

Pittsburgh Sunnyside 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

As we prepare to begin the 2026–2027 school year, I am thrilled to welcome all of our new and returning students and families to another exciting year at Pittsburgh Sunnyside PK-8! Together, we will continue to build a school where every child is valued, challenged, and supported in reaching their fullest potential. At Pittsburgh Sunnyside, we are committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and nurturing learning environment where strong partnerships with families, positive relationships, and a vibrant school community help every student thrive.

This year, we invite everyone to embrace what it means to be on F.I.R.E. (Friendly, Involved, Responsible, and Eager) every day. By treating one another with kindness, actively participating in our learning community, making responsible choices, and approaching each day with enthusiasm and a growth mindset, we will continue striving for excellence in every classroom. Thank you for partnering with us as we inspire a love of learning, celebrate every success, and make the 2026–2027 school year our best yet. I look forward to an incredible year of learning, growth, and achievement with each of you!

We are Pittsburgh Sunnyside...where intellectual curiosity is ignited, and we are on **F.I.R.E.** for learning!

Yours In Service,

Ashanti Jones

Principal, Sunnyside



SCHOOL INFORMATION



Pittsburgh Sunnyside PreK-8

4801 Stanton Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Phone: 412-529-2040

Fax: 412-665-2042

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

[Staff Directory- Sunnyside Link](#)

School Colors

Royal Blue and Yellow

School Mascot

Dragon

School Motto

We are Pittsburgh Sunnyside, where intellectual curiosity is ignited, and we are on F.I.R.E. for learning!

VISION AND MISSION

Mission

We are dedicated to fostering a safe, supportive, positive, and equitable environment that embraces all learners while inspiring them to utilize their individual genius to ignite intellectual curiosity and develop a passion for life-long learning. Our mission is to create conditions for rigorous teaching and learning for all students and staff through culturally responsive and evidence-based strategies, practices, and resources that reflect the joy of teaching and learning.

Vision

All Sunnyside students will be prepared with a variety of knowledge, skillsets, and toolsets, to successfully embark upon any path they choose, while continuing to be lifelong learners, effective communicators, change agents, and advocates for social justice, equity, and inclusion for all.

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

Contacting the School

Please see the previously listed phone number, fax number and office email address to contact our school.

Talking Points

The Talking Points Application will be our primary source of communication. Please download the Talking Points for Families application to your phone for quick and easy 2-way communication.

Monthly Calendar

At the beginning of each month, a student calendar will come home with important events for the month.

School Website

Our schools' website will contain important documents that you may need for reference such as the student handbook, monthly calendars, Title I documents, PSCC agendas, etc.

Social Media

The school's Facebook page will also include updates and school highlights.

BELL SCHEDULES

Daily Schedule		Half Day	Two-Hour Delay & Remote Learning Schedule
Homeroom	8:20-8:37	8:20-8:37	10:20-10:30
Period 1	8:37 – 9:19	8:37 – 9:19	10:30 – 11:00
Period 2	9:19 – 10:01	9:19 – 10:01	11:00 – 11:30
Period 3	10:01 – 10:43	10:01 – 10:43	11:30 – 12:00
Intervention	10:46-11:16	X	X
Period 4 (L)	11:18 – 12:03	10:43 – 11:25	12:03 – 12:43
Period 5 (L)	12:05 – 12:50	X	12:46 – 1:26
Period 6	12:52 – 1:34	X	1:28 – 1:58
Period 7	1:34 – 2:16	X	1:58 – 2:28
Period 8	2:16 – 2:58	X	2:28 – 2:58
Homeroom	2:58 – 3:05	11:25 – 11:35	2:58 – 3:05
Dismissal	3:05	11:35	3:05

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 school attendance is a good predictor of student success. It is expected that students will arrive at school daily, on time, and ready to learn. We understand that things occur and there will be reasons to miss school. While we appreciate the notice, you do not need to call the school when your child is absent. A phone call does not qualify as an excuse. You **MUST** send a written excuse to the homeroom teacher within 3 days for an excused absence. After 10 written parent excuses, the remaining absences must be from a medical professional. If you know in advance your child will be out for an extended amount of time, please notify the school social worker.

