

Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8

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,

Dr. Wayne N. Walters

Superintendent, Pittsburgh Public Schools

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Greetings, Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8 Community,

Welcome to Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8, a neighborhood school with a diverse population where we are excited to form an educational partnership with all students and their families. Each stakeholder of our school community plays an important role in ensuring our students are fully equipped for their middle school years and every dream they have for the future. We appreciate your perspectives and your contributions to our work in providing an exemplary education for your child.

We are committed to creating a safe and caring environment for students. Equity is a core value in our district, and our staff has high expectations for students and communicates clear and explicit expectations for positive behavior. We work with students to understand the importance of honesty and integrity in all our actions. The guidelines in the Arsenal 6-8 Student/Family Handbook are designed to communicate behavior expectations, school rules, safety procedures, and student rights and responsibilities. Please join us in our collective commitment to a positive learning culture where we all share responsibility for upholding safety expectations for students and staff.

A commitment to academic excellence is rooted in our daily classroom interactions, where high expectations are established while providing enrichment and academic support. Our vision is to cultivate curious problem solvers prepared for tomorrow. Our curriculum is designed to challenge learners and individualize learning to equitably meet each child's needs. Throughout the handbook, links have been provided as an added means of support for our students and families. Through various student supports, we are hopeful that a foundation is created where student learning and growth can flourish. We look forward to an outstanding school year and creating a genuine partnership with our Arsenal 6-8 students and families.

All the best,

Dr. Ruthie Rea

Principal, Arsenal 6-8



SCHOOL INFORMATION



Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8

220 40th St, Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Phone: 412-529-5740

Fax: 412-622-5743

Website: pghschools.org/schools/6-8/arsenal

Arsenal Staff Directory Click [HERE](#)

VISION AND MISSION

Vision

Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8 believes that all students, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, disability, or English language proficiency have the ability to learn and grow with appropriate supports.

Mission

Arsenal 6-8 is committed to growing all students socially, emotionally, and academically regardless of performance level, while also increasing the number of students who are proficient and advanced in math, reading, and science.

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

Arsenal Middle School strives to maintain open and positive communication with our families. We encourage parents and guardians to reach out whenever they have questions, concerns, or suggestions. Our goal is to provide timely support and work together to ensure student success.

Families can stay connected and receive important school updates through a variety of communication platforms, including:

- School Facebook page
- Ron Clark Academy (RCA) App
- Talking Points
- Family Calendar
- School website
- Email and phone communication

Should you need to contact the school or a staff member, please call the main office at (412) 529-5740 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Teachers spend most of the school day instructing students and fulfilling their assigned duties, so messages will be forwarded and returned as soon as they are available.

If you have a question or concern that has not been resolved, please feel free to contact the school to schedule an appointment with the Assistant Principal or Principal. If additional assistance is needed, families may also use the District's Let's Talk platform to receive support from Pittsburgh Public Schools. Following this process helps ensure concerns are addressed promptly and by the appropriate staff member.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your child's transportation, please contact the Parent Hotline at 412-529-HELP (4357).

Students will not be called to the front office to receive phone calls during the school day. If you need to relay important information to your child, please contact the main office and staff will ensure the message is delivered. For student safety, any changes to dismissal procedures must be submitted to the school in writing.

BELL SCHEDULES

Daily Schedule	
Homeroom	8:40-8:50 AM
Intervention	8:50-9:20 AM
Period 1	9:22-10:06 AM
Period 2	10:08-10:52 AM
Period 3	10:54-11:38 AM
Period 4	11:40 AM-12:24 PM
Period 5	12:26-1:10 PM
Period 6 (Lunch)	1:12-1:42 PM
Period 7	1:44-2:28 PM
Period 8	2:30-3:15 PM
Dismissal	3:15-3:25 PM

