



# Pittsburgh Conroy

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Parent Hotline: 412.622.7920 | www.pps.k12.pa.us

## welcome!

Pittsburgh Conroy is a special education facility located in Pittsburgh's Manchester community. We offer a positive learning environment which provides all participants a variety of opportunities to maximize their academic, emotional and social success. Each student has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) which drives the curriculum decisions for the students.

### SCHOOL MASCOT

Our mascot is a blue jay. He makes an appearance at all official activities and performances. His primary personality is that of our art teacher. On occasion, several students have assumed his character.

### SCHOOL MOTTO

“Growth Towards Independence”

The PSE philosophy states that “All students can learn and succeed, but not on the same day.” Our programming projections follow the district motto of Excellence for All.

### SCHOOL PLEDGE

We have a pledge that is part of our morning ritual. It says:

This day has been given to me.  
I will make today a good day.  
I will discuss my thoughts and feelings.  
I am here to co-operate with others.  
I am here to make and be a friend.  
I am here to work.  
I am here to learn.  
I am here to teach.

### OUR HISTORY

Pittsburgh Conroy, a special place for special people, has a long and distinguished history in education. Formerly the John M. Conroy, Jr., High School, Pittsburgh Conroy perpetuates the name of John

M. Conroy, the first principal who served from 1868 to 1878 and whose initiative established the first manual training school (Fifth Ward Manual Training School, 1895).

The John M. Conroy School was formerly located in the old Borough of Manchester which was later annexed to the City of Allegheny, now known as the North Side, Pittsburgh. A two-story brick building, 35 ft. by 63 ft., accommodated the 600 children then enrolled. The building consisted of four poorly furnished rooms, partitioned with unpainted boards.

The building was replaced in 1869 by a second building which cost \$77,646.40, including grounds and equipment. It was dedicated and opened on September 2, 1869. The first day of school, September 6, there were 612 pupils enrolled. Fire destroyed the second and third stories of the school on December of that same year. The building was repaired and ready for opening in August, 1870. In 1886, the school became overcrowded. Additional ground was purchased and a second building containing 12 rooms was erected. This three-story building became known as the Number 2 building or annex.

A fourth floor for additional school rooms was constructed in 1897. At the time of its construction, this school was considered to be one of the most modern buildings in the city, i.e. hot air-heated, lighted with gas and equipped with speaking tubes which connected the principal's office with every room in the building.

In 1895, the Fifth Ward School, now the John M. Conroy School, was built and was fully equipped as the first manual training and Household Economy School building ever erected in what was then known as the City of Allegheny and the City of Pittsburgh. It may well be that this school was the first school building of its kind ever erected and operated in connection with any public elementary school in the country.

On March 1, 1907 fire again destroyed the Number One building of 1869 to such an extent that the local school board decided at once to replace this building with a modern structure which

was completed in 1908. At that time, this new building was considered to have been one of the "most substantial buildings in the City, being strictly fire-proof."

The new school was used as an elementary and junior high school with vocational shops until the 1974-75 school year. That school term saw the birth of Conroy as a setting for special needs students.

A massive remodeling project was begun in the spring of the 1974-75 school year. The center building of the Conroy complex was torn down and construction began that spring. A specially constructed passageway connected the two remaining Conroy buildings.

The major part of the new construction and renovation was completed in September, 1976. Students and faculty from the East End Center were moved to Conroy, thus completing the transitional process of creating a school for special-needs students.

Special education funds totaling some \$160,000 were utilized to purchase the equipment for the city-owned McKnight Playground, adjacent to the school. Under a special agreement with the city, the board purchased the equipment.

The city installed the equipment, including the playground equipment and the large Astroturf area and was responsible for its maintenance. The playground is utilized by Pittsburgh Conroy School pupils during school hours and is available to the community at large during non-school hours.

## **SCHOOL PROCEDURES**

### **Bell Schedule**

Bell schedules were not available at the time these materials were printed. Please visit our website at [www.pps.k12.pa.us](http://www.pps.k12.pa.us) or contact our Parent Hotline at 412.622.7920 for the bell schedule for your child's school.

### **School Uniform**

Pittsburgh Conroy follows the Pittsburgh Public Schools Dress Code. No uniform is needed.

## **SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

### **Program Offerings/School Departments**

Currently, all students attending Pittsburgh Conroy Education Center are classified as Life Skills Support, Autistic Support, or Multiply Disabled. This classification and the age of the student are utilized to place the student in a homeroom. The

classrooms for elementary and middle Life Skills Support, Autistic Support, and Multiply Disabled students are self contained. Secondary Life Skills students are afforded classrooms that specialize in Community-based Instruction, Functional Academics, Activities of Daily Living, and Vocational Training. It should be noted that all Pittsburgh Conroy students possess an Individualized Educational Plan. The IEP determines the focus goals and objectives for each student.

