

# STUDENT HANDBOOK



**Pearl River Middle School**

*The Upward Quest to be Your Best*

**2020-2021**

**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  
Mrs. Diana Musich, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources & Community Service  
Dr. Robert Roelle – Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction  
Mrs. Ann Marie Tromer - Assistant Superintendent of Business

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Bruce Bond, President  
Jackie Dubil-Craig, Vice President  
Rob Davis, Board Member  
Kathleen Ann Kelley, Board Member  
Christine Reddy, Board Member

**Pearl River Middle School**

|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Maria A. Paese, Principal             | 620-3872 |
| Andrea Pompey, Assistant Principal    | 620-3874 |
| Guidance Office                       | 620-3881 |
| Brittany Beckley, School Counselor    | 620-3880 |
| Mark Bernasconi, School Counselor     | 620-3879 |
| Debra Sens-Castet, School Nurse       | 620-3878 |
| Mr. Miguel Arias, School Psychologist | 620-3893 |
| Mr. James Calisi, School Psychologist | 620-3887 |
| Ms. Denise Milo, Attendance           | 620-3881 |

**PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION**

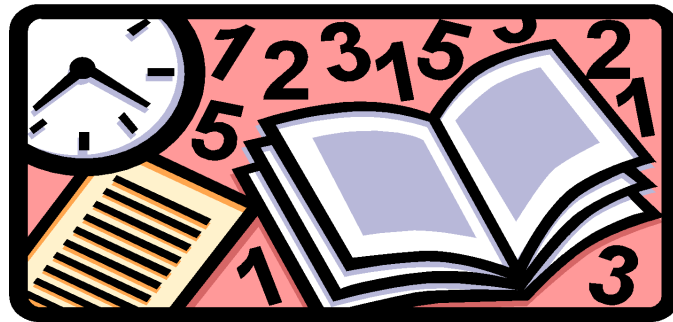
|  |                |  |
|--|----------------|--|
| Holly Gallet, President                  | (845) 664-2753 | <a href="mailto:galletholl@yahoo.com">galletholl@yahoo.com</a>           |
| Laura Buckley, Co-Vice-President         | (718) 873-7715 | <a href="mailto:LauraBuckley930@gmail.com">LauraBuckley930@gmail.com</a> |
| Allison Gerondel, Co-Vice-President      | (917) 287-2155 | <a href="mailto:agerondel@yahoo.com">agerondel@yahoo.com</a>             |
| Marie Hussey, Treasurer                  | (845) 304-2402 | <a href="mailto:mariehuss@hotmail.com">mariehuss@hotmail.com</a>         |
| Nichola Sheehan, Corresponding Secretary | (845) 570-1297 | <a href="mailto:justnicmc@yahoo.com">justnicmc@yahoo.com</a>             |
| Sarah Stewart, Corresponding Secretary   | (845) 536-4088 | <a href="mailto:sstewar305@yahoo.com">sstewar305@yahoo.com</a>           |
| Kristi Thompson, Recording Secretary     | (312) 504-3986 | <a href="mailto:kvthompson@gmail.com">kvthompson@gmail.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 Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year at the Pearl River Middle School. Our school was awarded the National Blue Ribbon in the Fall 2012 and designated a Rewards School for the 2015-2016 school year. We are very proud of the academic programs and activities that we offer our students and we encourage you to make the most of your time here. This student handbook was originally developed by the Building Leadership Team, which consisted of faculty and parents.

Best wishes for a successful school year!

Sincerely,

Maria A. Paese, Principal

## Pearl River Middle School Teams/ School Year 2020-2021

### 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/Tech   | Mrs. Addino 129    |                 | ELA/SS/IFL           |
| Mrs. McCrory 127/120 |                 | ELA/SS  | Mrs. Casale/133    | 501             | ELA/SS               |
| Ms. Roppolo 131      | 5P2             | Math/Science  | Ms. Catrona/124    | 502             | Math/Science         |
| Mrs. McQueen 132B    |                 | Consult ELA,<br>Consult Math,<br>Consult SS,<br>Support | Mrs. McQueen 132B  |                 | Support              |
| Mrs. Saccardo 126    |                 | Consult Sci,<br>Support                                 | Mrs. Saccardo      |                 | Support              |
| Mrs. Weinstein       |                 | AIS Reading   | Mrs. Weinstein     |                 | AIS Reading          |

