principal

Westinghouse 6–12

SCHOOL INFORMATION



Pittsburgh Westinghouse

1101 N Murtland St, Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Phone: 412-529-3940 **Fax:** 412-665-4977

Website: pghschools.org/schools/6-12/westinghouse

[Staff Directory- Pittsburgh Westinghouse](#)

School Colors

Blue and Gold

School Mascot

Bulldog

Motto

Together We Can,
Together We Will,
Together We Must

VISION AND MISSION

Mission

The Pittsburgh Public Schools will be one of America's premier school districts, student-focused, well-managed, and innovative. We will hold ourselves accountable for preparing all children to achieve academic excellence and strength of character, so that they have the opportunity to succeed in all aspects of life.

Vision

Students will learn, explore, set and meet their goals in a student-centered educational environment that builds on their individual talents in preparation for their future.

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

Communicating effectively by having open and on-going dialogue between parents, students, teachers and administrators. Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy 6-12 utilizes multiple strategies to communicate important information and meetings to parents, including e-mail blast, phone calls, the George Westinghouse App, and print mailings in order to reach all parents. Translation services are available to ensure that communication, documents, and other materials are available in a language understood by every parent or family member.

- Student-Parents-Teacher Compact and the online PPS Home Access Center
- Parent E-mail database, newsletter, School Messenger and Bulldog Family Involvement Form, Bulldog Connect Flyer regarding George Westinghouse School App, Email Alerts and other ways families can stay connected to the school
- Weekly or Bi-Weekly school updates of school calendar regarding school information including school-wide policy, community events, district events and school improvement team meeting
- Teachers Communication Log – Documenting when teacher/staff call or communicate home
- Student Handbook – information regarding school policies and procedures
- Administration Accessibility – parents will be able to meet with the administration w/scheduled appointment or during the monthly Parent School Community Council (PSCC) meetings.
- Student Schedule Information/Connect to PPS Home Access Center:
- View your child's schedule and much more on the parent portal link.
- Student schedules are available on the Home Access Center (HAC) with your username and password.

Stay Connected to the 'House

We have several ways for YOU to stay CONNECTED! The Bulldog Connect options are our primary means of communication. Please take a moment to review the student handbook for additional school procedures and policies.

Make sure all your contact information, especially your address and phone numbers are updated at the school!

- TalkingPoints: download the talking points app or login through the PPS website.
- Email Blast: if you would like to stay connected please register by contacting Ms. Smith at rsmith3@pghschools.org

- Facebook: Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy 6-12
- Website: school calendar, resources and information is provided on the school's website, pghschools.org/6-12/westinghouse.

BELL SCHEDULES

Entry & Breakfast 7:15-7:35 am/9:40 am (no breakfast on two-hour delays)

Inclement weather delay schedules will remain the same as our in person schedule if we are virtual.

Daily Schedule		Two-Hour Delay	Half-Day		
Period 1 Homeroom	7:40 – 8:21	10:05-10:30	A	B	Time
Period 2	8:24- 9:05	10:36-11:03	P1	P6	7:40-8:25
Period 3	9:08- 9:49	11:07-11:35	P2	P7	8:28-9:13
Period 4 Homeroom	9:49-10:08	11:40-12:0	P3	P8	9:16-10:01
Period 5 First Lunch	10:11-10:56	12:13-12:41	P4	P9	10:01-10:21
Period 6 Second Lunch	10:59 -11:40	12:46-1:14	P5	P10	10:24-11:10
Period 7	11:43-12:28	1:19-1:47			
Period 8	12:31-1:12	1:52-2:20			
Period 9	1:15-1:56	2:25-2:53			
Period 10	1:59-2:40	2:58-3:27			
Dismissal	2:40 PM	3:27 PM	11:10 AM		

Two-Hour Delay	
Period 4	9:49 – 10:08
Period 5	10:11 – 10:56
Period 6	10:59 – 11:40
Period 7	11:43 – 12:28
Period 8	12:31 – 1:12
Period 9	1:15 – 1:56
Period 10	1:59-2:40
Dismissal	2:40 PM

Note:

Half-days and delayed schedules operate on an alternating A/B basis.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The 2026-2027 District Calendar can be found [HERE](#).

