

Pittsburgh-Allegheny Traditional Academy 6-8

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Dr. Yarra Howze, Principal

Student Handbook

“Standard of Everyday Excellence for Kids” (S.E.E.K.)

This handbook provides you with the guidelines followed at Pittsburgh-Allegheny Traditional Academy 6-8. Every member of the staff is here to help you have a successful and enjoyable year. Please read this book carefully, as it will answer many questions about your needs and what will be expected of you at Pittsburgh-Allegheny Traditional Academy 6-8.

Pittsburgh-Allegheny is comprised of an elementary school and a middle school. The Middle School is housed on the third and fourth floors of the main building, the fourth floor of the Arch Street wing and in several rooms throughout the Annex building. During class transitions to the Annex building, middle school students will use the main stairwell accompanied by an adult. All Pittsburgh-Allegheny students share common spaces such as our Grand Lobby and staircase, auditorium, gym, pool, cafeteria and the Annex. Many unique opportunities exist for collaboration among children in our elementary and middle schools.

The Middle School is comprised of ten homerooms which includes support for PSE students. All students are allotted two minutes travel time between periods. That time is to be utilized for taking care of personal needs and moving quietly to the next classroom.

In the beginning of the school year, students and parents will be asked to complete, sign and return many forms. ***It is imperative that these forms be returned to school.*** They include a school contract and Title I Compact, family information sheet, board health packet and medical form, technology acceptable use policy, and media/press release form. **It is important to keep the school up to date with correct contact information including your phone number and address.** Accurate records are needed in case of emergencies and for mailing monthly calendars, grades, progress reports, etc.

CORE BELIEFS

- Learning is a lifelong event that reaches beyond the walls of the classroom.
- Everyone in the child’s environment, including parents, students, teachers, and the community, is a resource for learning.
- Through school, community and home, children will develop a system of mutual respect which recognizes the diversity among us.

- The school, parents and community must work collaboratively to establish a safe and caring learning community.
- Clear goals, expectations and instructional strategies must be set to enable each student to reach his/her full potential.
- Clear communication channels are essential to the entire learning environment.

Pittsburgh-Allegheny Traditional Academy 6-8 will maintain a foundation of character development as a primary goal. Our children will behave appropriately, respect cultural diversity, and will develop self-confidence, self-discipline, and self-reliance. Students will provide service to their school and to the community.

Parents support the philosophy and practices of the Traditional Academy and are engaged as partners in the education of their children. Teachers and administrators refine their skills and seek professional development opportunities to improve their effectiveness. Teachers will use technology to lead instruction to prepare students. Collaborative efforts of educators, parents and the community help us realize our goals for our students.

PITTSBURGH-ALLEGHENY TRADITIONAL ACADEMY 6-8 ALMA MATER

By Joseph Stammera- vocal music teacher. 1992-93 (revised September 2000)

We sing with one voice,
 One heart, one mind.
 The past is behind us.
 Right now is our time.
 As we look to the future,
 Your lessons provide
 Our lives with a North Star
 To serve as our guide
 Allegheny, our hearts are true to thee,
 Where every challenge is an opportunity.
 With glory and honor, we're called to be
 Allegheny Traditional Academy
 Though high or low, the road may be,
 The path we follow is our destiny.
 Our education, we owe to thee,

A.T.A. forever, lovingly.
Allegheny, our hearts are true to thee,
Where every challenge is an opportunity.
With glory and honor, we're called to be
Allegheny Traditional Academy.

CAMPUS INFORMATION

All visitors will be admitted into the building through the Commons Street entrance during the school day. Navigating the campus of Pittsburgh-Allegheny 6-8 can present challenges for new families and students. However, students quickly learn their way around the campus. The list of terms below will assist you with campus life:

- Arch Street Wing- the front section of the school that faces Arch Street and the Aviary
- Astros (star) - our official school mascot.
- Royal Blue & White- our official school colors
- The Annex- The annex houses most sixth- grade classrooms as well as the Spanish, music and art rooms.
- Student Services Suite-fourth floor office
- Grand Lobby- main entrance
- Main staircase- largest center staircase used by visitors, students, and teachers.
- RAC (Restorative Adjustment Center) – room assigned for in-school restorative suspension.
- Middle School- located on the third and fourth floor and the Annex building.
- Middle School Main Office/Principal's office- third floor

SCHOOL PROCEDURES

Bell Schedule

Bell schedules will be sent home to families at the beginning of the year. You may also visit our website at www.pps.k12.pa.us for the bell schedule for your child's school.

