



# POCANTICO HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL



**CALENDAR  
2023-2024**





# Welcome



## DISTRICT VISION STATEMENT

The Pocantico Hills Central School District aspires to become the pride of the community where all students are empowered to excel to the highest academic standards guided by highly qualified professionals and dedicated citizens.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. The standards are only the first step toward academic achievement and student growth.
2. Technology should be a tool that supports the growth of reasoning skills and critical thinking.
3. Joyful and passionate teaching and learning should set the tone for our school environment.
4. Collaborative teams must promote personal accountability, broad skill exposure, and cohort understanding and acceptance.
5. Perseverance and determination are essential characteristics of student growth and should be fostered thoughtfully and with support.
6. Community partnerships provide opportunities to promote communication and global awareness.
7. A strong sense of ethics must ultimately come from within, and we must develop and nurture that growth.

## ESSENTIAL SKILLS

The Pocantico Hills Central School District envisions a community of students, teachers and parents who partner to develop and support the skills necessary to be successful in the 21st century, including:

1. Self-Advocacy and Self-Direction
2. Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving
3. Communication, Relationships, and Socialization
4. Global and Community Awareness
5. Ethical Learning and Decision-Making





## Pocantico Hills Board of Education 2023–2024

President	Alfred Pacile apacile@pocanticohills.org	914-405-2840
Vice President	Charlie Minton cminton@pocanticohills.org	914-332-0067
Trustee	Brian Geary bgeary@pocanticohills.org	914-793-1414
Trustee	Kristin Kumar kkumar@pocanticohills.org	914-643-1420
Trustee	Joseph McGrath jmcgrath@pocanticohills.org	914-260-0799

Regular meetings of the **Board of Education** are held at least once per month; the time, dates and place of regular Board of Education meetings are established at the annual organizational meeting. The meetings are held in the Library at 7:30 p.m. and any change in the meeting schedule is announced on the district's website.

**Terms** – Five members are elected to three-year terms. Board candidates run at large and not for a specific seat.

## Pocantico Hills PTA 2023–2024

### PTA OFFICERS

**Contact:** [PTA@PocanticoHills.org](mailto:PTA@PocanticoHills.org)

Co-Presidents	Vickie Moore Evelyn Shaul Gennarelli
Co-Vice Presidents	Lauren Amsterdam Suzanne Damato
Treasurer	Carlo Esannason
Co-Secretaries	Maureen Garrett Tiffany Londono



## PHS Foundation 2023–2024

The Pocantico Hills School Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) organization founded in 1995 to raise funds and encourage support for educational projects and programs beyond the scope of the school budget. The foundation meets monthly and is governed by an elected board. Major contributions in recent years include a mobile computer lab, sizable donations to refurbish the

school library and the funding and management of scholarship and grant programs.

Fundraising events are held throughout the school year to publicize initiatives and encourage widespread participation from parents, students, members of the community, corporations and institutions.

### FOUNDATION OFFICERS

**Contact:** [Foundation@PocanticoHills.org](mailto:Foundation@PocanticoHills.org)

Co-Presidents	Lauren Amsterdam Mia Kargen
Co-Vice-Presidents	Suzanne Damato Vickie Moore Kasama Star
Treasurer	Carlo Esannason

### Important Phone Numbers

**Main Phone Number:** 914-631-2440

Superintendent	Richard Calkins	x703
Secretary to Superintendent/ District Clerk/Human Resources	Gina Downes	x703
Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations	Michael Vanyo	X709
Secretary to Administrator	Norma DeSousa	x710
Registrar	Maria Praino	x714
Cafeteria	Kristin Ripka	x716
Facilities	Donald Booth	x758
Transportation	Jane Anastasi	x707
Principal & Curriculum Leader Secretary to School Principal	Adam Brown Anabel Maya	x712 x753
Director of Student Support Services/Special Education	Christine Perricelli	x792
Student Services		x700
School Psychologist	Ashley Macri	x735
Elementary School Counselor	Sara Sonne	x732
Middle School Counselor	James McVeigh	x736
School Nurse	Juliet Hunt	x713
Library	Kerry Papa	x231
Educational Technology Director	Alana Winnick	x750
Athletic Director	Michael Vanyo	x709
Aftercare Program		x722
Summer Camp		x717
Pool (May-September)	Jeffrey McClung	x756



## Emergency Numbers

### SCHOOL NURSE

914-631-2440, EXT. 713

### TRANSPORTATION

914-631-2440, EXT. 707

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Greenburgh 914-682-5300  
Mt. Pleasant 914-769-1941  
Sleepy Hollow 914-631-0800

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Pocantico Hills 914-631-2710  
Elmsford 914-592-7711  
Sleepy Hollow 914-631-0765

### MEDICAL CARE

When you are unable to reach your doctor:

Phelps Memorial Hospital 914-366-3000  
Westchester County Medical Center 914-493-7000  
White Plains Hospital Center 914-681-0600

### POISON CONTROL CENTER

800-336-6997

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE

Change of Names and Addresses: Please visit our district's registration page, [pocanticohills.org/registration](http://pocanticohills.org/registration) or call 914-631-2440 ext. 710 for instructions.

Contact Information: Please log in to the Parent Portal to update your household information (change username, password, add/remove emergency contacts, edit email addresses/telephone numbers, set contact priorities). Personal information will be kept confidential.



## What Parents Need To Know

### SCHOOL HOURS:

JPK drop off at 8:50 am / JPK dismissal at 3:05 pm

PK-8: 8:20 am – 2:54 pm

Students arrive at classrooms at 8:15 am. Breakfast is available from 7:30 to 8:20. All students should be in their classrooms by 8:20 am and are considered tardy after that.

### SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Teacher Arrival	8:10 am	5	11:22 am
Homeroom	8:15 am	Transition	12:02 pm
1	8:30 am	6	12:05 pm
Transition	9:10 am	Transition	12:45 pm
2	9:13 am	7	12:48 pm
Transition	9:53 am	Transition	1:28 pm
3	9:56 am	8	1:31 pm
Transition	10:36 am	Transition	2:11 pm
4	10:39 am	9	2:14 pm
Transition	11:19 am	Transition to Dismissal	2:54 pm

### SCHOOL STRUCTURE

- Classes are organized into heterogeneously grouped sections in each grade.
- Special area and rotation classes include music, art, physical education, health, family and consumer science (FACS), STREAM or tech, library/media and world language.
- WIN (What I Need) is a designated time of the day to accommodate targeted remediation and enrichment.
- A grade-band teaming structure allows for a special education teacher along with at least one teaching assistant to be scheduled with each grade band. Grade bands include JPK-PK-K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8.
- A Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for academics, speech and language, occupational and physical therapy, ENL (English as a New Language) and counseling services are available to students in need of such services in grades JPK through 8.
- Instrumental music classes begin in grade 4.
- Band and chorus are scheduled throughout each cycle. Instrumental lessons occur on a rotational basis through a traditional pull-out model. Students are expected to communicate with their classroom teacher and make up any work that is missed.
- The master schedule runs on a 6-day cycle.

### CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

We believe that most questions and concerns are best addressed and resolved at their point of origin. Speak first to the person closest to the problem, such as the classroom teacher or school counselor. However, if the concern is related to general school matters, policies or administrative decisions, you should contact the Principal's Office directly.

Students and families will receive information by way of bulletins and meetings throughout the year. Teachers can be contacted by phone via the Principal's Office at ext. 753, by email or directly through their own voicemail extension (please check the website for their voicemail extension), but please allow 24 to 48 hours for the teacher's reply. Our teachers' main responsibility is instructional engagement, and we want to maximize this capacity during the school day. A weekly newsletter from the Principal will be disseminated throughout the school year, sharing pertinent information and celebrating rich instructional and curricular work that's occurring in the building. The school website provides additional information.

### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The following middle school clubs and activities are provided to our students:

- Middle School Student Government (in-school)
- Math Olympiad (in-school)
- School Play
- Yearbook
- Literary Magazine & School Newspaper
- 3D Printing, Photography, Chess, and other clubs based on student interest
- Interscholastic Sports for grades 7-8 (soccer, volleyball, basketball and softball). Homework Help/Tutoring. Additionally, Pocantico maintains a partnership with neighboring districts for students interested in playing football, wrestling, baseball and lacrosse. We also have intramurals for student in grades 3-6.

### SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM: GRADES JPK – 8

Meal prices will be \$1.50 for breakfast and \$3.00 for lunch for students during the 2023-24 school year. Free and reduced meals are available for any student that meets the income eligibility. Applications for Free and Reduced meals can be found on the school website. Click the Food Service icon on the front page of the website to find the application.

### FREE AND REDUCED PRICED MEAL APPLICATIONS

There are still options available for free and reduced meals. Parents and Guardians should go to the Pocantico Hills CSD website [www.pocanticohills.org](http://www.pocanticohills.org) and visit the Cafeteria page for more information on the Bulletin Board about eligibility and for application access.

### SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION

The district policy states that no student shall be required to walk more than ¼ mile to a bus stop or school of attendance and that special consideration should be given to children in grades JPK through 2. Bus routes are developed annually and sent home in August of each year, providing stops that are safe and routes that are efficient. Door-to-door transportation is not provided. Non-emergency questions concerning transportation may be directed to Jane Anastasi at 914-631-2440, ext. 707.



The dismissal process begins at 2:54 pm. Buses depart at approximately 3:05 pm. Elementary and middle school students who remain for a supervised club, scheduled activity or extra help may take the 4:00 pm bus. A 5:15 pm bus is provided to those middle school students who are participating in modified athletics. Children in grades JPK through 4 must be met at the bus stop by a parent, guardian or authorized caregiver. If no one is available to receive the child, the child will be brought back to school and parents will be contacted to pick them up. Any questions regarding afternoon dismissal procedures should be addressed to the Principal's Office at ext. 753.

Additionally, dismissal changes must be communicated to the main office no later than 1 pm. Changes communicated after this time cannot be honored, as it creates confusion for the office and classroom teachers that can slow the dismissal process. Changes cannot involve switching buses.

### **SCHOOL BUS SAFETY**

School bus transportation is a privilege that is provided to the children of the district by the Board of Education. Students who do not accept the responsibility of riding the bus in accordance with the rules and procedures established through Board policy and the Code of Conduct could lose the privilege of riding the bus. We strongly urge parents to review safety expectations with their children. Bus monitors are assigned to buses and are responsible for the appropriate supervision of the children while riding the school bus. Any questions around safety should first be brought to the attention of the bus monitor and driver and, if questions persist, should be communicated to the Principal.

### **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that their children attend school in accordance with the district calendar. It is the obligation and responsibility of each student to attend all classes as specified on his/her schedule. Regular school attendance is a crucial part of any education program and is directly related to academic success. If your child is ill, please contact the school nurse, Juliet Hunt, at 914-631-2440, ext. 713, before 8:15 am on the first day of his/her absence and every morning thereafter that your child will not be attending school.

The Pocantico Hills Central School District recognizes the following as legal excuses for a student absence, and each must be verified by the student's parent/guardian or by school personnel, where applicable:

1. Personal illness
2. Death in the family
3. Approved school-sponsored activities
4. Directed or authorized presence at the administrative offices or nurse's office
5. Religious observance
6. Impassable roads or weather making travel unsafe



7. Quarantine
8. Required court dates involving the child
9. Emergency dental or medical visits for the child
10. Extraordinary circumstances (pre-approved in advance by the principal and superintendent of the school)

In accordance with Board of Education policy, excessive absences or tardiness will be communicated in writing to families at the end of each marking period. Excessive absences that demonstrate an ongoing and consistent pattern of missed school will require a requested meeting and formal written communication from the Principal. Excessive absences can fall within the definition of educational neglect and, if necessary, outside resources may be solicited to support a child's school attendance.

