



Pittsburgh Morrow 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

Dear Morrow School Families,

Welcome to a new school year! My name is Anthony Varlotta, and I am honored and excited to serve as the new principal of Morrow School.

I am looking forward to getting to know each of our students, families, and staff. Building strong relationships is one of my top priorities, and I believe that when schools and families work together, our students have the best opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.

As we begin this school year, my goal is to create a school environment where every child feels safe, supported, valued, and inspired to do their best each day. Together, we will foster a positive school community that encourages kindness, respect, curiosity, and academic excellence.

I am excited for all that this year will bring and can't wait to celebrate the achievements and growth of our students. Thank you for welcoming me into the Morrow School family. I look forward to meeting you at school events, in the hallways, and throughout the year.

Here's a fun, safe, and successful school year filled with learning, friendship, and wonderful memories!



Sincerely,

Anthony Varlotta

Principal, Morrow PreK-8

SCHOOL INFORMATION



Pittsburgh Morrow PreK-8

Primary School:

1611 Davis Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Phone: 412-529-6600

Fax: 412-734-6606

Website: pghschools.org/schools/k-8/morrow

Intermediate School:

3530 Fleming Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Phone: 412-529-6700

Fax: 412-734-6606

School Mascot Mustang

[STAFF DIRECTORY – Morrow PreK-8 \(Link\)](#)

VISION AND MISSION

Mission

Our mission at Pittsburgh Morrow is to help students advance in the areas of personal and academic success. We believe in cultivating the genius and joy inside of each child by promoting identity development, skills, proficiencies, intellectualism, criticality, and joy. To this end, we work in every aspect of the students' learning within and outside of the classroom to give culturally and historically responsive education connected to their lives. It is our goal to help each student honor and celebrate their identities while learning about the truths and histories of others who are different than them. We strive to promote intellectually rigorous standards that help youth achieve academically but also how to navigate a global society. Through curriculum and instruction, we believe in embracing diversity and justice for global and multicultural perspectives. This will give our students rich ideas and teach them to be independent yet collaborative while striving for a better humanity for all.

Vision

At Pittsburgh Morrow, we believe every child has genius and joy within them. Our goal is to help students grow academically and personally through meaningful learning experiences that honor who they are, celebrate diversity, and prepare them to think critically, work together, and succeed in the world around them.

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

Contacting Pittsburgh Morrow Staff Members

The staff at Pittsburgh Morrow is available to assist our parents with questions or any matter that concerns a student's educational success.

However, teachers are not available to talk with parents during their scheduled teaching time. Please contact the main office and a message will be given to the teacher requesting that they contact you. Or you are able to contact the teacher via email or using Talking Points.

Phone Calls

Please discuss your child's after school schedule with them before they leave for school every morning, so they are aware of their pick up procedure. In the event of an emergency or change in your child's dismissal procedure, please communicate this change with the school. You can send in a written note, email, or Talking Points to their homeroom teacher, or you may need to call the school with a change and the message will be forwarded to their teacher(s). Be aware that phone calls of this nature should be limited in order to maintain consistency with your child's dismissal routine and to prevent any confusion with getting your child home safely.

BELL SCHEDULES

Daily Schedule

Period	Start	End	Duration
Homeroom	9:10	9:20	10
Intervention	9:20	9:55	30
Period 1	9:55	10:40	45
Period 2	10:40	11:25	45
Period 3	11:25	12:10	45
Period 4 Lunch K-2 and 6-7	12:10	12:55	45
Period 5 Lunch 2-5 and 8	12:55	1:40	45
Period 6	1:40	2:25	45
Period 7	2:25	3:10	45
Period 8	3:10	3:50	40
Dismissal	3:50	3:55	5

Half Day Schedule

Day A	Day B	Day C	Start	End	Duration	Notes
HR	HR	HR	9:10	9:20	10	Lunch Procedures Primary Only: Kindergarten and 1 st grade eat lunch in the cafeteria. Grades 2-5 will eat lunch in their homerooms.
P1	P3	P7	9:20	10:05	45	
P2	P6	P8	10:05	10:50	45	
P4 Lunch K-2 and 6-7			10:50	11:35	45	
P5 Lunch 2-5 and 8			11:35	12:20	45	
Dismissal			12:20	12:25	5	

