



**POTTSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL**

**STUDENT AND PARENT**

**HANDBOOK**

**2022-2023**

**Parent and Student Handbook  
2022-2023**

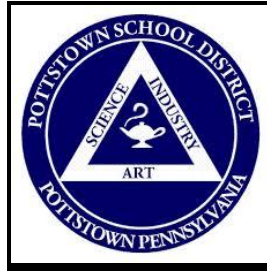
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## **The School Seal**



The seal is symbolic of the school. The central figure is a lamp burning vigorously. This is to represent the light of education as it spreads understanding, tolerance, and information to the world. Enclosing the lamp of learning is a triangle bearing the names of three general fields of endeavor. Resting on a base of art, which is indicative of all culture, the other two phases of school activity, science and industry, reach upward to form the apex of the triangle. Twin circles bearing between them the name of the school, town, and state confine all of the symbols. These circles represent the unity of the school district and serve to remind us that we have a single, basic institution.

## **Administration**

Gavin Lawler  
Theresa Baller  
Gavin Lawler  
Justin Baker

Interim Principal  
Director of Career and Technical Education  
Assistant Principal  
Director of Co-Curricular Activities

## **Contact Information**

750 North Washington Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464

Main Office	610-970-6700
Attendance Office	610-970-6710
Career and Counseling Office	610-970-6715
Nurse's Office	610-970-6713
School Resource Officer (SAFE-Line)	610-970-6705
School Fax	610-970-1363
Website	<a href="http://www.pottstownschoools.org">www.pottstownschoools.org</a>

## **Access to Grades, Attendance & Discipline**

Students and parents can gain access to the most current grades, attendance, and discipline reports by logging into the Home Access Center. A link can be found on the school district's website, [www.pottstownschoools.org](http://www.pottstownschoools.org).

Parents/Guardians login information is different from the students' login information. Notifications of absences and failing grades can be sent to parents through the automated system. These notifications must be set up by the parents/guardians. To set up notifications or to sign up, please visit the Pottstown School District web page and follow the link for parents.

**It is important that students and parents/guardians regularly check attendance and grades via HAC. The parent and school partnership is critical to the academic success of children. Please contact the Assistant Principal's secretary if you have forgotten your login or password.**

## **Assurance of Non-Discrimination Notice**

It is the policy of the Pottstown School District not to discriminate on the basis of sex, age, handicap, race, color, or national origin in its educational and vocational programs, activities, or employment as required by Title IX, Section 504, Title VI, and the A.D.A.

For information about your rights and grievance procedures, contact the Title IX, 504, Title VI, and A.D.A. Coordinator, Stephen Rodriguez, Pottstown School District, Beech and Penn Streets, Pottstown PA 19464

## **Athletics and Clubs**

### **Athletics & Clubs Guidelines**

- Any student in an Co-curricular program (as listed below) who serves or is elected to an officer or captain position, may be removed if that student fails to fulfill his or her responsibilities.
- The Faculty Advisor or Coach may place an officer or captain on probation for a period of time before recommending the removal of a student from such a position to the high school administration.
- If the high school administration accepts the faculty advisor/coach's recommendation, the student will be removed from office for the remainder of the school year.
- A new officer or captain may be appointed without an election, if deemed appropriate by high school administration.

### **Athletics (grades 9-12)**

- Fall Sports begin August 15, 2022
  - Football, Field Hockey, Girls' Tennis, Boys' Soccer, Girls' Soccer, Girls' Volleyball, Golf, Cross Country, and Cheerleading
- Winter Sports begin November 18, 2022
  - Boys' Basketball, Girls' Basketball, Cheerleading, and Wrestling
- Spring Sports begin March 6, 2023
  - Baseball, Softball, Girls' Lacrosse, Boys' Tennis and Boys'/Girls' Track

## Co-Curricular Code of Conduct

*Co-Curricular activities are a privilege and not a right.* In addition to individual team/club rules, all participants are required to adhere to the Co-Curricular Code of Conduct as it is outlined below. Infractions to the Code of Conduct may be subject to consequences ranging from suspension from the activity for a determined time period to removal from all school activities for the entire school year. These consequences will be determined by the coaches, advisors and/or administration.

- Conduct - A firm and fair policy for enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the high school. The community, school administrators, advisors and coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of co-curricular activities, including athletics. The welfare of the student is our major consideration. All participants shall abide by a code of ethics which will earn them the honor and respect that participation and competition in the interscholastic programs afford. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the student, the team, the club or the school will not be tolerated. Acts of unacceptable conduct in school, on social media, or in the community, such as, but not limited to, theft, vandalism, disrespect, immorality, or violations of the law that tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the program will not be tolerated. Penalties for such violations could range from loss of status on the team or in the club, suspension, or dismissal.
- Equipment - School equipment checked out by a student is the responsibility of the student. Loss of any equipment is the student's financial obligation. This includes but is not limited to uniforms, warmups, protective equipment, and other equipment provided by the school.
- Missing Practice or Meetings – A student should always consult their coach or advisor before missing practice/meetings/competitions. Missing a meeting, practice or a competition without good reason will be dealt with firmly and could range from loss of status on the team or in the club to suspension or dismissal. The attendance policy for each club/team will be properly communicated by the advisor/coach at the start of school year/season.
- Travel - All students must travel to and from out of town athletic contests or club activities in transportation provided by the school unless previous arrangements are made and approved by an administrator. Exceptional situations may include but are not limited to weddings, funerals, or the prom. Notifications must be given in writing prior to the event and students must be picked up or dropped off by a parent/guardian. These notifications must also be signed and dated by the parent/guardian
  - Students will remain with their team/club and under the supervision of the coach/advisor when attending away contests.
  - Students who miss the bus will not be allowed to participate in the contest unless there are extenuating circumstances. (See above) These situations will be evaluated on an individual basis by the coach/advisor/administrator
  - Students are not to drive any vehicles to or from events.
  - All regular bus rules will be followed.
  - Dress appropriately and in good taste when traveling with the team/club.
  - Off-Campus misconduct will be addressed and treated as if it was on school property. During these away contests/activities, you are still representing Pottstown High School and will be held accountable.
- College Recruitment - College recruitment information is available in the Career and Counseling Suite. All students must adhere to all of PIAA, NCAA and other governing bodies policies as it pertains to college recruitment.
- Attendance - Students must be in attendance in school in order to participate in practice or events for that day. Exceptions to this rule would involve absenteeism for an excused reason such as college visitation, doctor's appointment, driver's test, or other situations as determined by the administration. Students must be in the high school and middle school by **8:45 a.m.** to participate in games or practices that day. **Parent notes do not qualify as acceptable excuses for lateness.**
- Dismissal From Class - It is the responsibility of the students to communicate with their teachers prior to early dismissal from class for an event. It is also the student's responsibility to make up whatever work is missed due to the early dismissal in the timeline given by the teacher.
- Grooming and Dress - Appearance, expression, and actions always influence people's opinions of athletes and club members, the team or club, and the school. Once a student has committed to being a member



of a squad or club, they have made a choice to uphold certain standards expected of athletes and club members. You are representing Pottstown High School and it is expected that you will in no way embarrass yourself or your school by behaving or dressing inappropriately.

- Reporting of Injuries - All injuries which occur while participating in athletics should be reported to the athletic trainer/head coach immediately. If the injury requires further medical attention by a doctor or a treatment center, it will be necessary to have an injury report form completed. If the injury/incident requires additional attention, the athletic trainer/head coach will also communicate with the building administration/nurse. Once an athlete is treated by advanced medical care, the athlete must obtain the doctor's permission to return to the activity.
- Locker Room Regulations - Roughhousing, throwing of objects, and any lewd behavior is not allowed in the locker room.
  - All showers must be turned off. The last person to leave the shower room is expected to check all showers.
  - No one except coaches and assigned players are allowed in the locker room.
  - No glass containers are permitted in the locker room.
  - All spiked or cleated shoes must be put on and taken off outside the gym lobby. No metal or hard plastic spikes or cleats are ever allowed in any other part of the school building.
  - All students are provided with a lock for their lockers. It is the students' responsibility to lock their lockers at all times. No personal belongings shall be left out in the locker room
- Hazing
  - The Pottstown School District does not condone any form of initiation or harassment known as hazing as a part of any school sponsored activity. This regulation is established that no student, coach, volunteer, or employee shall plan, direct, encourage, assist, or engage in any hazing activity. Hazing is defined as any activity that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health, or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or membership into a Pottstown School District organization. Endangering the physical health shall include but is not limited to any brutality of a physical nature such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, beverage, drug or controlled substance, or other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual. Endangering the mental health shall include any activity that would subject an individual to extreme mental stress such as prolonged sleep deprivation, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact, forced conduct, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual. Any hazing activity, whether by an individual or a group, shall be presumed to be a forced activity even if a student willingly participates. If any hazing activities occur, this will result in the coach's immediate termination of responsibilities and/or the release of any and all students involved.

### **Eligibility for Co-Curricular Activities**

Pottstown High School is a member of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA), and its interscholastic athletic program is governed by the rules and regulations of that association. The athletic program is controlled by the principal of the high school and the Athletic Director. Pottstown is a member of the Pioneer Athletic Conference. As a full member of the PAC, we adhere to all conference rules and regulations.

The co-curricular activities programs shall be open to all students who meet the following Pottstown School District requirements. Co-curricular activities include but are not limited to athletics, clubs, non-curricular music/drama programs, assemblies, the Prom, dances, field trips, Homecoming, or any other non-academic school functions.

- Students must pursue a curriculum approved by the principal or their designee.
- Every week, students must be passing at least three (3) credits. If a student's current semester schedule has less than three (3) credits, he or she must be passing all classes to be considered eligible. Eligibility is tabulated at 10:00 a.m. every Friday morning and runs Sunday to Saturday of the coming week. **Once a student is ineligible, he/she may not participate in competition until eligibility is checked again the next week and the student is found to be eligible. If a student is ineligible based on a marking period grade, that student will not be eligible until 15 school days of the next making period is complete. The report**

**will then be run on the next Friday that follows those 15 days. The first semester grade will be used instead of the 2nd marking period grade.**

- Students may have Academic Recovery / Study Hall time assigned for not meeting academic eligibility requirements. Failure to complete the assigned hours may result in a loss of eligibility for the following week, missed hours must be completed before a student can regain academic eligibility.
  - Students who are ineligible are expected to participate in all practices and study halls as per the directive of the coach or advisor.
  - Ineligible students will be dismissed early and/or miss school for co-curricular activities. This includes but is not limited to away sports events, non-academic field trips, etc.
  - For purposes of eligibility, all classes are judged by the current number scale, with less than 60% being a failing grade.
  - A student must be in attendance and must arrive at school prior to 8:45 a.m. to participate in a practice, game, or event.
  - PIAA states that any student missing 20 or more days in a semester is ineligible to participate in any interscholastic sports for 45 attended days after the 20<sup>th</sup> missed day.
  - Students who are suspended out of school (OSS) or expelled may not participate in any after school competitions or activities during the period of suspension/expulsion.
  - Students who are assigned in-school suspension (ISS) may not participate in after school competitions/events on the day(s) of the suspension but are expected to participate in all practices or study halls as per the directive of the coach or advisor.
  - Students who have 5 or more incidents of suspension (ISS or OSS), forfeit the privilege to participate in athletics, field trips, dances (including the prom), pep rallies, class trips, and all other co-curricular activities for the remainder of the school year.
- No student may participate in a sport that has an outstanding obligation to the athletic department until the obligation has been satisfied.
- Students who do not meet the deadlines for Contract Physical Education will be ineligible for co-curricular activities, including the prom, until completed and approved by their advisor.
- Eligibility for academic field trips is determined by the 5 or more incidents of suspension. Eligibility for non-academic field trips will be determined by the 5 or more incidents of suspension, and *include the minimum passing grade requirement of 3 credits.*
- If a student does not pass the 3 credit minimum at the end of the school year, that student will be ineligible for the first 15 school days of the next school year. Their next opportunity to be eligible will be the first Friday following the 15 school days. If the student completes the summer school necessary to meet these requirements, the student will then be eligible at the start of the next school year.

