



Pittsburgh Mifflin PreK-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

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year at Pittsburgh Mifflin PreK-8!

At Mifflin, we believe that every child deserves a school experience filled with learning, belonging, and joy. As we continue to build our Mustang Legacy, we remain committed to helping students achieve academic excellence while developing the character needed to thrive both in and beyond the classroom.

Our school community is grounded in our SKR expectations: Being Safe, Kind, and Responsible in all that we do. These expectations guide our actions, decisions, and relationships each day. Through our House System, students learn the value of teamwork, leadership, service, and celebrating one another's successes. Together, our four houses create a culture where every student feels seen, supported, celebrated, and connected.

We are proud of the legacy we are building and look forward to partnering with our families to ensure every Mustang grows as a learner, leader, and citizen. Thank you for being an important part of Team Mifflin. Let's make this year our best yet!

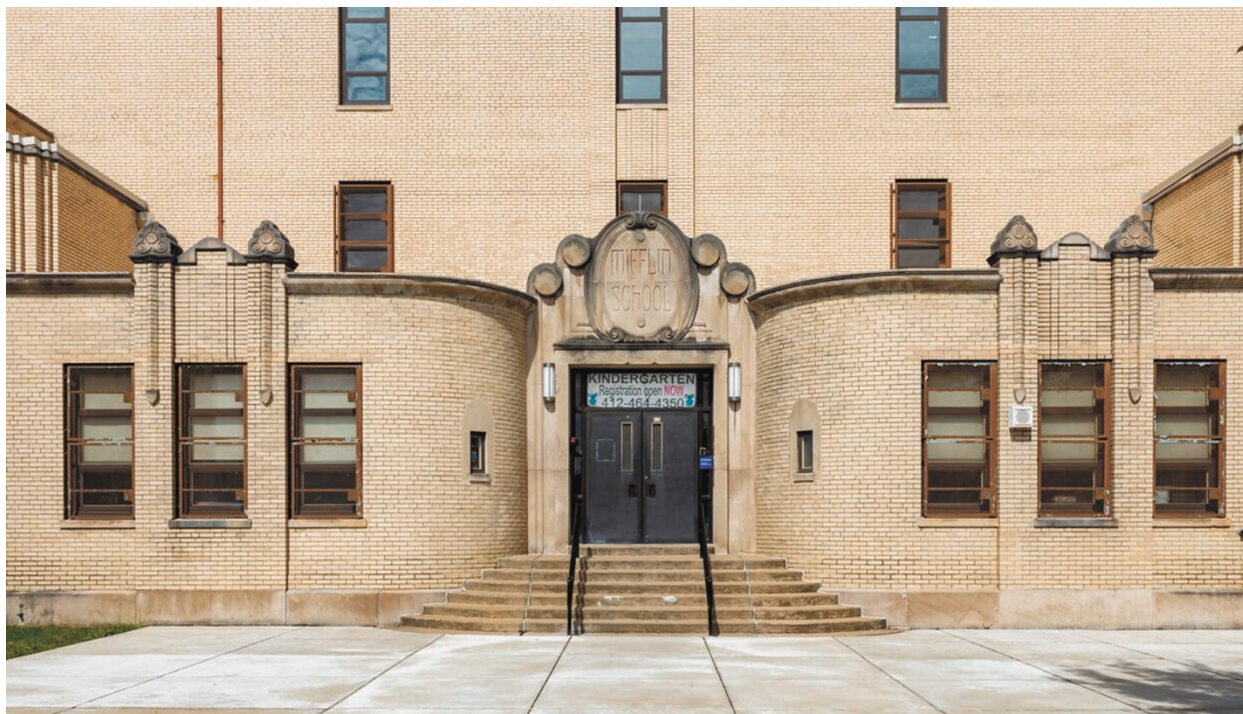
With Mustang Pride,

Amy E. Carricato

Principal, Pittsburgh Mifflin PreK-8



SCHOOL INFORMATION



Pittsburgh Mifflin PreK-8

1290 Mifflin Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Phone: 412-529-4350

Fax: 412-464-4355

Office Email: mifflin@pghschools.org

Website and Staff Directory:

pghschools.org/schools/k-8/mifflin

School Colors Blue and Yellow

School Mascot Mustang

School Motto Four Houses, One Team

[Team Mifflin Staff Directory](#)