Absences

Per the Pittsburgh Public Schools Code of Student Conduct, an absence is excused for the following reasons:

- Illness or injuries which make the student physically unable to attend school.
- Health Care—including doctor visits, emergency care, and/or quarantine.
- Bereavement and/or family funeral
- Religious Holidays and Religious Instruction
- Weather Emergency. If school is not canceled, a written explanation must be provided within three days. The principal will review for approval.
- School-Approved Activities—Includes field trips, service learning, assemblies, support groups, mentoring, and tutoring.
- Other Principal Approved Excusals— Principal may excuse attendance for educational vacations, counseling/support groups, social service agency appointments. A request for educational absences should be submitted in writing to the principal in advance of a trip for approval. The request should indicate what educational activities the student will complete. The student and family should also work with the teacher to complete make-up work.

Students are permitted 10 excused absences during a school year.

Key Attendance Terms

Unexcused Absence: When a student is not in attendance at school and a written excuse is not provided within 3 days.

Tardy: Arriving after the posted start time for class or school with or without a written excuse.

Truant: A student has had 3 or more unexcused absences.

Habitually Truant: A student has had 6 or more unexcused absences.

School Attendance Improvement Conference (SAIC): A conference to discuss strategies to improve the student's attendance.

SAIP School Attendance Improvement Plan: A plan outlining efforts to improve the student's attendance.

ACADEMICS

At Pittsburgh Sunnyside we offer the following related to academics:

- Core Subjects (reading, math, spelling, grammar, science, and social studies)
- Related Arts (physical education, music, art, library)
- Differentiated Learning and Small Group Learning Interactions
- Project Based Learning
- Departmentalized Teaching Staff for content expertise (where available)
- Cross-Curricular Planning & Teaming
- Focus on Writing & Vocabulary Across Grade and Content
- Culturally Relevant & Responsive Instruction
- FIRE Time (Fun and Inquisitive Recreational Engagement)
- Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Pittsburgh Sunnyside follows the academic integrity policy of Pittsburgh Public Schools.
Please select the policy 226 link to view the full policy.

ATHLETICS/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Athletics

Middle school students have an opportunity to try out for the following interscholastic sports:

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

For Coaching Staff Information, please contact Mr. Adzima, the activities coordinator at (412) 529- 2040.

Physicals are required for each sport. Physicals can be conducted at school on scheduled days or by their primary care physician.

Elementary students in 4th and 5th grade have an opportunity to participate in Intramural track and other various sports that may be offered after-school.

Extracurricular Activities

Pittsburgh Sunnyside will offer extracurricular activities to the extent that they are available.

If you know of any partners willing to work with Sunnyside, please have them contact the main office. We'd be happy to connect with them to get more offerings at Sunnyside.

DRESS CODE

We encourage children to dress appropriately for school.

- No bare stomachs
- No see-through clothing, which shows undergarments.
- Students should not wear any apparel or jewelry that promotes sexual activity, violence and/or the use of drugs/alcohol, or gangs.
- Full face/ski masks are not to be worn in the building. They must be placed in lockers.
- Appropriate shoes must be worn. No flip-flops or slides. Shoes must have a back strap for security.
- Students are not permitted to carry book bags in the building. Book bags must be stored in their locker.
- Hooded sweatshirts and jackets are permissible, but the hood cannot be worn inside the building. If a student is not dressed appropriately, a parent will be notified, and the student will be asked to change the apparel. We may have some items on hand for the student to choose from. If these do not fit or the student doesn't feel comfortable, a parent will be asked to bring a change of clothing. A student will not be permitted to class without the appropriate attire.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students in grades 3-8 will have their cell phones and other electronic devices collected Daily. Cell phones MUST be turned into the homeroom teacher or a trusted adult. The devices will be locked away and returned at the end of the day. Students are NOT permitted to have their cell phones out or visible during the school day. If a student is caught with a cell phone in their possession, it will be confiscated, and a parent must come to the school to retrieve it. It will be held until a parent/guardian is able to pick it up from the school. If the cell phone use violates the code of student conduct, the appropriate action will be taken.

Progressive Discipline

Through progressive discipline measures, we hope to avoid reaching violations beyond #1. Please help us in this effort to minimize distractions and keep our school safe. The following process will be followed in the event this policy is violated:

Violation #1: phone confiscated, parent contact, and student written reflection.

Violation #2: phone confiscated, parent contact, and after school conference with principal or teacher.