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

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

| <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                                      | Mr. Guerri 218     | 5N1             | ELA/SS/Tech          |
| Mrs. Meehan 121    |                 | ELA/SS                                      | Mrs. Robinson 122  |                 | ELA/SS               |
| Ms. Oleksy 125     | 5S2             | Math/Science                                | Mrs. Seiler 128    | 5N2             | Math/Science         |
| Mrs. McQueen       |                 | Consult SS,<br>Support                      | Mrs. McQueen       |                 | Support              |
| Mrs. Saccardo 126  |                 | Consult Sci,<br>Support                     | Mrs. Saccardo      |                 | Support              |
| Mrs. Weinstein     |                 | Consult ELA,<br>Consult Math<br>AIS Reading | Mrs. Weinstein     |                 | AIS Reading          |

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

| <u>Teacher/Rm.</u>             | <u>Homeroom</u> | <u>Academic Area</u>                           | <u>Teacher/Rm.</u>             | <u>Homeroom</u> | <u>Academic Area</u>                                      |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| <i>Mrs. Danahy<br/>130</i>     |                 | <i>ELA</i>                                     | <i>Mrs. O'Shea<br/>115</i>     |                 | <i>ELA</i>  |
| <i>Mrs. Kirchmann<br/>238</i>  | <i>6G</i>       | <i>ELA</i>                                     | <i>Ms. Ortiz<br/>230</i>       | <i>6R</i>       | <i>ELA</i>  |
| <i>Mrs. O'Flynn<br/>236</i>    | <i>6G</i>       | <i>Mathematics</i>                             | <i>Mrs. Krystel<br/>232</i>    | <i>6R</i>       | <i>Mathematics</i>  |
| <i>Mrs Bell<br/>233</i>        | <i>6G</i>       | <i>Social Studies</i>                          | <i>Mrs. Mulcahy<br/>234</i>    | <i>6R</i>       | <i>Social Studies</i>                                     |
| <i>Mrs. Bennett<br/>231</i>    | <i>6G</i>       | <i>Science</i>                                 | <i>Mrs. Martinez<br/>237</i>   | <i>6R</i>       | <i>Science</i>  |
|                                |                 |  |                                |                 |   |
| <i>Mrs. Fitzgerald<br/>235</i> | <i>6C</i>       | <i>Science, SS<br/>Consult ELA<br/>Support</i> | <i>Mrs. Fitzgerald<br/>235</i> | <i>6C</i>       | <i>Science, SS,<br/>Support</i>                           |
| <i>Mrs. Ginnane</i>            |                 | <i>Math,<br/>Consult SS,<br/>Support</i>       | <i>Mrs. Ginnane</i>            |                 | <i>Math,<br/>Consult ELA,<br/>Consult SS,<br/>Support</i> |
|                                |                 |  | <i>Mrs. Hogne</i>              |                 | <i>Consult SS,<br/>Consult Sci</i>                        |
| <i>Mrs. McQueen</i>            |                 | <i>Consult Sci,<br/>Support</i>                | <i>Mrs. McQueen</i>            |                 | <i>Consult Sci.<br/>Support</i>                           |
| <i>Mrs. Saccardo</i>           |                 | <i>Consult Math,<br/>Support</i>               | <i>Mrs. Saccardo</i>           |                 | <i>Consult Math,<br/>Support</i>                          |
| <i>Mrs. Sullivan</i>           |                 | <i>ELA<br/>Consult SS<br/>Support</i>          | <i>Mrs. Sullivan</i>           |                 | <i>ELA<br/>Consult SS<br/>Support</i>                     |
| <i>Mrs. Weinstein</i>          |                 | <i>AIS Reading</i>                             | <i>Mrs. Weinstein</i>          |                 | <i>AIS Reading</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<br/>219</i>   | <i>7B</i>       | <i>ELA</i>   | <i>Ms. Pollack<br/>220</i>    | <i>7G</i>                        | <i>ELA</i>   |