VISION AND MISSION

Mission

At Team Mifflin, our mission is to cultivate a joyful and safe learning environment where all students are celebrated for their individual identities and empowered through historically and culturally relevant learning experiences. We are committed to fostering critical thinking, nurturing curiosity, and inspiring learners to become thoughtful, inclusive members of society. Through continuous improvement in our culture, systems, and instruction, we equip our diverse learners to engage meaningfully with the world and thrive as lifelong learners in an ever-evolving community.

Vision

At Team Mifflin, we envision a vibrant learning community rooted in safety, kindness, and responsibility—where every student and staff member is seen, supported, and empowered in their unique identity. We are dedicated to nurturing lifelong learners who are curious, compassionate, and courageous contributors to a just and inclusive world. Our House system celebrates unity through diversity, fostering school spirit and a deep sense of belonging for all. By continuously refining our culture, systems, and instruction, we strive to grow stronger together—students, staff, and families—united in purpose and thriving as a community of learners.

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

Social Media

Pittsburgh Mifflin PreK-8 shares important updates and school news on Facebook. Follow us at Pittsburgh Mifflin PreK-8 to stay informed and engaged with our school community.

Newsletter

Pittsburgh Mifflin sends out a monthly newsletter to all families that includes a calendar, school lunch menu, Students of the Month, and other happy happenings. Please look for it in resources sent home each month.

Talking Points

At Mifflin, we value strong partnerships between home and school. Our teachers, school counselor, and Principal Carricato use Talking Points to share important updates, reminders, and student information. We encourage families to download the Talking Points for Families app and refresh it regularly to stay connected.

To ensure your messages reach the correct person you wish to communicate with, please contact the appropriate staff member directly via Talking Points or email. Do not send absences, tardies, or early dismissal requests to the Mifflin PreK-8 account but rather to the appropriate homeroom teacher.

Cancellations and Delays

Cancellations and delays are communicated by the District through multiple channels. As a courtesy, Principal Carricato will also share this information via Talking Points and our Pittsburgh Mifflin PreK-8 Facebook page when possible.

Family Communication Protocol

Effective communication between families and school staff is key to a successful school year. To ensure your concerns are addressed efficiently:

- **Start with the Teacher:** For matters related to attendance, behavior, academics, or general classroom concerns, your child's teacher should be your first point of contact. Teachers interact with students daily and are best positioned to provide timely and informed support.
- **How to Contact Staff:** Use the Staff Roster included in this handbook to email or call staff directly through their classroom phone lines. You may also utilize Talking Points to directly message the appropriate staff member.

- **Response Time:** Please allow all staff adequate time to respond. Most responses will occur during planning periods or before/after school. Staff are not expected to respond outside of school hours, including evenings and weekends.
- **Next Steps:** If further support is needed after contacting your child's teacher, you will be guided to the appropriate staff member to address your specific needs. Everybody has a role in supporting our students!
Should concerns persist after these steps are taken, please contact the main office to request a meeting with Principal Carricato. All meetings must be scheduled in advance to ensure that adequate time and attention can be provided.
- **Use Available Resources First:** We kindly ask families to check existing resources—such as the District website, school website, social media pages, and materials sent home—for frequently asked questions. These tools are regularly updated to keep you informed about school events, calendars, and opportunities.

Thank you for partnering with us to maintain clear and respectful lines of communication throughout the school year.