Our Vocational Department is separated into two categories. Our school-based program is comprised of our Food and Consumer Science Program. This program is further divided into Food Service and Sanitation. Our Community-based Vocational Training Program is led by one teacher and five paraprofessionals. The paraprofessionals provide on-site, community-based vocational instruction in a variety of community settings. These external teaching environments assist our students in developing the dexterity and appropriate social skills needed for successful post-school integration into the real world.

### **Athletic Programs**

Our athletic offerings are intramural basketball, soccer, basketball, and flag football. Our intramural basketball differs from the school basketball program. The intramural program has been specifically designed as a behavior modification reward for behavioral compliance. The school basketball program is open to everyone. The intramural activities are during the day. Students are afforded an opportunity to learn the game and sharpen their skills for several weeks prior to the competitions. These activities are open to everyone. During the pre-game learning phase, students become part of a team and practice drills and their skills. The culmination of each activity is a game. Every participant is recognized for his/her participation and individual accomplishments within their ability classification. Examples include but are not limited to the longest throw, longest kick, and most field goals within a minute.

To date, our athletic programs are intra-school. We are currently in negotiations to play other schools and programs. It is expected that during the 2007-2008 school year, we will begin interschool competitions on a limited basis.

### **After-School Programs**

At this time, Pittsburgh Conroy does not have an extensive after-school program. Presently, the Special Olympics' bowlers travel to the North Side Elks to hone their skills prior to bowling competitions.

Our PSCC hosts a bowling group on Sunday mornings at the Noble Manor Bowling Lanes for all interested students and their families. Other after-school programming is informal. Examples of these activities are trips to the professional and amateur sporting events, home parties, theater and movie outings, dinner, and other activities as they become available. In these cases, staff makes individual arrangements to take students to a particular event.

### **Extra-curricular Activities**

Pittsburgh Conroy's student body resides throughout the city of Pittsburgh. As such, our extra-curricular activities are limited. The predominance of our activities revolves around our Special Olympics Program. Currently, we belong to the Allegheny County Special Olympics. We participate in inter-league bowling, cross country skiing, basketball, and track and field. These programs take place at participation facilities throughout the city of Pittsburgh. The track and field program is the largest group. Approximately 75 students and faculty take part in this program.

Additionally, children may elect to participate in a Girls Social Group; HIS Club—a male social group; Art Club; Junior Chorus and Senior Chorus.

### **Field Trip Guidelines**

Our staff attempts to expose the students to a variety of cultural and community activities throughout the year. The most common trips that we take are to the Zoo, Arts Festival, PPG Christmas Tree Exposition, Sports Museum, Aviary, Children's Museum, Romp n' Roll Roller Skating Rink, Shrine Circus, Heinz Hall, Benedum Theater, Schenley Park Ice Rink, Carnegie Science Center, local parks, Phipps Conservatory, and other community events as scheduled and affordable. Trips occur when scheduled by an individual for a small group, or as an all-school activity. Individual teachers participate as they deem the activity appropriate for their classrooms.

The procedure involves filling out a Field Trip Request Form and submitting it to the appropriate ITL. The ITL forwards the information to the Principal with his/her recommendations. If approved, the information is published and affected personnel, like the cafeteria manager and specialty staff are notified if meals will need to be modified or preps cancelled as a result of the trip.

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

There are numerous opportunities for parental involvement at Pittsburgh Conroy. The PSCC sends out a request for volunteers and new members at the beginning of each school year. Additionally, a PSCC member attends all school activities to talk to parents about joining the organization. Parents are encouraged to join us for Open House, Conference Day, field trips, IEP meetings, spaghetti dinners, talent evenings, PSCC meetings (which are conducted the third Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m.), flag football, basketball, and soccer tournaments. We request volunteer assistance for all our school activities like Family Fun Day, Fun in the Sun Day, our own Special Olympics Tournament, our spring musical, and holiday program. Due to hectic schedules and other obligations, parents who cannot come into the school may participate from home through the completion of a counting or cutting activity not appropriate for some students.

# community Resource Guide

Attending a Pittsburgh Public School has many advantages. In addition to the education and guidance that your child will receive while in school, there are also many resources available to you and your family. In coordination with 3 Rivers Connect, the Pittsburgh Public Schools created a general listing of services and activities city-wide that you may find helpful. The following page highlights organizations in three categories, including Family Resources, Children's Services and Cultural Organizations.