Half Day Schedule	
Homeroom	8:40-8:50 AM
Intervention	8:52-9:12 AM
Period 1	9:14-9:34 AM
Period 2	9:36-9:56 AM
Period 3	9:58-10:18 AM
Period 4	10:20-10:40 AM
Period 5	10:42-11:02 AM
Period 6	11:04-11:24 AM
Period 7 (Lunch)	11:26-11:50 AM
Dismissal	11:50 AM-12:00 PM

Two-Hour Delay	
Homeroom	10:20-10:47 AM
Period 1	10:50-11:24 AM
Period 2	11:26-11:59 AM
Period 3	12:01-12:34 PM
Period 4	12:36-1:10 PM
Period 5	1:12-1:42 PM
Period 6	1:44-2:28 PM
Period 7 (Lunch)	2:30-3:15 PM
Dismissal	3:15-3:25 PM

If we are remote, we will follow the daily bell schedule.

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

Attendance Requirements

The District recognizes that the responsibility for school attendance rests with families and students, with the school assisting them to fulfill that responsibility. Prompt, regular attendance is not only required by law, it is the key to student success and progress in school programs. For students to learn and progress as expected, students must consistently attend school. When students miss school, learning is disrupted and learning gaps occur that can cause student's difficulty in keeping up with grade level expectations. Parents should do the following when their child is absent.

Attendance Notification

When a student is marked unexcused, the parent/guardian will be notified by a robocall of the unexcused absence on the day of the absence.

Tardiness

Punctuality is an important habit to develop. Students may enter the building beginning at 8:00 AM. Breakfast will be served between 8:00 and 8:25 AM, and homeroom begins at 8:25 AM. Students are expected to be in class and prepared to learn by 8:30 AM. Students are considered tardy if they enter the building after 8:25 AM.

Procedures

If a student is absent for any reason, an excuse should be provided to the school within 3 days of the absence. Excuse notes are available from the school for the family to use, if needed. A student who is absent more than 10 days in one school year (excused or unexcused absences) will be required to submit verification that the absence was caused by illness, injury or hospitalization, impassable roads, a religious observance, or bereavement. If the student has more than 10 days absent within the school year, handwritten notes from home cannot be accepted.

Excused Absences

Any absence due to illness, accident, medical, bereavement, religious observance, or other circumstance with prior approval of school administration, will be excused provided written notification is presented to the homeroom teacher within 3 days of the absence. Academic grades may suffer as a result of excessive absences whether or not they are excused.

Unexcused Absences

An unexcused absence is an absence in which a student has not submitted a note from home, doctor, hospital, funeral home, religious organization, or courts within 3 days of the absence. A parent/ guardian shall receive legal notice after each instance of Unlawful and Unexcused Absence. The legal notice shall be issued after the first unlawful absence and should include the legal penalties established by law for violation of compulsory attendance laws and the name and contact person for the school contact person. The legal notice issued after the second unlawful absence shall contain the same information. The legal notice issued after the 3rd unlawful absence should contain the same information and additionally shall provide that if the parent/guardian violates the compulsory school law again the parent will be liable without further notice. The school social worker will attempt to schedule a parent/guardian meeting after the 3rd unlawful absence to create a Truancy Elimination Plan (TEP). Any subsequent unlawful absence can result in official notice being filed with the local magistrate.

Truancy

A child is “truant” if the child is subject to compulsory school laws and has incurred three or more school days of unexcused absences during the current school year. A child is “habitually truant” if the child is subject to compulsory school laws and has incurred six or more school days of unexcused absences during the current school year. Habitual truancy negatively impacts a child’s school performance and increases the likelihood of juvenile delinquency. As a result, an intensive and timely response to truancy is critical

Make-Up Work

When students are absent, it is their responsibility to talk with their teachers or obtain missed assignments. Students should get missed assignments completed and turned in to the teacher immediately. Students are allowed time equal to their period of absence to submit missing assignments, i.e., one day absent equals one day for make-up. Parents of students absent for two or more days may call the school on the third day absent and pick up assignments at school. Homework for absences less than three days in duration will be handled by the teacher and student upon the student’s return. Homework requests require a 24- hour notice in order to properly prepare all necessary materials.

