

POCANTICO HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL



CALENDAR 2021-2022

599 Bedford Road • Sleepy Hollow, N.Y. 10591 • 914-631-2440 • fax 914-631-3280 • www.pocanticohills.org

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.

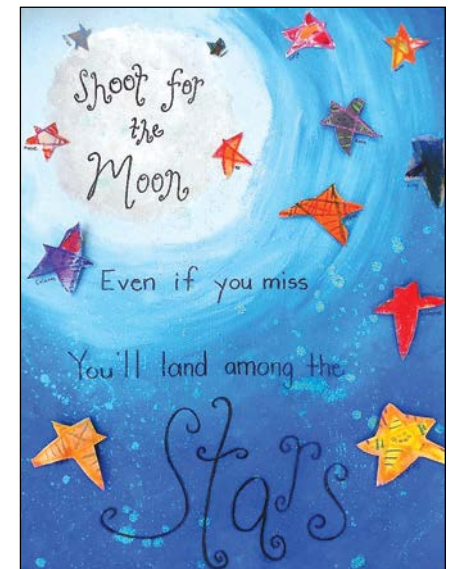
Guiding Principles

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 2021–2022

President	Alfred Pacile apacile@pocanticohills.org	914-405-2840
Vice President	Charlie Minton cminton@pocanticohills.org	914-332-0067
Trustee	Joseph McGrath jmcgrath@pocanticohills.org	914-793-1414
Trustee	Kristin Kumar kkumar@pocanticohills.org	914-643-1420
Trustee	Brian Geary bgeary@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 outside door of the school or on the district's website.

Agendas are available on the district's website, www.pocanticohills.org, and are distributed at each meeting.

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

Pocantico Hills PTA 2021–2022

PTA OFFICERS

Contact: PTA@PocanticoHills.org

Co-Presidents	Dina Lupi Chanel Quintero
Co-Vice Presidents	Lauren Amsterdam Maureen Garrett
Treasurer	Magaly Maquera
Co-Corresponding Secretaries	Liza Lopez Elena Riley
Co-Co-Recording Secretaries	Tahmida Rahman Annalisa Altieri

PHS Foundation 2021–2022

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

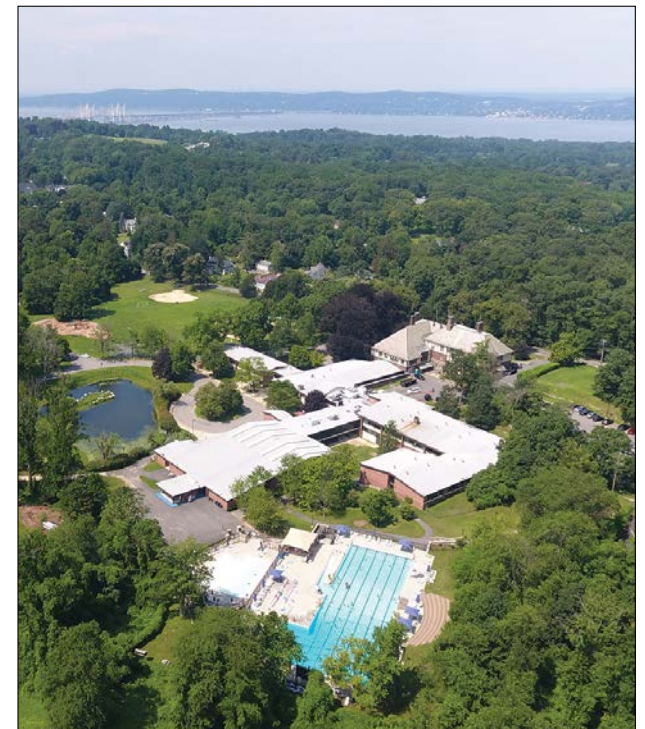
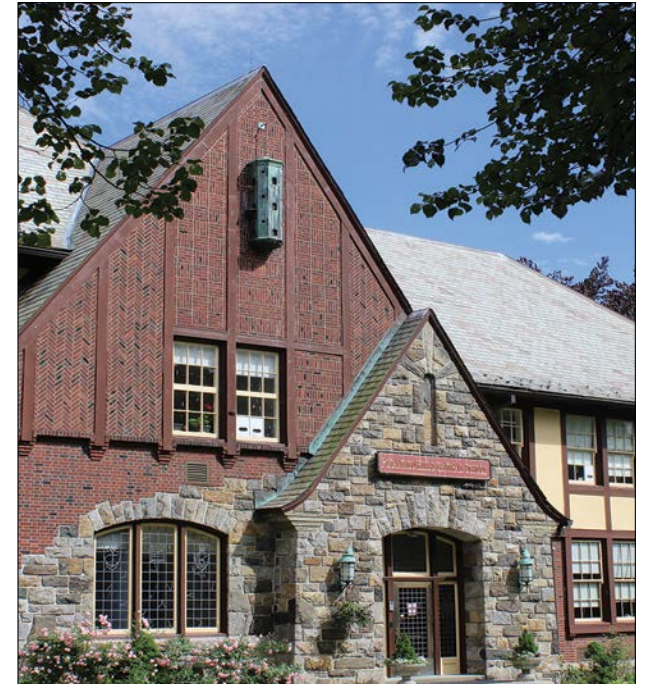
Contact: Foundation@PocanticoHills.org