BELL SCHEDULES

Daily Bell Schedule and Remote Schedule	Half Day Bell Schedule	Two-Hour Delay Bell Schedule
Homeroom: 8:00-8:20	Homeroom: 8:00-8:20	Homeroom: 10:00-10:20
Period 1: 8:20-9:05	Period A: 8:20-9:05	Period A: 10:20-11:05
Period 2: 9:05-9:50	Period B: 9:05-9:50	Period 5: 11:05-11:50
Period 3: 9:50-10:35	Period 5: 9:50-10:35	Period 6: 11:55-12:40
Period 4: 10:35-11:20	Period 6: 10:35-11:20	Period 7: 12:40-1:25
Period 5: 11:20-12:05	Homeroom: 11:20-11:35	Period 8: 1:25-2:10
Period 6: 12:05-12:50		Period 9: 2:10-2:55
Period 7: 12:50-1:35		Homeroom 2:55-3:05
Period 8: 1:35-2:20		
Period 9: 2:20-3:05		

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Team Mifflin Upcoming Calendar Events and Activities

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 Expectations

Consistent, on-time attendance is essential for academic success. At Pittsburgh Mifflin, families play a key role in supporting their child's daily attendance and are expected to follow Pittsburgh Public Schools Attendance Policy 204.

Excuse notes for absences must be submitted within 3 days, or the absence will be marked unexcused. Please note that even excused absences still count against a student's overall attendance record.

Families may request a written review of excessive absences that impact academic credit. The Principal may excuse absences and grant credit or promotion if valid mental, physical, or urgent reasons are provided.

For questions, please contact our school counselor, Mrs. Cress, at scress1@pghschools.org or 412- 529-4350 extension 53117.

Early Dismissal Requests

All early dismissal requests must be submitted in writing (paper note, email, or Talking Points app) to your child's homeroom teacher, who will then notify the main office.

Please do not send early dismissal requests to Principal Carricato via text or Talking Points.

Tardiness

All students arriving late, after 8:20 am, must enter through the main office and provide a signed note from a parent/guardian or be escorted to the front door. Prompt arrival is essential, and students are expected to be present and ready to learn when the bell rings.

Tardiness that causes a student to miss a full class period may count as an illegal absence. In cases where absences are legally excused, students may still earn final course grades if they:

- Complete all course requirements and makeup work
- Pass the final exam
- Provide appropriate documentation (e.g., doctor or court notes)

Unexcused tardiness or cutting class will result in progressive discipline and family notification, as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Make-Up Work

It is the responsibility of students and families to request and complete missed assignments within the timeline agreed upon with the teacher. For extended absences due to illness or legal excuses, the school counselor will help coordinate make-up work with teachers.

Students missing class for school-related activities (e.g., music, chorus, sports) must contact their teachers to arrange any make-up work.

School work can be found within each teacher's Schoology page.

ACADEMICS

At Pittsburgh Mifflin, providing a positive and meaningful academic experience is at the heart of everything we do. We follow the Pennsylvania State Academic Standards, which outline what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. These standards are part of the Standards Aligned System (SAS) and serve as the foundation for curriculum and instruction across the Commonwealth.

Mifflin implements the Pittsburgh Public Schools' robust and rigorous curriculum, which aligns directly with these state standards, including Open Court Reading and Illustrative Math. These curricula offer comprehensive and engaging academic programs for all students in grades K–8, ensuring a full menu of learning opportunities across content areas.

Grading practices at Mifflin follow District policy, with an emphasis on fairness, consistency, and clearly communicated expectations. Our professional educators are committed to delivering high-quality instruction while maintaining a supportive and inclusive classroom environment.

We also provide a variety of academic supports to help students meet their goals, including differentiated instruction, intervention services, and enrichment opportunities. A strong partnership between school and family is essential to student success, and we value ongoing communication to support each child's unique academic journey.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic Honesty

Students who engage in academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade for the assignment and appropriate consequences. Families will be notified.

