



PENNSAUKEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

George B. Fine Elementary School

James R. Bevere, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Lisa Eckel
President – Board of Education

Tanya Harmon
Principal



Dear George B. Fine Families!

We hope you had a wonderful summer with your families and friends. Your teachers and the staff here at George B. Fine Elementary School are excited to welcome our new Fine families who will be joining us for the 2026-2027 school year and our returning families. This school year will be filled with new learning experiences and explorations! We can't wait to see you!

Below, please find a summary of information that will guide you through the first few opening days:

- The first day of school for students in Kindergarten through Third Grade is Wednesday, August 26, 2026. We will start on an early dismissal schedule. K-3 Students will be dismissed at 1:30 pm. School begins promptly at 8:50 a.m. **Students should not arrive at school earlier than 8:50 a.m.** If your child arrives late to school, please ring the doorbell to let your child into the vestibule.
- All walking or driven students will enter through DESIGNATED doors on Gladwyn Avenue.
 - **2nd & 3rd grade students will enter the front door closest to the teachers' parking lot.**
 - **Kindergarten & 1st grade students will enter through the main front doors.**On the first day of school, staff members will guide the students to the gym where they will be greeted by their teacher and line up by class. **Parents will not be permitted to walk their child to the gym or to their classroom.**
- Your child's teacher will be: «HMRM_TeacherLast» in room «HmRm». Your child's teacher will send home other important documents and *a school agenda for you to sign and read* during the opening weeks of school. Please pay close attention to all school correspondence and information that will be coming home.
- Kindergarten Orientation will be held on **Tuesday, August 25th from 6:00-7:30 pm.** Fine School Back to School Night will be **Monday, September 14th from 6:00-7:30 pm.**



The lunch program will begin the first day of school. Each student will be assigned an individual account with a personal pin number to be used daily. **Children may bring lunch from home if they wish.** The cost for a school lunch is **\$4.25**. The cost for breakfast is **\$2.75**. You **MUST** complete a new application on or before **October 9th, 2026** **OR** your child's meal status will be determined as Full Price. The 2026-2027 lunch application form will be sent home with your child. **Please complete one form for the household and return it to school with your child before the deadline mentioned above.**

*If you have any questions about your child's meal status (free, reduced, or paid lunch), please contact **Food Services at Food Services - Pennsauken Public Schools OR 856-662-8500. ext. 5259***

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tharmon@pennsauken.net

UNIFORM POLICY

The Pennsauken Board of Education firmly believes that good grooming and appropriate dress enhance the educational environment and promote good conduct in the schools.

- ★ **Dark blue collared polo shirt and either dark blue or khaki slacks, shorts, or skorts/skirts, jumpers for girls. (*Warmer long-sleeve shirt can be worn underneath polo shirt*)**
- ★ **Appropriate shoes must be worn for students' safety (*No flip-flops, slides, high heels, or any open-toed shoes*)**
- ★ **Dark blue sweater or Sweatshirt without PRINT.**
- ★ **Tights may be worn in cooler weather**



STUDENTS MUST ALWAYS BE IN SCHOOL UNIFORM UNLESS TOLD OTHERWISE.

STUDENTS SHOULD NOT WEAR JEANS TO SCHOOL. OUTERWEAR OR NON-BLUE SWEATSHIRTS MUST NOT BE WORN DURING THE SCHOOL DAY (EXCEPT FOR RECESS).

For further information on school uniforms, please review the Uniform Policy on the district's website [Uniform Information - Pennsauken Public Schools](#) under the "Families" tab.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES



The safety and security of our students is our number one priority! In order to ensure that our students arrive and dismiss safely from school, please comply with the following procedures. Please be patient, wait your turn, and be courteous to one another! Remember, our children will do what we do!

