Dear Peekskill Families,

On behalf of the Peekskill Board of Education, I would like to welcome our families to the 2023-2024 school year! I hope that you have enjoyed time with your family during the summer months.

This year is a particularly exciting one for Peekskill Schools, as our district celebrates its 100 year anniversary! We will be holding centennial celebrations throughout the coming months.

In this calendar, you will find important information about the upcoming school year. Please be sure to review the entire publication for event details and other useful resources.

As a district, Peekskill City Schools upholds its commitment to working with parents, community partners and families in educating the “whole child” socially, emotionally and academically. Let us work together to serve as the best examples for our children. I encourage all families to be active participants in their child’s educational journey. You can do this by joining our Parent Teacher Organization, attending our Saturday Academies, attending school events/workshops, serving as a role model on how to be kind, reading to your child daily, and creating a quiet space for them to read and complete their studies.

Please visit our District or school’s website for key “back to school” information (school supply lists, bell schedules, etc.).

I look forward to sharing our Peekskill Pride moments with you throughout the year!

Sincerely,

Dr. David Mauricio
Superintendent of Schools

The Board of Education recognizes that to govern effectively, it must clearly define why the district exists and what it aspires to be. The Board therefore adopted the following mission statement to convey the district’s purpose and vision to set forth what the district should strive to become in the future.

**Peekskill’s Promise**

Our Mission is to educate and empower all students to strive for excellence as life-long learners who embrace diversity and are contributing members of a global society.

**Peekskill City School District Core Values**

**WE BELIEVE THAT:**

- all people can learn, contribute and have value
- embracing and understanding cultural diversity is imperative to strengthening and enriching a school community
- when a school community provides a respectful, safe, supportive, resource-rich environment, people thrive and meet their goals
- a school district excels when strong partnerships exist among families, schools and community
- educating the whole child will develop life-long learners who are compassionate, confident, critical thinkers
- a school district is responsible for aligning and carrying out the conditions for learning, leadership and commitment local and global community

**PLEASE READ** through this calendar before you hang it up. A paperless version of this calendar is posted on our website at www.peekskillcsd.org for viewing and/or downloading. Also, a printed copy will be sent home with your youngest child the first day of school. Copies will also be available at the District Office for pick up.

* Please note that dates are subject to change. Please visit our electronic calendar on our District website for the most up-to-date event information.
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<td>PHS August Graduation: 10 AM</td>
<td>Board of Education Meeting: 7 PM</td>
<td>Woodside K Bus Orientation: 9:30 AM-1 PM</td>
<td>Superintendent Conference Day (No School for Students)</td>
<td>Superintendent Conference Day (No School for Students)</td>
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<td>Labor Day Recess (Buildings Closed)</td>
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<td>Schools Open: (Pre-K- Grade 10) Monday Orientation: Grade 9: 8-11 AM Grade 10: 11:45 AM-3 PM</td>
<td>PHS Orientation: Grade 11: 8-11 AM Grade 12: 11:45 AM-3 PM</td>
<td>PTO Executive Board Meeting: 7 PM</td>
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<td>PHS Robotics Kickoff: 11 AM-3 PM</td>
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<td>Woodside Take Your Child to School Day Hillcrest Picture Day</td>
<td>Woodside Take Your Child to School Day Oakside Underclassmen Photos</td>
<td>Hillcrest Take Your Child to School Day</td>
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<td>PKMS Bring your Child to School Day</td>
<td>PHS Take Your Child to School Day</td>
<td>PHS Senior Pictures: 8:30 PM - 2:30 PM</td>
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<td>Woodside Back to School Night: 6:30 PM</td>
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<td>Yom Kippur (Buildings Closed)</td>
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<td>Homecoming Week PHS Spirit Week</td>
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<td>PTO General Meeting: 7 PM</td>
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<td>Homecoming Day Parade: 4 PM</td>
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<td>PHS Senior Night: 6:30 PM</td>
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<td>Homecoming Football Game: 6 PM</td>
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Notes:

Commitment to Character Monthly Theme: Hopes and Dreams
Hispanic Heritage Month 9/15 – 10/15
Board of Education
Branwen MacDonald, President
Allen Jenkins, Jr., Vice President
Trustees:
Pamela Hallman-Johnson
Eric Rekeda
Michael Simpkins
Amy Vele
Jillian Villon

2023-2024
Board of Education Meeting Dates

Regular Board of Education meetings begin at 6PM. If the executive session is called, the public session will resume at approximately 7PM. Board of Education meetings are videotaped for broadcast on our educational channel, Channel 77 or FIOS Channel 32. You may also view BOE videos on our district website under the Board of Education tab.

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<th>Month</th>
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<td>May 21 (Budget Vote &amp; Election)</td>
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District-Wide Monthly Themes

In keeping with our District’s whole child approach to education, this year Peekskill City Schools has adopted monthly district-wide themes to promote character education and social emotional learning. A whole child approach to education ensures that students are healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged. The monthly themes noted below support the following NYS Education Department’s Social Emotional Learning Goals:

- Develop self-awareness and self-management skills essential to success in school and in life
- Use social awareness and interpersonal skills to establish and maintain positive relationships
- Demonstrate ethical decision-making skills and responsible behaviors in personal, school, and community contexts

Please see the list to your right for monthly themes which will inspire school activities, literature and more.

