



# PES

2023 - 2024

OFFICIAL HANDBOOK



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Visitors

The only daytime entrance to school is the main office entrance. All other doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must buzz in through the office. Upon entering the building, all visitors will be asked to present a valid state-issued ID, which will be scanned into the Raptor Visitor Management system kiosk. For those visitors/volunteers who forget their license, the Raptor kiosk is set up to receive information manually as well. Upon reading the information, Raptor will check the national database to identify sexual offenders. The system will also scan the District's volunteer database which lists volunteers who have submitted the necessary clearances as outlined in PA Act 153/PA Act 15. Once approved, the system will generate a name tag for approved visitors which will contain a picture of the visitor or volunteer, the date, and purpose of the visit. Visitors will retrieve this tag from the secretary in the office. .... 25

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**Peebles Elementary School**  
**8625 Peebles Road**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15237**  
**412-366-9667**  
**412-635-2464 Fax**

**Main Office Hours**  
**Office hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**  
**School hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**Kindergarten Hours:**  
**9:00-11:45 a.m.**  
**12:45-3:30 p.m.**

# Peebles Elementary School Student/Parent Handbook

## Welcome

Dear Students & Parents,

YOU Matter...

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Peebles Elementary School! You will have a great year at Peebles as I know you will work hard each and every day.

Please review this handbook with your family so that you are familiar with all of the neat things that will take place at Peebles this school year. It is really important that you understand the rules so that you will experience great success.

Learning is a life-long process, and Peebles is proud to continually strive to create a positive learning environment. The dedicated staff at Peebles will work hard to promote your learning while having lots of fun. I look forward to working hard with you as you know I am always here to help you.

I am so proud to be a part of Peebles Elementary School, and I know you will be too. Together we are going to make great things happen for Peebles.

Let's get our party started with our 2023-2024 school year. It is going to be a great year!!

Your Proud Principal,

Mrs. Susie Bjalobok

## North Allegheny School District's Mission and Vision

### Mission:

The mission of the North Allegheny School District is to prepare all students for success in a changing world.

### Vision:

The vision of the North Allegheny School District is to be a premier school district that inspires excellence in academics, athletics, arts, and activities for every student every day.

# Peebles Elementary School Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports

## PAWS

We focus on a positive behavior reward system that teaches students about pride, accountability, wise choices, and self-control in all areas of the school while reinforcing how to be a good citizen in the community.

1. PRIDE
2. ACCOUNTABILITY
3. WISE CHOICES
4. SELF-CONTROL.

## Address/Telephone Changes

It is very important that every student maintain an up-to-date address and telephone number record at the school office. If you have a change in address or telephone number during the school year, notify the school immediately to assure efficient communication between school and home and to update your child's transportation services. Emails are often not updated and lead to loss of electronic notifications if not maintained.

## Admissions

New Kindergarten students must be five (5) years old and new first grade students must be six (6) years old on or before September 1 of the school year in which they are enrolling. A physical examination is required when a student enters school for the first time. Ages must be verified by a birth certificate and immunization records must be complete along with proof of residency.

## Animal Visits

Due to health concerns for students throughout the building, animals are not permitted to be brought into the building without approval from the office. On the day of the visit, you are to register at the office and at that time will be given any further specific instructions regarding access to certain areas of the building.

## Arrival

Students who are dropped off or walk will enter the side entry doors upon arrival to school and await the cue to go to their classrooms. The building is open to children at 8:45 am. Students are not permitted in the building prior to 8:45 am. Adult supervision is not provided prior to this time. Buses usually begin to arrive at 8:50 am. The school day begins at 9:00 am. Students who arrive after 9:05 am will be listed as tardy. Parents transporting students to school should adhere to the 8:45 am arrival time and use the drop off areas in the parking lot.

For the safety of our Peebles students, we ask you to observe the **NO Parking** and **Speed Limit** signs on the school grounds. The **Speed Limit** is **15 MPH** in front of the school and in the parking lot. Cars must stop for pedestrians. In order to allow open access for bus traffic, the oval driveway is closed to private vehicles from 8:50 am to 9:05 am.

\*\*\*\*\***Students are not to arrive prior to 8:45 a.m. since supervision is not available.**

## **Assemblies**

Assemblies will be scheduled periodically throughout the school year to enhance or reinforce the North Allegheny School District's curriculum. Announcements for the assemblies will be made and posted on the website. Special attention to etiquette and good citizenship is expected of all students during assemblies.

## **Attendance**

Regular and punctual attendance at school is important to a successful school career. Absences fall into one of two categories: LEGAL and ILLEGAL.

Legal absences include:

1. Student illness
2. Death of an immediate family member
3. Absences approved by the Administration, including approved Family Educational Trips
4. Religious holidays or instruction
5. Urgent reasons deemed acceptable by the Administration

Illegal absences include:

1. Truancy
2. Absence due to parental/guardian neglect
3. Illegal employment
4. Family Educational Trips not approved by the Administration

When students return to school after any absence, they must bring a written excuse signed by their parent or guardian, stating the reason and dates of the absence(s). An email is acceptable, but it must be addressed to both the homeroom teacher and the school secretary, Mrs. Janet Pisani. The written excuse should be given to the homeroom teacher for record keeping purposes. It will then be sent to the front office. If no excuse is provided, absences are considered illegal.

## **Educational Trip/Student Vacations**

To request approval for a Family Educational Trip, parent(s)/guardian(s) must submit a written request for excusal at least five (5) school days prior to the absence and the absence must be for 10 or less school days. Students who will be participating in an extended absence due to a request for an educational tour or trip for more than 10 days will be withdrawn after the tenth consecutive day (on day 11) and the withdrawal date will be dated the first day of the consecutive absence. These days are considered legal absences when approved. No absences will be approved during standardized testing windows.

## **Attendance Letters/Truancy**

Parents of students who are absent (regardless if the absences are excused or unexcused) will receive a letter from the Principal after a total of ten (10) days absent. This communication from the building administration is sent to emphasize the importance of daily attendance at school and as a reminder of Pennsylvania's Compulsory Attendance Law. Second notice for excessive absenteeism will be sent after a total of 18 days and an Elementary Support Team meeting will be held to address the excessive absenteeism. After the 18-Day Letter is delivered, all future absences must be supported by documentation from the child's physician, the school's nurse, or another administratively approved agency. If the proper documentation is not provided after the 18-day Attendance Letter is sent home, the absence will be documented as unexcused and may be referred to the District Magistrate.

Students with legal absences may have the opportunity to complete any missed assignments upon returning to

school. Our responsibility is to promote consistent school attendance and address the underlying risk factors that may lead to truancy. As a requirement of Act 138, students who accrue three (3) illegal absences will be asked to participate in the creation of a School Attendance Improvement Plan (SAIP). Students who accrue six (6) illegal absences will be referred to a school-based or community-based attendance improvement program or to the local Children and Youth Agency. In addition, the District may file a citation for truancy with the local District Magistrate.

## **Birthday Treats**

On their birthdays, children often want to share a treat with their classmates. Due to life-threatening food allergies and our commitment to improve health and wellness, edible birthday treats of any kind are not permitted. If you would like to send a non-edible birthday treat, please contact the homeroom teacher. Items should be individually wrapped.

## **Blackboard**

Students K-12 will be using the Student Management System Blackboard Learn. Blackboard Learn is a web-based teaching and learning environment which enables teachers to build and manage a Web component for their classes. For students, this can mean:

- access to course materials such as handouts or copies of classroom presentation, which often can be downloaded for further review
- access to announcements
- opportunities to communicate and collaborate with classmates through tools such as discussion boards, wikis, and blogs
- online assessments (surveys and quizzes where teachers can provide feedback)

For additional parent information, please visit the District website, [Blackboard for Parents](#).

