



Pittsburgh Faison K-5

Student Handbook 2026-2027

Table of Contents

SUPERINTENDENT’S WELCOME	2
PRINCIPAL’S WELCOME	3
VISION AND MISSION	5
COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES	6
BELL SCHEDULES	8
SCHOOL CALENDAR	9
ATTENDANCE	10
ACADEMICS	12
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY	13
ATHLETICS/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	14
DRESS CODE	15
ELECTRONIC DEVICES	16
GRADING	17
REPORT CARDS	17
HOMEWORK PROCEDURES	19
HEALTH SERVICES	21
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/ACCEPTABLE USE	22
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES	23
STUDENT EXPECTATIONS/PROCEDURES	24
VISITORS	26
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	27
APPENDIX	35

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

Welcome to Pittsburgh Faison K-5!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to another exciting school year at Pittsburgh Faison, a school where every child is known, valued, and challenged to reach their fullest potential. We are committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and engaging learning environment that fosters academic excellence, strong character, and a lifelong love of learning.

At Faison, we believe that education is a partnership among students, families, staff, and the community. Together, we create meaningful learning experiences that encourage curiosity, critical thinking, collaboration, and perseverance. We are dedicated to ensuring that every student receives high-quality instruction, develops confidence in their abilities, and feels a strong sense of belonging within our school community.

This handbook has been designed to provide important information about our school's expectations, procedures, and available resources. I encourage every family to review it carefully and use it as a reference throughout the school year. Clear communication and shared expectations help us build a positive and successful school experience for all.

Thank you for choosing Pittsburgh Faison K-5. We are honored to partner with you in your child's educational journey and look forward to celebrating their growth and achievements throughout the year. Together, we will continue to build a school community where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.



I look forward to an outstanding school year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Russell Patterson

Principal

Pittsburgh Faison K-5

SCHOOL INFORMATION



Pittsburgh Faison K-5

7430 Tioga St, Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Phone: 412-529-2305

Fax: 412-247-0105

Office Email: faisones@pghschools.org

Website: pghschools.org/schools/k-5/faison

Faison Staff Directory: bit.ly/4ytbW1R

School Colors: Purple and Gold

School Mascot: Lions

School Motto: Our School, Our
Community, Our
Faison

VISION AND MISSION

Mission

As a Faison family we consistently cultivate brilliance, serve communities, empower families and nurture the whole child by providing educational experiences to help our scholars reach their full potential. Our scholars WILL BE the difference in their global community. Our scholars WILL BE prepared to face the challenges they encounter with resilience and fortitude. This is our commitment. AS WE ROAR.

Vision

At Pittsburgh Faison Elementary School, we envision a vibrant community where every child is inspired to discover their full potential. We strive to foster a nurturing and inclusive environment that celebrates diversity, promotes academic excellence, and cultivates a passion for lifelong learning. Our dedicated educators are committed to providing innovative and personalized educational experiences that empower students to become critical thinkers, compassionate leaders, and responsible global citizens. Through collaboration with families and the broader community, we aim to create a supportive network that prepares our students to thrive in an ever-changing world.

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

Pittsburgh Faison K-5 is committed to maintaining open, consistent, and meaningful communication with our families. We believe that a strong partnership between home and school is essential to student success.

Weekly Newsletter: Every Friday, families will receive a school newsletter highlighting upcoming events, important dates, school news, instructional updates, and celebrations of student achievements.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled annually in the fall to discuss student progress. Families will receive conference sign-up information in advance. Additional conferences may be scheduled throughout the year as needed.

Emergency Notifications: In the event of an emergency or urgent school update, families will receive notifications through automated phone calls, text messages, and email. Please ensure the school has your most current contact information.

School Website: The Pittsburgh Faison website provides important information, including school policies, academic resources, calendars, staff contact information, and other updates throughout the school year.

Social Media: Follow Pittsburgh Faison on our official social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and ClassDojo, for reminders, school news, event information, and celebrations of student learning and achievement.

Family Events and Workshops: Throughout the school year, families will be invited to participate in instructional workshops, family engagement nights, school events, and community activities designed to strengthen the home-school partnership.