Early Dismissal

It is the expectation that student appointments are made outside of school hours as much as possible so that the learning of students is not disrupted. In the event an early dismissal is necessary, a written notification must be submitted to the school. This allows for the proper notification of staff that a student may be leaving early. We request that all early dismissals occur prior to 3:00 p.m. so dismissal procedures are not disrupted. After that

time, please wait for your child outside. This policy is necessary in order to be able to keep track of all students at dismissal time. After 3:00 p.m., it is imperative that all students follow the school- wide dismissal procedures.

Tardies

A student is considered tardy when he/she arrives late for school and/or class. The parent/student shares the responsibility to assure promptness in arriving at school and to class on time. Chronic tardy (excused or unexcused) will result in possible disciplinary action. Tardiness to school will be excused only when accompanied with written/verbal notification from the parent/guardian or doctor. All other tardy days will be classified as unexcused. Students arriving after the final morning bell must receive a late pass from the security desk.

Change of Address/Phone

It is important for the school to be able to contact you to discuss your student's progress both academically and behaviorally. Arsenal also needs to be able to communicate with student families in the event of an emergency. Any changes to contact information should be provided to the school in a timely manner. Please call the main office at (412) 529-5740 and ask to speak to the SDSS.

ACADEMICS

Course/Program Guide

Pittsburgh Public Schools has updated the Course Catalog for grades K-12 for the 2025-2026 school year. The Middle School Course Catalog can be found at Course Catalogs / Course Catalogs (pghschools.org). Some offerings available in the catalog are specific to certain schools within the district. Should you have specific questions regarding the course offerings at Arsenal, please call the main office and ask to speak to the principal or school social worker.

Grading Guidelines

All students at Arsenal receive instruction across contents. As students are practicing, mistakes may be made and feedback from the teacher is important in students growing their knowledge around a concept or skill. Students should actively and cognitively engage in the learning activities planned by the teacher. Students will then be expected to demonstrate their knowledge through the completion of class assignments and assessments deemed appropriate by the teacher. Should teachers deem it necessary to provide students with additional practice, homework will be provided through both paper and digital assignments. Scholars are expected to follow the guidelines provided by the teacher regarding submission deadlines. Should students encounter an issue, students should advocate for themselves and respectfully speak to teachers regarding the assistance needed. Students and families are able to access the Home Access Center (HAC) to view student grades. A progress report will be provided mid-way through a grading period to make families aware of a student's progress. Should you need to contact your student's teacher to discuss progress or concerns, please call the main office to leave a message for the teacher.

English as a Second Language

English as a Second Language (ESL) is an instructional program for students whose dominant language is not English. The purpose of the program is to increase the English language proficiency of eligible students while simultaneously providing important content knowledge. Arsenal celebrates the diversity of our student population and supports the growth of all. Arsenal ESL teachers support students in their ESL classrooms and fellow staff in addressing the diverse needs of our student population.

Speech and Language Services

Speech and language services are available to students who qualify following an individual screening. Therapy sessions are provided individually or in small groups.

Learning Support, Therapeutic Support, & Autistic Support

Pittsburgh Public School students will be meaningful members of our school communities. All students with disabilities will receive an equitable education that addresses individual needs in order to achieve their fullest potential academically, socially, emotionally, and vocationally. Students are expected to achieve and succeed so that they can be productive, self-motivated citizens.

Students in need of specific support services can receive them at Arsenal. Individually designed programs are implemented based upon each student's specific individual education plan. Support services are assigned after interventions are implemented, academic evidence has been collected, and testing and team recommendations have occurred.

Family resources and information related to PSE contacts can be found at PSE (Special Education)/PSE (Special Education) (pghschools.org).

