



Giving Rise
to
College Graduates,
Community Leaders,
and Cultural Ambassadors

Middle School Handbook
2019 – 2020

GIVING RISE TO
COLLEGE GRADUATES
COMMUNITY LEADERS
CULTURAL AMBASSADORS

September 3, 2019

Dear Peterson Middle School Students:

Welcome to a new school year!

We hope that you had a restful and enjoyable summer. We cannot wait to hear about your summer adventures, the exciting books you read, projects you took on, or the new friendships you formed. During the summer, your teachers, AP Nieves, and I, worked diligently to ensure that upon your return to Peterson, you would find some beautiful and engaging new learning spaces, exciting new learning opportunities as well as all the resources you need to continue to grow as College Graduates, Community Leaders, and Cultural Ambassadors.

Last school year was exciting and inspiring as many of you demonstrated your dedication to our school. Some of you took on leadership roles and sought out ways to positively impact your community. Some of you served as student mentors to younger students. Others served in various student committees and even led the creation of a new dress code for Peterson and provided feedback for our new field. This year, we want to challenge you to continue to get involved. If you were not one before, become a student mentor, a safety patrol, a student advocate—whatever you choose—just get involved! There is a leader within every single one of you, and even the smallest actions can have the greatest impact. It takes all of us, students, teachers, parents, and community members, working together to ensure Peterson remains a safe, welcoming, and supportive school for all.

As you know, this year will be our first year as a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) school. We are confident that this programmatic focus will allow you to develop the academic and social emotional skills as well as the mindsets necessary to excel in school and in life. Furthermore, you will be engaged in opportunities that will help you develop the values that we hold dear at Peterson: Perseverance and Grit, Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Self-Motivation, Compassion, Courage, and Collaboration. So, as we kick off another school year, make it a goal to become a better you by demonstrating these values in all the choices that you make as a Peterson student. These values will help you be the kind of citizen our society needs and will tremendously impact the lives of others in our community.

Have a productive 2019-2020 school year!

Kate Kane
Principal

Yalil Nieves
Assistant Principal

I Who We Are – Our Vision

Every day you walk into school, you will be investing in your future. Every day students, teachers and staff will share in the 'vision' of why we work every day, sharing in the belief that,

Peterson School Gives Rise to

College Graduates,

*students who are prepared to pursue education beyond high school,
and graduate college successfully*

Community Leaders,

students who are prepared to engage in shaping and enriching their world

Cultural Ambassadors,

students who appreciate and value those from other backgrounds and cultures

II What We Believe – Our Values

Every day Peterson students will seek to live out some lasting beliefs or ideals. These **Values** will have major influence on the behavior and attitude we project within our school community and are vital to our success.

The Values That Will Help You RiSE

1) Perseverance and Grit

Continued effort doing something despite difficulty in order to achieve success.

2) Critical Thinking

Ability to think clearly and engage in reflective and independent thinking.

3) Problem Solving

Process of finding solutions to difficult or complex issues.

4) Self-Motivation

Force that drives you to do things independently without being pushed by other people or situations.

5) Compassion

Concern and understanding for the feelings and needs of others.

6) Courage

Belief that will permit you to face difficulties and challenges without fear.

7) Collaboration

Students working together with others to complete a task or achieve a goal.

III Participating in Our Community

Middle School Honor Code

In order to participate in a trusting and responsible school community, Peterson Middle School students will be truthful with their peers, faculty and staff, respect others, and act with academic integrity.

At Peterson, our community is based upon politeness, accountability, and respect. We are committed to providing a safe and caring environment that is free from disruption, violence and any form of harassment, so that every one of our students can develop to their full potential.

Peterson Dress Code

Dress Code Goals:

- **Community:** Clothes that represent the community's diverse backgrounds and that promotes unity and acceptance
- **Identity:** Clothes that reflect students' individual choices and their preferences
- **Safety:** Clothes that students feel safe in physically, mentally, and emotionally

Section 1

Peterson Basic Principle:

Certain body parts must be covered for all students at all times.

- a. Clothes must be worn in such a way that genitals, buttocks, breasts, and nipples are fully covered with opaque fabric. (However, cleavage should not have coverage requirements.) All items listed in the "Must Wear" and "May Wear" categories below must meet this basic principle.

