

**Pull-Out
Section**

Parent Information Packet 2018-2019

Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)

In accordance with the Dignity for All Students Act, an environment free of discrimination and harassment is of paramount importance. Students must exhibit behaviors that promote positive educational practices, allow appropriate social and academic growth, and encourage healthy dialogue in respectful ways.

All forms of discrimination and harassment of students and staff based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex by school employees or students on school property and at school-sponsored activities and events that take place at locations off school property is hereby strictly prohibited. In addition, any act of discrimination or harassment, outside of school sponsored events, which can reasonably be expected to materially and substantially disrupt the education process may be subject to discipline.

Rules against discrimination and harassment are included in the Code of Conduct, publicized District-wide and disseminated to all staff and parents. An age-appropriate summary shall be distributed to all students at a school assembly at the beginning of each school year.

The District will investigate all complaints of harassment and discrimination, either formal or informal, and take prompt corrective measures, as necessary. Complaints will be investigated in accordance with applicable policies and regulations. If, after an appropriate investigation, the District finds that the policy has been violated,

corrective action will be taken in accordance with District policies (Policy 7550), the Code of Conduct, and all appropriate federal or state laws.

Any person who has reasonable cause to suspect that a student has been subjected to discrimination or harassment by an employee or student, who acts reasonably and in good faith and reports such information to school officials or law enforcement authorities, shall have immunity from any civil liability that may arise from making such report. The District prohibits any retaliatory behavior directed at complainants, victims, witnesses and/or any other individuals who participated in the investigation of a complaint of discrimination or harassment.

For more information or clarification, please contact Joseph D'Amato, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, 686-5125.

Child Abuse Hotline Notification (NYSOCFS)

School districts are required to provide this information to the community. If you suspect abuse or maltreatment, report it now! Call the NYS Office of Children and Family Services statewide toll free telephone number 1-800-342-3720 or access the website here: <http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/> If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call TDD/TTY at 1-800-638-5163 or have your Video Relay System provider call 1-800-342-3720. If you believe that a child is in immediate danger, call 911 or your local police department.

Attendance Policy

It is a well-known fact that being a good student starts with good attendance. In fact, good attendance is important in school, work, sports, club activities, or any other aspect of life.

Having good attendance lets others know that you are responsible and take your work seriously. That is important to being a good student, a good employee and a good citizen. In order to do well in school, you must first make sure you are in school and on time.

Therefore, in keeping with New York State Law, the Depew Board of Education has adopted an attendance policy, which applies to all students in grades K through 12.

Who is required to attend school?

According to New York State law, children must attend school between the ages of 6 and 16. A student who turns 16 years of age during a school year must continue in attendance until the end of the school year.

What happens when a student is absent?

The student must present a signed note from a parent giving the child's full name, date, days of absence, and reason for absence, on the day of return to the designated person responsible for attendance in that building.

What is an excused absence?

Excused absences include personal illness, death in the family, religious observance, medical appointments, quarantine, impassable roads due to inclement weather, approved college visits, required presence in court, military obligation, approved educational trips, and approved cooperative work programs. An absence for any other reason is unexcused and is so noted on the student's record. After three days without a written excuse, the student's absence will be recorded as an unexcused absence.

How will unexcused absences from class effect a student?

In grades K-12 consequences may include, but are not limited to, in-school suspension, detention and denial of parking privileges and participation in interscholastic and extra curricular activities. See Student Handbook for more information.

How would students and parents know how many absences a student has?

Although it is the parent/student's responsibility to keep track of attendance, the school will notify parents when attendance becomes a problem. This quarterly notification will alert you that possible consequences may result. However, students or parents may consult with the school at any time to find out the student's current attendance status. This information is also accessible on the Parent Portal.

What happens when a student needs to be excused from school early?

In grades K-12, the student should present a note, signed and dated by the parent/person in parental relation, to the designated person. In grades K-5, the student should present the excuse to the classroom teacher, and in grades 6-12, to the Attendance Office.

