



Thomas A. Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent

PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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August 15, 2023

Dear Pennsbury Families,

I hope you are having a great summer. Our staff, administrators, bus drivers, and buildings and grounds staff are busy preparing for the return of almost 10,000 students. This year is particularly special because Pennsbury will celebrate our 75th Anniversary as a school district!

On **September 5**, we will welcome back students in grades K, 6 & 9 for a full-day orientation. Schools reopen for all students on **September 6**. [The 2023-24 calendar is available here](#).

In anticipation of the start of the school year, I would like to share a few quick highlights (**see the bottom of this email for even more Pennsbury updates**):

- **Back to School Info** - On **August 21**, **Finalized** PHS Student Schedules, Middle School Homeroom/Team Info, Elementary Teacher Assignments, and Transportation bus route information will be available in PowerSchool. **Please note: Any schedules viewed prior to August 21 may change.** If you need instructions about how to access PowerSchool, please see [this document](#). If you still need assistance accessing your PowerSchool account, contact your school or parenttechhelp@pennsburyisd.org. Please click on the forms icon (bottom left) and complete the Home Language Form.
- **Orientation for New Families and English Language Development Families**- On **August 29th** at 6:30 pm, we are excited to provide a welcome for families who are new to Pennsbury to learn about all of the great things Pennsbury has to offer. There will also be additional resources available for families with limited English proficiency. [Click here for details](#).
- **Download the Pennsbury Mobile App!** - The Pennsbury School District mobile app is available for FREE in the App Store or Google Play. Parents and students are encouraged to download the app, which features news and communications at both the district and school level, school calendars, lunch menus, and more.

- **REACH** (replaces Remind) is a feature available through the app. Staff can use this platform for two-way communication with parents and middle and high school students. More information will be provided during Back-to-School nights.
- **Ask Penny** - Have a question about Pennsbury? Don't trust the rumors, *Ask Penny* and we will get you the answer: askpenny@pennsburysd.org or 215 -428-4000 x "Penny" (73669).

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

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
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215-428-4111

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year!

[2023-2024 School Calendar](#)

[Activity Calendar](#)

Ways to Connect with Pennsbury

[Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

The Pennsbury mobile app is available for FREE in the App Store or Google Play

2023-2024 School Hours

High School 7:20 am to 2:15 pm

Middle Schools 8:10 am to 2:55 pm

Elementary Schools 9:00 am to 3:40 pm

Back to School Nights 2023 - All BTSN nights start a 6:30 pm

[BTSN Schedules for All Schools](#)

These special evenings are designed for parents to get first-hand knowledge of their children's daily schedules. Staff members and administrators discuss the academic program with parents and explain teacher expectations along with student responsibilities. Parent and teacher participation in these evenings facilitates communication and strengthens student support systems.

Interested in Volunteering in our Schools? - We are always looking for volunteers to help in our schools! Volunteers play a vital role in supporting the staff, students, sports programs, and other activities of our schools. Find more information [here](#).

Mindfulness Minutes - Continuing into this year, students will start the day with a “Mindfulness Minute.” During this minute, there will be no announcements made, no technology used, or talking among staff or students. Research has shown that even a short time to “reset” at the beginning of the day can improve cognitive outcomes, socio-emotional skills, and general well-being.

Student Wellness Programming - An important component of a Pennsbury education is our commitment to developing the “whole child.” You can view our newly developed [Framework for Character, Culture & Wellness](#) to see our plan to support our students, PreK-12.

Parent/Family Academy - We are continuing our Pennsbury Parent Academy. The Parent Academy is offered FREE to parents to promote continued collaboration between families, schools, and the community. The Parent Academy offers a series of workshops and events aimed to help families stay engaged with their child’s academic and social success.

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