



The Richard Rodgers School of the Arts and Technology

**Family Handbook
2019- 2020**

132 West 89th Street

New York, NY 10024

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www.ps166.org

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The NYC Department of Education School Calendar 2019-2020

September 5	First day of school
September 12	Back to School Night
September 30 - October 1	Rosh Hashanah (<i>schools closed</i>)
October 9	Yom Kippur (<i>schools closed</i>)
October 14	Columbus Day (<i>schools closed</i>)
November 5	Election Day (<i>students not in attendance</i>)
November 11	Veterans Day (<i>schools closed</i>)
November 14	Parent Teacher Conferences (<i>half day</i>)
November 28-29	Thanksgiving Recess (<i>schools closed</i>)
December 24 – January 1	Winter Recess (<i>schools closed</i>)
January 20	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (<i>schools closed</i>)
February 17-21	Midwinter Recess (<i>schools closed</i>)
March 5	Parent Teacher Conferences (<i>half day</i>)
April 9-17	Spring Recess (<i>schools closed</i>)
May 7	Parent Teacher Open House
May 25	Memorial Day (<i>schools closed</i>)
June 4	Anniversary Day (<i>students not in attendance</i>)
June 9	Clerical Day (<i>students not in attendance</i>)
June 26	Last day for students (<i>half day</i>)

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School / Community Contacts

PS 166 Main Number	212-678-2829
PS 166 FAX Number	212-579-4542
PS 166 Website	www.ps166.org
Principal	dmastriano@schools.nyc.gov
Assistant Principal	acohen@ps166.org
Parent Coordinator	dmarkewich@schools.nyc.gov
School Nurse	212-579-0851
Department of Education Website	http://schools.nyc.gov
Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT)	718-784-3313
SNT School Bus Company	718-828-5336 / 718-346-9600
Community District 3	212-678-5857
Family Welcome Center	212-342-8300
Arts and Athletics Afterschool Program	212-787-1200
New York City Information	311

Who to contact with a question or concern:

1. For class phone numbers or classroom activity information, contact one of your Class Reps.
2. If your child is having a problem in class or you have a question or concern about the class or curriculum, contact the teacher via backpack note, e-mail or by leaving a message for the teacher with the school secretary (212) 678-2829.
3. For questions about curriculum, DOE policies, academic or other concerns, contact the Principal, Debra Mastriano, at dmastriano@schools.nyc.gov.
4. For questions about admission, busing and other parental concerns, contact the Parent Coordinator, Deborah Markewich, at dmarkewich@schools.nyc.gov.
5. For questions about PTA events, committees or fundraising, contact the committee chair or a PTA officer (see e-mail addresses on page 25.)

School Procedures

Our school hours are from 8:20 AM (8:15 arrival) to 2:40 PM

Arrival and dismissal are very busy times at PS 166. For everyone's safety, we ask parents and caregivers to follow the procedures outlined below.

Arrival

Kindergarten and Grade 1

Drop off children at the steps of the main entrance by 8:15 AM. Doors will open each day at 8:00 AM. Fifth Grade Safety Patrollers will help children into the cafeteria and to their designated class tables. Each table is supervised by a teaching assistant. Kindergarten parents may escort their children to their tables until Wednesday, September 11th, but are encouraged to let children walk in with the Safety Patrollers as soon as they are ready. **Beginning September 12th, kindergarten parents must say their goodbyes at the main entrance.** First grade parents may escort their children to their tables until Friday, September 6th. **Beginning September 9th, first grade parents must say their goodbyes at the main entrance.** Most children are happy to take that step of independence after a day or two but will follow the cues of their parents, who are often more upset than their children. Please help your child make the transition by encouraging him/her to walk in without you.

Grades 2-5

Drop off children at the Reading Garden gate to the east of the building no later than 8:15 AM. The gate will be opened at 8:00 AM by a staff member. Students will enter the yard and wait at their designated line-up spots. On the first day of school only, parents may escort their children to their line-up spot in the playground. After the first day, all grade 2-5 parents must say their goodbyes at the gate.

In inclement weather, students will enter the same time and place but proceed through the door and up to the auditorium for indoor lineup.

Please note: The school safety agent assigned to our school sits at a desk inside the main lobby. Per DOE regulations, she is not permitted to allow children to enter the building before there is other supervision, even in inclement weather. **So there is absolutely no drop off allowed before 8:00 AM.** This includes the outer vestibule. Until the main doors and the Reading Garden gate are opened at 8:00 AM, students are not allowed to enter the

building. Please do not leave children unattended in front of the building before that time.