Event	Date
#PittsburghForPPS Back to School Event	8/17/2026
First Day of School: All Grades Except Kindergarten	8/24/2026
First Day of School: Kindergarten	8/27/2026
No School: Labor Day	9/7/2026
4th Annual Take a Child to School Day	9/17/2026
Half Day	9/18/2026
No School: Yom Kippur	9/21/2026
Q1 Interim Progress Report	10/6/2026
Parent-Teacher Conferences (6-12, 9-12, Special, South Hills, EHS)	10/12/2026
Parent-Teacher Conferences (Early Childhood, PreK-5, PreK-8, 6-8)	10/16/2026
Half Day	10/23/2026
No School: Election Day	11/3/2026
No School: Veterans Day	11/11/2026
Q1 Report Cards Distributed	
Half Day	11/20/2026
Thanksgiving Break 11/26/2026-11/27/2026	
Q2 Interim Progress Report	12/15/2026
Half Day	12/18/2026
Winter Break 12/24/2026-1/1/2027	
No School: MLK Day	1/18/2027
No School	1/19/2027
No School	1/20/2027
Q2 Report Cards Distributed	2/1/2027
Half Day	2/12/2027
Black Men Read	2/25/2027
Half Day	2/26/2027
Q3 Interim Progress Report	3/2/2027
Parent University	3/6/2027
No School: Eid al-Fitr	3/10/2027
Half Day	3/12/2027
Spring Break 3/22/2027-3/26/2027	
Women Who Lead	3/31/2027
Q3 Report Cards Distributed	4/15/2027
Q4 Interim Progress Report	5/12/2027
29th Annual Take a Father to School Day	5/14/2027
No School: Election Day	5/18/2027
No School: Memorial Day	5/31/2027
Breakfast of Champions	6/7/2027
Last Day of School	6/8/2027
Q4 Report Cards Distributed	6/17/2027

Testing Dates	
Keystone Exams Winter	1/4/2027-1/15/2027
PSSAs English Language Arts	4/26/2027-4/30/2027
PSSAs Math, Science, Make-ups	5/3/2027-5/7/2027
Keystone Exams Spring	5/17/2027-5/28/2028

School Board Meetings		
Agenda Review	Public Hearing	Legislative Meeting
8/19/2026	8/24/2026	8/26/2026
9/16/2026	9/22/2026	9/23/2026
10/21/2026	10/26/2026	10/28/2026
11/18/2026	11/23/2026	11/24/2026
12/16/2026	12/21/2026	12/23/2026
1/20/2027	1/25/2027	1/27/2027
2/18/2027	2/22/2027	2/24/2027
3/17/2027	3/29/2027	3/31/2027
4/20/2027	4/26/2027	4/28/2027
5/19/2027	5/24/2027	5/26/2027
6/23/2027	6/28/2027	6/30/2027
7/21/2027	7/26/2027	7/28/2027

ATTENDANCE

Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy 6-12 is committed to academic excellence and preparing our students to participate in the global market. Being in school every day and on time is fundamental to academic scholarship and success in the world of work. To prevent failure of a class due to excessive tardiness or absences, it is imperative that students report to school and to class on time. Student entry and breakfast is from 7:10 am - 7:35 am. Classes begin promptly at 7:40 am. Entry after 9:30 am will only be granted with parent/guardian presence, parent/guardian note that will be verified by the main office, doctor's note or prior notice. Exceptions will be made for students with a note from a physician or another legal agency (not from home) covering an appointment such as a doctor or dentist.

Truancy: Compulsory school age refers to the periods of a child's life from the time the child enters school, which may be no later than eight years of age until the age of seventeen or graduation from high school, whichever occurs first. It is mandatory for all children of compulsory school age to attend and be present at school unless excused from attendance for an approved reason under the Pennsylvania School Code.

Absence: Non-attendance in school and/or in an individual class, the entire school day or a combination of both. Absence includes tardiness to class and/or school as well as early dismissal.

Excused Absence: Includes the absence of a student for any of the following reasons:

Illness or other urgent reasons: upon receipt of satisfactory evidence of mental, physical or other urgent reasons, a parent's written note will excuse a student's absence. A maximum of ten (10) days of cumulative absences verified by parental notification may be permitted during a school year. All absences beyond ten (10) cumulative days require an excuse from a physician. For parenting students, upon receipt of satisfactory evidence of illness of the student's child, related absences will be excused.

Health Care: A student may be excused during school hours to obtain non-school professional health care, hospitalization and/or quarantine. A parenting student may be excused during school hours to obtain non-school professional health care, including emergency care, hospitalization and/or quarantine for the student's child.

Documentation from the treating licensed health care professional shall be obtained and provided to the school.

Bereavement: A student may be temporarily excused from school for bereavement and/or to attend the funeral of a family member.

Religious Holidays and Religious Instruction: A student shall be excused from school for absences occasioned by the observance of the students' religion recognized by the Board of Education as a bona fide religious holiday.