## **Bullying Prevention**

Being proactive to create an anti-bullying school environment is the best way to prevent bullying and conflict. Staff educates students on inclusiveness and tolerance. Various lessons and modeling are completed throughout the school year to support students to make school the best environment for everyone in the school community. The Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Program provides realistic expectations necessary to take a proactive rather than a reactive approach when responding to behavioral and social issues including bullying. Any bullying observed or reported is addressed to resolve conflict quickly. Please see the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports section. Please review [249 Anti-Bullying/Cyberbullying School Board Policy](#).

## Bus Behavior

Proper behavior is an absolute necessity while riding on the school bus. The bus driver is in charge and will enforce discipline on the bus. Students involved in misconduct, showing disrespect for the driver or fellow students, and those who cause damage to the bus may lose their bus riding privileges. The North Allegheny School District has established the following rules to maintain bus safety.

### Students' responsibilities are as follows:

1. Report to your bus stop no earlier than 5 to 10 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
2. While waiting for the bus, stay a safe distance from the roadway. Inappropriate behavior at the bus stop will not be tolerated.
3. Board the bus in a safe, orderly manner and go directly to your seat.
4. Cross fifteen feet in front of the bus only when the red lights are flashing and traffic has come to a complete stop.
5. Never cross behind or reach under a bus. Remain visible to the driver at all times. Stand clear of the danger zone.
6. Talk in a normal tone of voice so the driver can concentrate and hear warning sounds.
7. Ask the driver for permission to open windows. You must keep your entire body and all objects inside the bus at all times.
8. Eating, drinking, smoking, or chewing gum is prohibited on the bus.
9. Help keep your bus clean. No littering. Throwing objects inside or outside is prohibited.
10. When the bus arrives at school, exit in an orderly fashion and go directly to your assigned area.

*NOTE: Students must ride their assigned bus. If a one-time change is necessary due to an emergency situation, please send a "Note to School" with reason for bus change, student's name riding with and bus number requesting to ride. Please send this from to the homeroom teacher. The note will be recorded in the front office and passed to Mrs. Jenna Stand, the PES bus monitor. Any request for a permanent change of a bus stop must be approved through the Transportation Department.*

## Bus Safety School

Bus discipline is a topic of serious conversation at North Allegheny. When a child acts inappropriately on a school bus, the safety of every person on the bus is in jeopardy. The "Ladder of Discipline" has been identified for all elementary and middle school buildings. Depending on the seriousness of a child's inappropriate behavior, first time offenders may receive more than a warning from the bus driver, bus monitor, or building administrator. If the child continues to behave inappropriately, that individual will be assigned to Bus Safety School. Should he/she continue to misbehave, the transportation privilege which is normally extended to North Allegheny students will be revoked by the District for that child.

First Offense .....	Warning
Second Offense .....	Consequence like detention at lunch/recess
Third Offense.....	Bus Safety School
Fourth Offense .....	Bus Suspension * - 3 days
Fifth Offense .....	Bus Suspension * - 5 days
Sixth Offense .....	Bus Suspension * - semester

*\* A conference between administrator, parent, driver, and child is required.*

Bus Safety School is a program that attempts to heighten the awareness of safety and proper bus behavior in those students who continually choose to violate District transportation policies.

Parents will be notified if their child must attend Bus Safety School and upon completion of the course, students will be required to sign a Safety Agreement. Should it become necessary for bus-riding privileges to be denied, transportation to and from school will become the parent's responsibility.

## **Cafeteria**

Students may purchase a lunch daily using either cash or funds that they have on the Point of Sale (P.O.S.) system. All students buying lunch or snacks will enter his or her Personal Identification Number (P.I.N.) as they purchase their lunch or snack. Assistance will be given to all students at the beginning of the year as they enter their P.I.N. The Elementary Lunch is \$2.45, which includes milk. If purchased separately, milk is 75 cents.

Parents may send in cash or a check payable to NA Cafeteria Fund at any time to deposit money into their child's P.O.S. account. Cafeteria Payment envelopes should be used to include student name, Personal Identification Number (P.I.N.), and payment option. For those families with more than one child attending IES, please remember to use separate envelopes for each child.

Reminders will be sent home with the student when their Point of Service [P.O.S.] account accrues a negative balance. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact the Food Service Office at 724-934-7201 or 7236. Parent/guardians are responsible for assuring that a student's [POS] account remains up to date with a positive balance.

The District also has an online payment system called **PaySchools Central**. Log in to PaySchools Central at [payschoolscentral.com](http://payschoolscentral.com). More information on PaySchools Central can be found at [PaySchools.com](http://PaySchools.com).

Cafeteria time is meant to be a pleasant break in the day. Every student is expected to use proper table manners and speak in a normal tone of voice so that everyone may enjoy their lunch break. Restaurant-like behavior is expected, and students are to clean up after themselves.

Peebles Elementary School serves lunches in 30-minute blocks, and all students receive a 30-minute recess. Cleaning of tables occurs between each student group.

\*Please refer to the monthly menu on the District website.

### **Lunch Schedule**

<b>1st Grade</b>	<b>11:10 - 11:40</b>
<b>2nd Grade</b>	<b>11:15 - 11:45</b>
<b>3rd Grade</b>	<b>11:45 - 12:15</b>
<b>4th Grade</b>	<b>12:30 - 1:00 &amp; 12:45 - 1:15 (Mondays)</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>12:10 - 12:40</b>

## **Calendar/Newsletter**

Each year the North Allegheny School District publishes and distributes an Activities Calendar to each family. We hope that you will utilize this calendar, the District and Peebles Elementary School websites, and District publications to stay on top of upcoming opportunities and events.

## **Cancellation/Modification of School Hours**

Cancellation of school takes place only during circumstances such as extreme weather, equipment failure, or public crisis. Such information will be communicated via the District website, SchoolMessenger, and local media, such as television and radio stations. If special activities were planned on the day of a cancellation or delay, specific information will be posted in the headlines on the website and may also be communicated through an eBlast.

*Kindergarten will follow a special 2-hour delay schedule:*

A.M. 11:00-12:45 and P.M. 1:45-3:30.

All bus schedules will be delayed by the same amount of time.

## **Conferences**

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for November 6 and 7, 2023. Information will be sent out in October for parents to electronically sign up for a conference if they feel it is necessary to have a conference with their child's teacher. Parents/guardians are also encouraged to arrange and attend conferences as necessary throughout the year. Please contact your child's teacher if a conference is needed outside of the two regularly scheduled conference days.

## **Counselor**

Our school counselor, Mrs. Jenna Stand, is a part of the Peebles Elementary School staff and is available to assist students, parents, and staff with academic, social, and emotional needs of students. To make an appointment with the counselor, please call the main office or email her at [jstand@northallegheny.org](mailto:jstand@northallegheny.org).

## **Crisis/Emergency Information**

In the event a need to disseminate emergency or crisis communications to parents and/or students should arise, the North Allegheny School District has communication vehicles in place to facilitate this process. SchoolMessenger and the District website [www.northallegheny.org](http://www.northallegheny.org) are great resources and have current information. Local television and radio stations also communicate delays and closing in a timely manner.

The District utilizes SchoolMessenger, an automated telephone notification system that will deliver a personalized message to parents and employees in minutes. As it is a web-based program, its reliability and availability will not be affected by local power or equipment failures.