School Bus Arrival

Students are escorted off the buses and through the Reading Garden gate by a teacher or staff member. They will then either enter the cafeteria (grades K, 1 and those who wish to eat breakfast) or proceed to the yard or auditorium. Safety patrollers will be there to escort the kindergarten and first grade bus riders to their tables in the cafeteria.

Breakfast

The Office of SchoolFood provides a healthy free breakfast each morning for all students who request it. Breakfast is served between 8:00 AM and 8:10 AM in the cafeteria. Students wishing to eat breakfast should arrive promptly at 8:00 AM and no later than 8:10 AM to be finished eating in time to meet their classes.

Breakfast, Kindergarten and Grade 1: Students should tell their classroom assistant or another adult who will help them get their breakfast.

Breakfast, Grades 2-5: Students should enter the cafeteria through the Reading Garden gate. In the cafeteria, after getting their breakfast, they should sit at the grade designated tables. After eating breakfast, they should proceed to the yard or auditorium to meet their class by 8:15 AM.

Lateness: Instruction begins as soon as the children arrive in the classroom. Please give your child the opportunity to make an unhurried transition into a very busy school day. Arrive on time so that he/she does not feel rushed in saying good-bye and has time to greet classmates before school starts. When a child is late to class, it is disruptive on many levels. Late students miss important school time and it is often difficult for them to resume the rhythm of the school day once they have rushed to catch up. Classmates are also affected by the disruption of a late child entering the classroom.

All students who are not with their class by 8:20 AM are considered late and will be issued a late pass in the lobby before going to their classrooms. A staff member will escort late kindergartners to their classrooms. Parents may not bring children directly to classrooms. In order to prevent being marked late, **students should be at their drop off spots no later than 8:15 AM.** *Keep in mind that lateness is part of a student's permanent record and is considered by middle schools when reviewing applications for admission.* Parents of students

with excessive lateness (more than 2 latenesses a month) will be called in for a meeting with the attendance team.

Scooters

Grade 2-5 students must leave scooters in the rack in the Reading Garden before lining up in the yard. Kindergarten and first grade students who are dropping off scooters should enter the Reading Garden gate instead of the front entrance, drop off scooters and then proceed to the cafeteria. PS 166 is not responsible for scooters so please leave them at your own risk. Scooters must be removed at the end of the school day. Once the Reading Garden gate is closed at 8:20, no scooters may be left at school. **If your child is late, you must bring the scooter home with you.** Bicycles may not be left at school during the day. There are no exceptions.

Parent/Visitor Arrival: For the safety of our students and to ease congestion, parents wishing to enter the building must wait until **8:30 AM**, once students have entered and teachers have picked up their classes. The office staff is not available to assist parents until that time, so there is no earlier admittance to the main office. Parent workshops, PTA meetings and individual meetings will not be scheduled to begin before 8:30 AM. Parents wishing to enter the building at any time must swipe their CAASS ID and report first to the main office before going to any other destination. While in the building lanyards and IDs must be worn. Parents who forget their IDs must provide an alternative ID, such as a license, which will be scanned and printed on a visitor label, to be worn while in the building.

Dismissal

Kindergarten

Rain or shine, kindergarten students are dismissed in the kindergarten yard, just west of the school building. The west gate will be opened once the classes are in their spots at approximately 2:30 PM. Teachers will have signs for the first week so you can easily find your child's class. Once the children have been picked up, parents and caregivers must promptly exit the yard through the west gate. Students may not play on the climbing structures during or after dismissal.

Grades 1-5

Rain or shine, students in Grades 1-5 are dismissed in front of the building on either side of the main entrance, directly to parents or caregivers. Classes will be in grade order beginning with grade one at the most eastern end of the

building. Signs will be posted with the location of each class. Students in grades 4 or 5 may walk home alone with the written, signed permission of a parent.

Picking Up By Car

There is absolutely no double-parking or idling allowed in front of the school building. West 89th Street is a very narrow and busy street and it is imperative that buses be able to pull up to the building to safely pick up students. Parking in front of PS 166 is limited to staff members with permits. If you *must* pick up your child by car, you should leave your car at a parking space on one of the avenues and walk to the building. Please be considerate of others. Double-parking interferes with bus arrivals, causes horn honking and makes dismissal less safe for everyone. There is no parking allowed in the bus arrival zone, in front of the Reading Garden gate.

