

Pittsburgh Whittier K-5

150 Meridan Street | Pittsburgh, PA 15211 | Phone: 412.488.8211 | Fax: 412.488.4255
Nurse: 412.488.4258 | Counselor: 412.488.4258 | Parent Hotline: 412.622.7920 | www.pps.k12.pa.us

Welcome!

We are very pleased to have you and your child as a part of Pittsburgh Whittier K-5. You and your child are the life of our school. This handbook was designed to communicate to you a better understanding of the policies and procedures of our school. Please read and keep this handbook with your families important documents. Pittsburgh Whittier has an excellent staff that is sincerely concerned about our children. Parents are encouraged to share our vision that all children can learn at high levels and to become involved at Pittsburgh Whittier through our PTA and other parent volunteer activities.

Elaine Wallace, Principal

Pittsburgh Whittier adheres to the district's beliefs that all children can learn at high levels, highly qualified teachers have a profound impact on students' development, education begins with a safe and healthy learning environment, and families are an essential part of the educational process.

- We believe that all children can learn at high levels
- We believe that teachers have a profound impact on student development, and should have ample training, support and resources
- We believe that education begins with a safe and healthy learning environment
- We believe that a commitment from the entire community is necessary to build a culture that encourages student achievement
- We believe that improvement in education is guided by consistent and effective leadership
- We believe that Central office exists to serve students and schools

School colors: Blue and White

School Motto: "High Achievement – High Expectations – High atop Mt. Washington"

SCHOOL PROCEDURES

Bell Schedule

7:55 a.m. to 2:36 p.m. Students that eat a school breakfast may enter the building beginning at 7:40 a.m. Students are late at 8:00 a.m. Late students will receive lunch detention for that day.

Student Responsibilities

In American society, all citizens have certain rights that are closely associated with corresponding responsibilities. All students within the Pittsburgh Public Schools have the following responsibilities:

- To attend school regularly and to make a conscientious effort in the classroom.
- To help maintain a climate within the school that is conducive to wholesome learning and living.
- To respect the rights of teachers, students administrators, and all others who are involved in the educational process. To express ideas and opinions in a respectful manner.
- To be aware of and comply with all rules and regulations for student behavior.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents should teach their children honesty and respect for the law and the property of others. When parents and schools work diligently toward these obligations, each individual benefits.

Every parent must:

- Be familiar with the Code of Student Conduct and discuss its contents with their children.
- Be familiar with the student handbook of the school where their children are in attendance and discuss its contents with their children.
- Be familiar with the services available to students through the school, its partners and community agencies with whom the school collaborates.

School Dress Code

Students should dress for school in a manner that will promote learning and minimize distractions.

- Shoulders, backs and bellies must be covered.
- Pants must be worn at the waist.
- Underwear should not be visible.
- Pants should be held up by a belt.
- All shoes must have backs that cover or straps that hold the heel in place.
- Skirts/shorts must be worn at the waist.
- The length of the bottom hem of skirt/shorts must be at or below the tops of your fingers when your arms are held straight at your sides.

Here is a list of apparel items that are prohibited:

- Tank tops, muscle shirts
- Fishnet shirts/ see-through clothing
- Bare midriffs
- Short shorts
- Halter tops
- Clothing with obscene words or pictures
- Flip-flops, shower shoes, platforms

Bus Transportation

Transportation is an important part of the Pittsburgh Whittier program, therefore it is necessary that every student and parent be aware of the transportation rules provided by the Office of the Deputy Superintendent of the Division of Transportation of the Pittsburgh Board of Education.

Please review these rules with your child and discuss each item. If your child happens to violate any rule, a discipline referral will be issued to the principal's office by the bus or van driver.

1st Offense – Verbal warning, referral sent home

2nd Offense – Phone call, referral sent home

3rd Offense – Suspension from Transportation

Fighting on the bus or van will result in a three-day suspension from school. Transportation is a privilege and each child should respect the rules in order to maintain this privilege.

Traffic Patterns for Dropping Off Students

Please be advised that when dropping off or picking up your child the following directions must be followed for the safety of all children:

- Do not park on the crosswalks.
- Do not park or stop in the front of the school. This space is for school buses and school vans.

- Do not park near the fire hydrant.
- Do not double park or block the driveway of private homes.
- When coming to a corner, please be aware of children crossing the streets and of the safety patrols that are there to assist Pittsburgh Whittier children.
- Please do not stop until you have passed the memorial monument and traveled to the first set of school steps on Meridan Street.

We will not change your child's normal dismissal routine without a note. Students are not allowed to use another bus to get home. Dismissal time is 2:36 p.m. and all students should be picked up by 2:36 p.m.

Academic Expectations

It is our conviction that our children can achieve much better results and have greater success with the unified, hard working efforts of parents and school staff together. We believe that every child can learn at high levels and we have high expectations for them. It is important that every student:

- Comes to school on time and prepared
- Follows class and school rules
- Shows respect to all adults and each other
- Completes class and home assignments

Achievement in reading, math and science are the focus of our academic program. We believe the process must be an exciting experience. We want our children to learn to read and read to learn. Our curricula and methods of teaching are adapted so students have opportunities to earn and achieve. The following components affect your child's success:

- Attendance
- Effort
- Completion of teacher, district and state exams
- Satisfactory completion of class and home assignments
- Report card grades

Final decision on promotion and retention will rest upon the classroom teachers, in cooperation with the principal and school district policy. A letter will notify parents when their child is in danger of failing. We encourage parents to become part of their child's educational experience.

Behavioral Expectations

Students at Pittsburgh Whittier participate in the school-wide behavior program entitled "BUG Program" for "Being Unusually Good" This program

has been very successful in maintaining positive behavior in our students. Each student's behavior is monitored during the school day. Students who exhibit positive behavior for at least 90% of the time during a ten day period will have an opportunity to shop at the Pittsburgh Whittier School Store. Students do not need money. The points that they've earned based on their behavior will serve as currency at the store. Students must shop the two shopping periods prior to any extracurricular event in order to participate in that particular event. This includes all classroom parties, field trips, assemblies, etc. It is our hope that all students will display appropriate behavior so as not to become a distraction to their learning or the learning of others.