September: Hopes and Dreams
October: Safety, Respect and Responsibility
November: Gratitude and Kindness
December: Community
January: Collaboration
February: Love and Peace
March: Courage and Perseverance
April: Friendship
May: Attitudes and Values
June: Self Reflection
Schools, Parents, and Students Supporting Achievement

Parents and guardians are the most important people in a child’s life. Positive parental involvement is essential to student achievement.

To help children achieve, parents, students, and schools should pledge to do the following:

**PARENTS:** We will support learning by:
- Making sure our child attends school daily and on time
- Making sure that homework is done
- Limiting television and social media
- Volunteering when possible
- Participating in decisions regarding our child’s education
- Promoting positive use of extracurricular time
- Staying informed about our child’s education and communicating with the school regularly

**STUDENTS:** We will commit:
- Attend school daily and on time
- Do homework every day and ask for help when needed
- Read daily outside of school
- Give our parents all notices and information from my school every day
- Study our notes and coursework

**SCHOOLS:** We will provide:
- High-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment
- Parent-teacher conferences
- Frequent reports to parents on their child’s progress
- Reasonable access to staff for parents
- Opportunities for parents to volunteer

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<td>Columbus Day/ Indigenous Peoples’ Day (Buildings Closed)</td>
<td>PKMS Picture Day</td>
<td>Board of Education Meeting: 7 PM</td>
<td>PHS Freshman Trip &amp; Senior Workshop</td>
<td>PHS/PKMS 1st Quarter Progress Reprts Mailed/Available on Parent Portal</td>
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<td>PHS PSAT Day</td>
<td>Unity Day – Wear Orange! Uriah Hill Picture Day</td>
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<td>PHS Senior Pictures: 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM</td>
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<td>Oakside Picture Retakes</td>
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<td>Elementary Fall Celebrations: Woodside - 10 AM Uriah Hill - 12:30 PM Oakside - 1:15 PM Hillcrest - 2 PM</td>
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WWW.WEBSITE.ORG
Opportunities for PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is an important part of school life, helping with programs and activities, enhancing positive communication between the schools and parents, and organizing fundraisers and other special events. All parents and guardians of children who attend Peekskill schools are automatically members of the PTO. For more information, please check our website at www.PeekskillPTO.org

2023/2024 Executive Board:
President: Melanie Fuentes, president@peekskillpto.org
Vice President: Lanice Kind, vp@peekskillpto.org
Treasurer: Halle Chizmadia, treasurer@peekskillpto.org
Secretary: Katharine Bloeser, secretary@peekskillpto.org

S.E.P.T.O. is our district’s Special Education PTO. To learn more about S.E.P.T.O., call 737-3300 ext. 1525 or email SEPTO@peekskillpto.org

Peekskill City School District
Family Resource Center

400 South Division St., Peekskill, NY 10566
Lisa Rolleri Parent Center: (914) 739-0682 ext. 7102
Transportation Office: (914) 739-0682 ext. 7702
Registration: (914) 739-0682 ext. 7535
The Parent Portal is a link on the Peekskill City School District’s websites that parents and guardians can follow to view their children’s attendance, report card, progress report and grades. It is very easy to use, secure and confidential. To get started, parents need to create an account with the district by completing the online Parent Portal Request Form via the “Parents” tab on the district website, www.peekskillcsd.org. Parents can also get a paper copy of the Parent Portal Request Form from their child’s school. Once the form is completed, a copy of an official photo ID must be provided to the school, (this protects the students’ confidentiality).

The District Technology Department will email an access code and instructions on how to log on to the Parent Portal.

That’s it! For questions, email parentportal@peekskillschools.org
General Information

ATTENDANCE:
Students achieve better academically when they attend school every day. Parents, school staff and students all have a responsibility to contribute to a pattern of regular attendance. If a student is not feeling well, or has a fever greater than 100.0 degrees, please DO NOT send them to school.

RESIDENCE:
According to State Education Law, a child’s legal school district residence is generally considered to be the legal residence of the parents, unless there is evidence that the parents have relinquished parental control. Questions of residence for children who do not reside with their parents, and who have not been placed in a foster home by a recognized social service agency, should be referred to the Registrar’s Office. The school district will seek tuition reimbursement from families who illegally send their children to our schools. Periodic residence checks will take place during the school year.

REGISTRATION:
New registrants must contact the Registrar’s Office located at the Peekskill City School District Parent Resource Center at 739-0682 ext. 7535 for information regarding registration of their children in Peekskill Schools. A birth certificate, photo ID such as a driver’s license, and proof of residence are required. A copy of medical documentation of state-required immunizations must be presented before registration can be completed.

BOARD POLICIES AND REGULATIONS:
Board policies and regulations, which are matters of public record, are available for perusal at the Administration Center, 1031 Elm Street, Peekskill. Many of the policies can also be found on our website, www.peekskillcsd.org, click Board Policies under the Board of Education tab.

PARENT RESOURCE CENTER:
The Lisa Rolleri Parent Resource Center offers support for families whose children attend our schools from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12. The Center provides services including, but not limited to parenting workshops, and houses a parent computer with access to the internet and word processing programs. Please call Parent Center at 914 739-0682 Ext. 7102 for more information.