Parents can access the Contact Manager feature of this system via the North Allegheny School District website or the internet and establish their own account. This will allow them to determine which, if any, phone number(s) they would like to have messages sent to and/or opt for an email or text alert when they have a new phone message. Parents may choose not to receive SchoolMessenger, if they so desire. SchoolMessenger will be used exclusively to broadcast weather-related cancellation or delay information, as well as other emergency or crisis-related messages. Please review the link for [SchoolMessenger](#).

## **Custody/Court Orders**

At times, there are legal papers in the form of custody agreements or court order documents that pertain to students and their specific circumstances. Parents must provide any initial custody agreements/court orders to the school office. If parents/guardians are aware of modification of existing paperwork, it is their responsibility to provide the updated paperwork to the school office. If the school office is not aware of changes, the last copy provided is the copy that will be the official copy. A notarized copy of any of these forms may be presented to the school office annually. Even if the paperwork isn't modified or canceled, parents/guardians may be required to submit copies at the start of each school year to assume that any necessary paperwork is up-to-date.

## **Discipline**

Normal discipline issues that occur will be handled by the classroom teacher in conjunction with the guidelines established for our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports program (please review that section) and the North Allegheny School District's Code of Conduct. Behavior is expected to be positive throughout the entire school setting including the classroom, arts classes, restrooms, cafeteria, playground, hallways, field trips, concerts, bus, and assemblies. Students will be made aware of the expectations at the beginning of the year. If a student chooses to break a rule, the student's behavior will be addressed and documented on a Paws-itive Behavior Think Sheet. Parents/guardians will be notified to continue communication. Consequences may be assigned depending on the severity of the behavior and whether the behavior is a repeated behavior. Students, teachers, and parents are all part of the process allowing a student to learn and improve behavior. We want to assist students with maintaining positive behavior as students learn and grow. Possible consequences include:

- Conferences with the Principal
- Apology
- Letter or phone call to parents
- Loss of recess period(s)
- Recess and/or lunch in the office with Principal
- Loss of grade level or school-wide assembly, event, or PAW Activity
- Detention before or after school
- In-school suspension for ½ of school day
- In-school suspension for the entire school day
- Out of school suspension

Teachers and staff members are also encouraged to recognize and respond to positive behavior, as all behavior is monitored in all areas of the school.

## **Dismissal**

The instructional day ends at 3:20 pm, followed by pack-up for the end of the day. All students walking to their homes or with a scheduled "pick-up" will leave the classroom at 3:25, when called over the public address system. Parents requesting "pick-up" must adhere to the following procedures to assure the safety and welfare of our students:

A note/email MUST be sent to the child's teacher (please copy the front office secretary) on the day the parent/guardian is planning on picking the student up from school. A "blanket note" can be submitted to the homeroom teacher and school secretary detailing a regular pick-up schedule (e.g. "every Tuesday"). "Blanket Notes" are kept in the office file and will be followed until a change is made by the parent/guardian. Emails must be copied to the homeroom teacher and school secretary. All pick-up messages must be received prior to

3:00 p.m. Emails should not be sent after 3:00 pm because it cannot be guaranteed that the email will be received in time for clear communication. In the event of an emergency close to 3:00 pm, please call the school secretary.

Parents coming to pick a child up prior to 3:20 pm for an early dismissal, MUST report to the office before 3:20 pm and adhere to the office policy of signing students out and waiting for their child to meet them in the main office. **Under no circumstances are parents/guardians permitted to go directly to the classrooms or bus lines.**

All students have been assigned a Family “Carpool” number to display in their vehicle when picking up student(s). Students will bring home their designated “carpool” numbers on the first day of school. Please be patient as a monitor may check ID in cases where the monitor is unfamiliar with the person picking a student up from school.

Parents will be directed to stay in their cars and follow a traffic pattern. Instructions below. This procedure will replace the need for individuals to be inside the school building, creating a more controlled dismissal environment.

If you are picking up your child/children at the end of the day instead of riding the bus, please follow the procedures as explained below.

- You will receive a Carpool pickup number that has been assigned to your family.
- Please write a “Note to School” informing your child’s teacher that he or she will be a pickup at 3:25.
- Be sure you place your pickup number in the window facing the school/staff member.
- When you arrive, pull directly behind the building following the line of cars. Staff will guide you for a few days.
- Driving slowly, follow the cars around the back circle near the playground.
- Please remain in your vehicle. Students will be escorted out by a staff member to match their number with the car number. Students will load the car on the DRIVER’S side for safety.
- If your child is a walker, please walk to the pick-up line with your child’s number in hand and we will escort your child to you.
- Once you have your child secured, you will proceed slowly up to the front of the school to exit onto Peebles Road.

It is very important that you decide before your child leaves for school if he or she will be a pick-up that day. However, we understand that emergencies arise throughout the day. If this happens please call Mrs. Janet Pisani in the office to make arrangements for pick-up. Again - this procedure is NOT for early dismissal - only for the pick-ups at 3:25.

The carpool number is ONLY for your family and should be used ONLY if your child/children are not riding the bus home.

**THERE ARE NO PICK UPS IN THE OFFICE AREA AT THE END OF THE DAY.**

If a child is to go home with someone other than his/her parent/guardian, a written note must be sent to the school or the child will not be released to another individual without verbal consent from the parent over the

phone. Identification will also be requested for anyone picking up this child other than the parent or assigned guardian. See the “Early Dismissal” section of the handbook for information.

## **Dress Code**

We are proud of the way our students dress. A student’s individual dress indicates both self-respect and respect for others. While the school accommodates a wide variety of individual tastes, inappropriate dress is not acceptable.

### **Guidelines**

The following should be used in determining appropriate school attire:

1. Articles must be clean (not soiled with grease, oil, paint, or dirt).
2. Clothing with slogans/emblems, etc., is acceptable. They may not depict illegal substances, indecent writing, weapons, or indecent pictures. Please be mindful of video games depicting the use of weapons.
3. Warm weather clothing is appropriate with the following guidelines: halter tops or tank tops with spaghetti straps, tops exposing the midriff or immodest display of undergarments, and torn or ragged clothing are NOT permitted.
4. Styles including oversized trousers present problems regarding safety both for the individual student and fellow classmates. School staff will insist that appropriate fitting pants are worn.
5. Items of dress that disrupt the educational process and climate are not permitted.
6. Footwear must be worn by all students. Wheelie shoes are not permitted.
7. Shorts or skirts must reach at the fingertips while arms are hanging naturally at the sides. Tights or leggings may not be used underneath shorts or skirts to substitute length. Leggings may only be worn under appropriate length (fingertip) shorts, skirts, or dresses.
8. Students are NOT permitted to wear hats during the school day inside of the building. This also includes bandannas and head scarves, unless the day has been approved for charity or spirit week or the head covering is based on religious reasons.

## **Driving Reminders/Drop-Off**

*Bringing students to school in the morning* -As you arrive into the driveway make the first left and look for Peebles staff for drop off directions. We have staff members holding signs that will tell you to Stop and Go pending safe driving patterns.

*Fire Lane* - Parking in the fire lane is **not permitted** at any time.

*Main Driveway and Circle in front of PES* - This area is closed to car traffic during the following times:

8:45-9:10 and 3:15-3:45 – Buses only

11:30-12:00 and 12:30-1:00 – Kindergarten drop-off and pick-up only

## **Early Dismissal**

If a situation should arise that would require a student to have an early dismissal, the parent or guardian must send a note to the homeroom teacher. An email is acceptable, but the email must be copied to the homeroom teacher and school secretary. All pick-up messages must be received prior to 3:00 pm. Emails should not be sent after 3:00 pm because it cannot be guaranteed that the email will be received in time for clear communication; please call the school secretary if the timing of notification is after 3:00 pm.

