

# PEARLS Hawthorne School

350 Hawthorne Avenue - Yonkers, New York 10705

## ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Marwan Sayegh  
Principal

Mrs. Mallory Alger  
Assistant Principal

Mrs. Cara Caico  
Assistant Principal

Mrs. Tanya Jenkins  
Assistant Principal



# **Board of Education**

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**Superintendent of Schools**

**Dr. Andrea Coddett**

**Deputy Superintendent**

## **Theme/Philosophy**

Our goal at PEARLS Hawthorne is to challenge the educational and social needs of gifted students using research-based gifted teaching and learning strategies. Differentiated instruction and integration of the disciplines address individual student's academic strengths and facilitate opportunities for students to explore and investigate topics in greater depth. There is an emphasis on creativity, higher order thinking skills, and experiential learning to meet students' needs. The PEARLS faculty strives to encourage the self-actualization of each student.

## **Mission Statement**

Our vision is to create a learning environment that prepares early and rapid learners to be contributing members of a global society.

The mission of PEARLS Hawthorne School is to provide a safe, nurturing, and holistic learning environment for our diverse population. We strive to cultivate metacognitive skills and encourage self-directed learning. We aim to support positive character traits and community consciousness. Excellence in learning will be reached by academic rigor, critical thinking, and adaptation to alternate learning modalities through differentiation and data driven instruction that fosters a growth mindset. The school will provide enrichment and extension of the core curriculum through integration of technology and the Arts. Teachers and staff will collaborate and engage in professional development opportunities.

Partnerships among all stakeholders will ensure that our learning community will prepare students with the necessary experiences in order to contribute successfully in the 21st century; becoming career and college ready and globally productive.

Dedication – we are committed to meeting all needs.

Rigor – we promote academic excellence.

Empathy – we understand and consider social emotional well-being.

Attitude – we continue to foster a growth mindset.

Mindfulness – we are aware of our actions/words and reflect upon them.

# School Communications

## School Calendar

Yonkers Public Schools provides a District calendar and handbook. It is available in printed and electronic copy which is available on the district website:

[www.yonkerspublicschools.org](http://www.yonkerspublicschools.org). In addition, the school's monthly calendar will inform and remind parents of important dates and special events.

## Daily Schedule

<b>Time</b>	
<b>7:20 a.m.</b>	<b>Doors open for student arrival. Students report to designated areas as follows:</b>  <b>Pre-K, K, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades report to the lower auditorium</b>  <b>4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Grades report to the auditorium balcony</b>  <b>6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> Grades report to the cafeteria</b>  <b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade reports to the upper gym</b>  <b>*Students having breakfast should go directly to the cafeteria or the main lobby upon arrival.</b>
<b>7:45</b>	<b>Late Bell</b>
<b>10:07-10:52</b>	<b>Grades 7 and 8 lunch period</b>
<b>10:20-10:50</b>	<b>Prekindergarten: Recess</b>
<b>10:50-11:20</b>	<b>Prekindergarten: Lunch</b>
<b>11:20-11:50</b>	<b>Kindergarten and Grade 4: Lunch</b> <b>Grade 1 and Grade 3: Recess</b>
<b>11:50-12:20</b>	<b>Kindergarten and Grade 4: Recess</b> <b>Grade 1 and Grade 3: Lunch</b>
<b>12:30-1:00</b>	<b>Grade 2 and Grade 6: Lunch</b> <b>Grade 5: Recess</b>
<b>1:00-1:30</b>	<b>Grade 2 and Grade 6: Recess</b> <b>Grade 5: Lunch</b>
<b>2:15</b>	<b>Dismissal</b>

## Websites

Several websites are available which offer a wealth of information to parents and students. The Yonkers Public Schools website is [www.yonkerspublicschools.org](http://www.yonkerspublicschools.org). This website provides general information about the District. The school website is [PEARLS.ypschools.org](http://PEARLS.ypschools.org). Here you will find information related to the school and specific grade level events.

## **Contacting Teachers**

During instructional time, teachers may be contacted by send a note with your child, or leaving a message at the main office. Yonkers Public School policy encourages parents first contact the child's teacher to address any questions or concerns. If the concern remains unresolved after speaking with the classroom teacher, please schedule an appointment with the grade level assistant principal.

## **Scheduled Half Days**

The school day will end for students at 11:00 on these days. Lunch will not be served on these days.

There are two regularly scheduled teacher/parent conferences included on the school calendar. The first conference is scheduled in the Fall and the second conference is scheduled in the Spring. Parents who wish to consult with a teacher at other times may request an appointment in writing.

## **School Closings**

In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen problems, a Connect-Ed system will be used to notify families of school closings, delayed openings or early dismissals. This information can also be obtained from the District website, [www.yonkerspublicschools.org](http://www.yonkerspublicschools.org) as well as AM radio stations, *AM Stations - WFAS 1230, WCBS 880, WINS 1010, WOR 710, WADO 1280 (Spanish)*, FM radio stations - *WHUD 100.7, WVOX 93.5, WSKQ 97.9 (Spanish)*, and television stations - Channel 12 News, Channel 5 Fox News, Channel 75, WCBS Ch 2, WNBC Ch 4, WABC Ch 7, Verizon Network

## **Attendance**

Regular attendance is critical to students' academic success in school. Regular attendance develops responsible work habits which students will use throughout their academic career and beyond.

The State of New York requires every student to attend school every day unless he/she has a legal excuse. When a student returns to school, it is his/her responsibility to supply the homeroom teacher with an absence note signed by the parent/guardian explaining why he/she was absent and the dates of the absences within 48 hours. After a student has been absent for five consecutive days, a doctor's note must be brought to school.

Please note if a student has 20 days of illegal absences, the family will be referred to CPS.

### **Individual Class Cuts**

A student in grades 7 or 8 who is absent from class without a prior permission from the teacher will receive a cut. Any student who has cut a class will be required to serve detention.

### **Leaving the Classroom**

Students must obtain a pass from their teacher to leave the classroom. The pass must be visible at all times and must be presented to any staff member upon request. Only one student's name may appear on a pass. There are no passes issued during periods 1 and 8, and the first and last ten minutes of any period, as well as before and after the student's lunch period.

### **Late Arrivals**

Students are expected to arrive to school and class on time. Lateness presents a loss of instructional time for your child. A child who arrives at school after 7:45 a.m. must report to the safety desk in the main lobby to obtain a signed late pass which is to be brought to his/her classroom teacher.

The lateness is considered illegal, unless there is a note from the parent/guardian explaining a legal reason for the lateness.

In middle school, four minutes are allowed between periods. Students are to be in their seats and ready for work, as classes start promptly as scheduled. A student will be considered late if they arrive five minutes after a class begins.

### **Early Dismissal**

Early dismissal is disruptive and interrupts instructional time. Students who are picked up from school early should bring a note informing the teacher of your plans to pick your child up early. The authorized adult picking up the student must report to the main office to sign the child out. The student will be called to the Main Office and dismissed at that time.

### **Emergency Cards**

Updated Emergency Cards and Emergency Dismissal Forms containing all necessary information in case of an emergency or illness are kept on file. Please be sure that these cards have been completed and returned to your child's teacher. In the event of address or telephone number changes, it is important that you notify the school in writing so that we have current information.

# Transportation

## **Bus Rules**

Students must be on time for the bus. The bus will not wait. Arrive ten minutes prior to pick up time.

Students are expected to be courteous and respectful to the bus driver and the bus monitor at all times.

Students must obey all bus rules presented by the bus driver, bus monitor and school personnel.

Students will be assigned seats and are expected to remain seated while the bus is moving.

Students may only ride on their assigned bus.

Students who have been disruptive on the bus will face disciplinary action and/or bus privilege suspension.

## **Expectations for Behavior**

There is one key word that must govern the behavior of students at PEARLS – that word is Respect. (Respect for self, Respect for staff, Respect for fellow students and Respect for property.) If all students remember this word, then everyone may take advantage of the opportunities offered at PEARLS and will have a very rewarding educational and social experience.

At PEARLS, we are committed to providing an appropriate learning environment for all of our students. All students are expected to adhere to the following expectations:

- Bring pencils, pens, notebooks and homework.
- Pass through the halls quickly and quietly to your classes.
- No gum chewing in the school, on the playground or on the bus.
- Do not bring cellular phones and beepers, iPods, mp3 players etc. These items will be confiscated and returned only to parents. The administration will not investigate lost or stolen electronic items.

- Respect school property.
- Respect each person's right to learn by not disrupting the learning process.
- Show respect for yourselves, other students, teachers, administrators and school staff by using appropriate language. If you are insubordinate or involved in a fight, you will be suspended.

### **Student Dress Code**

As part of the Yonkers Safe Schools Plan, Yonkers Public Schools implements a Uniform Dress Policy for all students. The uniform colors for PEARLS are white top (shirts/blouses with a collar) and navy blue bottoms (pants, skirts, or jumpers). Sweaters or vests may be any color. There is an exemption process for those parents who do not wish to have their child wear uniforms. An application for exemption is available in the main office.

Clothes must be worn that suitably cover the body. Skirts and shorts must be an appropriate length. Tube tops may not be worn. Pants must be fastened at the waist and pant legs must be of equal length. Straps must be fastened at the shoulders.

Footwear with shoelaces must have the laces tied.