### **EARLY DISMISSAL AND LATE ARRIVAL**

Students who arrive at school after 8:20 am must enter through the district office of the school and immediately check in with the nurse before reporting to class. If it is necessary for a student to leave before the school day ends, or arrive at school late because of an appointment, a written permission request signed by a parent/guardian must be brought to the teacher in grades Pre-K-4 and to the main office in grades 5-8. When possible, teachers should be notified at least one day in advance.

### **EMERGENCY AND WEATHER-RELATED SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND DELAYED OPENINGS**

If school is delayed or closed due to weather conditions or emergencies, parents will receive an automated communication from the Superintendent's Office. Additionally, closing will be posted on the district website. News 12 may also indicate the status. The district also kindly requests that families provide more than one emergency contact number. The emergency number may be that of a relative, friend, neighbor, or a business number where we can reach you during school hours.

If your emergency contact information changes at any time, please notify the main office at ext. 753 and log in to the Parent Portal to make the changes.

### **HEALTH-RELATED INFORMATION**

A medical release form signed by the parent/guardian must be on file in the event that emergency medical care is necessary. Students who take daily medications are encouraged to do so at home if the prescription permits. In the case of medications that must be taken during school hours, written authorization must be provided by the parent/guardian and physician each year and/or when any change in medication is made. This information must be communicated to our school nurse, Juliet Hunt, at ext. 713. All medications are locked within the nurse's office until administered as directed.

### **FAMILY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Parent phone numbers and addresses, including email, will be shared with class lists unless parents opt out in writing.

### **PHOTOS AND VIDEOS**

Students and staff are occasionally photographed for educational purposes and district public relations. Parents who do not want their child photographed may opt out. Opt-out forms can be obtained from the district website under Parent Information.

*(continued on page 27)*



# September 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>CHANGE OF ADDRESS:</b> Visit <a href="http://pocanticohills.org/registration">pocanticohills.org/registration</a> or call registration at X710 for instructions.</p> <p><b>CONTACT INFORMATION:</b> Please login to the parent portal to update your household information (emergency contact, email, phone, etc.)</p> <p>HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH</p>		<p>*DATES AND TIMES THROUGHOUT THE CALENDAR ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.</p>			1	2
3	4 LABOR DAY (DISTRICT CLOSED)	5 DAY 1 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL	6 DAY 2 PTA BACK TO SCHOOL CLOTHING DRIVE BEGINS	7 DAY 3  BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	8 DAY 4	9
10	11 DAY 5 POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY	12 DAY 6	13 DAY 1	14 DAY 2 PTA AND FOUNDATION MEETING 7PM	15 DAY 3 ROSH HASHANAH BEGINS AT SUNDOWN HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH BEGINS	16

<b>17</b> ROSH HASHANAH ENDS	<b>18</b> DAY 4 7TH & 8TH GRADE RETREAT	<b>19</b> DAY 5	<b>20</b> DAY 6 MIDDLE SCHOOL BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT – 7 PM	<b>21</b> DAY 1  <b>BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM</b>	<b>22</b> DAY 2 PTA BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY/WELCOME NEW FAMILIES 6PM	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> YOM KIPPUR (SCHOOL CLOSED)	<b>26</b> DAY 3	<b>27</b> DAY 4	<b>28</b> DAY 5 ELEMENTARY BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT – 6:30 PM PTA BACK TO SCHOOL CLOTHING DRIVE ENDS	<b>29</b> DAY 6 PTA BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY/WELCOME NEW FAMILIES 6PM (RAINDATE)	<b>30</b>

THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH IS POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY!

Google Play Download

Scan the code to download now!

**Keep in touch!**

Please visit our district website at [www.pocanticohills.org](http://www.pocanticohills.org) and click the "Blackboard Connect" or download our app.

App Store Download

Have You Downloaded Our App Yet?



# October 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 DAY 1 POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY	3 DAY 2 PTA COAT DRIVE BEGINS	4 DAY 3 PICTURE DAY  BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	5 DAY 4 FOUNDATION SWAN LAKE WALK	6 DAY 5	7
8	9 COLUMBUS DAY (DISTRICT CLOSED)	10 DAY 6	11 DAY 1 FOUNDATION SWAN LAKE WALK (RAINDATE)	12 DAY 2	13 DAY 3 PTA FIRE PREVENTION DAY	14
15 HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH ENDS	16 DAY 4	17 DAY 5	18 DAY 6	19 DAY 1	20 DAY 2	21
SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION WEEK						



22	23 DAY 3	24 DAY 4	25 DAY 5 LITERACY NIGHT 6PM PTA COAT DRIVE ENDS	26 DAY 6  BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	27 DAY 1 PTA HALLOWEEN BASH 6PM	28
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR						
29	30 DAY 2 PTA THANKSGIVING PIE & CAKE SALE BEGINS	31 DAY 3 HALLOWEEN PARADE 2:15PM			FILIPINO AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH GLOBAL DIVERSITY AWARENESS MONTH ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH NATIONAL BOOK MONTH NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH	FIRE SAFETY MONTH PLEASE CHECK OUR SMOKE ALARMS AND CONDUCT HOME DRILLS


DATES AND TIMES THROUGHOUT THE CALENDAR ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