| <i>Mr. Alves<br/>221</i>     | <i>7B</i>       | <i>World Lang.<br/>(Spanish)</i>                                   | <i>Mr. Silverman<br/>223</i>  | <i>7G</i>                        | <i>World Lang.<br/>(French)</i>                                    |
| <i>Mr. Hoetzl<br/>223</i>    |                 | <i>World Lang.<br/>(Latin)</i>                                     | <i>Ms. Tonelli<br/>223</i>    |                                  | <i>World Lang.<br/>(Italian)</i>                                   |
|                              |                 |  | <i>Ms. Olinsky<br/>223</i>    |                                  | <i>World Lang.<br/>(Spanish)</i>                                   |
| <i>Mrs. Mackin<br/>227</i>   |                 | <i>Mathematics</i>   | <i>Mrs. Krentzman<br/>229</i> |                                  | <i>Mathematics</i>   |
| <i>Mr. Staker<br/>225</i>    | <i>7B</i>       | <i>Social Studies</i>  | <i>Mr. O'Connor<br/>224</i>   |                                  | <i>Social Studies</i>  |
| <i>Mrs. Passman<br/>222</i>  | <i>7B</i>       | <i>Science</i>   | <i>Ms. Whipple<br/>228</i>    | <i>7G</i>                        | <i>Science</i>   |
|                              |                 |  |                               |                                  |  |
| <i>Mrs. Hogne</i>            | <i>7C</i>       | <i>ELA ,SS,<br/>Support</i>  | <i>Mrs. Fitzgerald</i>        | <i>7G<br/>(for<br/>O'Connor)</i> | <i>Consult Sci,<br/>Consult ELA</i>                                |
| <i>Mrs. Russo</i>            |                 | <i>Math, Science,<br/>Consult ELA,<br/>Consult SS,<br/>Support</i> | <i>Mrs. Hogne</i>             |                                  | <i>ELA, SS,<br/>Support</i>  |
| <i>Mrs. Russo<br/>226</i>    |                 |  | <i>Mrs. Russo</i>             |                                  | <i>Math, Science,<br/>Consult ELA,<br/>Consult SS,<br/>Support</i> |
| <i>Mrs. Sullivan<br/>235</i> |                 | <i>Consult Math,<br/>Support</i>                                   | <i>Mrs. Sullivan</i>          |                                  | <i>Consult Science,<br/>Consult Math,<br/>Support</i>              |
| <i>Mrs. Weinstein</i>        |                 | <i>AIS Reading</i>   | <i>Mrs. Weinstein</i>         |                                  | <i>AIS Reading</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>Mr. Baumel</i>       | <i>134/118</i>             | <i>Tech. I/II</i>                 | <i>Ms. Benitez</i>     | <i>112</i>         | <i>Band</i>                             |
| <i>Mr. Herskowitz</i>   | <i>134</i>                 | <i>Tech. I</i>                    | <i>Ms. Jacobs</i>      | <i>223</i>         | <i>PEP</i>                              |
| <i>Ms. Girling (.6)</i> | <i>120</i>                 | <i>Art II</i>                     | <i>Mrs. Murphy</i>     | <i>Various</i>     | <i>ESL</i>                              |
| <i>Mrs. Zaccardo</i>    | <i>135</i>                 | <i>Art I</i>                      | <i>Mr. Amadio (.6)</i> | <i>115/133/220</i> | <i>Health 5,6,7</i>                     |
| <i>Mrs. Addino</i>      | <i>129</i>                 | <i>Intro to FL</i>                | <i>Mrs. Donnelly</i>   | <i>Gym</i>         | <i>Physical Education</i>               |
| <i>Dr. Dalandan</i>     | <i>109</i>                 | <i>General Music &amp; Chorus</i> | <i>Mrs. Linehan</i>    | <i>Gym</i>         | <i>Physical Education</i>               |
| <i>Mrs. Baptiste</i>    | <i>114/<br/>Auditorium</i> | <i>Orchestra</i>                  | <i>Mr. Shinnors</i>    | <i>Gym/222</i>     | <i>Physical Education/<br/>Health 2</i> |
|                         |                            |                                   | <i>Mr. Travaglino</i>  | <i>Gym</i>         | <i>Physical Education</i>               |
|                         |                            |                                   |                        |                    |   |

