

# Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District

## Elementary School Parent Handbook

2011-2012



## Important School Phone Numbers



### ***Plainview-Old Bethpage Kindergarten Center***

Francine Leiboff, *Principal*

Hye Sook Kang, *Assistant Principal*

First Alert	937-6357
Main Office	937-6339
Nurse	937-6360

### ***Old Bethpage School***

Suzanne Gray, *Principal*

Jennifer Hoffman, *Assistant Principal*

First Alert	752-9117
Main Office	756-3200
Nurse	756-2945

### ***Parkway School***

Ronelle Hershkowitz, *Principal*

Joanne Spindler, *Assistant Principal*

First Alert	349-8788
Main Office	349-4778
Nurse	349-4781

### ***Pasadena School***

Paulette Miller, *Principal*

Gregory Scesney, *Assistant Principal*

First Alert	937-2794
Main Office	937-2785
Nurse	937-2787

### ***Stratford Road School***

Alison Clark, *Principal*

Gregory Scesney, *Assistant Principal*

First Alert	937-6333
Main Office	937-6334
Nurse	937-6336

## School Hours

All Elementary Schools	9:15-3:15
POB Kindergarten Center	8:45-2:30



## Child Care Program



The Child Care Program has been operating for the past twenty-two years on the elementary level. In recent years, the Child Care Program has included both before and after care for both elementary and middle schools. The Child Care Program facility is located in each of the four elementary schools, the Kindergarten Center and the two middle schools. For further information, please contact Cindy Duboff at 349-4776.

The program on the kindergarten and elementary level offers before school hours beginning at 7:00 am, and after school hours starting at the close of the school day until 6:15 pm. While at the program, the children do homework and engage in various activities including: a choice of games, gym or outdoor time, arts and crafts, movies, reading and relaxing. Child care is also available for all K-4 students on the half days. Registration for half days is separate from regular registration.

## Gifted Program



Plainview-Old Bethpage has a gifted program, Project Challenge, for students who qualify in grades three through six. The selection of students is done during the spring of the second, third and fourth grade years and is based upon teachers' recommendations, informal assessments and district administered testing. Students who are admitted to the program are pulled from their homeroom classes one day a week to attend.

The program in Project Challenge is designed to foster self-directed learning by encouraging exploration, inquiry, in-depth study and reflective thinking. Children participate in interdisciplinary learning experiences which focus on critical thinking, intellectual discussion, interpretation, creativity, research, and problem-solving.

## Health Services and Guidelines



The registered nurse is a resource for the planning, coordination, and implementation of an effective program meeting all the requirements set forth in the New York State laws and the Commissioner's regulations. These include monitoring of physical examinations, immunizations, heights and weights as well as vision and hearing. A cumulative health record is maintained for all students. Registered nurses are available for emergency care as well as consultation in all matters pertaining to the health and well-being of the students.

Physical examinations are required by October 1<sup>st</sup> for students, upon entrance into school and in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. The nurses will also check to make sure that your child's immunizations are up-to-date.

### *Medication*

If your child must take medication in school, please contact the school nurse. **The school may not give your child any medication (including over-the-counter) internally or externally, unless there is written direction by the family physician and parent.** Students are **not** permitted to carry or to administer their own medication in school.

### *Contact Information*

It is most important that the contact information card given to your child at the beginning of school year is returned to the office and the school nurse. The individuals you choose for this responsibility should be able to come to school during the day to pick up your child if necessary. **Please update your contact card as necessary.**

## **Attendance Policy**

Every student has a right to educational opportunities that will enable the student to develop his or her fullest potential. Our attendance policy is based upon the principle that regular school attendance maximizes the student's interaction with his or her teachers and peers. Attendance is a major component of academic success. Poor attendance may be reflected in the class participation components of your child's grade.

The Commissioner of Education defines excused absences as absences due to personal illness, illness or death in the family, impassable roads or weather, religious observance, quarantine, required court appearances, attendance at health clinics, approved college visits, approved cooperative work programs, or military obligations.

Absences due to a family trip or vacation are NOT excused and will be reflected as illegal on the child's permanent record.

When a student is absent, please notify the school by phoning the school's first alert number as soon as possible. On the day of return, the student must bring in a written excuse from home.

If a student is absent for an extended period of time due to illness, injury or hospitalization, contact the Office of Pupil Personnel Services for information, and if indicated, an application for Home Tutoring Services.

Parents will be notified of excessive absences, whether excused or unexcused. Should absences persist, a meeting with school personnel will be scheduled to assess the situation and devise an appropriate plan to remedy the situation. Similar procedures apply to excessive tardiness.

Where student's absenteeism is due to parents' failure to enable his or her attendance, and the student is of compulsory age, school personnel are obligated to report the matter as "educational neglect" to the State Department of Social Services.