In all activities, the coach/advisor shall select the students who shall represent the school. The coach/advisor is given the privilege of cutting students to attain a workable or required number. Cuts, when necessary, will be based on students' ability, attitude, general proficiency, and any other criteria that the coach/advisor deems important for the students representing their team/student organization.

#### **Athletic Insurance**

The Pottstown School District makes it possible for all students to purchase insurance covering accidents. The cost is nominal. This policy normally covers any accidents from the time the student leaves home until he returns home, provided there is not an extended period of time after school hours. Teachers will make the necessary information available to their homeroom students at the beginning of each term.

**No student** may participate in any sport unless covered by either school insurance or adequate insurance from some other source. Parents who do not take advantage of the school insurance program must complete a form indicating the type of insurance that they carry and releasing the school district from responsibility for injuries which may be received by participating in the sport. This information will also need to be on the PIAA Comprehensive Interscholastic Pre-Participation Exam (CIPPE) packet. This packet must be completed by any student athletes participating in sports and turned into the athletic trainer prior to participation.

For those students who carry school insurance, a claim form is available at the school to which the parents should attach all bills. When these are returned to the school, they will be forwarded to the insurance company and the insurance company will fulfill its obligations in regard to the injured student. In order to be honored, the forms must be filled out completely. A proof of school insurance enrollment must also be given to the athletic trainer along with the rest of the CIPPE packet.

### Student Organizations

Art Club	FCCLA	Reading Olympics
Chess Club	HOSA	Robotics
Interact Club	Service Club	Troiad
Concert Band	Marching Band	Skills USA
DECA	Mixed Ensemble	Stage Crew
Engineering Club	National Honor Society	Student Government
Color Guard	P.E.A.C.	Comic Universe
Class Officers	Athletic Teams	

### Dances

All dances at PHS are considered “closed dances.” This means that any individual who is not enrolled at PHS must complete an Administrative Approval Form at least one school day prior to the dance. All guests must be under the age of 21. Dances end at 10:00 unless otherwise stated. Students must meet eligibility requirements to attend any PHS dance.

## Attendance

It is expected that each student will be present every day that school is in session. Every absence and tardy is entered on each student's permanent record. Parents are encouraged to call the Attendance Office at 610-970-6710 to notify the school when their child will be absent. Students may not be permitted to make up work from unexcused or unlawful absences. Upon returning to school from any absence:

- Students must submit a written parental statement that includes the student's first and last name, date(s) of the absence(s), and reason for the absence, phone number and parent/guardian signature.
- Notes are to be given to the Attendance Office clerk or a photo or scanned picture of the note can be emailed to [mhopkins@pottstownk12.org](mailto:mhopkins@pottstownk12.org). Notes may also be faxed to 610-970-1363.
- Phone calls are not valid legal excuses. All excuses must be in writing.
- If the student does not submit this written note within three (3) days of his/her return to school, the absence is considered unlawful. Students over the age of 18 will be considered unexcused (see board policy for more information).
- No more than ten (10) parental notes will excuse a child per school year. This includes tardy notes. Upon submission of note # 8, a warning email will be sent to the Parent or Guardian. All absences or tardy may only be excused with a Doctor's note.
- Unlawful and unexcused absences resulting from the failure to turn in an approved note within the 3 day time period will not be changed.
- Students absent three (3) or more consecutive school days *within the same school year* must present a physician's excuse in order to be considered medically excused.
- Students needing to leave school early for any reason must have a handwritten note turned into the Attendance Office the morning of the dismissal. The note must include a parent/guardian signature and phone number where they can be reached to verify the note. An email from a parent is acceptable when sent three days in advance so school staff can call and verify authenticity. Phone calls and/or emails will not be accepted the day of the request.
- The State of Pennsylvania defines “truancy” as a student who has missed 3 days of unexcused absence from school and “habitual truancy” as a student who has 6 or more days of unexcused absence from school in a school year.

- When a student has a medical or dental appointment that requires early dismissal from school, a note from that office must be turned in immediately upon returning from the appointment. If the note is not handed in, the absence will be recorded as illegal.
- The attendance office emails and mails truancy warnings when students have reached 3 and 6 days unexcused absences. Notifications are also sent home through the parent portal.

Pottstown School Board Policy 204 states:

The Board requires that school age students enrolled in district schools attend school regularly, in accordance with state laws. The Board recognizes the importance of regular attendance to ensure student success in the district's instructional program.

### **Authority**

Attendance shall be required of every student enrolled in district schools during the days and hours that school is in session, except that a principal or teacher may excuse a student for temporary absences when receiving satisfactory evidence of mental, physical, or other urgent reasons that may reasonably cause the student's absence. Urgent reasons shall be strictly construed and do not permit irregular attendance.

The Board considers the following conditions to constitute reasonable cause for absence from school:

1. Illness or Quarantine.
2. Death in the immediate family.
3. Family educational trips with prior written approval.
4. Educational tours and trips with prior written approval.
5. Religious obligations.
6. A driver's examination with prior written approval.
7. College visitations or a job interview with prior written approval.

When a student returns from an absence, s/he must present a written excuse within three (3) school days of his/her return to school, or the absence shall be considered unexcused or unlawful. A written excuse from a doctor will also be required of any student who has been absent for three (3) consecutive school days.

In the case of irregular attendance or excessive absences, the student may be required to present a doctor's excuse to cover each subsequent absence. Under these circumstances, any absences that are not covered by a doctor's excuse will automatically be marked unexcused or unlawful. This will be communicated to students and parents through the student handbook at each school. In cases where parents or students would like to appeal the requirement contained herein for irregular or excessive absences, the principal will be responsible to consider the facts presented and make the decision. All decisions made by the principals can be appealed to the superintendent or his/her designee. The decision rendered by the superintendent or his/her designee shall be considered final.

The Board shall report to appropriate authorities infractions of the law regarding the attendance of students below the age of eighteen(18). The Board shall issue notice to those parents/guardians who fail to comply with the requirements of compulsory attendance that such infractions will be prosecuted according to law.

Attendance need not always be within school facilities. A student will be considered in attendance if present at any place where school is in session by authority of the Board; the student is receiving approved tutorial instruction, or health or therapeutic services; the student is engaged in an approved and properly supervised independent study, work-study or career education program; the student is receiving approved homebound instruction.

Upon written request by a parent/guardian, an absence occasioned by observance of a student's religion on a day approved by the Board as a religious holiday shall be excused. A penalty shall not be attached to an absence for a religious holiday.

The Board shall, upon written request of the parents/guardians, release from attendance a student participating in a religious instruction program acknowledged by the Board. Such instruction shall not require the child's absence

from school for more than thirty-six (36) hours per school year, and its organizers must inform the Board of the child's attendance record. No part of the cost and expense of religious instruction shall be paid for out of district funds. The Board shall not provide transportation to religious instruction. A penalty shall not be attached to an absence for religious instruction.

The Board shall permit a student to be excused for participation in a project sponsored by a statewide or countywide or combined group upon written request prior to the event.

The Board shall excuse the following students from the requirements of attendance at the schools of this district:

1. On certification by a physician or submission of other satisfactory evidence and on approval of the Department of Education, children who are unable to attend school or apply themselves to study for mental, physical or other reasons that preclude regular attendance.
2. Students enrolled in nonpublic or private schools in which the subjects and activities prescribed by law are taught, except that such students and students attending college who are also enrolled part-time in the district schools shall be counted as being in part-time attendance in this district.
3. Students fifteen (15) or sixteen (16) years of age whose enrollment in private trade or business schools has been approved.
4. Students fifteen (15) years of age, and fourteen (14) years of age who have completed the highest elementary grade, who are engaged in farm work or private domestic service under duly issued permits.
5. Students sixteen (16) years of age regularly employed during the school session and holding a lawfully issued employment certificate.

The Board may excuse the following students from the requirements of attendance at district schools:

1. Students receiving tutorial instruction in a field not offered in the district's curricula from a properly qualified tutor approved by the Superintendent, when the excusal does not interfere with the student's regular program of studies.
2. Homebound children unable to attend school on the recommendation of the school physician and the school psychologist or a psychiatrist and approval of the Secretary of Education.
3. Students enrolled in special schools conducted by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit or the Department of Education.

#### Early Excusal

Students needing to leave school early for any reason must have a handwritten note turned into the Attendance Office the morning of the dismissal. The note must include a parent/guardian signature and phone number where they can be reached to verify the note. Phone calls and/or emails will not be accepted.

#### Educational Tours/Trips

The district strongly discourages student absence from school except when illness or other urgent reasons prevent the student from attending. District officials are aware that it is not always possible to schedule family trips and vacations while school is not in session. In keeping with the district's guiding philosophy, but also recognizing the importance of the family unit, the Board will approve educational tours or trips not sponsored by the district up to a maximum of **five (5) school days per student per year**. Exceptions to the five (5) day rule may be considered by the Superintendent if compelling, extenuating circumstances warrant such consideration. The following provisions must be met for approval/conditional approval of an educational tour/trip:

1. A parental request for excused absence must be submitted on the designated form to the building principal or designee for consideration at least three (3) days prior to the date of the intended trip. The request must include a statement detailing the educational value of the trip and the name of the person

responsible for supervision. Questionable requests will be submitted to the Superintendent for final determination.

