

# **PRMS STUDENT HANDBOOK**



## **2023-2024**

## **Pearl River Middle School**

520 Gilbert Avenue  
Pearl River, NY 10965

### **District Website Address**

[www.pearlriver.org](http://www.pearlriver.org)

### **Pearl River School District**

Dr. Marco Pochintesta – Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. John Piscitella, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources & Community Services  
Ms. Susanne Pariot – Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction  
Ms. Tawnya Muhlrads – Assistant Superintendent of Business  
Mr. Robert Nelan - Director of Facilities  
Mr. Artie McCormack - Director of Health, Physical Education & Athletics  
Mrs. Jamie Haug - Director of Technology  
Mr. Joseph Simoni - Director of Special Services  
Mr. Anthony Kcira - Coordinator of School Transportation

### **Board of Education**

Jackie Dubil-Craig, President	Denise Caunitz, Vice President
Terrence Cortelli, Member	Thomas DePrisco, Member
	Dr. Kathleen Ann Kelley, Member

### **Pearl River Middle School**

David Wright, Principal	620-3872
Andrea Pompey, Assistant Principal	620-3874
Wellness Center	620-3881
Miguel Arias, School Psychologist	620-3893
James Calisi, School Psychologist	620-3887
Brittany Beckley, School Counselor	620-3880
Mark Bernasconi, School Counselor	620-3879
Jessica Bersani, Social Worker	620-3888
Noreen Wholey, Attendance	620-3881
Health Office	
Debra Sens Castet, School Nurse	620-3878
Maryann Ballard, Health Clerk	620-3301

### **Parent Teacher Association**

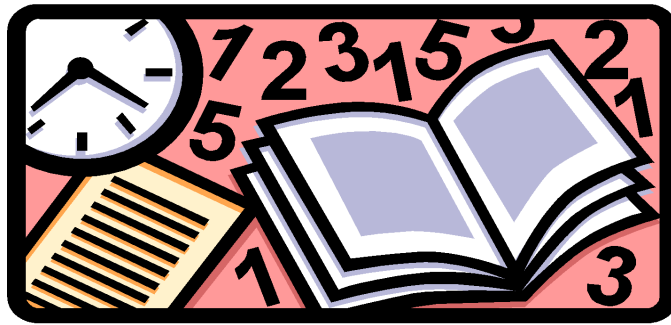
Alice Tom, <b>President</b>	<a href="mailto:alice.yuentom@gmail.com">alice.yuentom@gmail.com</a>
Dan Robins, <b>Co-Vice-President</b>	<a href="mailto:danrobins19@gmail.com">danrobins19@gmail.com</a>
Kerry Moakley, <b>Co-Vice-President</b>	<a href="mailto:kerryoakley@gmail.com">kerryoakley@gmail.com</a>
Alison Gerondel, <b>Treasurer</b>	<a href="mailto:agerondel@yahoo.com">agerondel@yahoo.com</a>
Allison Carey, <b>Co-Recording Secretary</b>	<a href="mailto:allisonckcarey@gmail.com">allisonckcarey@gmail.com</a>
Jennifer Nolan, <b>Co-Recording Secretary</b>	<a href="mailto:jnolan7840@gmail.com">jnolan7840@gmail.com</a>
Alicia Shannon, <b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	<a href="mailto:alicia_marie23@hotmail.com">alicia_marie23@hotmail.com</a>

## Welcome to Pearl River Middle School

### THE PEARL RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Pearl River Middle School is fully committed to providing all children with a safe and inclusive learning environment that nurtures and promotes the social, emotional, physical and intellectual development of students in grades five through seven. Throughout their middle school journey, Pearl River Middle School Students will engage with curriculum, their teachers, and each other as critical thinkers, innovative and creative problem solvers, effective communicators and collaborative members of a thoughtful and caring school community. Through the exploration of a range of cultural experiences and perspectives, **PRMS** students will develop as well-informed and objective global citizens. It is our ultimate responsibility to prepare our students for an ever changing world as well-balanced, life-long learners who are well-prepared for success in high school, and in life.

**P-Pride R-Respect M-Mindful S-Socially Responsible**



### MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear PRMS Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year at the Pearl River Middle School. You will find helpful information about the middle school in this handbook including staff and teacher names, expectations and useful tips. I look forward to working with you as you show your pride, respect, mindfulness and social responsibility, which goes along with being a Pearl River Middle School Student. Best wishes for a successful school year!