SPECIAL EDUCATION:
The Special Education Department is located at the Administration Center, 1031 Elm Street. The Peekskill City School District offers a continuum of special education programs and services for students with a broad range of disabilities. For more information, please visit the District’s Special Education Department webpage or contact the Office of Special Services 737-3300 Ext. 1525. The Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE) contact number is 914-737-3300 ext. 1526.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAM:
Our elementary schools Grade Pre-K through Grade 5 offer an Enrichment program for all students. This school-wide model offers enrichment through STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Music). Every elementary school has designated weekly periods where every child is given the opportunity for STEAM.

PHS FRESHMAN ACADEMY:
Freshman Academy is a Peekskill High School program in which a team of teachers welcome incoming freshmen to high school by offering the educational foundation necessary to prepare students for their future college and career ventures. For more information on this program, please visit the Peekskill High School website.

HASS’S WAY:
HASS’s Way is a six hour out-of-school suspension program that provides tutoring and lunch to students from Peekskill Middle School and Peekskill High School. The program is located at the Peekskill Youth Bureau. The goal of HASS’s Way is to enable students to return to their regular classes having gained some additional tools for academic and social success, including a more positive attitude towards school.

Here’s What To Do “If”

- You have a school related question or concern: Call your child’s principal for help.
- You want to meet with a teacher: Call your child’s school to arrange a conference.
- A student becomes ill at school: Your child will be taken to the nurse’s office. If it becomes necessary to send your child home because of illness, you will be notified and requested to provide transportation.
- You want homework assignments: Call your child’s school and leave a message for the teacher.
- Your child is absent: Call your child’s school within the first hour of the day of the child’s absence. If you do not call, a member of the staff may call your home on that day. You must send a note listing the dates of absence and the reasons for the absence within three (3) days or the absence will be considered illegal.
- Your child will be home for a prolonged period of time due to illness or injury: Send a doctor’s note to the school. Arrangements will be made for a home tutor for that period of time.
- You want a message delivered: Only emergency messages may be delivered to students. In case of emergency, give the message to the building principal or school secretary and it will be transmitted to the student.
- A lunch is left home: Deliver it to the school office. Students who leave lunches at home are responsible for coming to the office to claim them.
- Your child loses something: Have the child look in the schools’ lost and found. Call the school office. Labeling articles with your child’s name can avoid confusion in identifying lost items.
- You change your address or telephone number: Please inform your school office immediately.
- You plan to move: Please fill out a withdrawal form and give the school office the information needed to forward your child’s records to the new school.
## December 2023

**Commitment to Character Monthly Theme:** Community

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<td>Elementary Progress Reports</td>
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<td>Woodside K Winter Concerts: 9:45 AM &amp; 1:45 PM</td>
<td>PHS HBCU Roundtable Woodside Grade 1 Winter Concert: 9:45 AM &amp; 1:45 PM</td>
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<td>School Spirit Week</td>
<td>Uriah Hill Winter Concert: 9:30 AM &amp; 1 PM</td>
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**Notes:**

**Holiday Recess:**
- Buildings Closed: 25, 26, 28, 29, 30
- Buildings Open: 27, 29, 30

[WWW.PEEKSKILLCSD.ORG](https://www.peekskillcsd.org)
Bus Safety Rules

We are very proud of the safety record of our school buses and the professionalism of our transportation team. Bus transportation is a privilege and can be denied based upon violation of the PCSD Code of Conduct. Please help us ensure your child’s safety by following these simple but important procedures:

- Students must obey the instructions of, and show respect for, the school bus driver and monitor.
- Bullying, physical abuse, or sexual harassment of any kind will not be tolerated on the school bus.
- Any act of vandalism on or to the school bus will not be tolerated.
- Use of drugs or alcohol while riding the school bus is prohibited.
- Smoking, eating or drinking while riding the school bus is prohibited.
- All students must remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- The use of seatbelts is recommended.
- Loud or abusive language of any kind is prohibited on the school bus, and may result in suspension of bus privileges.
- Handheld electronics; cell phones, games or other objects, large toys, radios and instruments are not permitted on the school bus.
- Live animals are not permitted on the school bus.
- Students must keep their head, arms and hands inside the school bus at all times.
- Students must keep the aisle clear at all times.
- Students must be prepared to board the school bus 5 minutes prior to pick-up time.
- Students must wait for the bus driver’s signal before boarding. Children should board in a single file.
- Students should carry a backpack or book bag. Loose papers or other items are dangerous as children get off the bus.
- Repeated violations of bus rules will result in progressive student discipline consistent with school district policy and the law.

The schoolbus is an extension of the classroom and we are deeply committed to the safety of all children.

Inclement Weather Procedures

In bad weather when it seems likely that weather and street conditions will improve later in the day, the opening of school will be delayed. When inclement weather is severe enough, school may close for the entire day. As soon as this decision has been made, the announcement will be carried over the radio and television stations listed below, and on the District website: www.peekskillcsd.org. The District will also make notification phone calls through the automated ConnectED service.

