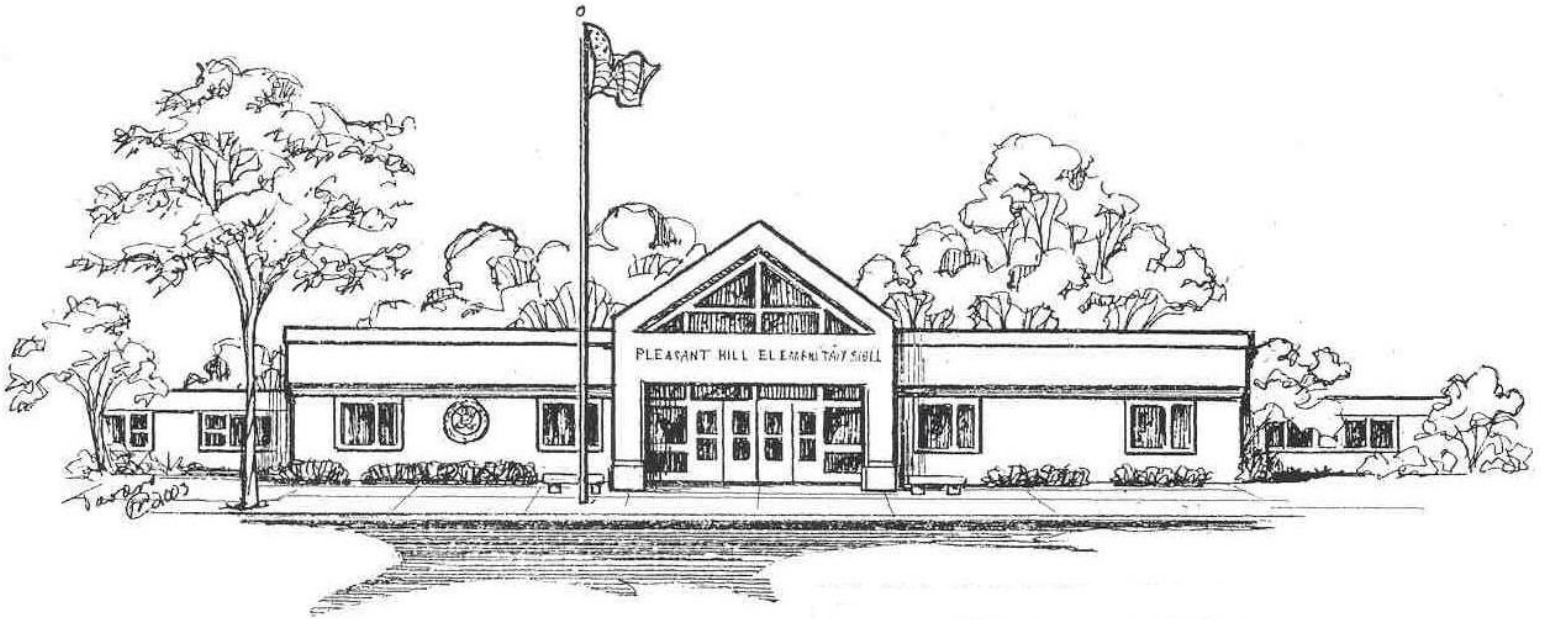


Pleasant Hill School

Parent Handbook

2009-10



Pleasant Hill School
434 W. Illinois Avenue
Palatine IL 60067-6745
847-963-5900

Absence Telephone: 847-963-5901
School Nurse: 847-963-5902
Fax: 847-963-5906

Matt Palcer, Principal
Kristy Seifert, Assistant Principal
Diane Fletcher, Secretary

Message from the Principal

Pleasant Hill School is located in Palatine, near the center of Community Consolidated School District 15's boundaries. Approximately 600 students coming from nearly 450 families attend our school. Pleasant Hill School is committed to student growth, earning the Academic Excellence Award from the state of Illinois each of the last five years. In addition, Pleasant Hill has been recognized as a Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education in 2001, and again in 2004.

The Parent Handbook is one way we communicate our expectations, policies and procedures at Pleasant Hill School. Communication with parents and students is critical to building and maintaining a positive relationship. Please take the time to review our handbook, and should you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact the main office. We are happy to help!

On behalf of the entire Pleasant Hill staff I welcome you to the 2009-2010 school year. I have no doubt that it will be a fun, exciting year full of growth and accomplishments!

—Matthew Palcer, Principal

School Mission Statement

“The Pleasant Hill Community will continually promote and practice respect, compassion, integrity, tolerance, self-discipline, and dignity. We will develop strong academic and interpersonal skills necessary to be successful in the future. By using cooperative efforts and open communication, we will become effective problem solvers within a quality learning environment.”

School Mission Motto

“Learners today, leaders tomorrow”

Cougar Character

All of us at Pleasant Hill School try to foster a safe and appropriate atmosphere for the pursuit of learning. We achieve this at Pleasant Hill by following our Cougar Character guidelines. Student attitudes and behaviors shape the school's environment.

Listed below are the themes we focus on during the school year to achieve the best learning environment at Pleasant Hill School.

Cougar Character Themes

1. **Positive Attitude:** Maintaining a positive attitude even in the face of difficult situations is an important character skill that will help students find success.
2. **Respect:** Respect is a critical element in all healthy relationships. When students respect others, they treat people with consideration and courtesy.
3. **Responsibility:** Students will learn about the importance of being dependable and thorough in their responsibilities at home and in school.
4. **Self-Discipline:** Self-Discipline is the ability for students to be in control of their actions so they can make positive choices that benefit themselves and others.
5. **Relationships:** Students need to recognize the qualities of good friendships so they can develop positive relationships with peers to avoid relationships based on negative attitudes and behaviors.
6. **Personal Goals:** It is important for students to recognize their own talents and strengths, and to learn to have goals for themselves.

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7. **Citizenship:** Building citizenship skills helps students feel that they can be contributors to others and can do work that benefits their community.
8. **Conflict Resolution:** Effective conflict resolution involves applying a variety of character skills to listen, communicate and compromise to come up with peaceful solutions.

Using the traits we learn as we study our Cougar Character themes helps all of us make Pleasant Hill a Blue Ribbon School every day!