Morning Arrival

All students will arrive on Arch Street and report directly to the metal detectors entering the main building on Commons Street. **STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO ENTER THROUGH THE ARCH STREET DOORS OR THE CAFETERIA DOORS. NO EXCEPTIONS!** Cell phones, smart watches, and ear buds should not be in use while entering the building (see the Electronic Device Policy). Students are not permitted to eat and drink while entering the school.

Open food or drink items will be thrown away. Teachers will report to the cafeteria at 8:30 a.m. to welcome their homeroom students. Students will sit at designated tables with their homeroom class. Dismissal from breakfast in the cafeteria will begin promptly at 8:55 a.m. Homeroom teachers will walk each class to their homerooms. Homeroom teachers and main office announcements will inform students of daily events. All students must be in their homerooms no later than 9:00 a.m. or a lunch detention will be issued. If the expected time slots for homeroom should change due to morning transportation schedules, students and families will be notified. Students who are tardy for school (after 9:15 a.m.) must report directly to the main office with a tardy excuse from their guardian upon arrival.

Breakfast

Eating breakfast at school is a privilege, and students may be excluded for improper behavior or loitering. Everyone is expected to clean up his or her own area. Students must leave the cafeteria when prompted in order to report promptly to homeroom. Food and drink are not permitted outside of the cafeteria. Students who arrive late will quickly finish breakfast in the cafeteria under the supervision of a staff member and then promptly report to HR with a pass from a staff member.

Lunch

The importance of appropriate cafeteria and recess behavior must be stressed with students. Good behavior at lunch sets the tone for the afternoon and maximizes instructional time. The following rules and procedures will make the cafeteria a more pleasant area:

- No food or drink will be permitted outside the cafeteria.
- Students must have a pass if they are leaving the cafeteria during lunch.
- Table manners are expected. Misuse of food or related items will result in consequences.
- Students will remain seated in the cafeteria until dismissed by teachers.
- A supervised recess will accompany each lunch session. Safety is our number one concern.
- Students will proceed quickly, quietly and in an orderly fashion to and from lunch/recess period with a teacher.
- Teachers will report to recess/lunch area at 12:55 p.m. to escort students to 6th period class.

Early Dismissal

Routine medical and dental appointments should be scheduled outside of the school day when possible. While it is not always possible to schedule appointments outside of school hours, it is

important that families try to keep early dismissals to a minimum. When children are called from class early, it is not only interrupting their education, but is also a disruption for all students in the classroom. Early dismissal arrangements should be made in advance. **The school must be notified in writing before 3:00 p.m.**, stating the time and reason for the early dismissal. Students should bring the written request to the main office during the homeroom period the day of the early dismissal. If it is necessary to excuse a student during school hours, parents are asked to do the following:

- Notify the child's teacher, in writing, stating the reason for the early dismissal and provide a telephone number to verify the early dismissal. The office will issue an early dismissal note after verification.
- **Report to the 3rd floor middle school Main Office to pick up the child** at the designated time and sign their student out of the building. Middle school parents will not be permitted to sign out middle school students from the elementary main office location. For safety reasons, no student is permitted to wait outdoors unsupervised.
- If someone is picking up the child other than the parent/guardian, inform the main office secretary. No child will be released to anyone other than a parent or legal guardian unless prior arrangements have been made and the person provides a valid photo identification.

Attendance

The educational, social, and emotional skills that a child develops during middle school will remain with them throughout their lives. The first part of the day is significant because it establishes the groundwork for the rest of the day; in the same manner as the first report card period sets the tone for the remainder of the school year. **Since Pittsburgh-Allegheny is a magnet school, students are required to maintain at least a 90% attendance rate to maintain enrollment in the magnet program.**

As of January 31, 2007, the following new attendance requirements in Pennsylvania became effective:

1. **Parents must submit excuses for absences within (3) days or the absence becomes permanently unlawful.**
2. Parents will receive a Notice of Unlawful Absence after the first and second absences.
3. If there is a third unexcused absence, parents will receive a **Notice of Unlawful Absences** and a warning that they may be liable in court without further notice. Parents and school staff will meet to establish a Truancy Elimination Plan.
4. A fourth unlawful absence will cause a citation to be issued by the District Magisterial Justice. Habitual truants may be fined or face other consequences.

