

Arsenal PreK-5 PSCC Meeting

OCTOBER 20, 2026





Agenda

- Welcome
- Parent Engagement Plan
- Review & Update Parent Engagement Policy
- School Improvement Plan Overview

Parent Engagement Plan 2026-2027

PSCC Meetings Monthly

PAC Volunteers

School Volunteers

Quarterly Events

- Title I Annual Meeting: Literacy & Math Night-
November 5, 2026 at 4:30 – 6:30 pm
- Winter Concert-
 - December 16, 2025 at 9:30 am – 10:45 am
- Arsenal 360/International Night- April 1, 2027 at 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Parent Engagement Policy



Arsenal PreK-5 School
215 39th Street Pittsburgh, PA 15201
Phone: 412-529-5738 | Fax: 412-622-7310

Dr. Ruthie Rea, Principal

Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2025-2026 Revised 10.21.2025

Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK – 5 is a place where all students can learn and thrive in a safe environment. All students and families are respected and valued. Our school strives to be a caring school that emphasizes effort, creates hope, builds relationships, and collaborates effectively. We are committed to continuous improvement and are striving for “Excellence”! We are also committed to fostering a love of learning and equipping all students with skills, tools, and knowledge to live, play, and work successfully in the 21st century.

Mission: Arsenal PreK-5 will be a caring and high performing school by creating the conditions that engage all students, teachers, parents and community members in positive learning experiences that are innovative, differentiated, culturally relevant and rigorous.

Vision: We are committed to a culture of excellence at Arsenal PreK-5 by producing academic and social growth and achievement, where everyone is valued as a learner and leader, contributing to the global society.

Our school is a place of hope for all students where cultural diversity and individual differences are appreciated and respected. All students are encouraged and expected to achieve their fullest potential.

As a school community, we recognize the importance of parental and community engagement. We believe the involvement of parents can greatly impact academic achievement and future success for all children. Parents provide insight into their child’s personal and educational needs by engaging them in the education process.

We strive to promote meaningful dialogue between the home and school consistently. We want to support our parents as leaders and decision makers at all levels concerning the education of their children. A parent-school compact was jointly developed with parents and the compact outlines how parents, the entire staff, community partners, and school staff will share in the responsibility for improved student achievement.

Parents have an opportunity to become members of our Parent School Community Council (PSCC), volunteer, participate in school activities, and assist in developing the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan. The entire staff and school partners will share the responsibility in improving student achievement. The school will provide, if requested by parents, with the opportunity for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate in decisions related to the education of their children.

School

The school staff will develop a parent and family engagement calendar, distribute the school-parent compact, and revise the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan, which is an action plan to increase student achievement. We will also host parent teacher conferences, sponsor literacy and math nights, share assessment results, send home progress reports every 4-5 weeks and report cards each 9 weeks. Teachers and staff will also consistently communicate with parents via school and classroom newsletters, notes, class dojo, email, Talking Points, and through telephone conversations.

We will also host the annual Title I Parent meeting in October. An effort will be made to translate documents. We will also have parents to assist in training our staff regarding the contributions of parents and family members annually. The staff will view and discuss the State Parent Advisory Council (SPAC) videos and parents will be

Parent Engagement Policy

invited to participate in the training and share their perspectives.

PSCC

The Parent School Community Council meets monthly (3rd Tuesday of every month), and the meeting is open to parents, school, and community members. The council serves as an advisory group to the school and a decision-making body for the implementation of Title I funds and programs. The council helps to develop partnerships between the school and community resources.

Parent Volunteers

Parents are encouraged to volunteer. Parents can volunteer in the classroom, cafeteria, and at recess. Parents are also encouraged to attend field trips. Ms. Morgan Ealy, Community Schools Site Manager, will organize and support volunteers. All volunteers must have clearances. Mrs. Thompkins (Family and Community Engagement Coordinator) can be contacted for information about volunteering and clearances.