Section 2

Peterson Students Must Wear:

- a. A shirt (with fabric in the front, back, and on the sides under the arms), AND
Pants/jeans or the equivalent (for example, a skirt, sweatpants, leggings, a dress or shorts), AND
- b. Shoes, including slides and slippers. (Students in PK-2nd must wear shoes that fasten around the back of the foot.)

Peterson Students May Wear:

(As long as these items do not violate Section 1)

- a. Beanies and skull caps (hats that fit tightly around head) are acceptable.
- b. Religious headwear
- c. Hoodie sweatshirts (hoods cannot be up)
- d. Fitted pants
- e. Pajama pants (must stay up on their own)
- f. Ripped jeans
- g. Tank tops, including spaghetti straps and halter tops

- h. Athletic attire
- i. Visible waistbands on undergarments or visible straps on undergarments under clothing (as long as this is done in a way that does not violate Section 1 above)

Peterson Students Cannot Wear Clothes that Contain:

- a. Violent language or images
- b. Images or language depicting drugs or alcohol (or any illegal item or activity)
- c. Hate speech, profanity, pornography
- d. Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class or consistently marginalized groups
- e. Any clothing that reveals visible undergarments (visible waistbands and visible straps are allowed)
- f. Swimsuits (except as required in class or athletic practice)
- g. Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon
- h. Any item that obscures the face or ears, such as hoods (except as a religious observance)
- i. Baseball caps (May be worn outside during recess only.)

Section 3

Peterson Dress Code Enforcement- All students and parents receive a copy of the dress code.

- Step 1: Receive warning from homeroom teacher.
- Step 2: Private one on one conversation with teacher.
- Step 3: Call home and get change of clothes.
- Step 4: Talk with parents and determine appropriate consequences.

A Healthy Community

According to the Student Code of Conduct (SCC), bullying means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students, that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the following effects: (1) placing the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property; (2) causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health; (3) substantially interfering with the student's academic performance; or (4) substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Bullying may take various forms, including without limitation, one or more of the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. This list is meant to be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

-Cyberbullying means using information and communication technologies to bully.

-Retaliation means any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment directed against a student who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying.

-Peer Conflict means disagreements and oppositional interactions that are situational, immediate and developmentally appropriate. We will work to learn new skills in social competency, learning personal boundaries and peaceably resolving conflict, and to model appropriate social interactions. These interventions are designed to prevent Peer Conflict from escalating to Bullying.

It is the responsibility of every student, teacher and parent to ensure that bullying or intimidation does not occur at any level at Peterson Elementary School. ***All students should be aware that bullying, which impacts the dignity of people at work or school, is unacceptable and will be subject to consequences as outlined in the CPS Student Code of Conduct.***
Respect for Our Guests - Substitute / Student Teachers

On occasion, substitutes or student teachers may be assigned to your classroom. These people are guests at Peterson Middle School and must be treated with respect. Students are expected to be courteous and helpful.

Substitute teachers will be provided with work from your classroom teacher that is part of the regular curriculum. Assigned work is to be completed in the prescribed time allotted. Students who are rude or disruptive with a substitute or a student teacher will receive consequences consistent with the CPS Student Code of Conduct.

Achieving Success by Being Here - Attendance Policy

You are expected to be in school every day and on time. More importantly, you will want to be here in order to achieve the success that you deserve. According to CPS policy, the only valid causes for absence are:

1. Illness
2. Observance of a Religious Holiday
3. Death in the Immediate Family
4. Family Emergency
5. Circumstances which cause reasonable concern to the parent / legal guardian for the safety and health of the student
6. Other situations beyond the student's control, determined by the Principal or Principal's designee

In order for your absence to be excused, it must be:

1. Known to the Principal or the Principal's designee (including suspensions).
2. Attested by a note signed by your parent or legal guardian stating the cause of the absence.

In addition to writing a note, your parent or guardian should also call the school the day of your absence to inform the school that you will not be in attendance that day: 773-534-5070. Any student who is absent from school will not be allowed to participate in or be a spectator at any same-day after-school activities. Students may also not show up to school only to participate in an activity—whole day attendance is required.

