



PENN HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Penn Hills School District Staff, Students, Families, and Community,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year!

As we begin another school year together, I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for our students, our staff, and our entire Penn Hills School District community. Each new school year brings a renewed sense of energy, possibility, and purpose, and this year, our theme captures what matters most:

Our Purpose. Our Students. Our PHamily.

Our purpose is clear: to provide every student with the knowledge, skills, experiences, and support they need to reach their full potential. Everything we do should ultimately answer one important question: How does this help our students succeed?

Our students are at the center of every decision we make. They are the reason for our work each day, the reason we continue to learn and grow, and the reason we challenge ourselves to do better. We want every student to feel known, valued, supported, and inspired to pursue their goals and dreams.

Our PHamily represents the strength of our Penn Hills community. We are more than a collection of schools, classrooms, departments, and activities. We are a community that supports one another, celebrates one another, and works together through challenges and successes. When we unite as a PHamily, our students benefit.

As we move into this school year, our four district goals will continue to guide our work:

Increase Academic Excellence

We will continue to challenge our students and ourselves to achieve at the highest levels. We will use data, proven instructional practices, collaboration, and innovation to ensure that every student has the opportunity to grow and succeed.

Foster Continuous Learning

Learning does not stop when we leave the classroom. We want to create a culture where students and adults embrace curiosity, reflection, growth, and the belief that there is always an opportunity to become better than we were yesterday. An important part of this goal is providing relevant professional development that supports our teachers and staff and directly connects to the needs of our students.

Empower All Students

Every student deserves access to opportunities that allow them to discover their interests, develop their talents, and prepare for their future. This year, we are continuing to look for ways to remove barriers and expand opportunities for all students.

One example is the implementation of Activity Runs, which will help eliminate transportation barriers for students who want to participate in extracurricular activities. Every student should have the opportunity to be involved in clubs, activities, athletics, and experiences that help them build confidence, develop relationships, and discover their passions.

We have also expanded after-school opportunities at Penn Hills Elementary School through a partnership with AlphaBEST, which will provide tutoring and enrichment opportunities for students. AlphaBEST will also begin offering a before-school program once the school year is underway.

We are also excited to continue building our PHorge Academy. Last year, more than 90 students earned industry certification in Mechanical Foundations, providing them with valuable skills and credentials connected to future career opportunities. We will continue to expand career connected learning so that our students are prepared for college, careers, technical training, entrepreneurship, and the many paths available to them after graduation.

Prioritize Safety and Wellness

Our students cannot reach their full potential unless they feel safe, supported, and valued. We will continue to prioritize the physical, emotional, and social well-being of our students and staff while creating learning environments where everyone feels a sense of belonging.

This year, we are also excited about the continued improvements to our facilities. Students and staff returning to Linton Middle School will notice a different feel throughout the building. We have begun to make improvements that will include new doors, extensive painting, and Penn Hills murals in the main entrance. These improvements reflect the pride we have in our schools and reinforce our belief that our students deserve safe, welcoming, and inspiring places to learn.

Growing Our Phamily

We are excited to welcome more than 20 new teachers to the Penn Hills School District this year. We are also pleased to welcome new leadership at two of our schools: Dr. Jah-Chant Robinson, Lead Principal at Penn Hills High School, and Dr. Chris Wolfson, Lead Principal at Linton Middle School.

Please join me in welcoming them and all our new staff members to the Penn Hills PHamily.

We are also excited about a new partnership with Verizon Innovative Learning Schools and Digital Promise, which will provide additional opportunities to strengthen technology, innovation, and powerful learning experiences for our students.

Our commitment to our families is also growing. Please look for information about our monthly family engagement opportunities throughout the school year. Each month, we will host an event in collaboration with our Parents Empowering Parents initiative. These events will provide opportunities

for families to connect with one another, engage with our schools, and play an active role in our students' success.

As we begin the 2026-2027 school year, let us remember that our work is bigger than any single classroom, school, or initiative.

Together, let's make this a year of growth, achievement, opportunity, connection, and Penn Hills Pride.

Together in education,

Dr. Mozzocio