Gifted Education

The Gifted and Talented Education program at Pittsburgh Public Schools supports unique opportunities for students who are identified as high-achieving. The overall aim of the Gifted and Talented Education at Pittsburgh Public Schools is to provide educational opportunities and experiences to help students extend their learning, develop individual potential, enhance their self-concept and become life-long, independent learners. Pittsburgh Public Schools is committed to providing differentiated activities and opportunities through which students can discover and develop their unique and individual needs, interests, talents and abilities.

Students at Arsenal in need of enrichment and acceleration may be evaluated for Gifted Support services. The student must meet the criteria set by Pennsylvania regulations for Gifted Education, Chapter 16. Resources for families and contact information can be accessed at Gifted and Talented / Gifted and Talented (pghschools.org).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Arsenal Middle School believes that academic integrity is a critical component of academic success and personal growth. We expect all students, staff, volunteers, and visitors to demonstrate honesty, fairness, responsibility, trust, and respect in all academic work.

In accordance with Pittsburgh Public Schools Board Policy 226, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on tests, quizzes, homework, projects, and other assignments; plagiarism; representing another person's work as your own; unauthorized use of notes, technology, artificial intelligence (AI), or other aids; and knowingly providing another student with the opportunity to engage in academic dishonesty.

Students who violate these expectations will participate in an academic misconduct conference with school staff. Academic and/or disciplinary consequences may be assigned in accordance with Pittsburgh Public Schools Board Policy 226, the Code of Student Conduct, and classroom expectations.

If a suspension is assigned as a disciplinary consequence, students will be afforded the academic opportunities and protections provided under Pittsburgh Public Schools policies. A student will not receive a zero solely because of work missed while serving a suspension; however, academic consequences for the academic integrity violation itself may still apply in accordance with Board Policy 226.

ATHLETICS/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Cross Country, Volleyball, Swimming, Wrestling, Basketball, and Soccer will be the athletic programs held for students throughout the year. Various social-emotional learning programs and enrichment opportunities will also be available to students. Information for all programs will be communicated with families through school flyers, the Facebook page, and Talking Points messages.

Arsenal 6-8 facilitates a variety of sports during different seasons throughout the school year. Contact the school's athletic director for more information about the Arsenal 6-8 interscholastic athletic program: Mr. John Leemhuis: jleemhuis1@pghschools.org. Also, feel free to contact any of our coaches listed below, for details about any particular sport.

Season	Sport	Type	Head Coach	Email
Fall	Cross Country	Co-ed	Olivia Vorce	ovorce1@pghschools.org
Fall	Flag Football	Co-ed	Julian D'Angelo	jdangelo1@pghschools.org
Fall	Volleyball	Girls	Morgan Ealy	mealy1@pghschools.org
Fall	Volleyball	Boys	Gil Villanueva (Coach G)	gvillanueva1@pghschools.org
Winter	Basketball	Girls	Ed Ashi	eashi1@pghschools.org
Winter	Basketball	Boys	Julian D'Angelo	jdangelo1@pghschools.org
Winter	Swimming	Co-ed	Shelby Outten	soutten1@pghschools.org
Spring	Soccer	Girls	TBD	
Spring	Soccer	Boys	Julian D'Angelo	jdangelo1@pghschools.org
Spring	Wrestling	Co-ed	Gil Villanueva (Coach G)	gvillanueva1@pghschools.org

Sports Eligibility

Any student who has an interest in sports may participate in the sports program. To be eligible:

- A physician must fill out the sport physical packet and all immunization must be up to date before the first practice.
- A parent permission slip must be signed.
- Compliance with the school district's academic and attendance standards. Participation in athletic/extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right, which may be restricted or withheld per administrative discretion in alignment with applicable district and/or school policies.

DRESS CODE

Pittsburgh Public Schools maintains an exclusionary dress code that supports a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment. No student shall wear clothing, accessories, or jewelry that, through words, images, symbols, or any combination thereof, promotes or depicts violence, sexual activity, alcohol, tobacco, vaping, or illegal drugs, or that demeans, degrades, or targets another person based on race, color, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, religion, sex, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, or any other protected characteristic.

