



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



Quick Links:

- [2023-2024 School Calendar](#)
- [2023-2024 Monthly Calendar](#)
- [Family Engagement Webpage](#)
- [Weather Delays & Closure Info](#)

While it is hard to imagine, in just a few weeks **Open Enrollment for the 24-25 School Year** will begin. Throughout this flyer you will find a glimpse of our daily commitment to our mission; to serve students and families who are affected by DYSLEXIA, and to help students with DYSLEXIA reach their full potential. As we have grown, I am thankful for the recommendations that you, as our PCS Community, share with your friends, family, and neighbors, but I would ask that you remember our mission when you suggest PCS as an option and how we are uniquely designed for students with dyslexia!

We are happy to have a local organization that shares this mission and we work closely with the PA Branch of the International Dyslexia Association (PBIDA) to raise awareness about dyslexia and provide support and resources for families and professionals. Every third Thursday of the month, PBIDA hosts a free, virtual Family Support Group and tonight, January 18th from 7:00-9:00 pm, the topic is **Dyscalculia**. February's is **Self Esteem**. You can register or get more information [here](#).

I would like to encourage you to join us for **at least one** Family Engagement event this Winter/Spring. We postponed our Family Drumming Circle event this week due to the weather. I know that our Parent Group is always looking for additional volunteers. They support our school in so many valuable ways. I want to thank them for being so intentional about creating a school community, and for continuously working to support our school. On behalf of the entire PCS Central Community, I also want to thank our families, and parent group for such generous gifts during the holiday season. We definitely felt your appreciation!

-Mrs. Maria Paluselli, CEO

Principal's Post

Happy Winter! Even with the cold weather, we have many wonderful things happening at PCS! Below you will read about some of the activities our students are participating in, learn about staff changes, and be reminded of our attendance incentives.



School Activities:

- Congratulations to all the students who have participated in the breaking board party with Grand Master Zang! These students are showing amazing perseverance!
- The winner of the Gingerbread House competition on December 22 was the Liberty House! Congrats to all the individuals in the Liberty House!
- Our building substitute, Ms. Dorsey-Thompkins has been bringing her therapy dog, Shiloh, every Tuesday and Thursday. Our students are enjoying the time they get to spend with him.
- Our students have been busy since returning to school after the holidays. They spent time over the last week remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his contributions to our society.
- 7th and 8th grade students made scarves that will be donated to local shelters and those in need.

Why does attendance matter?

Research shows that attendance is an important factor in student achievement. Poor attendance has serious implications for later outcomes, which is why we are committed to making attendance a priority. We have created an [Attendance Flowchart](#) to promote consistency and transparency within our organization. This flowchart is a visual representation of the procedures outlined in our [Attendance Policy](#). We have also introduced an **attendance incentive** that will run through the end of the year. Students in all grades who miss 1 or less school days will earn a Pizza Party at the end of each month and will be awarded an attendance certificate. For any student who is unable to eat pizza, an appropriate substitute will be provided. In an attempt to improve attendance and student performance, please keep in mind the following: If your home district transportation is canceled, it is still the parent/family responsibility to get your child to school. **Canceled transportation will NOT count against the student for the Pizza Party incentive but it will be an unexcused absence unless a parent note is provided.**

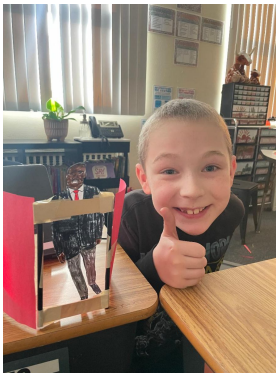
I'd also like to take this opportunity to share with you our updated [Student and Family Handbook](#). Originally we had one handbook, but we knew with the opening of PCS West that we would need separate handbooks specific to each school. The linked handbook is for PCS Central and has a few updates worth highlighting - page 6 has updates on Attendance, page 11 includes our updated Board approved Anti-Bullying Policy, page 18 includes an update on reporting concussions which is a required update from our insurance company, and the Special Education section on pages 26-28 has been updated.

Staff Changes:

PCS welcomes Dr. McCoy who is teaching 2nd Grade, in Ms. Flatt's previous position. Ms. Flatt moved into the role of Interventionist. Ms. DeLuca-Baily has also changed roles within the school. She is now a Special Education Teacher in our self-contained classroom. Ms. Dorsey-Thompkins, our building substitute, has been supporting our 4th grade classroom until a full-time teacher is hired. We are also excited to welcome Ms. Tavares who recently accepted the 7th/8th Grade Math Teacher position.