Sincerely,

David Wright, Principal

## Pearl River Middle School Teams/ School Year 2023-2024

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade PURPLE

<u>Teacher/Rm.</u>	<u>Homeroom</u>	<u>Academic Area</u>	<u>Teacher/Rm.</u>	<u>Homeroom</u>	<u>Academic Area</u>
Mrs. Lentini 127	5P1	ELA/SS	Mr. Lyons 118		ELA/SS/Tech
Mrs. Aharoni 129		ELA/SS	Mrs. McCrory 125	502	ELA/SS
Mrs. DeRosa 131	5P2	Math/Science	Mrs. Oleksy 148	501	Math/Science
Ms. Hogan 126/110	5C	ELA/Wilson Reading	Ms. Hogan 126/110	5C	ELA/Wilson Reading
Ms. McKivergan 126/110		Math/Science/SS/Support/Consult ELA	Ms. McKivergan 126/110		Math/Science/SS/Support/Consult ELA
Mrs. Saccardo 126		ELA/SS/Math/Science/Support			

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade ORANGE

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade SILVER

<u>Teacher/Rm.</u>	<u>Homeroom</u>	<u>Academic Area</u>	<u>Teacher/Rm.</u>	<u>Homeroom</u>	<u>Academic Area</u>
Mrs. Reale 123	5S1	ELA/SS	Mrs. McQueen 122	5N1	ELA/SS
Mrs. Meehan 121		ELA/SS	Mrs. Casale 124		ELA/SS
Ms. Catrona 149	5S2	Math/Science	Mrs. Seiler 128	5N2	Math/Science
Ms. Hogan 126/132B	5C	ELA/Wilson Reading	Ms. Hogan 126/132B	5C	ELA/Wilson Reading
Ms. McKivergan 126/110		Math/Science/SS/Support/Consult ELA	Ms. McKivergan 126/110		Math/Science/SS/Support/Consult ELA
Ms. Kane 123/149/132		ELA/SS/Math/Science/Support			

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade NAVY

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade GOLD****6<sup>th</sup> Grade RED**

<u><i>Teacher/Rm.</i></u>	<u><i>Homeroom</i></u>	<u><i>Academic Area</i></u>	<u><i>Teacher/Rm.</i></u>	<u><i>Homeroom</i></u>	<u><i>Academic Area</i></u>
<i>Mrs. Robinson 112</i>	<i>6G</i>	<i>ELA</i>	<i>Mrs. Addino 109</i>	<i>6T</i>	<i>ELA/IFL</i>
<i>Mrs. Mulcahy 234</i>		<i>ELA</i>	<i>Ms. McCarren 238</i>	<i>6R</i>	<i>ELA</i>
<i>Mrs. O'Flynn 236</i>	<i>6G</i>	<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>Mrs. Krystel 232</i>		<i>Mathematics</i>
<i>Mrs Bell 233</i>	<i>6G</i>	<i>Social Studies</i>	<i>Ms. Toledo 230</i>	<i>6R</i>	<i>Social Studies</i>
<i>Mrs. Bennett 231</i>	<i>6G</i>	<i>Science</i>	<i>Mrs. Martinez 237</i>	<i>6R</i>	<i>Science</i>
<i>Mrs. Ginnane 235</i>	<i>6C</i>	<i>Math/Support</i>	<i>Mrs. Ginnane 235</i>	<i>6C</i>	<i>Math/Support/ Consult SS/ Consult Science</i>
<i>Ms. Hogan 132B</i>		<i>Wilson Reading Consult ELA</i>	<i>Ms. Hogan 132B</i>		<i>Wilson Reading</i>
<i>Mrs. Sullivan 132</i>		<i>ELA/Support/ Consult Math/ Consult SS</i>	<i>Mrs. Sullivan 132</i>		<i>ELA/Support/ Consult Math</i>

7<sup>th</sup> Grade BLUE7<sup>th</sup> Grade GREEN

<u>Teacher/Rm.</u>	<u>Homeroom</u>	<u>Academic Area</u>	<u>Teacher/Rm.</u>	<u>Homeroom</u>	<u>Academic Area</u>
<i>Mrs. Verret 219</i>		<i>ELA</i>	<i>Ms. Pollack 220</i>		<i>ELA</i>
<i>Mr. Alves 221</i>		<i>Foreign Lang. (Spanish)</i>	<i>Mr. Silverman 223</i>		<i>Foreign Lang. (French)</i>
<i>Mr. Hoetzl 235</i>		<i>Foreign Lang. (Latin)</i>	<i>Ms. Tonelli 219</i>		<i>Foreign Lang. (Italian)</i>
			<i>Ms. Olinsky 223</i>		<i>Foreign Lang. (Spanish)</i>
<i>Mrs. Mackin 227</i>		<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>Mrs. Krentzman 229</i>		<i>Mathematics</i>
<i>Mr. Staker 225</i>		<i>Social Studies</i>	<i>Mr. O'Connor 224</i>		<i>Social Studies</i>
<i>Mrs. Passman 222</i>		<i>Science</i>	<i>Ms. Whipple 228</i>		<i>Science</i>
<i>Ms. Gizzi Various</i>		<i>Math/Science/ Support/Consult ELA/Consult SS</i>	<i>Ms. Gizzi Various</i>		<i>Math/Science/ Support/Consult ELA/Consult SS</i>
<i>Ms. Hogan 132B</i>		<i>Wilson Reading</i>	<i>Ms. Hogan 132B</i>		<i>Wilson Reading</i>
<i>Mrs. Hogue Various</i>		<i>ELA/SS/Support Consult Spanish</i>	<i>Mrs. Hogue Various</i>		<i>ELA/SS/Support Consult Math/ Consult Science</i>
<i>Mrs. Sullivan Various</i>		<i>Consult Math</i>			