Weather Emergency: If a decision is made for schools to remain open, parents/guardians have the option to keep their children home for health and safety reasons. Parents/guardians are ultimately responsible for making this decision.

School-Approved Activities: A student absent from class or school due to participation in a school, Principal or teacher approved activity, including, but not limited to field trips, service learning, assemblies, support groups, counseling, mentoring, or tutoring shall be lawfully excused.

Involuntary Exclusions: A student who is lawfully absent from school or class due to involuntary exclusion shall be excused. An involuntary exclusion includes suspensions (in-school and out of school), temporary alternative placements and incarceration or home detention.

Unexcused Absence (Unlawful Absence): All absences that are not excused pursuant to this policy will be considered Unexcused. If a student is under age 17, then an absence that is not excused pursuant to this policy will be considered Unlawful and Unexcused. Tardiness that results in a student missing class without a written lawful excuse will be considered an Unexcused and/ or Unlawful absence. Parents/guardians shall submit written explanations for Excused Absences within three (3) calendar days of the absence. If the school does not receive a written explanation within three (3) calendar days of any absence, the absence will be permanently counted as Unexcused and/or Unlawful.

Early Dismissal Policy

We encourage you to try to schedule your child's appointments before or after school. If this is not possible, the following procedure must be followed:

- Students must submit a written note from the parent or guardian to the MAIN OFFICE BY 7:40 A.M. No early dismissals are approved via telephone. If a parent forgets to send a note, then they must come to pick up the child in person. This is for the child's safety.

- The note should include: the student's name, grade, reason for the request, time of the dismissal, the parent's signature and telephone number so that they may be contacted in order to verify all the information.
- Accepted reasons for early dismissals:
- Medical appointment
- College Interviews
- Mandated Court Appearances
- Funerals
- Illness
- Other specific reasons pre-approved by the administration

When the note is verified, the student may pick up a yellow dismissal slip in the main office. If the parent/guardian cannot be contacted, early dismissal will not be granted. In the event of an emergency, an approved administration dismissal is required.

ACADEMICS

At Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy 6–12, we believe in preparing every student for success— whether that means college, a career, or both. Our school combines rigorous academics, hands-on career and technical education (CTE), and a strong support network to ensure students are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to thrive after graduation. From sixth grade through senior year, students at Westinghouse have access to a wide range of opportunities designed to meet their individual goals and interests.

Whether your child is passionate about science, interested in a trade, or exploring their future path, Westinghouse offers the programs, partnerships, and personalized support to help them grow.

Core Academic Curriculum

Grades 6–12 learning in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Health & PE—all aligned with Pennsylvania state graduation standards.

Students prepare for Keystone exams in Algebra I, Biology, and English, which are required for graduation credit.

Advanced Placement & Honors

Offers Advanced Placement courses—college-level classes with optional exam fee reimbursement. Students who score well can earn college credits.

Career & Technical Education (CTE)

Westinghouse offers five fully accredited CTE programs, each with certification/licensure and hands-on training:

- Business Administration, Sports & Entertainment (B.A.S.E.) – Marketing, media, event planning, Microsoft Office & OSHA certifications;
- Carpentry – Tool and blueprint training; preparation for industry roles.
- Cosmetology – Beauty treatments and state cosmetology licensing (after 1,250 hours)
- Culinary Arts – Professional kitchen skills, ServSafe and OSHA certifications, dual enrollment credit through CCAC via the onsite café Health Careers Technology – Medical terminology, anatomy, safety, CPR, BLS certifications, plus dual enrollment credit with CCAC.

Each program includes internships, field placements, and job readiness support, with college credits available

Additional Supports & College Prep

Partnerships with 45+ colleges & organizations, including Univ. of Pittsburgh, UPMC, YMCA—for tutoring, mentoring, workforce development, community service, and licensure prep.

Services available for speech/language, life skills, emotional and physical support.

Academic Rigor & Options

Westinghouse delivers a complete curriculum from grade 6 through 12, with honors and AP options that have expanded meaningfully in recent years.

RealWorld Skills + College Credits

Through CTE programs and dualenrollment partnerships, students can graduate with certifications, hands-on job training, and college credits already earned.

Strong Support Network

Resources such as tutoring, therapy, community mentors, and healthcare partnerships help ensure students succeed academically and personally.

Pathways for Every Learner

Whether a student aims for college, trade school, or immediate employment, Westinghouse offers tailored paths to reach those goals.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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, pre-exam 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.

ATHLETICS/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Athletics

Westinghouse offers both middle and high school sports and athletic activities. Offerings include those listed below; however, they are reviewed on an annual basis.