**Peekskill:** WLNA 1420 AM, WHUD 100.7 FM, NEWS 12 TV, FIOS Channel 1TV, PCSD
**Cablevision Channel 77** - Verizon FIOS Channel 32, Facebook and Twitter
**WHUD Storm Center:** www.pamal.com/stormcenter/whud.php

**Note:**
- If NO snow days are used, school will be closed 5/23 & 5/28
- If 1 snow day is used, school will be closed 5/23
- If 2 snow days are used, the calendar stands as shown
- If more than 6 snow days are used, instruction will be virtual during snow days, pending NYSED approval.
In Case of Emergency

The Peekskill City School District is committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of its students, visitors and staff. Our Emergency Management Plans have been guided by and coordinated with the Peekskill and Westchester County Emergency Management Offices, Peekskill Police, Altaris Consultant Group and the State Education Department.

Each school has plans for emergencies and staff that have been trained to assist. Walkie-talkies are in place should a loss of electricity occur, and a cell phone contact list has been established for immediate notification. Emergency exercise drills are conducted periodically to test our preparedness and to ensure that all staff, students and visitors understand what to do in an emergency. In the event that schools must be evacuated due to an Indian Point Emergency, the County Emergency Management Office and the PCSD will coordinate transportation efforts, and decisions as to where to transport students will be based on the actual emergency and the safest place for students.

In the event of an emergency in which schools are the safest place, the district is prepared to keep the children until it is safe for them to leave. Should a situation arise where it is best to close schools and send students home or to safer locations in Peekskill, the district will ensure that all children are kept safe until an approved adult arrives to pick them up.

WWW.PEEKSKILLCSD.ORG
### Transportation

The Peekskill Board of Education has approved transportation for any student in Kindergarten through Grade 1, who resides between one-half miles and fifteen miles from school, and any Grade 2 through Grade 5 student who lives between one mile and fifteen miles from school. Kindergarten and Grade 1 students must have an authorized adult at the bus stop in order for the child to be released from the bus. If there isn’t an authorized adult the student will be brought back to school. Requests for private and parochial school transportation for the upcoming school year must be received in the District by April 1 in the year preceding the school year for which transportation is being requested. Bus passes will be issued to all students eligible for transportation. Any student not in possession of a bus pass may not be allowed to board the bus. Inquiries concerning any transportation matter or problem should be directed to the Transportation Department, located at the PCSD Family Resource Center, 400 S. Division St., Peekskill NY 10566, (914) 739-0682 ext. 7702. Any questions regarding late buses or lost items left on the bus should be directed to our Transportation Contractor First Student Transportation, located at 1022 Lower South St., Peekskill or contact Maria Castro (Manager) at (914)-278-6829, email: mariacastro2@firstgroup.com

### Traffic Safety

Standing or parking a car in an unauthorized area on school property is a hazard to the safety of students. We ask the cooperation of parents and visitors in helping us keep these areas and other approaches to school properly clear at all times. Please obey all traffic signs and give your fullest cooperation to the traffic officers. Illegally parked cars may be towed at owner’s expense.

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**February 2024**

**Commitment to Character Monthly Theme:** **Sharing Love**

**Black History / National American Read-In Month**

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<tr>
<td>PTO General Meeting: 7 PM</td>
<td>Board of Education Meeting: 7 PM</td>
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<td>PHS Musical: 7 PM</td>
<td>PHS Robotics Tournament: 10 AM - 6 PM</td>
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<td>Elementary Spirit Week</td>
<td>Board of Education Meeting: 7 PM</td>
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<td>PHS Latino U Financial Aid Night: 5-9 PM</td>
<td>SNOW DATE: Woodside Snowball</td>
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<td>President’s Day (Buildings Closed)</td>
<td>Winter Recess (Buildings Open)</td>
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**Transportation**

**Woodside Snowball:** 6-8 PM

**PHS Grade 8 Transition Night:** 6:30 PM

**PKMS Musical:** 2 PM & 7PM

**PKMS Musical:** 2 PM & 7PM

**SNOW DATE: Woodside Snowball**

**Hillcrest Instrumental Night at PKMS:** 6:30 PM

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**WWW.PEEKSKILLCSD.ORG**
Graduation Requirements

New York State requires twenty two credits and five state assessments in order to earn a high school diploma. Students can earn an Advanced Regents or a Regents diploma. See your school counselor for assistance in developing a program that meets your personal and academic goals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>Local Diploma</th>
<th>Regents Diploma</th>
<th>Advanced Regents Diploma</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOTE (Language other than English)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>3 (e)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art/Music</td>
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<td>Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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**DIPLOMA DISTINCTIONS**

**Regents with Honors**
Assessments: 5 required Regents exams (1) with a computed average score of 90 or better as follows: 1 math, 1 science, 1 social studies, ELA and either 1 Pathway Assessment (2) or meet all the requirements of the CDOS Commencement Credential (no more than 2 Department approved alternatives may be substituted and will not count in the computed average)

**Regents with Advanced Designation**
Assessment: Students may meet the assessment requirements in order to earn a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation by passing any one of the following combinations of Regents examinations and/or Department approved alternatives if applicable:

(a) Traditional Combination: ELA, Global History and Geography, US History and Government, 3 mathematics, 2 science, 1 must be life science and 1 must be physical science = 8 Assessments

(b) Pathway (2) Combination (other than STEM): ELA, 1 social studies, 3 mathematics, 2 science (1 must be life science and 1 must be physical science), and either 1 Pathway (other than science or mathematics) or meet the requirements for the CDOS Commencement Credential = 7 or 8 Assessments

(c) STEM (Mathematics) Pathway (2) Combination: ELA, 1 social studies 4 mathematics, 2 science (1 must be life science and 1 must be physical science) = 8 Assessments

(d) STEM (Science) Pathway (2) Combination: ELA, 1 social studies, 3 mathematics, 3 science (1 must be life science and 1 must be physical science) = 8 Assessments

(e) In addition, a student must earn 3 credits in a LOTE and pass a locally developed Checkpoint B LOTE* examination OR complete a 5 unit sequence in the Arts or CTE.