5. Any student who misses more than 10 days –excused and/or unexcused absences - in one school year will be required to submit verification that the absence was due to illness, injury or hospitalization, impassable roads, religious observance, or bereavement.

Missing a class without a teacher's permission or legal excuse will be considered a class cut and the student will receive a consequence. This can include a parent conference, in-house suspension or suspension from school.

Tardiness

Students who arrive to homeroom after 9:00 a.m. are considered tardy. Students arriving at school after 9:15 a.m. for any reason must first report to the third floor Main Office to sign in **BEFORE** going to class. Students entering after 9:15 a.m. must have a written excuse from their guardian for their tardiness. The only exception is the late arrival of a school bus. Excessive tardiness interferes significantly with the learning process and is disruptive to our educational environment. The school staff will work with parents to improve punctuality. Being on time to all classes is required. There are two minutes between classes for transitions and to take care of personal needs. If a student is detained by a teacher, that teacher will provide a pass for the student. Initial steps to correct the problem will include a verbal warning, documented phone call home and lunch detention or a different consequence.

- Two accounts of tardiness will result in parental contact and lunch detention.
- Three accounts of tardiness will result in a possible after-school detention.

Attendance and Grades

Twenty-four (24) or more days absent in one school year shall be considered excessive and the student shall not be eligible to receive credit for the course being taken at that time. Tardiness that results in a student missing class or subject period will be considered and unexcused absence when calculating grades. Parents can track student progress through Home Access Center (HAC).

Student Dress Code

Students are permitted to wear only plain solid navy blue or khaki jumpers, skirts, slacks or walking shorts. **No sweat suits, hoodies, velour/spandex pants, or jeans are permitted.** Skirts and shorts must be no more than two inches above the knee. Plain solid white, light blue or navy-blue blouses or shirts with collars or turtlenecks are required.

Members of the National Junior Honor Society are permitted to wear red shirts of the same description. Undergarments should be solid in color and must not be seen. Earrings should be no larger than a quarter, necklaces should not be longer than your shirt collar. Only white or

dark colored socks or tights may be worn. **No sandals may be worn or shoes without closed heels (including CROCS and sport slides).**

Students may wear plain solid white or navy-blue sweaters or vests. All uniform shirts must have collars. Logos should **NOT** be larger than a quarter. **Navy blue sweatshirts without hoods are permitted.** All belts must be plain black, brown, white or navy blue. Tennis shoes are permitted to be worn.

Students are expected to be clean and neat every day. **Failure to follow the code is a breach of the Pittsburgh Allegheny 6-8 Tradition Academy dress code policy. The consequences for failure to conform to the dress code are an immediate call home and placement in all day in-school suspension (RAC), unless the parent can bring in the proper uniform.** Students may not dress out of uniform for field trips unless specifically informed to do so in a letter to the parent.

School Nurse

A school nurse is assigned to Pittsburgh Allegheny 6-8 Traditional Academy. The school nurse performs various testing services such as physical examinations and vision/hearing screenings. She is certified to identify contagious conditions. When necessary, she makes referrals for parental follow-up. The nurse works closely with school personnel in case of suspected neglect or abuse. For students who take medication on a regular basis, the proper forms must be filled out and submitted to the nurse accompanying the medications. Students cannot carry medicine to school on their own. Lastly, students must have written adult permission to report to the nurse's station.

Fire Drills

The purpose of the fire drill is to establish a procedure for evacuating the building quickly and safely in case of an emergency. It ensures proper student and adult reaction to emergency situations. Students are to exit the classrooms and follow predetermined routes to the outdoors. It is essential that all children are silent and orderly.

When the fire alarm sounds:

- Students will form a line quickly, quietly and in an orderly manner.
- Teachers or monitors will close classroom doors; windows should be closed if it does not cause a serious delay. Attendance sheets will be carried out by teachers.
- No one is permitted to stop to obtain outer clothing or backpacks after the alarm sounds.
- Occupants will walk to the nearest unobstructed exit and leave the building in an orderly manner.