Parent Meetings and Conferences

Arsenal Pre K – 5 hosts a yearly “Welcome Back” event in August. This is an opportunity for parents to meet the principal, receive school information, and meet their child’s teacher. This event also provides an opportunity for parents to receive the Pittsburgh Public Schools handbook and important school information.

Parent/Teacher Conference Day is scheduled on October 17, 2025, to inform parents of their child’s academic progress. Parent conferences will be held at different times, and we will have evening and daytime conferences to meet the needs of our parents. In addition, progress reports are sent home every 4-5 weeks to inform parents of their child’s progress.

Parent Communication

A calendar will be sent home every month. The information shared will include upcoming events and other information related to the curriculum and school events. Please make sure to provide the school with current phone numbers when they change.

The Blackboard Connect system notifies parents of important events by phone, Talking Points and Class Dojo messages are utilized as well.

Homeroom teachers may also develop a classroom newsletter and distribute them on an on-going basis. Teachers also share information daily or weekly about behavior so that parents know what is occurring with their children.

Every Wednesday, your child’s homework folder will be sent home with all correspondence from the school. Each parent is expected to view the information.

For our families that speak other languages, we have an interpreter to provide support and a calling system that provides translation.

School and Community Activities

The staff plans and hosts family nights each year. The nights typically focus on literacy and math and provide activities for parents to engage their children in at home.

Title I funds may be used to pay expenses associated with literacy and math nights. These activities are held at the school to benefit parents and students.

Parent Training & Support Groups

Parent Workshops- Arsenal parents participate in parent training as needed. The topics of parent training will be identified and developed throughout the year. Also, parents and administrators will provide training to teachers regarding how to effectively communicate, work with, and engage parents throughout the school year.

School Parent Compact



Arsenal PreK-5 School
215 39th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201
Phone: 412-629-5738 | Fax: 412-622-7310

Dr. Ruthie Rea, Principal

Revised 10.21.2025

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Success in the Pittsburgh Public Schools depends upon the responsibility of students, teachers, parents, and staff to adhere closely to the agreements below. We are committed to creating a holistic environment by meeting the needs of the whole child and creating an inclusive environment. We, the undersigned, endorse and agree to the following principles, which comprise the philosophy governing students' and stakeholders' conduct.

As a student, I agree to:	As a parent, I agree to:	As a staff member, I agree to:
Arrive at school on time and attend every day unless I have an excused absence	Ensure that my child arrives at school on time daily or is logged into Schoology/ MS Teams during remote learning days.	Arrive at school on time and attend every day
Be prepared and on time for each class.	Help prepare my child for school	Prepare children for life after school
Be respectful, responsible, and safe while attending school from home, and dress appropriately. Wear a uniform when attending school in person.	Model and support reasonable behavior in the home	Model and support respectful, responsible, and safe behavior in school
Pay attention, put forth effort, and work to achieve personal and school goals	Communicate my child's needs to the teachers and staff members at Arsenal and check in about my child's school day	Reinforce literacy and mathematics skills across all content areas with the PA Core-aligned curriculum and various uses of technology
Return completed schoolwork and homework on time	Support my child in his/her educational and extracurricular activities and seek additional support as needed.	Communicate in the necessary language with the parents through letters, phone calls, and conferences regarding your child's academic progress and behavior each quarter and as needed.
Deliver all school communication to my parent/guardian and to share my needs	Try to attend all scheduled parent conferences or meetings	Review this compact with parents during the school year and as needed during any subsequent parent-teacher conferences. Conferences will be held on October 17, 2025.
Utilize and maintain the designated work area provided by my parent/guardian	Provide a quiet study area in the home to ensure the completion of homework assignments	Do my best to personalize your child's education and be aware of his/her needs
Read daily and work to learn something new every day.	Try to volunteer in the school or participate in school activities this school year	Welcome approved parents/guardians into the classroom to observe student learning and provide meaningful classroom support

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS



GET ENGAGED!

BE INFORMED • BE INVOLVED • HELP SHAPE TOMORROW

ABOUT PAC

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) brings together parent and family representatives from across Pittsburgh Public Schools to connect with District leadership, learn about key initiatives, programs, and policies, and provide input that supports strong schools and student success.