Late Pick Up

Students must be picked up promptly at the end of their school day. Staff members have other responsibilities at the end of the day and cannot be expected to stay late so please be on time. Students not picked up from the teacher at dismissal will be brought to the main office and a parent will be called. Before leaving the building, the parent or caregiver picking up the child must sign him/her out in the sign-out book in the main office. If it becomes very late and a child is not picked up or if no one on the blue emergency card can be reached, the 24th Police Precinct or the Administration for Children Services (ACS) will be notified.

School Bus Dismissal

Children taking a school bus home are escorted to the cafeteria to wait for their bus to arrive and then taken as a group directly onto their bus. Only children assigned to a certain bus may ride it, *with no exceptions*. Friends and playdates are not permitted to ride a bus they are not assigned to, as per the Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT.) Please be at the bus stop *at least* 5 minutes before the scheduled drop off time in the afternoon. If no one is there to meet the bus, your child will remain on the bus until the driver can return to school. If there is no one at school, the driver will take your child to the nearest police precinct. It is suggested that parents ask the bus driver for his/her cell phone number. Some bus drivers may also request parent/caregiver numbers in case of an emergency. If the bus is late, *please call the bus company*, not PS 166. The numbers for the bus company are 718-828-5336 or 718-346-9600.

Dismissal to Afterschool Programs

Students are escorted by their teacher or classroom assistant to the cafeteria, where they will wait for their Re-Create Arts and Athletics instructors to pick them up. If your child is enrolled in an off-site program that picks up from PS 166, that program will communicate their procedures with you. Afterschool programs are not responsible for notifying classroom teachers that a student will be attending. If you sign your child up for an afterschool program, it is your responsibility to give a written note to your child's teacher noting the days of attendance. If during the course of the school year your child's afterschool schedule changes, it is your responsibility to notify the teacher in writing.

Dismissal Routine Changes

It is very important that your child's teacher has your child's dismissal schedule in writing. *If there are changes to the regular schedule you must send a note via backpack mail with your child that day.* For example, if your child regularly takes the bus but is being picked up that day, the teacher must have a note or he/she will be sent home on the bus, regardless of what the student says. If you wish your child to have a playdate and be picked up by another parent or caregiver, you must also send that in writing. *Teachers will not consider verbal messages from the student.*

Students will not be released to any person not named on the blue emergency card without a written note. Please do not call or email the school to make changes in dismissal plans unless it is an emergency situation. *Emergency* changes in arrangements may be called in to the main office no later than 2:00 PM to ensure that your child's teacher receives the message in time.

Early Dismissal

Please schedule dentist, doctor and other appointments for your child after school hours. If children absolutely have to be dismissed early, they must be picked up and signed out by an adult over 18 years old, *before 2:00 PM.* **This adult MUST be listed on the Blue Emergency Card unless a written note has been sent.** Parents may not pick up children directly from the classroom. They must go to the main office where a staff member will call your child's classroom.

Please note: No early pick-up will be accommodated between 2:00 and 2:40 PM, except in the case of emergency or illness. If you arrive after 2:00 PM, you

will be asked to wait until the regular dismissal time of 2:40 PM to pick up your child.

Half Day Dismissal

Half day dismissal is at 11:40 AM. School bus service takes place as usual, just three hours earlier. To estimate the time the bus will arrive, subtract three hours from the usual drop off time. Remember to send a note to the teacher if your child's dismissal routine will vary on a specific early dismissal day.

Upon request, bagged lunches are provided to students at dismissal on half days. There is no lunch period, recess or afterschool program on half days.

Recess and Lunch

Recess

There are six recess/lunch periods. Weather permitting, recess takes place in our playground for grades 1-5. The PTA funds recess coaches to help supervise and facilitate group activities. During inclement weather, recess is held in the auditorium where students can read, draw, play board games or participate in games with our recess coach. Kindergarten students play in the separate kindergarten playground at the rear of the school and return to their classrooms for recess during inclement weather.

Students have recess outside whenever possible. Please make sure that your child arrives to school in appropriate clothing so that he/she may go outside for recess. When the weather is cold children should have hats, gloves and warm coats. In warm weather, please make sure they are wearing footwear that allows them to run and play. Backless sandals and flip-flops are not playground-friendly and children wearing them will not be allowed on play equipment. Only nerf/soft balls are allowed on the playground at recess. Hard balls of any kind are prohibited. Students should not bring balls from home.

Lunch

Lunch is supervised by teachers, administrators, and teaching assistants. Children may bring their lunch or have hot lunch. School lunch is free for all students.