All students must be signed out at the office by the parent or guardian. When the parent/guardian comes into the office, the Visitor's Dismissal Sign-out Log on the counter should be signed to indicate that they have picked up their child. Children are not permitted to leave the building early and wait outside. Proper ID may be requested.

## Electronic Devices

The District uses a Student Information System called Powerschool. It is also a web-based grade book and reporting system that provides parents access to student records related to their schedule and academic progress. Parents can access Powerschool in their Tiger ID. Please work closely with our front office secretaries to ensure your email address is current. Email addresses will be used periodically throughout the year to inform parents of important school and District related events.

Students are NOT permitted to bring personal electronic devices to school. Cell phones should not be brought to school unless there are extenuating circumstances. A cell phone MUST be turned off during instructional hours when permission is granted. If an item has been confiscated from a student, the item will be housed in the office and not returned directly to the student. Parents must pick up confiscated item from the office. School iPads are permitted and considered District property. Use of electronic devices must follow the [Responsible Computer, Telecommunications, and Information Technology Use](#) policy 224.1.

In addition, more and more students are wearing smartwatches. Please do not contact your child throughout the school day. It is disruptive to the school environment. Please contact your child's teacher or the front office if contact is needed or an emergency arises.

## Emergency Drills

Emergency drills will be held on a regularly scheduled basis during the course of the school year. The following is a listing of drills and their scheduled frequency:

- Fire Drills - monthly
- Emergency Weather Drill - Annually
- Lockdown Drills (semester)
- Bus Evacuation Drill - August and March

The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) is based on the response to any given situation using common clear language - not codes or code words.

There is common vocabulary and symbols used with staff, students, parents, and responders:

- **Hold** is a safety response procedure to clear hallways and remain in a classroom until an all clear is given.
- **Secure** is a safety response that brings everyone inside the building and the perimeter is secured. No one is permitted in or out of the building during this time.
- **Lockdown** is a safety response procedure that contains students and staff in safe locations within the building in the event of a threat to safety.



- If there is a need to **Evacuate** the building several locations are identified pending the emergency situation. Procedures are in place.
- **Shelter** is used in situations like weather related incidents such as tornadoes or earthquakes.



# IN AN EMERGENCY TAKE ACTION



## HOLD! In your room or area. Clear the halls.

### STUDENTS

Clear the hallways and remain in room or area until the "All Clear" is announced  
Do business as usual

### ADULTS

Close and lock the door  
Account for students and adults  
Do business as usual



## SECURE!

### Get inside. Lock outside doors.

### STUDENTS

Return to inside of building  
Do business as usual

### ADULTS

Bring everyone indoors  
Lock outside doors  
Increase situational awareness  
Account for students and adults  
Do business as usual



## LOCKDOWN! Locks, lights, out of sight.

### STUDENTS

Move away from sight  
Maintain silence  
Do not open the door

### ADULTS

Recover students from hallway if possible  
Lock the classroom door  
Turn out the lights  
Move away from sight  
Maintain silence  
Do not open the door  
Prepare to evade or defend



## EVACUATE! (A location may be specified)

### STUDENTS

Leave stuff behind if required to  
If possible, bring your phone  
Follow instructions

### ADULTS

Lead students to Evacuation location  
Account for students and adults  
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults



## SHELTER! Hazard and safety strategy.

### STUDENTS

Use appropriate safety strategy for the hazard

Hazard	Safety Strategy
Tornado	Evacuate to shelter area
Hazmat	Seal the room
Earthquake	Drop, cover and hold
Tsunami	Get to high ground

### ADULTS

Lead safety strategy  
Account for students and adults  
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults

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North Allegheny School District has a comprehensive safety plan that is continually discussed, rehearsed and evaluated. For the 2023-24 school year, the District has also adopted the use of the ALICE preparedness training model. The staff and students will be trained throughout the year to enhance our safety plans and to prepare everyone in the event of a critical incident. The District works closely with local emergency responders to ensure that safety plans are updated and promote a safe school environment. While safe evacuation from the building is sometimes the most prudent response to a threat to safety, such as a fire within the building, other responses can be appropriate pending the situation.

**Encore-Please make sure to update your day**

Every (add your day) is Encore Special Rotations (Encore Day) is an integrated approach to teaching special subject areas in one (1) hour blocks per grade level. These special subject areas are: Art, Music, Physical Education and Library. Please use this [LINK](#) for a program description of each of the classes. Homeroom teachers will notify students of the specific dates for each of the special subject area Encore days.

## **Field Trips**

Field trips that reinforce and enhance the North Allegheny curriculum are scheduled by various grade levels throughout the school year. Parents will receive notices about the field trips in advance of the scheduled trip date and will be asked to sign field trip permission forms. As a member of the Peebles Elementary PTA these trips are typically funded in full by the PTA as long as you've become a member. If you are not a member of the PTA then field trips and transportation must be paid by the parent.

## **Fundraising/Community Service**

All fundraising at Peebles Elementary is voluntary for students and their families. An effort is being made to streamline these fundraisers and to shift more towards service projects by students, as opposed to only monetary donations.

## **Health/Emergency Information**

Please visit the [Health Services](#) page of our website. You will find useful information about our medication policy, immunization requirements and health care information. During the first week of school or upon enrolling your child, the parent/guardian is requested to complete and return an emergency form for each student. This form is to be returned ASAP. This information is required for your child's care in case of illness or injury.

- It is **important that we have your current personal, work, and emergency phone numbers.** In case of an emergency, accurate information can save valuable time in helping your child. Please remember to notify us at any time during the year of any changes in these numbers.
- If you are planning to be out of town, please provide in writing the name of your child's guardian in your absence if it is not someone who is not on the emergency form. Without this consent, we cannot release your child to this caretaker.
- If there is a change in the custodianship of your child, please notify the office and provide copies of any pertinent court agreements for this change to be honored.

## **Immunizations**

State Law requires every student who intends to enroll in a public school to provide evidence of a successful vaccination history. At various ages, different vaccinations are necessary for enrollment. Some of the immunizations necessary for K-12 students are diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, rubella, mumps, varicella, and meningitis. Should you have a question regarding the immunizations necessary for your child, please contact the School Nurse at (412) 366-9667. These can also be found at <http://www.northallegheny.org/page/297>.

## **Medications**

Medications will be administered by health office personnel according to school policy which includes written parental permission, and a doctor's order for both prescription and nonprescription (OTC - over the counter) medications. A copy of this policy will be sent home the first week of school. Please review this as it includes

information on both prescription and nonprescription medications (OTC) and the parent/guardian responsibility with both.

The following are a few important points to remember:

\*Students are not permitted to carry medication with them at school. All medication is to be dispensed from the health office.

\*Medication is to be brought to school by the parent/guardian in the original container. Never allow your child to transport medication. The health office cannot and will not administer any medication in a baggy, paper towel, etc. This is for your child's safety and is against school policy for medications.

\*Tylenol may be administered with parental permission and at the discretion of the school nurse. Please remember to circle the appropriate response on the bottom of the emergency form.

## **Illness, Communicable Disease, and Lice**

### **Illness:**

Please keep your child home if he/she has any of the following symptoms:

- Temperature of 100 or greater (temperature should be normal for 24 hours before returning to school)
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Persistent cough or thick nasal drainage
- Red, itchy eyes with discharge
- Earache

### **Communicable Diseases**

A child who has a communicable disease should remain at home for at least the length of time indicated below. In addition, a call to the nurse's office is warranted to help us prevent the spreading of any illnesses throughout the student population.