Violation #3: parent will be contacted, and the phone will be confiscated and held for the remainder of the school year. The device will be returned on the last day of school.

Rationale for Policy

Pittsburgh Sunnyside believes that safety and education are priorities for student success. By collecting cell phones and other electronic devices, students and teachers can focus on teaching and learning without distractions. Disruptions have been caused by students and parents that take away from the systems within the school that were established to keep ALL safe. Students being able to access social media outlets, communicate with peers and others outside of the school can create distress for students that takes their focus away from instruction. Taking cell phones also reduces sharing premature and inaccurate information to families before hearing from school staff. We also want to prevent unauthorized recording of other students and sharing it on social media. We take cyberbullying seriously. In addition, some students may view things that are not appropriate and will allow other students to view it on their phones that other parents would not approve of their child seeing or knowing. We cannot control what our students are exposed to outside of these walls, but we would like to minimize negative influences while they are with us. Our desire is to provide a safe and supportive environment as best

as we can while they are in school. Our school has a supportive staff and that will allow students to use the main office phone when needed.

GRADING

Pittsburgh Sunnyside 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. Report cards will be available on the Home Access Center Only (HAC). 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 and any 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 the 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 of the following subjects: Spelling, English, Science and/or Social Studies.

A middle school student will be retained if they:

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

Please note D/E grades on report cards and schedule a parent-teacher conference if they are received.

HOMEWORK PROCEDURES

Homework will be assigned daily or weekly. We ask that you oversee your child's homework. Please check over the work before it is turned into school. This will give you insight into what they are learning and how you can support. Homework is important. It is an extension of the learning that takes place during the school day. Homework can provide practice that reinforces classroom learning and can provide opportunities for independent study, research, and creative thinking.

Please help your child get into the habit of completing work in a timely fashion by creating routines and appropriate workspaces. Homework is part of the overall grade. Students and/or their parents are responsible for requesting make-up work immediately upon the students return to school. If the dates of the student's absences are known in advance, the teacher should be notified at least 3 days' notice in advance, and planned assignments may be given.

HEALTH SERVICES

Health and wellness are important at Pittsburgh Sunnyside. Our school does have a school nurse that is able to assist with students' medical needs. To best assess and treat your student, an emergency care form must be completed each school year. This form will be sent home at the beginning of the year. Please complete and return this form immediately.

Please be sure to have accurate medical information on file with the nurse and contact information.

School Nurse: Steven Stopchick

Phone: (412) 529-2043

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/ACCEPTABLE USE

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

Students are required to bring their District issued device and charger to school daily. This device supports instruction in the classroom and access to virtual learning in the event of a building closure.

To maintain the device's life span and performance we ask the following:

- No food, drink, candy or snacks near the device
- Refrain from touching other student devices
- Use equipment properly
- Work only on directed activities
- Stay in assigned area with the device
- Listen carefully, follow directions
- Show respect to everyone at all times

All students are expected to follow the Pittsburgh Public School System's Technology Acceptable Use Policy. The entire policy can be found on the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Appropriate discipline will be administered for violations of this policy. Because there may be an emergency or unexpected school closing students should transport their device and charger to and from daily. If we need to implement remote instruction, students will follow their normal school schedule. Teachers will issue links for live remote instruction. Students are expected to be present in class, just as if they were in school. Students that are not present will be marked absent. If a student misplaces, breaks, or has a device stolen, they should contact the school immediately. There may be a fee issued for misplaced, damaged and stolen devices.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The mission of the Pittsburgh Public Schools Comprehensive System of Student Services is to provide a coordinated system of services to enhance student learning by addressing barriers that impact the cognitive, physical, emotional, and social well-being of students. We attempt to consistently utilize a child-centered team approach to plan and deliver needed services to students, staff, and families.

