



Pine Brook School

155 Pease Road, Manalapan, NJ 07726-3547

(732) 786-2800

Fax (732) 786-2810

Nicole Santora, Ed.D.
Superintendent
nicolesantora@mersnj.us

Julie Szustowicz
Principal
jszustowicz@mersnj.us

Allison Rogers
Assistant Principal
arogers@mersnj.us

August 2026

To Our Pine Brook Community,

Hello, incoming families! On behalf of the entire Pine Brook faculty, we are excited to welcome you to the 2026–2027 school year. We are fortunate to have an outstanding team of teachers and support staff who are dedicated to the success of our students. As educators, we look forward to partnering with you as we strive to guide our students toward successful academic and personal growth. Our priority is to provide a safe, nurturing, and stimulating learning environment that supports each child's scholastic, social, and emotional development.

During the first few days of the school year, students will focus on getting acclimated to life at Pine Brook. Teachers will review schedules, help students navigate the building, teach them how to open and secure their lockers, and provide an overview of the sixth grade curriculum. Students will quickly discover that Pine Brook staff have high expectations for both academic achievement and positive behavior, guided by our school motto: "Sail to Success—Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Ready to Learn." We are confident that your child will soon feel welcomed and supported in our learning community.

Additionally, thanks to the community's support for the referendum, significant improvements were made at Pine Brook over the summer, with more enhancements planned throughout the school year. There may be times when some classrooms or facilities are unavailable to ensure student safety, but rest assured, we have developed plans to minimize the impact on our curricular programs.

Beyond academics, we offer a wide range of experiences—athletics, before- and after-school activities, and positive behavior supports—to help students embrace the independence of sixth grade. We anticipate a special year filled with growth, development, and achievement for every student. To support this journey, we encourage you to help your child reflect on past accomplishments and set goals for the year ahead, whether academic, behavioral, or attitudinal. Through open communication and collaboration, we can assist each student in reaching personal goals and ensure they are well prepared for MEMS in 2027.

Please review the following information as you prepare for your September 4th arrival at Pine Brook School:

- [Obtain team placement and bus information](#)- Genesis Parent Portal will open on August 17 for families to begin completing all forms. We then anticipate team placement and bus information to be accessible to you through the Genesis Parent Portal on the afternoon of August 21. You will need to have completed all forms within the portal and make the Chromebook User Fee on PaySchools to obtain your child's schedule, receive a chromebook and attend our locker practice event.
- [School Supply Lists](#)- Please see attached the school supply list and check back after receiving specific team placement for team specific supplies.
- [Chromebook Pick-Up and Locker Event](#)- This is done BEFORE the school year starts. There are multiple items that MUST be completed before arrival, so please be sure to review the information prior to arriving at Pine Brook School. In addition to the forms, the Chromebook User Fee must be completed on PaySchools before coming to Pine Brook School. The Chromebook User fee will be viewable on PaySchools by August 21. Students who qualify for the National Lunch Program, please contact the school. *Please check out the PTA website below as they will be selling chromebook cases specific to this year's model. We highly encourage all families to purchase a gumdrop case through the PTA.

- [Orientation Site](#)-Pine Brook has created an Orientation website to support our students in transitioning to middle school. Please be sure to review the website should you have any questions pertaining to the schedule, our staff, activities information, and health forms.
- [2026-2027 School Calendar](#)- The first day of school is Tuesday, September 8, 2026. Our doors open to students at 8:45am. Dismissal begins at 3:04pm.
- [Intramural Sports Physicals](#)- Pine Brook has opportunities for students to engage in three sports throughout the school year in a non-competitive environment. If your child is interested, the included information MUST be submitted by the listed dates.
- [Summer Math and Reading](#)-Please make sure your child has completed their summer math and reading work before the first day of school.
- [PTA Information](#)- Please visit the PTA website to stay up to date on school events, fundraisers and spirit wear!
- [Back-to-School-Night](#)- We would like to invite parents/guardians to join our faculty at Back-to-School Night on Wednesday, September 16, 2026.
- Please check the [District Nurse website](#) for any medical forms that apply to your child. For example, if you would like the school to administer medication, there are specific forms that must be completed before the start of school. [See here for specific medication drop off dates and times.](#)
- We encourage all students to use District busing for safety reasons. If you need to drop off or pick up your child due to an emergency, please follow school guidelines:
 - **Drop Off:** Located on the side of the school building by the parking lot. Drive to the back of the school, turn around, and then drop your child off on the school side for safety. Students who arrive to homeroom after 8:54 are considered late.
 - **Pick Up:** Send a note to the main office. Students will be dismissed at 3:04PM to the side of the building. Please remain in your car and wait for your child to enter directly from the curb. For routine parent pick-up dismissal, please see the included [form](#).

Please be sure to check the website regularly and sign up for the Pine Brook Backpack to remain informed about our school. We are excited to meet your children in just a few short weeks! Should you have any additional questions, please contact us at (732) 786-2800.

Sincerely,

Julie Szustowicz

Julie Szustowicz
Principal

Allison Rogers

Allison Rogers
Assistant Principal