- Assistance will be provided according to a pre-arranged plan for those students who are incapable of moving at a moderate speed during the drill.
- Each class will proceed to the pre-determined point outside the building that provides enough distance to allow the fire department to carry out the necessary operations without interference from students.
- Each teacher will use an attendance sheet to account for all the students assigned to that class during the fire drill.

If for any reason a student is out of the classroom when the first drill or disaster drill is sounded, they are not to attempt to rejoin their class. If a fire alarm has sounded, they are to exit the building and meet their group in the designated area.

Severe Weather Drill

Pittsburgh experiences a variety of weather conditions during the school year which have caused weather emergencies. For high winds and tornado drills, an alarm will sound and there will be an announcement made for all students and staff to proceed to the predetermined safe areas within the building. These safe areas will be located away from outside windows and walls. Further directions will be given as needed.

Textbooks/School Issued Technology

Students are responsible for textbooks and technology assigned to them during class periods. They are expected to take good care of the books and technology and will pay for any damaged learning materials owned by the school that are abused or lost. Promotion certificates and report cards may be held until the required compensation is paid.

PPS Electronic Device Policy 216

Purpose

The Board recognizes that the use of electronic devices within the classroom can serve legitimate instructional purposes. However, under many circumstances such items serve as a distraction from the educational process and can be used by students to engage in inappropriate activities.

Definition

Electronic devices shall include all devices that can take photographs; record or store audio or video data; store, transmit or receive messages, images or data; or provide a wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet. Examples of electronic devices include, but shall not be limited to, cellular telephones, smartphones (e.g. iPhones and Android devices; telephone paging devices/beepers; global positioning system (GPS) devices; laptop computers; portable

game units; mp3 players; personal digital assistants (PDAs); digital cameras; tablet personal computers (e.g. iPads), as well as any new technology developed with similar capabilities.

The **school-based Discipline Committee** is a school level group convened under the leadership of the school principal at least once per month to review available discipline data and discuss strengths and weaknesses of the school's disciplinary climate. The Discipline Committee in each school may consist of school personnel from the following areas, and all employee groups must be given the opportunity to be represented: principal-chairperson, teachers, support personnel, assistant principal, paraprofessional, custodial staff, security, cafeteria staff, activities director, and/or bus coordinator.

School day as used in this policy shall mean the time during which students are in attendance at school, including on the school bus, while traveling from home to school and school to home, on school field trips, or other school-related activities which occur during typical school hours.

Authority

The Board generally prohibits electronic devices from being visible, used, or turned on by students during the school day in District buildings and on District property, subject to the specific Board-approved exceptions and guidelines contained herein.[\[1\]](#)

The Board grants school-based Discipline Committees the discretion to adopt school level electronic device restrictions, so long as the school has identified a legitimate educational interest for the restriction, and prior written notice has been issued to students and parents/guardians.

The school principal shall cause the Board of School Directors to be notified upon adoption of any school-level electronic device restrictions.

The Board prohibits possession of laser pointers and attachments and telephone paging devices/beepers by students on school property, on buses and other vehicles provided by the District, and at school-sponsored activities.[\[2\]](#)

Violations of this policy or any properly established school-based electronic device restriction by a student shall result in disciplinary action and may result in confiscation of the electronic device.

The District shall not be liable for the loss, damage or misuse of any electronic device brought to school by a student. The District reserves its right to disclaim liability for the loss, damage or misuse of an electronic device that is confiscated due to a violation of this policy or any properly established school-based electronic device restriction. The Superintendent or designee shall establish and maintain a review procedure to address claims that a student or parent/guardian-owned electronic device was damaged upon confiscation.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians and staff about the District's electronic device policy by publishing such policy in the student handbook, newsletters, posted notices, and other efficient methods.

Exceptions to the prohibitions set forth in this policy may be made as identified in applicable administrative regulations.

Guidelines

Exceptions to General Prohibition

The building administrator may grant approval for possession and use of an electronic device by a student for the following reasons:

1. Health, safety or emergency reasons.
2. As required by a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.[3]
3. Approved classroom or instructional-related activities.
4. Other reasons determined appropriate by the building principal.