A complete copy of the Depew Union Free School District Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy is available at the District Office which is located in the High School.

District Dress Code

...when buying school clothes, keep in mind

- The Board of Education is seeking the help and cooperation of parents in ensuring that the students of Depew are dressed for success.
- Give your children a quick check in the morning to see that their dress is acceptable. It will go a long way toward helping them look their best.

The District's Code of Conduct provides that a student's dress, grooming and appearance shall:

1. Be safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.
2. Recognize that brief garments and see-through garments are not appropriate.
3. Ensure that underwear and under-garments are completely covered with outer clothing.
4. Include footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.
5. Not include the wearing of hats or headwear in the building except for a medical or religious purpose.
6. Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous or denigrate others on account of race, color, religion or religious practices, ethnic group, national origin, gender, weight, sexual orientation, or disability.
7. Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.

Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item and, if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so shall be subject to discipline, up to and including in-school suspension for the day for repeatedly failing to comply with the dress code and shall be subject to further discipline, up to and including out-of-school suspension. Please refer to the Student Handbook in place at your building for further guidance.

Work Permits - N.Y.S. Child Labor Law

Work permits with different restrictions for different types of jobs and hours of work are issued from the High School Counseling Office, 5201 S. Transit Road, Depew (686-5069). New York State Labor Laws governing the employment of minors (under age 18) require the following to issue a permit:

1. parent's permission in writing for the student to work;
2. proof of age;
3. a certificate of physical fitness.

These permits are available: Newspaper Carrier Permit - Ages 11-18; Non-Factory Employment Permit - Ages 14-15; and Student General Employment Permit - Ages 16-17

Special Education Services

The office of Special Education is located in the Depew Middle School. It is responsible for providing services and programs for students with disabilities. These services and programs may be provided within district facilities or out-of-district. The Depew Union Free School District adheres to all legislative mandates including IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), which mandates a FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education) for all students with disabilities. The Committee on Special Education (CSE), and the Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE) are integral components, along with building level 504 and Child Study Teams (CST) in the identification and servicing of students with specialized needs. Parents are directed to NYSED website relating to a parent's guide to special education in NY for children ages 3 through 21 (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/policy/parentguide.htm>). For further information, contact Mrs. Janet Gajewski, Director of Special Education Services at 686-5123.

Child Find Notice

If your child is disabled or you suspect he/she may be disabled, he or she may be entitled to special education and/or related services without cost to you. A child with a disability is entitled to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). If you have questions or wish to refer your child, please contact Mrs. Janet Gajewski, Director of Special Education Services at 686-5123, at 5201 S. Transit Road, Depew, New York 14043.

Non-Discrimination Notice

The Depew Union Free School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, disability, color, Vietnam era veteran status, or national origin in employment and in the educational programs and other activities that it operates, as is required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX"), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504"), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA") and other state and federal statutes.

This policy of non-discrimination includes areas of employment, recruitment and appointment of employees, pay and benefits; and access to and participation in educational programs and activities. No qualified person with a disability shall, on the basis of that disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of or be subject to discrimination under any of the district's programs or activities.

Officials to Contact

Inquiries and complaints may be directed to:

1. The district official responsible for Section 504 and the ADA (pertaining to discrimination on the basis of disability) for students is Joseph D'Amato, Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Depew Union Free School District, 5201 S. Transit Rd., Depew, New York 14043, telephone 686-5125.
2. The district official responsible for Title IX (pertaining to discrimination on the basis of sex) coordination is Carol Townsend, Depew Union Free School District, 5201 S. Transit Road, Depew, New York 14043, telephone 686-5095.
3. All other inquiries and/or complaints concerning other areas of alleged discrimination should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee, 5201 S. Transit Road, Depew, New York 14043, telephone number 686-5105.

These officials will provide information, including complaint procedures to any citizen, student, or employee who feels that his rights have been violated by the district or its officials.