## **Parent/Teacher Organizations**

Each school in the district has a PTA and the district has a Special Education Parent-Teacher Association (SEPTA). If you are interested in getting involved, consult your calendar for dates and times of the meetings. For further information regarding SEPTA meetings contact the Office of Pupil Personnel Services at 937-6325.



## Communicating with Parents



All schools in the district use written reports designed to interpret the student's progress in academic fields and personal development. These reports are issued four times per year. At the elementary level, parent/teacher conferences are held in the fall and the spring. Please see the district calendar for the specific dates.

Parents are urged to discuss the schoolwork, tests, and quarterly reports with their child. When a child is experiencing difficulties, parents should contact the child's teacher to determine the reason for the difficulties so that a plan for improvement may be developed and implemented.

## Emergency School Closings/Delayed Openings



In the event of inclement weather or emergency conditions, the Superintendent of Schools determines whether schools will be closed or there will be a delayed opening of schools.

If it is determined that the conditions will allow for the safe arrival of staff and students, the Superintendent may authorize a one and one-half hour delay in the start of the school day. This alternative to closing the schools permits greater flexibility in meeting the 180 day minimum session requirement for students set by the New York State Education Department.

A delayed opening schedule means that classes will start one and one-half hours later than normal and transportation will be provided one and one-half hours later than the normal pick up for all district and private schools. In the event of a delayed opening, "Parent Link" will be activated in the same way it would be if schools were to be closed for the day. Please make sure the school has your current telephone number in order for you to receive this call.

### *Delayed Starting Time*

1-4 Elementary Schools 10:45  
POB Kindergarten Center 10:15

In the event that schools are closed or delayed in opening because of inclement weather or other emergency, the following radio and TV stations will be notified and will make announcements, usually from 7:00 am to 9:00 am.

WCBS 880AM    WBAB 102.3FM    WKJY 98.3FM    WHLI 1100AM  
WALK 97.5FM    WINS 1010AM    WGBB 1240AM    Cablevision Ch. 12

**In addition, "Parent Link" will send a message to all families with active phone numbers in our system.**

*NOTE: With the cooperation of the Plainview Fire Department, arrangements have been made to sound the fire siren at 6:30 am, 7:00 am, and 7:30 am promptly. When the emergency conditions warrant the closing of schools, listen for the signal.*



## Support Services



Our elementary program includes support services for those students who have been identified as needing reinforcement or additional instruction in order to meet the New York State Standards. Programs include Extended Readiness, Academic Intervention Services, remedial reading and math support.

Please feel free to contact your child's principal for more information regarding any of these programs.

## Special Education Services



Special education services are provided to students based on recommendations made by the Committee on Special Education. Services may include: consultant teacher services, resource room instruction, integrated co-teaching, special class instruction, related services and declassification support services.

## Elementary School Psychologists



The school psychologist supports children with emotional, behavioral, social, and academic needs within the school environment. Services provided by the psychologist consist of evaluations, behavioral interventions, individual and group counseling, teacher consultation and school-wide social-emotional education. The psychologist is an integral member of the building team, which aids classroom teachers with differentiated instruction, as well as behavioral management techniques. The school psychologist also serves as a member of the Committee on Special Education, and plays an important role in crisis management and intervention.

Children are usually referred to the elementary school psychologist by their teacher, school administrator, and/or parent.

## Elementary School Social Workers



School social workers at the elementary school level perform a variety of services. Support and individual counseling are available to all students, as well as group counseling. Crisis intervention services are also provided to students when necessary. Elementary school social workers also conduct classroom presentations on various school-related issues. Social workers assist families in obtaining information about community resources, as well as make referrals to outside agencies.

Children are usually referred to the elementary school social worker by their teacher, school administrator, and/or parent.

# Testing

As required by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) federal legislation and New York State Department of Education, all students in grade three thru grade eight will be administered a New York State test in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. These tests are designed to measure students' understanding of mathematical concepts and to measure students' understanding of written, oral and literal text in keeping with the New York State Standards. Fourth grade students will also be administered the New York State science exam. The science test assesses a student's progress in understanding science concepts, content and skills. Obtained test scores assist in planning student instruction. They are not, and should not be viewed, as an absolute measure of a child's abilities or potential.



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Mr. Mark Donovan.....Transportation Supervisor

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District is to provide an academically challenging and stimulating environment for all students, and to enable them to realize their full potential to be happy, ethical and analytical citizens of the world.

We do this by:

- making tolerance, acceptance, respect, honesty and kindness expectations for all students, and for members of the Plainview-Old Bethpage school community;
- identifying each student's academic, social-emotional, aesthetic and physical needs, and striving to meet those needs; and
- encouraging communication between and among students, teachers, parents, administrators, and community members