Clothing that promotes products or activities that are prohibited by school policy and is likely to cause a disruption in school is not allowed. T-shirts and other clothing that display abusive language, profanity or illegal organizations may not be worn.

Clothing considered to be "outerwear" should not be worn during the school day and should be placed in the student's locker.

Students may not wear headgear or hats, unless it is worn by a student for religious or medical reasons.

### **Lockers and Locks**

Teachers will assign lockers at the start of the school year for students in grades 3 through 8. Students must purchase their own locks. Lockers must be kept locked at all times when not in use. It is important not to share one's locker or lock combination with others.

### **Cafeteria Rules**

Students should enter the cafeteria in an orderly manner.

Students are expected to sit and remain at their assigned class table throughout the lunch period.

Students must have a pass in order to leave the cafeteria.

Students will be called to get their lunch by class.

Students are responsible to clean up their table and immediate surrounding area.

Students will be silent when the administrator gives a signal at the end of the period. As soon as the cafeteria is quiet and clean, students will be dismissed by table.

Students may not take food out of the cafeteria.

## **Academic Responsibilities**

Academic performance is the major responsibility of each student. In order to ensure that overall academic performance is achieved, each student should come to school prepared and willing to learn.

- Students are expected to come to school ready to learn and to follow all rules in the classroom as set forth by the teacher (e.g. raise your hand, clean up all materials at the end of class.) Students should come to school with two pens and two sharpened pencils.
- All text books should be covered. Students are held strictly accountable for the care of books issued to them. Students will be charged a pro-rated cost for lost or damaged books. No report card will be issued at the end of the year until all books are returned or paid for.
- Cheating and plagiarizing are not acceptable.
- Students are expected to move quickly and quietly to all classes.

### **Classwork**

Students should be prepared to participate in all discussions, group activities and written work. Each student is expected to complete class assignments according to the standards and time frame established by the teacher. It is the responsibility of the student to make-up any missed assignments.

## **Homework**

Homework will be assigned daily. Assignments will be related to the topics and themes being covered in class. Each student is expected to complete and submit homework assignments on time.

## **Tests/Assessments**

Tests/Assessments provide feedback for reinforcement and instructional groupings. Mid-terms and final exams are left to the discretion of the teacher, but are mandatory for Grades 6, 7 and 8. Students participate in all New York State mandated and district testing programs.

## **Academic Achievement**

Interim reports will be mailed to parent/guardians in the middle of the marking period to inform them of any problem in academics or behavior.

# Building Safety

## School Visitors

All visitors visiting the PEARLS Hawthorne must first report to the security desk in the main lobby, sign the visitors' log and report to the Main Office where they will receive a visitor's pass. They will then be directed to their destination.

## Health Office

### Accidents/Injuries

Any injury sustained by a student on school property is immediately reported to the homeroom teacher, school nurse and office. The parent is then contacted.

Any time a student sustains an injury out of school and requires an assistive device, crutches, cast, brace, etc., the school nurse must be notified upon the child returning to school, and documentation from the doctor/hospital must be provided.

### Immunizations

State Law requires that all students attending school must meet the following Immunization requirements verified by a physician:

<i>Diphtheria</i>	<i>3 or more</i>
<i>Oral Polio</i>	<i>3 or more</i>
<i>Measles</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> dose after the age of 12 months</i> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> dose prior to any Kindergarten program</i>
<i>Mumps</i>	<i>After the age of 12 months</i>
<i>Rubella</i>	<i>After the age of 12 months</i>
<i>Hepatitis B</i>	<i>3 doses</i>

### Medications

We cannot administer non-prescription drugs, such as aspirin or Tylenol, to children. Children may not bring this type of medication to school in their lunch box or schoolbag, etc.

In order for us to administer non-prescribed or prescribed medications in special circumstances (peanut allergies, epi-pen) you must obtain a medication form from

the nurse's office and have it completed by the parent and the child's doctor. A note from a parent is NOT sufficient for us to administer non-prescription medication.

All medication must be brought to the nurse's office by a parent to be administered by qualified staff.

Any questions regarding medications or medical conditions should be directed to the nurse.

### **Allergies**

Be sure that all student allergies are documented by a doctor and reported to both the nurse's office and the classroom teacher.

### **Physicals**

Physicals are required for all Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. Sports physicals are mandatory for Grade 7 & 8 students who are participating in team sports.

***The health and safety of all of our children is of the utmost importance. Please do not send children to school with a fever or a lingering illness.***

### **Media Release Forms**

Media Release forms have been distributed so that you may indicate whether or not you wish your child to be photographed for use in publications outside of the school. Returning this form will indicate your desire *not* to have your child photographed. If you do not return the form you are indicating your permission to have your child photographed.

## **PEARLS PTA**

The PEARLS PTA is essential to the success of our school. We urge all parents to become active members by providing support in any way possible.