Laptop Computers/Personal Digital Assistants

Laptop computers and personal digital assistants (PDAs) brought to school shall be restricted to classroom or instructional-related activities. Students shall comply with the guidelines set by the classroom teacher or school officials for the educational use of laptop computers and PDAs.

Telephone Pagers/Beeper

With prior administrative approval, the telephone paging device/beeper prohibition shall not apply in the following cases:

1. A student who is a member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance or rescue squad.
2. A student who has a need for such a device due to the medical condition of an immediate family member.
3. Other reasons determined appropriate by the school principal.

Personal Items

Students are asked to be extremely careful about leaving valuable items unattended on desks, in classrooms, in the lunchroom and in unlocked lockers. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen articles. Students must secure their electronic devices (other than school issued computers) out of sight. If personal electronic devices are seen, they will be confiscated as indicated in the PPS Electronic Device policy 216. Parents will be notified to plan to retrieve the personal devices from the main office. Students who refuse to turn in their personal devices when directed will receive a disciplinary consequence.

Personal Messages

If there is a need to contact your child, please call the school rather than calling a personal cell phone. **Students are not permitted to use their cell phones during school hours.** However, the office staff will not take a telephone message for a student unless it is a true emergency. Please plan with your child in the morning before arriving at school concerning changes in routine. We try to avoid interruptions during the instructional day. The school cannot be held responsible for telephone messages which are not of an urgent nature.

Hall Behavior

Students are expected to walk and maintain appropriate levels of quiet in the hallways and stairways. Failure to demonstrate appropriate behavior during transitions throughout the day will result in a consequence.

Horse-playing and Rough-housing

Horse playing often leads to injury and more serious school disruptions. Students are reminded weekly at student meetings to refrain from engaging in horseplay. Violations may result in a disciplinary action. Policy 102 – Non-Discrimination in School and Classroom Practices

Policy 102 – Non-Discrimination in School and Classroom Practices

Board Policy 102 states in part:

The Board declares it to be the policy of the District to provide an equal opportunity for all students to achieve their maximum potential through the programs and activities offered in the schools without discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, gender (including gender identity or expression), sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or disability.

The District is committed to the maintenance of a safe, positive learning environment for all students that is free from discrimination by providing all students course offerings, counseling, assistance, services, employment, athletics and extracurricular activities without any form of discrimination, including Title IX sexual harassment. Discrimination is inconsistent with the rights of students and the educational and programmatic goals of the District and is prohibited at or, in the course of, District-sponsored programs or activities, including transportation to or from school or school-sponsored activities. Discrimination is also prohibited in any remote learning program or activity of the District.

For the full text of Board Policy 102-Non-Discrimination in School and Classroom Practices, please visit: <http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/pghboe/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C2GLCB559E51>

For information about our Title IX procedures, please visit: <https://www.pghschools.org/titleIX>

Bathroom Privileges

Students may visit the bathrooms during the two-minute transition time between classes. True emergencies will be the only exception of time out of the classroom. If a medical problem necessitates frequent bathroom visits, a note must be submitted to the main office from a doctor.

Lockers

Each student on campus is assigned a locker. Students are to quietly visit their lockers at designated times: before homeroom, before lunch, after lunch and at the end of each school day. Locks must be purchased and used by each Pittsburgh-Allegheny 6-8 student.

A student's locker is the property of the school and must be used for the purposes intended: a storage area for books, school supplies and outdoor garments.

If school officials have reasonable suspicion that the student has illegal substances or weapons in the locker, the school will conduct a search of that locker.

Assembly and Auditorium Behavior

Assemblies will be held at various times throughout the school year. Each class has an assigned section in the auditorium. Students are to sit with their class unless otherwise instructed. It is important that children learn and demonstrate appropriate audience behavior. Students must sit quietly and pay attention to the speaker and/or performance. Students are expected to always be respectful and responsive. Entry and exit from the auditorium must be quiet and orderly. A student's inability to adhere to the auditorium behavioral expectations will result in a consequence in accordance with the student code of conduct.