School Phone Numbers You Should Know

School Office: 847-963-5900
 Absence Telephone:..... 847-963-5901
 School Nurse:..... 847-963-5902
 Fax: 847-963-5906
 Webpage: <http://www.ccsd15.net/OurSchools/Elementary/HTML/pleasanthill.html>

School Staff List/Phone Numbers

Name	Phone	Room #
Absence Recorder	963-5901	Office
Ball, Jackie	963-5928	106
Berry, Amy.....	963-5940	205
Bubaris, Niko	963-5943	208
Burman, Brenda	963-5929	107
Caldwell, Mary Beth.....	963-5933	111
CARE	963-5934	402
Computer Lab.....	963-5918	by LRC
Conference Room	963-5919	by Office
Dano, Jim	963-5939	203
DuSold, Pam	963-5930	108
FAX Machine.....	963-5906	Office
Fletcher, Diane	963-5900	Office
Garro, Kelly	963-5907 ..	LRC Office
Harms, Georgianne	963-5925	103
Hyczyk, Nancy	963-5947	212
Isaacs, Greg	963-5941	206
Jacobson, Sandy	963-5953	306
Johannsen, Joyce.....	963-5954	307
Kay, Jane	963-5926	104
Kehm, Tricia	963-5923	101
Keller, Sherri.....	963-5948	213
Larson, Kristy	963-5944	209
Lasiewicz, Sharon	963-5903	Office
Lounge	963-5922	Lounge
Marx, Kathy	963-5932	110

Name	Phone	Room #
Nauman, Keeley.....	963-5935	404
McGlynn, Misty.....	963-5908	Kitchen
Michaels, Leslie.....	963-5934	402 Art
Novak, Angela.....	963-5902	Nurse
Odarczenko, Mike	963-5909	Custodian
Office (Student Phone).....	963-5916	
Palcer, Matthew	963-5905	Principal
PTA Workroom.....	963-5921	PTA
Quiery, Maureen	963-5926	104
Quitschau, Julie.....	963-5936	403
Resource Center	963-5915	LRC
Rock, Sally	963-5927	105
Schlobohm, Megan	963-5949	301
Shears, Pat	963-5931	109
Seifert, Kristy.....	963-5904	Asst.Prin.
Silver, Risa	963-5961	303
Stevens, Kelly	963-5946	211
Sullivan, Linda.....	963-5936	403
Thomas, Sherri.....	963-5955	308
Teipel, Ashley.....	963-5938	202
Video Dist. Center	963-5960	411
Wada, Arlene	963-5942	207
Walker, Patty.....	963-5917 ..	Gym Office
Whitman, Jen	963-5952	305
Williams, Jennifer	963-5924	102
Willis Allison	963-5945	210
Work Room	963-5920	by Office

School Closings

School District 15 takes the responsibility of deciding whether to close schools seriously. Generally, schools will remain open except for extremely inclement weather. When severe weather conditions exist, parents must decide whether their children can get to school safely. *Even when the school district decides to keep schools open, parents should review their own situation to determine if they should send their children to school.* Snow, ice, and extremely cold temperatures may affect bus pick-up and drop-off times, sometimes causing buses to run late. If a snow day is called, that decision is made by 5 a.m. and announcements via (see below) follow shortly.

1. Phone (School Messenger*)
2. E-mail (D15 E-News**)
3. Web (<http://www.ccsd15.net/Home/SafetyEmergencyClosings/Index.html>)
4. Radio*** (WGN-AM 720, WBBM-AM 780)
5. TV*** (CBS-2, NBC-5, ABC-7, WGN-9, FOX-32, and CLTV News)
6. Recorded Message (recorded on the district's main number, 847-963-3000)

*The district uses the phone system School Messenger to dial the phone number(s) listed on your child's school registration form. That phone system is able to call every phone number in about 15 minutes. (Please contact the school office if your phone number has changed or you wish to add additional phone numbers to contact.)

**D15 E-News will send an e-mail announcing any school closures from the e-mail address listed on your child's school registration form. Parents may add additional e-mail addresses by visiting www.ccsd15.net, and entering the e-mail address in the "Sign Up to Receive D15 E-News" box.

***The announcement on the radio and TV describes our district as: "District 15, Palatine, Rolling Meadows, Cook County."

If the possibility exists that a parent or older sibling will not be home, we encourage parents to designate an alternate destination for their children if school dismisses early due to inclement weather or an unforeseen circumstance.

In situations where parents pick up their children at school due to inclement weather or other emergency, proper identification must be made before students are permitted to leave the building. When someone other than the parent comes for the child, a letter from the parent must be on file in the school's office giving this approval. In extreme emergencies, verified phone authorization is acceptable.

Change in Address or Phone Number

It is very important that parents notify the school promptly in writing of any change of address, phone number, emergency contact information, or other information that might be pertinent to school records. Parents reporting address changes will be asked to provide two forms of identification that show both the parent/guardian name and the new address.

Withdrawal from School

Parents are asked to call the school office at least one week in advance of a move outside the school's attendance area. This will allow the school and parents adequate time to complete the necessary forms to ensure a timely transfer of school records.

Permission Slips

Written permission from parents is required for:

- Field trips
- Participation in intramurals
- Emergency release to a specific person other than a parent
- Bussed students who walk or ride a bike home
- Early dismissal from school
- Children going home with another student after school or for lunch.

A Student Name/Photo Release form must be on file for each student, and is valid as long as your child attends any District 15 school. If you choose to change your child's release status, you must submit a new form. Forms may be obtained from your child's school. Checking "yes" gives permission for your child's name and/or photo to be used in publications, presentations, videos, Web pages, or news releases produced by District 15 or by agencies working with the district. Checking "no" means that your child's name and/or photograph may not be used in any publication, presentation, video, Web site, or news release that is distributed outside of the school community.

Annual school yearbooks are considered internal school publications and are not subject to these restrictions. If you don't want your child's name/photo included in the annual school yearbook, please notify the school principal in writing.

In the case of a special project or event at the school, parents may be asked to sign a Student Name/Photo Release Special Project/Event Consent Form which gives consent for their child to participate in the special event and be interviewed, photographed, and/or videotaped for purposes of school/district publications, newspaper articles, and/or local media coverage.

Home/School Communication

Ongoing parent/teacher communication is important for each child's educational success. Parents who have questions or concerns are encouraged to contact teachers, the school office, or school administrators. All teachers have phones in their classrooms equipped with voice mail so parents can leave messages. The best time to call is before or after school or during your child's lunch period. Calls made to teachers during instruction time will go into voice mail. Parents may also e-mail teachers, using the teacher's last name and first initial (up to eight characters) @ccsd15.net.

Early in the school year, a parent orientation is scheduled to give parents an opportunity to meet their child's teacher and learn about subject matter to be covered in the school year. Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for November 23 and 24, 2009. Please try to avoid scheduling vacations during this time so you can meet with your child's teacher on one of these designated conference days. In the event that you will be unable to attend November 23 or 24, your child's teacher will contact you for a phone conference.