Family Feedback: We value the voices of our families and encourage feedback through surveys, meetings, parent forums, and direct communication with teachers and school administrators.

Translation and Accessibility: Information will be provided in languages spoken by our families whenever possible. Translation, interpretation, and accessibility accommodations are available upon request to ensure meaningful communication for all families.

Open Communication: Families are encouraged to contact their child's teacher, school counselor, or school administration with questions, concerns, or feedback. Appointments

may be scheduled by phone or email. We are committed to working collaboratively with families to support the academic, social, and emotional success of every student.

BELL SCHEDULES

ESEP: 7:47-8:20 AM

Doors Open for Students: 8 AM/10 AM (Two-Hour Delay)

Teacher Dismissal: 3:15 PM

Daily Schedule/ Remote Learning Schedule		Half Day		2-Hour Delay	
Period	Time	Period	Time	Period	Time
Homeroom	8:25 - 8:45	Homeroom	8:25 - 8:45	Homeroom	10:09 -10:39
				Period 3 Lunch 1 (K & 3)	10:39 -11:21
Period 1	8:45 - 9:27	Period 1	8:45 - 9:27	Transition	11:21 - 11:26
Period 2	9:27 - 10:09	Period 2	9:27 - 10:09	Period 4 Lunch 2 (1st & 4th)	11:26 - 12:08
Intervention	10:09 - 10:39	Intervention	10:09 - 10:39	Transition	12:08 - 12:13
Period 3 Lunch 1 (K & 3)	10:39 - 11:21	Period 3	10:39 - 11:21	Period 5 Lunch 3 (2nd & 5th)	12:13 – 12:55
Transition	11:21 – 11:26	Dismissal	11:21-11:30	Period 6	12:55-1:37
Period 4 Lunch 2 (1st & 4th)	11:26 - 12:08	Staff LUNCH	11:30-12:15	Period 7	1:37-2:19
Transition	12:08 - 12:13	PD Time	12:15-3:10	Period 8	2:19-3:01
Period 5 Lunch 3 (2nd & 5th)	12:13 - 12:55			Dismissal	3:01-3:10

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

Regular attendance is essential to academic success. Students are expected to attend school every day unless they are ill or there is another lawful reason for their absence. Families are encouraged to keep students home when they are sick to help prevent the spread of illness.

Reporting an Absence

If your child is absent, please notify the school as soon as possible.

Medical Absences

- A written excuse from a licensed healthcare provider should be submitted within **three (3) school days** of the student's return to school.
- If a medical excuse is not received, the absence may be recorded as a non-medical absence.

Non-Medical Absences

- A written excuse signed by the parent or guardian must be submitted within **three (3) school days** of the student's return.
- If an excuse is not received within three school days, the absence will be recorded as **unexcused**.

Unexcused Absences

The Pennsylvania School Code requires schools to address unexcused absences through progressive interventions.

- After **three (3) unexcused absences**, the school will schedule a Student Attendance Improvement Conference (SAIC) with the parent/guardian and appropriate school personnel to develop a plan for improving attendance.
- Continued unexcused absences after the conference may result in additional interventions and, when appropriate, referral for truancy proceedings in accordance with Pennsylvania law.

Tardies

Arriving to school on time is important. Tardiness results in missed instructional time and disrupts classroom learning.

- Students should arrive at school no later than **8:20 a.m.**
- Students arriving after **8:20 a.m.** must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and report to the main office to receive a tardy pass before going to class.
- Students arriving late due to District transportation or returning from a medical or dental appointment with appropriate documentation will receive an **excused tardy**.

Early Dismissals

To maximize instructional time, parents and guardians are encouraged to schedule medical and dental appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.

- An approved adult listed on the student's Emergency Contact Form must present identification when picking up a student for an early dismissal.
- To ensure the safety and efficiency of dismissal procedures, **early dismissals will not be granted after 2:30 p.m.**, except in emergencies.