Field Trips

Field trips are scheduled to enhance the educational process or to provide opportunities for achievement, recognition, or reward. Attending field trips is a privilege. Therefore, if a student's behavior is thought to potentially disrupt the activity, the student may not be permitted to attend field trips. Classroom teachers and the principal make the final decision. Signed parental permission slips must be returned before any student leaves the campus.

Communication

Pittsburgh-Allegheny Traditional Academy 6-8 teachers intend to keep an open line of parent/teacher communication. This includes monthly calendars, letters carried or mailed

home, progress reports, report cards, conferences, telephone calls, auditory school messenger system, email, and requested parent conference days.

Blackboard Connect and Talking Points

These are notification systems that give Pittsburgh-Allegheny Traditional Academy 6-8 the ability to reach you in minutes. These systems will be used to communicate time sensitive information, event invitations, and/or attendance notifications. They are the most efficient ways to keep our campus safe and to keep our families informed and involved. These messages can be relayed through phone calls, emails and by text. Parents have the option to set up the ways in which you would like to be notified.

Student Services Personnel

A full-time social worker and student service assistant are members of our school team. The social worker and student service assistant will aid and guide students by supporting them in establishing educational, social and career-oriented goals. In addition, the social worker will support parents and caretakers by facilitating meetings, phone conferences, and acting as a liaison between families and the school staff.

We offer special programs that are designed to: assist students in accomplishing their individual goals, provide an orientation for new students to the school, assist students moving on to a new school, and support students who are selecting high schools and academic courses. To assist some students in adjusting to the unique demands of middle school, our campus offers the following services: counseling, mediation, organization presentations, and agency outreach services. The SAP team (Student Assistance Programs) is partnered with external service provider agencies and the school's CORE team to support the needs of our students.

ACADEMICS

Honor Roll

Children who achieve a grade point average of 3.00 to 3.49 receive Honor Roll status. Children who achieve a grade point average of 3.50 to 4.00 receive High Honor Roll status. Please note the different units attached to courses. They can range from .5 to 2.0 units depending on the class. Grade point average (GPA) is weighted accordingly. Students who maintain a grade average of 3.4 and above could be eligible for membership into the National Junior Honor Society.

Homework

Homework provides many benefits to students and parents. Homework incorporates skill practice which is necessary for retention and mastery. It enriches and supplements the classroom experiences. It also provides parents with information about what is being taught in the classroom and the quality of their child's work. In addition to the academic benefits, the

consistent completion of homework promotes the student's ability to improve their time management skills, ability to adhere to deadlines, and manage their organization skills. It also assists in the development of responsibility, self-discipline, imagination and creativity.

Homework is assigned four nights a week. Homework in grades six through eight can range from one to two hours daily. Homework for a particular subject is ten percent of a student's grade. Parents can help their student(s) successfully complete homework assignments by providing an appropriate home environment for their students to complete homework, establishing a consistent homework time, reviewing homework for neatness and accuracy, and contacting the teachers for clarification and assistance when needed. Parents are encouraged to create an email tree for establishing consistent communication with teachers throughout the school year.

Probation Letters

Every student enrolled in Pittsburgh-Allegheny 6-8 must attend school regularly, adjust to the school culture, and achieve academically and socially. All rules and regulations of the District Code of Conduct and the Traditional Academy Code must be followed as outlined in the contract. Failure to meet these requirements could result in magnet probationary status. Probation letters are sent to the homes when this occurs. At this point, parent conferences will be scheduled. We will work together to help your child achieve. **Students who do not attend school (attendance less than 90%) or make an effort to achieve success and adjust to the culture of the Traditional Academy (6 or more days of suspensions) may lose their district magnet status and enrollment at Pittsburgh-Allegheny Traditional Academy 6-8.**

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- **Honors Day Out** – quarterly reward activities for honor roll and perfect attendance
- **Science Fair**- annual event to celebrate inquiry based scientific reasoning
- **Service-Learning Project** – the student body will participate in a service project each year
- **Career Fair** – 6th -8th grades will participate in an annual Career Exploration Fair

Extra-curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities offered at Pittsburgh-Allegheny Traditional Academy 6-8 include: Interscholastic Athletics, Intramural Sports, Extended Day Tutoring Program, National Junior Honors Society, Yearbook Club, Book Club, African American Challenge Bowl, Student Council, Leadership Clubs, and many other new and exciting activities will be introduced at the Back to School Night.