In the spring, an open house showcases students' work throughout the school year. Parents and students are invited to visit classrooms together.

Emergencies

It is extremely important that the school office have up-to-date home and work telephone numbers, addresses, and emergency contacts on file. Parents will be contacted in the event a child becomes sick or is injured.

Children will be released only to their parents or legal guardians during an emergency, such as a tornado warning. No child will be released to a non-family member unless the school has a letter from parents on file and then only with the principal's approval.

To ensure the safety of our students and staff, District 15 schools perform various safety drills during the school year. During fire drills, each classroom has a prescribed fire emergency evacuation route and an alternate route for exiting the building. Children should follow directions, walk quickly to the assigned location, and wait quietly for further direction from teachers or administrators. At least once a year, schools also conduct tornado drills. Teachers will lead the children to the designated emergency shelter area. Schools also conduct lock-down drills to practice procedures which would be implemented in circumstances such as an environmental hazard, an intruder in the building, or other emergency situation. During lock-down drills, students will remain in their classrooms until an all-clear is given. In addition, twice a year students will participate in bus evacuation drills. Please discuss the seriousness of these drills with your child.

Parent/Visitor Procedures

For the safety of students and staff, exterior doors of the school building will be locked at all times except when children are entering or exiting. Parents and other visitors must ring the doorbell, and a staff member will release the lock. Visitors must enter the office, sign in, and wear an identification badge at all times while in the building. Parents and visitors are welcome at the school, however, for the safety of students and staff, visitors are not allowed on the playground during school hours. Because unannounced visits can be disruptive and interfere with instructional time, all visits must be arranged through an appointment with the classroom teacher. Younger siblings in the classroom are a distraction; please make other arrangements for them if you plan to visit.

Items dropped off for students, such as lunches, notes, homework, keys, or musical instruments, will be delivered from the office before lunch or before dismissal.

Parent Volunteers

Parent volunteers are encouraged and welcome in all District 15 schools, however, we ask that the following protocols be observed:

- All volunteers must sign in at the school office and wear a guest or volunteer badge while in the building.
- All volunteers must note the purpose and destination of their visit and not deviate from this purpose or destination without prior notification to the school office.
- All volunteers follow confidentiality guidelines when working with students.
- Volunteers should not bring either under-school-age children or school-age children not attending school (i.e., absent due to illness, half-day programming, etc.) with them while volunteering.

Attendance

Regular, on-time attendance is very important. Children who are absent unnecessarily miss vital classroom instruction time. Repeated absences may have a negative effect on a student's progress, work habits, and attitude.

The Illinois State Board of Education dictates what adds up to a full day of school vs. a half day of school, as well as tardies and trancies. District 15 follows the standard shown below:

- Any student who is late for school 30 minutes or less will be marked tardy. (We understand that ~~our~~ school buses sometimes run late due to unforeseeable circumstances and in these instances students will not be marked tardy.)
- Any student who leaves 30 minutes or less before the end of the school day will be marked with an early pick-up.

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- Any student who is in attendance for more than 150 class-time minutes (the lunch/recess hour does not count) but less than 300 class-time minutes will be marked absent for a half-day.
- Any student who is in attendance for less than 150 class-time minutes (the lunch/recess hour does not count) will be marked absent for the full day.

Our first concern when a child is absent is to verify the child's safety. For that reason, it is very important that the school office knows the whereabouts of your child(ren) when they are absent or will be late arriving at school. When your child is absent, it is your responsibility to call the school absence line or the school office to notify the staff of your child's absence. Please state your child's full name, the teacher's name, the date of the absence, and the reason for the absence.

If your child's whereabouts are unknown, every effort will be made to reach you using the phone numbers you have provided. Please make sure that your child's school office has all current phone numbers on record. If you have not notified the school with the reason of an absence and the school office has exhausted all attempts to reach you, your child will be marked truant for that school day and any other school day that your child is unaccounted for.

Vacations

Taking students out of school for vacations is discouraged and is considered an unexcused absence. If a student is to be absent because of a family vacation, parents should notify the school office in writing at least one week before the planned absence.

Tardies

Students are expected to arrive on time for school, because late arrivals cause unnecessary disruption in the classroom and result in lost instruction time. Late arrivals must get a pass from the school office to ensure that the student is not marked absent for the day and to enable us to notify School Nutrition Services if a hot lunch is needed. We closely monitor students who are frequently absent or tardy. If truancy or tardiness becomes a problem, parents will be contacted to resolve the issue.

Missed Homework

When students are absent, make-up work will be allowed. Students are responsible for obtaining and completing missing assignments or parents may contact their child's teacher directly regarding homework assignments. After returning to school, students will have three days to complete missing work. Teachers are not required to provide homework assignments in advance of an absence.

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

Arrival

Arriving on time for class each day is important! Late arrivals interrupt others, but more importantly, tardy students miss part of their school day. Our school day is from 8:50 a.m.–3:20 p.m. Morning kindergarten hours are 8:50–11:20 a.m.; afternoon kindergarten hours are 12:50–3:20 p.m. Since supervision does not begin until 8:35 a.m., students should not arrive at school before 8:35 a.m. After 8:50 a.m., students must stop in the office for a pass to class.

- 8:35-8:45 a.m.—Students arrive at Pleasant Hill
- 8:45 a.m.—Students enter the school
- 8:50 a.m.—Daily instruction begins

When driving your child to school in the morning or picking him/her up in the afternoon, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Do not double park in the drive through lane
- Do not park in the drive through lane and exit your car
- After dropping off or picking up your child(ren), please exit the drive through lane immediately to provide room for others - **Do not stop at multiple doors**
- Be extra aware, because sometimes children forget to look before they cross
- Avoid parking behind cars parked in the parking lot; rather park in regular parking places

Our student drop off and pick up runs safely and smoothly when these guidelines are observed. Car-pooling is strongly encouraged.

To protect the safety of our students, please do not bring dogs on school grounds during arrival and dismissal hours.

NO STUDENT DROP OFF IN THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL IS PERMITTED PRIOR TO 8:50 A.M. If you are dropping off your child after 8:50 a.m. please pull around to the Illinois Street entrance so that your child can sign in at the office.

All exterior doors except the main entrance of the building will be locked at all times. Late arrivals must use the front entrance so we can maintain building security. All visitors to the school must come first to the main office and sign in at all times, including arrival time and destination. This procedure is in place for the safety of our students and staff.