PAC WITH PURPOSE



FAMILY VOICE

Share ideas, concerns, and perspectives that reflect the needs of Pittsburgh Public Schools families.



COLLABORATION

Work with District leaders and school communities to find solutions together.



LEARNING

Gain insight into District priorities, programs, policies, and available resources.



IMPACT

Help shape decisions that create stronger schools and better opportunities for all students.

JOIN US!



Meetings are held in-person the first Thursday of each month from 6–8 p.m.



Dinner served at 5:30 p.m.



Childcare will be provided.



Administration Building
341 S. Bellefield Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Conference Room A

PAC MEETING DATES 2026–27



October 1



November 5



December 3



January 7



February 4



March 4



April 1



May 6

For more information, contact:



Erica L. Gandy

Manager of Family, Community and Stakeholder Engagement
EGandy1@pghschools.org

Home Access Center (HAC)

[HAC VIDEO](#)

Guardian Login: eSchoolPLUS Home Access Center (HAC)

Your student's achievement at your fingertips.

Welcome to the Pittsburgh Public Schools Home Access Center. Stay up-to-date with your child's assignments, grades and scheduling!

Your Family's One-Stop Student Portal

Welcome to the Pittsburgh Public Schools Home Access Center. The Home Access Center gives parents and guardians 24/7 access to important student information and allows families to:

- Complete Back-to-School Forms
- Download and print report cards
- View grades
- Monitor attendance
- Check class schedules
- View published assignments and student progress
- Communicate with teachers through quick links
- Find transportation information
- Report Card Information

School Improvement Priorities

Priority: If we identify and consistently use Open Court word analysis/fluency kits, UFLI, other sources and specific strategies to build oral reading fluency, then fluency and accuracy scores will improve, resulting in higher percentage of student meeting DIBELS benchmark expectations.

Priority: If regular attendance is effectively monitored daily and specific strategies to address individual student needs are identified and executed consistently, then barriers to attending school will be reduced , and student achievement will improve.

Priority: If we are intentional with how we schedule, analyze formative data consistently, plan intentionally and support all subgroups while providing effective and consistent targeted small group instruction during core ELA and Math blocks and during “just right” intervention or enrichment, then student growth and achievement will meet or exceed grade level academic standards.

Action Plans & Data Measures

- Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Academics
 - Dibels
 - Math PSSA
 - ELA PSSA
- Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Behavior
 - Attendance of chronically absent students
- Differentiated Instruction
 - WIDA Language proficiency

Action Plans & Data Measures

Action Plan

Action Plan for: MTSS- Academics		
Measurable Goals	Anticipated Output	Monitoring/Evaluation (People, Frequency, and Method)
- Dibels - CDT- ELA - CDT- Mathematics	Implementing systematic, research-based intervention programs and identifying and using best practices for instructing all students will strengthen ELA, Math, and Science core instruction, including daily workshops, so grade-level mastery will be	Evidence of progress and anticipated outcomes will be monitored monthly by teachers with support from the ELA/Math coaches and the Principal. Teachers will evaluate student learning daily and administer progress-monitoring measures bi-weekly, followed by the analysis of data to inform instructional shifts and practices.
Action Plan for: MTSS: Behavior Supports		
Measurable Goals	Anticipated Output	Monitoring/Evaluation (People, Frequency, and Method)
- Dibels - Attendance	If we focus on providing supports and programming that address the diverse needs of students and align school resources for positive behavior, and explicitly teach strategies that students develop ownership in the use of learning strategies and develop self-efficacy, so they take ownership of their learning.	Teachers, Coaches, and the Principal will monitor students' independent use of learning strategies and self-efficacy throughout the year by asking questions, observing student behavior, and analyzing student discipline data from Panorama surveys. The active monitoring of chronically absent students and removal of barriers to school attendance will occur monthly, and students with 90% or above positive attendance will be celebrated monthly.
Action Plan for: Differentiated Instruction		
Measurable Goals	Anticipated Output	Monitoring/Evaluation (People, Frequency, and Method)
- CDT- ELA - CDT- Mathematics - Response to Literature/ Text Dependent Analysis Probes	If Arsenal teachers plan and implement clear routines and expectations for daily workshop across all classrooms, execute effective teacher-led groups, monitor student progress, and regularly adjust small groups based on student progress or the lack thereof, student needs will be met, and there will be an increase in the percentage of students demonstrating mastery of grade-level Mathematics, Science, and ELA standards.	Teachers will monitor student progress daily and adjust groups as needed to address student needs. Monthly, the Principal and coach will facilitate data chats within the PLC to discuss student progress. The active monitoring of quarterly targets will occur consistently, and the monitoring of DIBELS progress monitoring and weekly assessment data will occur monthly during Instructional Cabinet and PLC meetings