# November 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH  SOCIAL JUSTICE MONTH			<b>1</b>  DAY 4  PTA THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE BEGINS	<b>2</b>  DAY 5    <b>BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM</b>	<b>3</b>  DAY 6	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>  DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS (FALL BACK)	<b>6</b>  DAY 1  POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY	<b>7</b>  ELECTION DAY  SUPT. CONF. DAY (AM)/ PARENT-TEACHER CONF. (PM)  (SCHOOL CLOSED STAFF ONLY)	<b>8</b>  DAY 2	<b>9</b>  DAY 3  END OF 1ST MARKING PERIOD	<b>10</b>  VETERANS' DAY (DISTRICT CLOSED)	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>  DIWALI	<b>13</b>  DAY 4  WORLD KINDNESS DAY  AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK  PTA PIE & CAKE SALE FORMS ARE DUE	<b>14</b>  DAY 5  STUDENT/PARENT VISITS TO SLEEPY HOLLOW HIGH SCHOOL	<b>15</b>  DAY 6  STUDENT/PARENT VISITS TO PLEASANTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL	<b>16</b>  DAY 1  STUDENT/PARENT VISITS TO BRIARCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL   <b>BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM</b>	<b>17</b>  DAY 2  PICTURE RETAKE DAY	<b>18</b>





19	20 DAY 3 PTA THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE ENDS	21 DAY 4 PTA PIE & CAKE PICK UP	22 DAY 5 11:45 AM DISMISSAL	23 THANKSGIVING RECESS (DISTRICT CLOSED)	24 THANKSGIVING RECESS (DISTRICT CLOSED)	25
26	27 DAY 6	28 DAY 1	29 DAY 2 PTA MEETING 7PM	30 DAY 3		

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# December 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!</p> <p>REVIEW EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION (P5). WATCH NEWS 12 AND CHECK SCHOOL WEBSITE AT <a href="http://POCANTICOHILLS.ORG">POCANTICOHILLS.ORG</a></p>					<p><b>1</b></p> <p>DAY 4</p> <p>PTA HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE BEGINS</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>DAY 5</p> <p>POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>DAY 6</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>DAY 1</p> <p>ELEMENTARY WINTER CONCERTS 1ST &amp; 2ND AT 6PM 3RD &amp; 4TH AT 7PM</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>DAY 2</p> <p>HANUKKAH BEGINS</p> <p>BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>DAY 3</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>DAY 4</p> <p>ELEMENTARY CONCERT (SNOW DATE)</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>DAY 5</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>DAY 6</p> <p>MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER CONCERTS 5TH &amp; 6TH AT 6PM 7TH &amp; 8TH AT 7PM</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>DAY 1</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>DAY 2</p> <p>HANUKKAH ENDS</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>



17	18 DAY 3 PTA HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE ENDS	19 DAY 4	20 DAY 5 MIDDLE SCHOOL CONCERT (SNOW DATE)	21 DAY 6  BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	22 HOLIDAY RECESS BEGINS (SCHOOL CLOSED)	23
24	25 CHRISTMAS DAY (DISTRICT CLOSED)	26 KWANZAA BEGINS	27	28	29	30
31	HOLIDAY RECESS (SCHOOL CLOSED)					


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# January 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NATIONAL EYE CARE MONTH	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY (DISTRICT CLOSED) KWANZAA ENDS	2 DAY 1 PTA COAT DRIVE RESUMES	3 DAY 2	4 DAY 3  BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	5 DAY 4	6
7	8 DAY 5 POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY	9 DAY 6	10 DAY 1	11 DAY 2	12 DAY 3	13
14	15 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY (DISTRICT CLOSED)	16 DAY 4	17 DAY 5	18 DAY 6  BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	19 DAY 1 HIGH SCHOOL SELECTIONS DUE PTA FAMILY EVENT	20



21	22 DAY 2	23 DAY 3	24 DAY 4 PTA MEETING 7PM	25 DAY 5 ONE POCO NIGHT	26 DAY 6 END OF 2ND MARKING PERIOD	27 INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY
ONE WORLD WEEK CELEBRATIONS						
28	29 SUPT. CONF. DAY (SCHOOL CLOSED STAFF ONLY)	30 DAY 1 ONE POCO NIGHT (SNOW DATE)	31 DAY 2 PTA COAT DRIVE ENDS	 <p>FOR THE SAFETY OF THE STUDENTS DURING DELAYED OPENINGS, WE ARE REQUESTING THAT PARENTS NOT TRANSPORT THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL EARLIER THAN THE TIME THAT WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPEN. WE APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION.</p>		

DATES AND TIMES THROUGHOUT THE CALENDAR ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



# February 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH  AMERICAN HEART MONTH				<b>1</b>  DAY 3  PTA BOOK DRIVE BEGINS         <b>BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM</b>	<b>2</b>  DAY 4  NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  DAY 5  POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY	<b>6</b>  DAY 6	<b>7</b>  DAY 1	<b>8</b>  DAY 2  10TH ANNUAL OPERATION VALENTINE	<b>9</b>  DAY 3	<b>10</b>  LUNAR NEW YEAR
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  DAY 4  ALL COUNTY MUSIC REHEARSAL #1 3:30-6:30 PM NEW ROCHELLE HS	<b>13</b>  DAY 5	<b>14</b>  DAY 6  VALENTINE'S DAY	<b>15</b>  DAY 1         <b>BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM</b>	<b>16</b>  DAY 2	<b>17</b>





18	19 PRESIDENTS' DAY (DISTRICT CLOSED)	20	21	22	23	24 LANTERN FESTIVAL
WINTER RECESS (SCHOOL CLOSED)						
25	26 DAY 3	27 DAY 4	28 DAY 5	29 DAY 6 PTA BOOK DRIVE ENDS	JPK-PK REGISTRATION FOR 2024/2025 WILL BE ACCEPTED & PROCESSED ON A ROLLING BASIS BEGINNING IN MARCH. PLEASE VISIT <a href="http://POCANTICOHILLS.ORG">POCANTICOHILLS.ORG</a> AND CLICK THE "REGISTRATION" ICON FOR MORE INFORMATION.	