In accordance with the **CROWN Act** and Pittsburgh Public Schools policy, students may wear their hair in a manner that reflects their race, ethnicity, culture, or personal identity. This includes, but is not limited to, natural hairstyles, protective hairstyles, braids, twists, locs, Bantu knots, afros, fades, and head coverings worn for religious or cultural purposes. Hairstyles or hair texture will not be the basis for discipline or discrimination.

Students are expected to wear clothing that is appropriate for school and does not disrupt the educational environment. Clothing must provide adequate coverage of private body parts and undergarments. Apparel that is excessively revealing or creates a safety concern is not permitted. This includes clothing that exposes undergarments or private body parts. Shirts with straps are permitted provided they offer appropriate coverage and do not create a disruption or safety concern.

This dress code applies during the regular school day and at all school-sponsored activities, whether on or off school property.

If a student's attire does not meet these expectations, school staff will work with the student in a respectful manner to resolve the concern. When necessary, the school may provide alternative clothing or contact a parent or guardian to bring appropriate attire. Every effort will be made to minimize lost instructional time and avoid unnecessary exclusion from class.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cellphones

To reduce distractions and maximize instructional time, all student cell phones and smart watches must be turned in each morning. Devices are collected by staff and securely stored in the school safe during the school day. Cell phones and smart watches are returned to students at their designated dismissal locations at the end of the school day.

Arsenal Middle School encourages families to discuss the responsible use of cell phones, smart watches, and social media with their children.

Students who are found in possession of a cell phone or smart watch during the school day after devices have been collected will be subject to the following consequences:

- First Offense: The device will be confiscated, a parent/guardian will be notified, and the device will be returned to the student at the end of the school day.
- Second Offense: The device will be confiscated, a parent/guardian will be notified, and a parent/guardian must pick up the device from the school.
- Third and Subsequent Offenses: The device will be confiscated, a parent/guardian will be notified, a parent/guardian must pick up the device from the school, and the student will receive a lunch detention.

Students are expected to follow all school expectations regarding electronic devices to help maintain a safe, respectful, and focused learning environment.

GRADING

Grading Guidelines

All students at Arsenal receive instruction across content areas. As students are practicing, mistakes may be made and feedback from the teacher is important in students growing their knowledge around a concept or skill. Students should actively and cognitively engage in the learning activities planned by the teacher. Students will then be expected to demonstrate their knowledge through the completion of class assignments and assessments deemed appropriate by the teacher.

Should teachers deem it necessary to provide students with additional practice, homework will be provided through both paper and digital assignments. Scholars are expected to follow the guidelines provided by the teacher regarding submission deadlines. Should students encounter an issue, students should advocate for themselves and respectfully speak to teachers regarding the assistance needed.

Students and families are able to access the Home Access Center (HAC) to view student grades. A progress report will be provided mid-way through a grading period to make families aware of a student's progress. Should you need to contact your student's teacher to discuss progress or concerns, please call the main office to leave a message for the teacher.

HOMEWORK PROCEDURES

Each core academic class (ELA, Math, Science, & Social Studies) will give homework that students are expected to complete. Homework for each class is worth 10% of the grade. Each teacher will communicate their specific homework policy to families during the first week of school.

HEALTH SERVICES

Overview

At PPS and Arsenal 6-8, we strive to ensure that all students have equal access to quality health services, prevention education and early intervention and support to help them achieve academic success. Students receive school health physicals, screenings, and related services that support health and wellness.

Communication with Parents & Families

Please keep us informed of any telephone or address changes. Any changes to emergency contact information should be provided to the main office by calling (412) 529-5740. The school will always need a way to contact you in the event of an emergency. Nurse Brown can be reached at (412) 529- 5764.