Middle School Cell Phone Policy

To ensure the safety of all Peterson students and to maintain the integrity of the instructional program, Peterson students must adhere to the following expectations:

1. Students are not permitted to use cell phones during school hours.
2. Students who choose to bring their cell phones to school are required to hand in the phone to their homeroom teacher at the beginning of the day and collect it at the end of the day.
3. It is each student's responsibility to sign the Cell Phone Log each time they hand in or pick up their phone from their homeroom teacher.
4. Students are prohibited from using a cell phone to take pictures or videos at any time on school property.
5. If a student violates the Cell Phone Policy, the cell phone will be confiscated and stored in the main office. Confiscated cell phones must be picked up by the student's parent.
6. If a student violates the Cell Phone Policy, the appropriate administrator will assign disciplinary action pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct and parents will be notified.

If students need to call their parents, they must come to the main office and request to use the phone before or after-school. Students may request to use the phone in the main office during recess or lunch, but only with a pass from a teacher. If students do not have a pass, they will not be allowed to use the phone during recess and lunch. ***No students will be allowed to use the phone in the main office during instructional time.***

If a student chooses not to turn in their cell-phone, then they will be subject to discipline pursuant to the SCC.

All middle school students and their parents will be asked to sign an agreement acknowledging receipt of this policy.

IV Sharing Space Respectfully

Arrival and Dismissal Expectations

- Students are encouraged to ride bikes, scooters, and/or skateboards to school; however, you must walk bikes, scooters, or skateboards when on school grounds. School grounds include the entire block around the perimeter of the school from Bryn Mawr to Christiana, Christiana to Catalpa, Catalpa to Kimball and Kimball to Bryn Mawr.
- No pets are permitted on our school campus while school is in session.
- In the morning, please be in your classroom at 8:45 am. If you are not in your classroom by 8:45 am, then you will be considered tardy.
- **Please note that after accumulating three (3) late arrival ‘tardies’, students will be expected to attend a make-up session on Fridays after school from 3:45 pm to 4:45 pm.**

Hallway Transition and Classroom Arrival Expectations

You are expected to be in your seat ready to learn when class starts. In between classes, you have two (2) minutes to move from class to class, including your scheduled Encore classes.

Students who arrive tardy to class (including Encore classes!) without a teacher-signed pass may be assigned a **class time make-up session** by the teacher which will take place from 3:45 pm-4:45 pm every Friday after school.

Locker Policy

In order to be issued a locker and keep your locker, you must comply with the following expectations. Please ensure that your locker is...

- Kept clean and organized. All food must be kept in sealed containers and brought home every night so as to not attract insects.
- Used only by you and your locker mate.
- Used to store only books and school appropriate personal items. Items such as fidget spinners and slime are banned from school and should not be kept in bags or lockers. Inform an adult immediately if you see a prohibited item in the locker of another student.
- Free of exterior decorations. This includes birthday and/or other celebrations for friends. The only exception to this rule will be for school-wide celebrations e.g. paw prints.

Hallway Expectations

The 2nd Floor is a **BLUE** hallway. In the BLUE hallway, conversational talking is permitted. However, shouting is not acceptable, nor is physical 'play.' In the middle school hallways, you are also expected to use appropriate language and behaviors, keep lockers organized and closed, and pick up trash.

The stairways are **ORANGE** spaces. These are spaces where noise should be kept at a minimum as you prepare to enter the first-floor hallway.

The first floor is a **RED** hallway. In the first-floor hallways, you are expected to **walk and stay silent at all times**. Staying silent allows all younger students to learn without distraction or disruption.

Since 7th and 8th graders have Encore classes that differ from their other academic classes, you will transition to classes independently. Teachers will be stationed in the hallway to monitor you, but you are responsible for getting to Encore and following school-wide expectations while doing so.

Bathroom Policy

Permission is required from an adult any time a student wishes to use the bathroom.

Students may not use the washroom when entering the building or returning from lunch/recess without receiving permission. All students must sign-out before using the restroom. If you are headed to a class, please go to that class and sign-out before going to the bathroom. If you are in a class, please request permission from the teacher, (be patient if your teacher asks you to wait), get a pass, and sign-out before going to the bathroom. Once in the bathroom, students are expected to:

- Use appropriate language
- Respect others' privacy
- Leave the area litter free
- Flush the toilet and wash their hands
- Inform teachers if there is a problem-failure to do this will mean you could be held accountable
- Return to class as quickly as possible

5th and 6th Boys:

The 5th and 6th boys will not use the boys' restrooms on the 2nd floor. They are only to use the boys' restroom on the first floor located near the south stairway. If 5th and 6th boys are found in the 2nd floor bathroom, they will be subject to consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. The only exception to this will be for 6th graders who have a class with an 8th grade teacher who then may use the 7th/8th bathroom during that class period in order to prevent the loss of instructional time.

