Pine-Richland School District

Focused on Learning for Every Student Every Day

Spectator Safety Reminders

Dear Pine-Richland Students, Families and Community Members,



On Friday nights, student engagement is clearly evident. As you scan the campus, you will see the football team, cheerleaders, marching band, dance team, color guard, high school and middle school student sections, yearbook students, PRTV crew, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) cadets and student newspaper journalists. There is truly something for everyone on Friday nights.

Friday nights also provide opportunities for community members and families to spend time together cheering and catching up. On any given night, thousands of people come out to see our students perform.

The phrase "**Who do we want to be known as?**" is being shared with our students and staff. We strive to be highly competitive in all that we do while at the same time showing kindness and respect. As a community, we can work to model this same behavior for our children and visitors.

If at any time a spectator has a concern, he or she may direct it to a member of the district staff working the event for further action. The health, safety, and welfare of students and the general public is a significant responsibility for K-12 public school districts. Based on the circumstances, local law enforcement may be notified. We have a strong partnership with the Northern Regional Police Department (NRPD). A team of officers is always in attendance throughout campus on Friday nights. We also always have a team of administrators in attendance at each home football game.

With safety and security always in mind, we want to share a few important reminders **for all of our after-school events**:

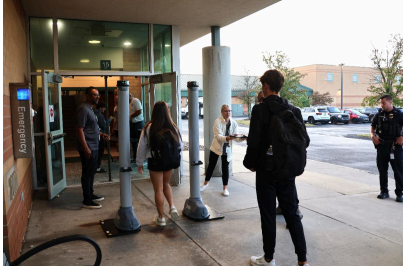
Board Policy

As outlined in **Pine-Richland School Board Policy 904—Public Attendance at School Events**, the use of tobacco and possession and use of controlled substances, alcohol and weapons are prohibited on school premises.

The board has the authority to prohibit the attendance of any individual whose conduct may constitute a disruption to the school event. Disruptions could include inappropriate comments directed at referees, coaches or others in attendance.

Tailgating with alcohol is strictly prohibited. The Northern Regional Police Department will be notified of any violations.

OpenGate Metal Detectors



Introduced last year, the OpenGate Metal Detector System will be used to screen individuals for prohibited items in a way that is designed to be quick and non-intrusive.

Although not planned for daily use, building and district administrators will collaborate with the safety committee to determine when and where the units will be deployed, consistent with applicable **board policy**, in order to further enhance our existing security measures. OpenGate may be utilized for athletic and other campus events.

Student Supervision

During varsity football games, supervision is provided for our middle and high school students. **However, students in grades K-6 should be supervised by their parents/guardians**. We do not have the staff to monitor our younger students. **Our K-6 students should sit with or near their parents/guardians**.

Weather Emergencies

In the event of a weather emergency, all spectators will be required to report to their cars, the stadium lobby or the high school lobby. Student participants will report to locker rooms. Those needing special assistance will be guided to the stadium lobby.

Bags and Coolers

Outside coolers are not permitted to be brought into an event. Concession stands and/or water fountains are available. Exceptions due to medical needs or special circumstances should be discussed with the site manager of the event. **Bags should be limited**. **Clear, transparent bags are recommended**. Only service animals are permitted on campus. Please refer to **Pine-Richland School Board Policy 718—Service Animals in Schools** for service animal guidelines.

Parking/Seating

Parking on the secondary campus is plentiful. Parking and tailgating are prohibited in the parking lot of Stepping Stones Children's Center on Warrendale Road.

Spectators must observe all contests/events from within the stadium. Using the hillside near Pine-Richland Middle School to watch an event is prohibited.

Reentry

Once a spectator leaves the stadium lobby or gates, he/she will not be permitted to return and should have plans to exit the middle and high school campus areas. Students found outside of the stadium will be asked by

the Northern Regional Police Department or school safety officers to contact their parents/guardians.

E-Vehicles



As a reminder, **recreational e-vehicles are prohibited on campus**. Students are permitted to ride traditional bicycles and pedal-powered e-bikes to campus for school, provided they have permission from their parents and the building principal. These vehicles must be secured at designated bicycle racks and are not to be driven elsewhere on school grounds.

All other e-vehicles are strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, e-scooters, golf carts, e-motorcycles, and go-karts. These measures are necessary because our campuses remain active after school hours with students, families, and young children participating in various events.

Over the past few years, we have worked with our students to emphasize the need for us to support one another by reporting concerning incidents or behaviors. The phrase **if you see something, say something** is reinforced from grades K-12. This concept applies to our community as well. If you or your child(ren) have any information related to any safety matter, there are several avenues available for reporting:

- Contact Northern Regional Police Department at 724-625-3157 or dial 911 if there is an immediate concern
- Use the Safe2Say Something application or website to make an anonymous report
- Reach out to building or district administrators for guidance and support

We look forward to spending many fun-filled Friday nights and other evenings with our students, parents and community members. Please contact your child's principal or the athletic department if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Go Rams!

Sincerely,

Mr. J.M. Gironda, Director of Athletics
Dr. Frank Hernandez, Principal, Pine-Richland High School
Dr. David Kristofic, Principal, Pine-Richland Middle School
Mrs. Colleen Berezo, Principal, Eden Hall Upper Elementary School
Dr. Michael Pasquinelli, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Ed. & Curriculum

Website

Pine-Richland School District | 702 Warrendale Road | Gibsonia, PA 15044 US

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