At Pittsburgh Sunnyside PreK-8 we provide the following:

- Classroom presentations on anger management, bullying, decision making skills related
- to drugs and alcohol (Middle school)
- Support counseling
- Instructional Support /Student Assistance Program
- Appropriate education placement
- Gifted referrals
- Mediations
- Appropriate referral to agencies or community programs
- Partnerships with mental health providers and out of school time programs

We promote school, family, and community collaboration to ensure that every student receives the necessary support to enhance their cognitive, physical, social, and emotional growth and development. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to call the school social worker at 412-529-2062.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS/PROCEDURES



Sunnyside Dragons Have
 **F.I.R.E.!** 
School-Wide Expectations

F.I.R.E.	Cafeteria	Recess	Hallway	Bathrooms	Bus/Vans	When I feel upset...
FRIENDLY	-Use kind words -Help peers -Sit and talk quietly	-Include everyone -Take turns	-Respect the personal space of others -Keep your hands to yourself	-Waiting your turn -Knock on the door before you enter a stall -Be patient	-Share your seat with others -Use kind words	-Ask for space -Tell someone how you're feeling
INVOLVED	-Help others -Stay in your place in line -Be patient	-Participate in each activity	-Be mindful of those walking around you -Keep it clean	-Help keep the bathroom clean -Let the teacher know of problems	-Pay attention and be sure to get off at the correct stop -Be a helper	-Use calm down strategies to remain in the classroom
RESPONSIBLE	-Keep hands & feet to yourself -Touch only your food -Stay seated -Clean up	-Be safe while playing -Clean up when the whistle blows	-Remain with your class -Stay in your place in line	-Use soap and towels to wash & dry hands -Clean up after yourself	-Listen to the driver -Remain in your seat at all times -Be patient entering and exiting	-Identify how you are feeling -Calmly tell your teacher why you are upset
EAGER	-Eat: Use your time wisely	-Have fun!	-Be a good role model to others -Please walk	-Keep bathroom visits quick	-Be at the bus stop on time -Be ready to leave when the bus arrives	-Find a trusted adult to talk with
Staff Expectations	-Escort class - Tend to student needs -Line up class -Clean up	-Actively monitor & engage students	-Be in the hallway during transition times to monitor students	-Be in the hallway -Remind students to wash their hands and throw away their trash	-Remind students of bus expectations -Escort students to their bus/ -Buckle van students	-Actively listen to student concerns -Model appropriate calming strategies

At Sunnyside we teach, model, and encourage positive behavior. Our students and staff should be on F.I.R.E. (Friendly, Involved, Responsible, and Eager). However, there may be times when students do not uphold this expectation, as such teachers have the authority and responsibility to issue discipline in the classroom. School discipline policies will be established and consistently enforced in accordance with the school district's Code of Student Conduct. When a student is exhibiting an undesired behavior, the teacher may confer with the student, confer with the parent/guardian, use classroom disciplinary procedures, or refer the situation directly to the principal. The desired behavior will be expected from the first day of school to the last. Should a student be suspended from school for a violation of the PPS student code of conduct, a parent/guardian must attend an in person reintegration meeting upon the student's return.

VISITORS

If you are visiting Pittsburgh Sunnyside, you must first ring the bell and state your reason for entry. You must have a valid form of identification. Proceed to the main office to attain a visitor's pass. You must sign in and out during your visit. This is for the safety and protection of everyone. Please do not be offended if someone asks you for your pass, they are only following mandated guidelines. Please remember that we are happy to have you visit Pittsburgh Sunnyside! If you would like to meet with a staff member, please email the staff member to schedule an appointment. Visitors are not permitted to roam to unauthorized areas while in the building.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Emergency Procedures

Emergency procedures are established and distributed to all staff at the start of the school year. In the event of necessary evacuation, the students and staff will move to the Steel City Arts Foundation, formerly the United Methodist Church facility on Stanton Avenue. If Parents are notified via our automated phone system.

Fire Drill

Fire drills are conducted once every month. When the fire alarm sounds, proceed as if it were a real fire. The instructions are as follows:

- Absolute silence unless addressing a safety concern
- Move in quiet orderly lines to and from stations
- No running, pushing, shoving
- Be ready to use alternate routes.

Safety Drills

Safety drills to practice our Standard Response Protocol (SRP) will be conducted 2 times a year. Families will be given advance notice. During this time, visitors will not be granted access into the building. Prior to the drill students receive instructions to provide guidance for the drill. The goal is for students to be prepared and not extremely scared.

Safety Checks

To help prevent unauthorized items from entering the school, random metal detector checks will be conducted twice a month. All bags will be checked. School police may be present to support on occasion.

Student Drop off & Pick Up

Students should not be dropped off before the school day starts at 8:05. Students should be picked up promptly at dismissal at 3:05.