Vandalizing the bathroom will be subject to consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Please inform a staff member about any vandalism you see in the bathrooms.

Middle School Recess and Lunch Expectations

During middle school lunch and recess all first-floor classes are in session and students are actively learning. Therefore, there is strictly no talking allowed when transitioning to lunch/recess or back to class. This applies to the entire first floor.

Please note the following expectations around transitioning from recess to lunch:

- When an adult blows the whistle, middle schoolers are expected to stop what they are doing and return to the plaza immediately.
- Middle schoolers will line up along the plaza wall in a single-file line or four lines as a grade level as directed by recess coordinator.
- Middle schoolers should get quiet and be ready to enter the building.
- An adult will let students know when to go into the building. When you are in the building, you should quietly stay to the right of the hallway.
- Middle school students will be dismissed from the lunchroom by the security officer and adults in the lunchroom. Students should clean up their eating area in the lunchroom and remind their peers to do the same.
- You are expected to keep food on your plate. If you throw food inappropriately, you will be subject to consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
- Students need to raise their hand in order to get passes for bathroom/water.
- At recess, you may participate in organized activities, walk along the path, or talk with friends; however, this does not include throwing rocks, or other objects, approaching the fence to talk to a stranger, or going outside of the fence.
- For safety reasons, eating, gum chewing, and drinking--with the exception of water--are not allowed during recess.
- Students must bring a pass in the event that they are late to recess or lunch.
- ***If an adult supervising recess or lunch gives you a direction, you are expected to follow it the first time it is given. If you ignore or disrespect the directions of an adult, you will be subject to consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.***

Emergency Drills

There are four types of emergency codes at Peterson Elementary. They are the evacuation drill, the lockdown, the shelter-in-place, and the all-clear.

1. The **Evacuation** code is used whenever it is safer outside than inside the building such as in case of a fire, explosion, indoor hazardous material spill, structural failure, etc. The principal will call an evacuation, and you will hear an alarm sound. You should go with your class out an exit to your designated exterior safe location. You should always stay with your class.
2. **Lockdown** is used when there is a threat of violence or serious incident that could jeopardize the safety of students/staff such as an armed intruder, shooting, hostage incident, gang fights, civil disturbance, etc. The principal will announce that the building is on lockdown. Students should enter their classrooms immediately, get quiet, and listen to directions from the teacher.
3. **Shelter-in-place** is used when evacuation would place people at risk. Shelter-in-place provides a refuge for students, staff, and the public inside the school building during an emergency such as severe weather, a hazardous material release outdoors, or threat of violence in the neighborhood. Interior safe locations are located in areas of the building that maximize the safety of occupants. Interior safe locations may change depending on the emergency. Students should go to their assigned interior safe location with their class.
4. **All Clear** is used when the threat or emergency has passed and the school is safe to return to normal operations.

V Working for Academic Success

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity means producing and turning in work that is truly your own, relying on your own skills in assessments, and abiding by the rules for completing work set by your teacher(s).

Examples of failure to act with academic honesty include:

- submitting in-class or out-of-class work that has been copied from another student, or allowing another student to copy your work;
- submitting work that has been taken directly from other sources such as the Internet without being put into your own words (plagiarism); and
- any form of cheating during tests/quizzes or other types of assessments.

Students who do not conduct themselves with academic integrity will be subject to a disciplinary review with teachers / school administrators that may result in consequences as outlined by the Student Code of Conduct.

Planning for Academic Success

Students will work with their Advisory teacher to learn and use effective strategies as learners. This will include the use of a Peterson-provided Agenda/Planner that will be an important tool in organizing daily learning experiences. Any real success will be achieved when students 'own' their learning experiences. Remember those Peterson Values!

Grading Policy

The following grading policy applies to **5th – 6th Grade Classes**:

<u>Summative</u> (End of Unit Projects; On-Demand Tasks; Tests)	<u>Formative</u> (Class Work; Group Work; Homework)	<u>Performance (Behavior, Preparedness, Participation)</u>
45% of Your Grade	40% of Your Grade	15% of Your Grade

The following grading policy applies to **7th and 8th Grade Classes**:

<u>Summative</u> (End of Unit Projects; On-Demand Tasks; Tests)	<u>Formative</u> (Class Work; Group Work; Homework)	<u>Performance (Behavior, Preparedness, Participation)</u>
50% of Your Grade	35% of Your Grade	15% of Your Grade

Homework Policy

Completing homework is an important key to your success as a student. All out-of-school work (homework) is due in class on the assigned date. Work that is not completed and brought to class on time, during the scheduled period, (unless otherwise stated) will result in the following consequences:

1. Grade for the homework assignment will be recorded as an "F".
2. Students that consistently fail to complete homework may be required to attend a lunch or after school study period.