If you choose to send lunch from home, we encourage you to pack healthy food and remind you that for safety reasons, no glass bottles, jars or containers are

allowed in school. We also recommend that your child bring a refillable water bottle. Cold water is available during lunch.

PS 166 is not a nut-free school. There is a nut-free table available at every lunch period. If you would your child to sit at the nut-free table, please send a note to the teacher.

Classrooms at PS 166

At PS 166, classrooms are identified by the grade, followed by a dash and the room number (i.e. 1-311 is a first grade class in room 311.) While we have a general education program, a special education program and a gifted and talented (G&T) program, classes are not identified as such.

PS 166 has an Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) class on every grade level. ICT classrooms include students with and without disabilities and have two teachers: a general education teacher and a special education teacher. The teachers work together throughout the day to adapt and modify instruction for special needs children and make sure that the entire class has access to the general education curriculum. Students with special needs may be in an ICT classroom all day or for a portion of the day. Students without special needs may be in an ICT class for any or all of their elementary school years. All ICT classes use the same curriculum and have the same level of academic rigor as any other class. Instruction is differentiated for all students.

We are one school community with many different learners. Please do not refer to your child's class using labels such as "G&T" or "ICT". Instead, please use the grade/classroom number for identification.

RULER Program

PS 166 uses the RULER program from Yale as our approach to social and emotional learning. Studies show that RULER programming improves academic performance, decreases aggressive behavior and enhances learning climates. For more information, visit ei.yale.edu/ruler or our website, PS166.org.

Homework Policy

Homework is a valuable tool in the progression and extension of learning. It helps to reinforce what has been learned in class and prepare students for upcoming lessons. It also promotes responsibility and helps students develop good study habits. At Back to School Night, teachers will inform you of the homework expectations in their classes. Homework should be carefully done, however, students are not expected to spend hours and hours on each day's homework. Parents can help make homework a positive experience for their children. Give your child the message that homework is a top priority by providing a quiet and workable environment in which your child can do his/her best work. Set up a schedule that will allow homework to get done each evening. Remember that homework is to be done by students, not by parents. Homework is also an assessment tool for teachers to get an accurate sense of what your child can do independently. Encourage your child to communicate directly with his/her teacher about any questions concerning homework. If, however, your child constantly struggles to complete homework and/or understand assignments, please contact your child's teacher.

All students are expected to read every night of the week. For young children, reading with or to your child often is the most important thing you can do to support your child's learning.

Communication

Consistent communication between parents, teachers and administration contributes to a student's success in school. Please take advantage of the avenues of communication below:

Backpack Mail

Backpack Mail is the most direct system of communication between parents and teachers. Red Communication Folders will be given to every student on the first day of school. After every school day parents should check that folder for any notes from the teacher or school. Parents should also use this folder to send notes to the teacher with dismissal routines, meeting requests or other questions or concerns.

Weekly Newsletter

The Weekly Newsletter is emailed once a week to PS 166 parents and contains important information about school, PTA and DOE events. It is essential for at least one parent per family to read the newsletter each week in order to stay well-informed. In an effort to use less paper, most announcements are now sent *only* via e-mail. If you are not receiving the newsletter, please email Deborah Markewich at dmarkewich@schools.nyc.gov

School Website

ps166.org is our school website. Please check the website frequently for information about curriculum, parent resources and events. The calendar in this handbook lists only events that are planned well in advance and does not contain specifics. For up to date information and times and locations of events, check the website calendar regularly.

Class Reps

Every class will have two parent representatives who will help distribute information from the teacher and coordinate parent involvement for class projects, trips, etc. Class Reps will create and distribute a contact list for the class. At Back to School Night, teachers will choose two parent volunteers to serve as Class Reps.

Monthly Class Newsletters/Websites

Every class will have either a monthly newsletter or a website which will include a brief summary of the curriculum that is being covered as well as news of upcoming class events and field trips.

To find out what is happening in your child's specials classes (art, music, theater, phys-ed, technology) check our website where monthly newsletters are posted. Paper copies will not be distributed.

Teacher Communication

For questions and concerns about your child, please speak with your child's teacher first before contacting others in the building. The classroom teacher spends the most time with your child and should always be your first contact. During classroom hours, teachers are not available to speak with parents. All discussions with teachers, in person or by phone, must be scheduled for the teacher's preparation period. The best way to do this is to send the teacher a note in your child's backpack or leave a message with the school secretary in the main office (212-678-2829). Please do not use dismissal time for

conferences with your child's teacher. Teachers are responsible for the students in their class and cannot discuss your child with you at this time. Please keep in mind that even if your teacher encourages e-mail communication, messages may not be checked during the school day so you may not receive a response until after dismissal or later.

