



Helpful Hints for a Fantastic Start to the 2026-2027 School Year!

Hello, Palisades Families!

We hope you had a wonderful summer. We're looking forward to seeing all of the students' smiling faces back in our school buildings. **The first day of school is Monday, August 31st.**

Please note that kindergarten students will have a “staggered start” for the first week in order to get them acclimated to school: half of the kindergarten class will attend school on Monday, August 31st while the other half will attend school on Tuesday, September 1st. Full kindergarten classes will attend together beginning on Wednesday, September 2nd. Building principals will be communicating with parents about these start dates.

This year's theme is **“Charting Our Course!”** At Palisades, we believe every student is on a unique journey. Whether they are taking their first steps into a classroom, exploring new interests, preparing for college or careers, developing talents in the arts and athletics, or discovering their place in the world, we are committed to helping them navigate the path ahead. Together, we will continue to foster kindness, curiosity, resilience, and excellence while remaining focused on what matters most: ensuring every student has the support, skills, and opportunities needed to reach their fullest potential. We are excited to celebrate another school year with our wonderful community!

We hope that you will find the following information useful in the coming weeks as we head into the 2026-2027 school year.

1) PowerSchool Student Information System

ALL of our families must review and update the information **every year** for their child(ren) in our PowerSchool Student Information System. **It is especially important to update your child's emergency contact and medical information, as soon as possible, so that we have the most current information on file in the event that you need to be reached in an emergency. Please provide at least three contacts, if possible**

You can update these forms by following the steps below. Video instructions on how to access and complete these forms are also available [here](#).

- 1) Log into your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) account, select your student, and click on the FORMS link on the left hand side.
- 2) In the right panel, click on the links for each of the three on the General Forms tab for your student(s). If you have completed these forms in the past much of the information will be pre-filled, so they can be edited only where changes are required. See the screenshot below.

Student Forms

General Forms

Class Forms

Enrollment

Student Support

Returning

[\[Returning\] A - Student Demographics](#)

[\[Returning\] B - Health Information](#)

[\[Returning\] C - Permissions/Agreements/Questions](#)

3) After confirming/updating the information, each of the three forms MUST BE SUBMITTED using the SUBMIT button at the bottom of each form. The Permissions/Agreements/Questions form asks for an updated date of submission, so please be certain to update that as well before hitting SUBMIT.

If you do not have a PowerSchool Account, please see the directions linked [here](#) and contact the school's main office for your child(ren)'s Access ID(s) and Access Password(s). Once it is created, you will be able to access other important information (like bus info and grades at the secondary level) on PowerSchool for your student(s).

2) Transportation

Bus schedules will be sent out to all families via email in mid-August. A [Bus Stop Exception Form](#) can be filled out for transportation exceptions for daycare or custodial arrangements. Otherwise, a one-day-only pass can be approved by the building principal or Transportation Director in the event of an emergency or medical need. Please review the letter and helpful hints document that was emailed to all families in early August from the Transportation Department. Now would also be a great time to review [Bus Safety at Home](#). If there are any errors or issues with your child's bus schedule, please call 484-812-0150 or email busconcerns@palisadessd.org.

3) Summer Reading Reminder

Please make sure your children have finished their Summer Reading Requirements before the first day of school. All students, entering grades 6-12, are required to complete summer reading assignments. Research has shown students' reading abilities will decrease with extended time away from reading. This program has helped maintain and increase students' literacy skills while providing for classroom discussion around the content of the texts.

PALMS Summer 2026 book lists can be found here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DtJjap5sMgA2_p-g9KA9mcuwSJcxyA0HSe6BdJfALng/edit?tab=t.0

PHS Summer 2026 book lists can be found here:

<https://sites.google.com/palisadessd.org/palisadeshsummerreading/home>

4) Open Houses and Back-to-School Nights

Mark your calendars for the following Open Houses and Back to School Nights! Each building will send out information to parents that is specific to the school's schedule, so please check your email for updates.

Durham Nockamixon:

Back-to-School Night: 9/10/26, Time: 5:30-7:00 PM

Springfield:

Back-to-School Night: 9/10/26, Time: 5:30-7:00 PM

Tinicum:

Back-to-School Night: 9/10/26, Time: 5:30-7:00 PM

Palisades Middle School:

- 6th Grade Tour (Day 1): Wednesday, August 19th @ 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
- WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) Orientation Day: Friday, August 28th @ 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- 6th Grade Tour (Day 2): Friday, August 28th @ 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM (Immediately following WEB)
- Back-to-School Night: 9/3/26 @ 5:30-7:00 PM

Palisades High School:

- Class of 2030 Orientation: 8/28/26 @ 8:00-11:00 AM (Purple Gym)
- Back-to-School Night: 9/1/26 @ 5:30-7:00 PM

5) School Supplies and Backpacks

With the start of the new school year approaching quickly, it's time to start thinking about school supplies! To ensure your child is prepared for a successful learning experience from day one, please take some time in the coming weeks to review the supply list for their grade level, which is available on each of the school websites.

The Palisades Community Foundation is generously donating backpacks again this year to any student who is in need of one. **Backpacks will be distributed in the Gold Gym at the high school on Saturday, August 22 from 9:00 AM-Noon.** Thank you, PCF, for your ongoing support of our students and community!

Anyone wishing to donate school supplies or gift cards, please bring them to the front office at the high school before August 22. Thank you for your support and generosity!

6) After School Late Bus

Late buses are available **three** days a week after school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at PALMS (4:45 PM) and PHS (5:00 PM).