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# March 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH</p> <p>READ ACROSS AMERICA MONTH</p>					<p><b>1</b></p> <p>DAY 1</p> <p>PTA SPRING FOOD DRIVE BEGINS</p> <p>PTA FAMILY EVENT</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>DAY 2</p> <p>POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>DAY 3</p> <p>ALL COUNTY MUSIC REHEARSAL #2 3:30–6:30 PM NEW ROCHELLE HS</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>DAY 4</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>DAY 5</p> <p><b>BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>DAY 6</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING DAY</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>ALL COUNTY BAND CONCERT 1PM NEW ROCHELLE HS</p>
<p><b>10</b></p> <p>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS (SPRING AHEAD)</p> <p>ALL COUNTY CHORUS CONCERT 1PM NEW ROCHELLE HS</p> <p>RAMADAN BEGINS</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>DAY 1</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>DAY 2</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>DAY 3</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>DAY 4</p> <p>PI DAY (3.14)</p> <p>FOUNDATION MEETING</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>SUPT. CONF. DAY (AM)/ PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES (PM) (SCHOOL CLOSED STAFF ONLY)</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>



<b>17</b> ST. PATRICK'S DAY	<b>18</b> DAY 5	<b>19</b> DAY 6	<b>20</b> DAY 1 HINDU NEW YEAR PTA MEETING 7PM	<b>21</b> DAY 2  <b>BOARD OF EDUCATION  MEETING 7:30 PM</b>	<b>22</b> DAY 3 MS PLAY 7PM PTA SPRING FOOD DRIVE ENDS	<b>23</b> MS PLAY 3PM & 7PM
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> DAY 4	<b>26</b> DAY 5	<b>27</b> DAY 6	<b>28</b> DAY 1  <b>BOARD OF EDUCATION  MEETING 7:30 PM  (ONLY IF NEEDED)</b>	<b>29</b> GOOD FRIDAY (DISTRICT CLOSED)	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> EASTER SUNDAY						


DATES AND TIMES THROUGHOUT THE CALENDAR ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



# April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	SPRING RECESS (SCHOOL CLOSED)					
7	8 DAY 2 RAMADAN ENDS POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY	9 DAY 3	10 DAY 4 EID AL-FITR	11 DAY 5	12 DAY 6 END OF 3RD MARKING PERIOD	13
14	15 DAY 1	16 DAY 2  BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	17 DAY 3	18 DAY 4 FOUNDATION MEETING	19 DAY 5	20




21	22 DAY 6 SCHOOL BOARD PETITIONS DUE BY 5 PM - DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE  PASSOVER BEGINS  EARTH DAY	23 DAY 1	24 DAY 2  ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS' DAY	25 DAY 3	26 DAY 4	27
NYS ELA TEST GRADES 3-8					NYSSMA SOLO FESTIVAL@ CHAPPAQUA	
28	29 DAY 5	30 DAY 6 PASSOVER ENDS			ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH  AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH  BILINGUAL/MULTILINGUAL LEARNER ADVOCACY MONTH  NATIONAL POETRY MONTH	

DATES AND TIMES THROUGHOUT THE CALENDAR ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



# May 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH			1 DAY 1 SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S DAY	2 DAY 2	3 DAY 3 SCHOOL LUNCH HERO DAY	4 FOUNDATION MUSIC FESTIVAL
5	6 DAY 4 POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY	7 DAY 5 NYS MATH TEST-	8 DAY 6 NATIONAL SCHOOL NURSE DAY GRADES 3-8	9 DAY 1 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM (PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET)	10 DAY 2 TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON	11
		NYS TESTING WINDOW: NYS MATH GRADES 3-8, DATES TBD				
TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK						
12 MOTHER'S DAY	13 DAY 3 NYS SCIENCE TEST GRADE 8	14 DAY 4 NYS SCIENCE TEST GRADE 5	15 DAY 5 PTA MEETING 7PM	16 DAY 6	17 DAY 1	18
		8TH GRADE WASHINGTON, DC TRIP				





19	20 DAY 2	21 DAY 3 <b>ANNUAL BUDGET &amp; SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION 7 AM – 9 PM GYMNASIUM</b>	22 DAY 4	23 DAY 5 8TH GRADE CAP & GOWN PORTRAITS  <b>BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM</b>	24 SCHOOL CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND	25
26	27 MEMORIAL DAY (DISTRICT CLOSED)	28 DAY 6	29 DAY 1	30 DAY 2	31 DAY 3 MUSIC IN THE PARKS FESTIVAL 7TH & 8TH GRADE  FOR JPK & PRE-K ORIENTATION AND SCREENING INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT <a href="http://POCANTICOHILLS.ORG">POCANTICOHILLS.ORG</a>	

DATES AND TIMES THROUGHOUT THE CALENDAR ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



# June 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH  NATIONAL PRIDE MONTH  NATIONAL GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH						1
2	3 DAY 4 POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY	4 DAY 5 ALGEBRA I REGENTS 9:15 AM	5 DAY 6	6 DAY 1   BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	7 DAY 2 PTA TRUCK DAY	8
9	10 DAY 3 RAINDATE: PTA TRUCK DAY	11 DAY 4	12 DAY 5	13 DAY 6	14 DAY 1 FLAG DAY PTA END OF YEAR BBQ & POTLUCK CELEBRATION ELEMENTARY FIELD DAY	15



<b>16</b> FATHER'S DAY	<b>17</b> DAY 2	<b>18</b> DAY 3	<b>19</b> JUNETEENTH (DISTRICT CLOSED)	<b>20</b> DAY 4 EARTH SCIENCE REGENTS 9:15AM  <b>BOARD OF EDUCATION  MEETING 7:30 PM</b>	<b>21</b> DAY 5 END OF 4TH MARKING PERIOD  MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELD DAY  PTA END OF YEAR BBQ & POTLUCK CELEBRATION (RAIN DATE)	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> DAY 6 GRADUATION 7PM	<b>25</b> DAY 1 <b>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</b> 11:45 AM DISMISSAL	<b>26</b> RATING DAY STAFF ONLY	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>						

DATES AND TIMES THROUGHOUT THE CALENDAR ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.