Two-Hour Delay

Period			Time
Homeroom/ Morning meeting			11:10-11:20
Period 3			11:20-12:05
Period 4 First Lunch Transition at 11:58	Primary K / 1st / 2nd	A – (K, 1) eat B – (2) recess	12:05-12:50
	Intermediate 6 th and 7 th	A – (6-2) eat B – (7th grade) recess	
Period 5 First Lunch Transition at 12:58	Primary 2 nd / 3rd / 4th / 5th	A – (3, 4) eat B – (5) recess	12:55-1:40
	Intermediate 8th	A- (6-1) eat B- (8th grade) recess	
Period 6			1:40-2:25
Period 7			2:25-3:10
Period 8			3:10-3:55
Dismissal			3:55

Remote Bell Schedule

Period	Start	End	Duration
Homeroom	9:10	9:20	10
Intervention	9:20	9:55	30
Period 1	9:55	10:40	45
Period 2	10:40	11:25	45
Period 3	11:25	12:10	45
Period 4 Lunch K-2 and 6-7	12:10	12:55	45
Period 5 Lunch 2-5 and 8	12:55	1:40	45
Period 6	1:40	2:25	45
Period 7	2:25	3:10	45
Period 8	3:10	3:50	40
Dismissal	3:50	3:55	5

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

It has been proven that students who attend school regularly achieve more than those who do not. Class attendance and participation are necessary for academic achievement and for the accomplishment of curriculum objectives.

Attendance-Related Procedures

- Parents must submit excuses for absences within three days. If a note is not submitted, the absence becomes permanently unlawful. The school will send parents a “Notice of Unlawful Absence” after the first and second unexcused absence. An unexcused absence would be considered an absence in which a student did not submit a note from home within three days.
- If there is a third unexcused absence (a note has not been submitted within three days), parents will receive another “Notice of Unlawful Absence” and a warning that they may be liable in court without further notice from the school. Parents will make an appointment to meet with school staff and establish a Truancy Elimination Plan.
- A fourth unlawful/unexcused absence (a note has not been submitted within three days) will result in a citation issued by the District Magistrate in which students will have to appear in court and face a possible fine of \$300. Other consequences could occur which will be determined by the court.
- A student who is absent more than 10 days in one school year (excused or unexcused absences) will be required to submit verification that the absence was caused by illness, injury or hospitalization, impassible roads, a religious observance, or bereavement.

Parent Information Regarding Attendance

- An unexcused absence is an absence in which a student has not submitted a note from home, doctor, hospital, funeral home, religious organization, or court within three days. The absence remains unexcused forever.
- An excused absence is an absence in which a student has submitted a note from home, doctor, hospital, funeral home, religious organization, or court within three days.
- Notes of any kind cannot be accepted after three days of the absence. Notes will be returned to the student.
- If the student has more than 10 days absent within the school year, handwritten notes from home cannot be accepted. If this is the case, a note from the hospital, doctor, funeral home, court, or religious organization must be submitted within three days of the absence for every absence from that point on.

The District's attendance policy is strictly followed at Pittsburgh Morrow PreK-8. A description of this policy has been provided for you in the Code of Student Conduct your child received in the mail or online at pghschools.org.

Make-Up Work

The school is obligated to provide make-up work for excused absences. Students or their parents/ caregivers are responsible for requesting make-up work immediately upon the student's return to school.

If dates of a student's absence are known in advance, the teacher should be notified, and planned assignments may be given.

Early Dismissal

A request for an early dismissal must be made in writing. This note must be presented to the homeroom teacher and the main office. If there is a need for an emergency early dismissal, the parent/ guardian must come to the school office and ask for the child. No students will be called to the office before the parent/guardian arrives. Walk-in requests for an early dismissal should be made before 3:30 p.m.

ACADEMICS

K-8 Digital Learning Platforms

All students are issued a District iPad or computer.

Clever

PPS Clever is a one stop platform for students to get all their digital learning resources. Once students log into PPS Clever, students will have access to Microsoft Teams and Schoology. *Be sure to use the PPS Clever app.

Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams is a digital hub for collaboration that connects teachers, parents, and students. We will connect “live” using Microsoft Teams for various lessons and activities.

Schoology

Schoology allows students to view and complete learning materials. Teachers and students can contact one another, post, and receive reminders, and updates and view assignments.

Course Offerings

Grades K-5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
– Reading, Writing, Grammar, Spelling – Math – Science – Social Studies – Visual Arts – PhysEd/Health – Music – Music Appreciation and Choral – Instrumental (Grades 3-5) – Library	– ELA – Communications – Math Imagine Learning – Science – Social Studies – Visual Arts – PhysEd/Health – Music – Music Appreciation and Choral/Instrumental – Library – Tech Lab	– ELA – Communications – Math Imagine Learning – Science – Social Studies – Visual Arts – PhysEd/Health – Music – Music Appreciation and Choral/Instrumental – Library	– ELA – Communications – Math Imagine Learning – Science – Social Studies – Visual Arts – PhysEd/Health – Music – Music Appreciation and Choral/Instrumental – Library

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic Dishonesty

A student shall not engage in, participate in, or 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 unauthorized use of aids during examinations, projects and assignments.

ATHLETICS/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Athletics

Our school mascot is the “Pittsburgh Mustangs”. Our school colors are Blue and Gold. Pittsburgh Morrow offers interscholastic sports as well as intramural activities at various times throughout the school year.

Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
– Cross Country – Flag Football – Bocce Ball TBA	– Basketball	– Soccer

DRESS CODE

Pittsburgh Morrow will be an all-uniform school for grades K through 8. On all typical, non-dress-down days, students should follow the requirements below. Only the colors and styles below are considered acceptable.

Incorrect dress and appearance will be judged regarding the disruption of the school learning environment, as well as the health, safety, welfare, morals, and rights of students and staff.

Depending on the situation, students may be asked to change or face disciplinary action. The principal or other administrative staff member will be the final judge of the appropriateness of student dress and appearance. If students and families/guardians are uncertain as to the appropriateness of clothing for school, they should check with the principal, assistant principal, or ITL staff before the clothing is worn to school.

Pittsburgh Morrow K-8 Uniform Dress Code

Item	Acceptable Style	Unacceptable Style
Collared Shirts - White - Blue - Yellow	Short and long sleeve. All shirts must be a solid color, collared, and without logos. - Golf - Polo - Turtleneck - Collared Oxford button-down - Blouse	- Logos, writing, or embroidery - Patterns or stripes - Sleeveless
Sweaters - White - Blue - Yellow	All sweaters and sweatshirts must be solid and worn with a collared shirt underneath. - Cardigan - Knit, pullover - Sweater vest - Solid, crew-neck sweatshirt	- Writing or embroidery - Patterns or stripes - Hoods
Bottoms - Navy - Khaki	Must be solid and worn at the waist. If wearing a belt, it must be buckled. - Hemmed dress pants - Dickies/Dockers - Walking shorts (long shorts same material as pants) - Capri pants - Skirts - Skorts	- Jeans and jean/denim fabric - Spandex - Jeggings - Leggings may only be worn under skirts/jumpers only, not as pants - Cargo pants/shorts or those with pockets at or below the knee - Cutoff shorts - Holes
Jumpers & Dresses - Navy - Khaki	Must be solid and have a collar or be worn with a collared shirt underneath and must be no more than 3 inches above the knee.	Jean/denim fabric
Socks, Tights, & Leggings	Must be solid, approved colors. Socks should be at or below the knee and must be worn at all times.	Disturbing or distracting patterns. Inappropriate words or images.

General Uniform Guidelines

Students may **not** wear:

Items that are revealing, suggestive, or immodest, and underwear must never be able to be seen. Some examples of inappropriate dress include, but are not limited to, halter and tank tops, mesh and see-through clothing, muscle shirts, boxer shorts, items that expose undergarments or midsections, bottoms that are overly-tight by design or due to being outgrown.