Walking to School/Crossing Guards

All walkers must cross Illinois Avenue with our crossing guard. Do not walk in front of moving cars/busses in the front or back parking lot.

Home for Lunch Policy

Children who walk home for lunch may leave at the beginning of the lunch hour but must sign out in the school office first. Approval for a student to go to a friend's home for lunch requires a note from both students' parents. Children need to return to the school no later than five minutes before the end of the lunch hour and sign back in upon return.

Dismissal Procedures

When picking your child up in the afternoon, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Do not double park in the drive through lane
- Do not park in the drive through lane and exit your car
- After picking up your child, please exit the drive through lane immediately to provide room for others
- Be extra aware, because sometimes children forget to look before they cross
- Avoid parking behind cars parked in the parking lot; rather park in regular parking places

Our student pick-up runs safely and smoothly when these guidelines are observed. Car-pooling is strongly encouraged.

All busses will load in front of the school, Illinois Avenue parking lot.

To protect the safety of our students, please do not bring dogs on school grounds during arrival and dismissal hours.

Leaving During School Day

Students are not permitted to leave school grounds on their own at any time during the school day. When a student needs to be excused during the school day for an appointment, parents should state in writing the reason for early dismissal, date and time the student is to be picked up, and by whom (parent or other designated person). The note should be brought to the office at the beginning of the school day. Students must report to the office prior to leaving, and the parent or designee must come in to the school office to sign the child out. Students will only be released to parents or the designee, and either may be asked for identification when picking up their child. Students returning to school must report to the office, sign in, and get a pass to return to class.

All children who are assigned a bus route are expected to ride the bus home. Bus riders are not permitted to take a bus other than their own at the end of the school day. If a child is permitted to walk or ride a bike home on occasion, a parent note must be on file in the office. If a child is to go home with another student, both children involved must bring a parent note to the office.

Bicycles, Skateboards, Skates, Scooters

Students in grades 3-6 may ride their bikes to school. All bikes must be walked on school property. Bikes must be locked in the bike rack using one lock per bike. Bicycle helmets are strongly recommended.

Skateboards, scooters, roller skates, and in-line skates are prohibited on school property during school hours.

Bringing Items to School

Children should never bring valuable or treasured items to school. This includes all electronic devices as well as prized possessions such as jewelry, souvenirs, coin collections, card collections, or others. **The school is unable to secure children's personal possessions and cannot be responsible for lost or damaged personal property.**

Parents are urged to label clothing, lunch boxes, boots, coats, backpacks, and other items with name tags or indelible ink. The school maintains a lost and found box which students and parents may check for lost items.

Children are not to use any electronic devices during the school day. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, MP3 players, IPODS, hand-held games, or other electronic devices. Items used during the school day without staff permission may be confiscated and held until a parent/guardian can pick them up. **NO TOYS ARE ALLOWED AT SCHOOL UNLESS IT IS A SPECIAL OCCASION. PLEASE LEAVE TOYS/STUFFED ANIMALS AT HOME SO THEY DO NOT DISRUPT LEARNING.**

Cell Phones

Individuals talking on cell phones may be distracting to classrooms. This can also make it very difficult for office staff to help others, either on the phone or at the desk. We ask you to help us create an environment free of distractions and disruptions for our students and staff by turning off your cell phone while visiting the school.

Students may carry cell phones on school grounds as long as the following conditions are met:

1. Phones are to be turned off before entering school property (buses included).
2. Phones may not be turned back on until after school once students have left school property.
3. During the day the phones must be turned off **and** must remain in the student's backpack for the entire day (not shirt/pants or sweatshirt/jacket pockets).
4. At no time during the day are students allowed to use a recording device in the building (especially the washroom). This includes, but is not limited to, items such as: video recording (picture or video from a phone camera) and voice recording (some phones have the capability to record conversations).

5. Electronic devices may not be used to communicate to other individuals within or outside of the school during school hours (text messaging, IM via the phone, etc).

Lost & Found

Lost and found items are stored at the entrance of the Café. Lost and Found is cleaned out three times each year. If your child has misplaced an item, he/she may look through the Lost and Found with permission from his/her teacher.

School Supply List

The school supply list for our school is posted on the District 15 Web site at www.ccsd15.net. Go to the tab marked District 15 schools and click on the school's name. The school supply list is in the Quick Links on the right side of the page.

INSTRUCTIONAL AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Our school offers a variety of educational opportunities and support programs for all students. The basic curriculum is aligned to Illinois Learning Standards and the District 15 Student Performance Targets. Learner Statements, which provide details regarding grade-level expectations for students, are available on the District 15 Web site (www.ccsd15.net) under Curriculum, Learner Statements.

The instructional program includes the following subject areas:

- Language arts (reading, writing, listening, and speaking)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social studies
- Music—Students in grades 1-6 receive two 30-minute music classes each week. Kindergarten students have music instruction for one 30-minute period per week.
- Health
- Physical education—Two 30-minute physical education classes per week are scheduled for students in grades 1-6. All students are expected to participate unless a doctor's note is submitted. Children need gym shoes that can be tied or Velcro closed with non-marking soles. Slip-ons and platform-style shoes are unsafe for running and gym activities. Parent volunteers, under the guidance of a physical education teacher, present a weekly kindergym program for kindergarten students.
- Art—Students in grades 1-6 participate in one 60-minute art class every week. The elements of art and principles of design are taught using a variety of media.

In addition, the following programs and services are provided:

- Gifted and Talented—A specialized instruction program is provided for students from third through sixth grades who have been identified as intellectually gifted.
- Speech and language services—Speech/language services are provided as needed for preschoolers through junior high students. The goal of the program is to enhance the child's ability to communicate in the educational setting. Parents who have concerns about their child's speech/language skills should talk with their child's teacher or the school principal. Parents of preschool children may request a screening by calling the Student Services Department, 847-963-3000.
- Special education—Special education includes the areas of learning disabilities, behavioral/emotional disorders, early childhood education, physical impairments, visual impairment, and hearing

impairments. Eligibility for special education is determined by completion of a case study evaluation. Special education services are delivered in the setting which best meet the needs of individual students and may be in the regular classroom setting, as a small group pull-out, with an inclusion program, or in a self-contained classroom. Parents who have concerns about their child's educational progress should discuss the situation with the child's teacher or the school principal.