**We hope that this guide will help you become more familiar with all of the opportunities available in Pittsburgh, and that you find activities that you and your family can use and enjoy as part of the Pittsburgh Public Schools' community.**



**Pittsburgh  
Public Schools**

**EXCELLENCE**  
FOR ALL

## FAMILY RESOURCES

### **Allegheny County Respite Care Coalition (ACRCC)** 1.800.876.7607

ACRCC is a collaborative network of families, providers, community members and advocates who work to ensure the availability of quality respite care.  
[www.acrcc.org](http://www.acrcc.org)

### **Allegheny Family Network (AFN)** 1.888.273.2361

Supports and partners with families raising children with emotional and mental health needs to improve their quality of life.  
[www.alleghenyfamilynetwork.cfsites.org](http://www.alleghenyfamilynetwork.cfsites.org)

### **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** 412.622.3114

The Carnegie Library has multiple branch locations offering special services such as job/career and educational centers.  
[www.clpgh.org](http://www.clpgh.org)

### **Child Care Information Services – CCIS of Allegheny County – City** 412.255.1281 or 1.800.392.3131

CCIS serves as a primary resource to assist families with child care referrals, emergency childcare, subsidized care for qualifying families, and promotes quality child care by offering training in subjects such as early literacy.  
[www.dpw.state.pa.us/ServicesPrograms/ChildCareEarlyEd/003670483.htm](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ServicesPrograms/ChildCareEarlyEd/003670483.htm)

### **Children's Health Insurance Program – CHIP** 1.800.986.KIDS

Pennsylvania's program to provide health insurance to all uninsured children and teens who are not eligible for or enrolled in Medical Assistance.  
[www.chipcoverspakids.com](http://www.chipcoverspakids.com)

### **Humanservices.net**

HS.net is a community resource directory of social services programs.  
[www.humanservices.net](http://www.humanservices.net)

### **The Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania** 412.281.2535

Helps mentoring programs by providing training, recruiting, quality assistance, and support to increase the number of mentors in the community.  
[www.mentoringpittsburgh.org](http://www.mentoringpittsburgh.org)

### **Parent Education & Advocacy Leadership (PEAL) Center** 412.281.4404

The PEAL Center is an organization of parents of children with disabilities reaching out to assist other parents and professionals.  
[www.pealcenter.org](http://www.pealcenter.org)

### **Pittsburgh Public Schools** 412.622.7920 (Parent Hotline)

The Pittsburgh Public Schools believes in regular, two-way, meaningful communication connecting student academic learning and other school activities; to this end the Parent Hotline is one of a number of resources to assist parents and families in engagement.  
[www.pps.k12.pa.us](http://www.pps.k12.pa.us)

### **Southwestern PA Afterschool Resource Collaborative (SPARC)** 412.392.1006

SPARC provides information about out of school time programs throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania.  
[www.SwpaAfterschool.org](http://www.SwpaAfterschool.org)

### **United Way of Allegheny County** 412.255.1155 (HelpLine)

United Way of Allegheny County provides information to families through their online resource Help Connections; agency funding, planning, and community problem solving for health and human services agencies operating within Allegheny County.  
[www.unitedwaypittsburgh.org](http://www.unitedwaypittsburgh.org)

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### **Achieva** 412.995.5000

A world-renowned leader in the field of disabilities, known for its innovative programs, and dedication to children with disabilities and their families.  
[www.achieva.info](http://www.achieva.info)

### **Alliance for Infants and Toddlers** 412.885.6000

This program provides service coordination, screenings, assessments, family support services, and early intervention service coordination to families with children between the ages of birth to three years of age.  
[www.afit.org](http://www.afit.org)

### **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh** 412.363.6100 or 1.877.937.2447

Big Brothers Big Sisters increases the self-confidence of children and the probability that they will become fully integrated members of society, leading productive and rewarding lives through mentoring and enrichment programs.  
[www.bbbpittsburgh.org](http://www.bbbpittsburgh.org)

### **Beverly Jewel Wall Lovelace (BJWL) - Family Resource Centers** 412.363.1702

Family Resources offers many services to help parents and children improve their relationship along with youth enrichment activities at its centers.  
[www.familyresourcesofpa.org](http://www.familyresourcesofpa.org)

### **Boys and Girls Clubs** 412.782.5710

The BGC is a unique organization consisting of 8 Club facilities, a Charter H.S., Outlet Connection retail venture, Campfire USA, and extension programs. Our goal is to provide every child with the essential tools needed for a successful & bright future.  
[www.bgcwpa.org](http://www.bgcwpa.org)

### **Catholic Charities, Child Care Support Services** 412.456.6985

Catholic Charities provides counseling, refugee resettlement, respite care, utility assistance, emergency relief, tangible assistance services and makes referrals for clients. In 2007 it expanded services by opening a Free Health Care Center.  
[www.ccpgh.org](http://www.ccpgh.org)