The McKinney-Vento Act:

Education for Homeless Children and Youth

The McKinney-Vento Act program is designed to address the problems that students in transition have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. Under this program, State Education Agencies (SEAs) must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, as other children and youth. Homeless children and youth should have access to the education and other services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging New York State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held. In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment. States and districts are required to review and undertake steps to revise laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as a barrier to the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youth.

For more information about the application of these laws, contact the OCR enforcement office that serves your state or the District Liaison, Mr. Joseph D'Amato at 686-5125.

Physicals, Immunizations & Medicines

New York State Education law requires PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS to be completed in grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11, as well as for new entrants to school and special education students due for tri-annual evaluations. Examinations may be done by your physician or the school physician. Physical forms are available at the school. A current physical exam is required for all interscholastic sports; current is defined as within one calendar year. Sports physicals done by the school physician will require complete health history and parental consent prior to physical; this is attached to the back of the physical form. Dates are set up periodically for school physicals for students who do not turn in mandatory physicals within 30 days. A dental examination is requested for all new students as well as students in grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11.

Release of BMI

(Body Mass Index) Information

Recent changes to the New York State Education Law require that BMI and weight status group be included as part of the student's health examination. We will be reporting every other year to the New York State Department of Health information about our students' weight status groups. Only summary information is sent. No names and no information about individual students are sent. However, you may choose to have your child's information excluded from this survey report.

If you do not wish to have your child's weight status group information included as part of the Health Department's survey this year, you must complete a refusal to release BMI form. To obtain this form, please contact your child's school nurse.

Prescription and Over-the-Counter Medicine

Medicine may be dispensed in school under strict guidelines established by New York State.

1. The medication must be in the container prepared by the pharmacist;
2. The school nurse must have on file a written request from the student's physician, and a written request from the parent to administer the medication;
3. The prescribed medicine must be delivered directly to the school nurse - not transported on the bus by the student.
4. The medication may only be administered by the school nurse or designee.

Immunization Requirements

Parents should consult with their child's physician regarding their child's immunization schedule. The complete immunization schedule is available at www.depewschools.org.

For 2018-19 School Year: New York State is requiring the following for students entering:

- Grade 7, 8 and 9 – 1 dose of meningococcal vaccine
- Grade 12 – 2 doses of meningococcal vaccine, or 1 dose if dose was received at 16 years of age or older

Updates for students entering Kindergarten:

- 2 varicella vaccines (chicken pox) or physician documented proof of disease
- 5 doses of DPT or DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), or 4 if fourth dose was received at four years of age or older.

- 2 doses of MMR vaccine (measles, mumps, rubella)
- 4 doses of polio vaccine, or 3 if third dose was received at four years of age or older.

Updates for students in Grade 1-5:

- 4-5 doses of DPT or DTaP (if fourth dose given after 4 years of age, fifth dose not required)

Updates for students in Grade 6:

- 2 varicella vaccines (chicken pox) or physician documented proof of disease
- Tdap vaccine (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) as previously required. Grade 6 Tdap is required only if last Tdap was given prior to age 7.
- 3-4 polio vaccines (if third dose given after 4 years of age, fourth dose not required)

The law states that medical exemptions from immunization **MUST** be renewed annually by your medical provider. The law requires either proof of adequate immunization signed by the physician or a certificate from a physician stating that your child cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons. If the above requirements are not met prior to entrance of your child into school, your child will be excluded from school by the principal.

Immunizations for College-Bound Students

Students planning to attend colleges in New York State are required to show proof of immunity against measles, mumps and rubella (unless born before January 1, 1957), as well as two doses of measles vaccine. Most colleges also require a dose of Menactra (Meningitis Vaccine). A copy of the students immunization records will be sent home to seniors; please maintain this for your record.

Communicable Diseases

In the case of COMMUNICABLE DISEASE, the district recommends:

1. If there is a suspicion of a communicable disease such as chicken pox, impetigo, conjunctivitis (pink eye), streptococcal infections such as strep throat or pediculosis (head lice), consult your physician for diagnosis and treatment. Please keep students home until contact with a physician is accomplished.
2. Call the nurse's office in the school to report the disease and ask about the re-admittance policy.
3. For re-admittance to school in some instances, the parent must accompany the child to school for examination and acceptance by the health services personnel.