Two-Hour Delays and School Closings

When Pittsburgh Public Schools operates on a **two-hour delay**:

- Students may enter the building beginning at **10:00 a.m.**
- Students arriving after **10:20 a.m.** will be marked tardy.
- **Breakfast will not be served.**

Information regarding two-hour delays, school closings, remote learning days, or other emergency schedule changes will be communicated through the District's notification system and posted on the Pittsburgh Public Schools website. Announcements are typically made as early as **6:00 a.m.**

ACADEMICS

At Faison K–5, we use high-quality, research-based instructional materials that are aligned to Pennsylvania Academic Standards. Our goal is to provide every student with engaging, rigorous learning experiences that build critical thinking, problem-solving, and a lifelong love of learning.

Mathematics – Illustrative Mathematics (IM)

Illustrative Mathematics is a problem-solving based math curriculum that helps students develop a deep understanding of mathematical concepts rather than simply memorizing procedures. Students work collaboratively to explain their thinking, solve real-world problems, and engage in meaningful mathematical discussions. Families can support learning by encouraging children to explain how they solved a problem and discussing the different strategies they use.

English Language Arts – Open Court Reading

Open Court Reading provides explicit instruction in foundational reading skills while building students' vocabulary, comprehension, writing, speaking, and listening abilities. Students participate in daily reading, writing, and classroom discussions using engaging, grade-level texts. Families can strengthen these skills by reading together at home each day and talking about what their child is reading.

Science – Carolina Science

Carolina Science is a hands-on, inquiry-based science program that encourages students to ask questions, investigate scientific phenomena, and think like scientists. Through experiments, investigations, and collaborative discussions, students develop an understanding of life, physical, Earth, and space sciences while building critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Families can reinforce scientific thinking by encouraging curiosity, asking questions, and exploring the natural world together.

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.

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

Pittsburgh Faison K–5 offers a variety of extracurricular activities designed to enrich students' educational experiences, develop leadership skills, encourage teamwork, and promote creativity and healthy lifestyles. Opportunities may vary by grade level and season and include:

- Musical productions and school plays
- Basketball
- Track and field
- Intramural sports
- Play Lab
- After-school programming

Additional clubs, activities, and enrichment opportunities may be offered throughout the school year based on student interest, staff availability, and community partnerships. Families will be notified as opportunities become available.

DRESS CODE

Shirts	Bottoms
• Polo Shirts/button down shirts (white, Navy blue, light blue) • Faison Gear • No Designs or emblems	• Pants, shorts, skirts (navy blue, khaki)

- Students MUST wear shoes with a complete back or strap. Flip flops and slides are NOT permitted.
- No hoodies will be worn in the building, they must be kept in a locker.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students will not be permitted to have their cell phones at Pittsburgh Faison Arts Academy K-5. If a student brings their phone, it will be collected and held until the end of the school day. Video and audio recording are not permitted at any Pittsburgh Public School.

Valuables/Toys

Students are to leave all valuables, large sums of money, and toys at home. In the event these items are found on students upon arrival, they will be taken and returned only to a parent/guardian. Items that are not retrieved will be discarded. Pittsburgh Faison will not be responsible for any items lost or stolen while in school, including computers and chargers.

GRADING

Report Cards

Quarterly Report Cards

Report cards are issued at the end of each nine-week grading period and provide families with a comprehensive summary of their child's academic performance, work habits, and progress toward grade-level expectations. Report cards are available electronically through the **Home Access Center (HAC)**.

Interim Progress Reports

Quarterly Interim Progress Reports

Interim Progress Reports are issued midway through each nine-week grading period to provide families with an update on their child's academic progress before final grades are assigned. These reports serve as a progress check and are intended to identify areas of strength and opportunities for improvement.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your child's interim progress, please contact your child's teacher to discuss strategies for supporting learning both at school and at home.

Interim Progress Reports are issued **four times each school year** and are available electronically through the **Home Access Center (HAC)**.

Grading Scale

Percentage Earned	Grade	GPA
90-100%	A	4.0
80-89%	B	3.0
70-79%	C	2.0
60-69%	D	1.0
50-59%	E	0.0

Honor Roll Recognition

Pittsburgh Faison K–5 recognizes students for their academic achievement each grading period.

- **High Honor Roll:** Students who earn a **Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher.**
- **Honor Roll:** Students who earn a **Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 to 3.49.**

Students who achieve Honor Roll or High Honor Roll will be recognized for their outstanding academic performance.