### **Children's Institute** 412.420.2400

The Children's Institute is a nonprofit pediatric rehabilitation facility which provides education services for children ages two to 21 with cognitive or physical disabilities with in-home services for children and families with special needs.  
[www.amazingkids.org](http://www.amazingkids.org)

**Girl Scouts – Trillium Council** 412.566.2570 or 1.800.248.3355

The Girl Scouts inspires girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism, and service that they may become happy and resourceful citizens.  
[www.gswpa.org](http://www.gswpa.org)

**Greater Pittsburgh Council Boy Scouts of America** 412.325.7940

The Boy Scouts trains young people in citizenship, service, and physical fitness through the Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Venturing programs, & more.  
[www.gpc-bsa.org](http://www.gpc-bsa.org)

**Junior Achievement of Southwest PA Inc.** 1.800.522.6957

JA's purpose is to educate and inspire young people to value free enterprise and understand business & economics to improve the quality of their lives.  
[www.pittsburgh.ja.org](http://www.pittsburgh.ja.org)

**Parental Stress Center** 412.361.4800

The Parental Stress Center provides comprehensive services for abused and neglected children and their families.  
[www.pscfamily.net](http://www.pscfamily.net)

**Parks and Recreation** 412.255.2539

Parks and Recreation offers a wide variety of recreational programs and facilities for use by the citizens of Pittsburgh.  
[www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/parks/html/citiparks\\_events.html](http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/parks/html/citiparks_events.html)

**Pittsburgh Toy Lending Library** 412.682.4430

The Pittsburgh Toy Lending Library, a cooperative run by volunteers, is an indoor play-space for children, birth through kindergarten, and their caregivers.  
[www.pgtoys.com](http://www.pgtoys.com)

**Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh** 412.227.4802

The Urban League is the largest social and educational service provider and advocacy agency devoted to empowering African Americans to enter the economic and social mainstream community in Pittsburgh through its diverse programs.  
[www.ulpgh.org](http://www.ulpgh.org)

**YMCA** 412.227.6457

YMCAs serve America's children, families and communities by "building healthy spirit, mind and body for all."  
[www.ymcaofpittsburgh.org](http://www.ymcaofpittsburgh.org)

**YouthPlaces** 412.434.0851

YouthPlaces promotes the positive cognitive, social, physical, emotional and moral development of youth by providing a safe place for them to engage in a range of activities.  
[www.youthplaces.org](http://www.youthplaces.org)

**YouthWorks Inc.** 412.281.6629

YouthWorks builds a community solution to help young people whose potential might be overlooked to pursue employment and career development opportunities.  
[www.youthworksinc.org](http://www.youthworksinc.org)

**YWCA Greater Pittsburgh** 412.391.5100

YWCA works to improve our community by increasing the status of women, girls, families and advancing racial justice by tackling homelessness, childcare needs, unemployment, fair housing and civil rights issues.  
[www.ywcapgh.org](http://www.ywcapgh.org)

## CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

**Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh: Natural History & Art** 412.622.3131; **Science Center** 412.237.3400; **Andy Warhol** 412.237.8300

Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh has a fascinating history dating back 111 years. But the story of who they are today—a collection of four dynamic, distinctive museums, and the Pittsburgh region's home for great art and science exploration—is the real page turner.  
[www.carnegiemuseums.org](http://www.carnegiemuseums.org)

**Children's Museum of Pittsburgh** 412.322.5058

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh provides innovative museum experiences that inspire joy, creativity and curiosity.  
[www.pittsburghkids.org](http://www.pittsburghkids.org)

**Fort Pitt Museum** 412.281.9284

Through exhibits and programs, the museum addresses the important role of Fort Pitt during the American Revolution and the early development of the city of Pittsburgh.  
[www.fortpittmuseum.com](http://www.fortpittmuseum.com)

**The History Center** 412.454.6000

The Senator John Heinz History Center is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and the largest history museum in the state of Pennsylvania.  
[www.pghhistory.org](http://www.pghhistory.org)

**National Aviary** 412.323.723

The National Aviary is America's only independent indoor nonprofit bird zoo. It is home to 600+ birds of more than 200 species.  
[www.aviary.org](http://www.aviary.org)

**Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens** 412.622.6914

Encounter the wonders of the natural world. Tour through the jewel-like Conservatory and visit exotic lands and ancient worlds with vivid colors, natural oddities, and surprises around every corner of the botanical gardens.  
[www.phipps.conservatory.org](http://www.phipps.conservatory.org)

**Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium** 412.665.3640 or 1.800.474.4966

The Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium is a 77-acre facility that is home to thousands of animals representing hundreds of diverse species. It is one of only six major zoo and aquarium combinations in the country.  
[www.pittsburghzoo.org](http://www.pittsburghzoo.org)