# July 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 CAMP BEGINS (ANTICIPATED)	2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY (DISTRICT CLOSED)	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



# August 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 CAMP ENDS (ANTICIPATED)	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31





(continued from page 5)

### RELEASE OF STUDENTS TO PARENTS AND OTHERS

No child will be excused from school without parent permission. If the parent sends a note to the school placing another person in charge of the child, the person who comes for the child will be required to show proof of identification. No child will be allowed to arrange for his or her own dismissal through another student. This includes bus transportation. Students must have a written communication to the office for permission to exit the bus at a different location.

### NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In the administration of its programs and policies, the Pocantico Hills Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation or disability. It complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (1972) and all amendments thereafter.

Inquiries regarding this policy should be referred to the Pocantico Hills School District's Compliance Officer, Michael Vanyo, 599 Bedford Road, Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591, 914-631-2440, ext. 709.

### DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT/CODE OF CONDUCT

The Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) is New York State legislation that requires schools to investigate allegations of bullying. The law is specific to allegations that suggest a targeted and sustained victimization of a student specific to their identity. A student's identity may be broadly defined to include race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, sex, and gender. Questions or concerns that may arise should be brought to the attention of the Principal.

Additionally, it is important to note that while a separate document, the Code of Conduct is aligned to the DASA law. All families can access the Pocantico Hills Code of Conduct in the Parent Portal and these expectations, along with an overview of DASA, are communicated to students during the first week of school.

### PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION LAW

The Pesticide Notification Law went into effect July 1, 2001. This law applies to all instructional and administrative buildings and grounds, including all playgrounds and athletic fields. All questions regarding to pesticide-related issues should be addressed to the Business Office at 914-631-2440, ext. 709. The district follows the guidelines of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). These guidelines provide for the use of nonchemical procedures to address pest problems. In situations where IPM is not effective, the district will use chemical applications. All persons who wish to



receive 48-hour written advanced notice of a pesticide application may register with the district for this notification by calling the business official at ext. 709.

### STUDENT LEARNING

The education our children receive is designed to develop their problem-solving abilities, build global awareness, support their social and emotional growth, and help them become able communicators and independent, innovative thinkers. This starts with our early childhood classrooms, which feature constructivist and experiential learning and culminates with our 8th graders developing interdisciplinary projects. Through all the academics, the overarching theme of social-emotional growth of our students is paramount.

The language arts curriculum includes all aspects of reading, writing, listening and speaking. At the heart of our instruction is balanced literacy within the reading and writing workshop model. Every elementary grade level has a dedicated time during which teachers conduct explicit phonics-based mini-lessons, differentiated guided reading groups and writing conferences, and develop additional literacy-based experiences. The library not only inspires a love of literature, but also serves as a hub for student inquiry and research,

with the library/media specialist scheduling times throughout each week to collaborate with teachers and students.

Mathematics instruction centers on the development of concepts, relationships and skills, and the Singapore math-based approach through the Eureka modules is the framework for teaching and learning. As part of our differentiated approach, students are offered the opportunity beginning in 3rd grade to explore additional challenging math problems through our involvement in the Math Olympiads. In addition, by the middle of 7th grade, students have the option of accelerating their math instruction in preparation for taking Regents-level Algebra in 8th grade.

The school utilizes Science 21 as its science curriculum K-2, a regionally developed 'hands-on' program. Beginning in 3rd grade the school utilizes the FOSS Science modules, with students having the option of intensifying their studies by taking Regents-level Earth Science in the 8th grade.

Pocantico Hills utilizes an Integrated SS/ELA curriculum, regionally developed by teachers and adapted to reflect the Common Core Social Studies Framework, as a foundation for their studies.



The district has made a strong commitment to expanding world language instruction. Beginning in pre-kindergarten all students experience content-based immersion in either Spanish or French every other day.

The related arts and physical education experiences also play a critical role in the development of the whole child. Children have music, art and physical education starting at the earliest age. Formal instrumental studies begin in 4th grade, and middle school students can participate in chorus and band, as well as various ensembles, through 8th grade. The art program provides students with many engaging experiences, including drawing, painting, sculpture and multi-media work. Often, the related arts teachers work in coordination with classroom teachers, so the projects are interdisciplinary and culturally responsive. This is also true for family & consumer science and health, where students develop skills related to leadership, decision-making, communication, nutrition and culinary arts, careers, and health and human development. There is also a garden program which is integrated into several grades and subject areas. In physical education, our students explore teamwork-based problem-solving activities within their curriculum.

Technology integration is an element of every child's classroom experience. In addition to interactive boards, all students have access to technology, including laptops for each child beginning in kindergarten. These devices allow our students and their teachers to work and collaborate in the Office 365 environment and utilize many web-based tools. While technology seems to be "everywhere," it is a purposeful tool that our children become skilled at using with the goal of gaining the communication and problem-solving skills they'll need to thrive in an ever-changing world.

### **HOMEWORK**

Homework should be purposeful and designed to review, enhance, and encourage learning beyond the school day. Homework develops research and study skills along with fostering the independence and responsibility necessary for successful living.