Parent Engagement Tuesdays

Teachers are available on Tuesday afternoons after dismissal to engage with parents in individual meetings, class meetings or workshops. If you would like to meet with your child's teacher during that time, please send a note to him/her by backpack mail. Workshop and class meeting information will be communicated by the teacher or Class Rep.

Staff e-mail Addresses

All teacher and staff email addresses are posted on our website. The staff directory is located on the bottom of the "about" page. Or visit <http://www.ps166.org/directory/faculty>

Back to School Night

Back to School Night will take place on Thursday, September 12, 2019. At Back to School Night your teacher will introduce classroom procedures, curriculum goals and what to look forward to in the coming year. Class reps will also be assigned that evening.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Official DOE Parent-Teacher conferences are held twice during the school year, in November and in March. Parents sign up for appointments at <https://www.schoolbookings.net>. Event codes and instructions will be sent home several weeks before the conference date. Conferences are only ten minutes long but parents may schedule additional meetings with teachers if more time is necessary.

Support Services

Parent Coordinator

The parent coordinator is available to all parents who need assistance or information about PS 166 or the New York City school system. Her office is in Room 212D on the second floor. Contact her by e-mail at dmarkewich@schools.nyc.gov or phone at 212-579-4555.

Guidance Counselor

Our school guidance counselor provides individual and group counseling to students mandated for counseling as part of their Individual Education Plan (IEP) and at-risk counseling to students who are in need of it. Contact the guidance counselor by calling the main office and leaving a message.

Instructional Support Committee (ISC)

P.S. 166 offers a wide range of support services for students needing extra help. The Instructional Support Committee (ISC) is a team that conducts evaluations for the Committee on Special Education (CSE). The ISC evaluates children referred to CSE in order to determine if the child needs related support services. Support services range from physical and occupational therapy to remedial reading, tutoring, and psychological support, as well as service referrals. A parent, teacher or anyone involved with the student may request a referral. If you feel that your child needs services outside of the classroom, your first step is to contact your child's teacher to request a referral to the CSE.

School Nurse

In the event that your child becomes sick or hurt during school hours, he/she will be sent to the nurse who will contact you if necessary. It is important that the blue card contact information is kept current for this purpose. Classroom teachers and other staff are not permitted to administer medications. The nurse may dispense medication only after the proper medical forms have been filled out and submitted to the Department of Health for review.

Please notify the nurse if your child has an ongoing medical condition such as severe food allergies, diabetes or asthma. If your child has had an injury at home that may limit mobility, you must notify the nurse and present a doctor's note when your child returns to school. The nurse's office is in Room 108. Her direct number is 212-579-0851.

Attendance

When your child will miss school for any reason, please send an email to attendance@ps166.org and copy your child's teacher. **When your child returns to school after any absence, you must send a note in to the teacher on the day he/she returns to school stating the reason for the absence.** Even if you have notified the school in advance, you must still supply a written note upon return! If you know in advance your child will miss multiple

days, please notify the teacher. **A doctor's note is required after an absence or three days or more.**

Regular attendance is extremely important for your child to succeed in school. Please make every effort to have your child attend school unless he/she is sick. Check the school calendar carefully and plan family vacations and appointments during school breaks. Taking your child out of school for family trips is academically disruptive to your child's learning. Parents of students with more than 2 absences a month will be called in for a meeting with the attendance team.

Please note: Middle school principals review attendance and lateness records and use them in determining acceptance to their schools. Excessive absences and lateness will reflect negatively on your child's application.

Illness

Children should not attend school if they have the following symptoms:

- Evidence of infection, sore throat and swollen neck glands
- Fever of 100 or higher (including having such fever in the past 24 hours)
- Persistent cough/wheezing, earache, vomiting, diarrhea, pink eye, ringworm, lice or body rash.

If your child shows any of the above symptoms while in school, you will receive a call from the school nurse to pick up your child. Your child may return to school when symptoms are cleared or he/she is fever free for 24 hours.