- Athletic clothing such as, but not limited to, sweatpants, yoga pants, spandex, and leggings that are worn without an accompanying skirt, etc.
- Hats, visors, bandanas, bandana-patterned hair accessories, scarves, or do-rags.
- Outdoor clothing, but not limited to, items with hoods, fleece, gloves, sunglasses, etc.
- Blankets are not permitted at Pittsburgh Morrow.

Please ensure students are dressed appropriately for the weather and interior school climate. Students should have a warm coat for outside recess and dismissal. Some classrooms may be cold; students should have an acceptable cardigan or sweater to wear during the day.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell Phones

Students are permitted to bring cell phones to school. Cell phones will be collected at the start of each school day, kept in a secure location, and returned to each student at the end of the school day. Phones must remain off until students exit the school building. If this procedure is not adhered to, the following consequences will occur: The cell phone may be taken from the student and kept by administration. A parent or caregiver must come to school to retrieve the cell phone.

The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken cell phones. Also, the administration cannot look for a lost or stolen cell phone.

GRADING

Grades

Parents and students can monitor grades by accessing HAC (Home Access Center). If you need to obtain your login credentials, please contact the school to speak with our SDSS, who will provide you with the necessary information and walk you through the process if needed. Please monitor grades and communicate accordingly with your child's teachers.

Interim Dates – Midpoint of each quarter marking period

Report Card Dates – Refer to the district calendar

Guidelines

A standard procedure for grading was established and implemented throughout the district in grades 1-5. The following guidelines provide a consistent method for measuring student achievement in every classroom using the same grading practices. The grades are based on performance in three categories: weekly assessments, unit assessments and assignments. Whenever students learn new material, they go through a period of time when they will probably make mistakes during the learning process.

The purpose of practice assignments is not to evaluate where a student is in the learning process, but to diagnose any problems and to provide assistance when needed.

Assignments can consist of many different types of informal assessments/practice, including quizzes, worksheets, and practice book pages. After students have initial instruction and practice on a topic, strategy or skill, it is important to determine their mastery of the information and skills. The purpose of weekly and unit assessments is to evaluate how well a student is able to apply the learning of the information/skills/strategies.

Each nine-week period, parents will receive a report card that reflects nine weeks of performance in practice (assignments) and achievement (weekly and unit assessments) of the academic content.

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

To calculate GPA, the letter grades are converted into grade points. Those grade points are multiplied by the amount of credit that each class is worth. The grade points are multiplied by the credits, the result is the number of grade points earned. Then the grade points earned are added together and divided by the number of credits that were attempted. The result is called the Grade Point Average.

Report Cards

The report card is the most familiar way of communicating student progress. Report cards are issued four times during the school year at approximately nine-week intervals. The letter grades A, B, C, D and E are used to indicate academic progress. A citizenship mark is also given for the students' behavior in each class. Citizenship marks are represented by the letters O for outstanding; S for satisfactory; and U for needs improvement.

The report card verification form is to be signed by the parent or guardian and returned to school. A parent's signature indicates that she/he is aware of a student's performance. Parents are to check to see if a conference with the teacher is indicated. Parents may also request teacher conferences by calling their child's school. The first three report cards are sent home with students. The fourth and final report card is mailed home within three weeks of the final day of school. If you suspect an error on the report card grades, please contact the school promptly. Please note: Grades close approximately 10 days before report cards are distributed. If your child's grades improve after the close, the improvement will be reflected in the next grading period.

Progress Reports

Communication between teachers and parents is absolutely critical, and keeping parents informed of their child's performance is accomplished in many ways. One of these ways is the use of Interim Progress Reports. At the mid-point of each of the four grading periods, teachers will evaluate student progress. If a child is not working to his or her potential, a progress report is mailed home. If a student's grade is at risk of dropping two letter grades from the previous grading period, a report is also sent home to inform parents. A conference can be arranged in order to determine the best way to help a child before marks are closed for a particular grading period.

Honor Roll

Students who achieve a grade point average of 3.00 to 3.49 attain Honor Roll status. Those who achieve a grade point average of 3.5 to 4.00 are High Honor Roll students. Students who attain Honor and High Honor Roll will be awarded a certificate and recognized. In addition to the Academic Honor Roll, students who demonstrate respectful and responsible behavior earn Citizenship Honor Roll. A goal of Pittsburgh Public Schools is to

produce outstanding citizens; therefore students who achieve all outstanding marks in citizenship will be recognized.