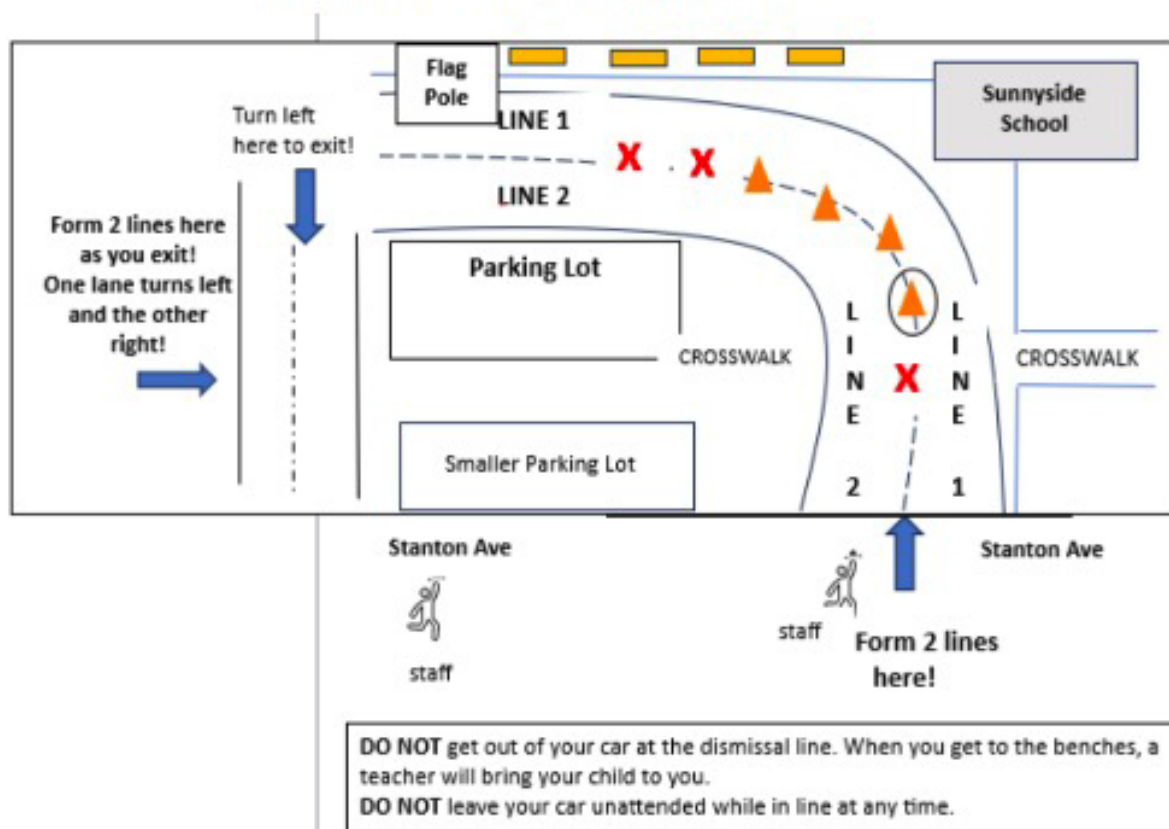
Please do not exit your car during drop off or pick up. If you need to get out, please park in a parking spot. Kindergarten students MUST be picked up from their classroom door. So, please park and walk to the door. Do not remain in the pick-up line. Students being picked up will get picked up in front by the benches. Any walkers will be released to walk home.

If your student attends an after-school program that picks them up at Sunnyside. Please contact the school to notify us of the arrangements.

Kindergarten students must be picked up during dismissal at their homeroom door.

Parent cooperation is needed to keep our students safe. Please do not speed in the parking lot and please follow the established routines.

*****The diagram is for illustration purposes. These are imaginary lines to help depict and visualize locations and procedures *****



Early Dismissal

We certainly recognize the need for an early dismissal for doctors/dental appointments, etc. Students must have written permission for an early dismissal from a parent or legal guardian. If someone other than the parent or guardian will be picking the student up, please put it in writing. Upon arriving at school, the student must bring the permission slip to the office for verification. Please pick up your child from the main office for an early dismissal. You will be required to sign your child out. Anyone picking up students will need identification.

Early dismissals are not permitted after 2:30 for safety reasons. Early dismissals will not be granted after this time unless it is deemed an emergency by the principal or other lead staff.