- Scarlet Fever – 24 hours from initiation of medicine
- Strep Throat – 24 hours from initiation of medicine
- Chicken Pox (Varicella) – six to eight days after appearance of rash. Scabs must be completely dried. For most students, Chicken Pox is a common childhood illness that may be uncomfortable and inconvenient. For others, however, there is an increased risk of complications due to other health conditions.
- Pinkeye (Conjunctivitis) – 24 hours after initiating treatment and there is no further drainage.
- Head Lice (Pediculosis) – If you suspect your child may have head lice, please notify the Health Office. When head lice are found, the student must receive proper treatment before returning to school; this includes use of a special shampoo and removal of all nits. A student will only be readmitted to school the following day after a head check by the School Nurse is completed.

### **Lice**

Lice outbreaks are not uncommon among school children and the cleanest child can easily become infected. Do not panic if you find that your child has been infested with lice. Head lice do not spread disease. While time-consuming in treatment, this is not a chronic health problem.

This [district website](#) has additional information if you suspect or have confirmed your child has lice.

## **Homeless Assistance–McKinney-Vento Act**

### **Homeless Students**

Under McKinney Vento all school districts are responsible for identifying students experiencing homelessness and connecting them with the resources needed to ensure academic success.

**Who is considered homeless** – Children or youth living in a shelter, transitional housing, hotel/motel, vehicle, campground, on the street or doubled up with friends or family due to a lack of alternate resources are considered homeless. An unaccompanied homeless youth is a child or youth that is not in the care of their parent or legal guardian and meets the definition of homeless under McKinney Vento.

**Where can students experiencing homelessness attend school?** – The law indicates that homeless students have the right to remain in their school origin (the school they attended at the time of the homeless episode or last school attended) through the end of the school year in which they find permanent housing, provided it is in the child/youth’s best interest.

If through consultation between the school and the family and/or unaccompanied youth it is determined that remaining in the school of origin is not in the student’s best interest, then the student has the right to immediately enroll in the school that non-homeless students living in the attendance area in which the child/youth is actually living are eligible to attend, even if they do not have all of the required documentation. Additionally, unaccompanied homeless youth have the right to immediately enroll in school, even if they do not have a legal guardian present.

**What supports can school districts provide to homeless students?** – Homeless students are eligible for supports and services to remove barriers to educational success. This may include transportation to the school of origin, free meals, referrals to physical/mental health providers, clothing to meet school requirements, access to school supplies and resources, assistance with credit recovery, tutoring supports, expedited evaluations and assistance to participate in school activities including parent engagement opportunities, sports, club, etc.

**Homeless Dispute Process** – If at any time there is a disagreement about homeless status or best interest for school placement, the district will notify the family in writing of their determination that the family/unaccompanied youth is ineligible for McKinney Vento services. At this time, the district will provide the family/unaccompanied youth with the ability to dispute their determination. Throughout the dispute process, the child/youth, including unaccompanied youth, will continue to be educated in the school of origin or immediately enrolled in the school they are seeking enrollment in until the dispute process is finalized. Transportation will continue throughout the dispute process. All disputes will be sent to the ECYEH Regional Coordinator who will issue a determination. If any party is unhappy with the determination, they can elevate the dispute to the state coordinator.

**What if I think that I am eligible for services under McKinney Vento?** – Contact Dr. Michele Dowell, Homeless Liaison for the North Allegheny School District at 412-369-5512 or [mdowell@northallegheny.org](mailto:mdowell@northallegheny.org).

## Homework Assignments on Blackboard

Homework is an important and required part of a child's education. It allows for extra practice and/or increased student learning. Homework can reinforce, enrich, or extend the curricular outcomes. Homework can help a child develop skills in personal organization, time management, and following directions.

Students should expect homework on a regular basis in accordance with the following averages:

Grade 1 – 10 minutes

Grade 3 – 30 minutes

Grade 5 – 50 minutes

Grade 2 – 20 minutes

Grade 4 – 40 minutes

These time allotments are suggested for four - five nights per week for most elementary students. Homework may take your child **more** or **less** time. Homework may be assigned periodically on Fridays, if needed. However, reading literature, trade books, and journal writing is always appropriate for evenings, weekends, and vacations. Any questions or concerns about homework should be addressed to the teacher who made the assignment.

## Homework Guidelines

### *Student Responsibilities*

#### **A. The student will:**

1. Budget time to complete assignments made.
2. Arrange to make up missed assignments as required by the teacher.
3. Ask for further explanation if original directions are not completely understood.
4. Homework assignments can be reviewed daily on the Blackboard agendas.
5. Initiate the request for help when needed.
6. Properly manage time and task completion on long term assignments.

### *Parent Responsibilities*

#### **B. The parent will:**

1. Provide a quiet, well-lighted study area with a desk or table and comfortable chair.
2. Keep study tools available: pencils, sharpener, pen, crayons, paper, ruler, and dictionary.
3. Establish a regular time for homework.
4. Limit television viewing and avoid TV or radio listening during study time.
5. Inquire about your child's homework and help him/her to budget time for completion and get ample sleep.
6. Encourage step-by-step work on long term or major projects to avoid last minute, careless work.
7. Review homework on the Blackboard agenda and correspond with teacher if needed.

Requests for absent students' homework assignments may be made on a student's second day of illness/absence. Parents are asked to call the school before 10:00 am on the second day of absence. **Students who miss a single day of school can get their missed assignments upon their return to school the following day.** Children will be granted additional time to complete their assignments upon their return, typically equal to the number of days they were absent. The Blackboard agendas posted by all teachers allows access to daily assignments.

**Extended illness:** Contact your child's teacher to make specific arrangements for absences of one week or longer.

## **Internet**

All students and staff members have access to the Internet. All work is done with the supervision of a teacher. When the students use the internet while at school, they are monitored and the sites they are accessing are screened. All students use iPads at the Elementary Level, and Internet safety is highlighted throughout the school year. The students have benefited greatly from this technology, which has become another valuable resource to enhance our core curriculum. Please continue to monitor internet usage and safety at home.

## **Intramurals**

After school intramural sport activities are offered to all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The purpose of this intramural program is to provide every student with a foundation for an active and healthy lifestyle, in which athletic competition is only a component of overall wellness. Our program stresses cooperative skills and team activities, such as basketball, soccer, hockey, and kickball.

## **Items Brought From Home (Water bottles are permitted.)**

Items like toys, sports equipment, trading cards, or game-like items from home should not be brought to school. Students are NOT permitted to bring electronic equipment to school without permission from the principal. Some students may have a need to use sensory items. Teachers can ask students to place spinners or other sensory items distracting from instruction in their backpacks. Children should not bring valuables or large sums of money to school. Water bottles should be brought to school, and filling stations are available to all students.

## **Kindergarten Day and Transportation**

AM Kindergarten begins at 9:00 AM and concludes at 11:45 AM.

PM Kindergarten begins at 12:45 PM and concludes at 3:30 PM.

The District provides bus transportation to AM Kindergarten and from PM Kindergarten. The noontime transportation is the responsibility of the parents/guardians.

## **Library**

The library is supervised by the librarian and/or the library secretary. Library classes are held for all grade levels in the school, with the purpose of enhancing literacy skills, introducing students to research, and engaging them in the use of technological tools. Books are checked out during scheduled library classes. Each student may check out a set amount of books for a one-week period. There is no fine for overdue books, but lost or damaged books must be paid for to keep the library up to date. Students are allowed to access the library with permission of their classroom teacher in the mornings.