- **English Language Learners**—As required by the State of Illinois, District 15 provides programs to meet the needs of students whose native language is other than English. The purpose is to accelerate English language literacy while valuing each child's social and cultural knowledge. The programs are:
 - *Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE)*
TBE serves groups of 20 or more children from the same language group. Students who are not yet proficient in English receive native language support and instruction while they acquire English skills. Students exit the program when they meet the state and district exit criteria.
 - *Transitional Program of Instruction (TPI)*
TPI serves students who are in a school attended by 19 or fewer students of the same language group. English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers and tutors staff this program. Native language support is given, where possible, through the use of native language tutors.
- **Reading Interventions**—Students who are at-risk readers, as identified through test results and teacher recommendation, get extra help through research-based reading intervention programs. The school's reading consultant specialist or a trained program assistant may work with children individually or in small groups, and struggling readers may be assigned to one of the district's reading intervention programs, including:
 - *Kindergarten Intervention Program (KIP) in English or Spanish*
At-risk students work one-on-one with a trained tutor for 15 minutes daily in addition to regular classroom reading instruction.
 - *First-grade Literacy Intervention Program (FLIP) in English or Spanish*
Students in FLIP receive 30 minutes of daily one-on-one instruction from a trained tutor in addition to regular classroom reading instruction.
 - *Second-grade Acceleration in Literacy (SAIL)*
Small groups of 2-4 students receive 40 minutes of instruction twice each week. Each student also receives one-on-one instruction two or three times a week in addition to regular classroom reading instruction.
 - *Soar to Success*
Students in grades three through six who are one year or more below grade level in reading comprehension benefit from Soar to Success, which uses quality literature, proven strategies, and powerful graphic organizers to accelerate reading growth.
 - *InStep*
InStep, for third to sixth graders, focuses on key competencies of reading, language, and developmental phonics.
 - *Read 180*
This program combines computer-based individual instruction, whole group and small group instruction, and individual reading using high-interest, age-appropriate print materials.
 - *System 44*
System 44 is a reading intervention program for students in Grades 4-8. This program provides support for older readers who have some difficulty decoding English words. System 44 is a combination of highly motivating computer-based individualized work and small-group instruction. At the computer, students receive intensive instruction in English phonics. In their

small group instruction, the focus shifts to comprehension and vocabulary development. System 44 may be used alone or in combination with Read 180.

For more information about these programs, contact your child's teacher or the school's reading consultant specialist.

The following resources are available in support of or in addition to the instructional programs listed above:

- Learning Resource Center (library)
- Technology
- Video studio
- Band/orchestra—Fifth and sixth graders may join band or orchestra. Lessons are provided weekly. Practices are held before school.
- Chorus
- Student Council
- Earth Club
- Make A Difference Club
- Kindergarten Helpers
- Cougar Character Club
- Bus Helpers
- Café Crew
- Lunch Time Door Duty
- Spot Shot
- Cross-Country
- Track & Field
- Video Production
- Intramurals—Fifth- and sixth-grade students are eligible to participate in intramurals. Parents must sign a Medical Authorization Form.

Students are supported, as appropriate, by:

- Special services team
- School social worker
- School psychologist
- Registered school nurse

Homework Guidelines

Homework extends and reinforces classroom learning, provides skills practice, and helps students prepare and review for lessons and tests. It is also a way to help parents stay informed about what their child is learning, and it helps children develop good discipline and responsibility.

We encourage families to consider the importance of setting aside a specific time and place for children to do their homework. Parents should check their child's understanding of assignments and review directions together if necessary. If there is a special problem, contact the child's teacher.

The following guidelines for suggested amounts of time to be spent on homework may be helpful:

Grade Level	Minutes per Day
Kindergarten	10
First and Second	20
Third	30
Fourth	30-40
Fifth and Sixth	45-60

Reading for pleasure at home is important. Children should set aside daily time for recreational reading in addition to homework time. You may wish to establish a family reading time.

Homework Policy

All students are expected to complete homework assignments on time and work should reflect the student's best efforts. Students are responsible for remembering to bring their homework home and back to school. Homework cannot be assigned prior to a vacation.

Testing

Standardized testing helps teachers and schools assess student progress. Different types of testing take place throughout the year.

Two types of tests mandated by the State of Illinois are administered to third- through eighth-grade students in District 15:

- The Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) measures individual student achievement relative to the Illinois Learning Standards.
- ACCESS (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State to State) is given to all students in a second language program. It measures English language learners' social and academic proficiency in English.

In addition to these state-required tests, District 15 uses the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing system. Second- through eighth-grade students are tested two times a year (fall and spring) in all schools; some schools may also choose to administer MAP tests during the winter. The computer-based MAP tests measure individual student achievement in three academic areas: reading, language, and math. They accurately reflect each student's knowledge and understanding and measure growth over time. Tests dynamically adjust to a student's performance level, making test scores more accurate. Results are available to schools staff within 24 hours. Test results are shared with parents at the close of each testing window. The information provided through MAP testing better enables the district to make appropriate, data-driven decisions at the classroom, school, and district levels. It also allows teachers to make rapid adjustments in instruction to respond to identified student needs.

District 15 also administers the CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) to students in grades two, four, and six. CogAT measures verbal, nonverbal, and quantitative aptitude areas.

Individual tests may be administered if additional information is needed to provide an appropriate educational program. Individual evaluations may include a psychological examination as part of a case study evaluation. Parent permission is required for this type of evaluation.

Please be certain your child has adequate sleep prior to testing and encourage your child to do his or her best when taking the tests. The opportunity for making up tests is limited, so it is important that you schedule doctor appointments or important family commitments when students are not involved in standardized testing.

No single test can provide a complete picture of a child's achievement. Classroom performance, teacher observation, and other tests help provide additional information about your child. Questions about your child's test results should be directed to his/her teacher or the school principal.

For more information on testing, see the District 15 Web site at www.ccsd15.net, Curriculum and Instruction, Student Achievement.

Learning Resource Center (LRC)

The LRC houses a wide variety of educational materials including books, videos, software, tapes, and other media. The LRC teacher assists students and teachers in all areas of the curriculum. The LRC is open to all children in the school as well as to entire classrooms, small groups, or individuals working on special projects.

Computers

Computers are available in every classroom for student use. Wireless laptop computers are available by teacher request as well as a computer lab for whole-class use. Classroom teachers assist children in becoming literate in computer use. Software is used to enhance the curriculum at each grade level. All computers at the school are networked and operate in the Windows format. Students can access their files from any computer in the school.

Students who have a signed Authorization for Electronic Network Access form on file may use the Internet under the supervision of a staff member. A copy of guidelines for Internet usage and the form are available in the school office.

Video Studio

A video production studio in the school is used by students to produce, edit, and televise live broadcasts of school news each morning. All classrooms have television monitors connected to the video production studio.