In addition, a student must pass either a locally developed Checkpoint B LOTE* examination or complete a 5 unit sequence in the Arts or CTE.

**Advanced Regents with Designation - Mastery in Math Endorsement**
Meets all assessment requirements for the Advanced Regents with Designation and, in addition, earns a score of 85 or better on each of the 3 Regents Examinations in Mathematics.

**Advanced Regents with Designation - Mastery in Science Endorsement**
Meets all assessment requirements for the Advanced Regents with Designation and, in addition, earns a score of 85 or better on each of the 3 Regents Examinations in Science.

**NYS Testing Dates At PHS SAT I & II**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NYS Testing Dates At PHS SAT I &amp; II</th>
<th>Registration Deadlines Without Penalty</th>
<th>Late Registration Penalty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 7, 2023</td>
<td>September 7, 2023</td>
<td>September 26, 2023</td>
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<td>November 4, 2023</td>
<td>October 5, 2023</td>
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<td>December 2, 2023</td>
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<td>March 9, 2024</td>
<td>February 23, 2024</td>
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<td>May 4, 2024</td>
<td>April 19, 2024</td>
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<td>June 1, 2024</td>
<td>May 17, 2024</td>
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**Advanced Placement Examination Dates**
Monday – Friday, May 6 – May 10, 2024
Monday – Friday, May 13 – May 17, 2024

**PSAT / NMSQT - Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test Date:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at Peekskill High School.
In keeping with the mandates of Project SAVE legislation (Safe Schools Against Violence in Education Act), as well as the Dignity for All Students Act and federal civil rights statutes, the Board of Education has adopted a Code of Conduct. The set of expectations are based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty and integrity.

Students are expected to conduct themselves with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, district personnel and other members of the school and general community. Teachers are expected to maintain a climate of mutual respect and dignity, which will strengthen students’ confidence to learn. Parents are expected to recognize that the education of their children is a joint responsibility along with the school community.

A copy of the Code of Conduct may be reviewed at the District’s Administration Center, at each of the schools, or on our website, www.peekskillcsd.org.

No student shall be subjected to discrimination based on:
- Actual or perceived race
- Color
- Weight
- National origin
- Ethnic group
- Religion
- Religious practice
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity, or
- Sex

The District Coordinators for DASA are the Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education, Mr. Eudes S. Budhai and the Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, Dr. Rebecca Aviles-Rodriguez, 914-737-3300 ext. 1534. Each school building also has a DASA coordinator.
What are the Peekskill Basics?

Based on the Boston Basics, a public/private program that grew out of work at Harvard University, the Peekskill Basics is a campaign inspired by the fact that 80% of brain development happens in the first three years of life.

The Peekskill Basics are five evidence-based parenting and caregiving principles that encompass much of what experts find is important for children from birth to age three. Every child from every background can benefit from routinely experiencing Peekskill Basics learning experiences. Therefore, the Peekskill Basics Initiative is working through a broad range of institutions to ensure that every parent and caregiver is fully supported by family and friends to use these five practices in everyday life.

Who Is Involved?
Everyone! Partners include hospitals, health centers, community centers, child care providers, churches, and others.

What If I’m Not a Parent?
Doesn’t matter! We want everyone to know the Peekskill Basics. Learn so that you can help spread the word and encourage parents and caregivers of young children.

MAXIMIZE LOVE, MANAGE STRESS
Babies thrive when the world feels loving, safe, and predictable. Caregiving that is affectionate and responsive develops a sense of security and self-control.

TALK, SING, AND POINT
Babies learn language from the moment they are born. They learn through loving interactions with their caregivers, not TV or phones. Eye contact, pointing, and real words teach the most about communication.

COUNT, GROUP, AND COMPARE
Children are born wired to learn numbers, patterns, sizes, shapes, and comparisons. What they learn about math in the first few years makes a difference when they get to school.

EXPLORE THROUGH MOVEMENT & PLAY
Children are born curious about the world. They are like scientists. Pay attention to your infant or toddler’s interests. Help them learn through play and exploration.

