

Thursday, August 27, 2020

Dear PPS Parents,

We are excited for school to begin next week. **As a reminder, school starts on Monday, August 31, for students in prekindergarten and grades 1-12. Kindergarten students begin on Thursday, September 3.** Our staff has been busy preparing, holding virtual back to school events, and coordinating supply and technology distributions. We are excited that all teachers and principals can communicate directly with families via text messaging through the parent engagement application - Talking Points. All Talking Points texts will come from a phone number with area code 415.

To receive text communications from your child's teachers or principal, please make sure the contact information we have on file is up to date. To review your information and provide updates or add new information such as an email address or text-enabled phone number, please visit www.pghschools.org/updateinfo.

E-Learning & Back to School Resources

As you and students prepare for the first day of school, we wanted to share some resources we have pulled together on accessing E-Learning Resources. Please visit www.pghschools.org/elearning for directions on how to support your child in signing into Clever to access Schoology. Directions are also available for parents that want to log in to Schoology to monitor their child's assignments. Please also check out our virtual webinar series recordings, which are available online at www.pghschools.org/ALLIN.

Computer Device Exchange and Need-Based Distribution

We ask families that have access to a personal device at home to continue to use that device for E-Learning until all of the District's devices arrive to support a full 1:1 model. We have been experiencing significant delays in our device orders because of supply chain issues and high demand. For families that received a device in the spring or need a device for their child, please review the information below.

- **PreKindergarten, Kindergarten, and 1st-grade students:**
Schools will manage the distribution of iPads for prekindergarten, kindergarten, and 1st-grade students. Please contact your child's school with any questions.
- **Grades 2- 5 – Need a Device:**
Device distribution will occur on Friday, August 28 (9 AM to 7 PM) and Saturday, August 29 (10 AM- 4 PM) at Carrick, Westinghouse, Pittsburgh Classical Academy, Oliver City-Wide Academy, and SciTech. Families that received a device through a summer program must exchange the device for a new one. The old device will not work.
- **Grades 6-12 – Need a Device or Need to Exchange Device**
Families that received a device in the spring or through a summer program must exchange the device for a new one. The old device will not work. Guardians must bring their child's current computer and charger. Families can exchange an existing device or pick up a device

on Friday, August 28 (9 AM to 7 PM) and Saturday, August 29 (10 AM- 4 PM) at Carrick, Westinghouse, Oliver City-Wide Academy, Pittsburgh Classical Academy and SciTech.

- **SciTech and CAPA:**

Both SciTech and CAPA are managing their distribution process. Please contact the school directly with questions.

Devices will only be distributed to the primary guardian of the child. Guardians will be asked to show their ID, bring their child's student ID #, and sign an acceptable use form.

Internet Essentials

Representatives from Comcast will be at Carrick, Westinghouse and Pittsburgh Classical Academy tomorrow, Friday, August 28, from 9 AM to 7 PM. They will also be available to families on Monday, August 31, at King and Faison from 9 AM to 3 PM. Comcast is offering 12-months of free internet to all families, even if there is an outstanding bill with Comcast. If you are unable to visit a site tomorrow, please call our Support Line at 412-529-HELP (4357) or submit a ticket through Let's Talk at www.pghschools.org/letstalk.

Fall Athletics

Following significant input from students, staff, and families, the Board voted to continue fall sports for this school year. Team conditioning will continue while the District finalizes the schedule for sports physicals and "ImPact" concussion testing. The official start date for fall practices will be announced once the schedule for physicals is finalized. Hundreds of PPS families tuned into the All-In webinar this evening as Athletics Director, Karen Arnold shared the District's procedures for ensuring the safe continuation of athletics. To view tonight's webinar and other webinars related to the reopening of school, visit www.pghschools.org/ALLIN.

Talking Points – A tool to engage with your child's teacher(s)

The District has invested in a parent-teacher engagement tool to support strong communications between parents and their child's teacher. To sign up, download the Talking Points parent app through your app store. You will need a text-enabled phone and the option to add your email address. All Talking Points texts from your child's teacher and school will come from a phone number with area code 415.

You Have Questions; Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Has Answers!

"How do I solve this word problem?" "I'm coming up short on rent this month. What can I do?" Whether your question is about your child's school, homework, social services, or anything else, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh has answers. The Library has resources you can enjoy for free that you may not know about like Tutor.com, live tutoring help for grades 4 through college-level all for free with your library card. Make Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh your first stop for any question. We are happy to talk to you and point you in the right direction. We even offer tech support!

- **Real-time chat assistance** is available from Library staff 7 days a week from 10 AM to 5 PM at www.carnegielibrary.org.
- **Call:** 412-622-3114
- **Text:** 412-775-3900
- **Email:** info@carnegielibrary.org
- **Twitter:** [@carnegielibrary](https://twitter.com/carnegielibrary)

- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/CarnegieLibraryOfPittsburgh
- **Instagram:** @carnegielibrary

Upcoming Board Meetings

The schedule of upcoming Board meetings is below. To view each meeting, visit our website at www.pghschools.org.

- Business and Finance Committee Meeting – Tuesday, September 1 at 5:30 PM
- Education Committee Meeting – Wednesday, September 2 at 5:30 PM

Anthony D. Hamlet, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools