

genius  
leader  
scout  
instructor  
innovator  
differentiator  
pathfinder  
educator  
sage  
coach  
disciplinarian  
visionary  
diagnostician  
role model  
partner  
support  
trainer  
adviser  
leader  
learner  
partner  
support  
role model

GUSSO

EMPLOYEE  
HANDBOOK



manager

# Employee Handbook - Table of Contents

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## GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT 2015-2016 School Calendar

<u>August</u>	17-21	Mon-Fri	Voluntary PD Non-Tenured Staff (Encouraged to Attend)
	24-25	Mon-Tue	Teacher In-Service (No School)
	26	Wednesday	Contracted PD Day (No School)
	27	Thursday	Full Act 80 Day (No School)/ Open House
	28	Friday	Full Act 80 Day (No School)
	31	Monday	1st day of School
<u>September</u>	3	Thursday	1-hr Early Dismissal
	4	Friday	School Closed
	7	Monday	School Closed
<u>October</u>	9	Friday	Full Act 80 Day (No School)
	16	Friday	Full Act 80 Day (No School)
	30	Friday	3-hr Early Dismissal/Partial Act 80 Day
<u>November</u>	11	Wednesday	School Closed
	25	Wednesday	1-hr Early Dismissal
	26	Thursday	School Closed
	27	Friday	School Closed
	30	Monday	School Closed
<u>December</u>	18	Friday	1-hr Early Dismissal
	21-31	Mon-Thurs	School Closed
<u>January</u>	1	Friday	School Closed
	18	Monday	School Closed
	25	Monday	Teacher In-Service (No School)
	26	Tuesday	Full Act 80 Day (No School)
<u>February</u>	8	Monday	Full Act 80 Day (No School)
	15	Monday	1-hr Early Dismissal
	26	Friday	3-hr Early Dismissal/Partial Act 80 Day
<u>March</u>	18	Friday	3-hr Early Dismissal
	23	Wednesday	1-hr Early Dismissal
	24	Thursday	School Closed/Snow Make up Day
	25	Friday	School Closed
	28	Monday	School Closed/Snow Make up Day
<u>April</u>	8	Friday	3-hr Early Dismissal/Partial Act 80 Day
<u>May</u>	13	Friday	Full Act 80 Day (No School)
	27	Friday	1-hr Early Dismissal
	30	Monday	School Closed
<u>June</u>	6	Monday	Last day for Students
	7-8	Tues-Wed	Teacher In-Service/Snow Make Up Day (No School)
	9	Thursday	Voluntary PD Non-Tenured Staff (Encouraged to Attend)
	10	Friday	School Closed/Snow Make up Day
	13-14	Mon-Tues	School Closed/Snow Make up Day

**Greater Johnstown School District**  
2015-2016

The following dates represent the marking periods for the 2015-2016 school year.

**First Marking Period\* -**

Beginning Monday, August 31, 2015 and ending Friday, October 30, 2015

**Second Marking Period\* -**

Beginning Monday, November 2, 2015 and ending Friday, January 22, 2016

**Third Marking Period\* -**

Beginning Monday, January 25, 2016 and ending Friday, April 1, 2016

**Fourth Marking Period\*-**

Beginning Monday, April 4, 2016 and ending Monday, June 6, 2016

**Deficiency Reports\***

September 30, 2015 - 1st Marking Period

December 8, 2015 - 2nd Marking Period

February 26, 2016 - 3rd Marking Period

May 4, 2016 - 4th Marking Period

**Report Cards\***

November 6, 2015 - 1st Marking Period

January 29, 2016 - 2nd Marking Period

April 8, 2016 - 3rd Marking Period

June 6, 2016 - 4th Marking Period

\*Based on the current school calendar.

# I. Introduction

## Purpose and Use of the Handbook

We are pleased to provide you with this handbook and hope that it will become a used and useful reference. It is intended to provide clear guidelines for day-to-day issues that arise in a school setting. This handbook is not intended to alter or supersede current agreements with bargaining units or Pennsylvania School Code. The Superintendent or his/her designee(s), under the direction of the Greater Johnstown School Board, reserve the right to modify any practice or guideline at any time due to academic, financial or other necessity, except those which are specifically included in a collective bargaining agreement (CBA). This handbook does not replace, but rather supports, the Administrative Regulations and Board Policies of the Greater Johnstown School District.

We ask you to take some time to review the contents of this document carefully and to talk with your principal or supervisor about any areas which you have concerns or questions.

***We also ask you to take the contents of this handbook seriously, and be assured that we take it seriously as well, as we view it as an effort to define shared understandings about professional standards and conduct.*** Failure to abide by Board policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

Thank you for your commitment to the children and families of our school community and we look forward to working with you throughout the coming year.

## Mission Statement

Through a shared vision, the Greater Johnstown School District, supported by pride and tradition, is committed to creating and sustaining a learning community where all learners will pursue high standards to succeed in a diverse global society.

## Core Values

- ***Community:*** GJSD is committed to providing consistent, unconditional support to students, staff and community.
- ***Academics:*** GJSD holds high expectations which promote measured excellence and results that foster economic and sustainable academic growth for all.
- ***Lifelong Learning:*** GJSD provides aligned professional development for staff and encourages lifelong learning for all.
- ***Reputation:*** Excellence in Reputation: Honoring Pride and Tradition.

## Core Purpose

We believe in a thriving community tomorrow by investing in every child's success today!

## **Building Directory**

Greater Johnstown High School  
222 Central Avenue  
Johnstown, PA 15902  
Phone (814) 533-5601  
Fax (814) 533-5698

Michael Dadey – Principal  
Robert Heinrich – 9th Grade Academy Principal  
Dino Scarton – Assistant Principal

Greater Johnstown Middle School  
280 Decker Avenue  
Johnstown, PA 15906  
Phone (814) 533-5570  
Fax (814) 533-5564

Douglas Henry - Operational Principal  
– Academic Principal

East Side Elementary School  
220 Messenger Street  
Johnstown, PA 15902  
Phone (814) 533-5550  
Fax (814) 533-5548

Frank Frontino - Principal  
Kimberly Moore – Assistant Principal

West Side Elementary School  
196 Westgate Drive  
Johnstown, PA 15905  
Phone (814) 533-5540  
Fax (814) 533-5592

Justin Zahorchak - Principal  
Bernie Conway – Assistant Principal

## **School Board and Central Administration**

**Greater Johnstown School District  
Board of School Directors**

Richard Unger - President  
John Berzinsky - Vice President  
Vincent Arcurio  
Edwin Mikesic  
Kimberly Murray  
Eugene Pentz  
Dan Tomak  
Tom Dadey  
Cindy Ahlborn

**Central Administration**

Administrative Offices  
1091 Broad Street  
Johnstown PA 15906  
Phone (814) 533-5670  
Fax (814) 533-5655

Dr. James Cekada - Superintendent  
Amy Arcurio - Assistant Superintendent  
Michael Vuckovich - Director of Education  
John Zahorchak - Business Manager  
Clarissa Berzinsky - Assistant Business Manager  
Raymond Arcurio - Federal & State Programs, Coordinator of Developing Programs  
Amie Lumadue - Director of Special Education

**Board Policy/Procedures/Administrative Regulations**



The Board of School Directors of the Greater Johnstown School District, in accordance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, establishes policies and procedures for the governance of the Board, and for the safe and orderly operation of the school district.

Policies and local board procedures adopted by the Board are intended to establish the general and overall rules within with the day-to-day operations of the school district are to be governed. As applicable, all employees/member of the Greater Johnstown School District shall be expected to comply with all Board policies and procedures, subject to the limitations established in the policies. Failure to abide by Board policies may lead to disciplinary action including suspension or termination of employment.

## **II. Compliance Statements and Policies**

### **Asbestos Management Plan Annual Notification Requirement**

As a result of federal legislation (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act – AHERA), each primary and secondary school in the nation is required to complete a stringent inspection for asbestos and develop a plan of management for all asbestos-containing building materials. In keeping with this legislation, all buildings owned or leased by the school district were inspected by EPA accredited inspectors and samples were analyzed by an independent laboratory. Based on the inspection, the district prepared, and the state approved, a comprehensive management plan for handling the asbestos located within its buildings safely and responsibly.

### **Equal Employment Opportunity**

The Greater Johnstown School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, age, handicap or sexual orientation in its educational programs, activities or employment policies, as required by Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children’s education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are “eligible students”.

Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student’s education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.

Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's educational record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):

- School officials with legitimate educational interest;
- Other schools to which a student is transferring;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools have an obligation to keep Personally Identifiable Student Information confidential. Information that would allow anyone to connect a specific student name to confidential information cannot be shared with students or teachers not working with that child.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA.

Employees are encouraged to review Board Policy Attachment 216 for further information.

### **Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) of 1996**

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) of 1996 was enacted to make insurance more "portable" from one employer to another; it protects employees from discriminatory practices involving access to health insurance without interruption as they move from one employer to another. Another aspect of the law establishes "Standards for Privacy for Individually Identifiable Health Information". Employers are required under HIPPA to maintain confidentiality with respect to employee health matters and to establish policies and procedures to ensure compliance. The district complies with provisions of this law and is committed to protecting the private medical information of its employees.