Field Trips

Classroom teachers occasionally plan educational trips to extend and enhance curriculum studies. Children must have a signed parental permission form to participate in these trips. The field trip form also provides space for parent permission for children who need medication while on the field trip.

Field trips are an important part of the educational program, and all students should participate in them if possible. Students who do not turn in signed permission forms and fees by the deadline may be unable to participate and may be assigned to another classroom for the day.

Student behavior expectations are the same for field trips as for the classroom. If there is a significant concern about a student's ability or willingness to behave appropriately on a trip, there is the possibility that participation could be contingent on the parent accompanying the child. Parents of children who have severe allergies or other medical conditions may also be asked to accompany their children on field trips to ensure the child's safety.

Recess

Students generally go outside for recess every day, so they should be dressed appropriately. Exceptions are made only when a child brings a doctor's note excusing him/her from outdoor recess.

Staff members provide playground supervision at all times. Children who misbehave may be placed in "time out" or sent to the office to talk with an administrator.

Indoor recess is determined based on the following guidelines:

- If the temperature outside, together with the wind chill, is below 0°, all students will remain inside for the entire lunch hour.
- If the temperature outside, together with the wind chill, is between 0° -10°, the preferred procedure is a rotation of 30 minutes for lunch, a 15-minute outdoor recess, and a 15-minute indoor recess. However, at the principal's discretion, the students may be kept inside for the entire lunch hour.
- If the temperature outside, together with the wind chill, is above 10°, students will have regular outdoor recess.

Other considerations include the condition of the playground and the presence of precipitation. For indoor recess, students are supervised in their classrooms. Students are permitted to socialize and play appropriate games (cards or board games) during indoor recess.

School Bus Information

Bus service is provided at no cost for all students who live more than 1-1/2 miles from the school or who live in an area declared to be hazardous as determined by the Illinois Department of Transportation. Bus transportation may be provided to other areas on a paid basis; for additional information on this option, see "Bus Information" on the district Web site at www.ccsd15.net.

All bus assignments, as well as routes and stops, are determined by the Transportation Department. Parents whose children ride school buses are asked to be sure the information on the bus assignment is accurate. If the information is not correct, please call the school office.

Students who ride the bus must observe the following rules:

- Students are to board and depart the bus at their assigned stop only. They should be at the bus stop five minutes before the scheduled arrival time of the bus. While waiting for the bus, students are not to stand or play on the road or street.
- Students are not permitted to ride another student's bus.
- Riders are to remain seated throughout the entire bus route.
- Windows are not to be lowered beyond the safety mark. Hands, arms, feet, heads, and all objects must be kept inside the bus.
- Loud conversation, profane language, throwing objects, or other actions discourteous to other passengers or the bus driver will not be tolerated.
- Students are responsible for any damage to the bus.
- Glass containers, live animals, and large objects may not be carried on the bus.

To enhance bus safety, video cameras with audio are installed on buses. Students who display inappropriate behavior will be subject to consequences, including discipline which may include, but are not limited to: loss of bus riding privileges, detention, or suspension.

School Nutrition Services

The district's School Nutrition Services Department offers a daily lunch program. Some schools also offer breakfast. Check with your school for availability. Meals are prepared, packaged, and delivered to school from the district's central kitchen. Students have adequate time to eat and participate in outdoor recess when weather permits.

Lunch

Hot lunches may be purchased for \$2.00 per day, including milk. Menus are provided every month and are also available on the District 15 Web site at www.ccsd15.net. Students who bring their lunches may purchase milk for 45 cents per carton, and ice cream novelties may be available for purchase at an additional cost.

Students use a PIN number to debit their accounts. Parents can make cash deposits into the child's account to pay for meals; checks should be made out to "CCSD 15 School Nutrition Services" and submitted in an envelope with the child's name and class written on the outside. Payments also may be made online by going to www.mymealtime.com. Payments are credited on the next business day. Notices are sent home for both low balances and negative account balances, and students are also reminded as they go through the line.

Applications for free and/or reduced-price meals are sent directly to parents by the School Nutrition Services Department. If you believe you may be eligible, please contact your school office or call the School Nutrition Services Department at 847-963-3929. Children who are eligible for free lunches receive breakfast at no charge where breakfast is served.

Please remind your child not to share his/her lunch with others due to food allergy concerns.

Café Rules

- Indoor voices must be used at all times.
- Students will sit at tables assigned by grade.
- Students are expected to take responsibility for their own lunch wrappings and food at the end of the lunch period.
- Throwing food is strictly prohibited and will result in an immediate office referral.
- Students are expected to use appropriate table manners to make eating lunch an enjoyable experience for everyone.
- When an adult or student asks for 'five forward' on the microphone, all student conversations should stop and all eyes should be on the person at the microphone.

Gifts & Parties

District 15 strongly discourages the collection of money by either students or parents for gifts to staff members. Gifts to staff members are also discouraged.

At the teacher's discretion, classroom parties may be held at Halloween and Valentine's Day. Room representatives and PTA volunteers may be asked to help on these days. Parties will be planned with nutrition in mind in accordance with the room parent party treats parameters. A note about Halloween costumes: children are not allowed to bring weapons, toy weapons, or weapon-like objects to school, even if it is part of a costume. We also request that children not wear bloody, gruesome, or especially scary costumes. Costumes must be appropriate for an elementary school setting.

Treats provided in celebration of a child's birthday must be NON-EDIBLE. Parents will be provided with a suggested list of alternative, NON-EDIBLE treats at the beginning of the school year. The classroom teacher will determine the best time to distribute them. It is against federal regulations to serve lunch to students in lieu of the regular lunch program. This includes pizza and other fast food. If you are planning a party for your child, please do not distribute invitations at school.

Health Services

A full-time registered nurse is at the school every day to respond to health concerns and medical issues. The nurse also maintains health records on all students, screens students for vision and hearing, and provides treatment to students and staff in case of illness or accidents. If you have questions about immunization, physicals, medications or special health concerns, please contact the school nurse.

When a student has a fever of 100 degrees or higher, is vomiting, and/or has diarrhea, parents will be contacted to pick up their children. It is important that the school has accurate phone numbers for parents and/or emergency contacts. Please notify the school office immediately with any changes in contact information.

Children who exhibit any of the following should be kept home:

- Fever (child must be fever-free without medication for 24 hours before returning to school)
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Contagious diseases such as chicken pox or fifth disease
- Rash of unknown origin

Medication Policy

Medications will be administered in accordance with the Board of Education policy, which requires:

- A consent form signed by a parent
- A doctor's written order specifying time, dosage, and duration of medication (separate from the prescription)
- The medication in a prescription container
- Over-the-counter medication cannot be administered to a child without a doctor's written direction. Over-the-counter medication should not be sent to school.