READ AND DISCUSS STORIES
The more we read with young children, the more prepared they become to enjoy reading and do well in school. Even infants enjoy the shapes and colors in books. Let them hold the book, turn the pages. Point to the pictures and talk about what you see.
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<td>NYS PBT (ELA): Grades 3, 4, 6, 7</td>
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<td>NYS CBT Grades 3-8: April 8 May 17</td>
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<td>NYSESLAT (Speaking Begins)</td>
<td>Board of Education Meeting (BOCES Budget Adoption): 7 PM</td>
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<td>PHS Spring Musical: 7 PM</td>
<td>PHS Spring Musical: 7 PM</td>
<td>Saturday Academy</td>
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<td>PHS Spring Musical: 7 PM</td>
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<td>PHS Spring Musical: 2 PM &amp; 7 PM</td>
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<td>NYS CBT Grades 3-8: April 8 May 17 (ELA, Math, Science)</td>
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<td>PHS Jazz Cafe: 6:30 PM</td>
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<td>PKMS/PHS Report Cards Uriah Hill Carnival</td>
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<td>NYS CBT Grades 3-8: April 8 May 17</td>
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Visiting Our District Buildings

The school district extends a warm welcome to parents, guardians and others to visit our schools and classrooms. Active involvement of families and the community in students’ education is a key to student success and is one of the goals of the District’s Strategic Plan.

To keep students and staff safe and secure and to keep classroom disruptions to a minimum, the district has developed the following guidelines for school visits:

1. Visitors will be allowed by appointment only.
2. Anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of the school will be considered a visitor.
3. All essential visitors must present a photo ID when arriving at any PCSD building.
4. All visitors to the school must report to the visitor reception area or the main office inside the school. There, visitors’ information will be entered into our visitor management system and a visitor tag will be printed and must be worn at all times while in the school or on school grounds. Until further notice, visitors will not be issued the Yellow visitor card and lanyard. The visitor must return all identification materials to the issuing office or security greeter before leaving the building.
5. Persons who desire to visit a school building shall do so only with the permission of an appropriate administrative staff member.
6. Visitors attending after-hours school functions that are open to the public, such as parent-teacher organization meetings or public gatherings are not required to register.
7. Parents or citizens who wish to observe a classroom while school is in session are required to arrange such visits in advance with the appropriate building administrator, so that class disruption is kept to a minimum.
8. Teachers are expected not to take class time to discuss individual matters with visitors.
9. Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to the principal or designee by any staff member. Unauthorized persons will be considered a trespasser and asked to leave. The police may be called if the situation warrants.

All visitors are expected to abide by the rules for public conduct on school property contained in the Code of Conduct.

Please know that it is the goal of the district to create a safe, secure and positive learning environment for all its students and their families.

District Athletics

Students in our district have the opportunity to choose from among nearly three dozen athletic programs. The following sports are offered:

**FALL SPORTS**
- Football (Varsity, JV Football, Modified - 7, 8 Grades)
- Soccer (Varsity Boys, Junior Varsity Boys, Varsity Girls, JV Girls Soccer, Boys Modified and Girls Modified)
- Swimming (Varsity Girls)
- Volleyball (Varsity Girls, Junior Varsity Girls, Modified Girls)
- Cross Country (Boys and Girls Varsity)
- Cross Country (Boys and Girls Modified)
- Cheerleading (Varsity)

**WINTER SPORTS**
- Cheerleading (Varsity)
- Basketball (Varsity Boys, Varsity Girls, Junior Varsity Boys, Junior Varsity Girls, Modified Boys, Modified Girls, Freshman Boys)
- Bowling (Varsity Boys and Girls Teams)
- Indoor Track (Varsity Boys and Girls Teams)
- Wrestling (Varsity, JV, Modified)
- Swimming (Varsity Boys)

**SPRING SPORTS**
- Baseball (Varsity, Modified)
- Flag Football (Girls Varsity)
- Lacrosse (Varsity, Modified)
- Softball (Varsity, Junior Varsity, Modified)
- Track (Varsity Boys and Girls Teams, Modified)

Co-Curricular Activities

At Peekskill High School, co-curricular activities and clubs offer students the opportunity to develop new skills, make friends and volunteer in their community, while learning more about themselves and the world around them. Students who would like to participate should obtain information at the high school office. The roster usually includes most of the following activities:

- Academic Competition Club
- Art Club
- Black Culture Club
- Class Council
- Computer Science Society (PHS CSS)
- Debate Club
- Drama Club
- English Honor Society
- Environmental Club
- Exchange Club
- Gardening Club
- G.E.M.S.
- Girls Who Code
- GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance)
- Hiking Club
- Interact Club
- Irish Culture Club
- Latino Club
- Math Competition Club
- Math Honor Society
- My Brothers Keeper
- National Honor Society
- S.S.
- Newspaper – Mercury
- Robotics Club
- Science National Honor Society
- Ski Club
- Social Studies Honor Society
- Spanish Honor Society
- Student Council
- W.I.S.E (Wide-ranging Interest-based Senior Experience)
- Yearbook
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<th>MONDAY</th>
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<td>Board of Education Meeting: 7 PM</td>
<td>PKMS National Jr. Honor Society Induction Ceremony: 6:30 PM</td>
<td>Grade 5 Student/Parent Transition Night at PKMS: 6:30 PM</td>
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<td>PTO Executive Board Meeting: 7 PM</td>
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<td>PHS Science Symposium: 6:30 - 9 PM</td>
<td>Uriah Hill Spring Concert: 9:30 AM &amp; 1 PM</td>
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<td>Saturday Academy</td>
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<td>Budget Vote &amp; School Board Election: 7 AM - 9 PM</td>
<td>PHS 3rd Quarter Honor Roll Celebration: Grade 9: 9 AM Grade 10: 9:45 AM Grade 11: 9 AM Grade 12: 9:45 AM</td>
<td>PHS 3rd Quarter Honor Roll Celebration: 6:30 PM</td>
<td>Memorial Day Recess (Buildings Closed)</td>
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<td>Oakside Strings Celebration: 2:2:30 PM</td>
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<td>PHS Honor Society Induction Ceremony: 6:30 PM</td>
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<td>PTO General Meeting: 7 PM</td>
<td>Oakside Spring Concert: 8:45 AM - 1:30 PM</td>
<td>Woodside K Concert: 9:45 AM &amp; 1:45 PM</td>
<td>PKMS/PHS Progress Reports</td>
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<td>PHS Spring Concert: 6:30 PM</td>
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<td>Woodside Grade 1 Concert: 9:45 AM &amp; 1:45 PM</td>
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Commitment to Character Monthly Theme: **Attitudes and Values**
Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month & Jewish American Heritage Month