Also please be advised pertinent health information will be shared with school staff as needed for the health and safety of the students.

School Food Service - Self Funded and Successful

Depew's Food Service Program offers nutritious breakfasts and lunches for students in grades kindergarten through twelve. To provide students with a satisfying school breakfast and lunch, Depew's 23 employees work from three to seven hours per day. In 2017-2018 school year, they prepared and served 139,210 student lunches and 112,604 breakfasts. They also prepared daily meals for teachers and staff as well as ala carte and special functions. School lunches are subsidized by the State and Federal governments to help schools keep the cost per lunch low so most students may participate in the program. Additional subsidies are available for families who are eligible for the Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program. School meals are still the best deal in town. The cost for breakfast at all schools is \$1.25 and Lunch: Cayuga - \$2.10, Middle and High Schools - \$2.35. For questions, please call 686-5010.

Children need healthy meals to learn - Depew UFSD offers healthy meals every school day.

Registration Procedure for New Students

The Depew Union Free School District utilizes a building registration process. All registration of students new to the district will take place at one of the school buildings. You need not go to more than one site, even if you are registering more than one child. Please go to the building of your choice or to the one that the majority of your children will attend.

Families new to the district are encouraged to register as soon as possible. For information about registration procedures or to schedule an appointment, please call one of the numbers below.

- Cayuga Heights Elementary, Kindergarten through Grade 5, 686-5003
- Depew Middle School, Grades 6-8, 686-5055
- Depew High School, Grades 9-12, 686-5069

The Student Registration form is available on the District web site at www.depewschools.org. Parents and guardians may print out, complete the form, and bring it to their registration appointment, along with the required documentation. Visits to the schools are encouraged and may be arranged once the registration process has been completed.

The following documentation is required for registration of students new to the District:

- Proof of Identity of custodial parent or guardian (Photo ID)
- Child's birth certificate
- Proof of immunizations
- Two proofs of residency

Acceptable proofs of residency are:

- Lease or purchase of home documentation
- Purchase contract
- Post Office form documenting official change of address
- Utility or tax bill specific to the new address
- Notarized statement from landlord.
- Payroll Stub
- Government benefit document
- Car insurance or registration
- Special circumstances; legal affidavits for custodial/non-custodial and residential needs

Transportation

Transportation mission statement to the District parents is as follows: To provide our District with the safest, most economical and fairest transportation possible.

For bus concerns, call Mr. Douglas Baumgarden at 686-5140.

Depew Buses and Vans Travel to 70 Different School Buildings Every Year

Depew School District's Transportation Department maintains a fleet of 65 vehicles with which we transport nearly 3,000 Depew public, private, parochial and students with disabilities daily. Our goal is to transport our children to and from school safely and on time. The bus garage is located at 5261 Transit Road or 1/4 mile south of Broadway. The Depew Transportation Supervisor can be reached at 686-5140 and his office is located in the bus garage. We supply transportation to private and parochial schools outside the district up to 15 miles, and transportation for students with disabilities (mandated by law) to a maximum of 50 miles.

All requests for transportation of regular education students attending private schools must be made by April 1, preceding the school year through the respective schools. All Special Bussing Request forms must be properly submitted by July 31 of each new school year before transportation to elsewhere other than the normal stop will take effect in September. An ample supply of these forms can be found at the Cayuga Heights Elementary School or the Bus Garage.

Our district has six day care centers within our boundaries. During the school year, if your child should need a change in pick-up at one of these facilities or elsewhere within the district, a "Special Bussing Request" form must be completed and returned to the Transportation Department. Such request must be received three days in advance of the effective date of such special transportation. This will enable the schools and the Transportation Department to know where your child is going to be picked up or dropped off on a particular day. Students from other school districts will not be allowed to ride a Depew bus, as they are not covered under our insurance.