Medication should be brought to school by the parents and turned into the school office, along with the Medication Administration Form, available at www.ccsd15.net > Quick Links > Health Services. Medication will be kept in a secure location and administered only by the school's registered nurse, a school administrator, or another consenting school staff member such as a secretary or a clerical assistant. Any change in medication policy must come in writing directly from the doctor.

Required Health Examinations and Immunization Recording

For the purpose of safeguarding the health of children, District 15 enforces Illinois health requirements. These requirements consist of health, dental, and eye examinations and immunizations specific to grade and age.

Health exams are required for students entering preschool, kindergarten, and sixth grade and those new to the school. The Certificate of Child Health Examination form is available in the school office and at www.ccsd15.net > Quick Links > Health Services. The exam, completed and signed by a doctor, must be dated within one year prior to the first day of school and must include lead screening for children who are six years or younger and diabetes screening. A tuberculosis (TB) skin test is recommended. The parent/guardian completes and signs the Health History section of the form.

In addition, annual health examinations are required for interscholastic sports participation.

Required school **immunizations** are:

- Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DPT)
- Polio (IPV)
- Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR)
- Haemophilus influenzae (Hib)
- Chicken pox/Varicella (Varivax)
- Hepatitis (HBV)

If a student fails to present proof of a health exam and immunizations by October 15, the student will be excluded from school until the student presents proof of a completed health exam and immunizations. New students who register mid-term shall have 30 days following registration to comply.

Dental exams are required for students in kindergarten, second grade, and sixth grade. The Illinois Department of Public Health Dental Examination form is available in the school office and at www.ccsd15.net > Quick Links > Health Services. If a student fails to present proof of a dental exam by May 15, the school may hold the student's report card until the student presents proof: (1) of a completed dental exam, or (2) that a dental exam will take place within 60 days after May 15.

Eye exams are required for students entering kindergarten and those entering Illinois schools for the first time. The State of Illinois Eye Examination Report is available in the school office and www.ccsd15.net > Quick Links > Health Services. If a student fails to present proof of an eye exam by October 15, the school may hold the student's report card until the student presents proof: (1) of a completed eye exam, or (2) that an eye exam will take place within 60 days after October 15.

Medical Excuses

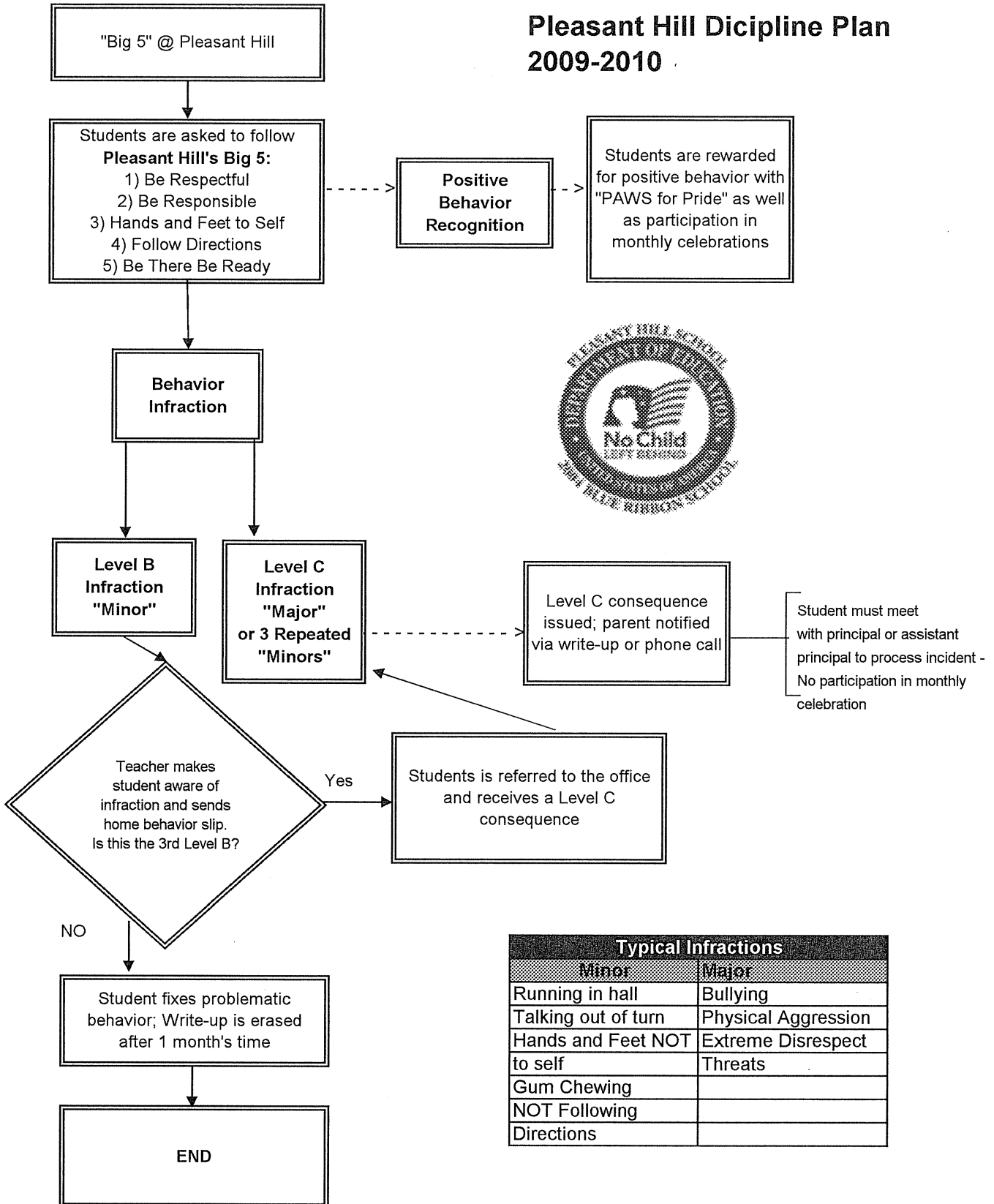
A physician's excuse is needed for any students who cannot participate in physical education or outdoor recess. The excuse must state the specific injury or problem, the dates the student cannot participate, and a date when the child can resume activity. Students will not be allowed to resume activities until a physician's release is received.