Our library collection is constantly updated and expanded. Books are chosen for their educational or leisure value. Students are encouraged to find “just right” books to match and challenge their reading level.

## **Litter Policy/Recycling**

Students are encouraged to help keep the building clean by depositing litter and garbage in the provided receptacles and to discard any litter that they see. We recycle at Peebles Elementary School and work with students to instill in them an appreciation for the Earth and its care. Paper materials and bottles are recycled regularly and bins are made available to the students for use throughout the building.

Students are not permitted to chew gum in or on the school property, as a preventative measure to avoid vandalism, an unclean environment, and the potential for choking.

## **Lost and Found**

All clothing, lunch boxes, etc. found at school are placed on the lost and found cart, located in the cafeteria hallway. Money, jewelry, or any other articles of value are turned into the office. Students and/or parents may claim items after proper identification. Those items which are not claimed will be donated to a charity mid-year and at the conclusion of the school year.

## **MTSS**

The North Allegheny School District is committed to helping all children succeed. There are many ways to help children learn and ensure those who need additional supports are successful. The Multi-Tier Systems of Support (MTSS) is one of the recommended best practices from the Pennsylvania Department of Education [PDE] to ensure ALL students meet continual academic and behavioral success. This support will be given to ALL students through ongoing collaboration involving teachers, administrators, families, and specialists. Through systematic District and school--wide efforts, students will be provided services based on the evaluation of individual needs through a universal screener (aimswebPlus), consistent progress monitoring, and collaborative problem-solving efforts.

aimswebPlus –

The aimswebPlus program is a web-based system that provides teachers data to identify students who will benefit from early intervention strategies and targeted instruction (remediation and enrichment). The screener is used in grades K-2, but it can be used in grades 3-5 when needed. AimswebPlus uses brief, valid, and reliable measures of foundational skills in reading and math. The system is designed to universally screen and progress monitor students. The assessment is given three times a year.

## **Well-Check/SAP**

We conduct Well-Check procedures at Peebles Elementary School, which is led by **the school counselor, Mrs. Jenna Stand and Reading Specialist/MTSS, Emily Dinger and Megan Gillis**. If your child is experiencing academic or social difficulty, you can make a referral through a teacher or the school counselor. The Well-Check/SAP team meets throughout the school year to find interventions to promote student success in partnership with the parents and key school personnel. Teachers may also recommend a student receives support through Well-Check/SAP. Parent permission is required for a child to receive support through Well-Check/SAP.

## **Parent Teacher Association (PTA)**

The PES Parent Teacher Association is an active part of the Peebles Elementary School community. The PTA members volunteer and assist in many school functions, organize holiday parties, fund grade level field trips and capital projects, as well as fulfilling the role of liaisons for our school.

Parents are given the opportunity to become active members of the PTA, by joining the PTA membership at the start of each school year or when you enroll your child. As such, you are invited to become involved and to voice your opinions about how we could work as a team to better our school.

We have a wonderful PTA Executive Board, who would welcome communications from you and would be honored to have you present at our monthly meetings at Peebles Elementary School. The executive board includes:

- President – Cathy Reich
- Vice-President – Lindsay Beel
- Treasurer – Michelle Schmidt
- Secretary – Paige Cangilla

For a complete listing of PTA meeting dates, Committee Chairpersons, and ideas for how to become more involved, please visit the Peebles Elementary School website and click on PTA under the Resources tab. We are always looking to get the parents and community as involved as possible in our educational offerings.

Peebles also has a very productive volunteer program. You may volunteer directly to work with students or indirectly by helping prepare materials that will be used in the classrooms. Please contact the PTA or your child’s teacher. Any amount of time you volunteer is greatly appreciated. Thanks in advance for your dedication!

## Pictures

Individual student pictures in the Fall and Spring will be taken each year. Dates are listed on the District calendar and will be communicated in the newsletter. Fall School Pictures will be in the Peebles Elementary School yearbook and both Fall and Spring will be available for purchase by families.

## Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

The Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Program provides realistic expectations necessary to take a proactive rather than a reactive approach when responding to behavioral and social issues. We maintain an inclusive environment for all students. A school environment that promotes No Bullying and resolves any type of conflict quickly. Expectations are taught, modeled, and communicated to all students throughout the school day:

Peebles Behavior Matrix						
Peebles R.O.C.K.S.!						
	Recess	Cafeteria	Buses	Hallways	Bathroom	Arrival/ Dismissal
<b>Respect Others</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Follow the rules of play and games</li> <li>♣ Listen to adult directions</li> <li>♣ Leave it better than you found it</li> <li>♣ Voice Level: Indoor Level 2; Outdoor Level 3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Throw away trash</li> <li>♣ Get quiet when asked</li> <li>♣ Voice Level 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Stay in your assigned seat</li> <li>♣ Listen to adult directions</li> <li>♣ Voice Level 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Respect adult directions</li> <li>♣ Respect hallway displays</li> <li>♣ Voice Level 0</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Go</li> <li>♣ Flush</li> <li>♣ Wash</li> <li>♣ Leave</li> <li>♣ Respect bathroom equipment</li> <li>♣ Voice Level 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Respect &amp; listen to adult directions</li> <li>♣ Remember belongings</li> <li>♣ When announcement is made, voices go to 0 (the first time)</li> <li>♣ Voice Level 1</li> </ul>
<b>Choose Kindness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Play fair</li> <li>♣ Include others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Use appropriate language</li> <li>♣ Include others in conversation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Use appropriate language in bus conversations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Hold the door for others</li> <li>♣ Keep hallway floor clean</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Give privacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Use appropriate language</li> <li>♣ Respond to greetings</li> </ul>
<b>Stay Safe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Hands, feet and objects to self</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Stay in your seat when expected</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Personal items stay in backpacks</li> <li>♣ Hands and feet to yourself</li> <li>♣ Face forward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Walk directly to your destination</li> <li>♣ Walk facing forward</li> <li>♣ Avoid sitting in front of a classroom door</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Keep bathroom clean</li> <li>♣ Hands and feet to yourself</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ Feet tucked in</li> <li>♣ Hands and feet to yourself</li> <li>♣ Walk to your classroom</li> </ul>

As part of the program, students receive ROCKS Tickets to recognize their positive behavior. There are two different types of ROCKS tickets students can earn- those that recognize positive behavior in one of our six school-wide areas, and those that focus just on behavior in the classroom.

Our six school wide areas include recess, cafeteria, arrival/dismissal, buses, bathrooms, and hallways. If a student earns a ROCKS ticket during a school-wide area, they place their ticket into a grade level collection jar. Each week one ticket per grade level is selected at random and that student has a chance to spin the PES prize wheel which has a variety of prizes including things such as sitting in a special chair for the day, prize bin tangibles, extra recess time, and more. Students also have their picture taken to be posted on the PES ROCKS Stars bulletin board and posted on social media. At the end of each week all tickets earned by students are then emptied into a school-wide collection bin. Once students fill the all school collection bin then a whole school reward is earned. This occurs approximately once per nine weeks and has included things such as an inflatable bounce house at recess, glow stick dance party, and lunch out in our outdoor pavilion.

For the classroom recognition ROCKS tickets students are awarded tickets for positive classroom behavior. These tickets are then collected in a jar or displayed within the classroom (each homeroom has the opportunity to make this unique). These tickets are then used to earn classroom designated rewards. These may be an all class reward once students earn a certain number of tickets or teacher may choose to recognize students on an individual basis pending on their classroom system of management for the tickets.