## UNIFIED ARTS/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Academic Area</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Academic Area</u>
<i>Mrs. Addino</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>Intro to FL</i>	<i>Mrs. Linehan</i>	<i>Gym</i>	<i>Phys Ed</i>
<i>Mr. Amadio</i>	<i>238/130/133</i>	<i>Health 5,6,7</i>	<i>Mrs. Murphy</i>	<i>Various</i>	<i>ENL</i>
<i>Dr. Dalandan</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>General Music &amp; Chorus</i>	<i>Ms. Ortiz</i>	<i>Various</i>	<i>ENL</i>
<i>Ms. Desir</i>	<i>141</i>	<i>Orchestra</i>	<i>Mr. Romano</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>Tech 2</i>
<i>Mrs. Donnelly</i>	<i>Gym</i>	<i>Phys Ed</i>	<i>Mr. Shinnors</i>	<i>Gym/228</i>	<i>Phys Ed/Health 2</i>
<i>Ms. Girling</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>Art II</i>	<i>Mr. Travaglino</i>	<i>Gym</i>	<i>Phys Ed</i>
<i>Mrs. Hensley</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>Band</i>	<i>Mrs. Zaccardo</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>Art I</i>
<i>Mr. Herskowitz</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>Tech I</i>			

## SUPPORT PERSONNEL

<u>Staff Member/Room</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Staff Member/Room</u>	<u>Title</u>
<i>Mr. Arias</i>	<i>School Psychologist</i>	<i>Mr. LaFortune</i>	<i>Custodian (.5)</i>
<i>Ms. Ballard</i>	<i>Health Clerk</i>	<i>Mr. Laguerre</i>	<i>Custodian</i>
<i>Mrs. Beckerle</i>	<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	<i>Mrs. Murtha</i>	<i>Monitor (4 hours)</i>
<i>Mrs. Beckley</i>	<i>School Counselor</i>	<i>Mr. Murray</i>	<i>Head Custodian</i>
<i>Mr. Bernasconi</i>	<i>School Counselor</i>	<i>Ms. Nardi</i>	<i>Teaching Assistant</i>
<i>Mrs. Bersani</i>	<i>School Social Worker</i>	<i>Ms. Phelan</i>	<i>Teacher Aide (1:1)</i>
<i>Mr. Calisi</i>	<i>School Psychologist</i>	<i>Ms. Pinciario</i>	<i>Teaching Assistant</i>
<i>Mrs. Carstensen</i>	<i>Secretary Typist</i>	<i>Mrs. Ranaghan</i>	<i>Secretary Typist</i>
<i>Ms. DeSantis</i>	<i>Cafeteria</i>	<i>Mr. Riordan</i>	<i>Security Guard</i>
<i>Mrs. DiBernardo</i>	<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	<i>Mr. Roberts</i>	<i>Cafeteria</i>
<i>Ms. Doran</i>	<i>Cafeteria</i>	<i>Mrs. Schaefer</i>	<i>Teacher Aide (1:1)</i>
<i>Mrs. Faller</i>	<i>Monitor (2.5 hours) Greeter (2 hours)</i>	<i>Mrs. Sens-Castet</i>	<i>Nurse</i>
<i>Ms. Farnworth</i>	<i>Monitor (4 hours)</i>	<i>Mrs. Siley</i>	<i>Greeter (AM)</i>
<i>Mrs. Foote</i>	<i>Cafeteria</i>	<i>Mrs. Silver</i>	<i>Literacy Coach (7-12)</i>
<i>Ms. Innocent</i>	<i>Custodian</i>	<i>Mr. Vasquez</i>	<i>Custodian</i>
<i>Ms. Kelly</i>	<i>Speech Teacher</i>	<i>Mrs. Wholey</i>	<i>Senior Clerk Typist</i>
<i>Mrs. Kissane</i>	<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	<i>Mrs. Wrafter</i>	<i>Greeter (PM)</i>
<i>Ms. Jacobs</i>	<i>Librarian</i>	<i>Mrs. Zimnoch</i>	<i>Teaching Assistant</i>
<i>Mr. Jean-Pierre</i>	<i>Custodian</i>	<i>Mr. Zulme</i>	<i>Custodian</i>

## BOCES

<i>Mr. Clark</i>	<i>Teacher</i>
<i>Ms. Lappe</i>	<i>Teaching Assistant</i>
<i>Ms. Ruggiero</i>	<i>Teaching Assistant</i>



## Absence

Attendance is a critical component in a student's educational career. Every day a student is absent from school is one day of missed instruction. While there is no substitute for this instruction, students will be required to make up any assignments missed while absent. **If a child is going to be absent from school, please email the Wellness Center ([absencesms@pearlriver.org](mailto:absencesms@pearlriver.org)) and include the reason for the absence OR call 845-620-3881 to report the reason for the absence.**

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## Absentee Assignments

For one-day or two-day absences, students should get the assignments any of the following ways: call a classmate; ask the teacher directly upon return; check google classroom; visit the homework page on the school website; check the teacher websites.