NYS CBT Grades 3-8: April 8 - May 17

NYS PBT (Math): Grades 3, 4, 6, 7

Notes:

PHS College Board AP Exams: May 6-17

NYS CBT Grades 3-8: April 8 May 17 (ELA, Math, Science)

PHS College Board AP Exams: May 6-17

NYSESLAT Listening, Reading & Writing: May 13 - 23

NYSESLAT Listening, Reading & Writing: May 13 - 23

Woodside Grade 1 Concert: 9:45 AM & 1:45 PM

PTO Executive Board Meeting: 7 PM

NYS CBT Grades 3-8: April 8 May 17 (ELA, Math, Science)

PHS College Board AP Exams: May 6-17

NYSESLAT Listening, Reading & Writing: May 13 - 23

PTO General Meeting: 7 PM

NYS CBT Grades 3-8: April 8 May 17 (ELA, Math, Science)

PHS College Board AP Exams: May 6-17

NYSESLAT Listening, Reading & Writing: May 13 - 23

PTO General Meeting: 7 PM
Promoting Wellness Throughout Our District

Our district is committed to providing a school environment that promotes and protects children’s health, well-being and the ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. Our Wellness Policy, adopted by the Board of Education on May 17, 2016, is intended to enhance the learning and development of lifelong wellness practices. Following are some of its goals:

- School programs will ensure that students in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 receive nutrition education that provides the knowledge needed to adopt healthy lifestyles. These concepts will be reinforced by all school personnel and will be integrated into all subject areas.
- Nutrition education will include reinforcement of the importance of physical activity and the health risks associated with a sedentary lifestyle. The district will identify and implement specific programs for students at risk.
- The district will provide educational information and encourage healthy eating and physical activity for families, both within the home and outside the home.
- Schools will encourage parents to support their children’s lifelong participation in physical activity, to be physically active role models, and to include physical activity in family events.

Students’ lifelong eating habits are greatly influenced by the types of foods and beverages available in their daily environment. The Peekskill City School District establishes the following program requirements and nutrition standards to address all foods and beverages sold or served to students:

- All grain products served will be that of a whole grain variety.
- All efforts will be made to select equivalent food items that are lower in sodium and sugar content.
- All portion sizes will be provided in compliance with the USDA requirements for both school lunch items and a la carte items.
- Fundraisers undertaken will adhere to the USDA Dietary Guidelines.

Free Breakfast and Lunch Programs & MySchoolBucks

We are pleased to inform you that Peekskill City School District will be implementing a meal certification option available to schools participating in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs for the 2023-24 school year. All students enrolled at Peekskill City School District are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school every school day of the 2023-24 school year at no charge to your household. No further action is required of you. Your children will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit an application. Each month, menus are available to be sent home with the students. You may also check school websites for this information.

Breakfast and lunch are offered every school day in all of our school buildings. Students not willing to participate in our schools’ Lunch and Breakfast Programs may bring a complete lunch from home, including beverages in plastic containers or cans. Glass bottles are not permitted.

For students wishing to buy a la carte lunch items, PCSD offers MySchoolBucks, a convenient online meal payment service. For more information, or to add funds to your student’s account, you may log onto MySchoolBucks.com or click on the MySchoolBucks link on our school websites.
## June 2024 Calendar

**Commitment to Character Monthly Theme:** Self Reflection

**Pride Month**

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<td>Algebra 1 Regents: No Classes for PHS Students</td>
<td>Board of Education Meeting: 7 PM</td>
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<td>RAIN DATE: Varsity Awards Night</td>
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<td>PHS Recital: 6:30 PM</td>
<td>Last Day for PHS Students</td>
<td>PHS Prom</td>
<td>Woodside K Graduation: 9:45 AM &amp; 1:45 PM</td>
<td>Woodside Grade 1 Moving Up Ceremony: 9:45 AM &amp; 1:45 PM</td>
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<td>PKMS Grade 8 Award Ceremony: 6 PM</td>
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<td>PHS Senior Awards Ceremony: 6:30 PM</td>
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<td>City of Peekskill Juneteenth Parade</td>
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<td>Field Days: Grades K, 2 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Board of Education Meeting: 7 PM</td>
<td>Juneteenth (Buildings Closed)</td>
<td>Field Days: Pre-K, Grades 1, 3 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Grade 5 Moving Up Ceremony</td>
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<td>PHS Senior Awards Ceremony: 6:30 PM</td>
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<td>Oakside Grade 3 Moving Up Ceremony: 8:45 AM - 1:30 PM</td>
<td>Early Release for Students Pre-K - Grade 8 Uriah Hill Graduation: 9:30 AM at PHS</td>
<td>Early Release for Students Pre-K - Grade 8 4th Quarter / 3rd Trimester Ends Last Day of School</td>
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<td>PKMS/PHS Report Cards</td>
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<td>PKMS Moving Up Ceremony: 6:30 PM</td>
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**Notes:**