The time devoted to homework varies depending on a student's unique abilities/needs, their age and grade level. Students, teachers and parents each play important roles associated with homework. Students are expected to budget their time, and teachers are expected to develop and communicate reasonable homework expectations to both students and parents. All are encouraged to keep the lines of communication open as the year progresses.

### **STUDENT ASSESSMENTS**

Teachers regularly assess their students, both formally and informally, on an ongoing basis to inform instruction. In addition to classroom-based assessments, school-wide measures such as AIMSweb benchmarks and running records are administered periodically throughout the year to monitor reading and math fluency and comprehension. This testing data is then used to support differentiated instruction. Students in grades 7 and 8 also have

midterms and final exams in their five core subjects. These scores are then averaged together to create a "5th quarter" as part of an overall final grade for the course.

In order to determine how students are progressing relative to the New York State Learning Standards, 3rd through 8th grade students take state assessments in the spring in both English language arts and mathematics. 5th and 8th grade students also take a state science assessment. Our middle schoolers will also take AAPPL world language assessments, and those taking high school-level math and science coursework will take the Algebra and Earth Science Regents Exams at the end of the year in lieu of the state math and science tests. Score reports for state tests are mailed home to families at the end of the summer.

### **REPORT CARDS**

The primary purpose of the report card is communication of a student's progress. Report cards are issued quarterly. In grades PK-4, students are assessed on a scale of 1-4 based on learning objectives aligned to key grade-level academic and social-emotional standards. Report cards for students in grades 5 through 8 are issued with letter-based grades and comments.

### **PARENT AND STUDENT PORTALS**

All parents receive access to the school's Parent Portal. Available on the portal are their children's attendance records, report cards and family contact information. Parents of middle school students also have real-time access to each teacher's gradebook for their child. Middle school students have the same access to their grades as well, via the Student Portal. Everyone is encouraged to review the gradebooks regularly and actively reach out with any concerns or questions.

### **HIGH HONOR/HONOR ROLLS**

Beginning in grade 6, students who have earned an A- average (with no grade lower than B) during a marking period are designated as High Honors students. Honors distinction is awarded to students who have earned a B average (with no grade lower than B-). Major academic subjects count for 80% of the average. Rotations and special classes count for 20% of the average.

### **PARENT CONFERENCES**

Formal conferences are held twice a year, once in the fall and again in the spring, but conferences may be requested by either parents or teachers throughout the school year as needed. Arrangements for parent/teacher conferences can be made by contacting the teacher directly. Conferences at the middle school may be scheduled with the entire core academic team in a single meeting if appropriate and schedules permit.



### **GRADING CRITERIA**

A+	97-100
A	94-96
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D	65-69
F	Below 65
I	Incomplete

### **HIGH SCHOOL SELECTION**

The high school selection process begins in the fall of 8th grade. Principals and staff members of each of our partner high schools—Briarcliff Manor, Pleasantville and Sleepy Hollow—make presentations to Pocantico Hills students and families to provide information on each school's unique qualities and program offerings. School visitations, building tours and parent evenings are held at each high school as well.

The deadline for high school selection is noted on this calendar. Our school counselor provides objective and unbiased guidance and support to students and families to assist them in carefully considering the choices to make an informed decision.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Middle school students in grades 5–8 are required to plan for and carry out 10 hours of community service per year. Students work by grade level and individually with the school counselor to propose projects and complete their service projects. To fulfill the requirements, students must submit completed project data, including service hours, by June 1st. Students who complete 20 hours of community service prior to the Middle School Awards ceremony will receive a certificate of recognition. Students who complete a total of 75 hours by the time they graduate will receive a diploma with distinction.

## ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT AND COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Each fall, assessment results from the previous year are reviewed publicly and presented to the Board of Education and community for review. This annual collection and analysis of data contributes a window of insight into the success of our students and of our programs, and it also assists us as we continually strive to improve the quality of our students' educational experiences.

## SCHOOL BUDGET

Budget development for the new school year begins in December and continues through April, and is based on an assessment of the needs of the district. The superintendent presents a recommended budget aligned with the school district's goals and it is carefully

considered by the Board of Education. Community members are encouraged to attend budget hearings and meetings to become knowledgeable of both the district's needs and goals, along with the plans to address these.

A summary of the adopted budget is mailed to all district residents prior to the annual budget vote, and a more detailed budget is available upon request. A call to the Business Office will allow interested residents to be placed on a mailing list. At any time during the budget development period, questions about the proposed budget may be sent to: [budgetinfo@pocanticohills.org](mailto:budgetinfo@pocanticohills.org).

## VOTER REGISTRATION

District residents must be registered with either the Westchester County Board of Elections or the school district in order to participate in school district votes and elections. Residents who need to do so can register with the Westchester County Board of Elections, either in person or by mail, no later than 25 days before the vote/election; or with the school district at the District Clerk's Office any day from 8:30 am – 3 pm, no later than five days before the day of a vote/election. For more information, contact the District Clerk at 631-2440, x703.

## AFTER-CARE PROGRAM

The After-Care program runs daily while school is in session for grades PK–4, until 6 pm. The program is available on early

dismissal days, but not available on school vacation days or when the district is closed for weather-related emergencies. Older children will have the opportunity to start homework assignments, while younger children participate in a variety of planned activities.