Home Access Center (HAC)

The **Home Access Center (HAC)** allows parents and guardians to monitor their child's academic progress and school information.

Through HAC, families can:

- View grades and report cards
- Monitor attendance
- Review assignments and classwork
- Check schedules
- Update contact information
- Communicate with teachers

To Access HAC:

1. Visit the Pittsburgh Public Schools website.
2. Select **Home Access Center (HAC).**
3. Log in using your username and password.

Need Help Accessing HAC?

If you are unable to log in, have forgotten your username or password, or need assistance navigating the Home Access Center, please contact the Pittsburgh Faison main office. Our staff is available to assist families with account access and answer questions about using HAC. Families can also reach out to the Parent Hotline by phone 412.529.HELP (4357), or by email parenthotline@pghschools.org.

Please note: To protect student privacy, only a student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may be granted access to Home Access Center accounts.

HOMework PROCEDURES

Homework plays an important role in developing responsibility, self-discipline, and lifelong learning habits. At Pittsburgh Faison K–5, homework is designed to be meaningful, relevant, and aligned with classroom instruction. Assignments reinforce learning objectives, provide opportunities for students to practice and apply newly learned skills, complete unfinished classwork when appropriate, and develop independence as learners.

Homework is assigned **Monday through Thursday** and should support learning without creating unnecessary stress or frustration.

Scholars in Grades K–2

Homework will be assigned four days per week (Monday–Thursday). Students can expect:

- Reading each night
- Math each night
- One Language Arts assignment, such as spelling, handwriting, grammar, writing, or a reading response, as appropriate

Recommended Homework Time: Up to **30 minutes** per evening.

Scholars in Grades 3–5

Homework will be assigned four days per week (Monday–Thursday). Students can expect:

- Reading each night
- Math each night
- Language Arts assignments connected to reading and writing at least three times per week

Recommended Homework Time: Up to **45 minutes** per evening.

Independent Reading and Book Reports

Independent reading is an essential component of literacy development. Students are expected to read independently outside of school and complete book reports each grading period.

- **Grades 1–2:** Six (6) independent book reports are required each report period. These book reports are included as part of the student's Reading grade.
- **Grades 3–5:** Six (6) independent book reports are required each report period. These book reports are included as part of the student's Reading grade.

Family Support

Homework should reinforce learning without becoming a source of excessive frustration. If your child is experiencing difficulty or homework exceeds the recommended amount of time, please stop the assignment and notify the teacher by writing a note on the homework or sending an email. This communication allows the teacher to better understand your child's needs and provide additional support during the school day.

We encourage families to establish a consistent homework routine by providing a quiet workspace, limiting distractions, and encouraging students to complete assignments independently while offering guidance and encouragement as needed.

HEALTH SERVICES

Medications

Over the counter and/or doctor prescribed medications, must be brought by a parent/guardian. All prescribed medications must be accompanied by a doctor's order and in the original bottle, for it to be accepted by the school nurse. Students should **NOT** bring **medications of any kind to school.**

Illness/Injury

Any student injured/ill in school will be treated by the school nurse who will in turn notify the parent/ guardian of the injury/illness. In the event the school nurse is unable to reach a parent/guardian, all attempts will be made to contact the emergency numbers listed on the student's Emergency Contact Form. Students who are seriously ill or contagious **MUST** be picked up from the school by an approved adult immediately.

Updated Contact Information

Due to the importance of being able to contact parents in cases of emergency as well as safely releasing a child to an adult (other than their parent/guardian), parents/guardians are required to keep the school informed of any changes to their contact information. This information includes all names listed in the student information as an approved adult for pick-up. It is the responsibility of the parent to inform any persons listed as an emergency contact of any pick-up procedures (including proof of ID), in order for a student to be released to them.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/ACCEPTABLE USE

All families will be required to sign the [Acceptable Use Policy](#).