## **Pennsylvania Worker and Community Right to Know Act**

The Pennsylvania Worker and Community Right to Know Act requires that information about hazardous substances in the workplace and in the environment is available to public sector employees and employees of private sector workplaces not covered by the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard and to all persons living or working in the state. Employee rights listed below are further defined in the Worker and Community Right to Know Act (P.L. 734, No. 159) and regulations. For additional information, contact the Department of Labor and Industry, Bureau of Pennsafe, room 1503, Seventh and Forster Streets, Harrisburg, PA 17120; (717) 783-2071; Fax (717) 783-5099.

*Employer Workplace Notice:* Public sector employers (including state and local government agencies and public schools and public universities) and private sector employers not covered by the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard must post this notice informing employees of their rights under the law. This notice must be posted prominently in the workplace at a location where employee notices are normally posted.

## **Employee Conduct and Ethics**

It is the duty and the responsibility of every employee to be aware of and abide by existing rules and regulations. These include but are not limited to the Pennsylvania Code of Professional Conduct and Greater Johnstown School District Board Policies.

It is also the responsibility of the employee to perform his/her job duties to the best of his/her ability and to the standards as set forth in his/her job description or as otherwise expected. Employees are encouraged to take advantage of all learning opportunities available to them and request additional instruction when needed.

The Board has adopted the State Public Official and Employee Ethics Act as the policy of our district and they apply to all Board members and employees. Some of the topics include:

- Conflict of interest
- Seeking improper influence
- Honorariums
- Misuse of statement of financial interests
- Accepting improper influence
- Voting conflict

## **Greater Johnstown School District Policies**

The following Greater Johnstown School District policies must be reviewed on an annual basis by all employees. In addition to those policies listed, professionals shall be knowledgeable regarding all policies in the student "Code of Conduct".

Please address questions and/or additional information to your direct supervisor. These policies are available in the school's main office.

The following is a partial list of the Greater Johnstown School District Policies by number and title.

- Policy 417 Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures
- Policy 420 Freedom of Speech in Non-instructional Settings
- Policy 423 Tobacco Use
- Policy 424 Personnel Files
- Policy 425 Dress and Grooming
- Policy 448 Unlawful Harassment
- Policy 449 Staff Identification
- Policy 451 Drug and Substance Abuse
- Policy 806 Child/Student Abuse
- Policy 814 Copyright Material
- Policy 815 Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers & Network Resources
- Policy 815.1 Employee Use of Social Networks
- Policy 907 School Visitors
- Policy 712 Employee Cell Phone Use
- Policy 412 Teacher Effectiveness and Evaluation

## **Tobacco Use/Non-Smoking**

The Board recognizes that tobacco use during school hours and on school property presents a health and safety hazard that can have serious consequences for the user and the nonuser and the safety of the school.

For purposes of the policy, tobacco use shall mean all use of tobacco, including cigars, cigarettes, pipes and smokeless tobacco.

The Board prohibits use by employees in a school building and on any property, buses, vans and vehicles that are owned, leased or controlled by the school district.

The Board prohibits tobacco use by an employee at school-sponsored activities that are held off school property. See Board Policy 423 for more information.

## **Dress and Grooming**

Employees set the example in dress and grooming for students and the community at large to follow. Employees should present an image of dignity and encourage respect for authority. Employees may reference current Board Policies for specific dress and grooming of each job classification.

Administrators and supervisors are held accountable for maintaining this code. If, in the judgment of an administrator or supervisor, an employee is not appropriately dressed for the workplace, the administrator or supervisor has a responsibility to direct the employee to leave the district premises until he/she is properly dressed. ***This expectation is for each contractual day including Act 80 and In-Service Days.***

Pride and Tradition Days - School and community pride are important components of a healthy school culture and climate. Employees are permitted to wear only "Johnstown Trojan" apparel on these identified days. Jeans may be permitted on these days as long as they meet reasonable expectations of professionalism and cleanliness - i.e. no holes, frays, stains or inappropriate fits. If you need further clarification on these expectations, please see your building administrator.

## **Unlawful Harassment**

We strive to provide a safe, positive working climate for employees. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the district to maintain a working environment in which harassment in any form is not tolerated. Employees may refer to current Board Policies on unlawful harassment for specific job classifications.

The Board prohibits all forms of unlawful harassment of employees by district students and staff members, contracted individuals and vendors, volunteers, and third parties of the schools. The Board encourages employees who have been harassed to promptly report such incidents to the designated administrators.