Parents are integral in the process. Positive communication from the staff will occur to parents, and notification when expectations are not being followed will also occur. On occasions when students have not responded to verbal conversations, modeling, discussion, or jeopardized the safety or wellness of other students or themselves, a student may be given a PES ROCKS Referral Form for behavior. This allows the students and staff to reflect on the concern, reinforce the importance of following clear expectations, and discuss ways to improve moving forward. This is a collaborative effort and parents/guardians are sent the referral form for review, parental signature, and discussion at home. This allows school/home collaboration to occur throughout the school year.

Below is an example of a ROCKS Referral Form.

**Peebles ROCKS Referral Form**

Name: _____		<b>Location</b>	
Date: _____	Time: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Classroom	<input type="checkbox"/> Hallway
Homeroom: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Playground	<input type="checkbox"/> Cafeteria
Grade: K 1 2 3 4 5		<input type="checkbox"/> Bathroom	<input type="checkbox"/> Bus
Referring Staff: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

  

<b>Minor Problem Behavior Level I, II</b>	<b>Major Problem Behavior Code of Conduct - Level III, IV</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Defiance <input type="checkbox"/> Disruption <input type="checkbox"/> Disrespect <input type="checkbox"/> Inappropriate Language <input type="checkbox"/> Lying/ Cheating <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Contact <input type="checkbox"/> Property Misuse <input type="checkbox"/> Technology Violation <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Abusive Language <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying <input type="checkbox"/> Harassment <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Aggression <input type="checkbox"/> Technology Violation (E: Violation of NASD acceptable use policy) <input type="checkbox"/> Theft <input type="checkbox"/> Repeated Minor Infractions (3 or more in a week) <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<b>Action Taken</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Seat change <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of privilege <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher time-out with student <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher conference with student <input type="checkbox"/> Restorative Action (think sheet, apology note) <input type="checkbox"/> Change in environment <input type="checkbox"/> Reteach <input type="checkbox"/> Behavior checklists <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> * Parent Phone Call (Date: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Office time-out from learning (Lunch/recess/classroom) <input type="checkbox"/> In-School Suspension (____ hours/days) <input type="checkbox"/> Out-of-School Suspension (____ hours/days) <input type="checkbox"/> Action Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Phone Call, Behavior Communication Form, Email or Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Video modeling and reflection-watching camera footage <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Other Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Rewarding Positive Behavior is key to assisting in teaching expectations to students. However, in certain circumstances, students may receive more severe consequences for not following expectations. The principal will be involved with any of these discipline concerns. The North Allegheny Code of

Conduct outlines discipline and consequences. At the elementary level, example of consequences that may occur include but are not limited to:

- Conferences with the principal
- Apology
- Letter or phone call to parents
- Loss of recess period(s)
- Recess and/or lunch in the office with Principal
- Loss of grade level or school-wide assembly, event, or PAW Activity
- Detention before or after school
- In-school suspension for ½ of school day
- In-school suspension for the entire school day
- Out of school suspension

\*Behavior of a more serious nature including violations involving weapons, fighting, bullying and/or harassment are outlined in the North Allegheny Code of Conduct.

### **PowerSchool Student Information System/Electronic Parent Portal**

The District has implemented a Student Information System called PowerSchool. An electronic Parent Portal is available, providing parents a web-based gradebook and reporting system with access to student records schedules, and academic performance, as well as the opportunity to update demographic and contact information.

### **Recess**

We are fortunate at Pes to have a large playground area. The teachers and Student Services Assistants will explain rules for this area to all students. The proper use of equipment is modeled for students. Equipment rules are to be followed to keep all students safe. Failure to follow these rules may result in the loss of playground privileges or a Think Sheet.

#### **Recess Schedule**

**Kindergarten – AM – 10:45 – 11:15 and PM – 1:15 – 1:45**

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade – 11:40 – 12:10**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – 11:45 – 12:15**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – 11:15 – 11:45**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 1:00 – 1:30 and 11:10 – 11:40 (Mondays)**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade – 12:40 – 1:10**

The rules are as follows:

- Playground equipment will be used properly, in the manner for which it was intended and designed.
- Each child will show respect for adults and other children.
- When the whistle blows, children should put equipment away and get into a line.
- Toys from home should not be on the playground.

- Do not throw stones or other potentially dangerous objects.
- No chasing/tag games on the pavement area, only on grass or mulch surfaces.
- The area behind the shed is off limits.
- Stay away from classroom windows.
- Ask for adult assistance and permission when retrieving equipment that has left the playground area.
- No carrying other children.
- Stay in assigned areas.
- Snacks in lunchroom only.
- Adhere to Playground rules.

On days with inclement weather, recess is held in the classrooms. We will not go outside if it is raining or storming or if the wind chill factor is below 20 degrees. However, we try to go out as often as possible, so **dress appropriately on cold-weather days.**

## **Report Cards**

The school year is divided into four nine-week periods. Report cards posted on the student information system's Parent Portal at the end of each nine-week period for grades 1 - 5. Kindergarten students receive report cards at the end of each semester, amounting to two times a year.

## **School Programs**

North Allegheny School District and the Peebles Elementary School PTA offer several after-school programs for our students. For all of the programs, students will be called to the appropriately assigned area at school dismissal time. Transportation home at dismissal of the after-school program is the responsibility of the parent. Students are not permitted to wander the building or parking lot.

## **Specials: Art, Library, Music, & Physical Education Courses**

The art, library, music, and physical education courses make up the special area class rotations. These courses are an important part of each student's educational experience. On Mondays Grades 1-5 have an Encore class. One of the special areas will be attended for 1 hour. This is done on a rotating basis allowing more time for in-depth projects.

Students in grades 4 and 5 may participate in the school's chorus program. Two concerts are held during the school year for students, parents, and interested community members. In addition, students in grades 3 through 5 are encouraged to participate in the school's orchestra program, and in grades 4 and 5 for the school's band program.

Homeroom teachers will provide schedules allowing for the special area rotations to be known in advance for proper dress.

## **Special Education Services**

The following special education services, among others, are available for those students who meet the requirements: GOAL, Speech, and Learning Support. Contact the School Counselor, Principal, or Special Education Department if there are any questions about these programs.

## **Tardy Students**

A child who arrives at school **after 9:05 am** is considered **tardy**. The parent/guardian must bring the child into the office upon arrival and provide a written note with reason for the tardy. All students entering school after 9:05 am **MUST** check into the office before going to the classroom. Failure to have the student sign in at the office may result in an absence being recorded for the student for the entire day.

There are three reasons recognized as valid excuses for tardiness: severe weather conditions; bus transportation difficulties; and personal accident or illness, or personal appointment. A tardy student must stop in the office to receive a late slip to enter class and must submit a signed tardy note from the parent/guardian at that time.

## **Technology**

The North Allegheny School District recognizes that the appropriate use of electronic devices can provide great potential for enhanced learning opportunities for all students. However, there are many other uses of electronic devices which can distract from the learning process or otherwise violate the rights of students; thus the use of electronic devices for legitimate educational purposes is permitted, only under the direction of the classroom teacher with approval from the Building Administration and in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Any student who violates these provisions of the Code of Conduct shall receive appropriate disciplinary action and may have his or her privileges regarding electronic devices temporarily or permanently revoked. Further, the student's electronic device may be subject to confiscation, either temporary or permanent, and the District reserves the right to hold a confiscated item until a conference has been held with the student's parent or guardian. Finally, if such violations could possibly constitute a crime under local, state and/or federal law, the District will report such conduct to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Electronic devices shall include all devices that can take photographs; record audio or video data; store, transmit or receive messages, data, or images; or provide a wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet. Examples of these electronic devices include, but shall not be limited to, iPods, DVD players, handheld game consoles, cellular phones and smart phones/watches, laptops or other student-owned computers, as well as any new technology developed with similar capabilities of data storage or transmission. The District is not liable for the loss, damage or misuse of an electronic device brought to school by a student.