Each student has access to an individually assigned laptop or iPad which are the property of PPS and are to be used for the completion of school assignments only. All devices are subject to inspection. In the event a teacher or administrator suspects the misuse/destruction of the device while in the care of their child, parents are responsible for the \$200.00 replacement fee. There is a \$35.00 fee for all HP chargers and \$45.00 for iPad chargers that are lost. Students are responsible for bringing their charged devices to school daily with the charger.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• K-5 Counselor• Learning Support Teachers• K-2 Autistic Support Classroom• K-2 Therapeutic Support Classroom• 3-5 Autistic Support Classroom• 3-5 Therapeutic Support Classroom• Speech Therapist• Classroom Paraprofessionals | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homelessness Support• Student Reintegration• Restorative Processes• Non-Discrimination Policy• Title I• Title IX• Safe2say• Community School | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MTSS (Multi-Tiered Student Support)• SAP (Student Assistance Program)• SEL (Social Emotional Learning)• Bullying And Harassment Policy Process |
|--|---|---|

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS/PROCEDURES

Ubuntu: "I Am Because We Are"

At Pittsburgh Faison K–5, our school community is grounded in the African philosophy of **Ubuntu**, which means, "**I am because we are.**" Ubuntu reminds us that our individual success is connected to the well-being of others and that we all have a responsibility to contribute to a caring, respectful, and inclusive community.

Students are encouraged to:

- Treat others with kindness, dignity, and respect.
- Demonstrate empathy and compassion toward others.
- Value and celebrate the unique strengths and perspectives of every member of our school community.
- Take responsibility for their actions and work to repair relationships when conflicts arise.
- Contribute positively to their classroom, school, and community each day.

At Faison, Ubuntu is more than a philosophy—it is reflected in how we learn together, solve problems together, and celebrate one another's successes.

Restorative Practices

Pittsburgh Faison K–5 is committed to fostering a positive, safe, and inclusive school climate through the integration of **Ubuntu**, Restorative Practices, and our school-wide **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)** framework.

Our behavior expectations are guided by **ROARS**, which stands for being **Responsible, On-Task, Appropriate, Respectful, and Supportive**. These expectations are explicitly taught, modeled, practiced, and reinforced throughout the school day.

Through both formal and informal Restorative Practices, students learn to:

- Build and maintain positive relationships.
- Take responsibility for their actions.
- Resolve conflicts through respectful dialogue.
- Repair harm when mistakes occur.

- Strengthen our school community by living the principles of Ubuntu and ROARS each day.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

Pittsburgh Faison K–5 recognizes and celebrates students who consistently demonstrate positive behavior and model our ROARS expectations. Classroom and school-wide incentives are provided throughout the year, and our rewards system is managed through **ClassDojo**.

PBIS Monthly Incentives

To be eligible to participate in monthly PBIS incentives, students should strive to:

- Maintain at least **80% compliance** with the school uniform expectation.
- Complete at least **80% of assigned classwork**.
- Complete at least **80% of assigned homework**.
- Maintain at least **80% on-time attendance**, arriving at school by **8:20 a.m.**

Meeting these expectations demonstrates a commitment to being **Responsible, On-Task, Appropriate, Respectful, and Supportive**, while reflecting the Ubuntu belief that every member of our school community contributes to a positive learning environment.

Valuables & Toys

Students are expected to leave all valuables, large sums of money, toys, and other non-instructional items at home. If these items are brought to school, they may be confiscated upon arrival and returned only to a parent or guardian. Items that are not retrieved by the end of the school year may be discarded.

Pittsburgh Faison K–5 is not responsible for any items that are lost, stolen, or damaged while brought to school, including personal electronic devices, computers, chargers, jewelry, money, toys, or other valuables.

VISITORS

For the safety and security of all students and staff, all visitors must report to the main office upon entering the building to sign in and obtain a visitor's pass. Visitors are required to wear their visitor's pass at all times while in the building.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Rainy and Extremely Cold Weather

If it is raining outside, students may be permitted to wait inside the school building until breakfast begins. During the winter months, students will remain outside until 8:55 a.m. except during bitter cold/snowy days. Therefore, you are encouraged to send your children to school as close to the 8:55 a.m. starting time as possible on inclement weather days.