2. The building principal will evaluate the request in terms of its educational value, duration, and adequateness of the supervision. If approved, the absence will be considered excused, subject to the student's satisfactory completion of the assignments missed. At the secondary level (grades 7-12), students must also present a written report highlighting the educational aspects of the trip. Elementary students (grades K-6) are encouraged to share the trip experience with their class upon return to school. Prior to leaving on the trip, it is the responsibility of the student to seek assignments. It will be the responsibility of the student to make-up all work missed during the absence as per their student handbook requirements. If the class work and/or the written report is not completed and submitted to the building principal or designee, the days will be considered unlawful or unexcused and subject to the compulsory attendance laws, which may result in a fine.
3. The absence of a student taking a tour or trip which has not received prior approval from the building principal as being educational in nature will be considered unexcused or unlawful and subject to the provisions of the compulsory attendance laws.
4. A student may be excused from school to accompany his/her family to attend important family functions, such as graduations, weddings, funerals, etc., which are out of town and require lengthy travel. An excuse from school for this reason shall require prior approval from the building principal or designee and satisfactory completion of all work missed during the period of absence.
5. No educational trip will be excused during end of semester or end of year final exams, Keystone Testing, NOCTI testing or AP Exams.

#### Release of Students from School

- Students shall be released from school only to a parent/guardian or person authorized by the parent/guardian.
- Students of separated or divorced parents/guardians will be released to either parent/guardian unless a court order excluding one (1) parent/guardian from this right is provided to the principal.
- In case of illness, it shall be determined that the parent/guardian or another person authorized by the parent/guardian is available to receive the student.
- Students shall not be dismissed during school hours for non-school activities such as private music lessons, dancing lessons, scouts, etc., except with the approval of the principal.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations for the attendance of students which:

1. Ensure a school session that conforms with requirements of state law and regulations.
2. Govern the keeping of attendance records in accordance with law.
3. Distribute annually to staff, students, and parents/guardians Board policies and school rules and regulations governing student attendance, tardiness, absences and excusals via student handbooks or other written or electronic publications.
4. Impose on truant student's appropriate incremental disciplinary measures for infractions of school rules, but no penalty may have an irredeemably negative effect on the student's record beyond that which naturally follows absence from classroom learning experiences.
5. Identify the habitual truant, investigate the causes of truant behavior, and consider modification of the student's educational program to meet particular needs and interests.
6. Ensure that students legally absent have an opportunity to make up work.
7. Issue written/verbal notice to any parent/guardian who fails to comply with the compulsory attendance law, within three (3) days of any proceeding brought under that law. Such notice shall inform the parent/guardian of the date(s) the absence occurred, that the absence was unexcused and in violation of law, that the parent/guardian is being notified and informed of his/her liability under law for the absence of the student, and that further violation during the school term will be prosecuted without notice.

Repeated infractions of Board policy requiring the attendance of enrolled students may constitute misconduct and disobedience to warrant the student's suspension or expulsion from the regular school program.

The School Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania defines absence as the nonattendance of a pupil all those days and half days when school is in session. There are three kinds of absences:

1. Excused absences include: illness, quarantine, death in the immediate family, approved educational trips, religious obligations, driver's examination, approved college visitation, approved interviews, jury duty, court appearances, or family emergency.
2. Unexcused absences are recorded for all other reasons other than those listed above.
3. Unlawful absence is the unexcused absence for all students under the age of 18. Unlawful absences are always unexcused absences.

### Truancy Meetings

Once a student has reached 6 total absences for the school year the following may take place:

1. Parents/Guardians may be contacted to set up a meeting with school administration or Truancy Prevention team.
2. The meeting will discuss the reason for the absences and to develop a plan to eliminate the issues causing the student's truancy.
3. **When the student reaches 8 unexcused absences for the school year they will be issued a truancy citation. Truancy citations result in court appearances before the District Magistrate and could result in community service or a fine. If the truancy continues the Office of Children and Youth will be notified by the court or school.**

### Beverage Policy

Students are allowed to drink water in the classrooms with the following stipulations:

- Water must be in plastic containers.
- Students may not drink any beverage other than water.
- Teachers are permitted to make appropriate rules conducive to their classroom situation. For example, a computer or science teacher may limit or not allow drinking in their classroom.
- Students will be informed if a teacher bans the drinking of water in class. Failure to comply will be treated as insubordination.

### Bullying

Pottstown School District Policy 249 states:

Bullying means an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting and/or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:

1. Substantial interference with a student's education.
2. Creation of a threatening environment.
3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.

### Consequences for Violations

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include:

1. Restorative conference or peer-mediation between students.

2. Counseling within the school.
3. Parental conference.
4. Loss of school privileges. Exclusion from school-sponsored activities.
5. Detention.
6. Suspension.
7. Expulsion.
8. Counseling/Therapy outside of school.
9. Referral to law enforcement officials.
10. Transfer to another school building, classroom, or school bus.

## **Cafeteria**

- Lunch is provided in the cafeteria. **Students are not permitted to leave school for lunch or have delivered food from outside vendors, including Door Dash. Any food delivered to the high school from an outside vendor will be held until the end of the school day and returned to the student at that time.**
- Food is not to leave the cafeteria without permission from an administrator.
- Loud and boisterous behavior is inappropriate and is not tolerated in the cafeteria.
- Students are to:
  - Enter the cafeteria and form lines in order to be served.
  - Place all paper and debris in proper containers.
  - Deposit trays and dishes at the service window.
- Students will be dismissed from the cafeteria by the proctor in charge.
- Students must have a pass to leave the cafeteria.
- One (1) student per seat.

## **Career and Counseling Center**

- Counseling services are available through the Career and Counseling Center to assist students with academics, personal/social development, career interests and post-secondary planning. Counselors are available to meet with students and parents by appointment.
- The counseling center includes a staff of four counselors.
  - One counselor is dedicated to career and college support.
  - One counselor is dedicated to mental health support and conducts group and individual meetings for students.
  - Two counselors provide support for students in scheduling and/or academic concerns, registering for PSAT, SAT, and ACT testing, the college application process, and any other issues that may arise for students.

## **Career and Technical Education Programs (CTE) - Admissions**

- Admission to a CTE program is not guaranteed.
- Programs may require completion of a CTE application packet in order for students to gain entrance into a program.
- Students will attain entrance through student discipline history, attendance, grades, grade point average, grade level, and a recommendation from the Level 1 instructor of the program.
- If a CTE program is oversubscribed (full), students will be placed on a waiting list and the above criteria will be reviewed should an opening become available before the start of school in the fall.



## **Class Dues**

This small student fee is used to support functions which directly benefit the entire class. Examples of activities previously conducted with money received from class dues include, but are not limited to: prom, pep rallies, dances, school spirit supplies, competition supplies, fundraising supplies, class trips, etc. Class dues are currently \$4 per school year and are due by the end of the year. Student failure to pay class dues results in their exclusion from class activities, including prom and graduation.

## **Class Rank**

Class rank shall be computed by the final grade in all subjects for which credit is awarded. To reflect the intensity of the academic requirements, honors, Advanced Placement, and certain upper level courses shall be weighted when calculating class rank and honor roll. Please see Pottstown School District Board Policy 214 for more information.

## **Commencement**

Commencement is a special occasion that takes place to recognize those students who have completed the requirements for graduation including:

- Credit requirements, including number of credits earned and required courses successfully completed
- Payment of financial obligations such as class dues and student debts
- Attendance and proper behavior at all graduation practices

Failure to meet the graduation requirements may result in not receiving a diploma or not being permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony.

*Participation in the commencement ceremony is a privilege and not a right. Students may be banned from participation for failure to comply with the requirements of participation.*

Students who have met the requirements to participate in graduation are expected to adhere to the following procedures:

- Full participation in all practice sessions
- Adherence to the graduation dress code:
  - Students wearing white gowns – White dress/white pants/ white skirt/white top/white/nude/tan shoes
  - Students wearing blue gowns – Black or Navy blue pants/white dress shirt with collar/black/ Navy blue dress shoes/solid black or Navy blue regular tie or bow tie/blue or black socks

Failure to follow these requirements may result in not being permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony. Students who are unable to meet the dress code expectations should speak to an administrator or class advisor privately.

## **Discipline Code for High School Students**

The guidelines outlined in this section represent the consequences for violations of the Discipline Code for PHS students. Consequences may be modified if alternative or additional actions will serve the best interest of the

student and/or school physical or virtual environment. Please note that this list of unacceptable behaviors is not inclusive. Any event not mentioned below will be addressed by the administration. The administration expects each student to demonstrate behavior that shows respect for all persons and property. It is each student's responsibility to demonstrate desirable behavior which is conducive to a good learning atmosphere.

Restorative practices is an integral part of the Pottstow High School culture. Restorative conferences and restorative circles are held regularly as a means of forging strong relationships between students and between students and staff, as well as to resolve conflict and address disciplinary concerns.

Administration may use higher levels of disciplinary measures as necessary. The code is divided into three levels, which apply to the severity and/or frequency of the behavior. Police will be notified whenever federal, state, county, or municipal laws are violated.

*It is the expectation that all staff will make decisions impartially and with equity as a targeted value.*

**Level 1 Infractions**

**Definition:** Student misbehavior that impedes orderly classroom procedures or interferes with the orderly operation of the school. The following chart is meant as a guideline for Level 1 infractions that are administered by the staff or administration. Consequences may vary on a case by case basis. Students who have reached the level of 3-5 days of detention for a Level 1 infraction can have further occurrences of the same infraction considered as an act of insubordination. Level I infractions should first be addressed by the referring teacher prior to the involvement of administration. Potential teacher consequences are determined by the referring teacher and could include, but are not limited to, classroom redirections (non-verbal warning, proximity, seat change, etc.), contacting home, conferences, and teacher detention(s). Should an administrator become involved, consequences could include, but are not limited to, contacting home, administrative detention(s), and restorative justice methods. The below infractions apply to both physical and virtual school settings.

Disruptive behavior
Late to class
Cheating and/or lying
Horseplay
Abusive/unacceptable language among or between students
Electronic Device Violation (see Page 24 )
Vandalism (e.g., writing on desks, books, etc.)
Eating food in classrooms or hallways
Cafeteria Violations - (e.g. failure to clear off the table completely)
Cafeteria Violation - throwing food
Infringing on the rights of others
Littering
Misuse of pass
Loitering
Dress Code
Cutting teacher detention
Leaving class without permission (Student receives a 0 for missed work)
Other - As determined by an administrator

*Pottstown High School detention may be served in the morning or the afternoon on or before the date it is assigned. If it is not served by the assigned date, consequences will result. The times that detention may be served in the morning from 7:30 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. or the afternoon session from 2:50 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.*

**Level 2 Infractions**

**Definition:** Student behavior in which the frequency or seriousness tends to disrupt the learning climate of the school. Level 2 infractions are incidents that do not represent a direct threat to the health and safety of others but are serious enough to require corrective action on the part of administrative personnel. Level 2 infractions may be referred to law enforcement depending on the number of occurrences and/or seriousness. The following chart is meant as a guideline for Level 2 infractions. Consequences may vary on a case by case basis but can include administrative detention(s), in-school/out-of-school suspension, and restorative justice methods. The below infractions apply to both physical and virtual school settings.