Appropriate use of electronic devices shall include any use of such devices for educational purposes, such as educational research, which is specifically authorized by a classroom teacher with approval from the Building Administration. Inappropriate use of electronic devices has the potential to negatively impact the educational processes and individual students. Any use of electronic devices that leads to the disruption of the instructional/educational processes and/or violates the rights of individual students is a violation of the Code of Conduct.

**\*PLEASE DO NOT EMAIL OR CONTACT YOUR CHILD DURING SCHOOL HOURS ON THEIR PERSONAL DEVICE SUCH AS A CELL PHONE OR SMART WATCH. CALL THE FRONT OFFICE.**

Any student found to inappropriately use electronic devices will be subject to consequences set forth within the Code of Conduct. Infractions of this policy can result in a minimum of Level II consequences. In addition, such acts may be in violation of the (click to search for School Board policies) [North Allegheny School Board Policies](#):

**#249 Anti-Bullying/Cyberbullying**

## #224.1 –Responsible Computer, Telecommunications, and Information Technology Usage

### #237 Electronic Device

Inappropriate use of these devices includes, but is not limited to the following examples:

- Placing and/or receiving a call, text message, or other communication during instructional time (classroom instruction, study halls, and gymnasiums).
- The use of electronic devices in locker rooms and restrooms.
- Using any application on an electronic device which is not directly relevant to the instruction in the classroom and authorized by the classroom teacher.
- Taking, storing, disseminating, transferring, viewing or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, inappropriate, unauthorized, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or other means, including but not limited to texting and e-mailing.
- Using any electronic device for purposes which are in direct violation of other provisions within the North Allegheny School District’s Code of Conduct, such as bullying, cyber-bullying, cheating or otherwise violating academic integrity, or harassing or intimidating students or staff members.

The District shall enforce these provisions of the Code of Conduct regarding electronic devices on school grounds, District-operated school buses and other conveyances, and during any District-sponsored activities, whether or not occurring on school grounds. Such prohibited activity shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property if the prohibited conduct is (a) directed at another student or students, is (b) severe, persistent, or pervasive, and (c) interferes with a student’s education, creates a threatening environment, or substantially disrupts orderly operations of school. Such activities in direct violation of the North Allegheny School Board Policies (detailed above) will result in violators being disciplined accordingly.

## Testing and Screeners

Various kinds of testing are administered throughout the school year. Results are used to help determine individual student progress and also to make adjustments to curriculum and instruction if necessary.

### Exact Path

Students in grades 2-5 use this diagnostic program. Three times a year, students take an online diagnostic to then provide individualized practice. Exact Path adjusts lessons above or below grade level to best support students’ individual learning paths.

### Study Island Benchmark Assessments

The Study Island Benchmark Assessments are administered 2 or 3 times during the school year. This assessment is closely aligned with PSSA content, and is used to provide teachers in grades 3, 4, and 5 with additional information on the skill levels of individual students as well as to enhance **instruction and intervention strategies within the classroom specific to students’ needs**. Students do not receive grades.

### Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) is a criterion referenced test used to measure students’ progress toward mastering the Pennsylvania Academic Standards in grades 3 through 5. The

academic standards identify proficiency levels in Reading and Math for grades 3 through 5, for Science in grade 4, and for Writing in grade 5. The dates for the PSSA tests are listed in the school calendar. Students are to be in school during the District assessments and State (PSSA) testing, except in cases of illnesses. The dates for all of the tests are listed in the school calendar as well as the notifications from the school. As these tests are important, vacations will rarely be approved for the weeks of these tests. Due to the necessity to complete the tests within a given window for all students as mandated by the Pennsylvania State Department of Education, make-ups will occur for students during instructional time if missed.

### **Textbooks/School Issued Materials**

District procedure states that the parent/guardian is responsible for the replacement cost of lost books or those damaged beyond use. School materials such as books, calculators, etc. that are assigned to students must be replaced if lost or damaged. The cost of textbooks/materials varies due to the original purchase price and age. If an item is later recovered, the amount paid will be returned assuming good condition.

### **Threats**

All threats, verbal or written, must be taken seriously. For the safety of our students, all threats will be investigated and the School District's Code of Conduct strictly enforced.

### **Vacations/Educational Tour or Trip**

The parents or guardians of a student who wishes to have the student excused from compulsory school attendance in order to participate in an educational tour or trip must submit an application to the Principal of the school in which the student is enrolled. Except for emergency situations, which must be fully explained, this request must be submitted at least five (5) calendar days prior to the date on which the student seeks to be excused for compulsory attendance. If a student will be absent for more than ten (10) school days, the student will be withdrawn as a full-time student. The District will attempt to provide support to the student during the extended absence so that he/she is able to make successful reentry into the school upon their return. The family will need to reenroll the child upon return.

For students in grades 3-5, no vacations can be approved during the standardized tests, such as during the 3rd-5th grade PSSA testing. Please check the school calendar for the specific test dates. Upon request by a parent/guardian, teachers shall submit a list of student assignments/responsibilities for the period of absence during an approved absence. Assignments/responsibilities may be completed either prior to the absence or upon return to school. All assignments which are to be completed shall be submitted to the teacher(s) upon return to school or within a reasonable time period as designated by the teacher(s).

Days absent for vacation count as days absent from school since students are not present for the learning experience. Parents/Guardians are strongly encouraged to schedule vacations outside of the school year. Parents/Guardians are also encouraged to monitor days absent to avoid excessive absenteeism. [Educational Tour Form](#)

### **Visitors**

The only daytime entrance to school is the main office entrance. All other doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must buzz in through the office. Upon entering the building, all visitors will be asked to present a valid state-issued ID, which will be scanned into the Raptor Visitor Management system kiosk. For those visitors/volunteers who forget their license, the Raptor kiosk is set up to receive information manually as well.

Upon reading the information, Raptor will check the national database to identify sexual offenders. The system will also scan the District's volunteer database which lists volunteers who have submitted the necessary clearances as outlined in PA Act 153/PA Act 15. Once approved, the system will generate a name tag for approved visitors which will contain a picture of the visitor or volunteer, the date, and purpose of the visit. Visitors will retrieve this tag from the secretary in the office.

To ensure the safety of the children, visitors will not be permitted to wander through the building. Messages for students or teachers may be given to the secretary in the office so that classroom instruction is not interrupted. No one will be permitted to go to a classroom unless prior arrangements have been made with the classroom teachers.

## **Weapons Policy**

The North Allegheny School District strictly prohibits the possession or storage of weapons by students on school property. This is detailed in School Board Policy [No. 218.1](#). For the purpose of this policy, the definition of a weapon also includes weapon "look-alikes." The District's Code of Conduct will be strictly adhered to if a weapon is brought to school.

## **Weekly Communication**

The North Allegheny School District strives to improve the efficiency of communication with and access to information for parents/guardians. The District will send a building-specific email newsletter every Friday evening (except scheduled holiday breaks) to parents/guardians. This email will highlight the top happenings at each building, upcoming important dates, District information, and links to community flyers. Parents/guardians will only receive emails from their student's building. An archive of emails will be available on the District website and updated with the latest newsletters each Monday morning.

Parent/guardian email addresses are collected at the time of registration and are used to share District and building-level communications, and to provide updates from the District's online gradebook and student information system. It is important for parents/guardians to update any changes in their email address by contacting the building secretary.