Examples of academic dishonesty include:

- Copying another student's work
- Submitting someone else's work as your own
- Using past student projects or reports
- Plagiarizing from any source
- Using unauthorized notes or materials during a test
- Utilizing AI in inappropriate ways

For more details, refer to PPS Policy 226 above.

ATHLETICS/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Athletics

Pittsburgh Mifflin follows District Policy 119 regarding student participation in athletics. We offer a variety of sports opportunities, including flag football, volleyball, basketball, cross country, and soccer.

Before each athletic season, students and families receive detailed information and agreements outlining expectations and requirements. Any equipment or uniforms borrowed from the school must be returned in good condition at the end of the season.

To participate in practices or games, students must be present at school on that day and exhibit SKR behavior. Any behavioral infractions may keep students from participating in games and/or practices.

For questions about athletics, please contact our Faculty Manager, Mrs. Espey, at mespey1@pghschools.org, as well as the appropriate Head Coach.

Eligibility for Activities

Students must maintain a 75% or higher in all classes to be eligible for extracurricular activities. Teachers regularly evaluate academic progress, and families will be notified if a student is missing work or at risk of ineligibility.

Students must also follow Safe, Kind, and Responsible (SKR) expectations and represent Mifflin as positive Mustangs at all times. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege. Any in-school or out-of-school suspension may result in removal from extracurricular activities and/or field trips.

Pittsburgh Mifflin offers a range of extracurricular activities, including (grade-level specific):

- Volleyball
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Bocce Ball
- Student Envoys
- Intramurals
- Track
- Flag Football
- House Leads
- Pep Team
- Chorus
- Instrumental

Expectations will be communicated by the Faculty Manager, coaches, and supporting staff when appropriate. Students and families must review and sign an agreement before participating in any extracurricular program. The Student Code of Conduct will be monitored and followed for all extracurricular activities.

DRESS CODE

Pittsburgh Mifflin follows Board Policy 221 – Dress Code, which states:

“No student shall wear any apparel or jewelry that by words, signs, pictures, or any combination thereof appearing on clothing or jewelry advocates or promotes sexual activity or violence, or the use of alcohol or drugs, or demeans or degrades another because of race, sex, religious persuasion, national origin, handicap, or disability. This prohibition shall be in effect during regular school hours and at any school-sponsored event, whether on or off school premises.”

We take pride in the appearance and overall well-being of our students. All students are expected to dress appropriately for a school setting, and families are encouraged to monitor their child’s attire.

Dress Expectations at Mifflin Include:

- Shirts must cover the full midriff
- No blankets, slippers, or pillows permitted
- Clothing that poses a safety or emotional risk, as determined by the Principal, will not be allowed and may result in a family phone call
- Consequences for Dress Code Violations May Include:
 - Verbal warning
 - Parent/guardian notification
 - Visit to the Caring Closet
 - Conference with parent/guardian and staff
 - Other appropriate interventions

Our goal is to maintain a respectful, safe, and inclusive school environment where all students can focus on their learning.

Dress for Activity and Recess

Students are expected to dress appropriately for their scheduled school day, especially on days when they have Physical Education (Gym). Proper footwear is required to ensure safety during gym class, recess, and special events like House Days.

- Acceptable gym shoes include sneakers with ties or Velcro.
- Unacceptable footwear includes Crocs, sandals, slides, or socks only, as these are not safe for physical activity.

Students should also be prepared for outdoor recess. Running or playing outside in socks is not permitted. If footwear is a concern, families are encouraged to send an extra pair of play shoes to keep in the student's locker to ensure full participation and prevent damage to new or dress shoes. The school will not be held accountable for shoes or clothes that become dirty or distressed due to school activity.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Pittsburgh Mifflin follows the Board of Education's Electronic Policy 216.