Placement, Promotion, and Retention Guidelines

Elementary

Grade	Requirement
First Grade	Reading and Math
Second Grade	Reading and Math
Third Grade	Reading and Math
Fourth and Fifth Grade	Reading and Math AND two (2) of the following: • English • Spelling • Science • Social Studies

When recommending students who have failed Grade 5 for middle grade placement in Grade 6, the student must have been in Grade 5 during the current school year and:

- Will be 13 on or before January 31, 2025, or;
- Has had two (2) retentions, or;
- Has already repeated Grade 5

Middle Level

A student will be retained in their present grade (6th, 7th, or 8th) if the student fits into any of the following four categories:

- Fails Reading and Math
- Fails Reading or Math AND two (2) other Academic Courses
- Fails any THREE (3) Academic Courses
- Fails Math And Communications (a course which combines reading and language arts and is worth two units and given one letter grade, which is double weighted when calculating the grade point average)

When recommending students who have failed Grade 8 for secondary school placement in Grade 9, the student must have been In Grade 8 during the current school year AND:

- Will be 16 On or before January 31, 2025, or;
- has had three (3) retentions, or;
- has already repeated Grade 8

HOMEWORK PROCEDURES

Homework has been identified as a vital factor in increasing student achievement. Homework should reinforce learning with additional time and practice. It should assist in developing study skills, good work habits, independence and a sense of personal responsibility. It should stimulate imagination, originality and creativity, while involving the parent in the learning process of their children.

Recommended Time Schedule:

- Primary grades K-3 could be assigned homework four nights per week for no more than a total of 30 minutes on each of the four nights.
- Intermediate grades 4-8 could be assigned homework four nights per week for no more than a total of 60 minutes on each of the four nights.

Parents can encourage their children by showing interest and displaying helpful attitudes toward the completion of homework. They should contact the teacher if their child has trouble with a homework assignment and cannot complete it.

All students have access to Achieve 3000, IXL, Blue Streak, and Dream Box resources online to provide additional Math and ELA practice and support. Students will be provided usernames and access codes at the beginning of the school year and parents can contact their students' teacher for assistance. Please utilize these programs with your child to help further their academic progress.

HEALTH SERVICES

Health services are services provided for students in a school setting to appraise, protect, and promote health; to provide services in harmony with community, parents/ guardians, and other constituencies; and to ensure all students have access to services.

Comprehensive Services Provided by Qualified Staff

Each school has an array of comprehensive health and wellness services that are available and provided by nursing and dental professionals, school staff, community partners, (e.g., Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, Mercy Behavioral Health) registered dietitians, and the Student Assistance Program Team to focus on prevention and early intervention.

District staff are provided with appropriate resources and training for continuous improvement.

School nurses and school nurse practitioners address the management of acute incidents and emergency care, (e.g., allergic reactions, asthma attacks) in the school setting, as well the provision of student health screenings, working with parents to secure medical care for their student, medication management, and assessment and planning for management of chronic conditions such as asthma and diabetes. School nurses and School Nurse Practitioners work with many students' private physicians to provide follow-up and ongoing care while at school.

School Dental Hygienists provide dental education to all grades and conduct dental screenings for students in grades identified by the state to ensure students are receiving appropriate dental care.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/ACCEPTABLE USE

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

Students may not use any school technology prior to returning this form. Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary actions as presented in the Student Code of Conduct including loss of all technology use for the remainder of the school year.

Each student has access to individually assigned computers/iPads which are the property of PPS and are to be used for the completing of school assignments only. All devices are inspected if a teacher or administrator suspects misuse of the device. Parents are responsible for the replacement fee of \$200.00 for any device damaged or lost while in the care of their child. There is a \$25.00 fee for all Dell chargers and \$35.00 for iPad chargers that are lost. Students are responsible for bringing their charged devices to school daily with the charger.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Student Assistance Program (SAP)

Our school social worker is used to identify students who are experiencing behavioral and/or academic problems that may be associated with high-risk behaviors. The heart of the SAP is the CORE Team.