When Depew Schools are closed because of a Staff Development Day, BOCES students, parochial/private, school students, and students with disabilities will be transported if their school is open. When Depew Schools are closed due to a holiday, private/parochial students will not be transported. If the district is closed due to a proclaimed snow day, no transportation will be available to any destination.

Bus passes with bus numbers and pick up times are mailed in late August to each student's home. Our bus fleet is equipped with full radio communication and we ask your cooperation in advising us if you do not need transportation (if your child is the only one picked up) or if you intend to pick up your child from an out-of-district school. We ask parents to help in assisting with their children's bus safety and we look forward to the challenges of the upcoming year.

Depew UFSD Code of Conduct Summary

Summary of the Depew Union Free School District Code of Conduct

The Depew Union Free School District has adopted a Code of Conduct. The Code has been written to comply with the New York State Safe Schools Against Violence in Education Act (also known as project SAVE). This summary describes some of the important aspects of the Code of Conduct.

Who? The Code of Conduct applies to all students, District personnel, parents, volunteers, contract workers and other visitors when on District property or attending a District function.

When? Instituted on July 1, 2001. This document is reviewed annually.

Where? The provisions of the Code of Conduct apply to activities taking place on any property, or in any building, owned or leased by the District, including District-supervised school buses. The Code also applies at District-sponsored extra-curricular events, any school related work to study, internship, field trip or site visitation.

Why? The Depew Union Free School District is committed to providing a safe and orderly educational environment where students receive and District personnel deliver quality educational services without disruption or interference and to comply with state, federal and local code, laws and policies.

The Depew Union Free School District Code of Conduct contains provisions regarding:

- Student rights and responsibilities
- Appropriate conduct, dress and language

- Security and safety of students and personnel
- Prohibited student conduct
- Disciplinary consequences, procedures, penalties and referrals
- Disciplinary measures to be taken for incidents involving illegal substances, weapons, the use of physical force, vandalism, violation of another student's civil rights, harassment and threats of violence
- Student removal from a classroom, District property or function for substantially disruptive behavior
- Compliance with state and federal laws relating to students with disabilities
- Law enforcement notification for Code violations which constitute a crime or reporting violations
- Notification to parent(s) of Code violation(s)
- Minimum suspension periods for students who are violent or who repeatedly are substantially disruptive or substantially interfere with the teacher's authority over the classroom.
- Visitors to District buildings
- Public conduct on District property
- Dissemination and revision of the Code of Conduct
- Student searches & interrogations
- Alternative Instruction

A complete version of the Code of Conduct is available for review in each of the District's school buildings, online at the District website, as well as in the District Office, 5201 S. Transit Road, Depew, NY.

A Balanced Program of Participation

Depew High School offers an interscholastic athletic program with educational values consistent with the academic philosophy for grades 7 through 12. The focus is on the development of self-esteem and individual skill while fostering an atmosphere of teamwork, citizenship and sportsmanship.

Our sports programs provide a source of pride and hopefully motivation for lifelong success.

The District has set high goals and standards and all personnel and athletes are encouraged to strive to achieve them while maintaining a proper perspective on sports, school and life. Over the past several years, we have sponsored over 40 teams involving more than 40 coaches and up to 800 athletes each year. Being an athlete in Depew is a privilege and an honor. Representing our school and community carries a great deal of responsibility.

Our program is guided by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, as well as the Erie County Interscholastic Conference. The N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. requires that at the beginning of each sport season, a student shall receive an adequate health examination. The N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. further recommends that all participants in interscholastic sports be covered by appropriate insurance. Depew Public Schools carries supplemental accident insurance through Pupil Benefits, Inc.

Students in Grades 7-12 can benefit from participation in Depew's Interscholastic Athletic Program.

Visit our website at www.depewschools.org for up-to-date information concerning our athletic program.

Caryn Brown Reardon Memorial Playground

The play area at Cayuga Heights Elementary school is for your enjoyment.

School programs have preference during school days.

The play area is closed from dusk to 7 a.m.