In instances of absence, students will be allowed one school day for every day absent to complete classwork and homework assigned while they were out of school.

Managing and Monitoring Your Progress

All students in grades 5 to 8 have access to Student Portal as well as a Google e-mail account. ***You are responsible for checking your grades on a weekly basis to make sure that you are not falling behind in any of your classes.***

How to check your grades

1. Go to <https://aspen.cps.edu/aspen/logon.do>
2. Log in using your CPS username and password.
3. View your grades and attendance.

What to do if you have a question about your grade

If you have a question about your grade in one of your classes, you should ask to set up a time to meet with your teacher or e-mail your teacher. ***If you need help, you may ask your parent, but as a middle school student, it is important that you learn to advocate for yourself and your academic success.*** Some questions and statements you might use with your teacher when discussing your grade are:

- Would you please explain to me how my grade is calculated?
- What is affecting my grade?
- Is there work that I am missing?
- May I have permission to turn in that work?
- Would you help me establish a plan to get back on track?
- Would you please help me with...?
- Is there tutoring that I can attend?
- Would you recommend a peer tutor for me?

When Success Isn't Happening

All members of the Peterson community are committed to the academic success of every student. Therefore, if you are failing in any of your classes, the following action steps will be taken:

Step 1: At the beginning of the year, if you are in grades 6 or 8, you will receive a copy of the promotion policy. You should discuss it with your parents and sign it when you understand it. Grades 5 and 7 will also learn the grading policies and expectations for success in their classes. Additionally, you and your parents will have usernames for Parent Portal and Student Portal and should be regularly checking your attendance and grades throughout the year.

Step 2: At the start of the school year, teachers will communicate their grading practices with you. They are also listed in this handbook.

Step 3: If you are getting a D or an F three (3) weeks into the quarter, the following steps will be taken:

- You and your teacher will establish concrete action steps for improvement.
- Your teacher will call your parents.

Step 4: If you are getting a D or an F at progress report time, five (5) weeks into the quarter, the following steps will be taken:

- You and your teacher will create an individual plan with concrete action steps to help you improve your grade.
- Your teacher will call your parents and communicate your grade to them.
- You will be given a copy of the Mary Gage Peterson Student, Parent, and Teacher Agreement for Academic Success.
- You will be required to attend after-school tutoring until your teacher has sufficient evidence that you have mastered the content.

Step 5: If you are getting a D or an F at the seven (7) week mark:

- If you were getting a D or an F at progress report time (the 5 week mark) then your teacher will talk with you about how you are doing at the 7 week mark.
- If you are not making progress or following through with your established action plan, you will meet with an administrator, your teacher, and your parents to set next steps.

Step 6: If you are getting a D or an F at the end of the quarter, the following action steps will be taken:

- Your action plan with concrete steps is revised and updated.
- Additional interventions are considered and implemented.
- Your parents are called to come for a conference (report card pick-up or other).
- An administrator is present at the conference.
- The Academic Warning Letter (CPS) is filled out with the updated plan and given to you and your parents.

Learning Experiences Outside of Peterson - Field Trips

In order to attend field trips, you must have written permission from your parent or guardian on the school field trip permission form. Permission slips should always be turned into your teacher well before the time of the field trip.

Expected Behavior

When you are on a field trip, you are representing yourself, your family, and Peterson Elementary School. Whether on campus or away from our building students are expected to:

- Be Respectful, Be polite, Respect all chaperones, and follow their direction
- Be willing to learn and try new things, Follow the rules and expectations of the learning site
- Follow Field Trip cell phone policies -Cell phones may be taken on field trips, but the same rules that apply in school apply to field trips. Cellphones should not be taken out or used on a field trip. If they are, they will be taken by a teacher or another adult and turned over to administration. You may get permission from your teacher to use your cell phone as a camera.