For purposes of Board policy, harassment of an employee consists of verbal, written, graphic or physical conduct relating to an individual's race, color, national origin/ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion when such conduct:

- Is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it affects an individual's ability to perform job functions or creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive work environment.
- Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance.
- Otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment opportunities.

For purposes of Board policy, sexual harassment of an employee shall consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other inappropriate verbal, written, graphic or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- Acceptance of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature is a term or condition of an individual's continued employment.
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct is the basis for employment decisions affecting the individual

- Such conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

Examples of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment include but are not limited to sexual flirtations, advances, touching or propositions; verbal abuse of a sexual nature; graphic or suggestive comments about an individual's dress or body; sexually degrading words to describe an individual; jokes, pin-ups, calendars, objects, graffiti, vulgar statements, abusive language, innuendoes, references to sexual activities, overt sexual conduct, or any conduct that has the effect of unreasonably interfering with an employee's ability to work or creates an intimidating hostile or offensive learning or working environment.

Any employee who feels they have been harassed is encouraged to promptly report such incidents to their immediate supervisor. In the event the instance involves their immediate supervisor, the report should be made to Mrs. Amy Arcurio, Assistant to the Superintendent. In the event the instance involves the Assistant Superintendent, the report should be made to Dr. Cekada, Superintendent. Complaints of harassment shall be investigated promptly and corrective action taken when allegations are substantiated. See Board Policy 448 for more information.

## **Identification/Security Badges**

Identification badges will be worn by all staff in order to assist in providing a safe school environment.

***All staff will be required to wear and make visible district-provided identification badges while on school property for reasons related to employment. All district staff will be required to have their picture taken by a district provided photographer.*** See Board Policy 449 for more information.

## **Drug and Substance Abuse by Employees**

In accordance with the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988, employees of the Greater Johnstown School District are expressly prohibited from engaging in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance at a drug free workplace as defined by Board Policy.

Violation of this prohibition shall result in immediate suspension of the employee, followed by such for the personnel action as shall be deemed appropriate, including termination of the employee.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any employee of the Greater Johnstown School District, who is convicted of delivery of a controlled substance, or convicted of possession of a controlled substance with the intent to deliver, regardless of whether such conduct takes place at a drug free workplace as defined herein, shall, in accordance with Section 527 of the Public School Code of 1949, be terminated from his/her employment with the Greater Johnstown School District.

For purposes of this policy, “drugs” and “controlled substances” shall mean, all dangerous controlled substances prohibited by law, all “look alike” drugs, all alcoholic beverages and drug paraphernalia; and any prescription or patent drug, except those for which permission to use in school has been granted pursuant to Board policy.

As a condition of employment, you are required to abide by the terms of Board Policy and you must notify the district of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace not later than five (5) days after such conviction.

Drug counseling, drug rehabilitation services and employee assistance programs can be made available to employees in need. See Board Policy 451 for more information.

## **Student Abuse**

Under Act 151 of 1994, all school employees are required to report suspected student abuse by another school employee. An employee who has reasonable cause to suspect that a student is a victim of serious bodily injury, sexual abuse, or sexual exploitation by another school employee is required to immediately contact their supervisor. If the suspected party is their supervisor, they can contact the building principal. If the building principal is the suspected party, they should contact the Assistant to the Superintendent. In the event that the Assistant Superintendent is the suspected party, the report should be made to the Superintendent. The employee making the report has immunity from civil and criminal liability under the law. Willful failure of a school employee or administrator to report student abuse is a violation of the law.

The supervisor, principal and/or Assistant Superintendent is required by law to notify police officials and the District Attorney in the locality where the abuse may have occurred and does not have discretion in the matter. Law enforcement officials will work with the appropriate child protective agency to conduct an investigation, the results of which will be forwarded to the Department of Education.

School district employees reporting student abuse should maintain the confidentiality of the student and member of the staff. The employee, according to the law, should not discuss the details of the event with any other employee or person. It is the responsibility of the school district administration to notify those with a need to know, including the parents, of all allegations. See Board Policy 806 for more information.

## **Employee Clearances**

All employees will be required to update their clearances on a 3 year cycle. Employee must submit original clearances to the Office of the Superintendent.

### **Who needs clearances?**

Pursuant to the provision of Act 153 of 2014, those categories of school employees which are required to obtain background checks pursuant to Section 111 of the Public School Code will

continue to be required to obtain background checks prior to employment in accordance with that section and on the periodic basis required by Act 153.