Insubordination/ Defiance of Authority/ Refusal to Obey Orders/Continuation of Level 1 infractions
Dress code/Continuation of Level 1 infraction
Cutting Class or Abuse of pass (includes >14 minutes out of class for locker, lavatory, or drink) (Student will receive a 0 for missed work)
Violation of school’s security policies (d)
Forging or falsifying a school document, form, or assignment
Verbal altercation
Cutting administrative detention
Leaving school without permission/not following procedures (c) (Student marked unlawful/unexcused absent and receives a 0 for any missed work)
Failure to follow ISS rules (b)
Smoking and/or possession of tobacco products, E-cigarettes, or incendiary devices
Lying or deceiving school officials
Theft (less than \$10.00 value) (a)
Participation in a school related event while suspended (ISS or OSS)
Vandalism (less than \$10.00 in value) (a)
Abusive/unacceptable language directed toward faculty/staff
Abuse of Pass/Continuation of Level 1 infraction
Other

- (a) The student is required to make restitution for all expenses.
- (b) If a student loses credit in ISS for failing to follow the rules of ISS, the student will be suspended out of school for the remainder of the day and will serve the ISS on the next scheduled school day.
- (c) When a student leaves school without permission, the Pottstown Police Department will be notified and the student will be cited with a daytime curfew violation.
- (d) Includes allowing entry to students/persons through non-designated access doors, or propping open windows or door entrances to secure areas.

### **Level 3 Infractions**

**Definition:** Student misbehavior that results in violence being directed to another person or to property. These misbehaviors can pose a direct threat to the safety of others in the school. Level 3 infractions can also include continuations from Level 2 infractions. Consequences may vary on a case by case basis but can include administrative detention(s), in-school/out-of-school suspension, and restorative justice methods. Level 3 infractions are subject to law enforcement referral. In addition, any Level 3 infractions may result in an administrative hearing, expulsion, and charges pressed by the police. The below infractions apply to both physical and virtual school settings.

Insubordination-continuation of Level 2 infractions
Endangerment/horseplay (a)
Theft (more than \$10.00 in value) (b)
Vandalism (more than \$10.00 in value) (b)
Extortion
Threats toward student(s)
Physical aggression toward student(s)
Physical altercation
Threats toward faculty or staff
Sexual, ethnic, religious, and/or ableist harassment, physical harassment, electronic harassment
Possession or digital access of pornography, including sexting
Inappropriate physical or sexual contact
Physical aggression toward faculty or staff
Possession, use of, furnishing, selling, or under influence of narcotics, illegal drugs, intoxicants on school property or at a school function.
Possession or use of a dangerous, illegal, or lethal weapon, substance, or facsimile.
Physical assault
Activating false fire alarm
Inappropriate use of computer/electronic device.
Other - As determined by administrator

- (a) If an incident involves the use of a motor vehicle, the student will lose parking privileges on school property.  
(b) Student is required to make restitution for all expenses

**Note:** If a student displays abnormal or potentially injurious behavior, the student may be required to obtain a psychological examination at the expense of the family in order to return to school.

**Any student may be interviewed by a teacher, school administrator, or school resource officer at any time for any reason. Notification of parents/guardians before or after is not required by law.**

**Senate Bill No. 530 as Act 110 of 2020** - On November 3, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf signed into law Senate Bill No. 530 as Act 110 of 2020. The law took effect on January 4, 2021.

#### **Sexual Assault Act 110:**

Act 110 provides that if a student enrolled in a public school entity is adjudicated delinquent of committing a sexual assault upon another student enrolled in the same public school entity, the public school shall, pursuant to applicable laws and regulations, take one of the following actions:

1. Expel the adjudicated student
2. Transfer the adjudicated student to an alternative education program

3. Reassign the adjudicated student to another school or education program within the public school entity. Act 110 further provides that a public school entity shall ensure that the adjudicated student is not educated in the same school building, transported on the same school vehicle or allowed to participate in the same school-sponsored activities at the same time as the victim.

### **Disciplinary Consequences**

- **Administrative Disciplinary Hearing:** An informal hearing with administration at the central office. This meeting usually occurs at the Administration Building.
- **Administrative Detention:**
  - Students may choose to serve detention during either before school or after school sessions and will be given 24-hours notice. Students are responsible for attending their detentions on the scheduled days.
  - Before school detention sessions are from 7:30 a.m. to 7:50 a.m.
  - After school detention sessions are from 2:50 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.
  - Detention will be held on early dismissal days unless otherwise announced.
- **Alternative Education Placement:** Placement in an external program outside the regular school day.
- **Behavioral Contract:** A meeting with student, parent/guardian, and building administrator to discuss the behavior and develop a plan to prevent it from occurring again.
- **Board Hearing:** Formal hearing that may result in expulsion.
- **In-School Suspension (ISS):**
  - One (1) to five (5) days (per offense) in the ISS room. Parents may request a conference. It is the responsibility of the student to request work from the classroom teacher.
  - ISS runs from 7:56 a.m.-2:40 p.m. Students who are assigned ISS must report to the ISS room by the beginning of Block 1. It is the student's responsibility to report to ISS.
  - All students in ISS must complete the required ISS assignments in order to receive credit.
  - If you are absent the day your detention or ISS has been assigned, you are responsible for attending the detention or ISS on the day you return to school.
  - If you are absent the day you are assigned ISS and have a field trip the day you return, you must serve ISS and are not permitted to attend the field trip.
  - Students who serve ISS may practice, but may not participate in games or travel with their team. Otherwise, they are not permitted to participate in any school activities during the period of suspension.
- **Informal Principal's Hearing:** A meeting with student, parent/guardian, and building administrator or his designee.
- **Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)/Expulsion:**
  - Students who are suspended out of school (OSS) are responsible for any missed classwork. It is the student's responsibility to contact their teachers and request work. Students have the number of days suspended plus one to complete and submit work to their teacher. Example: If a student was suspended out of school for three days, they would have four days to complete and submit work from the start of the suspension.
  - Students who are suspended out of school (OSS) or expelled may not participate in any school activities during the period of suspension/expulsion and may not be on school property. In addition, students are not permitted to attend sporting events, concerts, and school trips on school grounds.
  - One (1) to ten (10) days out of school under the supervision of the parent/guardian.
  - A parental conference with an administrator is required prior to reinstatement.
- **Parent Conferences:** Teachers will contact parents regarding disciplinary concerns and may request more formal conferences if needed.
- **Restorative Justice Methods:**
  - Methods that seek to examine the harmful impact of an infraction and then determining what can be done to repair the harm while holding the person who caused it accountable for their actions.
    - Restorative Conferences

- Structured Day
- **Teacher Detention:** Students may be assigned to detention with a teacher before or after school. Students will be given 24 hours' notice and teachers will notify parents of detentions. Failure to attend will result in additional consequences.

## Classroom and Exterior Door Safety

Classroom doors and school safety:

In order to ensure and enhance the safety of our schools, all classroom, office, and internal as well as external doors must remain locked at all times. Unless otherwise authorized by the building principal, all doors are to remain locked at all times.

At no time is it permissible to prop an exterior door open. The safety of all staff and students depends on the diligence of all and the propping open of doors, even for a few minutes will not be tolerated. Disciplinary consequences will result if anyone is found to prop an exterior door for any reason.

## Dress Code

Students must be dressed in appropriate attire **BEFORE** arriving to school. Students are to remain appropriately dressed throughout the school day. A student out of compliance with the dress code will be expected to change into appropriate attire or will not return to class and will receive consequences as indicated in the Discipline Code. Refer to District Policy 6182. Appropriate attire includes the following:

- Skirts, dresses, shorts, and pants must completely cover the buttocks.
- Undergarments of any kind may not be visible, including through sheer cloth.
- Hoods and balacavas are prohibited, with the exception of religious clothing worn on a consistent basis.
  - A balacava is defined as a close-fitting garment covering the whole head and neck except for parts of the face
  - A student's full face must be visible at all times
- Clothing may not advertise sex, drugs, weapons, or any other offensive material.
- Sunglasses must be removed once you have entered the building.
- Clothing deemed to be inappropriate by an administrator will be addressed by the administrator
- CTE dress requirements may vary depending on the safety requirements or other requirements of the specific program.

## Dropping a Class

Classes cannot be dropped beyond 2 weeks into the semester the course is scheduled. See the Course Selection Guide for more details on scheduling courses and schedule changes.

## Dual Enrollment Program

The Dual Enrollment Program allows students who qualify (see course catalog for details) to take a class at a local college and receive credit both at the high school and at the college.

- The student is responsible for full cost of attendance which includes: tuition, fees and textbooks. The payment of tuition and fees are required at the time of registration. *Early College Program scholarship recipients may have tuition and other costs covered by the scholarship.*
- Transportation is not provided.

- *Participation in this program is one of the highest academic privileges students can attain.* Therefore, both student and parents MUST agree to the following in order to take part in the program:
  - Follow all procedures and directions as set forth by the college and high school as appropriate to the program.
  - Remain in good standing with both schools, both academically and behaviorally.
  - Attend all classes at both schools.
  - Maintain a “C” in all classes at both schools.

**FAILURE TO ABIDE BY ALL THE STIPULATIONS ABOVE WILL RESULT IN RETROACTIVE STUDENT ASSUMPTION OF ALL TUITION AND BOOK COSTS, DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND/OR LOSS OF ELIGIBILITY IF APPROPRIATE, AND/OR A PERMANENT WITHDRAWAL FROM THE DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM FOR THE REST OF THE STUDENT’S ACADEMIC CAREER AT POTTSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL.**

## **Educational Tours or Trips**

**School Board Policy 204 states:**

The district strongly discourages student absence from school except when illness or other urgent reasons prevent the student from attending. District officials are aware that it is not always possible to schedule family trips and vacations while school is not in session. In keeping with the district’s guiding philosophy, but also recognizing the importance of the family unit, the Board will approve educational tours or trips not sponsored by the district up to a maximum of five (5) school days per student per year. Exceptions to the five (5) day rule may be considered by the Superintendent if compelling, extenuating circumstances warrant such consideration. The following provisions must be met for approval/conditional approval of an educational tour/trip:

1. A parental request for excused absence must be submitted on the designated form to the building principal or designee for consideration at least **three (3) days prior** to the date of the intended trip. The request must include a statement detailing the educational value of the trip and the name of the person responsible for supervision. Questionable requests will be submitted to the Superintendent for final determination.
2. The building principal will evaluate the request in terms of its educational value, duration, and adequateness of the supervision. If approved, the absence will be considered excused, subject to the student’s satisfactory completion of the assignments missed. At the secondary level (grades 7-12), students must also present a written report highlighting the educational aspects of the trip. Elementary students (grades K-6) are encouraged to share the trip experience with their class upon return to school. Prior to leaving on the trip, it is the responsibility of the student to seek assignments. It will be the responsibility of the student to make-up all work missed during the absence as per their student handbook requirements. If the class work and/or the written report is not completed and submitted to the building principal or designee, the days will be considered unlawful or unexcused and subject to the compulsory attendance laws, which may result in a fine.
3. The absence of a student taking a tour or trip which has not received prior approval from the building principal as being educational in nature will be considered unexcused or unlawful and subject to the provisions of the compulsory attendance laws.
4. A student may be excused from school to accompany his/her family to attend important family functions, such as graduations, weddings, funerals, etc which are out of town and require lengthy travel. An excuse from school for this reason shall require prior approval from the building principal or designee and satisfactory completion of all work missed during the period of absence.
5. No educational trip will be excused during end of semester or end of year final exams.