Co-Presidents	Lauren Amsterdam Mia Kargen
Co-Vice-Presidents	Eric Lebenson Kasama Star
Treasurer	Tameka Walters
Secretary	Chanel Quintero

Important Phone Numbers

Main Phone Number: 914-631-2440

Superintendent	Richard Calkins	x702
Secretary to Superintendent/ District Clerk/Human Resources	Gina L. Downes	x703
Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations	Michael Vanyo	x709
Cafeteria	Kristen Ripka	x116
Facilities	Don Booth	x158
Transportation	Jane Anastasi	x707
Principal & Curriculum Leader	Adam Brown	x712
Secretary to Principal	Deborah Kaplan	x153
CPSE/CSE Chairperson	Christine Perricelli	x192
Special Ed Secretary	Norma DeSousa	x700
Elementary School Counselor	Sara Sonne	x198
Middle School Counselor	James McVeigh	x117
Registration	Maria Praino	x714
School Nurse	Gay Harmon	x113
Library	Eric Neuman	x114
Information Technology	TBD	x149
Director of Education Tech.	Alana Winnick,	x150
Athletic Director	Emma Goodman	x118
After-Care Program (September–June)	Sharon Rubeo - Co-Director Dawn Horecky - Co-Director	x704
Camp (June–August)	Ryan King	x115
Pool (May–September)	Jeff McClung	x119



Emergency Numbers

SCHOOL NURSE 914-631-2440, EXT. 113

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 or call 914-631-2440 ext. 714 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/tel #'s, set contact priorities). Personal information will be kept confidential.



What Parents Need To Know

SCHOOL HOURS:

Grades Pre-K – 8 8:20 am – 2:54 pm

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

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Teacher Arrival	8:10 am	5	11:22 am
Homeroom	8:20 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, 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 through student inquiry with a project-based learning model at its core.
- A grade-band teaming structure allows for a designated special education teacher along with at least one teaching assistant to be scheduled with each grade band. Grade bands include 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 Pre-K 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.

Channels of Communication Between Home And School

We believe that most questions and concerns are best answered and resolved at their point of origin. Speak first to the person closest to the problem, such as the classroom teacher or school counselor. If additional support is needed, the principal should be brought into the discussion. 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. 153, or directly by email, 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.

EXTRACURRICULARS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

- Student Government
- Math Olympiad
- School Play
- Yearbook
- Literary Magazine & Newspaper
- 3D Printing, Photography and other clubs based on student interest
- Interscholastic Sports (soccer, basketball, softball, baseball). Additionally, Pocantico maintains a partnership with neighboring districts for students interested in playing football, wrestling, softball and lacrosse. We also have athletic clubs, such as tennis, to support student interests.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM: GRADES PRE-K-8

All students enrolled in the Pocantico Hills Central School District will receive breakfast and lunch at no charge for the 2021-2022 school year.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) extended its flexibilities granted to school meal programs to provide breakfast and lunch at no cost for all enrolled students, regardless of family income.

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 Pre-K 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 pm bus. A 5:15 pm bus is provided to those middle school students who are participating in afterschool athletics. Children in grades Pre-K 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. 153.