Required School Forms

Blue Emergency Cards

These are given out on the first day of each school year, and must be re-submitted annually with current information. (New families fill out the blue card during pre-registration so will not need to update it in September.) You must list at least three people besides parents who can be contacted in the event the school cannot reach you. Your child will not be released to anyone who is not listed on the blue card without a note from you so please make sure numbers are working and up to date. *If numbers change during the school year, it is important that you come in to the main office and make the change to the blue*

card. Do not simply tell the teacher. If your address should change during the school year you must bring two pieces of address verification to the main office so that the new address can be entered in the DOE database.

Physical Exam Forms

Children entering Kindergarten or new to the school must submit a physical exam form that has been filled out by the child's pediatrician. These are due during the first two weeks of school or after the child's 5th birthday exam.

Lunch Forms

Even though lunch is now free for all NYC students, for funding purposes, all families must still fill out a lunch form to determine eligibility for free or reduced lunch. Information about lunch forms will be distributed in September. The application is used to determine the amount of state funding our school receives for supplies such as books, classroom furniture and other resources. You may fill out a paper form or an online form at nyc.applyforlunch.com.

If you feel that you are not eligible for free meals then simply check the box next to the statement "I do not qualify for free or reduced-price meals" before submitting the form.

Media Consent Form

Media Consent Forms must be filled out for every student. If you do not consent, you may simply write "no consent" on the form. New families fill out the form at pre-registration. For returning children, it is not necessary to fill it out at the beginning of the school year if you have already submitted one the previous year, unless there has been a change in consent.

Discipline Policy

The discipline policy at PS 166 reflects the policy of the New York City Department of Education and follows the Citywide Standards of Discipline and Intervention Measures also known as the Discipline Code. These standards have been implemented to maintain a safe and supportive environment for all students in the school.

School rules and regulations will be enforced fairly, firmly and consistently. As students advance in age and maturity, they must assume greater responsibility for their actions. Our discipline code exists to ensure that all students behave

responsibly towards themselves, their peers, school personnel and property. Please take some time to read through these rules and regulations and discuss them with your child.

Poor or disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Engaging in or causing physical altercations
- Threatening and/or intimidating others, which includes bullying
- Using profane or offensive language, including discriminatory messages
- Defacing or damaging school property or the property of others
- Stealing
- Cheating
- Defying the authority of school personnel
- Treating teachers, administrators or staff members with disrespect
- Leaving the classroom or school grounds without the permission of/or supervision by school personnel
- Excessive noise or interruption either in the school classroom, halls or other parts of the school building
- Lateness and/or excessive absence
- Bringing prohibited items to school. This includes weapons and dangerous implements. Other items not permitted in school, either due to their value or interference with school activities, are iPod, cell phones, video games, water guns, fidget spinners (unless recommended on an IEP) and collectable cards. If an occasion arises in which your child's teacher permits any personal items to be brought in, this property is the sole responsibility of your child.

Consequences for inappropriate behavior are based on the following:

- The seriousness of the behavior
- The frequency with which the child engages in the behavior
- Whether the behavior, including bullying behaviors, has caused physical harm or serious emotional distress to another person(s)
- Whether the behavior creates an unsafe environment for the child or others

The consequences below reflect the broad range of actions that might be taken and are not in any particular order:

- Discussion with the teacher in charge
- Written responses in the form of an explanation and/or apology
- Discussion with the school counselor
- Discussion with the assistant principal
- Discussion with the principal
- Parent notification

- Guidance conference with the student, parent, teacher and administration
- Peer mediation
- Time out from an activity
- Suspension

Cell Phone Policy

Students are not permitted to use cell phones at any time while in the school building or yard. **Cell phones seen in school will be removed from the student and returned only to a parent by appointment.** When necessary, students may ask to use a phone in the main office to contact a parent.

Lost & Found

Please label all of your child's clothing and possessions with his/her name and class number. It is much easier to retrieve lost items that have been labeled so please label outerwear, lunchboxes and backpacks. Found items are kept for a limited time on racks and in bins in the Community Room (107) on the first floor and are donated to charity or recycled every two weeks.

Building Safety and Security

Visitors

All parents and visitors must swipe in with their parent ID or sign in with other ID at the safety agent's desk, where they will be given a visitor sticker. Parent IDs or visitor stickers must be worn while in the building. **All parents and visitors must report to the main office before proceeding to any other location.** In cases where a scheduled activity, such as a show or PTA meeting is taking place, the safety agent may allow visitors to go directly to the destination.