## Electronic Devices

### Electronic Devices

- All students will receive a Chromebook assigned specifically to them for the duration of their time as Pottstown High School students. Please refer to the guidelines and rules received at the time of receipt of the Chromebook regarding the use, care, responsibility, and expectations of each student. *It is highly recommended that families acquire insurance to protect the Chromebook and any costs incurred from damage, loss, etc.*
- The Chromebook is the property of the school district and must be produced upon request by an administrator. All Chromebooks have serial numbers and are assigned to specific students. Students should not share Chromebooks, borrow another student's Chromebook or lend their Chromebook to another student.
- Students are expected to bring their Chromebook to school fully charged each day and to use it during class time at the direction of the classroom teacher. Chromebook usage in class is at the discretion of the teacher. Students should not have their Chromebooks opened or be on them unless directed to do so by the teacher. *Chromebooks are not to be open unless directed by the teacher.*
- Personal electronic devices and associated equipment (with the exception of the Chromebook) such as cell phones and earbuds cause a serious distraction to learning and as such should not be visible during class time. Electronic devices are defined as anything with an "on/off" button.

Examples: cell phones, Kindles, iPads, iPods, gaming devices, Nooks, headphones, *earbuds*, Bluetooth speakers or any other listening device, etc.

- Electronic device use will be deemed unacceptable during class time in ALL classes.  
Class time is defined as that time during which class is in session according to the bell schedule.
- Students are permitted to wear or use headphones, earbuds during class time if required to complete a lesson, project on the Chromebook. **At no time should headphones or earbuds be connected to a student's phone.** Once a student enters the classroom all personal devices with the exception of their Chromebook must be put away, out of sight.
- Students who take pictures or videos that are deemed inappropriate by the administration will be in violation of the Pottstown School District Technology policy and will incur consequences commensurate with violation of said policy. Please refer to the Technology policy for more details.
- Students are prohibited from making phone calls during the school day without administrative permission.
  - Any student needing to make a phone call should see an administrator in the office for permission.
  - This includes using headphones, Bluetooth devices, or any other devices during or between classes in any part of the school building, including the cafeteria and lavatories.
- Violations to the electronic device rules are as follows:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> offense:
    - Device taken by teacher and returned to the student at the end of class.



- Parent contacted by the teacher
    - 1 Detention = Teacher may issue
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> offense:
    - Device taken by teacher and returned to the student at the end of class.
    - Parent contacted by the teacher
    - 2 detentions = Teacher may issue
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> offense & up:
    - Device taken by teacher, turned into office
    - Discipline referral submitted to administration
    - Parent contacted by administration
- Refusal to hand over the electronic device at the request of the faculty or staff will be deemed as insubordination and the device will be held by administration until the end of the school day and the student will receive a ½ day of ISS. Refusal to hand over the electronic device to administration is deemed as insubordination and the student will be suspended.

Pottstown High School recognizes that these devices are a part of our everyday life and will allow limited usage at the following times.

- Cell phones may be used in the cafeteria during a student's assigned lunch, at the change of classes between bells, and before or after school with the exception of making/receiving phone calls.
- Parents should not call students during the school day. Should an emergency arise, and a parent needs to reach their student, they should call the front office. The message will then be relayed or the student will be called down from class.

## **Emergency Closing or Delayed Openings of School**

In the event school is to be canceled or the opening delayed as a result of inclement weather, information will be available on the school district website, [www.pottstownschoools.com](http://www.pottstownschoools.com).

## **Evacuation Drills**

Evacuation drills will be conducted periodically. Signs are posted in each room to indicate the proper direction to the nearest exit. For the safety of all:

- When appropriate, follow *the run-hide-fight* protocol as trained
- When students hear the alarm or announcement over the PA system it is imperative that they listen to the message and respond accordingly.
- Students should not talk; they should move quickly.
- If the designated exit is blocked, turn around and use the closest open exit.
- When reaching the outside of the building, stay with your class and move to your assigned spot until directed to return to the building by a PHS staff member.
- Students will return to the building after the all-clear signal is given and when directed to do so by a PHS staff member.
- Students who exit the building from an exit different than their class must report to the person in charge of attendance in that area.

## Face Coverings

- Face coverings in the form of masks covering the mouth and nose of a student are permitted for health purposes at the parent and/or student's discretion.
  - "Mask" means a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face
  - Students are not permitted to wear balacavas, or masks that cover the majority of the head and face.
  - Should a student need a mask, the nurse or main office can provide one..
  - Should the PA Department of Health issue an order requiring face-coverings for health and safety purposes, the district will provide directions at that time.

## Family and Student Support Services

The Pottstown School District Home School Visitors and Residency Coordinator work with families in need of resources and supports both within the district and outside of PSD. . The intention is to facilitate a positive connection for families and students to any supports that will help them be more successful in school and the community. These resources can include, but are not limited to: housing assistance, utility assistance, food, clothing, shelter, medical care, mental health care, medical insurance, and attendance concerns.

### Contact:

Holly Lee  
Home School Visitor  
Pottstown School District  
230 Beech St.  
Pottstown, Pa 19464  
Phone: 610-323-8200

Tiffany Walker  
Home School Visitor  
Pottstown School District  
230 Beech St.  
Pottstown, PA 19464  
Phone: 610-323-8200

Christina Cozart  
Residency Coordinator  
Pottstown School District  
230 Beech St.  
Pottstown, PA 19464  
Phone: 610-323-8200

## Field Trip and Class Trip Student Behavior Policy

- Students may not participate in a trip without a permission/medical form completed and signed by a parent/guardian.
- Students must prove they have medical insurance in order to participate in any trip.
- In the event a student becomes involved in unacceptable behavior while participating in a field trip or class trip, the student will be returned to PHS and the expenses for the return trip will be borne by the student's parent/guardian. The individual may not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities for the balance of the school year.
- Students are not permitted to leave a field trip location without permission from a chaperone.
- Students are strictly forbidden from taking any form of public transportation while on a field trip without a chaperone present. This includes but is not limited to Uber, Lyft, busses, subways, trains.

## Final Examinations

Students who miss a final examination as a result of illness must receive permission to reschedule the exam. This rule applies to all final examinations, including half-credit final exams.

Students who arrive late to school for a final examination will need to make up the final examination at 12:45 p.m. on the same scheduled day as the final examination for which they were late. The location for these examinations will be announced the week before final examinations. **NO STUDENT WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER A FINAL EXAMINATION IF THEY ARRIVE LATE TO THE CLASSROOM.** Any student late to a half-credit final exam will need to make up the exam at 12:45 p.m. on the day of a full credit final examination. The student will need to make arrangements with the teacher of the course in question to take this examination.

Each of the two marking periods in a semester will have a value of half of the final average. If a final exam is given to the students in a subject, the value of the final exam will be one-ninth (1/9) of the final grade.

## Grading System

Marks are recorded on the permanent records and on report cards as numbers. Grades are given as follows:

A =	90 – 100
B =	80 – 89
C =	70 – 79
D =	60 – 69
F =	0 – 59

Final grades will be calculated (weighted) using two marking periods and a final exam (one ninth). To compute the final grade for a course use the following formula:

$$\frac{(MP1 \times 4) + (MP2 \times 4) + \text{Final Exam Grade}}{9}$$

## Graduation Requirements

Please refer to Pottstown School District Board Policy 217 for full details of graduation requirements, a summary of which you will find below.

Satisfactory completion of at least 26 credits aligned with the Pennsylvania Standards as outlined below:

<u>Discipline Area</u>	<u>Required Credits</u>
English	4 full credit courses
Social Studies	3 full credit courses
Science	3 full credit courses
Math	3 full credit courses
Wellness/Physical Education* *	2 credits (1.5 credits of Wellness and .5 Contract Physical Education or Strength and Conditioning)
Career Exploration	.5 credit
Personal Finance	.5 credit
Humanities	2 credits total
Electives	4 credits
Minimum	22 credits

\*\*Every student must take .5 credits of Wellness/Physical Education in each of their their freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years of high school.

### Keystone Exam Requirements

In September, 2018 the governor signed Senate Bill 1095/Act 158 which enacted provisions to the Keystone Exams and graduation requirements. The Pennsylvania Department of Education updated the requirements for the implementation of Keystone Exams in Algebra I, Literature, and Biology.

This guide is designed to assist you in understanding how changes to Pennsylvania's Public School Code, which authorizes commonwealth graduation requirements, will impact your child.

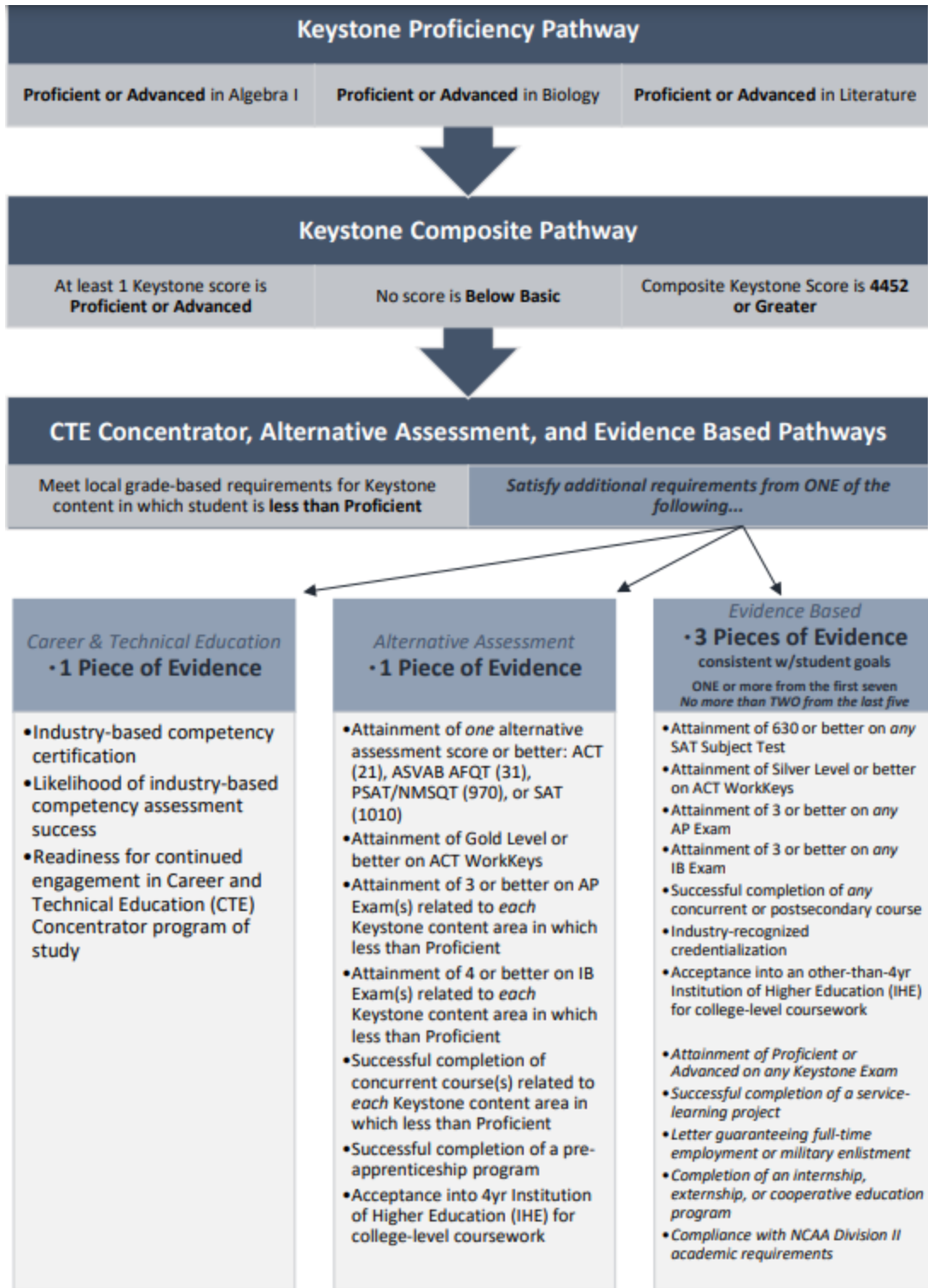
- Effective with the graduating class of 2023, students must demonstrate post-secondary preparedness through one of the pathways to graduation.
- Students are required to demonstrate proficiency in each of the content areas listed below by passing a Keystone Exam in the following subject areas: Algebra I, Biology, and Literature II.
- All students enrolled in Algebra I, Biology, and Literature II will take the respective Keystone upon completion of the course.