In either case, the **STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE** for making up the work. **On or after the third day of absence, please call the Wellness Center at (620-3881) before 9:00 a.m. and we will collect assignments by 2:30 p.m. that day.** Students who are ill for very long periods should call their School Counselor for information on how the work may be made up.

Daily homework can be found on the [Middle School homework web page](#) by noon of each school day.

We cannot provide students with long-term detailed assignments ahead of time for **non-school vacations. PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ARE ILLEGAL ABSENCES.**

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## Athletics

### Steps Required for Participation in Interscholastic Athletic Competition

- Our Board of Education will only permit students in grade 7 to compete on any modified sports team, provided the students are placed at levels of competition appropriate to their maturity, physical fitness, and skills.
- **All forms and registration must be done on-line and one month before the sport begins.**
- Pre-physical "tolerance" testing done by the school nurse in school: vision, hearing, blood pressure, pulse, urine test (for pH, blood protein and glucose).
- Physical done by a school doctor in school or privately by a family physician.

Due to New York State and medical regulations, all tests and forms must be completed in full and in detail. Failure to adhere to these procedures will result in exclusion from sports activities.

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## Bicycles/Roller Blades/Skateboards/Scooters

Students may ride their bikes to school and walk the bike to and from the bicycle rack only. They may not ride their bicycle anywhere else on school property. Our bicycle rack is located on the side of the building near the cafeteria. Students must park and lock bikes there. Students are expected to provide their own lock to keep the bicycle secure. The school is not responsible for any damage to or theft of a bicycle.

In accordance with New York State law, all students must wear a helmet. Any student who fails to adhere to the law may lose the right to bike to school.

**Please note that neither roller blades, skateboards, nor scooters are permitted on school property at any time.**

## Bus Safety



All bus infractions are subject to the Pearl River School District Code of Conduct.

Riding on a school bus is a privilege. **Do not lose your bus privilege – follow these rules!**

Observe classroom conduct \* Be courteous, use no profane language \* Do not eat or drink on the bus \* Keep the bus clean \* Cooperate with the driver \* Do not damage bus or equipment \* No gum chewing \* Stay in your seat \* Keep head, hands and feet inside bus \* Do not fight, push or shove \* Do not tamper with bus equipment \* Do not bring pets on the bus \* Do not bring flammable material on the bus \* The bus driver is authorized to assign seats \* Cell phones are for emergencies only \* No picture taking as per the District Code of Conduct. \* Have a safe trip!

Students are required to ride on their assigned bus. In special circumstances, and only when written permission is provided by a parent, a child may ride a bus that he/she is not assigned. **These notes MUST be brought to the Main Office for approval at the beginning of the school day.**

If a student leaves an item on the bus, please call the bus company at **735-2200** in order to recover it. If parents have any questions or concerns regarding busing, please call the Coordinator of Transportation for the Pearl River School District, Mr. Anthony Kcira at **620-3857**.

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## Cafeteria Procedures



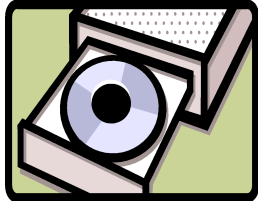
All students will eat lunch in the cafeteria by grade. (Please refer to the school schedule). While in the cafeteria students are expected to use the same good manners that are required at a public restaurant. Courtesy towards fellow students and cooperation with the teachers, teaching assistants, and monitors supervising the cafeteria is expected at all times.

Parents have the option of sending lunch with their child or allowing them to buy their lunch. If your child forgets their lunch, you may bring it to the Greeter's booth and place it in the grade-appropriate box. Please write the student's name on it. The lunch will then be taken to the cafeteria during the grade-specific lunch period. Students must remember to bring their lunches with them if they eat lunch from home.

Special lunches such as pizza and McDonalds, etc., <b>MAY NOT BE DELIVERED TO THE LUNCHROOM. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AND TREATS ARE ALSO NOT ALLOWED.</b>
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If your child needs accommodations for special dietary needs, [complete this form](#).

After finishing lunch, each student is required to clean the table and surrounding area before leaving the cafeteria. Students will be able to select the table and students with whom they will eat lunch. Students must **be seated** while eating lunch. After **15 minutes**, students will be able to spend some time outdoors (weather permitting), participating in games or socializing with other students. These activities are to take place only in designated areas where staff members are supervising. Students are not permitted to leave these areas.