School Closings

Please listen to the radio or watch TV to learn of school closings. We recommend the local news stations. The district website also displays closing information in a pop-up box as soon as you log on the site. If you do not hear that Pittsburgh Public Schools are closed, please assume they are open. We ask that you do not call the school. A ROBO call is also distributed by PPS, which is why it is imperative to have your phone number updated if there is a change.

Individual schools are not identified as being closed unless there is a problem specific to that school. When you hear that the Pittsburgh Public Schools are closed, Pittsburgh Dilworth PreK-5 is closed. When the schools are closed, school staff do not report. Therefore, none will be available to provide you with information.

School Delays

A two-hour delay provides enough time for roads to be treated and for morning traffic to clear. When there is a delay, students are not to report to school until 10:10 a.m. The buses will also run on a delayed schedule. Please make sure you have a plan for your child(ren) when the weather may cause a delay or closing. It is important to determine who will be responsible for them if you have to work prior to the morning of the snow. There will be NO breakfast provided or after-school activities occurring on two-hour delay days. On a 2-hr delay, there is no before-school program.

Snow-Related Early Dismissals

Pittsburgh Dilworth PreK-5 does not dismiss early on a day it begins to snow. If there is a severe weather threat, please listen to local news, the radio, or log on to the District's website at pghschools.org for information. Please also check the PPS Facebook page. Normal dismissal procedures will take place that day, unless instructed otherwise by the district. Parents/guardians will be notified if that is the case. We ask that parents/guardians wait until 3:50 p.m. to pick up their students so that there is no disruption to the school day or dismissal.

Always remember to update the school with any changes to your address or phone numbers

Fundraiser Friday

The purpose is to raise money for student activities, field trips, and rewards for student achievement throughout the school year.

- Students donate \$1 each Friday if they DO NOT wear their uniform.
- Participation in Fundraiser Friday is completely OPTIONAL.
- If you choose not to participate, your child is expected to be in their uniform.

School Pictures

Lifetouch Photography takes pictures of the students in early fall and spring. All students have their pictures taken in the fall so we can use them for school purposes. If the pictures are to be purchased, payment is due the day the pictures are taken.

Valuable Possessions

Students are strongly discouraged from bringing personal belongings or money to school, as there is always a risk of these items being lost or stolen.

If there is a valid reason for bringing such items, they should be turned into the main office for safekeeping.

Students who choose to bring toys or other personal items to school may have them confiscated. These items will be taken to the office and returned at a later time.

Lost and Found

Items that students misplace are placed in the cafeteria, where students can check and retrieve them once they realize something is missing.

We strongly encourage families to label all clothing and personal belongings with the student's name to make it easier to return lost items.

Any unclaimed items remaining at the end of the school year will be donated to the Goodwill Store.

Lockers

Each student has a locker or shares a locker with a classmate. Locks are not permitted on lockers. Students should not bring valuables to school. The valuables will not be replaced. Students are permitted to go to their lockers at the beginning and end of the school day and before and after lunch.

Lost Books

The number of books students receive is dependent upon the students' grade level and subject area. These books are evaluated as to their condition at the end of the school year, and students are expected to use the books in a manner that maintains their condition. When lost, students will pay for a replacement since the books are expensive. The same holds true for library books that are lost or destroyed. End-of-year report cards are not given to students until they return or pay for their lost books.

Safety Guidelines for Drivers

Please observe the speed zones around the school. Pick up your child/children and let them out of the car only from the right side. If you must let them out from the side of the street away from the building, be sure to insist they go to the corner to cross the street so they will not dash out into the street from behind or between parked cars and buses. If possible, walk them across the street.

Parent/Guardian Volunteering

We will gladly welcome parent/guardian involvement throughout the school day and on fieldtrips. Volunteers must obtain clearances related to criminal history, child abuse, and FBI clearances. Parents must also be cleared by the District. The forms are available in the office. There are several ways to become involved in the school:

- School Volunteers
 - Help teachers help students
 - Assist in creating a positive school atmosphere
 - Provide additional adult presence
 - Bring the school, community, and business world together
- WPTA
 - Find out what is happening at school
 - Talk about concerns and student issues
 - Exchange ideas that will help the school
 - Raise funds for special projects
 - Create a warm, inviting school experience for all students
 - Meet once a month
- Parent (Guardian) /School Community Council (PSCC)
 - Raise school-wide concerns and help resolve them at the school level
 - Advise on school policies, programs, and critical issues
 - Assist in the development of the school's state required educational plan
 - Monthly Council meetings, committee meetings, occasional training sessions

Please let the WPTA President or the FACE coordinator know if you are interested. Please contact our FACE Coordinator, Ms. Abigail Pekelnicky, at the school if you are interested.