The telephones at school are for school business. Students are only permitted to make calls or receive calls from their parents or guardians on the office telephone in the event of an emergency. Students are NOT permitted to use cell phones during the school day, including on school grounds. Cell phones will be collected each morning upon entry to the building and returned at the end of the day. This follows the Board of Education's Electronic Policy 216 and has been implemented with stakeholder input.

If a student is found with a cell phone, it will be temporarily collected and safely stored until a parent or guardian can retrieve it from the school. Any recurring issues following the expected collection of cell phones upon student arrival will result in progressive interventions.

Students are not permitted to take pictures of or record staff and students without their knowledge or permission at any time.

This practice is established through collaborative agreement among administration, staff, Student House Representatives and House Leads, PTA, and PSCC, ensuring a supportive and consistent approach to student behavior management.

GRADING

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

Students in grades 1-8 will receive quarterly progress (interim) reports and report cards. These will all be available on the Home Access Center. A notification reminder will let you know that these reports are available. Please review these with your student to discuss strengths and opportunities for growth. In addition, please reach out to any teacher to discuss concerns about your student's progress. Utilizing The Home Access Center (HAC) to proactively monitor student performance is strongly encouraged. You can view and monitor your student's performance in real time. You can access The Home Access Center on the parent portal on the PPS webpage.

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

Retention/Promotion

In elementary school (grades 1-5), all students must pass both reading and mathematics in order to be promoted to the next grade. In addition, students in grades four and five must pass reading and math AND two academic subjects.

A middle school student will be retained if they:

- Fails Communications AND Math
- Fails Communications OR Math AND two other academic courses
- Fails any three academic courses

Parent-teacher conferences are highly encouraged for any student earning a D or E grade.

HOMEWORK PROCEDURES

Homework is an essential part of learning at Pittsburgh Mifflin. Students are expected to complete assignments on time and with effort. Full credit (up to 100%) may be earned for on-time work. Late assignments will receive reduced credit at the teacher's discretion. Students with excused absences may make up work within an agreed-upon timeline. Families are encouraged to support homework completion and contact teachers with any questions or concerns.

Student electronic devices play an integral role in academic growth, including homework. All in class and homework assignments will be listed and available in Schoology for each class.

Students are expected to bring their assigned District device and charger to school and home each day for access to assignments and learning platforms. All students must follow District policies for using loaned devices at school and at home.

HEALTH SERVICES

Health Services and Medication Policy

Pittsburgh Mifflin has a certified school nurse responsible for state-mandated health screenings, immunization monitoring, first aid, and health counseling. If a student requires medication during school hours, a signed form from both a parent/guardian and a physician must be submitted. Only the school nurse may administer medication.

All medications must be delivered directly to the nurse by a parent or guardian. Students are not permitted to carry medication. Any medication found with a student will be secured by the Principal or designee, given to the nurse, and families will be contacted.

Illness and Injury Procedures

Students feeling unwell should report to their scheduled teacher first to obtain a pass to the nurse. If the nurse is unavailable, students must go to the main office so a parent/guardian can be contacted. Families must ensure that emergency contact information is current and on file.

Students who are unwell should stay home. Families are encouraged to consult with their primary care provider when medical concerns arise.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/ACCEPTABLE USE

Parents must review and sign off on the [PPS Acceptable Use Policy](#).

One-to-One Technology

We are very proud to offer one-to-one devices for all students! Please help your child understand the importance of using their device responsibly. Students are expected to bring their District-issued device and charger to and from school each day and follow all District technology use policies.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

At Pittsburgh Mifflin, we are committed to supporting the whole child—academically, socially, and emotionally. We provide a range of services and partnerships to ensure our students and families have access to the support they need to thrive.

We partner with UPMC's Resolve Crisis Services, which offers 24/7 support for students and families facing urgent emotional or behavioral challenges. Resolve can be reached at 1-888-796-8226. In addition, our school participates in the Student Assistance Program (SAP), which allows staff and family members to refer students who may benefit from additional mental health, social, or behavioral supports.