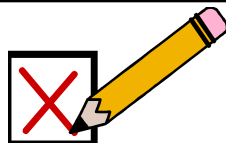


### Cell Phones /Electronic Devices

Cell phones, iPods and any other electronic devices must be off and out of sight during the instructional day, except when used with the teacher's permission. The same rules apply for field trips. Phones should be powered off when students enter the building and can be turned back on at 2:30 p.m. They may never be used to take pictures, video and audio recordings during the school day, on the buses and/or at school functions.

Students maintain the complete responsibility for any devices brought from home. (Following the Bring Your Own Device "BYOD" school policy that was developed in Fall 2014.)

The school cannot be held responsible for any such items that are damaged, lost, or missing. Unauthorized use of these devices during school hours may result in disciplinary action.



### Cheating / Plagiarizing

Students are responsible for their own learning.

**IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU ALWAYS DO YOUR OWN WORK. NO MATTER WHAT THE TASK....homework, project, report, quiz, test, etc., you are expected to meet the requirements of each class yourself!**

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It is defined as taking and using as one's own, the ideas or writings of another.

The consequences for cheating or plagiarizing include a zero for that assignment or task, disciplinary action, and parent notification. **SO DON'T CHEAT OR PLAGIARIZE, EVER!**

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## Classroom Expectations



Please adhere to the following:

- Arrive at each class on time.
  - Enter the room and take your seat quietly.
  - Have all materials, such as notebooks, textbooks, pencils and pens ready.
  - No chewing gum.
  - Respect the rights and property of others.
  - Pay attention to the lesson.
  - Do not distract others by whispering, talking, passing notes, etc.
  - Remain in your seat unless permission has been given to move around the room.
  - Wait for your teacher to dismiss you at the end of the period.
  - Use the sign-out sheet (after talking to your teacher) whenever you leave the room prior to the bell.
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## Closing of School

When severe weather creates hazardous conditions, the regular school schedule may be suspended to ensure students' safety. Announcements regarding delayed openings, early closings and cancellations will be made via School Messenger.

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## Clubs

The following is a list of some of the clubs offered at the Middle School:

Art Club, Chess Club, 8-Bit Club, Games Club, Green PEAS, Homework Club, International Club, Mindfulness Club, Radio Club, School Newspaper, School Store, Student Council, and Yearbook Club.

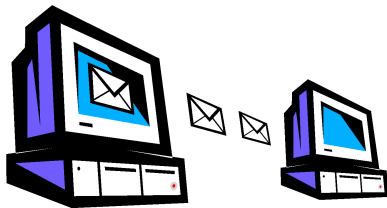
Your education will be enhanced if you participate. You are encouraged to join at least one club or activity. If you have any questions, ask a teacher or the activity advisor. Late buses are available at 3:20 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, for regular bus riders who participate in an after school activity.

**\*\* Days and times to be announced in September \*\***

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## Communication - Home/School

**\*\*For Parents Only\*\***



As your child continues to mature, so has the Home / School communication process.

There are several ways for parents to communicate with their child's teachers:

- Agenda Book
- Notes
- E-mails
- Voicemails

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher with any concerns. Parents may also contact their child's school counselor- Mrs. Beckley (Last names A-L) or Mr. Bernasconi (Last names M-Z) and schedule a conference with the child's teachers.

The Middle School teachers communicate with parents in the following manner:

- Parent Portal
- Teachers will stamp the agenda books or write notes if your child does not complete his/her homework.
- Phone calls and emails.
- Depending on the individual teacher's policy (distributed the first week of school and again at Back-to-School Night (when held), your child may receive a grade sheet, might be required to have a quiz or test signed, etc.
- Don't forget to view your child's academic progress using the Parent Portal.

We also send our Daily Announcements through the School Messenger system.

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### Dress and Appearance



We require that all students wear clothing that fully covers midriffs and backs. Undergarments should not be visible. The style of low-rise jeans, short skirts and short shirts are not appropriate for school. In choosing footwear, remember safety first! Hats, bandanas and hoods are not permitted to be worn while in the school building. This includes during any after school club or activity.

We ask that all parents cooperate with us to maintain a casual but educationally appropriate atmosphere. This also extends to the "short" shorts, exposure of undergarments and inappropriate messages printed anywhere on the clothing.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and ask you to contact your child's teacher or counselor if you have any concerns.

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## Field Trips

Participation on field trips is a privilege. We reserve the right to exclude any student from participation on school field trips (or other special activities) because behavior may not be consistent with the Student Code of Conduct. If a student is not participating on a field trip, the student is required to attend school for the full day. All field trips are considered extensions of school. Therefore, all rules and regulations governing students while in school remain in effect during the time of field trips.



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## Hallways

When walking in the hallways, students must keep to the right. Walk quietly, especially when classes are in session. Walking safely prevents crowding, pushing and tripping. Please help to keep our hallways free from litter. Students must sign out any time they have been given permission to leave the classroom. Students may not be in a hallway during class periods unless they have permission by a staff member.