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

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. Expectations and procedures for boarding, riding and exiting the school bus are communicated in the summer mailing.

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, Gay Harmon, at 914-631-2440, ext. 113, 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 one month 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 8:25 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. 153, and, login 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, Ms. Gay Harmon, at ext. 113. 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.

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.


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

(continued on page 27)



September 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>Keep in touch! Please visit our district website at www.pocanticohills.org and click the "Blackboard Connect" or download our app.</p>			<p>1</p> <p>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY (TEACHERS ONLY)</p> <p>BACK TO SCHOOL CLOTHING & SUPPLY FUNDRAISER BEGINS</p>	<p>2</p> <p>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY (TEACHERS ONLY)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>LABOR DAY (DISTRICT CLOSED)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>ROSH HASHANAH (SCHOOL CLOSED)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>ROSH HASHANAH (SCHOOL CLOSED)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL PRE-K – 8</p> <p>BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH BEGINS</p>	<p>16</p> <p>YOM KIPPUR (SCHOOL CLOSED)</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>

19	20 FOOD DRIVE BEGINS	21	22	23 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM PTA MEMBERSHIP CONTEST BEGINS	24	25
26	27	28	29 MIDDLE SCHOOL BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT GRADES 5-8	30 ELEMENTARY BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT GRADES PRE-K-4 BACK TO SCHOOL CLOTHING & SUPPLY FUNDRAISER ENDS	CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE Change of Address: Visit pocanticohills.org/registration or call registration at ext. 714 for instructions. Contact Information: Please log in to the Parent Portal to update your household information (parent, emergency, email/tel #'s).	*DATES AND TIMES THROUGHOUT THE CALENDAR ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH IS POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY! • HALF DAYS OF SCHOOL MEAN PAJAMA DAYS!



October 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH GLOBAL DIVERSITY AWARENESS MONTH FIRE SAFETY MONTH PLEASE CHECK YOUR SMOKE ALARMS AND CONDUCT HOME DRILLS			1 FOOD DRIVE ENDS	2
3	4 POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY COAT/WINTER WARMTH DRIVE BEGINS	5	6 PICTURE DAY	7 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	8 FOUNDATION WALK	9
10	11 COLUMBUS DAY (DISTRICT CLOSED)	12 **PICTURE DAY RAINDATE	13	14	15 HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH ENDS	16

<p>17 DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP WEEK</p>	<p>18 SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION WEEK</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 ONLINE BOOK FAIR BEGINS</p>	<p>21 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM PIE & CAKE SALE BEGINS</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 UNITED NATIONS DAY ONE WORLD WEEK</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 LAST DAY OF ONLINE BOOK FAIR</p>
<p>31 HALLOWEEN</p>						



November 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH SOCIAL JUSTICE MONTH	1 POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY CHARLESTON WRAP FUNDRAISER BEGINS	2 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AM) PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES (PM) (STAFF ONLY)	3	4 DIWALI BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	5 PIE & CAKE SALE FORMS DUE	6
	7 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS (FALL BACK)	8 THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE BEGINS	9	10	11 VETERANS DAY (DISTRICT CLOSED)	12 END OF MARKING PERIOD
14	15 AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK	16 PLEASANTVILLE HS VISIT (STUDENTS / PARENTS)	17 SLEEPY HOLLOW HS VISIT (STUDENTS / PARENTS) PTA MEMBERSHIP CONTEST ENDS	18 BRIARCLIFF HS VISIT (STUDENTS / PARENTS) BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	19 LAST DAY OF THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE	20 WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

21

22

COAT/WINTER WARMTH DRIVE ENDS

23

PICK UP PIE & CAKE ORDERS

24

PAJAMA DAY
11:45 AM DISMISSAL

25

THANKSGIVING RECESS
(DISTRICT CLOSED)

26

THANKSGIVING RECESS
(DISTRICT CLOSED)