## Pocantico Hills Camp and Recreation

### SUMMER CAMP

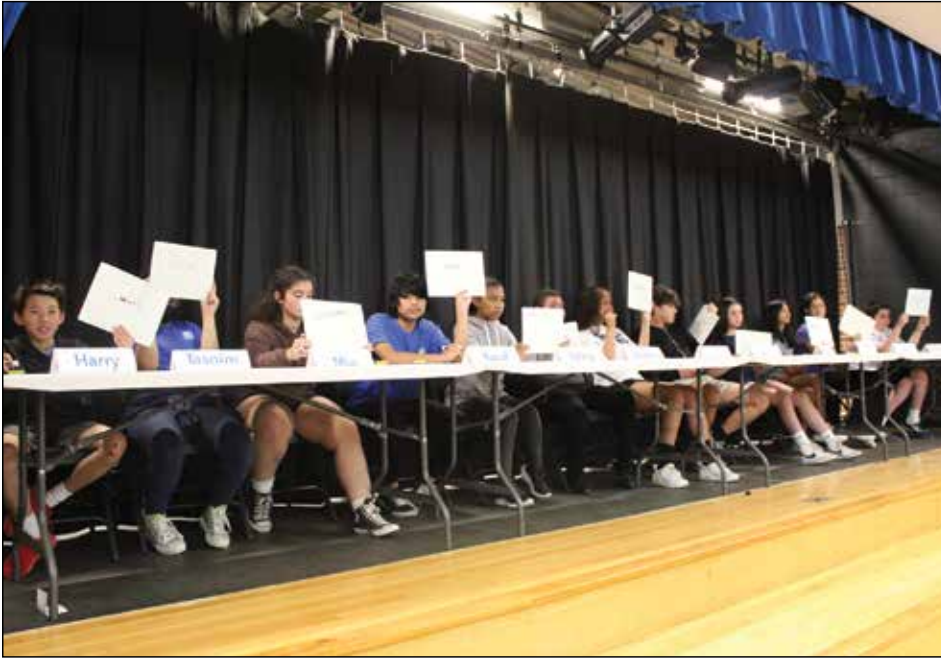
The school district operates a comprehensive Day Camp that runs for six weeks each summer. The camp includes a full slate of activities that keep students who attend the PreK to 8th grade program active and having fun throughout the six-week period. Camping, hikes, arts and crafts, culinary and sports activities, a swimming program and a studio program make our camp one of the very best around. Please visit our summer day camp page at [www.pocanticohills.org](http://www.pocanticohills.org) for more information.

### RECREATION PROGRAM

The district owns and operates an Olympic-size swimming pool for the use and enjoyment of the entire Pocantico Hills School and residential community. A "kiddie" pool is also available for our youngest residents. The pool is open daily between Memorial Day and Labor Day and is open several weekends in the month of September. All school district residents are welcome to use this facility. For more information, contact the pool director at 914-631-2440, ext. 756.







## **FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT**

The federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents/guardians and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's educational records, including:

### **1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school district receives a request for access.**

The parent/guardian or eligible student should submit to the principal a written request that identifies the record(s) he/she wishes to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

### **2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent/guardian or eligible student believes are inaccurate.**

Any parent/guardian or eligible student may ask the school district to amend a record that he/she believes is inaccurate. He/she should write to the principal, clearly identify the part of the record he/she wants changed and specify why it is inaccurate. If the school district decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent/guardian or eligible student, the school district will notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the decision and advise him/her of his/her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing

procedures will be provided to the parent/guardian or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

### **3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.**

One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the Board of Education; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school district discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

### **4. The right not to have directory information disclosed without prior written consent.**

The Pocantico Hills Central School District designates the following items as directory information: student's name, photograph, address,

telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, height and weight, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received. The school district may disclose any of these items without prior written consent, unless notified to the contrary, in writing, by the parent/guardian or eligible student by the end of the first 30 days of the school year. The school district's policy regarding release of directory information shall apply equally to military recruiters, website postings, the media, colleges and universities, and prospective employers.

### **5. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA.**

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-4605

Please see our website for additional information about students' privacy rights.

POCANTICO HILLS  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
599 Bedford Road  
Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591



## 2023–2024 Board of Education Calendar of Meetings

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Thursday, November 16, 2023

Thursday, December 7, 2023

Thursday, December 21, 2023

Thursday, January 4, 2024

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Thursday, March 7, 2024

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Thursday, March 28, 2024\*\*

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Thursday, May 9, 2024

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Thursday, June 6, 2024

Thursday, June 20, 2024

*\*\*Tentative date to be used only if needed*





## Dates to Remember 2023–2024

AUGUST	30–31	Superintendent Conference Day – Staff Reports
SEPTEMBER	5	Frist Day of School for Students
	25	Yom Kippur (School Closed)
OCTOBER	9	Columbus Day (District & School Closed)
NOVEMBER	7	Superintendent Conference Day (AM) / Parent-Teacher Conference (PM)
	10	Veterans Day (District & School Closed)
	22	11:45 am Dismissal
	23–24	Thanksgiving Recess (District & School Closed)
DECEMBER	22	11:45 am Dismissal
	25	Christmas Day (District & School Closed)
	26–29	Holiday Recess (School Closed)
JANUARY	1	New Year's Day (District & School Closed)
	15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (District & School Closed)
	29	Superintendent Conference Day (School Closed – Staff Reports)
FEBRUARY	19	Presidents' Day (District & School Closed)
	20–23	Winter Recess (School Closed)
MARCH	15	Superintendent Conference Day (AM) / Parent-Teacher Conferences (PM)
		School Closed - Staff Reports
	27	Good Friday (District & School Closed)
APRIL	1–5	Spring Recess (School Closed)
MAY	24	School Closed for Memorial Day Weekend
	27	Memorial Day (District & School Closed)
JUNE	19	Juneteenth (District & School Closed)
	25	Last Day of School – 11:45 am Dismissal

### IMPORTANT BUDGET DATES:

April 15 — School Board Petitions Due by 5 pm — District Clerk's Office  
 May 09 — Public Hearing on Proposed School Budget  
 May 09 — Last Day to Accept Applications for Absentee Ballots  
 May 07 — Last Day to Register to Vote  
 May 20 — Last Day to Accept Applications for Absentee Ballots in Person  
 May 21 — Annual Budget Vote and School Board Election