Students who score proficient or advanced on each exam have met the graduation requirement.

**Pathways to Proficiency According to Senate Bill 1095/ACT 158:**

- **Re-Testing:** Any student not proficient in a Keystone Exam will have the opportunity to re-test.
- **Summer School:** If a student enrolls in summer school Algebra I, Literature II or Biology course and subsequently passes the course, proficiency in that subject area will be satisfied with the exception of the multiple pathways additionally required by the department of education for those who don't score proficient or advanced on the Algebra I, Literature, or Biology exams.
- **Multiple Pathways:** Students who earn a passing grade in a Keystone related course (but not the Keystone Exam) will also be required to complete prescribed evidence (pathways) provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education that reflect readiness for meaningful post-secondary engagement consistent with the student's goals and career plan. Additional planning will be necessary to review each individual student's access to the approved pathways to ensure that 100% of students meet the defined requirements.

ACT 158 Pathway Graphic



## Hall Pass Procedures

- Students need to have their assigned teacher's permission to leave the classroom.
- Passes are created and maintained through E-Hallpass
- Students are NOT permitted to wander the halls
- **Students are not permitted to leave the classroom during the first or last 15 minutes of class.**
- Any student in the hallway during scheduled class time must have a pass, issued by a teacher, counselor, or administrator.

## Honor Roll

PHS has two levels of academic honors for report cards: Distinguished Honors and Honors.

To achieve Distinguished Honors, students must have:

- a weighted average of 90% or higher with no grade lower than an 70% and no grades of Incomplete

To achieve Honors status, students must have:

- a weighted average of 80% or higher with no grade lower than a 70% and no grades of Incomplete

Pass/Fail courses will not count towards honor roll status.

An Honors Diploma will be bestowed upon any graduating senior who attains a cumulative grade point average of 90% or above over their four years in high school.

## ID Cards

All students are issued and expected to carry a Pottstown School District picture ID with them any time they are in a district facility. The ID must be available for presentation upon request by any teacher, administrator, or other district personnel. The ID is used to gain entrance into the building, borrow library books, and to identify as a student of the Pottstown School District. Students are expected to keep the picture and bar code free of any markings or stickers. Students who lose or deface the picture or barcode will be required to purchase a new ID.

## Learning Center

The Learning Center is available two (2) hours after school Monday-Friday from 2:50 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. in the high school library. Students have access to teachers and paraprofessionals for remedial help, project and homework help, and make-up work.

To ensure the success of all students in the Learning Center and to develop a consistent work ethic in an environment that allows for the success of all students who use the Learning Center, students must adhere to the following:

- Students entering the Learning Center must sign in at the librarian's desk.
- No food or drink is permitted in the library.
- Students must have needed classroom books and materials upon entry. Students will not be permitted to go to their lockers once they have signed into the Learning Center.
- Students who wish to leave the Learning Center and return at a later time must sign out and sign back in

- upon returning.
- All school rules apply. Improper language and conduct towards other students or Learning Center staff will not be tolerated.
- Students are expected to take advantage of all resources available to them but are not allowed to misuse or damage any resources.
- Students are expected to use the Internet as a resource and must follow the guidelines set forth by the Utilization of Technology Policy. Improper use includes games, chat rooms, and inappropriate websites.

Failure to follow these rules will result in disciplinary action commensurate with the PHS discipline policy.

## **Leaving School**

Dismissal of classes will be at 2:40 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Students not engaged in any supervised school activity must leave the school premises by 2:50 p.m. On days with early dismissals all students must leave the building within 10 minutes of the dismissal time. Failure to comply with this rule may result in disciplinary action for insubordination and/or legal action for trespassing.

## **Legally Adult Students Signing Excuses & Early Dismissals & Field Trips**

- The Division of Child Accounting in the State Department of Education has indicated that students eighteen (18) years old and above are **no different than other students**.
- If they are still living with their parents, the parents must sign their excuses.
- In order for a student to sign their own excuses, court approved emancipation must be proven to the school and is the burden of the student.
- Students eighteen years old and older are required to follow the attendance rules of the school including the rules for early dismissals and field trips.

## **Library/Media Center**

- The library/media center serves as an area for research for the completion of class and homework assignments.
- Internet usage is closely supervised.
- Students may use the library as part of a scheduled class activity, during the homeroom period, or before or after school.
- Students who want to use the library during the day must get permission from the librarian prior to using the library and from their assigned teacher.

## **Lockers**

- Lockers are assigned the first day of school by your homeroom teacher. Lockers will be inspected by the student and homeroom teacher for any damage at the beginning and end of the school year.
- Students are responsible for the contents and the interior of their locker and will be charged at the rate of \$40.00 per hour plus the cost of materials for the removal of graffiti or to fix damage.
- Students are not permitted to change lockers without permission.
- Students should not exchange locker combinations with anyone.
- THE SCHOOL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PROPERTY STOLEN FROM LOCKERS.



- We recommend that students not bring valuables to school. Lockers may not be used as a depository for any object which is prohibited by law or which poses a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the occupants of the school building.
- Students are given a temporary privilege to use a locker, but have no expectation of privacy therein.
- All lockers are and shall remain the property of the school district. Please refer to Student Searches for more information regarding lockers.
- Students in Wellness and athletics will be provided with lockers. Students should not keep any valuables in these lockers.

## **Lost and Found**

- Students who lose or misplace any of their belongings should first look for them in the room where they used them the last time. If unable to locate the lost item, report to the main office before or after school.
- Articles that are found should be turned into the main office.

## **Make Up Work Policy**

- When a student has a legally excused absence, he/she will have the number of days he/she was absent plus one day to make up work.
  - Example: If a student is legally absent from school on a Monday and Tuesday, he/she will have Wednesday, Thursday and until the end of the school day on Friday to make up and hand in any missed work.
- If a student is unlawfully absent, he/she is ineligible to make up work and will receive a 0 for any missed work in accordance with state law.
- More time may be provided at the discretion of the teacher. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements to make up any missed work.

## **Media Release**

From time to time photographs, slides, or video tapes are taken on school property by school personnel or by media photographers. These may be individual pictures, small groups, or whole class shots. If you want to restrict any use of such visuals, put your request in writing to the building principal.

## **Medication (Prescription and Nonprescription Drugs)**

- Students are not permitted to have in their lockers, or carry in their possession any medications. This includes medications to be self-administered.
- Medication should be scheduled around school hours if possible. Medication orders are required from a physician for all prescription and over-the-counter medicine. The order from the physician must include:
  - Student's name
  - Name, signature, and phone number of the licensed prescriber
  - Name of medication
  - Route and dosage of medication
  - Frequency and time of medication administration

- Date of the order and discontinuation date
- Specific direction for administration if necessary
- All medications administered in school require the completion of the "Authorization for School Medication Administration" form found on the district website under Nursing Services. A new prescription is needed every school year for medicine that is taken on a long term basis. Physicians' orders (licensed prescriber's order) do not carry over from one school year to the next. They are good for one school year and summer only.
- A parent/guardian or a responsible adult designated by the parent/guardian should deliver all medications to the school. The medication must be in the original over-the-counter or pharmacy labeled bottle. Prescription medication labels must contain:
  - Student's name, address, telephone number, and Federal DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) number of the pharmacy
  - Patient name
  - Directions for use (dosage, frequency and time of administration, route, any special instructions)
  - Name and registration number of the licensed prescriber
  - Prescription serial number
  - Date originally filled
  - Name of medication and amount dispensed
  - Controlled substance statement, if applicable
  - Medications in plastic bags or containers other than their original pharmacy container are not acceptable. For life-threatening allergic reactions, oral Benadryl and/or epinephrine may be administered.
- Epinephrine Opt-Out - The Pennsylvania Public School Code, Section 1414.2(g) allows parents/guardians to request an exemption to the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector for their student. In order to request this exemption, contact the school nurse to make an appointment. Parents/guardians will meet with the nurse to discuss their decision and then review and sign the opt-out form in the presence of the school nurse.
- Pottstown School District does not supply any medication to students.
- Ingestion of any drug without proper supervision is prohibited for students on school property or at school functions. If you have any questions regarding this policy or need to keep certain emergency medicines on hand, please see the school nurse.

## Nurse

The nurse is available:

- Monday-Friday, 7:48 a.m. to 2:50 p.m., with the exception of a 30 minute lunch break. This is subject to change when an emergency arises.
- Sick students must have a signed pass to report to the nurse's office. All students reporting to the nurse's office must have a pass and will not be accepted without one.
- Sick students who are sent home will receive a pass from the nurse to sign out with the attendance office. Students may not leave the building because they are ill without following the proper procedures.
- Standing orders are followed and FIRST AID ONLY is given. If further treatment is needed, parents and guardians will be contacted at home or work.
- Students are **not** permitted to use their phone in the nurse's office.

State law requires that all school students be completely immunized in the following areas:

diphtheria (three doses), tetanus (three doses), oral polio (three doses), live attenuated measles vaccine (one dose) given after twelve months of age or serological evidence of immunity, live attenuated rubella vaccine (one dose) given after twelve months of age or serological evidence of immunity, and live attenuated mumps vaccine (one dose), given after twelve months of age or a physician's verified history of mumps disease.