Offerings

- Basketball
- Football
- Soccer
- Cheerleading
- Flag Football
- Volleyball
- Cross Country/Track
- Flag Football
- Baseball
- Softball

Middle School Sports

Students must complete a PIAA sports packet and physical in order to practice and play any sport. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Faculty Manager, Ms. Wilson at lhamm1@pghschools.org or call 412.529.4320.

High School Sports

Students must complete a PIAA sports packet and physical in order to practice and play any sport. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Faculty Manager, Ms. Wilson at lhamm1@pghschools.org or call 412.529.4320.

District Eligibility Guidelines

All students enrolled in grades kindergarten through twelve must meet certain academic standards to be eligible for participation in any athletic, extra-curricular or co-curricular activity. The Board directs that the academic standards set forth below shall apply in grades kindergarten through twelve.

- * Participation in interscholastic athletics for enrolled students ages 18-21 may be subject to additional eligibility requirements.
- Students must have a 2.0 grade point average, exclusive of physical education, at the end of the previous report period or they will be placed in the District's academic intervention program for continued eligibility in accordance with this section.
- Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, students with a 1.0-1.99 grade point average, exclusive of physical education, at the end of the previous report period will be placed in the District's academic intervention program and can maintain their eligibility by completing the academic intervention program designated by the

Superintendent or designee and achieving a 2.0 grade point average by the end of the next report period.

- Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, students with a 1.25-1.99 grade point average, exclusive of physical education, at the end of the previous report period will be placed in the District's academic intervention program and can maintain their eligibility by completing the District's academic intervention program and achieving a 2.0 grade point average by the end of the next report period.
- Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, students with a 1.5-1.99 grade point average, exclusive of physical education, at the end of the previous report period will be placed in the District's academic intervention program and can maintain their eligibility by completing the District's academic intervention program and achieving a 2.0 grade point average by the end of the next report period following the start of the next report period.
- When determining eligibility for programs beginning at or before the start of the school year, eligibility will be based on end of year final grades and not on fourth report period grades.
- Single report period grades are to be used as last previous grades only in determining academic eligibility for activities that start or are in progress once the school year begins.
- If a student is found to be ineligible under this policy or under other applicable requirements due to having grades below those set forth above or otherwise failing to meet other applicable eligibility requirements * the student shall not be permitted to participate in any interscholastic athletics or extra and co-curricular activities until they meet the eligibility requirements.
- The academic eligibility requirements set forth in this policy do not apply to co-curricular activities that provide academic credit.

Extracurricular Activities & Student Organizations

Our school offers a wide range of extracurricular opportunities designed to support student growth, leadership, creativity, and collaboration. Students are encouraged to get involved in various clubs and organizations that reflect their interests and help build a strong sense of community.

Among the many options available are organizations such as the Black Student Union (BSU), Latine Student Union (LSU), Student Voice, and GSU, which provide platforms for student advocacy, leadership, and cultural awareness. Students can also apply to serve as an Envoy, representing their peers and contributing to school-wide initiatives.

For those interested in athletics and school spirit, Cheerleading offers a chance to engage in team-building and performance. Students who enjoy problem-solving and innovation may choose to participate in the Robotics team, where they can explore STEM concepts through hands-on learning and competition.

These programs are designed to enrich the student experience and foster a supportive, inclusive environment where every student can find a place to thrive.

DRESS CODE

All Students (6-12)

- Ski Mask “Like” Face Masks Are NOT permitted. This is a safety concern. Any student in need of a mask to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 will be provided one if they do not bring their own.
- Shoes: No slides, shower or flip-flop shoes.

High School (Grades 9-12)

Currently, the dress code for high school prohibits “Any attire that is too short, revealing, or promotes violence, drug use, or inappropriate language and/or behavior “ cannot be worn. This includes explicit graphics, tank tops, muscle shirts, yoga pants, jeans with extensive rips and tears, sports bras, biker shorts, flip-flops and shower shoes.

Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Middle School Students will continue to wear uniforms daily. The uniform policy is as follows:

- Tops (Solid): Blue, Yellow, or White Polo or Oxford button-down shirts with a collar, short-sleeve or long-sleeve.
- Bottoms (solid): any color dress pants, no ripped jeans
- Official Bulldog Westinghouse Gear is also considered uniform.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

In accordance with Pittsburgh Public Schools Board Policy 216, **all students are required to turn in any personal cell phones and electronic devices upon entering the building** (excluding District-issued technology).

Each device will be placed in a secure location with the student's name and stored based on the student's last-period teacher. Students will retrieve their devices at the end of their last scheduled class.

