

Karen E. Arnold, Director of Interscholastic Athletics

October 7, 2026

Dear Pittsburgh Public Schools Families,

As we continue the 2026 fall athletic season, the safety and well-being of our students, staff, families, and visitors remain our highest priority. Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment at all athletic events, including those held at Cupples Stadium.

Following the incident that occurred outside Cupples Stadium after the football game on **October 1, 2026**, we are implementing additional entry, supervision, and parking procedures. These measures are intended to enhance safety and ensure that students attending events are appropriately supervised.

The following procedures will take effect beginning with the October 8 football game, unless otherwise noted:

- **Adult Chaperone Requirement for Students Under 18:** All students under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an **adult age 21 or older** to enter Cupples Stadium. The supervising adult must remain in the stadium throughout the event. If the adult leaves the stadium, the student(s) under their supervision must leave with them. **Students under 18 who arrive without an adult chaperone will not be permitted to enter the stadium.**
- **PPS High School Student Identification:** A PPS staff member will use the CAASS system to log PPS students attending each game. **All PPS high school students must present a valid PPS student ID to enter the stadium.** Students without a valid PPS student ID will not be permitted to enter. The adult chaperone requirement does not replace the student ID requirement.
- **High School Students from Outside PPS:** High school students attending from outside PPS must present a current student ID from their school and, if under age 18, must be accompanied by an adult age 21 or older. **Students who are required to present an ID but do not have one will not be permitted to enter the stadium.**
- **Tickets and Admission:** Purchasing a ticket through Hometown Ticketing or at the gate does not guarantee admission. Individuals who do not meet the stadium's entry requirements will not be admitted, and tickets will not be refunded. Families should review these requirements before purchasing tickets.
- **Suspended or Restricted Students:** Students who are suspended from school or who have otherwise been prohibited from attending an athletic event will not be permitted to enter the stadium.
- **Restricted Items:** Outside food, drinks, and drinking containers - including Yeti, Stanley, Gatorade, and similar containers - are not permitted. Only unopened bottles of water will be allowed.
- **Clear Bag Policy:** No book bags or backpacks are permitted in the stadium. Beginning with the October 15 football games and continuing through the remainder of the season, only clear bags will be permitted inside Cupples Stadium. Players, coaches and authorized staff participating in the event are exempt from the clear bag requirement. Additional information regarding permitted bag sizes and exceptions will be shared prior to implementation.
- **Gate Closure:** Home and away gates will close at the beginning of the third quarter. No additional spectators will be admitted after the gates close.
- **Parking:** Parking along 9th Street from McArdle Roadway to East Carson Street will be restricted to No Parking. We ask families and visitors to plan accordingly and follow all posted parking restrictions.

www.pghschools.org

Parent Hotline: 412-529-HELP (4357)

The Pittsburgh Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, gender (including gender identity or expression), sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, or disability in its programs, activities or employment and provides equal access to designated youth groups. Inquiries may be directed to the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services at 341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 or (412) 529-HELP (4357).



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These procedures are in addition to metal detectors, School Safety personnel, and Pittsburgh Police support at Cupples Stadium. **We recognize that these additional requirements may require families to make different arrangements when students attend games. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we strengthen safety measures for everyone attending events at Cupples Stadium.**

We also encourage families to talk with their children about making safe and responsible choices before, during, and after athletic events. Students should leave the stadium promptly after games and travel directly home. Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) buses will be in service outside the stadium to assist students traveling Downtown or eastbound along Carson Street.

We appreciate your partnership as we work together to keep Cupples Stadium and the surrounding community safe. Our goal is for students and families to continue to enjoy high school athletics in an environment that reflects the sportsmanship, respect, and pride that represent Pittsburgh Public Schools.

If you have questions or concerns regarding these procedures or safety at our athletic venues, please contact the Office of Interscholastic Athletics at athletics@pghschools.org.

Thank you for your understanding, cooperation, and continued support of Pittsburgh Public Schools athletics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen E. Arnold".

Karen E. Arnold
Director of Interscholastic Athletics

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