Medications

IF your student has any allergies or medical conditions that we need to be aware of or they need to have medication administered at school, please, let us know immediately. NO medication can be administered without your signature on the PPS parental consent form. Please do not send medication with your child to self-medicate within the school. This present a safety concern for your child and others. A parent must bring the medication into the school and personally hand the medication to the school nurse.

When to Stay Home

Students should not come to school:

- If they have a fever. Students should be fever free for 24 hours without any fever reducing medications.
- If they are vomiting or have diarrhea.
- If students are suffering from a bad cough and have accompanying respiratory concerns. Please keep the child home and seek out advisement of the child's doctor.

Follow your doctor's orders. If your child is told to stay home, keep them home.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/ACCEPTABLE USE

Every student in PPS will have access to the district computer network resources, electronic mail and the Internet. To use these resources, all students must sign and return the PPS Acceptable Use Policy. It is important that families read and complete this document carefully, review its contents with your son/daughter, and sign where appropriate. Any questions or concerns about this permission form, or any aspect of the computer network, should be referred to your school's administration.

The signature of a parent/guardian is mandatory before students will be allowed access to any PPS computer or technology-based resource. This form is required annually of all students in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. This document reflects the entire agreement and understanding of all parties. The Acceptable Use Policy can be accessed at Forms / Home (pghschools.org).

Students and their families must follow the guidelines established for appropriate care and use of all district technologies. Misuse of PPS equipment may result in the withdrawal of this privilege at the school's discretion. Intentional or neglectful disregard for equipment resulting in damage or loss will be the responsibility of the student and their family and will be handled on a case-by-case basis where financial penalty is only applied when mutually agreed upon by the district and family. Inappropriate use may result in cancellation of permission to use district equipment which could have academic repercussions. We ask that each student and family take the use of district equipment seriously as the benefits of a contemporary learning environment have a wide range of benefits for the learner, as well as the learner's family and school community.

Damage and Repairs

Should a student encounter difficulties with their device, the school tech liaison will provide the necessary advisement according to district policy which could include securing devices for repair and providing students a loaned device for use, if available.

Access to Instruction and Programs

Students can access district instructional programs through Clever. Students work within this management system in many of their daily classes. Should students be required to work remotely, classes and instructional programs can be accessed through Clever. Students can access Clever through Student Resources / Student Resources (pghschools.org). Many program links are available for students to conduct additional work and practice outside of their regular school day.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

MTSS is a framework for providing services that meet the needs of all students using data analysis and decision making to effectively address academic and behavioral needs for instruction and intervention. Instruction and intervention are represented through multiple tiers that increase in intensity based on student need. Should you feel that your child needs assistance, please reach out to your child's teachers and the school social worker for support.

Student Assistance Program (SAP)

SAP is a systemic process using techniques to mobilize school resources to remove barriers to learning. The core of the program is a professionally trained team that convenes to identify problems and to determine whether the presenting problem lies within the responsibility of the school and to make recommendations to assist the student and the family. Should the problem lie beyond the scope of the school, the SAP Team will assist the family and student in accessing services within the community. Should you feel that your child needs assistance, please reach out to your child's teachers and the school social worker for support.

Social Emotion (SEL)

Within PPS, it is the belief that SEL is the foundation on which academic learning takes place. As such, activities are in place to develop student self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. This is achieved through mentoring programs from PPS staff and community partners that assist in supporting students. Please access Student Support Services/Overview (pghschools.org) for additional resources.

Speech and Language Services

Speech and language services are available to students who qualify following an individual screening. Therapy sessions are provided individually or in small groups.

Bullying and Harassment

Bullying is defined as intentional, aggressive behavior[s] that may be verbal, physical, written or electronic, aimed at another student or students, for the purpose of creating fear or intimidation by harming physically, mentally or emotionally. It may be direct or indirect, with face-to-face interactions or by spreading rumors, sharing inappropriate pictures or demeaning a student using social media.