Benchmark Grades and Expectations

According to Chicago Public Schools, promotion decisions for students in grades 6 and 8 will be made during the last week of school. Promotion status and applicable summer school requirements will be determined by the student's District-Wide Assessment (DWA) scores in reading and math, followed by a review of the student's academic performance and attendance record. The complete CPS policy will be made available to students through grade level advisory programs.

Summarizing promotion standards

Students in the benchmark grades of 6th and 8th grades will be promoted to the next grade if:

- Their District Wide Assessment (DWA) Reading and Mathematics scores are both at or above the 24th National Percentile Ranking on standardized testing, and have a passing grade in Reading and Math. Students with a failing grade in Reading or Math will be required to attend Summer School.
- Their District Wide Assessment (DWA) Reading and Mathematics scores is below the 24th National Percentile Ranking on standardized testing, but they have a grade of 'C' or above in Reading and Math. Students with a grade in Reading or Math (or both) below a 'C' will be required to attend Summer School.

High Schools and Application Process

Chicago Public School (CPS) students have many options when considering which high school they will attend. They are: 1) neighborhood schools; 2) small schools; 3) career academies; 4) charter and contract schools; 5) magnet schools; 6) military academies; 7) selective enrollment schools; and 8) multiple different programs in areas such as career and technical education.

The high school application process has three steps: 1) research; 2) choose; and 3) apply. Note that the high school application process has been streamlined with the new **go.cps.edu** website. This is a great place to learn, research, explore, and apply to nearly every CPS school and program through one online platform.

It is very important that all 7th and 8th grade students attend the high school application presentation in the fall with the counselors. You and your parents will get valuable information that you cannot afford to miss. For more information on the CPS high school application process go to: go.cps.edu

8th Grade Graduation Requirements

At Peterson, 8th graders are expected to be leaders within the Peterson community, embodying both the Peterson vision and our vision-based values. More than any other students within the building, 8th graders are the models for what it means to be a Peterson student.

Student Expectations to Participate in Graduation Events and the Graduation Ceremony

- A grade of C or better in all subjects, including Encore
- Peterson and CPS attendance requirements are met
- Any behavioral/social restorations are completed

VI Getting the Most Out of your Middle School Experience

Student Fees

All Peterson students are expected to pay \$50.00 in student fees by the end of the first quarter. The student fees will be used to purchase supplies, pay for some field trips, and obtain consumables for classroom use such as magazine subscriptions. Please remember to pay your student fees. If for some reason a family is experiencing financial difficulties, please contact the office to make arrangements for these fees.

The afterHours Program

Our afterHours program will provide a range of activities, as well as opportunities for additional academic and enrichment experiences.

College Graduates	afterHours will help students prepare for success in high school and prepare students to be college graduates. Activities will engage students in academic content in a non-traditional learning environment, such as project-based learning, STEM clubs, newspaper writing clubs or Math clubs.
Cultural Ambassadors	afterHours will address the needs of diverse learners at varying levels by building social and emotional skills through a range of activities that encourage creative expression, communication and collaboration, and the opportunity to learn about other cultures and languages.
Community Leaders	afterHours will provide opportunities for students to connect with the community, either through volunteer work or through partnership with community organizations.

Sports

Any student who would like to be a part of a sports team is able to participate. Games will be held on Saturdays at Mather and other local high schools, and practices will be scheduled throughout the week at Peterson.

They include:

- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Track
- Soccer
- Golf
- Flag Football
- Floor Hockey
- Wrestling

Peterson Sports Conduct - Athlete Expectations:

1. Athletes **must** maintain a 'C' average in all classes during the academic calendar to be eligible to play and to maintain eligibility on the specific team. (Per the Sports Administration Handbook)
2. Athletes must display a positive attitude both in and out of the building.
3. Athletes who miss more than 2 practices that are unexcused could be subject to benching for the game or season. (You must inform the coach prior to the absence if possible, otherwise it is considered unexcused) The following are excused absences:
 - 3.1. Sick (doctor's note or doctor's appointment)
 - 3.2. Religious
 - 3.3. Field Trip
 - 3.4. Extenuating circumstances
4. Athletes must have a current physical on file.

Game Travel

Athletes are responsible for transportation to and from games.

Getting More Involved

While new experiences are often added throughout the school year, here are some opportunities for service and leadership.