At PCS, we are continuously working to improve our operations and policies while offering a rigorous academic program that is engaging and inclusive for our students. We understand that flexible instruction days and 2-hour delays disrupt all of our schedules, so **we thank you** for your patience and understanding as we navigate this winter weather. If you have questions about attendance, the updated handbook, or staff changes please reach out. We take pride in our relationships with families and hope that you will contact us if you have questions, concerns, or positives that you want to share. Stay warm!

-Mrs. Kristy Yonushonis, PCSC Principal



CURRICULUM CORNER

NEW SEL Programming

In grades 6-8, students will be receiving instruction in social-emotional learning (SEL) with our brand new curriculum, [Hallway Heroes](#). Hallway Heroes is a CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning) endorsed, evidence-based curriculum that addresses all five SEL competencies:

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Relationship Skills Social Awareness
- Responsible Decision-Making

Not only does Hallway Heroes address bullying and cyberbullying through lessons built upon promoting the values of tolerance, compassion, respect, and kindness, but it also uses storytelling to focus on building students' literacy skills.



In grades 2-5, students will be receiving SEL with [Lions Quest Skills for Growing](#). Lions Quest is a CASEL

endorsed, evidence-based curriculum that emphasizes interaction as students work together to learn concepts, practice thinking and social skills, and discover the benefits of cooperating toward mutual goals. Each grade level will receive 3 core units of SEL instruction:

- A Positive Learning Community
- Personal Development
- Social Development

In addition, students will benefit from additional units surrounding health topics. The year long program will culminate with an experiential unit focused around service learning.

We are very excited to roll out these new programs for the beginning of 2024 and cannot wait to see how our students grow!

-Mrs. Shannon Iachini, Dir. of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Save the Dates - End of Year Celebration!

There was an error in the Family Engagement Flyer that was sent out last week. The correct dates for the End of Year Celebration are:

- Grades 5-8 - May 29th @ 6:00
- Grades 2-4 - May 30th @ 6:00

Overview - Join us as we celebrate another year of learning and see our students shine. Enjoy a gallery walk of student artwork from their Art classes. Performances from TKD classes will be shared with families. Finally, families will be serenaded by our students with songs they learned in music. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Registration is required for this event.



February 8th - Part 1 of our OCD/Anxiety Mini Series

Register - [Here!](#)



**PROVIDENT
CHARTER SCHOOL**



**The Center for
OCD and Anxiety**
Pittsburgh, PA

**FEB.
8
6 TO
7:30PM**

Are excited to present the OCD/Anxiety Mini Series Part One

Is your child experiencing difficulties that are impacting their academic performance or overall well-being?

It could be linked to anxiety, and it's essential to discern the specific type of anxiety involved. Is the anxiety primarily connected to challenges associated with dyslexia? Is it a more generalized form of anxiety?

Perhaps it's indicative of OCD?

Join us in understanding the underlying reasons behind your child's behaviors. This informative session will leave you with resources locally and internationally and is led by Erin Harding and Amanda Meredith from The Center for OCD and Anxiety.



**QR CODE TO
REGISTER:**



PCS CENTRAL'S PARENT GROUP INFORMATION

Parent Group January Happenings

Thank you to all who attended January's PCS Parent Group meeting on Wednesday. We love hearing your input and appreciate you taking the time to come. If you were unable to attend but want to stay informed, you can review the meeting minutes [here](#).

We would also like to highlight a few things to make sure everyone has a chance to be involved. You should see three papers coming home with your student via their backpack. Two were information (order form and a link to Google Form) about a joint fundraiser the parent group is sponsoring.

Marianna Subs & Zroni Rolls (Team Hoagie VS Team Zroni)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hoy8FtOWhSpjL2HNpgyAbDoZQ9o2ciwT/view?usp=sharing>

Marianna's Subs (print and send in order form)



https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IJYMacNo5CmxuJEdabNU6elzoaBg1f5XXV8EUrqxjXM/edit?usp=drive_link

Zroni Rolls (Google Order Form)

<https://forms.gle/w7byaeF1kYXny7ho6>

NEW I Made It! Market. If your student loves to make things and wishes they had a place to sell those items this is their time to shine.

I Made It!

Market <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Mj3Ssh5QKIZLUSoHGENSpY7WD6ZcfH2X/view?usp=sharing>

The January Newsletter was sent home last week. You can see the Newsletter [here](#) if it never made it home.

If you have any questions please reach out to the PCS Parent Group at ProvidentCharterSchoolPG@gmail.com.

-Mrs. Meghan Karn, Parent Group President



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