Students and others who have been the victim of, or have information about, bullying or harassment are strongly encouraged to make a report to the school. A teacher, counselor, school social worker or school administrator will field complaints and ensure that they are properly addressed under the District's Bullying & Harassment Policy and administrative procedures. More information can be found on the PPS Website under the tab Student Supports where Quick Links for Students is located near the bottom of the page..

Policy 102: Non-Discrimination in School and Classroom Practices

Board Policy 102 states in part: The Board declares that it is the policy of the District to provide an equal opportunity for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs and activities offered in the schools without discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, gender (including gender identity or expression), sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or disability.

The District is committed to the maintenance of a safe, positive learning environment for all students that is free from discrimination by providing all students course offerings, counseling, assistance, services, employment, athletics and extracurricular activities without any form of discrimination, including Title IX sexual harassment. Discrimination is inconsistent with the rights of students and the educational and programmatic goals of the District and is prohibited at or, in the course of, District-sponsored programs or activities, including transportation to or from school or school-sponsored activities. Discrimination is also prohibited in any remote learning program or activity of the District.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS/PROCEDURES

Academic behavior is the foundation for our school-wide positive reinforcement system. During weekly team meetings, teachers will review student data. We have defined academic behavior as:

- **Prepared:** student has binder, homework, class materials, agenda book, appropriate gym clothes
- **On time:** student is in class when late bell rings.
- **Working hard:** student completes assignments, remains on task, head up, and responsible for making up missed class work and homework.
- **Engaged:** academic talk, participating (written/verbal) (on task computer and group work)
- **Respectful:** use appropriate language, respect classmates, teachers, and school property, display appropriate behavior in regard to classroom procedures/expectations.

Similar to the live school system, students will have the opportunity to earn points for meeting **POWER** expectations each period of every day and to use those points for various incentives and privileges throughout the school year. Our shift to keeping this data in a student agenda allows for students to be conferenced within the moment and for students to always be aware of their point total and areas (when needed) and allow for period data to be kept for all students rather than only students with exceptionalities or holistically for the day. Points will be awarded by teachers and staff each period for a total of 11 points a day. Weekly, homeroom teachers will input the data online and then teams will discuss the data. Grade level teams will continue to create and utilize “case management” of students for various SEL and academic groups based on the data. These groups will be fluid and could change based on the needs of students.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students have a responsibility to themselves, their families, and our school community to maintain behaviors that represent a respect for Arsenal’s focus on academics and growing all student learners. There is an expectation for academic integrity that requires students to demonstrate cognitive engagement in the learning led by their teachers, taking part in discussions relative to their learning, and completing assignments provided for them to demonstrate their understanding.

Discipline is one of the most important components of a student’s education. While it does not appear as a subject, discipline underlies the whole educational structure. It is the training that develops self-control, character, orderliness, safety, and efficiency. It is the

key to good conduct and proper consideration for other people. It must be based on mutual respect between students and school staff.

Arsenal students move within our Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) components of P.O.W.E.R. It is an expectation that Arsenal scholars demonstrate these components throughout their learning day. Students earn POWER Points that students can then use for entry into school-wide rewards and events. All students have the opportunity to earn these rewards.

VISITORS

All visitors are required to enter through the doors on 40th Street and must be checked by school security. All visitors must travel through the metal detectors. Visitors must then check-in with the front office to sign our school visitor log. Permission to visit a classroom must be granted in advance of any visit. An escort will be provided.

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.

Student cell phones will be collected each morning and secured in the school safe. This is necessary to reduce disruptions to the learning environment. Cell phones are returned to students when they enter their dismissal locations at the close of the school day. Arsenal would advise families to discuss with their students the appropriate use of social media. For additional information and resources to discuss with your child related to Cyber Safety, please visit [Cyber Safety / Cyber Safety \(pghschools.org\)](https://www.pghschools.org/cyber-safety).

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)