Students who fail to turn in a personal electronic device, or who are found in possession of or using a personal electronic device during the school day, will have the device confiscated and secured by school personnel. Confiscated devices will be returned **to a parent/guardian only before or after the school day**. Repeated violations of this policy will result in progressive disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

For purposes of this policy, electronic devices include, but are not limited to:

- Cellular phones and smartphones
- Smartwatches capable of communication
- Tablets and personal laptops not issued by the District
- Personal gaming systems
- Digital cameras or recording devices
- Wearable technology capable of recording audio, video, or images (including smart glasses)
- Any non-District-issued device capable of recording audio, capturing photographs or video, storing data, transmitting messages, or accessing the internet

Westinghouse School Expectation: Students may not bring or possess personal headphones, including Beats headphones or similar devices, during the school day. School personnel are not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of any personal electronic devices or accessories brought to school in violation of school expectations.

GRADING

Report Cards

Report cards are issued four times a year, every nine weeks, and include academic letter grades (A-E) and citizenship marks:

O – Outstanding

S – Satisfactory

U – Needs Improvement

Parents/guardians must sign and return the report card verification form. The first three report cards are sent home with students; the final report card is mailed home within three weeks after school ends. Grades close about 10 days before report cards are issued—any improvements after that appear on the next report card. Contact the school promptly with any concerns.

Progress Reports

At the midpoint of each grading period, teachers send progress reports home if a student is not meeting expectations or may drop two or more letter grades. Parents can request a conference to support student success.

Honor Roll

Students are recognized for academic and citizenship achievements:

- Honor Roll: GPA 3.00–3.49
- High Honor Roll: GPA 3.50–4.00
- Citizenship Honor Roll: All “O” marks in citizenship
- Certificates and recognition are awarded for all honor levels.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Starting with the graduating class of 2028, each student must meet the minimum requirements of twenty-four (24) credits or the requirements of their IEP for graduation.

Units to be earned in grades 9-12 for students before 2028 (26 credits total):

Subject	Credits	CTE Students
English Language Arts (ELA)	4	4
Math (3 required credits: Algebra 1,2 and Geometry)	4	3
Science	4	3
Social Studies (with a minimum of 3 credits in Social Studies, the 4th credit may be satisfied by a level 3 course in World Language)	4	3
Electives Academic, Art, Career Development an/or Physical Education	7	9
Health	1	1
Phys Ed	2	2
Graduation Project	0.5	0.5

Pennsylvania Statewide Graduation Requirement (Act 158 of 2018)

Effective with the Pittsburgh Public Schools graduating class of 2023, students have the option to demonstrate postsecondary preparedness through one of four additional pathways that more fully illustrate college, career, and community readiness.

Keystone Exams will continue as the statewide assessment Pennsylvania uses to comply with accountability requirements set forth in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Although students will no longer be required to achieve proficiency on the Keystone Exams in order to meet statewide graduation requirements, students must take the Keystone Exams for purposes of federal accountability.

Five pathways exist for meeting state high school graduation requirements:

- Keystone Proficiency
- Keystone Composite
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Concentrator
- Alternative Assessment
- Evidence-Based

More information regarding Act 158 can be found at education.pa.gov.

HOMEWORK PROCEDURES

The Board of Directors of the School District of Pittsburgh supports the importance of homework as a regular part of the educational program.

Authority

The Homework Policy has been formulated and approved by the Board of School Directors.

Definitions

Homework is defined as any independent work planned/approved and assigned by the teacher to be completed by the student with or without support outside of the regular classroom without the immediate and direct supervision of the teacher.

Delegation of Responsibility

This Homework Policy shall be under the day-to-day supervision of the Superintendent of Schools, who may delegate responsibilities to other individuals, as designated by the Board, while maintaining the ultimate authority to enforce the policy.

The Board directs the Superintendent or designee to:

- Develop administrative guidelines for the age and subject matter assignment appropriate assignment of homework;
- Create and execute an annual communications plan for families, teachers and students on the role and importance and evaluation of homework which includes student, family, principal, and teacher responsibilities;
- Provide teachers with suggested homework assignments consistent with the district's adopted curriculum; and
- Assure that all students can access the materials and resources needed to complete homework.

HEALTH SERVICES

Our school nurse is Ms. Autumn Beck. She's here to help you stay healthy and safe during the school year. If you need to reach her, you can call 412-529-5025 or email her at abeck1@pghschools.org.

The Office of Health Services works hard to keep all students, staff, and families healthy. Their goal is to provide care and information that helps everyone feel their best—both in and out of the classroom.