School Communication

Every Wednesday school information is shared via Class Dojo, Talking Points and Facebook. A blue Wednesday folder is sent home with important information. School calendars are sent home on the last Wednesday of the month for the next month.

Below are a few tips for parents to use.

- ✓ Parents should let students complete the work on their own and not complete it for them.
- ✓ Parents should know their student's log in information and have their Clever username and password.
- ✓ Stay in touch with your child's teachers. If you have questions or concerns, please contact a staff member.
- ✓ Provide a space for your child to complete homework. Encourage your child to read daily (20-30 minutes) or read with your child. Also, practice math basic facts throughout the week and make it a part of everyday home life.

Communication

Please join and like our Facebook page at
<https://www.facebook.com/ArsenalElementary/> .

Teachers will maintain contact with you, and we want
YOU to stay in contact with us.



ClassDojo



schoolology®



talkingpoints

Mrs. Thompson

2nd and 3rd Grade ELD Teacher

Technology & Transportation Coordinator

Family & Community Engagement Coordinator (FACE)

Email address: gthompkins1@pghschools.org

School phone number: 412-529-7307 ext. 80115





Ms. Barbarino

4th and 5th Grade Special Education Teacher

Family & Community Engagement Coordinator (FACE)

Email address: bbarbarino1@pghschools.org

School phone number: 412-529-7307



Upcoming Events

October 23rd	Half Day for Students, dismissal at 11:55 am
November 5th	Annual Title I Meeting/Literacy & Math Family Night 4:30-6:30
November 3rd	NO SCHOOL (Election Day)
November 11th	NO SCHOOL (Veterans Day)
November 20th	Half Day for Students, dismissal is at 11:55 am
November 26th	November 29th NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving Break)
December 18th	Half Day for Students, dismissal at 11:55 am
December 21st	Winter Concert 9:30 AM-10:45 AM

Future Meeting Dates

November 18th

December 21th

Winter Concert @ 9:30 am

January 19th

February 16th

March 16th

April 20st

May 18^h

Meetings will occur via zoom at 10:00 am.



Questions

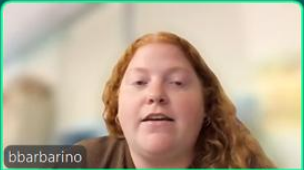


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Participants

Parent Engagement Plan 2026-2027

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Samsung SM-A1...

Samsung SM-A146U

Landon Nicholas

Landon Nicholas

Terrell Grayson

Terrell Grayson

Find a participant

Waiting room (2)

Message Admit all

Tekeyla Jones

Joining...

Tekeyla Jones

Joining...

Joined (6)

Ruthie Rea (Host, me)

bbarbarino

Landon Nicholas

Ms. Mason

Invite

Mute all

Arsenal PreK-5 PSCC Meeting

9:58 AM - meeting started

Messages addressed to "meeting group chat" will also appear in the meeting group chat in Team Chat

Landon Nicholas joined as a guest

Landon Nicholas 10:01 AM

Madison Jones

Ms. Mason joined as a guest

Landon Nicholas 10:02 AM

Thanks! You as well!

Terrell Grayson joined as a guest

Who can see your messages?

To: Waiting room participants

Message Arsenal PreK-5 PSCC Meeting