7) Attendance Policy

As we kick off the new academic year, we want to thank you in advance for all your support in making attendance a priority. Absenteeism, especially chronic absenteeism (missing 10% or more of school days), has significant negative effects on students, including lower academic achievement, social isolation, and increased risk of dropping out. These effects can extend beyond academics, impacting mental health and future opportunities.

When your child is absent for illness or other reasons, a signed excuse must be returned to school within three days of the absence, or it will automatically be classified as an unexcused absence. You must call the absence line at your child's school the morning of the absence before school starts. Excuse notes may be emailed to the building secretary. Legitimate reasons for a student's absence include: illness, quarantine, recovery from an accident, required court attendance, death in the family, observance of a religious holiday, and family educational trips with prior approval of the principal. All other reasons for absence are considered unexcused. For additional information about our attendance policy, please see [Policy 204](#) on our website.

8) Food Service

The Palisades School District will continue to provide a free breakfast for all students this school year! The PSD offers many great choices for lunch. A complete lunch can include: fruit, vegetables, meat or meat alternative, bread, roll or crackers, and/or a milk. To be considered as a meal, all lunches must include fruit or vegetables. [All lunch menus are posted online](#). Please review the cafeteria menu with your child to help them plan for a balanced meal. If you have questions about something being served, you may contact your school nurse, or the Food Services Director, for more nutritional detail.

The cashless POS system speeds up the service lines by providing a debit account for student purchases, eliminating the need for students to handle cash during meal service times. You may pay by a check payable to Palisades Food Services, 20 School Drive, Kintnersville, PA 18930 or manage the account funding via the SchoolCafe app or online at www.schoolcafe.com.

9) Free/Reduced Lunch Applications

Students who previously qualified under the National School Lunch Program Free and Reduced Meal Benefit at the end of the 25-26 School year will continue to receive the same benefits for *the first 30 school days in session of the 26-27 School Year only*. If you have not been approved through the application process for the 26-27 school year, or via the Direct Certification notification, your child will be charged a full meal price for their purchase until a new application approval is attained. ***You must reapply every school year for each child.***

If you believe that your family may qualify, we urge you to apply for benefits. Students are protected from overt identification by staff and by a computerized point-of-sale system. Every student automatically has an account and everyone makes purchases in the same manner. Complete a Free & Reduced application at the beginning of the 26-27 school year using [Compass](#) (an online tool for Pennsylvanians to apply for many health and human service programs and manage benefit information), or by using the [SchoolCafe](#) app, or on the PSD website at:

https://www.palisd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=4468318&type=d&pREC_ID=2743649

Follow the directions carefully to ensure receipt of the correct benefits for your family. You will receive an application response notification via email. Please review the letter, application and helpful hints documents that were emailed to all families on July 31 for additional information.

10) School Closures, Delays and Early Dismissals

During inclement weather, the superintendent may decide to close schools for the day, delay opening, or dismiss early if school is already in session. In certain circumstances – loss of power or heat, for example – it might become necessary to close an individual school. There may also be the option to close school buildings but have teachers and students participate in

learning activities remotely using their Chromebooks so that the day counts as a student learning day. The superintendent will make that call on a case-by-case basis. SchoolMessenger, our communications system, will primarily be used to contact families via email, phone and text messages.

Should it be necessary to close school because of inclement weather, SchoolMessenger will be used to notify parents and guardians of school closings at approximately 5:00 AM. The announcements will also be made on stations WFMZ/FM100.7 or you can call for a recorded message at the Palisades School District at 610-847-5131 (press 5 then 1). You can also check our website at www.palisadessd.org or visit our Facebook page (search Palisades School District, Bucks County).

In order to contact you in these situations, it is imperative that we have current contact information for you and your child's emergency contacts. Please be sure to update your contact information in PowerSchool.

For more information about our school hours, visit our website at:

https://www.palisd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=4469002&type=d&pREC_ID=2743755

11) 2026-2027 District Calendar

The annual printed PSD district calendar will be available to distribute to families during the first week of school. This year's theme is "**Charting Our Course**". Be sure to get your copy from your child's school office. **Dates are subject to change, so please check the website regularly for updates.**

12) Chromebooks

Our goal is for every student in grades K-12 to have access to a computer to use for doing school work. This initiative is known as a 1:1 program – one device for every student. More information about this program can be found by visiting: <https://121.palisd.org>.

An optional \$30 annual fee will be available to middle school and high school students to cover accidental damage, theft and vandalism. The Chromebook Accidental Damage Protection Plan Request Form for 26-27 can be found at the following link: <https://capp.palisd.org>

Upon the completion of the form (one form per child), an invoice will be sent to you. Once the invoice is paid, your child's Chromebook will be covered for the duration of the current school year.

**** Please make sure that students have their Chromebooks fully charged and ready to go on the first day of school! ****

13) Cell Phone Use

Our school board approved a new cell phone policy at the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year ([#237 - Personal Devices](#)). Building principals will send information regarding the procedures that are now used to manage student cell phone use in school.

14) Volunteer Clearances

Anyone considering volunteering in a classroom this year or participating on a field trip must have current clearances on file with the District. If new clearances are required, please do so

before October 15th. New clearances are required to be updated every five years. Here is a [link](#) to the necessary information.

15) Employment Opportunities

The Palisades School District is hiring! Please check out current openings on our website at: https://palisd.edlioschool.com/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=4468319&type=d&pREC_ID=2743658

In addition, Palisades subcontracts with ESS for substitute services. If you are interested in a substitute position within the Palisades School District please visit the [ESS website](#) or call ESS at 1-856-482-0300.