Some of the services they offer include:

- Health check-ups and physicals
- Vision, hearing, and other screenings
- Health education and support
- Preventive care to stop illnesses before they start

We believe every student deserves access to great health care and support, no matter what. These services are available to students in public, private, and parochial schools across the city. Staying healthy helps you do your best in school—and we're here to support you every step of the way!

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/ACCEPTABLE USE

Our district is one-to-one, meaning every student will receive a laptop computer at the start of the year. Devices are collected at the close of the school year. Please refer to the this: Pittsburgh Public Schools Office of Information Technology Acceptable Use Form regarding acceptable use.

Middle School Technology Liaison

Amanda Krezan

akrezan1@pghschools.org

High School Technology Liaison

Autumn Cichinelli

acichinelli1@pghschools.org

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

PBIS / PRIDE

The discipline code of Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy 6-12 is designed to establish a code of behavior that benefits the student, the school, and society in which the student will eventually live and work as an adult. Students are expected to exercise PRIDE concepts in the manner in which they conduct their lives. All disciplinary action will be administered fairly and firmly for the good of the students and school. Students are attending Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy 6-12 to acquire the fundamental skills, knowledge, and habits that are essential for success in a global economy. Rule infractions disrupt the educational process and create a detrimental effect that is harmful to the students and instructors. Therefore, Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy 6-12 will continue the implementation of its school-wide management system entitled, “PRIDE”. The goal of the program is to foster student responsibility for their behavior and to deal with negative behaviors when the student is confronted or before they occur.

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

The Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) is a standards-aligned, comprehensive school improvement FRAMEWORK for enhancing academic, behavioral and social-emotional outcomes for ALL students. Response to Intervention (RTI) refers to the methodology that is used to determine how slow is slow (rate of growth) and how low is low (student’s level of performance), as an alternative to ability-achievement discrepancy within the Specific Learning Disability (SLD) Determination process.

Cross-disciplinary teams represented at the school, grade and individual levels use a problem-solving process to integrate evidence-based academic, behavioral and social-emotional practices matched to student needs and with fidelity of implementation. A continuum of supports and services exists at all Tiers and is undergirded by high-quality professional learning, cultural responsiveness, partnership and meaningful involvement with families, and dynamic decision-making that rests on the use of reliable and valid data sources. If you feel you may need additional information about the MTSS process, please contact:

- Mrs. Roberts: kroberts1@pghschools.org- grades 6-8
- Mr. Arment: rarment1@pghschools.org- last names A-L High School (PSE)
- Ms. Dobies: rdobies1@pghschools.org- last names M-Z High School (PSE)
- Ms. Eberhardt: meberhardt1@pghschools.org- last names A-L High School
- Dr. Hall: ahall1@pghschools.org- last names M-Z High School

Student Assistance Program (SAP)

Student Assistance Program is designed to assist in identifying issues including alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and mental health issues which pose a barrier to a student's success. The primary goal of SAP is to help students overcome these barriers so that they may achieve, advance, and remain in school. If you feel you may need additional information about SAP, please contact:

- Mrs. Wilson: lhamm1@pghschools.org- grades 6-9
- Ms. Detria Dixon: ddixon1@pghschools.org- grades 10-12

School Based Counseling

School based counseling services are available for students by contacting:

- Mrs. Wilson: lhamm1@pghschools.org -grades 6-9
- Ms. Dixon: ddixon1@pghschools.org- grades 10-12

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS/PROCEDURES

Arrival & Dismissal

The regular school day starts at 7:40 AM. Students may begin entering the building at 7:10 AM, and breakfast will be available in the cafeteria at that time. Dismissal is at 2:40 PM, and students will exit the building using the side or front doors based on how they are getting home.

Transportation Changes & Bus Expectations

Students who are assigned to ride the school bus will be notified by the District's Transportation Office. Riding the bus is a privilege, and all students are expected to:

- Stay seated while the bus is moving
- Follow the driver's directions
- Speak respectfully to others
- Keep hands, feet, and belongings to themselves

If there is a change in how your child is getting home (e.g., being picked up instead of riding the bus), please contact the main office in advance.

If no notice is given, your child will be sent home using their regular transportation method.

For any transportation-related questions, you can reach the District's Transportation Office at 412- 529-8125.

Important Reminder for Bus Riders

Students riding the school bus are not allowed to leave the bus or school grounds to visit the corner store or any other off-campus location during dismissal. This is considered a punishable infraction, as it poses a safety risk and disrupts dismissal procedures. Please help us keep everyone safe and accounted for.

School Photo ID

Grade-level Social Workers will arrange times for student ID photos to be taken. Students should carry their school ID at all times—it's needed for attendance, riding the bus, using lockers, and participating in school activities.