27

28

HANUKKAH BEGINS

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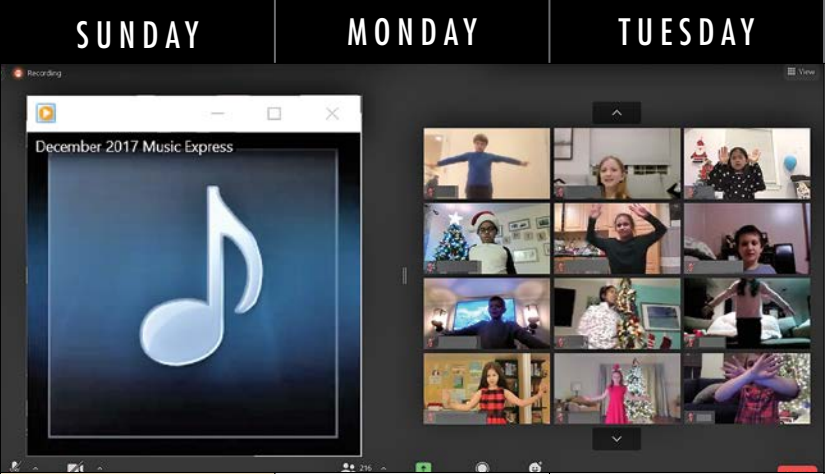
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*PLEASE CHECK SMOKE ALARMS AND CONDUCT HOME DRILLS.



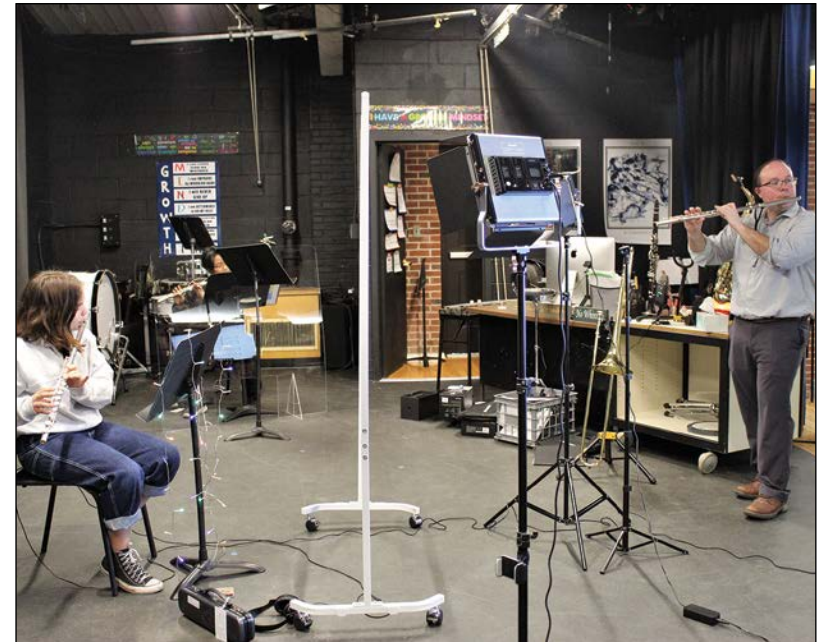
December 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE BEGINS	2 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	3	4
5 INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WEEK	6 POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY HANUKKAH ENDS	7	8 ELEMENTARY WINTER CONCERTS	9 **ELEMENTARY CONCERTS SNOW DATE	10	11
12	13	14	15 MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER CONCERT	16 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	17 HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE ENDS	18

19	20	21	22 **MIDDLE SCHOOL CONCERT SNOW DATE	23	24 CHRISTMAS DAY OBSERVED (DISTRICT CLOSED)	25 CHRISTMAS DAY
26 KWANZAA BEGINS	27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEARS DAY OBSERVED (DISTRICT CLOSED)	
HOLIDAY RECESS (SCHOOL CLOSED)						

BEST WISHES FOR
A HAPPY HOLIDAY
SEASON.