SAP CORE Team

The CORE Team is coordinated by the school social worker. It is comprised of specially trained staff members who assist students with a variety of needs. Some of the services offered through the CORE Team are in-school support groups, in-school therapy, mentoring, the peer helper program, teen parent advocate services, mental health evaluations, and drug and alcohol evaluations. Various community agencies come into the school to provide many of these services to the students.

Students can become involved in the CORE Team through a referral process. The referrals come from self, other students, parents, staff, or community members. Parental permission is required in order for a student to become involved in the CORE programs. For more detailed information or to discuss any concerns you might have about a student, please contact the school social worker.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS/PROCEDURES

Pittsburgh Morrow PreK-8 upholds the Pittsburgh Public Schools' K-5 and 6-12 Code of Student Conduct in its entirety in addition to school-specific (or local) rules and regulations governing Morrow PreK-8.

Philosophy

Morrow Pre-K-8 is committed to maintaining a safe, orderly, and welcoming school for its students, staff, and other stakeholders. It assures that its staff are fully committed to all aspects of its discipline policy, as a means for inspiring excellence among students. We believe that students thrive in safe, orderly, and welcoming environments that celebrate and promote student achievement and engagement as a means for minimizing student misconduct via activities, functions, and incentives that promote reward positive behaviors and excellence for all.

We believe that discipline is an important part of education, and that corrective measures must meet students' developmental needs through an array of interventions, responses, and strategies that inspire positive behaviors, support learning, and restore relationships. The school applies the Pittsburgh Public Schools' K-5 and 6-12 Code of Student Conduct equitably to all pupils in a manner that is fair and consistent. Positive reinforcements and restorative methods afford students opportunities to correct negative behaviors and to learn from errors in judgment as it relates to misconduct. The school complies with all federal, state and local statutes.

Scope and Safety

The Pittsburgh Public Schools' K-5 and 6-12 Code of Student Conduct (The Code) clearly and concisely sets forth the disciplinary procedures for students. In the interest of maintaining a safe, orderly, and welcoming school that fosters rigorous learning opportunities for its students, all provisions of The Code are enforced. Students are required to abide by these provisions—in addition to those local to the Morrow buildings—and school personnel are required to enforce them in a fair and equitable manner. Morrow is committed to maintaining a safe, orderly, and welcoming school for its students, staff, and other stakeholders.

To that end and based on commonwealth mandates, as per the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949 and the Board of Public Education of the School District of Pittsburgh, The Code is effective and enforced as follows at the following places and/or during the following times:

- On school grounds at any time;

- On school grounds and related to actions on social media or other media of the like;
- Off school grounds, including but not limited to, school bus stops, on school buses, at school activities, functions, on field trips, at conferences, and at all other school events;
- To and/or from school, or to and/or from any school activities, functions, and/or events;
- Off school grounds, during standard enrollment hours, when students have left without authorization and/or are truant.

VISITORS

All visitors to our school are required to follow the District's visitor procedures. Please share these procedures with anyone you have listed as an emergency contact for your child.

- If you are planning to visit a classroom or other area of the school building during the school day, you should call the building office and pre-register for an appointment prior to the date of the visit. Absent an emergency, requests to meet with a classroom teacher or other staff member should be made at least 48 hours in advance to allow the school sufficient time to make arrangements for substitute coverage, as necessary.
- Upon arrival at the school building, all visitors must register in the main office before proceeding to any other part of the building.
- As part of the registration process in the main office, all visitors will be asked to sign the visitor register and provide their driver's license or other state-issued photo-identification, which will be held by the building office for the duration of the visit. Car or house keys may be accepted in lieu of a driver's license or photo ID at the discretion of the building office.
- Once registered, the visitor will be issued a Visitor Identification Badge, which must be displayed at all times while the visitor remains in the school building or on school premises.
- Visitors must remain in approved areas only and at all times act in a manner appropriate to the safe functioning of the school environment. Any individual who engages in uncooperative or disruptive behavior will be required to leave the premises.
- Upon conclusion of the visit, the visitor must return to the main office, sign out on the Visitor Register and return the visitor badge. Once the visitor has checked out, staff in the main office will return the visitor's driver's license, ID or keys, as applicable.