District Policy Resources

District Code of Conduct: [Code of Conduct](#)

District Non-Discrimination Policy: [Non-Discrimination Policy](#)

District Special Education Services and Programs for Protected Handicapped Students (504), and Services for Gifted Students: [PSE \(Special Education\) & Child Find Notice](#)

District Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness: [Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#)

Family Resources

Alliance for Community Respite Care | 1(888) 954-2424

A collaborative network of families, providers, community members and advocates who work to ensure the availability of quality respite care.

Allegheny Family Network (AFN) | 1(888) 273-2361

Supports and partners with families raising children with emotional and mental health needs to improve their quality of life.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh | (412) 622-3114

The Carnegie Library has multiple branch locations offering special services such as job career and educational centers.

Child Care Information Services: Allegheny County | (412) 261-2273 | 1(800) 392-3131

CCIS serves as a primary resource to assist families with child care referrals, emergency childcare, subsidized care for qualifying families, and promotes quality child care by offering training in subjects such as early literacy.

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) | 1(800) 986-5437

Pennsylvania's program to provide health insurance to all uninsured children and teens who are not eligible for or enrolled in Medical Assistance.

Family Resources | (412) 363-1702

Family Resources offers many services to help parents and children improve their relationship along with youth enrichment activities at its centers.

Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank | (412) 460-3663

The mission of Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is to feed people in need and mobilize our community to eliminate hunger. The organization provides assistance to Pittsburgh Dilworth and our families in need of food.

The Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania | (412) 281-2535

Helps mentoring programs by providing training, recruiting, quality assistance, and support to increase the number of mentors in the community.

Parent Education & Advocacy Leadership (PEAL) Center | (412) 281-4404

The PEAL Center is an organization of parents of children with disabilities reaching out to assist other parents and professionals.

Pittsburgh Public Schools | (412) 529-4357 (Parent Hotline)

The Pittsburgh Public Schools believes in regular, two-way, meaningful communication connecting student academic learning and other school activities; to this end the Parent Hotline is one of several resources to assist parents and families in engagement.

Right to Education Task Force | (412) 529-2300

The Local Task Force provides opportunities for parents, guardians and community members to ask questions about special education services as well as address concerns that affect students with disabilities in the Pittsburgh Public School District.

Program for Students with Exceptionalities PSE/Oliver

2323 Brighton Rd. Pittsburgh, PA. 15212 ltf2pgh@gmail.com

United Way of Allegheny County | 211 (Help Line) | (412) 261-6010

United Way of Allegheny County provides information to families through their online resource Help Connections; agency funding, planning, and community problem solving for health and human services agencies operating within Allegheny County.

Children's Services**Achieva | (412) 995-5000**

A world-renowned leader in the field of disabilities, known for its innovative programs, and dedication to children with disabilities and their families.

Alliance for Infants and Toddlers | (412) 885-6000

This program provides service coordination, screenings, assessments, family support services, and early intervention service coordination to families with children between the ages of birth to three years of age.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh | (412) 363-6100

Big Brothers Big Sisters increases the self-confidence of children and the probability that they will become fully integrated members of society, leading productive and rewarding lives through mentoring and enrichment programs.

Boys and Girls Clubs | (412) 782-5710

The BGC is a unique organization consisting of 8 Club facilities, a Charter H.S., Outlet Connection retail venture, Campfire USA, and extension programs. Our goal is to provide every child with the essential tools needed for a successful & bright future.

Brookline Teen Outreach | (412) 254-4590

The BTO is an organization that provides quality resources free of charge to youth ages 10-18 in the Greater Pittsburgh area to maximize their potential through educational and social programming, life skills workshops, tutoring, community service opportunities, and licensed counseling.