Parent IDs and visitor stickers allow school personnel to easily identify everyone (and alert us to possible intruders) and are necessary for the safety of your children. We cannot maintain tight security unless the side doors are kept off limits for entering and exiting. Please help us keep the building safe by not using any doors other than the main doors for entering or exiting the building at any time, including after dismissal. If you are late picking up your child you

must use the main entrance and sign in before picking up your child from the main office.

Parents may not visit their child's classroom during school hours unless they have been invited by the classroom teacher. Please remember that the teacher is teaching and cannot have a conversation at that time. If you need to drop something off to your child, such as a forgotten lunch or backpack, please leave it with the safety agent or in the main office and a staff member will deliver it to your child. Parents may not enter the cafeteria during student lunch periods unless in a scheduled volunteer capacity.

Strollers

Due to fire and security regulations, strollers are not allowed in the hallways. When entering the building for any reason, you will be asked to leave your stroller in the external lobby area or outside. There are no exceptions to this regulation.

Elevator

Only people who are not physically able to climb stairs (visitors, teachers or students) are permitted to take the elevator. Students must have a doctor's note in order to take the elevator and must be accompanied by a staff member. A key is needed to access the elevator. If you need to use the elevator, please ask the safety agent.

Please follow these simple safety protocols, even if it is a bit inconvenient. We cannot maintain a safe environment without your cooperation.

Fire Drills / Emergency Evacuation

Fire and Shelter-In Drills are conducted periodically throughout the school year. In the event of a drill, children are to remain silent and listen closely to the instructions of the teacher in charge. During a fire drill, they will proceed to the nearest exit in line with their class, walk in line away from the building until the fire drill is over, and then return quietly to the classroom. During a fire drill there is no time for children to put on coats. Just as if it were a real fire, the priority is a safe and quick evacuation. During a shelter-in or lockdown drill, children remain in the school and follow the instructions of the teacher.

Classroom teachers give age-appropriate lessons on safety drills before the first drill of the year occurs so the students are prepared and know what to expect. Schools cannot give parents advance notice of drills.

In the event of an emergency evacuation, PS 166 staff has specific protocols to follow, working in coordination with the Department of Education, the Police and the Fire Department. Students and staff will be evacuated to designated locations which provide shelter, as well as have access to the Emergency Communication Command Center set up at the location. If dismissal will occur at the location, parents will receive an e-mail explaining where to pick up their children.

School Closings

In the case of a storm day or citywide emergency conditions, the Chancellor will make an announcement to all schools in the city on whether to close schools or delay their opening. By 6:00 AM, the decision is announced on most television and radio stations and also on 311.

When there is a two-hour delayed school opening, school buses will run, but their arrival times will be delayed by two hours. More information on school closings can be found at: <http://schools.nyc.gov>

Field Trips / Chaperones

Field trips are scheduled by classroom teachers throughout the school year. Permission slips will be sent home for each field trip that requires travel. Students may not attend a field trip without a signed permission slip. If your child does not have written permission from you and has to remain at school, he/she will go to another classroom for the duration of the trip. Neighborhood walking trips do not require specific permission slips. In the beginning of the school year, teachers will distribute "walking" permission slips which should be signed and returned to the teacher. By signing this slip, you are giving permission for your child to walk with the class to nearby neighborhood destinations without further notification.

Parent chaperones will be needed for many trips. Teachers will determine how many chaperones are needed for each trip and schedule volunteers in a fair

and equitable way. Due to safety considerations, younger siblings are not allowed to accompany you should you volunteer to chaperone a class trip. To insure safety on a trip, chaperones must be attentive to all of the students in attendance.

Classroom Celebrations

Celebrations of Learning

Classes will frequently celebrate the end of a unit with a publishing party or culminating event. Parents are invited to participate in some publishing parties and other classroom events throughout the year and will be notified by the teacher about such events.

Birthday Parties

In an effort to promote our school's wellness initiative, we ask that students do not bring desserts/food to celebrate birthdays. We do want to acknowledge your child's special day. Students may bring a book to donate to the classroom or an item to share during morning meeting. Teachers may ask the class to sing a birthday song or have the child wear a birthday crown.

Holiday Parties

Because PS 166 has such a diverse student body practicing many religions, religious holidays are not celebrated in school.

Valentine's Day

Some teachers may choose to have a Valentine's Day celebration. If your child brings in Valentines, there must be one for every child in the class. There is no candy allowed – please do not send valentines with a piece of candy attached.

Halloween

Halloween is not celebrated during school hours. Please do not allow your child to bring in or wear masks or costumes to school on Halloween. Many students choose to wear Halloween costumes to the PTA's annual Fall Fest.