Safety Patrol:

Student leaders who work to ensure a safe entry and exit onto the Peterson property.
Staff Contact: Mr. Spychalski

Cultural Ambassadors:

Student leaders who share the Peterson 'culture' with school families and visitors.
Staff Contact: Mr. Ruby

Student Mentors:

7th and 8th grade students who support younger students emotionally and socially.
Staff Contact: Mr. Ruby

Advisory Reps

Leaders selected by their grade level advisory group for grade level and middle school planning and communication.
Staff Contact: Advisory Teacher

Student Voice

5th - 8th Grade leadership group selected for feedback sessions with the school principal.
Staff Contact: Ms. Kane & Ms. Nieves

Peer Tutors

Opportunity to support the academic efforts of fellow middle school students.
Staff Contact: Mr. Ruby

Lunch Advisory Team

Upper grade students who plan/coordinate lunch experiences for lower grade students.
Staff Contact: Mr. Caban

Student Service Team

Upper Grade students who form a rapid response group to support school community needs. Staff Contact: Mr. Ruby

Important Dates

Date	Activity or Event
9/3/19	First Day of School for Students
10/14/19	Columbus Day—No school
11/07/19	End of Quarter 1
11/08/19	No School for Students
11/11/19	Veteran’s Day—No School
11/13/19	Parent-Teacher Conference Day
11/27/19 to 11/29/19	Thanksgiving Holiday—No School
12/23/19 to 1/3/20	Winter Vacation— No School
1/20/20	M.L. King Day—No School
1/30/20	End of Quarter 2
1/31/20	No School for Students
2/17/20	President’s Day—No School
4/6/20 to 4/10/20	Spring Break— No School
4/16/20	End of Quarter 3
4/17/20	No School for Students
4/22/20	Parent-Teacher Conference Day
5/25/20	Memorial Day—No School
6/16/20	End of Quarter 4 Last Day of School for Students

Middle School Bell Schedule

Note: *Students will not be dismissed before 3:45pm under any circumstances and should not be crowding the doorway of their classroom or out in the hallway. Please also note that a teacher dismisses students, not the bell.*

5th & 6th Grade	7th & 8th Grade
Attendance 8:45 am – 8:52 am	Attendance 8:45 am – 8:52 am
Period 1 (62 minutes) 8:54 am – 9:56 am	Period 1 (62 minutes) 8:54 am – 9:56 am
Period 2 (62 minutes) 9:58 am -11:00 am	Period 2 (67 minutes) 9:58 am -11:05 am
Encore	Recess/Lunch
Recess/Lunch	Encore
Period 3 (68 minutes) 1: 02 pm – 2:08 pm	Period 3 (68 minutes) 1: 02 pm – 2:08 pm
Period 4 (62 minutes) 2:10 pm -3:12 pm	Period 4 (62 minutes) 2:10 pm -3:12 pm
Advisory (30 minutes) 3:15 pm -3:45 pm	Advisory (30 minutes) 3:15 pm -3:45 pm

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Peterson Elementary School

Acknowledgment of Handbook and Agreement to Expectations

SY 2019 – 2020

I acknowledge that I have received this handbook, and I agree to abide by the expectations outlined within it. I commit to live by our vision-based values and work toward my rise as I prepare to be a College Graduate, Community Leader, and Cultural Ambassador.

Student Name: _____ Advisory Room: _____

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

I acknowledge that my son or daughter has received this handbook, and I will support him or her to abide by the expectations outlined within it.

Signature of Parent: _____ Date: _____

Peterson Elementary School

Peterson Middle School Student Cell Phone Policy

SY 19-20

1. Students are not permitted to use cell phones during school hours.
2. Students who choose to bring their cell phones to school are required to hand in the phone to their homeroom teacher at the beginning of the day and collect it at the end of the day.
3. It is each student's responsibility to sign the Cell Phone Log each time they hand in or pick up their phone from their homeroom teacher.
4. Students are prohibited from using a cell phone to take pictures or videos at any time on school property.
5. If a student violates the Cell Phone Policy, the cell phone will be confiscated and stored in the main office. Confiscated cell phones must be picked up by the student's parent.
6. If a student violates the Cell Phone Policy, the appropriate administrator will assign disciplinary action pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct and parents will be notified.

I have read, understand, and will abide by the Peterson Middle School Cell Phone Policy.

Student Signature

Student Name

Date

I have read, understand, and will have my child abide by the Peterson Middle School Cell Phone Policy.

Parent Signature

Parent Name

Date