Catholic Charities, Child Care Support Services | (412) 456-6999

Catholic Charities provides counseling, refugee resettlement, respite care, utility assistance, emergency relief, tangible assistance services and makes referrals for clients. In 2007 it expanded services by opening a Free Health Care Center.

Children's Institute | (412) 420-2400

The Children's Institute is a nonprofit pediatric rehabilitation facility which provides education services for children ages two to 21 with cognitive or physical disabilities with in-home services for children and families with special needs.

Girl Scouts - Trillium Council | (412) 566-2570 or 1(800) 248-3355

The Girl Scouts inspires girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism, and service that they may become happy and resourceful citizens.

Greater Pittsburgh Council Boy Scouts of America | (412) 471-2927

The Boy Scouts trains young people in citizenship, service, and physical fitness through the Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Venturing programs, & more.

Junior Achievement of Southwest PA Inc. | (412) 208-4747

JA's purpose is to educate and inspire young people to value free enterprise and understand business & economics to improve the quality of their lives.

Parks and Recreation | (412) 255-2539

Parks and Recreation offers a wide variety of recreational programs and facilities for use by Pittsburgh citizens.

Pittsburgh Toy Lending Library | (412) 682-4430

The Pittsburgh Toy Lending Library, a cooperative run by volunteers, is an indoor play-space for children, pre-kindergarten, and their caregivers.

Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh | (412) 227-4802

The Urban League is the largest social and educational service provider and advocacy agency devoted to empowering African Americans to enter the economic and social mainstream community in Pittsburgh through its diverse programs.

YMCA | (412) 227-3800

YMCAs serve America's children, families and communities by "building healthy spirit, mind and body for all."

YouthPlaces | (412) 434-0851

YouthPlaces promotes the positive cognitive, social, physical, emotional and moral development of youth by providing a safe place for them to engage in a range of activities.

YouthWorks Inc. | (412) 281-6629

YouthWorks builds a community solution to help young people whose potential might be overlooked to pursue employment and career development opportunities.

YWCA Greater Pittsburgh | (412) 391-5100

YWCA works to improve our community by increasing the status of women, girls, families and advancing racial justice by tackling homelessness, childcare needs, unemployment, fair housing and civil rights issues.

Cultural Organizations**The August Wilson Center | (412) 258-2700**

The August Wilson Center for African American Culture is a not-for-profit organization that presents performing, visual and education programs that celebrate the contributions of African Americans within the region and the impact of cultural expression from Africa to the African Diaspora.

Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh | (412) 622-3131

A collection of four dynamic, distinctive museums, and the Pittsburgh region's home for great art and science exploration.

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh | (412) 322-5058

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh provides innovative museum experiences that inspire joy, creativity and curiosity.

Fort Pitt Museum | (412) 281-9284

Through exhibits and programs, the museum also addresses the important role of Fort Pitt during the American Revolution and the early development of the city of Pittsburgh.

The History Center | (412) 454-6000

The Senator John Heinz History Center is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and the largest history museum in the state of Pennsylvania.

Manchester Craftsmen's Guild | (412) 322-1773

Manchester Craftsmen's Guild is a multi-discipline, minority directed, center for arts and learning that employs the visual and performing arts to foster a sense of accomplishment and hope in the urban community.

National Aviary | (412) 323-7235

The National Aviary is America's only independent indoor nonprofit bird zoo. It is home to 600+ birds of more than 200 species.

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens | (412) 622-6914

Encounter the wonders of the natural world. Tour through the jewel-like Conservatory and visit exotic lands and ancient worlds with vivid colors, natural oddities, and surprises around every corner of the botanical gardens.

Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium | (412) 665-3640

The Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG is a 77-acre facility that is home to thousands of animals representing hundreds of diverse species. The Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium is one of only six major zoo and aquarium combinations in the country.

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust | (412) 456-6666

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust owns and maintains theaters, galleries, and additional mixed-use properties in Pittsburgh's Cultural District. The Trust also utilizes other Cultural District venues such as Heinz Hall and the August Wilson Center for African American Culture to present its performances or collaborate on programming.

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)