## Parking Regulations

Students may park on school grounds at the far end of the front parking lot and all of the upper parking lot. Students may not park in the Automotive Technology parking lot. Parking on school property is a privilege that will be revoked for any misconduct. Students may not park in spaces marked for handicapped, faculty, or visitors. Students who violate this rule may have their car towed at their expense and/or have the privilege to park at the high school revoked.

## Physical Education Limitations

If a student has limitations in participating in physical education, the student shall bring a physician's note to the school nurse. A copy will be made and given by the student to the student's respective physical education teacher.

## Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and/or Use of Alcohol or Other Drugs, Look-Alike Drugs, Narcotics, Mood Altering Substances, or other Health Endangering Compound

Pottstown School Board Policy 227, in part, states:

For purposes of this policy, **under the influence** shall include any consumption or ingestion of controlled substances by a student.

For purposes of this policy, **look-alike drugs** shall include any pill, capsule, tablet, powder, plant matter or other item or substance that is designed or intended to resemble a controlled substance prohibited by this policy, or is used in a manner likely to induce others to believe the material is a controlled substance.

For purposes of this policy, **drug paraphernalia** shall include any equipment, utensil, or item which in the school administrator's judgment can be associated with the use of drugs, look-alike drugs, alcohol, mood altering substance, or health endangering compound.

The Board prohibits students from using, possessing, distributing, and being under the influence of any controlled substances during school hours, at any time while on school property, at any school-sponsored activity, and during the time spent traveling to and from school and to and from school-sponsored activities.

The Board may require participation in drug counseling, rehabilitation, testing or other programs as a condition of reinstatement into the school's educational, extracurricular or athletic programs resulting from violations of this policy.

In the case of a student with a disability, including a student for whom an evaluation is pending, the district shall take all steps required to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies.

### Off-Campus Activities

This policy shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property and would otherwise violate the Code of Student Conduct if any of the following circumstances exist:

1. The conduct occurs during the time the student is traveling to and from school or traveling to and from school-sponsored activities, whether or not via school district furnished transportation.

2. The student is a member of an extracurricular activity and has been notified that particular off-campus conduct could result in exclusion from such activities.
3. Student expression or conduct materially and substantially disrupts the operations of the school, or the administration reasonably anticipates that the expression or conduct is likely to materially and substantially disrupt the operations of the school.
4. The conduct has a direct nexus to attendance at school or a school-sponsored activity, for example, a transaction conducted outside of school pursuant to an agreement made in school, that would violate the Code of Student Conduct if conducted in school.
5. The conduct involves the theft or vandalism of school property.
6. There is otherwise a nexus between the proximity or timing of the conduct in relation to the student's attendance at school or school-sponsored activities.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion and referral for prosecution. The Superintendent or designee may assign a less severe consequence including but not less than a forty-five (45) day minimum alternative education placement for any student grade 7 through 12.

The Superintendent or designee shall immediately report required incidents and may report discretionary incidents involving possession, use or sale of controlled substances on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from school or school-sponsored activity to the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies.

The Board prohibits the use of anabolic steroids by students involved in school-related athletics, except for a valid medical purpose. Bodybuilding and muscle enhancement, increasing muscle bulk or strength, or the enhancements of athletic ability are not valid medical purposes. Human Growth Hormone (HGH) shall not be included as an anabolic steroid.

#### Reasonable Suspicion/Testing

If based on the student's behavior, medical symptoms, vital signs or other observable factors, the building principal has reasonable suspicion that the student is under the influence of a controlled substance, the student may be required to submit to drug or alcohol testing. The testing may include but is not limited to the analysis of blood, urine, saliva, or the administration of a Breathalyzer test.

### **Recording District Staff and Classes**

Recording any member of the Pottstown School District staff in any capacity is prohibited.

## Safe2Say Something Tip Line

The SAFE-Line is monitored by our School Resource Officer. Safe2Say Something will be forwarded to the proper school district and/or police partner immediately.



- Safe2Say Something is a youth violence prevention program run by the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General. Students or parents can contact Safe2Something if there is a suspicion of self harm or harm to others, including but not limited to suicide or violence whether the threat is heard in person, on social media or through any other means. Students or parents are encouraged to “say something” BEFORE it is too late.”
- Who can make a report: students, parents, teachers



## SAFE-Line: 610-970-6705

If you have a concern about safety for people or the school, call 610-970-6705. During school, notify a teacher, nurse, counselor, or principal immediately. After school hours, call the SAFE-Line. The message will not be listened to until the beginning of the next school day.

## Schedules

### Daily Bell Schedule

<b>Teachers Enter</b>	7:20	
<b>Staff Meetings</b>	7:25 – 7:48	
<b>Students Enter</b>	7:48	
<b>Homeroom</b>	7:56-8:07	11 minutes
<b>Block 1</b>	8:11-9:36	85 minutes
<b>Block 2</b>	9:40-11:05	85 minutes
<b>Block 3</b>	11:09-1:09	120 (30 minutes of lunch)
A Lunch	11:09-11:39	
B Lunch	11:39-12:09	
C Lunch	12:09-12:39	
D Lunch	12:39-1:09	
<b>Block 4</b>	1:13-2:40	87 minutes
<b>Teacher Dismissal</b>	2:50	

### Bell Schedule for Early Dismissals and Delayed Openings

<b>One Hour Delay</b>	<b>Two Hour Delay</b>
Teachers Enter 8:20 Students Enter 8:48 Homeroom 8:56-9:04 (8) Block 1 9:08-10:15 (67) Block 2 10:19-11:26 (67) Block 3 11:30-1:30 (120) Block 4 1:34-2:40 (66)	Teachers Enter 9:20 Students Enter 9:48 Homeroom 9:56-10:04 (8) Block 1 10:08-10:55 (47) Block 2 10:59-11:46 (47) Block 3 11:50-1:50 (120) Block 4 1:54-2:40 (46)
<b>Three Hour Delay</b>	<b>11:55 a.m. Dismissal</b>
Teachers Enter 10:20 Students Enter 10:48 Homeroom 10:56-11:09 (13) Block 3 11:13-1:13 (120) Block A/B/C 1:17-2:40 (83)  A = Block 1    B = Block 2    C = Block 4	Teachers Enter 7:20 Students Enter 7:48 Homeroom 7:56-8:08 (8) Block 1 8:11-9:04 (52) Block 2 9:08-10:01 (53) Block 3 10:05-10:58 (53) Block 4 11:02-11:55 (53)
<b>12:10 p.m. Dismissal</b>	<b>10:30 a.m. Dismissal</b>
Teachers Enter 7:20 Students Enter 7:48 Homeroom 7:56-8:08 (8) Block 1 8:11-9:07 (56) Block 2 9:11-10:07 (56) Block 3 10:11-11:07 (56) Block 4 11:11-12:10 (59)	Teachers Enter 7:20 Students Enter 7:48 Homeroom 7:56-8:08 (8) Block 1 8:11-8:43 (32) Block 2 8:47-9:19 (32) Block 3 9:23-9:55 (32) Block 4 9:59-10:30 (31)
<b>12:40 p.m. Dismissal</b> (With lunch)	
Teachers Enter 7:20 Students Enter 7:48 Homeroom 7:56-8:08 (8) Block 1 8:11-8:58 (47) Block 2 9:02-9:47 (45) Block 4 9:51-10:36 (45) Block 3 10:40-12:40 (120)	

## **School District Calendar**

The school calendar includes five (5) emergency/inclement weather days. If schools are closed as a result of inclement weather or emergencies, days will not be rescheduled unless there are more than five (5) days of school closings. For specific dates see the school calendar on the district website. The calendar will be revised in April to reflect 183 student days. The final graduation date will be established in April.

## **School Issued Materials & Supplies**

Students are held responsible for loss or damage to any books, materials, uniforms & supplies (including calculators and Chromebooks) issued to them. If they are lost, stolen or damaged, the student must pay for it or replace it with the exact model. Failure to replace lost or damaged items may result in forfeiture of the right to attend prom and/or graduation. Insurance is available for Chromebooks and it is *strongly* recommended that insurance be purchased.

## **Student Assistance Team (SAP)**

- The SAP Team is a group of staff members whose purpose is to identify students who are having problems in school because of alcohol or drug abuse, depression, suicidal behavior, and any other "at risk" behaviors which may be self-destructive.
- The SAP Team is an intervention, not a treatment program. The team will act upon referrals from staff, students, parents, and concerned others by first gathering factual information to determine the extent of the problem. The team will then develop recommendations for appropriate action, consistent with school district policy, which will assist students in handling observed problems.
- If you are concerned about a student who may be depressed, suicidal, or involved with substance abuse, you can make your concern known to the SAP Team.
- All information is CONFIDENTIAL. Drop your concern in the locked box in the Career and Counseling Center. Forms can be obtained from any SAP Team member, the nurse, or in the Career and Counseling Center.

## **Student Complaint Process**

Pottstown School District Board Policy 219 states in part:

The Board recognizes that students may have legitimate concerns and complaints. In addition, the Board believes that the inculcation of respect for established procedures is an important part of the educational process. Accordingly, individual and group complaints shall be recognized, and appropriate appeal procedures shall be provided.

For purposes of this policy, a **student complaint** shall be one that arises from actions that directly affect the student's participation in an approved educational program. This policy shall not apply to PIAA regulated sports program policy.

The student should first make the complaint known to the staff member most closely involved or, if none is identifiable, a guidance counselor; and both shall attempt to resolve the issue informally and directly. For

complaints that must move beyond the first step, the student shall prepare a written statement of his/her complaint which shall set forth:

1. Specific nature of the complaint and a brief statement of relevant facts.
2. Manner and extent to which the student believes s/he has been adversely affected.
3. Relief sought by the student.
4. Reasons the student feels entitled to the relief sought.

The complaint may then be submitted, in turn, to:

1. The Building Principal.
2. The Superintendent.
3. The Board of Directors.

Each of these three levels will be given fifteen (15) school days (maximum allowed at each level) for hearing of the complaint and preparation of a response. At each level, the student shall be afforded the opportunity to be heard personally by the school authority..

## **Student Responsibilities**

- Student responsibilities include regular school attendance, conscientious effort in classroom work, and conformance to school rules and regulations. Most of all, students share with the administration and faculty a responsibility to develop a climate within the school that is conducive to wholesome learning and living.
- **No student has the right to interfere with the education of his fellow students. It is the responsibility of each student to respect the rights of teachers, students, administrators, and all others who are involved in the educational process.**
- Students should express their opinions in a respectful manner.
- It is the responsibility of all students to:
  - Be aware of all rules and regulations for student behavior and conduct themselves in accord with those rules.
  - Volunteer information in matters relating to the health, safety, and welfare of the school community and the protection of school property.
  - Dress and groom in a manner that is both safe and healthy and does not cause disruption to the educational process.
  - Assume that all rules are in full effect.
  - Assist staff in operating a safe school for all students enrolled therein.
  - Be aware of and comply with federal, state, and local laws.
  - Exercise proper care when using public facilities and equipment.
  - Attend school daily, except when excused, and be on time to all classes.
  - Make arrangements for making up work when absent from school.
  - Satisfactorily complete the courses of study prescribed by state and local school authorities.
  - Avoid inaccuracies in student newspapers or publications.
  - Avoid using indecent or obscene language, either written or oral.
  - Share report cards with parents/guardians in a timely manner.
  - Not possess/be under the influence of illegal/controlled substances.