Interscholastic Athletics

Pittsburgh-Allegheny Traditional Academy 6-8 sponsors girls' and boys' teams for the following sports:

- **Fall** (September and October)
 - Volleyball
 - Co-ed team Cross-Country
 - Flag Football
- **Winter** (November – February)
 - Swimming
 - Basketball
- **Spring** (March – May)
 - Soccer
 - Wrestling

The teams are open to all middle school girls and boys who meet the following qualifications:

1. Have a 2.0 GPA or better on their report card and maintain that average or above throughout the season.
2. Pass a physical examination within six weeks of the start of each sport season.

Students may only participate in one sport per season. If a student is assigned to RAC or suspended, they cannot participate with the team that day.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

This is defined as being in school on time, every day all day long. Any excused absence, tardiness, early dismissals, medical excuses, or out of school suspensions rule out having perfect attendance. Bus tardiness or bus absences are the only exceptions. For each marking period, students with perfect attendance may participate in the Honors Day Out fieldtrip.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Meetings with the principal are by appointment only. Requests for classroom visits are only honored upon the principal's review and approval. Parents are encouraged to participate in meaningful ways in our school culture. Opportunities are open for parents to meet with grade-level teams at the request of the parent or the team. Some opportunities for parent participation and involvement include: the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), monthly evening Content Nights, Parent School Community Council (PSCC), and to represent Pittsburgh-Allegheny Traditional Academy 6-8 at district wide meetings. Volunteer work at our school is always encouraged, if the parent has filed the required clearances at the school. We urge parents interested in frequently volunteering for activities to obtain clearances and **approval from the school principal.**

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Pittsburgh-Allegheny Traditional Academy 6-8 adheres strictly to the District Student Code of Conduct. In addition:

- Students are to **show respect for all staff**, other students, parents, visitors and property through consistent demonstration of appropriate behavior and appropriate language.
- Students will follow the directives of **all adults in charge**.
- Students will comply with all aspects of the Allegheny 6-8 uniform dress code, unless otherwise instructed.
- Students are to report promptly to their assigned areas when they arrive at school each day. For safety purposes, students must behave in a manner appropriate to the school's code of conduct and follow the directions of the adults in charge.
- Students will quietly visit their lockers four times each day (during homeroom, before and after lunch, and at dismissal) under teacher supervision.
- Students will sit in their assigned seats in all classes and common areas unless otherwise excused by the adult in charge.
- Students will remain in the classroom and assigned area unless permitted or directed to go elsewhere (with a hall pass).
- Students will utilize the bathroom during their transition time between classes (or during class for emergencies only).
- Money is not to be brought to school except for purchase of snacks and/or other approved school activities.
- Eating is permitted only at breakfast and lunch times (in the cafeteria) or during approved activities. Students are not permitted to bring candy, gum, beverages, or any other snacks to school to consume during class time.
- Toys, games, and any type of permanent markers (example: sharpies, etc.) are not to be brought to school except for pre-approved activities.

Bus Behavior

Riding a school bus is a privilege. Students must behave appropriately and safely while being transported on the school bus. They must remain seated, talk softly, and open windows ONLY when directed by the driver. They may not “hang out” of windows, shout at passers-by, move about or eat on the bus, throw things, or touch other individuals. Video cameras are installed on school buses to ensure safety for all.

Any misbehavior that distracts the driver is a very serious hazard to the safe operation of the bus and jeopardizes the safety of all the passengers. If a student incident is of a more severe nature, it may result directly in a bus suspension or out of school suspension. Continued misconduct by students on the bus will ultimately result in the complete loss of bus transportation privileges. ***Students do not have the autonomy to change their bus assignments for after-school destinations.*** For safety reasons, children must go home on their

assigned bus. Students are insured only for their assigned buses and may not ride on unassigned buses.

Students are expected to follow the regulations of the Pittsburgh Public Schools Code of Student Conduct. They must also follow all staff established rules and procedures of Pittsburgh-Allegheny Traditional Academy 6-8. For more information, please contact the school's main office at 412-529-4117 or refer to the Code of Student Conduct, available on the district website, www.pps.k12.pa.us.