



PENNSBURG

SCHOOL
DISTRICT

134 YARDLEY AVENUE • P.O. BOX 338 • FALLSINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA 19058-0338

August 16, 2022

Dear Pennsbury Families,

I hope you are having a great summer. Our staff, administrators, bus drivers, and buildings and grounds staff are busy preparing for the return of over 9,750 students. On August 29, we will welcome back students in grades K, 6 & 9 for a full-day orientation. Schools reopen for all students on August 30. In anticipation of the start of the school year, I would like to share a few quick highlights (see the bottom of this email for even more Pennsbury updates):

- Student Schedules, Team, and Teacher Assignments- On Thursday, August 18, PHS student schedules and elementary teacher assignments will be available in [PowerSchool](#). On the evening of Aug. 22, middle school homeroom and team assignments will be available in [PowerSchool](#). Transportation information will be sent prior to the start of school. This is a change in procedure from previous years.
- PowerSchool Login Information - You should have received an email from our IT department on August 8 with specific instructions explaining how to access PowerSchool. A follow-up email will be sent on the evening of August 16. If you still need assistance accessing your PowerSchool account, contact: parenttechhelp@pennsburysd.org or call 215-428-4117.
- COVID Updates - We will return to normal operations when students and staff return to school. We will provide any COVID-related updates as necessary.
- New building entrance procedures - All schools will be utilizing a new system to track visitors. You must have a photo ID with you if you plan to visit any school.
- New Website - Our [website](#) has been [updated and contains a lot of useful information](#).
- School Calendars - The Board has approved calendars for the next 5 school years. You can find the 2022-23 calendar and all the calendars [here](#).
- Ask Penny - Have a question about Pennsbury? Don't trust the rumors, Ask Penny, and we will get you the answer: askpenny@pennsburysd.org or 215-428-4100 x "Penny" (73669).

Thank you for your support of Pennsbury over the years. It is a privilege to serve as your superintendent of schools, and I am grateful to the Pennsbury Board of Directors for their efforts to support our mission. Pennsbury is truly a unique district that is justifiably proud of our successes. I wish you and your children a great school year.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
tsmith@pennsburysd.org
215-428-4111

Want more Pennsbury Back to School Information?

In addition to our work to improve our academic programs, there are a number of equally important updates to our district programs that I would like to share with you as we prepare to return to school. More detailed information regarding each item will be shared throughout the year. In the interim, please take note of the following:

Mindfulness - Beginning in September, all district classrooms will start the day with a "Mindfulness Minute." During this minute, there will be no announcements made, no technology used, or talking among staff or students. Research has shown that even a short time to "reset" at the beginning of the day can improve cognitive outcomes, socio-emotional skills, and general well-being. In addition, schools practicing daily quiet times have reported a decrease in negative student behaviors. As part of our own research, we will be reviewing our student discipline data at the end of the school year.

School Start Times - The Pennsbury School District has identified changing the high school start time as a goal to improve the physical and mental health of our students. There is a great deal of evidence that supports the academic and mental health benefits of later start times. Details will be shared over the course of the fall.

Student Wellness Programming - An important component of a Pennsbury education is our commitment to developing the "whole child." We have partnered with the Council of South Eastern Pennsylvania to help deliver programs and services to our students in grades K - 12. You can view our newly developed [Framework for Character, Culture & Wellness](#) to see our plan to support our students, PreK-12.

Parent/Family Academy - This year, we are starting a new program, the Pennsbury Parent Academy. The Parent Academy is offered FREE to parents to promote continued collaboration between families, schools, and the community. The Parent Academy offers a series of workshops and events aimed to help families stay engaged with their child's academic and social success. Families who attend Parent Academy activities will gain

invaluable knowledge - from preparing their kindergarteners for the first day of school to choosing the right classes to equip them to graduate from high school.

Sustainability/Green School Efforts - We are establishing a district Green Team to research and share best practices, highlight our accomplishments and challenge ourselves to incorporate sustainability in all aspects of our school district operations. We are working to reduce our carbon footprint by reducing our use of paper and printer toner and increasing the use of green cleaning products. We are also committing to turning off lights and powering down projectors and computers when they are not in use.

Previous return to school updates:

- PowerSchool Individual Account Information sent August 8, 2022. If you haven't received this information, contact parenttechhelp@pennsburysd.org.
- [Technology](#) sent August 2, 2022
- [Transportation](#) sent July 29, 2022
- [Food Service](#) sent July 26, 2022