Mifflin also collaborates with the University of Pittsburgh's MAPS (Maximizing All Potentials) program, providing a dedicated social services liaison who works directly with students through in-class small group sessions focused on skill building and emotional well-being.

Our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework promotes school-wide expectations for being Safe, Kind, and Responsible (SKR). All students benefit from Tier 1 support, while additional Tier 2 support is available for students who may need more targeted interventions such as daily mentoring and Check-In/Check-Out goal setting. As part of our Tier 1 supports that are embedded in the House System, each morning, all students complete a self-check-in using the Critter Coin platform, helping staff monitor students' emotional well-being in real time and respond as needed.

For more information about the supports available at Mifflin, please contact our school counselor, Mrs. Cress, at scress1@pghschools.org or 412-529-4350 ext. 53117.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS/PROCEDURES

Books, Supplies, and Materials

Students are responsible for all materials issued to them, including all technology, accessories, athletic uniforms, and library books. If an item is lost, damaged, or destroyed, the student may be excluded from field trips, incentives and end of the year activities including but not limited to Legacy Day, and/ or Promotion until monies are collected and/or items returned. Student report cards may be held until the fine is paid. Debts are cumulative for the student's years in the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Required materials must be brought to class daily. This includes books, technology, chargers, folders, homework, and writing utensils. Being unprepared for class is an important responsibility to support the growth and success of each student. We ask all families to support us in preparing their students for a positive day of learning!

Students do not need to carry backpacks throughout the day. Students are given an opportunity to go to their lockers in the morning, before and after lunch, and at the end of the day.

Please Note: We ask that families check all student book bags and personal belongings daily. Please encourage students to leave any unnecessary belongings at home and keep an organized and clean book bag. Any personal belongings such as stuffed animals, toys, extra clothing, games, trading cards, etc. that are brought to school but are not listed as required instructional materials are not the responsibility of the school if lost or stolen. We ask that these items stay at home for after school activities and play.

On-Time Arrival

Students should arrive no later than 8:20 AM at the blue canopy entrance to ensure they are on time and able to receive school breakfast. Breakfast is served from 8:00–8:20 AM.

Students arriving after 8:20 AM are considered tardy and must enter through the upper main entrance (black double doors near the flagpole). They will wait for a staff member to check them in safely. Please note: Students who arrive after 8:20 AM will be unable to receive school breakfast.

After three (3) tardies, families will receive an official letter home, and the student will be placed on a positive attendance plan to support improved punctuality.

Student Safety Checks

To ensure a safe and secure environment, all students will have their bags and belongings checked each morning by security and/or trained staff. Any items that are considered unsafe or inappropriate will be confiscated, school police will be notified when appropriate, and families will be notified.

Pittsburgh Mifflin follows District policy as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Families are encouraged to review this policy to understand what items are not permitted in school and any interventions or consequences that may ensue.

Food and Drinks at School

Students may bring lunch from home, but it should be an appropriate portion-size for a school lunch. All food must be eaten in the cafeteria. Please do not send extra snacks unless previously arranged with the homeroom teacher.

Students are not permitted to sell snacks during school hours unless they are part of an approved school fundraiser. For safety reasons, glass containers are not allowed and will be collected if brought to school.

Families are encouraged to monitor what their child brings each day. Energy drinks are highly discouraged—if found, families will be contacted, as these drinks can be harmful to children and adolescents.

Students are permitted to bring unopened drinks into school. Water bottles can be filled upon completion of student safety check at our water filter stations.

Students are not permitted to share food at any time during the school day.

Cafeteria Expectations

The cafeteria is a shared space for all grade levels, and students are expected to follow our **Safe, Kind, and Responsible** (SKR) expectations always.

In the morning, students will enter the breakfast line and eat in their assigned location—either the cafeteria or their homeroom—based on the daily protocol. At lunch, students will move through the line and go directly to their assigned seat or table. Students must remain in their designated lunch area and stay seated until their group is dismissed.

