

Executive Summary of Updates to the 2026-2027 Parent/Student Handbook December 10, 2025

Recommended revisions submitted by:

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 - Ms. Maura Raleigh, Assistant Principal, Pleasantdale Middle School
 - Ms. Kathleen Tomei, Principal, Pleasantdale Elementary School
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The Pleasantdale School District #107 Parent/Student Handbook is a comprehensive document that has undergone continuous review over the past several years to ensure it reflects current practices, policies, and legal requirements. As shown in the proposed updates to the 2026–2027 Parent/Student Handbook, most revisions remain minor. Recommended additions are largely derived from the Illinois Principals Association (IPA) Model School Handbook (MSH), which includes updates based on laws enacted in Illinois over the past year. The MSH language also aligns with PRESS board policy recommendations.

Administrators, staff, and parent representative Lindsay Hosanna reviewed the document as part of the annual process. A committee meeting was held on Monday, November 3, 2025, to discuss needed changes and clarify language, with participation from Lindsay Hosanna (PTO Member), Kara Mulder (PES Kindergarten Teacher), Kathleen Tomei (Pleasantdale Elementary Principal), Jeanine Arundel (Pleasantdale Middle School Principal), Maura Raleigh (Pleasantdale Middle School Assistant Principal), and Maggie Pisanko (Pleasantdale Middle School Math Specialist). Building administrators then collaborated to propose the final document.

The proposed changes generally fall into three categories:

1. Additions of New Language

These represent the most significant changes and include new sections designed to protect students and clarify expectations for staff.

- **6.30 Student Behavior** – Adds a section outlining the Yondr phone-free pouch system at the Middle School, requiring students to secure personal devices throughout the day to reduce distractions and promote focus. This section also

includes updated language identifying sexting as prohibited student conduct.

- **3.15 Vandalism** – Adds language stating that the district will seek restitution from students and parents/guardians for vandalism or other actions that damage school property.
- **5.30 Guidance and Counseling (K–8)** – Clarifies the availability of counseling services for students in grades K–8 and outlines relevant Illinois law. The section explains that counselors are available to students who need support, notes that students aged 12 or older may receive counseling without parental consent, and specifies that students under age 17 may receive up to eight 90-minute sessions unless a parent or guardian provides consent.

2. Revisions to Existing Sections

These updates ensure alignment with current mandates, laws, and PRESS recommendations. Examples include:

- **1.50 Equal Educational Opportunity and Sex Equity** – Includes updated language directing concerns to Dr. Palzet or Dr. Ban. It clarifies that students may file sex discrimination complaints through the Title IX Grievance Procedure or sex equity complaints through the Uniform Grievance Procedure, with appeals available to the Regional Superintendent and then the State Superintendent.
- **5.80 Students Who Are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence** – Outlines the district's responsibilities under Article 26A. It explains that these students are entitled to in-school supports, flexibility in making up work, access to counseling or services, and clear procedures for requesting assistance or filing complaints under nondiscrimination and Title IX processes.
- **6.45 Harassment & Teen Dating Violence Prohibited** – Reinforces the district's dedication to a safe, nondiscriminatory learning environment. It outlines reporting expectations, confidentiality protections, investigation procedures, consequences for individuals found in violation, and protections against retaliation.

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3. Updates Reflecting Current Practices, Grammar Corrections, and Staff/Board Changes

Examples include:

- **1.35 Student Hours, Arrival/Departure Procedures** – Updated to reflect the elementary school's new family identification placard system used during dismissal.
- **2.20 Student Absences** – Updated to reflect current language on truancy, chronic absences, and excused absences.
- **2.60 Grading & Promotion** – Notes that Middle School parents are encouraged to regularly check grades on Schoology and/or Skyward.
- **2.100 Home and Hospital Instruction** – Directs families to contact their child's principal for information about home or hospital instruction.
- **4.10 Bus Transportation** – Updated to reflect that the elementary late bus runs Monday through Friday.
- **6.30 Corporal Punishment** – Expanded to explicitly list prohibited actions (e.g., slapping, paddling, forcing students into painful positions) and to clearly state that corporal punishment is prohibited under all circumstances.

The D107 Parent/Student Handbook remains a comprehensive and carefully developed document. Significant time and thoughtful consideration have been dedicated over the years to ensuring alignment with district practices, expectations, and legal mandates. Past administrators and school boards should be commended for their foundational work. Appreciation is also extended to this year's review committee for helping ensure our handbook remains current and reflective of our district's values and procedures.