## SUPPORT PERSONNEL

| <u>Staff Member/Room</u>             | <u>Title</u>                                | <u>Staff Member/Room</u>           | <u>Title</u>                  |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Mr. Arias/207</i>                 | <i>School Psychologist</i>                  | <i>Mr. LaFortune</i>               | <i>Custodian (.5)</i>         |
| <i>Mrs. Beckley/203</i>              | <i>School Counselor</i>                     | <i>Mr. Laguerre</i>                | <i>Custodian</i>              |
| <i>Mr. Bernasconi/203</i>            | <i>School Counselor</i>                     | <i>Ms. Lovero</i>                  | <i>Greeter (Mid-Day)</i>      |
| <i>Mrs. Brown</i>                    | <i>Teacher Aide (1:1)</i>                   | <i>Mrs. Milo / Guidance</i>        | <i>Secretary/Clerk Typist</i> |
| <i>Mr. Calisi / 207</i>              | <i>School Psychologist</i>                  | <i>Ms. Panter</i>                  | <i>Teaching Assistant</i>     |
| <i>Mrs. Canals / 207 (.2)</i>        | <i>School Social Worker</i>                 | <i>Mrs. Ranaghan / Main Office</i> | <i>Secretary/Clerk Typist</i> |
| <i>Mrs. Carstensen / Main Office</i> | <i>Secretary/Clerk Typist</i>               | <i>Mr. Rogers</i>                  | <i>Head Custodian</i>         |
| <i>TBD</i>                           | <i>Teaching Assistant</i>                   | <i>Mrs. Sens-Castet / 203A</i>     | <i>School Nurse</i>           |
| <i>Mrs. Correale</i>                 | <i>Monitor (4 hours)</i>                    |                                    |                               |
| <i>Mrs. DiBernardo</i>               | <i>Teaching Assistant</i>                   | <i>Mrs. Siley</i>                  | <i>Greeter (AM)</i>           |
| <i>Mrs. Faller</i>                   | <i>Greeter (PM)<br/>Monitor (2.5 hours)</i> | <i>Mr. Traynor</i>                 | <i>Custodian</i>              |
| <i>Ms. Gregory</i>                   | <i>Health Clerk</i>                         | <i>Mr. Trivino</i>                 | <i>Teaching Assistant</i>     |
| <i>Mr. Guzman</i>                    | <i>Custodian</i>                            | <i>Mr. Wharton</i>                 | <i>Custodian</i>              |
| <i>Mrs. Hommel / 110</i>             | <i>Teacher of Speech</i>                    | <i>Mrs. Zimnoch</i>                | <i>Teaching Assistant</i>     |
| <i>Ms. Jacobs / Library</i>          | <i>Librarian</i>                            | <i>Mr. Zulme</i>                   | <i>Custodian</i>              |

## BOCES

|                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Ms. Neyen</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 call the Guidance Office (620-3881) or email [milod@pearlriver.org](mailto:milod@pearlriver.org) to report the reason for the absence. It must also be followed up with a written note on the day the child returns to school.

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## Absentee Assignments

For one-day or two-day absences, students should call a classmate, ask the teacher directly upon return, or check the school and 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 Guidance Office (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 Guidance Counselor for information on how the work may be made up.

Daily homework can be found on the Middle School 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 onto school property directly 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. 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.**



### Birthday Decorations on Lockers

Only two students may decorate a locker for a birthday. Decorating should be done on the morning of the birthday. If a locker is decorated in the afternoon, it may fall down overnight and will be removed by the custodians when the halls are cleaned.

Absolutely no balloons, candy or stickers may be used to decorate the front of the lockers.

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### Bus Safety

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

Students are required to ride on their assigned bus. In special circumstances and only when written permission is provided by a parent, may a child ride on a bus that he/she is not assigned. **These notes must be signed in the Main Office 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 bussing, please call the Director of Transportation for the Pearl River School District, Mrs. Mary Cinelli, at **620-3857**.

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### Cafeteria Procedures

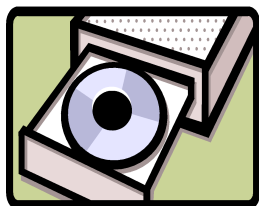


All students will eat lunch in the cafeteria by grade. (Please refer to the school schedule). While in the cafeteria students are expected to use the same good manners that are required at a public restaurant. Courtesy toward fellow students and cooperation with the teachers and teaching assistants supervising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

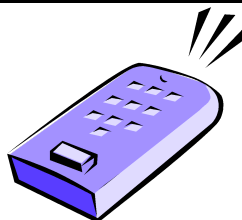
Parents have the option of sending lunch with their child or allowing them to buy their lunch. If your child forgets lunch, you may bring it to the Main Office and place it in the grade-appropriate box. Please write the student's name on it. The lunch will then be taken to the cafeteria during the grade-specific lunch period.

Special lunches such as pizza and McDonalds, etc., **MAY NOT BE DELIVERED TO THE LUNCHROOM. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AND TREATS ARE ALSO NOT ALLOWED.**

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.

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## 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.
  - 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.
-



## 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, Computer Club, 8 Bit Club, Games Club, Green PEAS, Homework Club, Math Enrichment and Olympiad Club, Outreach Service, 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 guidance counselor 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 everywhere and 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.







## Guidance

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

Mrs. Beckley (for last names A - K) and Mr. Bernasconi (for last names L - 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 asking at the Guidance Office for an appointment. This may be done during homeroom, on the way to class, before or after school. Parent meetings can be arranged by appointment.