To help keep our school clean and safe, all students are expected to clean up after themselves during both breakfast and lunch. This includes throwing away all uneaten food and trash in designated bins. All opened food must remain in the cafeteria and may not be taken into hallways or outside. Any dropped food should be picked up and properly disposed of, whether inside or outside of the building.

Locker Use and Expectations

Each student will be assigned a locker by their homeroom teacher and may only use their assigned locker. Students are responsible for everything in their locker and should not share their locker or store items for others.

Valuables or money should not be left in lockers. Students may bring a combination lock to secure their belongings, but they must share the combination with their homeroom teacher. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or missing items.

Homeroom teachers may conduct regular locker checks. In cases of emergency or safety concerns, authorized school staff may search lockers and their contents. If a search is necessary, we will make every effort to have the student present and will notify families by the end of the day. Any item found in a locker is considered the responsibility of the student assigned to that locker.

Hallway

Students should only be in the hallways at the beginning and end of the school day or when moving to another location with a staff member. During class time, students must have a hall pass if they are in the hall.

All students are expected to follow Safe, Kind, and Responsible (SKR) behavior in the hallways. Movement should be quiet and respectful so as not to disrupt learning in nearby classrooms.

Students who do not follow hallway expectations will receive an appropriate intervention to support positive behavior.

Restroom Expectations

Restrooms are shared spaces that all students deserve to use safely and respectfully. All students are expected to follow Safe, Kind, and Responsible (SKR) behavior in the restrooms.

Students should use the restroom only when needed, take care of their personal business, and return to class promptly. Loitering, socializing, or engaging in disruptive behavior is not appropriate and interferes with the safety and privacy of others.

Students are expected to help keep restrooms clean by using supplies properly, disposing of trash, and reporting any issues promptly to a staff member. Any misuse or damage to restroom facilities will result in interventions and appropriate consequences.

We will work together to make sure our restrooms remain clean, safe, and respectful spaces for everyone.

Fire Drills

Safety is a top priority at Pittsburgh Mifflin. Each classroom has a posted fire drill plan and exit route, and teachers regularly practice these procedures with students, so they know exactly what to do in case of an emergency.

When the fire alarm sounds, students must leave all personal items behind and exit the classroom calmly and quietly with their teacher. Students are expected to remain silent during the drill and follow all directions. Everyone must stay at least 50 feet away from the building until the signal is given to return.

No one may re-enter the building until the Principal or a designated staff member gives the all-clear. All visitors must also follow safety protocols during any drill or emergency.

Transportation Expectations

Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. Students are expected to follow Safe, Kind, and Responsible (SKR) expectations to ensure the safety and well-being of all passengers.

Students must stay seated, keep all body parts inside the bus, and never throw objects inside or outside the bus. Bullying, disruptive behavior, or any actions that interfere with others' safety will not be tolerated. Tobacco, alcohol, drugs, vapes, etc. are strictly prohibited on school transportation.

For safety reasons, students may only ride the bus assigned to them. Items such as skateboards, mini-speakers, balloons, glass containers, body sprays, and other unsafe items are not allowed on the bus. Drivers have the authority to deny transportation to any student bringing such items and are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged belongings.

Drivers and administrators may assign seats as needed. Family members are not allowed to board school buses, unless they are pre-approved as chaperones for a school-sponsored event.

Families will be contacted by phone whenever possible for any transportation concerns and will receive a Talking Points message if direct contact cannot be made.

Students are expected to demonstrate our PBIS expectations by being Safe, Kind, and Responsible while riding school transportation. Team Mifflin intentionally teaches and reinforces appropriate bus behavior to help create a positive, respectful, and safe environment for all students and drivers.

Students who choose not to follow transportation safety expectations may receive one or more of the following consequences, depending on the nature and severity of the behavior:

restorative written reflection, restorative conference, parent conference, safety plan and agreement, detention, loss of privileges, suspension from school and/or the bus, or permanent removal from all school transportation.