## **Student Information Sheets**

Student Information Sheets must be completed online for all students and can be found in the Home Access Center. In the event of an emergency, these sheets give the doctor or hospital permission to treat the student. Student Information Sheets are to be completed in full by the parent or guardian promptly at the beginning of each school year. A new sheet is required each year. Parents will be notified if it is



necessary for the child to be taken home, , to a doctor, or to the hospital. Parents are contacted by means of the student's information sheet. Phone numbers, addresses, and parents' employers' telephone numbers must be kept up to date throughout the year. Failure to return the sheet will result in disciplinary consequences for the student.

## Student Searches

- **Entry searches:** School officials may conduct entry searches. These searches will be conducted by school administrators or their designee.
  - Students may be asked to open/empty their book bags, backpacks, pockets, remove shoes and/or coats, sweatshirts, sweaters or jackets.
  - Metal detectors (wands) may be used to scan the person.
- **Locker searches:** Lockers are school property loaned to the student for the student's convenience. Students should not share their assigned locker or combination with anyone. **Neither the school nor the district is responsible for lost or stolen items.**
  - Building administrators may search a student's locker without prior warning in the interest of the health, welfare, and safety of all school students.
  - Students should have no expectation of privacy.
  - The high school administration may conduct unannounced safety inspections for drugs and weapons throughout the school year.
- **Personal search:** In the interest of safety and providing a weapon and drug-free school environment, a student and/or belongings may be searched.
- **Vehicles:** Student vehicles that are parked on school property are also subject to a search by school administration.

## Summer School

- Summer school is a remedial opportunity for students to gain graduation credits for courses that were failed during the school year. It is an opportunity to recover credit on a pass/fail basis.
  - A student must have earned at least a 49% in a course in order to be eligible for summer credit recovery.

## Tardiness to School

- Tardiness, as defined by school law, is lateness regardless of the student's reason. This would include late arrivals that are a result of illness, doctor's appointments, car trouble, inclement weather, etc.
- **Students are tardy if they are not in homeroom by 7:56 a.m.**
- All cases of tardiness must be recorded.
- Students who arrive late because of an emergency situation must bring a note signed by the parent that explains the emergency. Tardiness will be considered excused for the following reasons:
  - Late buses
  - Personal illness
  - Medical reasons (with a note from a doctor)
  - Hazardous conditions due to inclement weather
  - Religious obligations
  - Family emergencies
  - Utility failure

- Driver’s examination (with prior approval)
- Job interview (with prior approval)
- Other extenuating circumstances may be considered by a school administrator or the Attendance Office.
- **No more than ten (10) parental notes will excuse a child per school year. This includes absentee notes.**

Should tardiness become chronic, the administrator may record each tardy as an unexcused tardy. In addition, chronically tardy students may be required to have parental escort for admission. Students should follow these procedures when tardy:

- If in the building and late to homeroom
  - Go to homeroom and the teacher will mark you as late to school
- If you arrive after 7:56 a.m. or did not make it to homeroom
  - Report to the Attendance Clerk and an electronic late pass will be entered into the system and an e-Hallpass will be issued for your homeroom teacher.
- After 9:30 a.m., without a parent note/escort or a physician’s excuse, a student will be considered AM truant and may be assigned to 1 day of ISS three days from the day you were late. You have 3 days to bring in a note from your parent/guardian. Remember that the maximum number of notes is ten (10) per year.
  - Missing school for an afternoon truancy court appearance is not an acceptable excuse.
- **Students who are tardy after 8:45 a.m. (unexcused) will not be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, including practice, for that day.**

Number of Incidents of Being Late to School per Semester	Consequences
3	Student is “truant” and a letter is sent home
6	Student is “habitually truant” and a letter is sent home School Attendance Improvement Plan (SAIP) is created and a meeting is schedule to review with student and parent/guardian
8	Citation to Magisterial District Court
13 or more	Letter sent home warning of referral to the Office of Children and Youth (OCY) Referral to OCY made if absences continue

### **Terminating or Transferring School(s)**

- Obtain a release form from the Career and Counseling Center.
- Clean out locker and return all property including Chromebooks and chargers, calculators, sports uniforms, books, student ID, etc. Return property to respective teachers, librarian, counselors, attendance office, or athletic director and have them sign the release form.
- Pay for all lost books, equipment, or fines.
- Return signed release form to Career and Counseling Center.

## Technical College High School Pickering Campus

### Procedures for Calendar Changes

PHS Two-Hour Delay	If there is a two-hour delay, students will be dismissed to take the van at the regularly scheduled time.
PHS Early Dismissals	Students will go to TCHS at the regularly scheduled time.
PHS In-service	On days that PHS has in-service, no transportation will be provided to TCHS.
Snow Days	On snow days, Pottstown School District does not provide transportation to TCHS.
PHS Holidays	There will be no transportation to TCHS.
TCHS Days Off (Holidays, In-service, Snow Days)	When TCHS is closed due to holidays, in-service, or snow days, students must stay at PHS in the library unless a note is provided from a parent or guardian stating the student can leave.
TCHS Field Trips	Students must bring all necessary field trip forms to the Director of Career and Technical Education. If a student is riding to TCHS for a field trip with anyone other than a parent or guardian, the parent or guardian must provide a note of permission prior to the date of the trip.
PHS Pep Rallies, Assemblies, Etc.	Students will go to TCHS at the regularly scheduled time.
Final Exams	Students must take final exams at PHS during the regularly scheduled time unless other arrangements are made and approved by administration prior to the week of final exams. Students are responsible for their own lunch as PHS does not serve lunch on final exam days.
Keystone and other Standardized Tests	Students must take all standardized tests (including but not limited to keystones) at PHS during scheduled times. Students should notify the TCHS office and their instructor when their tests are scheduled.

## **Transcript Requests**

Students requesting an official copy of their high school transcript which bears the school seal may do so by completing a Transcript Release Request Form available in the Career and Counseling Center or on the high school website under Career and Counseling. Transcripts are not sent to any college/university unless specifically requested by the student. Please allow a minimum of one week turnaround time for the transcript to be available/sent.

## **Utilization of Technology**

Pottstown School District Policy 815 states in part that:

In accordance with district policy, accepted rules of network etiquette, and federal and state law, the following uses of technologies are prohibited:

1. Use of technology for defamatory, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, offensive and/or illegal materials.
2. Use of technology for commercial gain or profit.
3. Transferring copyrighted materials to or from any district technology equipment without the express consent of the owner of the copyright.
4. Bullying/Cyberbullying.
5. Hate mail, discriminatory remarks, and offensive or inflammatory communication.
6. Access to obscene or pornographic material or child pornography.
7. Access by students and minors to material that is harmful to minors or is determined inappropriate for minors in accordance with Board policy.
8. Impersonation of another user, anonymity, and pseudonyms.
9. Loading or using unauthorized games, programs, files, or other electronic media.
10. Disruption of the work of other users.

Staff or students illegally accessing, altering, damaging, or destroying any technology equipment, computer network, computer software, or system information within a school system or an external system will be referred to the Pottstown Police Department for investigation and possible prosecution.

Such violations in the case of students may result in suspension and/or expulsion, and such violations on the part of employees will constitute just cause for dismissal.

Sharing individually assigned accounts and passwords is prohibited. Passwords are designed to protect and any attempt to circumvent system security to gain unauthorized access to technology resources is expressly prohibited and subject to the appropriate punishment.

Student and staff photographs and names that are made available in district-sponsored media are permitted to be displayed on the district website.

Student and staff photographs and names may be displayed on other commercial sites with specific written approval of the Superintendent and parent/guardians.

Students shall not download any information from the Wide Area Network/Internet unrelated to their specific course of study without prior approval of their instructor.

Any commercial endorsement placed on or linked to the district web site shall require the written approval of the Superintendent.

Users will not use the district system for political lobbying.

#### Actions Resulting From Misuse

Inappropriate or irresponsible use of technology will result in the following actions:

1. In cases where a law or copyright has been violated, a referral shall be made to appropriate law enforcement officials. Such violations in the case of students may result in suspension and/or expulsion, and such violations of the part of employees will constitute just cause for dismissal.
2. Student infractions which are not deemed illegal will result in appropriate school discipline being imposed and/or reviewed by the building principal.
3. Employee infractions which are not deemed illegal but violate Board policy will result in appropriate administrative action/discipline, which may include termination of employment.

The user shall be responsible for damages to the equipment, systems, and software resulting from deliberate or willful acts.

Vandalism will result in cancellation of access privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, Internet or other networks; this includes but is not limited to uploading or creating computer viruses.

#### Copyright

The illegal use of copyrighted software by students and staff is prohibited. Any data uploaded to or downloaded from the network shall be subject to fair use guidelines.

#### Internet Access

Internet access shall be governed by the same rules and regulations set forth in this policy relating to the utilization of technology.

#### *Middle School And High School Students –*

Starting in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, students may have the opportunity to access Internet services at the direction of a staff member. Internet access is a privilege, not a right, and may be removed if any portion of this policy is violated or if the privilege is abused in any other way. Students in the middle school will not access the Internet without direct supervision by an adult, such as a teacher or other staff member (e.g., classroom aide).

#### Safety

To the greatest extent possible, users of the network will be protected from harassment and unwanted or unsolicited communication. Any network user who receives threatening or unwelcome communications shall report such immediately to a teacher or administrator. Network users shall not reveal personal information to other users on the network, including chat rooms, e-mail, Internet, etc.

#### Email Accounts

Email Accounts for Students: At the high school level, students are given an individual district email account.

## Visitors

- All visitors must report to the front desk of the main office upon entering the building and obtain a visitor's pass. All visitors are required to present ID which will be run through the Raptor© screening system. The pass must be worn while in the building. Guests may only visit the location for which they have signed in. Guests found in any other area will be escorted out of the building. Child visitors are not permitted on the second floor without administrative approval.
- Any guests requesting to visit a teacher must first gain approval from that teacher. The teacher must inform the front office receptionist of the impending visit before the guest arrives. No one will be permitted to visit teachers during the regular school day without prior permission from that teacher in order to keep disruptions to the learning process at a minimum.

## Work Permits

- The law requires students to have either:
  - Non-Transferable Work Permits (job-specific, ages 14-15)
  - Transferable Work Permits (age 16 and older)
- Procedures:
  - Complete application in the main office. Must bring a copy of one of the following documents:
    - birth certificate
    - hospital certificate
    - passport
  - Parent/guardian must accompany student for the application
  - Return form to high school office to receive working paper