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## Harassment



It is the policy of our Board of Education to maintain a learning environment that is free from harassment through conduct or communication, including sexual harassment. No student or staff member will be subjected to harassment by other students or staff members.

Please refer to the policy stated in the [Pearl River School District Code of Conduct](#).

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## Health Services



The Health Office is located near the main entrance, adjacent to the Wellness Center. Injuries occurring in class or at intramurals - no matter how slight - are to be reported to the teacher and/or nurse.

All students who become ill in school will be given a pass to the Health Office. Children may be sent home because of illness at the discretion of the school nurse. Arrangements will be made with parents/guardians or an emergency contact for a student to be transported home.

We recommend that each year students have a physical and dental examination, either in school by school doctors, or by your family doctor. All 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and students new to the district are required to have a physical exam. **Note: A sports physical meets the 7<sup>th</sup> grade physical requirement.** If possible, each student will receive a vision and hearing evaluation, as well as being weighed and measured.

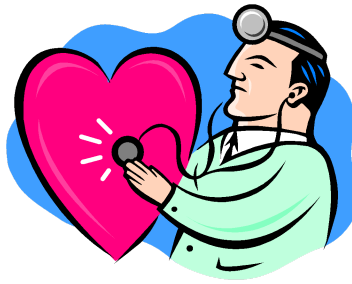
Special programs sponsored by the health services require permission forms signed by a parent or guardian. When forms are sent by mail or brought home, we urge parents to sign and return them **promptly** to ensure a student's participation.

Pearl River Middle School staff are prohibited from providing or administering any medication, including aspirin, to any student. However, if medication **MUST** be given at school, it must be personally delivered by the parent and accompanied by a written authorization from the family physician to administer medication. The frequency and dosage of the prescribed medication **MUST** be indicated. The school nurse will dispense such medication during school hours.

In order to be excused from Physical Education, a note must come from a doctor with the reason for the non-participation and a tentative date of return, and turned in to the Health Office. Any broken bone, sprain or severe bruise should be reported to the Health Office immediately upon the student's return to school. A student who returns to school wearing a cast, using crutches, or wearing a sling or elastic bandage, must report to the Health Office at the beginning of the day that they return.

**Also, please note that students who are excused from PE may not take part in any physical activity either during or after school.**





## Healthy Bodies and Healthy Minds

Healthy, happy, successful students do the following:

- Eat a healthy breakfast,
- Make wise choices for lunch, dinner and snacks,
- Get 30 - 60 minutes of exercise daily,
- Get 8 - 10 hours of sleep per night.

Did you also know?

1. If you eat 100 calories more per day than you burn, you will gain about one pound per month. That's 12 pounds in one year!!!
2. Apple juice has 28 grams of sugar in one serving.
3. Good snack choices include: cheese sticks, popcorn and fresh fruit.
4. One cup of spinach has more calcium than one cup of 2% milk and 2 oz. of American cheese.
5. There are nine calories in one gram of fat, four calories in one gram of carbohydrate and four calories in one gram of protein.
6. The six essential nutrients: carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, minerals and water.
7. A 150 lb. person would have to jog for 60 minutes to burn off one Starbucks blueberry muffin.
8. According to the National Institute of Health, spinach is helpful to maintain good vision.
9. Foods aren't good or bad. It is moderation and balance that count!
10. You should have three ounces of whole grain bread, cereal, crackers, rice and pasta every day. Remember, look for the word "whole" before the grain name.

For more information on nutrition, check out the following websites:

[Keep Kids Healthy](#)

[International Food Information](#)

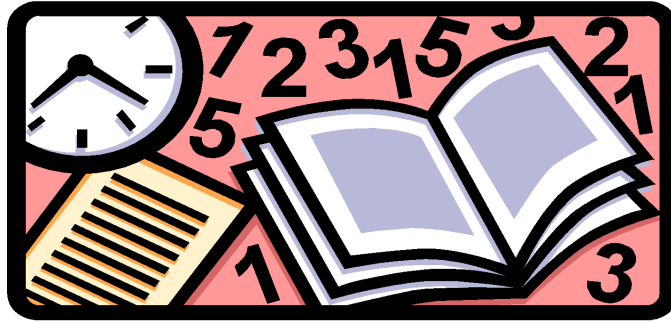
[Eat right](#)

[Kids choose my plate.gov](#)

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## District Homework Regulation

(Adoption Date: 12/12/95; Reviewed: 12/11/12)



Homework is recognized and encouraged as an extremely valuable activity and as an appropriate extension of classroom instruction. Homework provides excellent opportunities for developing good study habits, providing for individual differences and abilities, and encouraging self-initiative on the part of the student.

Homework assignments will be meaningful and will be of appropriate length. Assignments will reflect as much teacher care as the planning of other aspects of the lesson. An assignment important enough to be done by students equally merits evaluation by the teacher.