Please review expectations frequently with your student(s) as safety is a shared and expected responsibility.

VISITORS

To ensure the safety and privacy of our students, all visitors must enter through the main doors, check in at the security checkpoint, and complete the RAPTOR identification process to receive their visitor's badge. Visitors will be escorted by a staff member while in the building. For everyone's safety, no one is permitted to go directly to a classroom or other area without a staff member or security escort.

Requesting a Meeting with Staff

Families are encouraged to connect with teachers and staff to discuss their child's progress. To schedule a conference or meeting, please call the main office, and we will help arrange a time that works for everyone. Because our staff are actively supporting students during the day, we appreciate your understanding that meetings must be scheduled in advance to ensure our full attention be given to your important matter.

We request that parents/guardians make an appointment to meet with a staff member at least 24 hours in advance. Prescheduled appointments will ensure staff members are available at an agreed-upon time, and ample space is available for a safe in-person meeting. We will continue to utilize virtual meeting platforms such as Teams to hold meetings as needed. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate "drop in" teacher or principal conferences during the school day. Please schedule such conferences in advance.

Become a Parent Volunteer!

We love it when families get involved! Pittsburgh Mifflin has a growing volunteer program, and we welcome your time, talents, and support. Whether it's helping with activities and events, joining our PTA, or becoming a House Parent, your contributions are valued and appreciated. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Ms. Gee at 412-529-4351.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PBIS at Mifflin: Team Mifflin is Safe, Kind, and Responsible!

At Pittsburgh Mifflin, we proudly implement Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to teach, reinforce, and celebrate positive behavior choices. Rooted in our core values of being Safe, Kind, and Responsible (SKR), our PBIS system is faculty and student created and designed to support both the behavioral and emotional needs of our students. It works in partnership with Restorative Practices and the District's Student Code of Conduct to create a safe, inclusive, and joyful learning environment.

Our goal is to reduce out-of-school suspensions by using proactive and supportive strategies that motivate students from within. These include:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The SKR Prize Table• Principal Carricato's Wonderful 100• Classroom and grade-level incentives• SKR Stores• Middle School Morning Meetings | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SKR points through the Critter Coin platform• Club Mifflin Lounge• Restorative circles and supports• Wayfinder for Social Emotional Learning• House System with House Challenges and House Hype |
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Building Our Mustang Legacy: Year 5 of the House System!

We are thrilled to continue building our House System for the 2026–2027 school year! This exciting program strengthens our school community through unity, leadership, and spirited fun, all while reinforcing our PBIS values of being Safe, Kind, and Responsible (SKR) which allows us to continuously grow in our academic pursuits!

We proudly continue to grow our leadership structure, including:

- House Leads – student leaders who represent and inspire their peers
- House Representatives—students who support service leadership within their Houses and the school
- House Guardians – staff champions who energize and guide their houses
- House Parents – a new opportunity for families to get involved and support their student's house!

Our four houses—Abraxan, Aethon, Kelpie, and Re'em—are inspired by magical mustangs and embody the strength, uniqueness, and pride of our Mifflin community:

1. Abraxan (Blue) – celebrates Resilience
2. Aethon (Red) – celebrates Courage

3. Kelpie (Yellow) – celebrates Kindness
4. Re'em (Green) – celebrates Grace

Throughout the year, students and staff will participate in academic, behavioral, physical, and social-emotional competitions to earn points for their house to compete to become our 2027 Legacy House!

A huge congratulations to House Re'em for being our 2026 Legacy House. They reserve all bragging rights.

All families are officially part of their student's house and are encouraged to support and cheer them on throughout the year. Family members who wear their House pins, volunteer, and attend PSCC meetings, and other events will gain Critter Coins for their student(s) and their House.

Together, we are Four Houses, One Team!

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)