Bullying Policy

The Board prohibits all forms of bullying, including cyber-bullying by students. Bullying means an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or serious of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the intent or effect of:

- Creating an intimidating or hostile environment that substantially interferes with a student's education;
- Physically, emotionally or mentally harming a student;
- Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm;
- Placing a student in reasonable fear of damage to or loss of personal property

Bullying includes cyber-bullying and/or bullying on social networking websites and may include acts that occur outside of school if certain criteria are met. The complete policy, complaint and investigation procedures are available on the district website, in every building and classroom.

Hazing

Under no circumstances should any student at Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy 6-12 be involved in any act that could cause bodily harm to any other student. This policy is in effect throughout the school year and during those times when our students are engaged in school-sanctioned activities. Furthermore, the Administration does not condone, nor tolerate any activity that can be defined as hazing.

The staff and faculty of Westinghouse want our teams to utilize appropriate team building activities under the supervision of our coaches. Any student or athlete who feels that he/she has been a victim of hazing should report this incident to his/her coach and to his/her designated Assistant Principal. Below you will find a copy of the Pennsylvania Law against hazing:

Pennsylvania Law (P.S.) 5352

“Any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical Health or Safety of a student, or which willfully destroys or removes public property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as condition for membership in, any organization operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by an institution of higher education. The term shall include, but not be limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of an individual and shall include any exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or other activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual.”

Rules of Student Conduct

Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that will contribute to the best interest of Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy 6-12 and the Pittsburgh Public School district. As a student, you are not to infringe upon the rights of others. The following activities are considered improper conduct and will subject the student (s) to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension and or expulsion from school. A violation of the rules will occur whether the conduct:

- Takes place on school grounds at any time when the school is being used by a school group, or
- Off the school grounds at any school activity, function or event
- In route to and from the school, unless otherwise indicated herein.
- On the school bus in route to and from the school or for school activities

The following are infractions that warrant school discipline:

- Disruption of School
- School Property- Damage, Destruction or Theft
- Private Property – Damage, Destruction or Theft
- Assault-School Employee –Simple Assault
- Assault- School Employee – Aggravated Assault
- Assault-Student or Other Person not Employed – Simple Assault
- Assault- Student or Other Person not Employed- Aggravated Assault
- Weapons and Other Dangerous Instruments
- Narcotics, Marijuana, Stimulant Drugs, and Alcoholic Beverages
- Disorderly Conduct
- Telecommunication Devices
- Academic Dishonesty
- Sexual Harassment
- Misuse of Computers/Network
- Undesirable Group Activity
- Fighting
- Bullying

These are the governing rules as set forth by the Pittsburgh Public School District. These rules are used by all Pittsburgh Public Schools in setting policy regarding the procedures, responsibilities and rights of student behavior.

VISITORS

To ensure the safety and security of all students, staff, and visitors, Westinghouse 612 implements a rigorous visitor management system consistent with Pittsburgh Public Schools Policy 1104.

Entry/Sign-Out Procedure

- All visitors must enter through the main entrance only during school hours.
- Upon arrival, visitors are required to present a valid, government-issued photo ID (e.g., driver's license).
- IDs are scanned using the Raptor Visitor Management System, which:
- Verifies identity and checks against a national sex offender registry and any district-maintained restricted-access lists.
- Instantly alerts staff if there's a match.
- Logs the date, time, and location of the visit.

Visitor Badge

- After scanning and clearance, Raptor prints a visitor badge that includes:
- Visitor's name and photo
- Date, time, and purpose/location of visit
- Badges must be worn visibly at all times while on campus and returned at check-out.

Access and Escorting

- Visitors must be escorted by a staff member at all times during their visit.
- Access is limited to areas directly relevant to the visit.
- Visitors are expected to follow all school rules and directions.

Sign-Out

- Before leaving, visitors must sign out via the Raptor kiosk.
- Badge return allows for an accurate log of departure time and finalizes the visit record.

ID Refusal or Non-Compliance

- Visitors who refuse to present photo ID or do not receive clearance:
- Will be denied entry.
- The principal or designated administrator will decide if alternative arrangements (e.g., escort to drop-off an item) are appropriate.

- Law enforcement and emergency personnel are exempted when responding to emergencies.

Restricted Individuals

- A positive match in the Raptor system (e.g., sex offender registry) leads to immediate administrative action.
- Such visitors may be escorted off-campus or, at minimum, strongly supervised, per district protocol.

Data Privacy and Retention

Raptor only scans name, date of birth, photo, and partial license number—no photocopies or additional personal data are retained.