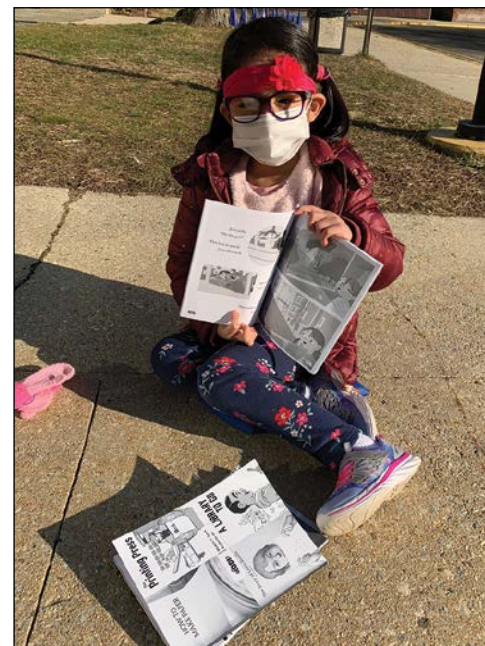
REVIEW EMERGENCY
SCHOOL CLOSING
INFORMATION (P5).
WATCH NEWS 12
WESTCHESTER
AND CHECK
SCHOOL WEBSITE AT
POCANTICOHILLS.ORG



January 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 NEW YEAR'S DAY KWANZAA ENDS
2	3 POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY	4	5	6 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15

16	17 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY (DISTRICT CLOSED)	18	19	20 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	21 DEADLINE FOR HS SELECTION	22
23	24	25	26	27 HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY	28 END OF MARKING PERIOD	29
30	31					



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 SCHOOL WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPEN. WE APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION.

February 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH		1 BOOK DRIVE BEGINS NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY LUNAR NEW YEAR	2	3 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	4	5
6	7 POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY	8 8TH ANNUAL OPERATION VALENTINE	9	10	11	12
13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15 LANTERN FESTIVAL	16	17 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	18	19

20

21

PRESIDENT'S DAY
(DISTRICT CLOSED)

22

23

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26

WINTER RECESS (SCHOOL CLOSED)

27

28

BOOK DRIVE ENDS



PRE-K REGISTRATION FOR
2022/2023 WILL BE ACCEPTED &
PROCESSED ON A ROLLING BASIS
BEGINNING IN MARCH.
PLEASE VISIT
[POCANTICOHILLS.ORG/REGISTRATION.](http://POCANTICOHILLS.ORG/REGISTRATION)



March 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH		1	2 ASH WEDNESDAY	3 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	4	5
6	7 PRE-K REGISTRATION POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY	8 SPRING FOOD DRIVE BEGINS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY	9	10	11 INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING DAY	12
13 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS (SPRING AHEAD)	14	15	16	17 SAINT PATRICK'S DAY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	18	19

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SPRING FOOD DRIVE ENDS

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28
PARENT-TEACHER
CONFERENCES
(STAFF ONLY)

29


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31

MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAY



April 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>IMPORTANT BUDGET DAYS</p> <p>April 18 – School Board Petitions Due by 5pm May 6 – Public Hearing for Proposed School Budget May 19 – Last Day to Accept Applications for Absentee Ballots by Mail May 11 – Last Day to Register to Vote May 16 – Last Day to Accept Applications for Absentee Ballots if in Person May 17 – Annual Budget Vote and School Board Election</p>					<p>1</p> <p>SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S DAY</p>	<p>2</p> <p>HINDU NEW YEAR</p>
					<p>NYSSMA FESTIVAL</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM</p>	<p>8</p> <p>END OF MARKING PERIOD</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>NYSSMA FESTIVAL</p>						
<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY (DISTRICT CLOSED) PASSOVER BEGINS</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>SPRING RECESS (SCHOOL CLOSED)</p>						

<p>17 EASTER SUNDAY</p>	<p>18 SCHOOL BOARD PETITIONS DUE BY 5PM</p>	<p>19 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 PASSOVER ENDS EARTH DAY</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>



May 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH	2 POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK	3	4 ELEMENTARY SPRING CONCERT TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION DAY	5 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING – PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET 7:30 PM	6	7
8 MOTHER'S DAY	9	10	11 NATIONAL SCHOOL NURSE DAY MS SPRING CONCERT	12	13	14
15	16	17 ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION 7 AM – 9 PM	18	19 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	20	21

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MEMORIAL DAY
(DISTRICT CLOSED)

31



FOR PRE-K ORIENTATION AND PRE-K
SCREENING INFORMATION, VISIT OUR
WEBSITE AT POCANTICOHILLS.ORG



June 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	3	4
5	6 POCO BLUE SPIRIT DAY	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 FLAG DAY	15	16 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 PM	17 FIELD DAY	18