The Board of Education believes that parental involvement in students' homework is essential to making homework an integral part of the educational program. Parents are expected to encourage and monitor homework assignments and, to the extent possible, provide conditions that are conducive to their successful completion.

This policy shall be interpreted by classroom teachers and supervisors in the best interests of students and shall be reviewed periodically to ensure that it meets the educational needs of students.

Education is a complicated process that is not limited to what happens in school. A great deal of learning takes place in the home and in other life situations. Homework has been proven to be effective in bridging the communication gap between education at home and school. Parents should try to be as supportive as possible by providing encouragement and a pleasant but firm atmosphere. Students should be held accountable to do their own work, but know that their requests for guidance will be received by parents without anger or impatience. In some cases, the placement of a child in his room, although it provides less distraction, makes him/her feel too isolated. Working at the kitchen table may be better, providing there is no TV or other loud distraction.

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## Middle School Homework Policy

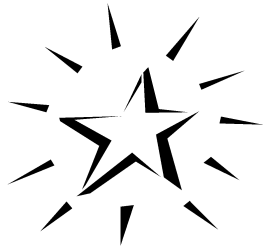
The Pearl River Middle School has a homework policy that has specific guidelines. Generally, students should have a maximum of 90 minutes of homework per night, with occasional variations. If a child regularly spends more or less time than this on homework, please contact the counselor as soon as possible.

Missed or incomplete homework will be reported in the student's agenda book on a daily basis. It is the student's responsibility to have a parent/guardian check the book nightly and sign next to each missed or incomplete notation.

Students will be given the opportunity to make up missed homework according to the teachers' guidelines.

- Homework is posted daily on the website (12:00 noon)
  - Homework assignments can also be found on most teachers' websites or in google classroom
- 

## Honor Roll



High Honor Roll - 93% - 100%

Honor Roll - 90% - 92.99%

Merit Roll - 87% - 89.99%

All grade levels will receive a numerical grade in all subject areas. All academic grades are weighted with a value of 1 and PEP/UA/PE average has a weight of .5 for calculation. A failing grade in any course precludes attainment of any roll. Honor Roll status will be posted on the student's report card. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who achieve High Honor Roll or Honor Roll status all four quarters will have bumper stickers available for pick up.

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### **Late Bus**

Late buses run Tuesday through Thursday at 3:20 p.m. for our Middle School clubs. One services zip code 10965 and one outside zip code 10965. Bus driver shortages may impact this service.

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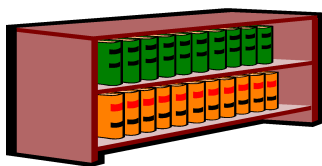
### **Lateness to School / Early Release**

School hours are from 7:35 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. each day. Students should NOT arrive earlier than 7:10 a.m. and are considered late to school if they arrive in their homeroom after 7:45 a.m. Latecomers must report to the Wellness Center, present a note of explanation and a late pass will be issued. Please note: any student who is late five times within a 5-week period will receive a letter home. Subsequent latenesses in the quarter will result in further consequences.

Students should NOT remain on the campus later than 2:35 p.m. unless they are participating in a supervised school activity. These procedures are designed for the safety and well-being of the student. If a student must be excused from school early, a note must be brought to the Wellness Center before the beginning of homeroom. The student will be issued a pass with the time to be excused. This should be handed to the teacher for that period and the child will be waiting in the Main Office at the time indicated.

**PLEASE DO NOT EMAIL YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER DIRECTLY.**

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## Library/Media Center

The Library has 14,000+ books in its collection. There is a variety of media research available to students in order to expand their research in a new way. Students may go to the library during recess and/or at their teachers' discretion. The teachers will bring classes to the library for various class assignments.

Books circulate for a two-week period and can be renewed for another two weeks. **Please return** all borrowed books on time. We do not charge any overdue fines, but if a borrowing record is not cleared by the end of each marking period, parents will be notified. In the event that a book is lost, there will be a charge for its replacement.

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## Lockers



Each student will be assigned a locker in which to store outside clothing and textbooks. **Students may go to their lockers before and after school, lunch and Physical Education class.** Students may **NOT** go to their lockers **during** lunch. If a locker does not function, inform the Wellness Center. The combination should not be shared with other students. Going to lockers is not an acceptable excuse for lateness to class. It should not be assumed that hallway lockers are a highly secure storage area; therefore, do not leave money, jewelry, or other valuables in the locker. Personal locks may not be used.

Lockers are school property assigned to students for their convenience. Lockers may be inspected periodically. The school will not be responsible for loss or damage of contents. **Lockers must be locked at all times!**

Under no circumstances should students write inside or outside on their lockers.

**\* THERE SHOULD BE NO FOOD ITEMS LEFT IN THE LOCKERS OVERNIGHT**

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## Lost and Found

The "Lost and Found" areas are located in the Cafeteria, Main Office and Locker Rooms. If an item is found, bring it to the Main Office. If a student loses something, check the lost and found areas.