Logs are securely stored and accessed only for safety, legal purposes, or District audits.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Bulldog Parent & Family Engagement Policy

Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy 6–12 believes that students succeed best when families, schools, and the community work together. Our goal is to build strong partnerships that support academic success.

Family Involvement

- **Parent Feedback Matters:** We update our engagement policy with input from parents at back-to-school night, Title I meetings, and other school events.
- **Meetings & Workshops:** We offer events at various times to fit different schedules, including PSCC, PTSA, and Title I meetings.
- **Family Resource Room:** Open for families to explore tools to support student learning.
- **Conferences:** Parents can schedule meetings with teachers to discuss student progress.
- **Test Support:** We help families understand standardized test results and academic reports.

Advocacy & Support

- **Parent Voice:** We encourage families to advocate for their children's needs.
- **Family Engagement Assistant:** Helps create a welcoming school, supports home learning, and improves communication.
- **Support Teams:** We work with parents to provide strategies for academic support or enrichment.

School-Parent Compact

This agreement outlines how the school, students, and families share responsibility for academic achievement. It covers:

- Quality teaching and learning
- Volunteer opportunities
- Communication between home and school
- Student progress updates

Volunteering & Community Partners

- **Volunteer Program:** Families and community members are welcome to support the school (we help cover required clearances).

- **Community Collaboration:** We partner with local organizations like Homewood Children's Village, alumni, and universities to support students' overall growth.

Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)

Meets monthly to discuss school events and issues. All are welcome!

Non-Discrimination Policy

Pittsburgh Public Schools does not discriminate based on race, gender, disability, or other personal characteristics. Questions? Contact 412-529-3950 or titleIXcoordinator@pghschools.org.

Bulldog PRIDE (PBIS)

We expect all students to show PRIDE every day:

- **Prompt** – Be on time and ready to learn
- **Respectful** – Use kind words and follow rules
- **Integrity** – Be honest and responsible
- **Driven** – Try your best and finish your work
- **Empathetic** – Be understanding and listen to others

PRIDE helps build a positive school culture where all students can succeed.

APPENDIX

Policy 115 – Homework

This policy establishes expectations for meaningful, purposeful homework aligned to instructional goals. Homework should reinforce learning, be developmentally appropriate, and not excessive.

Policy 119 – Athletics & Extracurricular Activities

This policy governs student participation in athletics and extracurricular activities, including eligibility, academic expectations, conduct standards, and equitable access to programs.

Policy 204 – Attendance

Students are required to attend school regularly in accordance with Pennsylvania law. The policy outlines excused and unexcused absences, documentation, and procedures to support consistent attendance.

Policy 206 – Health Services

Outlines school health services including screenings, medical support, and procedures that ensure student health, safety, and readiness to learn.

Policy 209 – Grading and Reporting

Defines how student performance is assessed and communicated, including grading practices, report cards, and expectations for fairness and consistency.

Policy 211 – Graduation Requirements

Specifies the credit requirements and criteria students must meet to earn a diploma, aligned with state regulations.

Policy 212 – Student Code of Conduct

Establishes behavioral expectations and outlines disciplinary procedures to maintain a safe and respectful learning environment.

Policy 215 – Anti-Bullying

Prohibits bullying and harassment and outlines reporting, investigation, and intervention procedures to protect students.

Policy 216 – Electronic Devices

Governs student use of electronic devices. Devices may be used for educational purposes but are restricted during the school day to maintain a focused learning environment.

Policy 221 – Dress Code

Ensures student dress supports a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment while allowing appropriate self-expression.

Policy 226 – Academic Integrity

Prohibits cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty, reinforcing ethical academic behavior.

Policy 231 – Homeless Students

Ensures educational stability and access for students experiencing homelessness in alignment with the McKinney-Vento Act. The policy outlines rights related to enrollment, transportation, and support services.

Policy 1004 – School Visitors

This policy outlines procedures for visitors entering school buildings, including sign-in requirements, identification, and approval processes to ensure a safe and secure environment for students and staff.

Annual Child Find Notice

Pittsburgh Public Schools conducts ongoing 'Child Find' activities to identify, locate, and evaluate children who may be eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This includes children ages 3–21, including those who are homeless, wards of the state, or attending private schools. Families can request an evaluation if they suspect a disability impacting learning.



Students first
Always, in all ways.



Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs, activities or employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. It is the policy of the Pittsburgh School District to make all services, programs and activities available and to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities. Please make requests for accommodations at least 72 hours before the scheduled event. For more information regarding accommodations, civil rights grievance procedures, please contact: Rachel Beers, Office of Employee Relations rbeers1@pghschools.org | 341 S. Bellefield Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 | 412-529-HELP (4357)