- Early Release for Students Pre-K - Grade 8
- 4th Quarter / 3rd Trimester Ends
- Last Day of School
- Juneteenth (Buildings Closed)
- PHS Regents Exams
- Oakside Grade 3 Moving Up Ceremony: 8:45 AM - 1:30 PM
- Early Release for Students Pre-K - Grade 8
- Uriah Hill Graduation: 9:30 AM at PHS
- PKMS Moving Up Ceremony: 6:30 PM
- PHS Graduation: 7 PM
- PKMS/PHS Report Cards
2023-2024 School Year New York State Immunization Requirements for School Entrance/Attendance

Please go to: www.health.ny.gov/publications/2370.pdf

Beginning 7/1/18, all New York State public school students must have a health exam when they enter school as a new entrant, and in Pre-K or Kindergarten, and in grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11.

These examinations should be completed on the New York State School Health Examination Form: www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/documents/ReqNYSSchoolHealthExamForm.pdf

The required NYS School Health Examination Form was developed to provide consistency throughout the state in the health care information provided to schools.

As of the 2019-2020 School Year, only the Approved NYSED School Health Examination Form will be accepted.

Medical examinations of pupils attending public schools should be scheduled by the family’s private physician whenever possible. Family physicians are the most familiar with the health problems of the pupil and best able to institute treatment when needed. If the examination form is not submitted to the School Nurse, the School Physician (Medical Director) will do a health appraisal on all new entrants and in Pre-K or Kindergarten, and in grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11. Religious exemptions are no longer applicable in NYS.

In addition to school physicals, immunizations are also required by NYS. Please see the 2022-23 chart of required vaccines. Please note if a child is not up to date with physicals and immunizations a child may be excluded from school per NYS law: www.health.ny.gov/publications/2370.pdf

Please visit the PCSD School Health Services page on the district website under the “District Department” tab for more details.

Special Services

The Special Services Department is responsible for all student/parent services, including but not limited to special education, 504 Plans, Response to Intervention, medical and clinical services. For more information, please contact the Special Services Department at 914-737-3300 Ext. 1525.

Student Records Access: Parents of students under the age of 18, or students 18 years or older have the right to inspect and review the education records, including all materials in the student’s folder.

Home Instruction: Students who are homebound or unable to attend school due to a temporary disability or medical condition are eligible to receive instruction at an alternate location such as the public library or a building within the district or at home if a child is medically homebound. Students in Grades 1-6 are eligible for one hour of instruction per school day and students in Grades 7-12 are eligible to receive two hours of instruction per school day. A parent or guardian must make the request in writing to the Director of Special Services and provide medical documentation. An application form must be completed and is reviewed by the district’s physician. A parent or guardian must be present during the instruction.

Section 504 Rehabilitation Act: Section 504 under the Federal Civil rights statute ensures that any individual with a disability cannot be discriminated against. The individual must have a documented disability. Students in the general education population may be found eligible for accommodations under Section 504 if their activities of daily living are substantially limited by a physical or mental impairment; there is record of such an impairment and is regarded as having such an impairment. Requests can be made to the District Compliance Officer/Director of Special Services, 914-737-3300 Ext. 1525, 1031 Elm Street, Peekskill, NY 10566.

Response to Intervention Teams: Response to Intervention Teams are located in each school. Team members include school psychologists, school counselors, social workers, teaching staff and administration. Response to Intervention is the practice of providing high quality instruction and interventions matched to student needs.

Medication: Medication, including over the counter and prescription, can only be administered at school with permission from the doctor. Doctor’s orders must include the patient’s name, medication name, dose and time to be administered. Parents must also sign the orders. All medications must be brought to the school nurse by the parent. Prescription medication must be in pharmacy labeled containers.

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Notification of Rights Under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Institutions

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to student’s education records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believe are inaccurate or misleading.
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.
4. The right not to have Directory Information disclosed without prior written consent.
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.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

Parents or eligible students may ask the school district to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write to the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their rights to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the 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 School Board; 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 District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. (NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.)

The District will not have Directory Information disclosed without prior written consent.

This school district designates the following items as Directory Information, and may disclose any of these items without prior written consent, unless the school principal is notified to the contrary, in writing, by the parent/guardian or eligible student by September 30, 2023:

- name
- address, telephone listing (disclosed only to parent-teacher organizations, other organizations with an official relationship with the school district whose primary purpose is to benefit the school district and government agencies),
- grade and height of members of an athletic team,
- school of attendance and degrees and awards received,
- most recent/previous school attended.

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. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance, U.S. Department of Education,
600 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605
Board of Education Meeting: 4 PM

Independence Day (Buildings Closed)
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August Regents Exams
August Regents Exams

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instagram.com/peekskillcsd

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#PeekskillPride
#KeepingthePromise