Behavior Expectations/Discipline Policy

Discipline is used to discourage inappropriate student behavior through consequences that are implemented fairly and consistently. Consistent discipline helps educate children on appropriate behavior and teaches them to make better choices in the future. Students who fail to comply with school/district rules and guidelines will be referred to the principal or assistant principal. The administrator will determine consequences for the student's misbehavior and contact parents, either by phone and/or referral form.

Pleasant Hill School Discipline Plan Flowchart

Pleasant Hill Dicipline Plan
2009-2010



Zero Tolerance Behaviors

- Verbal or physical threats
- Gang representation
- Bullying behavior
- Possessing a weapon
- Vandalizing school property
- Repeated threatening behaviors toward other students
- Deliberate misuse of computers
- Continued minor and/or level B behaviors

Pleasant Hill “Big 5!”

1. Be Respectful
2. Be Responsible
3. Keep Hands and Feet to Yourself
4. Follow Directions
5. Be There—Be Ready

Dress Code

Appropriate school dress assists in maintaining an atmosphere conducive to learning. **The principal or assistant principal will determine the appropriateness of a student’s dress.** Clothing and accessories that display undesirable and/or unhealthy image (such as, but not limited to: alcohol, drugs, cigarettes, violence, or gang related) do not belong in a school setting. Also considered inappropriate are the depiction of vulgar actions/language/behavior, gang signs, or sexually suggestive pictures or statements.

The following guidelines are used in determining appropriate attire:

- No bare midriffs
- No undergarments of any kind showing
- No bare or lace-up backs
- Shoulders must be covered by at least 2 inches of fabric
- Skirts and shorts must not be shorter than 2 inches above the knee
- Tops may not be lower than an imaginary line drawn from armpit to armpit
- No hats or bandannas are to be worn inside the building except when entering or preparing to exit the building
- Temporary hair coloring, glitter, or other alterations which may cause distractions in the classroom are not permitted.

For safety reasons, students should follow these guidelines:

- Footwear which is safe for indoor and outdoor physical activity should be worn at all times (platform shoes and thong-style sandals are discouraged and shoes with wheels are not allowed)
- No belts, necklaces, or bracelets with spikes or chains, including chains connecting wallets to a belt

- No pants or skirts which drag on the floor
- Pants must be worn around the hips. Pants that “sag” will not be tolerated.
- Students who wear earrings, necklaces, and other jewelry that cause a distraction may be asked to remove them. Multiple infractions will lead to items being confiscated.

Playground rules

Outdoor Recess Playground Expectations

1. When playing, take your turn and allow others to join your group.
2. Fighting or play fighting is not allowed. Rough play is not allowed. Treat others as you would like them to treat you.
3. The person who takes a piece of recess equipment from the bin or outside is responsible for returning it.
4. Dress appropriately for weather conditions.
5. Students must get a pass from a recess supervisor to come inside during their recess time.
6. When the whistle is blown at the end of recess, line up immediately.

Playground Equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sit and slide down only• Swing forward and back only• No standing on railings• Tag is played on field only• No jumping off equipment	Blacktop <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep games within boundaries•
Field <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Back hill is off limits• Tag and football are touch only	Baseball Diamond <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open only when dry• Rules must be agreed upon before the game begins

Indoor Recess Guidelines

1. Students should use inside voices and move safely around the classroom.
2. Items may not be thrown in or across the classroom.
3. Computer use is allowed only with teacher permission. No internet use is allowed.

Harassment/Bullying

Harassment or bullying of any kind (physical, verbal, non-verbal or sexual) will not be tolerated. Because these behaviors show disrespect and are harmful to all involved, they should be reported to the school administration or any staff member. Harassment is a serious offense which may result in suspension from school.

Article 5 of the Student Discipline Policy—“...using or possessing an electronic paging device or using a cellular telephone, personal digital assistant (PDA’s), digital camera, or other electronic device in any manner that disrupts the educational environment or violates the rights of others, including using the device to take photographs, cheat, signal others, or otherwise violate student conduct rules. Unless otherwise banned under

this policy or by the building principal, all electronic devices must be kept off and out of sight during the regular school day unless: (a) the supervising teacher grants permission; (b) use of the device is provided in a student's IEP; or (c) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals."

Article 9 of the Student Discipline Policy—"...using any form or type of aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to someone else and/or urging other students to engage in such conduct. Prohibited aggressive behavior includes, without limitation, the use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threats, intimidation, fear, bullying, cyberbullying, hazing, or other comparable conduct. Cyberbullying is the use of e-mail, instant messaging, chat rooms, pagers, cell phones, or other forms of information technology to deliberately harass, threaten, or intimidate someone. Cyberbullying can include such acts as making threats, sending provocative insults or racial or ethnic slurs, gay bashing, attempting to infect the victim's computer with a virus, and flooding an e-mail inbox with nonsense messages."

With regards to pages posted on public networking sites outside of school facilities, hours, and equipment, it is important to know that a student is not necessarily exempt from discipline by the school. The courts have ruled that when a student creates a page on a social networking site or sends electronic communications that serve to intimidate, harass, threaten, or otherwise bully a student or staff member, "the student may be disciplined for expressive conduct, even conduct occurring off school grounds, when this conduct would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment." Typically this kind of conduct outside of school starts in school and spills back over into the school environment causing disruptions to the delivery of instruction and/or student welfare.

PTA

We encourage all parents to become involved in the Pleasant Hill PTA to see firsthand what wonderful things the PTA does for Pleasant Hill. The PTA is always looking for new volunteers to help throughout the year—is this your year to volunteer? Please attend a PTA Board meeting to see for yourself what an extraordinary group of parents we have ... we'd love to have you join us. All PTA board meetings can be found in the school calendar.

PTA Coat Closet

The PTA Coat Closet was established so that all District 15 children would have the opportunity to be properly clothed in the winter months. The Coat Closet is located at Gray M. Sanborn School, 101 N. Oak St., Palatine. Coats, hats, gloves or mittens, snow pants, scarves, and boots, ranging in size from toddler to adult, are available. Those needing clothing should contact any school office.

Donations of *outerwear only* are accepted. The clothing may be brought to any District 15 school or directly to Gray M. Sanborn during the school day. All garments should be washed and/or in clean condition without rips or broken zippers.

C.A.R.E. Program

District 15 and the Palatine and Rolling Meadows park districts offer an affordable, well-supervised before- and after-school program during the school year. C.A.R.E. provides a safe, recreational, educational, and enrichment program for children in kindergarten through sixth grade.

For more information on C.A.R.E., contact the District 15 C.A.R.E. coordinator at 847-963-3127, the Palatine Park District at 847-991-0333, or the Rolling Meadows Park District at 847-818-3202.



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