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## Hallways and Passes

When walking in the hallways, students must keep to the right. Walk quietly, especially when classes are in session. Keep from 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 a pass or are being accompanied 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 in the main corridor on the upper level and has numerous functions. 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 or an emergency guardian for a student to be transported home.

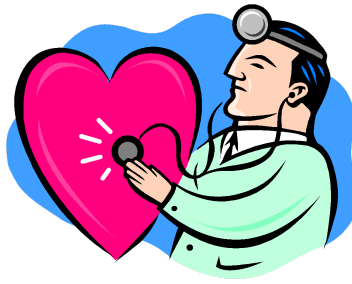
We recommend that each year students have a physical and dental examination, either in school by school doctors, or by your family doctor. All 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and students new to the district are required to have a physical exam. **Note: A sports physical meets the 7<sup>th</sup> grade 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](#)

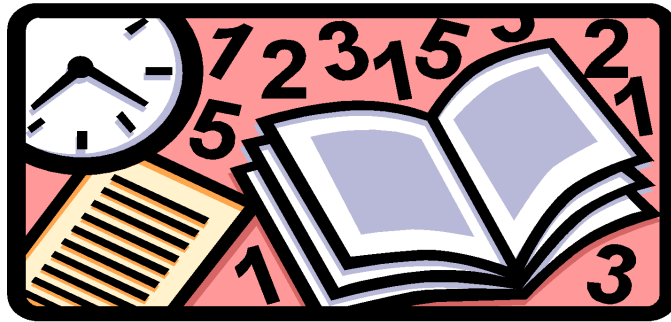
[Eat right](#)

[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. Homework 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

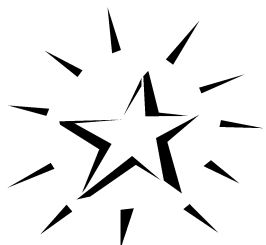
The Pearl River Middle School has a homework policy that has specific guidelines. Generally, students should have a maximum of 90 minutes of homework per night, with occasional variations. There will be nights when two hours of homework will be required. If a child regularly spends more or less time 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
- 

## 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. The Middle School posts the lists of students who meet the criteria for High Honor, Honor and Merit Rolls. If you do not wish your child's name listed, please notify the office, in writing, and your request will be honored. Bumper stickers are mailed home at the end of the year to 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who achieve High Honor Roll or Honor Roll status all four quarters.

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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.

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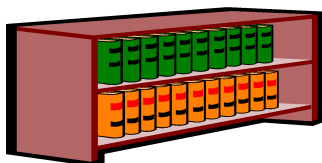
### Lateness to School / Early Release

A student is considered late to school if he/she arrives in homeroom after 7:45 a.m. Latecomers must report to the Guidance Office, 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 detention. Subsequent latenesses in the quarter will result in detentions or restricted study.

If a student must be excused from school early, a note must be brought to the Guidance Office 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.

**In addition, any student who is late OR picked up early more than five times in the year is NOT eligible to receive a Perfect or 100% Attendance Certificate.**

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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 homeroom, lunch 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. Even some encyclopedias can be borrowed. **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 or in between every class. If a locker does not function, inform the Main Office. 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**

Should students want to decorate a locker for someone's birthday, they may only do so **before** school. Students **must report** to the **Main Office** and get permission before decorating. (Please refer to section "Birthday Decorating of Lockers" for further information.)



## 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.



## Report Cards



All interim progress reports and quarterly report cards will be published to the parent portal on a timely basis.

The 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade 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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## 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.**



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.

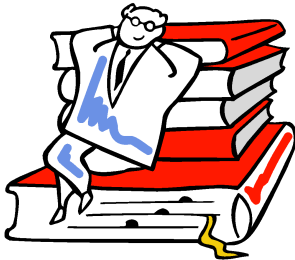
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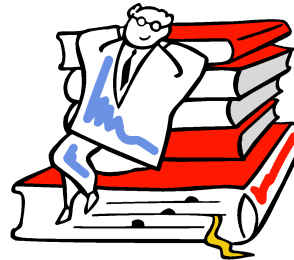
## School Store



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



## 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.

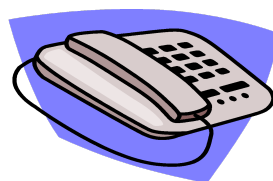
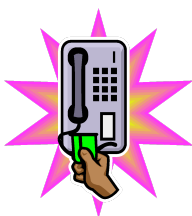


## Teaching Teams



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.



### Telephone (Main Office)

**Students may not use the telephones located in the Main Office unless 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.

### 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](#)