<p>19</p> <p>FATHER'S DAY JUNETEENTH DAY</p>	<p>20</p> <p>JUNETEENTH OBSERVED (SCHOOL CLOSED)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>GRADUATION 7PM</p>	<p>23</p> <p>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</p> <p>11:45 AM DISMISSAL END OF MARKING PERIOD</p>	<p>24</p> <p>RATING DAY</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>SUMMER CAMP BEGINS (ANTICIPATED START DATE)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>		



July 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY (DISTRICT CLOSED) NO SUMMER CAMP	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 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 SUMMER CAMP ENDS (ANTICIPATED END DATE)	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			



(continued from page 5)

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 ride home on a different bus with a classmate or 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 receive the Pocantico Hills Code of Conduct during the summer mailing 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 capstone 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 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 4th 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-5, a regionally developed 'hands-on' program being aligned to the new Next Generation Science Standards. This leads into a two-year foundational science sequence beginning in 7th grade, with students having the option in 8th grade of intensifying their studies in preparation for taking the Earth Science Regents at the end of the year.

Pocantico Hills utilizes an Integrated SS/ELA curriculum regionally developed by teachers and adapted to reflect the Common Core Social Studies Framework.

The district has made a strong commitment to expanding world language instruction. Beginning in 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 undertaken are interdisciplinary. 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 as part of a diverse and expanding curriculum.

Technology integration is an element of every child's classroom experience. In addition to Tru-Touch 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 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 Assessment

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.

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. 4th grade and 8th grade students also take a state science assessment. Our 8th graders will also take world language assessments, and those taking high school-level math and/or science coursework will take the Algebra and/or 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 for students in grades pre-K through 4 are issued three times a year. They 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 quarterly 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.

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 will be announced in the fall. Our school counselor provides guidance and support to students and families to assist them in carefully considering the high school 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.

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 Pre-K–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 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. 119.





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

**2021–2022
Board of Education
Calendar of Meetings**

Tuesday, August 16, 2021

Thursday, September 9, 2021

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Thursday, October 7, 2021

Thursday, October 21, 2021

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Thursday, December 16, 2021

Thursday, January 6, 2022

Thursday, January 20, 2022

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Thursday, February 17, 2022

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Thursday, March 17, 2022

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

Thursday, May 5, 2022

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Thursday, June 2, 2022

Thursday, June 16, 2022



POCANTICO HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL
599 Bedford Road
Pocantico Hills
Sleepy Hollow, N.Y. 10591

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Dates to Remember 2021–2022

AUGUST	31	Professional Development – Staff Reports
SEPTEMBER	1–2	Professional Development – Staff Reports
	6	Labor Day (District & School Closed)
	7–8	Rosh Hashanah (School Closed)
	9	School Begins (Pre-K through 8)
	16	Yom Kippur (School Closed)
OCTOBER	11	Columbus Day (District & School Closed)
NOVEMBER	2	Professional Development (AM)/Parent-Teacher Conference (PM) – Staff Only
	11	Veteran’s Day (District & School Closed)
	24	11:45 am Dismissal (Students & Staff)
	25–26	Thanksgiving Recess (District & School Closed)
DECEMBER	24	Christmas Day Observed (District & School Closed)
	27–30	Holiday Recess (School Closed)
	31	New Years Day Observed (District & School Closed)
JANUARY	17	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (District & School Closed)
FEBRUARY	21	President’s Day (District & School Closed)
	22–25	Winter Recess (School Closed)
MARCH	28	Parent-Teacher Conference (Staff Only)
APRIL	11–14	Spring Recess (School Closed)
	15	Good Friday (District & School Closed)
MAY	30	Memorial Day (District & School Closed)
JUNE	20	Juneteenth Observed (School Closed)
	23	Last Day of School – 11:45 am Dismissal

2022 BUDGET DATES:

Monday, April 18	School Board Petitions Due by 5 pm – District Clerk’s Office
Thursday, May 5	Public Hearing on Proposed School Budget
Monday, May 9	Last Day to Accept Applications for Absentee Ballots
Wednesday, May 11	Last Day to Register to Vote
Monday, May 16	Last Day to Accept Applications for Absentee Ballots in Person
Tuesday, May 17	Annual Budget Vote and School Board Election