Morning Drop Off Procedure:

- ➔ **Parents can drop off right in front of the building on Gladwyn Ave. (*PLEASE SEE SECOND BULLETED PARAGRAPH on PAGE 1*). Make every attempt to distribute** backpacks, lunch money, afternoon pick-up instructions, and kisses before arriving at school. Once the children have been dropped off, drivers must depart to keep traffic moving.
- ➔ **For the safety of our students, parents will not be permitted to park in the **BUS LOT** or at the **BACK OF THE BUILDING** by the **GYMNASIUM** during arrival and dismissal.** Kindly do NOT park in yellow fire areas surrounding the building.

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- ****IMPORTANT**** When dropping off or picking up, **ALWAYS have the passenger side closest to the curb.** It is unsafe for children and is a TRAFFIC VIOLATION when the passenger door **faces the street.** Pennsauken Police are on a heightened alert to ensure that this does not result in another emergency situation.
- Once students enter the building, they will be accompanied to their designated location by a staff member (**parents will not be allowed to walk their child/children to those locations**).
- If you have an appointment, please park in the parking lot across from Haddonfield Road or in front of the building. **You may not park or leave your car idle along the yellow curbing (Fire Lanes).** Double-parking and leaving your vehicle while it is in the drop-off lane or in traffic is not allowed or acceptable.
- As per the Uniform Fire Code and the Ordinance of the Township of Pennsauken, Pennsauken Police Department and District Office, Parking along Fire lanes (YELLOW CURBS) is PROHIBITED. **Please be advised that the police will initially issue warnings and then tickets if necessary for parking violations. Your car could also be subjected to Towing if left unattended.**

Walkers:

- ☐ The crossing guard at Gladwyn and Herbert Avenue will cross students who walk to school. Walkers should then proceed across Gladwyn Avenue, up the front walkway of Fine School.
- ☐ **All students will enter through the front doors - rain or shine.**
- ☐ School employees will be at the front doors to monitor your child as they enter the building.

Bus Students:

- Buses arrive in the parking lot that is to the left of the building (across from Herbert Ave). **Please keep this area free from parent drop-offs.**

Afternoon Pick Up Procedure:

- ⇒ At the end of the school day, all kindergarten and 1st grade students will be dismissed to the SAME doors upon which they entered school in the morning—the **MAIN ENTRANCE.**
- ⇒ 2nd & 3rd Grade students will be dismissed from the SAME doors upon which they entered school in the morning (**the doors closest to the TEACHER parking lot**).
- ⇒ All bus students (**K-3rd grade**) will be dismissed to the buses from the **GYM.**
- ⇒ All walkers or students being picked up will be escorted by their teacher to their appropriate departure location. Parents should be waiting outside of the building. **Please note that students will not be released unless a parent/guardian is physically present. Any student who does not have a parent waiting at dismissal will be redirected with an adult to the library as a safe waiting area.**
- ⇒ Parents picking up students must **PARK in the Parking Lots. DO NOT PARK ALONG THE YELLOW CURBS (FIRE LANES) OR IN FRONT OF THE PARKED CARS.** Please be advised that the police will initially issue warnings and then tickets (if necessary) for parking violations. Your car could also be subjected to Towing if left unattended.
- ⇒ If students have permission to walk home without a guardian, they will be dismissed from the door upon which they entered. **The main office, Head Teacher, and the principal must be notified of this before dismissal.**

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- ⇒ Any student **not** picked up by **3:45 p.m.** will be brought to the front office for parent pickup. **Please be prepared to show proper Identification in the vestibule. If a responsible adult is not at the bus stop to meet the child, the student will be taken to Pennsauken High School after school hours.**

EARLY DROP OFF AND PICK-UP

In order to ensure the health and safety of our students, to maximize instructional time, and to maintain an orderly school environment, we are requesting your cooperation with early morning drop and afternoon pick up protocols indicated below.