Hint: Make sure all clothing is labeled with the student's name! All unclaimed clothing will be donated.

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## Report Cards



All interim progress reports and quarterly report cards will be published to the parent portal on a timely basis. There will be 4 report cards for the year (November, January, April, June)

Students will receive numerical grades.

Comments will be recorded on the student's report card concerning achievement and effort.

Students should be reminded to keep all returned quizzes, tests, class work and homework, etc. These items will help in their preparation for final exams.

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## School Store



The school store provides an opportunity to purchase basic school supplies during their lunch period. The store operates as an after school club. Students do the ordering, inventory and accounting. There is a rotation of store managers and workers, which gives all students an opportunity to work on a volunteer basis.

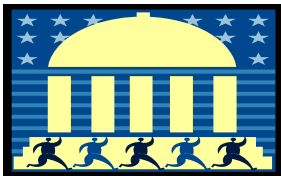
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## Sexual Harassment Policy

As per the policy of the Board of Education, the Pearl River School District provides a learning and working environment for all students, employees and visitors free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other inappropriate verbal or physical conduct when made by any staff to a student, when made by any student to another student, or when made by a student to a staff member. Sexual harassment may include but is not limited to verbal harassment or abuse, pressure for sexual activity, unwelcome and repeated remarks with sexual implications, unwelcome touching, suggesting or demanding sexual involvement accompanied by, implied, or explicit threats concerning one's grades, job, etc.

**Violators will be subject to the consequences prescribed in the Student Code of Conduct.**

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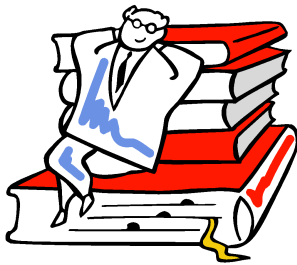
## Student Council



We live in a democracy and should be acquainted with our local, state and national governments. The best way to learn how any government works is to participate in its activities. Since this is not always practical for a student, it is our goal to have them form their own government in order that they may learn how a government functions. Students should have an opportunity to express their ideas. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the students to elect able, not just popular, representatives to the Student Council to represent them. Student Council officer elections occur in the Spring for the following year. In the Fall of each school year, representatives are elected to the Student Council.

Student Council participants learn about the responsibility of becoming a candidate, officer, and representative of the student government.

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## Substitute Teachers



We are fortunate to have capable substitute teachers available to us when our regular teachers are ill or cannot be in school for any reason. Substitute teachers are our guests. Their impressions of our school will be carried into our community. Because of the pride you have in our school, we know that you will be as courteous, helpful, cooperative, and respectful to our substitute teachers as you are to your regular teachers.

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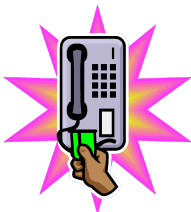
## Teaching Teams



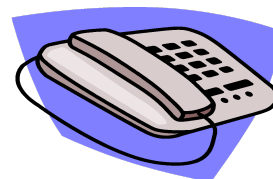
Each Middle School student is assigned to one of our teaching teams. The teams are heterogeneously mixed for students of all abilities.

As members of a team, the teachers work closely together to plan many interesting activities. These activities are related to the instructional program and designed to help students benefit from each subject area, foster spirit and sense of community.

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## Telephone (Main Office)



**Students may use the telephones located in the Main Office if the call is extremely important and permission to use the phone has been obtained from the Office Staff.**

For cell phone policy, please see "Cell Phones/Electronic Devices."

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## Textbooks

During the course of the school year, a book may be lost or damaged. If the book is damaged, the cost of rebinding is \$10.00. Before a book can be replaced, it must be paid for. Should the book be found at a later date, a refund will be given.

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## Wellness Center

The Counseling Program is designed to help students adjust to their academic, social and emotional needs while being a Middle School student.

Our Wellness Center team consists of School Psychologists, Mr. Miguel Arias and Mr. James Calisi; School Counselors, Mrs. Brittany Beckley and Mr. Mark Bernasconi; Social Worker, Mrs. Jessica Bersani; and Secretary, Mrs. Noreen Wholey.

Mrs. Beckley (for last names A - L) and Mr. Bernasconi (for last names M - Z) will meet with individuals or groups to help with studying, adjusting to school, peers, teachers and to assist in planning for future academic and personal goals. Information on drug and alcohol abuse is also available.

Students can arrange a visit with their counselor by requesting an appointment through the Wellness Center. This may be done during homeroom, on the way to class, or before or after school. Parent meetings can be arranged by calling Mrs. Noreen Wholey at (845) 620-3881 or emailing her at [wholeyn@pearlriver.org](mailto:wholeyn@pearlriver.org).

## **Attachments**

[Dignity for All Students Act \(DASA\) Summary](#)

[Personal Computer and Mobile Device Policy](#)

[Notification of Rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#)

**Have a great school year  
2023-2024!!**

**PRMS** P-Pride R-Respect M-Mindful S-Socially Responsible