Transportation

If you live less than a half mile from the school your child is not eligible for transportation.

Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2

If you live a half mile or more from school, the school is in the same district as your residence, and you request it, your child will receive yellow bus service. If requested, students may receive full fare metro cards instead. Students may not receive bus service *and* a metro card.

Grades 3, 4 and 5

If you live at least half a mile and less than one mile from school, your child is not eligible for yellow bus service but you may request a half fare metro card. If you live more than one mile from school but in District 3, your child is eligible for yellow school bus or a full fare metro card. You may not receive bus service *and* a metro card

Please note: Residence/school distances are determined by the Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) using the shortest walking route. The shortest walking route is determined by distance measurements that are provided to OPT by the New York City Department of City Planning (NYCDCP). *Driving distance and measurements provided by computer programs other than that provided to OPT by City Planning are **not** used to calculate student eligibility.*

Bus routes change every year so it is important to obtain the current bus information for your child, even if he/she has had bus service in the past. It is also important to note that since distance guidelines change after 2nd grade, your 3rd grader may no longer be eligible for a school bus even if he/she has been riding it for the past 3 years.

For questions regarding your child's bus eligibility, route or schedule, please call the Office of Pupil Transportation at 718-392-8855 or visit the OPT website at <http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Transportation>

School bus route information letters will be sent home by backpack to all parents whose child has been assigned a bus route. The tear-off must be signed by the parent and returned before the first day your child will ride the bus home FROM school, so the school confirms that you are aware of the bus route. Please keep the top portion so you have your child's bus information.

Returning students who rode the same bus the previous year may ride the bus the first day of school but parents are responsible for confirming that the route information has not changed with OPT and for sending a note to the teacher if the student is to take the bus home.

The bus company for all PS 166 students is SNT Bus Company. **If your child's bus is late for pick up or drop off, do not call the school.** You must call the bus company directly at **718-828-5336**. Please have your child's bus route number when you call.

Discipline Policy for Bus Riders

Children riding the school bus are expected to follow basic courtesy and safety rules when aboard the bus. The bus driver is responsible for the safe operation of the bus as well as making sure children obey the safety rules.

Bus Rules:

- Fasten seatbelt and stay seated while the bus is in motion
- Do not climb on or over seats or play beneath them
- Do not open or close windows unless instructed by the driver
- Do not extend hands or objects out of the windows
- Use appropriate language
- Do not engage in physical fighting
- Do not eat or drink

If the driver reports that your child has engaged in breaking any of the above rules, you will receive a warning from the school. If a second infraction occurs, your child will not be permitted to ride the school bus for 5 school days. If a third infraction occurs your child may be suspended from riding the bus for the rest of the school year and you will have to make alternative transportation plans. Please discuss the rules above with your child.

Afterschool Program

Arts and Athletics is our on-site afterschool provider and offers a wide variety of enrichment classes to choose from in addition to supervised homework help. Needs based financial aid is available. To view a list of the current class schedule please visit: www.artsandathletics.org. For additional information call or text 917-647-1979 or email our site supervisor Sayeed Ramnath at Sayeed@artsandathletics.org.

School Leadership Team (SLT)

The School Leadership Team is a committee comprised of parents, teachers and the principal and is one of the mandated policy-making structures of the school. Parent members of the SLT are elected for a two year term. Meetings are held once a month and are open to all parents to observe. SLT meeting dates are posted on the lobby bulletin board and on our website, www.ps166.org

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Meetings

PTA meetings are held once a month. All parents and guardians are automatically PTA members and are encouraged to attend meetings. Meeting dates are posted in the handbook calendar, the lobby bulletin board and on our website, www.ps166.org.

Events

The PTA sponsors many events throughout the school year. Some annual events include the Fall Fest, the Spring Auction, Staff Appreciation Day, Movie Night, Family Fitness Fun Night, among others.

Volunteering

The events and fundraisers listed above rely on parent volunteers. There are many ways to volunteer and many committees that you can become involved in. Whether you have a lot of free time or very little, there is something that is just right for you. Get involved!

2019-2020 PTA Executive Board

Co-President: Daria Kim
Co-President: Rachel Polimeni
VP/Volunteers: Annalisa Petersen
VP/Grants: Kristin Savov
VP/Fundraising: John Situ
Recording Secretary: Chandini Prakash
Financial Secretary: Simon Franceschi
Co-Treasurer: Will Kolb
Co-Treasurer: Wanda Lin

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