The Technology Acceptable Use Regulation for Students of the Depew School District

The Depew Union Free School District will make available a variety of technological resources to support learning and enhance instruction. Our goal is to provide access to diverse, state of the art technology tools to facilitate resource sharing, innovation and communication.

Ethical Guidelines for Acceptable Use of Computers and Computer Networks in Schools

We encourage students to use the computers and technology available at Depew Union Free School District; however, with this use comes responsibility. Violations of the following guidelines may result in a loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action in accordance with applicable laws and/or due process procedures. Users are expected to:

Respect the privacy of others.

- Users will keep their passwords confidential and not try to learn others passwords.
- Users will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to networked or stand alone systems.
- Users will not modify or read files of other individuals, however, it should be noted that system administrators have access to all files. Privacy shall not be assumed in this case.

Respect the legal protection provided by copyright and license to programs and data.

- Users will not make copies of licensed programs in violation of Copyright Laws.
- Users will not install their own software on district computers without authorization.

Respect the integrity of every computer and of the Depew School Network, Internet and other networks to which we are connected.

- Users will not intentionally develop or use programs to harass others or infiltrate a computer system or damage or alter the software components or network.
- Users will not intentionally send inappropriate, obscene or hateful messages/mail to others, or cyberbully.
- Users will not occupy or modify server or network system files.
- Users will not abuse computer or network hardware. (i.e. mice, keyboards, etc.)
- Users will not violate Copyright Laws.
- Users will not use telecommunications for anything other than educational purposes.
- Users will not employ the network for commercial purposes.

Respect the materials and resources of the Depew School District.

- Users are limited to using approved educational games only.

Consequences of Violations

All violations or suspected violations of acceptable use will be communicated to the building administrator. Users found to be in violation of acceptable use will be denied technology access on appropriate district equipment. Improper use or tampering will not be tolerated. Possible actions include the following:

- User may be banned from access to specific technological equipment, local or internet accounts or facilities for a period of time.

- User may be required to make full financial restitution.
- Suspension or detention is a possible outcome of a severe violation.
- Users could face prosecution if criminal activity is involved.

AGREEMENT STATEMENT: Use of the Depew Public Schools computer equipment, Internet accounts, local networks and the information contained on them is conditioned upon proper student conduct in accordance with this regulation. While every reasonable effort will be made by school district personnel to monitor proper technology usage or to provide Internet filters of questionable materials, the student and the parent/guardian also must accept the responsibility for ethical usage of the district's facilities, equipment and software, and of the programs and networks accessed.

Depew Public Schools will mail to every parent or guardian a copy of this regulation for their review. In addition, a copy will be placed in the student's handbook and discussed with the student by the homeroom teacher. A copy will be mailed to the parent or guardian as part of the district calendar, and a copy will be submitted to the official newspaper for publication.

If at any time, the parent or guardian wishes to withdraw student permission to have Internet access, please notify the building principal in writing.

The School as a Community Resource

Community Use of Facilities

The District makes its buildings and athletic fields widely available for community use. Priority is given to instructional and extracurricular programs for students. For information about scheduling and application, call David Hess, Director of Facilities, 686-5089.

Music Department Events

Concerts, musicals, parades, festivals and competitions annually involve hundreds of Depew's performing elementary to high school age students. Concerts are admission-free and the public is encouraged to attend. See calendar listings.

Semi-Annual Surveillance

As required by AHERA(40 CFR Part 763), once the presence of asbestos is confirmed or assumed, the material must be visually evaluated semi-annually (December/January - June/July).

Asbestos Management Plan

As required by AHERA (40 CFR Part 763), a plan must be developed for the management of asbestos in all district buildings. This plan is available in the Buildings and Grounds for review between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

In an effort to make a complex document understandable, it is necessary to make an appointment with the District Safety Risk Manager at 686-5089. Copies of the plan are available at the cost of copying.

Pesticide Neighbor Notification

New York State Education Law, Section 409-H, requires the Depew UFSD to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year. Furthermore, the district is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. There are exemptions to this notification and a good faith effort notification process for those applications deemed an emergency.