- ❖ **Please be advised that the school doors open daily at 8:50 am. We strongly discourage students from being dropped off in the front of the school building before 8:50 am in the mornings. Please utilize the Right At School Before/After Care program if you need early morning childcare.**
- ❖ **In order to maximize instructional time, maintain an orderly school environment, we strongly suggest that students are not picked up before dismissal. Unless there is an emergency, an appointment, or communication from the school for students to be picked up, or other situations that qualify, please make every attempt NOT to pick up students before dismissal at 3:37 p.m. Please keep in mind that when students consistently leave early, they are missing vital instruction, which could affect their grades and their overall understanding of the concepts taught in class. **Please make every effort to schedule appointments so that they do not interfere with school and with instruction. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.****

ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

Regular school attendance is one of the strongest predictors of academic success and social-emotional development. When students miss just two days of school per month, that is classified as chronic absenteeism. This can cause a student to fall significantly behind in their learning and social development. Please continue to instill the importance of coming to school daily and being on time so that students are given every educational opportunity to learn and excel!

Absence from school will be Excused for:

- (1) Illness, Dental, and medical appointments accompanied by a doctor's note
- (2) Death in the family (provide documentation)
- (3) Legal appointments (provide documentation)
- (4) Religious observance
- (5) Take Your Child to Work Day (provide documentation)

Absences from school for any reasons other than the above mentioned **WILL NOT BE EXCUSED** by the school unless it is cleared in advance by the school. **Calling your child out or writing a note will not excuse the absence. Family Vacations are not excused.** If there are questions and concerns regarding an absence not being excused, you may call the school's main office at 856-662-8568.

A letter will be mailed home for students with **5, 7, and 10 days of Unexcused Absences**. If your child continues to miss school and/or receives excessive absences that accumulate to **14 or more days**, a complaint will be filed with the Municipal Court in compliance with the New Jersey Compulsory Education Act. **In addition, a conference will be held with the parent, school nurse, guidance counselor, classroom teacher, and the administrator to develop a plan of action to correct the truancy problem.**

Please note that if your child has a fever temperature of 100.4 or higher, please call the school to report him or her sick/absent. A doctor's note is required for him or her to return to school.

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For further information on the Attendance, please review the Attendance Policy on the district's website under the **"Families"** tab.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

If medication needs to be given during school hours, these **STRICT** rules must be met or the medication will not be given.

- ❖ Specific written request by the child's doctor to the school nurse noting the name of the medication, the dosage, the time it is to be given, and any specific instructions needed.
- ❖ Written request from the parent to give the medication.
- ❖ The medication **MUST** be brought to the school by the parent/guardian or other designated responsible adult. The adult must sign in with the medication with the nurse. No student under age 18 may carry their medication to or from school.
- ❖ The medication must be in the original pharmacy container labeled with the name of the patient, name of the medication, dosage, physician's name, and the date.
- ❖ Non-prescription medications must be in the original container.
- ❖ By law, medications are given in school by the registered nurse or parent only.

For further information on administering or transporting Medication in school, please review the Medication Policy on the district's website [Health Services \(Nursing\) - Pennsauken Public Schools](#) under the **"Families"** tab.

PARENT/GUARDIAN VERIFICATION

When a student is being picked up at school, proper **Photo Identification is always required regardless of whether you are a familiar face to the office staff.** All individuals picking up student(s) must be included on the student's emergency contact. Please take the time to update your child's emergency contact on the Genesis Parent Portal or submit the form to the school. Provide us with current phone numbers and emergency contacts. **Students will not be permitted to leave with any individual who is not present on his/her emergency contact information. If there have been any recent changes pertaining to custody issues, please contact the main office immediately and bring in appropriate court documents.**

At George B. Fine Elementary School, we want to ensure that your child/children are provided with the best educational opportunities, and we do understand that it really does take a "whole community" to make this possible. Please continue to support our efforts in making this school year one of success! The staff members look forward to working with you and with your children for another great year on Gladwyn Ave.

The strong, healthy relationship with our Fine families is vital to our students' success at school and beyond. On behalf of the entire Fine educational community, thank you for taking the time to read and follow these directives. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Fine School's at 856-662-8568.

Sincerely,

Tanya Harmon,

Principal

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