Change of Dismissal

Any change of dismissal must be made in writing in advance to ensure student safety. If you need to change how your child will be dismissed or who will pick up your child you must put it in writing by either: sending a Talking Points message to the teacher or by the calling the main office to be informed of where to send your change in writing.

Loitering

For student safety, there is to be no unnecessary 'hanging around' before school or after school. Non-students are not permitted on campus during school hours at any time unless they have been registered as an official guest in the office.

School Closings/Delays

If the Pittsburgh Public Schools are closed or delayed (for reasons such as heavy snowfall or icy roads) an announcement will be carried over the local radio and television stations, a phone call will be made, a Talking Points message, or you may check the Board of Education's website. When there is a 2-hour delay, school begins at 10:20 a.m., buses/transportation pick up two hours later, and no breakfast is served. All afterschool activities will still operate unless notified of a cancellation. We ask that children do not arrive at school excessively early as there will be no supervision for them. No announcement means that school is in session.

The school district may decide to have a remote instruction day. Students will be expected to report online for live instruction with their teachers. They should follow their normal schedule.

Lunch/Breakfast

Breakfast begins at 8:05 a.m. in the school cafeteria. As soon as they finish eating, they must report to either the gymnasium (grades 1-5) or remain in the cafeteria (grades 6-8) to join their respective homerooms before school begins. Kindergarten will remain in the cafeteria. Breakfast ends at 8:20. If they enter after 8:20, they may not receive breakfast. Children have one 45-minute lunch/ recess period. They may either bring a lunch or receive one at school. During breakfast and lunch, children are expected to behave appropriately and interact with peers in a friendly and kind manner. Inappropriate behavior is handled with according to the procedures outlined in the Code of Student Conduct. You will be notified if there is a significant problem during this time.

Lockers

A locker is issued at the beginning of the school year and is the property of the school. Students are not to bring anything other than the suggested school supplies (books, pencils, notebooks, etc.) to school. The school is not responsible for valuables left in the locker. If a lock is used, give the homeroom teacher a spare key or the combination. If valuables must be brought to school, please give them to the office. Locks are available for middle school students.

Lost and Found

Pittsburgh Sunnyside has a system for handling lost and found articles. Students who lose an article are to report the incident to the office. A lost and found box is kept outside the cafeteria. Money, jewelry, glasses or any other articles of value should be turned into the office. Students may claim them after proper identification. We recommend parents place names on boots, gym shoes, lunch boxes, book bags and envelopes containing letters or money.

Library

Students circulate books once every 6-day cycle. Books should be returned on time. Books can be renewed by bringing the book into the library and requesting to have it renewed. Books that are lost must be paid for. Students with late or lost books will not be permitted to check out books.

Home Access Center (HAC)

Students and parents are encouraged to frequently review grades and attendance in the Home Access Center. This can be accessed on the PPS website. Students and Guardians have their own logins. If there are any concerns, please contact the teacher.

Conferences

You are encouraged to speak with your child's teacher at any time if there are any questions concerning a grade, assignment, or any school-related situation. However, please call or write for a convenient time to meet so that the teacher may have grades, progress reports or other materials relative to the conference on hand. Any school-wide conference dates will be scheduled on the school calendar.

Instrumental Program

Pittsburgh Sunnyside has a very successful instrumental program for students in grades 4-8. The Pittsburgh Board of Education provides a limited number of orchestra and band instruments for each school in the city. The purpose is to enable some children to begin class lessons during school. The Board assigns an Instrumental Music Specialist to maintain the program. A rotating schedule is set up and followed weekly. Progress reports

are given twice a year. The selection of instrumental students is based on interest, availability of instruments, attitude and responsibility of the child. At the start of each school year, a letter is sent home asking parents if their child is interested in enrolling in the program. The student's name may be placed on the waiting list until an instrument is available.

After School Care

After school care is offered by Deakings Child Care inside the school. Please note that this private organization uses the building as a convenience to families. They have their own staff and all communication concerning the program should go directly to them. More information can be found in the main office. Please speak with your child's teacher or call the main office.

Sunnyside Student Pledge

Sunnyside students are expected to strive and thrive toward excellence. Sunnyside students will recite the student pledge daily and are expected to model those behaviors. We are on F.I.R.E.!

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)