If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide application and/or receive a list of exemptions, please contact the Department of Buildings and Grounds at 686-5088, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Depew Wildcats Interscholastic Sports

Depew students may participate in interscholastic sports programs beginning in Grade 7. Sports schedules for each season are available to all residents by calling the Athletic Office at 686-5078.

<u>Fall Sports</u>	<u>Winter Sports</u>	<u>Spring Sports</u>
Boys Football	Boys & Girls Basketball	Boys Baseball
Varsity, J.V., Modified	Varsity, J.V., Modified	Varsity, J.V., Modified
Boys Soccer	(Combined w/ Cleveland Hill)	Girls Softball
Varsity, J.V. (Combined w/ Cleveland Hill)	Boys Wrestling	Varsity, J.V., Modified
Girls Volleyball	Varsity, Modified (Combined w/ Cleveland Hill)	Boys & Girls Track & Field
Varsity, J.V.	Cheerleading	Boys Tennis
Boys Volleyball	Varsity, J.V.	Varsity
Varsity	Boys Swimming	Boys Lacrosse
Girls Soccer	Varsity	Varsity, J.V.
Varsity, J.V. (Combined w/ Cleveland Hill)	Boys & Girls Swimming	Boys & Girls Unified
Boys & Girls Cross Country	Modified	Basketball
Varsity	Boys & Girls Bowling	Varsity (scheduled for 2019)
Girls Tennis	Varsity	
Varsity	Boys & Girls Indoor Track	
Cheerleading	Varsity	
Varsity, J.V.	Girls Ice Hockey	
Boys Golf	Varsity (Combined w/ Lancaster & Iroquois)	
Varsity		
Girls Swimming		
Varsity		
Girls Golf		
Varsity		

Senior Citizens Benefit From Depew Sliding Scale For Tax Reductions

The Depew Union Free School District Board of Education continues to support senior citizen tax exemptions. Senior citizen exemptions are in addition to any school tax relief program (STAR) benefits for which a resident may be eligible. For information or an application, contact your local tax assessor's office.

YEARLY INCOME		
EXEMPTION	FROM	TO
50%	-0-	\$12,024
45%	\$12,025	\$13,024
40%	\$13,025	\$14,024
35%	\$14,025	\$15,204
30%	\$15,205	\$15,924
25%	\$15,925	\$16,824
20%	\$16,825	\$17,725
0%	\$17,726	and over

Disabled Property Owners Benefit From Depew Sliding Scale for Tax Reductions

The Depew Union Free School District Board of Education supports real estate property exemptions for property owned by persons with a disability whose incomes are limited by reason of such disabilities. Disability exemptions are in addition to any school tax relief program (STAR) benefits for which a disabled resident may be eligible. For further information, or an application, please contact your local tax assessor's office.

YEARLY INCOME		
EXEMPTION	FROM	THAN
50%	-0-	\$18,500
45%	\$18,500	\$19,500
40%	\$19,500	\$20,500
35%	\$20,500	\$21,500
30%	\$21,500	\$22,400
25%	\$22,400	\$23,300
20%	\$23,300	\$24,200
15%	\$24,200	\$25,100
10%	\$25,100	\$26,000
5%	\$26,000	\$26,900
0%	\$26,900 and over	

Important Tax Information Remember – 145

Your New York State Income Tax Return requires that you enter the school district tax code of the district in which you live. It is very important that the proper code number is entered, since the distribution of state aid depends upon this code number.

The Depew School District Tax Code Number is 145.

The presence of your name on the District Newsletter mailing list signifies that you reside in the Depew School District. You must enter Number 145 even if your children did not attend the local public school or if you have no children.

Notification of Rights

Depew Union Free School District Notification of Rights Under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the date the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the building principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe inaccurate or misleading. They should write the building principal and clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests.