The District reserves the right to deny an individual entry to any school building, when there is reason to believe that such individual's presence would be detrimental to the operation of the school and the learning environment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

School Safety

In the event of an emergency, School Police or Pittsburgh City Police, may recommend Pittsburgh Morrow Pre · K-8 be placed in a modified lockdown, full lockdown or evacuate to an alternative site. The procedures for these actions are listed below.

Modified Lockdown:

A modified lockdown means that normal instructional activities continue as much as possible; however, no outside events, field trips or outside activities occur unless explicitly cleared by School Police. While in modified lockdown, entry and exit to the school will be restricted and only individuals with a pre-existing appointment are permitted to enter the school facility. A modified lockdown may be called when there is a community issue that is external to the school and not directed at the school.

Full Lockdown:

In the event of a lockdown, all exterior doors and windows will be locked and no one aside from emergency/ administrative crisis team personnel will be permitted to enter or exit the school facility. During full lockdown, students will be kept safe in individual secured classrooms during the event and are not permitted to go outside or attend outside activities or field trips. School Police or school leadership will place a school on full lockdown to minimize student/staff exposure to a potential threat. For example, this procedure may be used when City of Pittsburgh Police or School Police warn the school of a fugitive in the neighborhood or when a threat has been received by the school.

Evacuation:

Evacuations may occur in the case of a threat, fire or other event making the school building unsafe. Students and staff will be evacuated to a designated evacuation site when leaving the building is the safest alternative. Pittsburgh Morrow Pre · K-8 evacuation site is Greater Allen Church, 3600 California Ave. In the event of an evacuation, attendance is taken to assure all staff and students are out of the building and arrive at the designation site safely. The following standard reunification plan will be implemented to ensure all students are safely returned to their families. During a reunification, families are directed to:

- Bring a valid form of Identification (ID)
- Follow signage and parking direction of reunification location.
- Choose the check-in line that corresponds to your student's grade.

- Provide school personnel at the check-in table with a valid form of photo ID and the completed reunification form.
- Wait patiently as a District staff member retrieves and escorts your student to you.

Only approved adults with valid photo identification will be allowed to pick-up students from the evacuation location.

Communication with Families During an Emergency

If Pittsburgh Morrow Pre · K-8 is placed on a modified lockdown, full lockdown or is required to evacuate to an alternative site, an attempt will be made by personnel at Pittsburgh Morrow Pre · K-8 or the District to contact families as quickly as possible through the phone messaging system. This communication will occur when the school emergency occurs and again when the emergency is resolved, or information has changed. For this reason, it is important to complete all paperwork at the beginning of each school year and contact the school anytime primary or emergency contact information changes.

- While it is important for us to quickly update parents, it is also important that the information we send is accurate. Please be aware that emergency situations are fluid and always changing, and that information received from non-District sources such as the news media and social media may be inaccurate. Depending on the type of emergency, the District may also utilize its website, Facebook and twitter accounts to provide timely information to families.
- In addition to a phone call, an additional notice may be sent home with students or emailed to families. The notice may include other information as appropriate such as lunch changes, transportation adjustments and extra-curricular and co-curricular activity modifications.
- When receiving a phone call that Pittsburgh Morrow Pre · K-8 has been directed to be placed on a modified lockdown, full lockdown or has been evacuated, please remain calm and do not attempt to come to the school. We understand that the first reaction of many families is to come to the school, however, families should wait until they are advised that it is safe to pick up their child. Families arriving unadvised to the school may actually hinder the emergency response and could jeopardize their own safety. In extreme cases, law enforcement can arrest anyone who they determine is compromising their efforts.
- If your child calls or texts you during a school emergency, please encourage him or her to remain calm and follow the directions of the teachers and staff. Also encourage your child not to post information to social media sites as it can lead to misinformation and confusion.

The District has strong partnerships with local law enforcement and will work collaboratively with City of Pittsburgh Police to respond quickly to potential threats and ensure student and staff safety at all times. Please contact the main office if you have any questions regarding these procedures.

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)