A "school official" includes an instructional, supervisory, administrative or ancillary employee employed by or under contract with the District;

a Board member; a parent or student serving on an official committee or assisting another school official in performing school tasks: an agent of the District, including but not limited to, a person employed by or under contract with the District to perform a special task, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist/counselor. A “legitimate educational interest” is the school official’s need to know in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Another exception is the school’s transmittal of education records to officials of another school district or college post-secondary institution in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

Depew Union Free School District Directory Information Notice

Throughout your child’s academic career, he or she will participate in a variety of events or activities. In the course of these events, your child may be photographed by the District office or School personnel or local news media. An employee of the School or District office will be present whenever your child is photographed or interviewed.

Information about your child may appear in newspaper articles, on television, in radio broadcasts, on displays, or in District or School promotional pieces (school annuals, brochures, flyers, newsletters, programs for sports or cultural events, television shows, videotape, etc.).

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act authorizes the Depew Union Free School District to release “directory information” concerning students. The District has designated the following items as directory information:

- Student’s name
- Names of parents or legal guardians
- Grade designation
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Relevant statistics and personal data of members of athletic teams
- Achievements
- Awards and honors received

A parent or eligible student may refuse to allow the District to release any or all of the above-mentioned types of information about the student as directory information by notifying the District in writing of the objection to the release no later than September 9, 2016. If you have any questions regarding this notification, please call your school’s Principal.

APPR Notice

In accordance with New York Education Law Section 3012-c(10), parents and legal guardians may request in writing the final quality rating and composite effectiveness score for each of the teachers and for the principal of the school building to which their student(s) is assigned for the current school year. The District will also provide parents and legal guardians with an oral or written explanation of the composite effectiveness scoring ranges for final quality ratings, and an opportunity to understand such scores in the context of teacher evaluation and student performance.

Parent’s Right to Know

As a parent of a student attending the Depew Union Free School District you have the right to receive, upon request to the district, certain information as authorized by federal law regarding the professional qualifications of the children’s classroom teachers. Parents have the right to request the following information:

- Whether the teacher has met New York State Education Department qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas he/she teaches;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which New York State Education Department qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived due to special circumstances;
- The teacher’s college major (undergraduate level); whether the teacher has any graduate certifications or degrees and, if so, the field of discipline of the certification or degree;
- Whether your child is provided services by any teaching assistants and, if so, their qualifications. If you wish to receive this information, please contact your child’s school principal.

Questions or Concerns

The Depew Board of Education advises parents and other district residents who have questions or concerns about their child’s education or other school-related problems to first try to resolve them at the level most directly involved. This is usually the classroom teacher, school principal or coach. If a satisfactory solution cannot be reached at this level, individuals should contact the appropriate district office (curriculum, special education, athletics, etc.)

The recommended order of communication is:

Medical Concern

- STEP 1 - School Nurse
- STEP 2 - Building Principal
- STEP 3 - Assistant Superintendent
- STEP 4 - Superintendent

Instructional Concerns (Classroom Behavior, Etc.)

- STEP 1 - Classroom Teacher
- STEP 2 - Building Principal or School Counselor
- STEP 3 - Assistant Superintendent
- STEP 4 - Superintendent

Transportation Concern (Pick-Up, Route Problem)

- STEP 1 - Transportation Office
- STEP 2 - Transportation Supervisor
- STEP 3 - Superintendent

Transportation Concern (Behavior on Bus)

- STEP 1 - Bus Driver
- STEP 2 - School Counselor or Building Principal
- STEP 3 - Superintendent

Special Education

- STEP 1 - Classroom or Special Education Teacher
- STEP 2 - Building Principal
- STEP 3 - Director of Special Education
- STEP 4 - Superintendent

Athletic Concern

- STEP 1 - Coach
- STEP 2 - Athletic Coordinator
- STEP 3 - Building Principal
- STEP 4 - Superintendent

Extra Curricular Activity Concern

- STEP 1 - Building Principal
- STEP 2 - Assistant Superintendent
- STEP 3 - Superintendent

Phone numbers for schools and departments can be found in this calendar. If after following these procedures you still have concerns, appeals may be made to the Board of Education.