The Act defines school employee as an individual who is employed by a school or who provides a program, activity or service sponsored by a school. The term excludes an individual who has no direct contact with children. The definition of school is as follows: "School." A facility providing elementary, secondary or postsecondary educational services. The term includes the following:

1. Any school of a school district.
2. An area vocational-technical school.
3. A joint school.
4. An intermediate unit.
5. A charter school or regional charter school.
6. A cyber charter school.
7. A private school licensed under the act of January 28, 1988 (P.L.24, No.11), known as the Private Academic Schools Act.
8. A private school accredited by an accrediting association approved by the State Board of Education.
9. A nonpublic school.
10. A community college which is an institution now or hereafter created pursuant to Article XIX-A of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, or the act of August 24, 1963 (P.L.1132, No.484), known as the Community College Act of 1963.
11. An independent institution of higher education which is an institution of higher education which is operated not for profit, located in and incorporated or chartered by the Commonwealth, entitled to confer degrees as set forth in 24 Pa.C.S. § 6505 (relating to power to confer degrees) and entitled to apply to itself the designation "college" or "university" as provided for by standards and qualifications prescribed by the State Board of Education pursuant to 24 Pa.C.S. Ch. 65 (relating to private colleges, universities and seminaries).
12. A State-owned university.
13. A State-related university. 2 12/19/2014
14. A private school licensed under the act of December 15, 1986 (P.L.1585, No.174), known as the Private Licensed Schools Act.
15. The Hiram G. Andrews Center.
16. A private residential rehabilitative institution as defined in section 914.1-A(c) of the Public School Code of 1949. What is the definition of child? For purposes of clearances, a child is an individual under 18 years of age. How is direct contact with children defined? Direct contact with children is defined in § 6303 (relating to definitions) as the care, supervision, guidance or control of children or routine interaction with children.

**Which clearances are needed?**

Employees having contact with children must obtain the following three clearances:

- **Report of criminal history from the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP);**



- **Child Abuse History Clearance from the Department of Human Services (Child Abuse); and**
- **Fingerprint based federal criminal history submitted through the Pennsylvania State Police or its authorized agent (FBI). 3 12/19/2014**

**When are clearances needed?**

Clearances must be submitted prior to the commencement of employment or service.

**What is the renewal requirement for clearances?**

Beginning Dec. 31, 2014, clearances must be obtained every 36 months. Timelines for renewed clearances are based upon the date of each individual clearance. If an individual or agency elected to renew all clearances at the same time, the date of the oldest clearance rather than the most recent would be used.

Persons employed prior to Dec. 31, 2014, are required to obtain updated clearances as follows: Within 36 months of the date of the most recent clearance; By Dec. 31, 2015, if the clearance is older than 36 months; or By Dec. 31, 2015, if they have not received a clearance because they were employed in the same position and were not required to obtain a clearance under prior law (grandfathered).

For individuals that received clearances prior to 2008 and were not required to obtain the FBI clearance, the three required clearances would be obtained consistent with the timeframes above. Therefore, if either of the individual's Child Abuse and State Police Clearances were obtained within the past 36 months, all three clearances must be obtained within 36 months of the date of the most recent clearance. If all clearances were obtained more than 36 months ago, all three clearances must be obtained by December 31, 2015.

**How do I obtain my clearances?**

The Child Abuse, PSP and FBI clearances can all be applied and paid for electronically. The FBI clearance also requires a fingerprint submission. Please visit our website for various links and resources regarding the required clearances and how to obtain them.

**Is the use of a third-party vendor to process clearances acceptable?**

Third-party vendors may be used to process Child Abuse, PSP and FBI clearances using the steps established above. However, agencies are not permitted to conduct background checks or clearances through other databases in lieu of the steps outlined above. In addition, school administrators remain responsible for the employment decision based on the information obtained.

**Absences - Reporting / Attendance**

We are using an automated service, SAMS/AESOP, to report absences. This service will record your absence and locate a substitute if needed through Source4Teachers. If

circumstances prevent reporting your absence to the AESOP system, you need to contact your immediate supervisor.

**There are two ways to report absences:**

Log on to AESOP at: [www.source4teachers.com/SAMS](http://www.source4teachers.com/SAMS)

Call AESOP at 1-800-942-3767

Staff are required to produce the appropriate information following their absence.

The Board of School Directors believes that the regular presence of assigned personnel is vital to the success of the district's educational program. Consistent absenteeism or tardiness is unacceptable and subject to disciplinary action.

All employees are expected to report to work during their contracted employment hours. Any deviation from this schedule must be submitted in advance and approved by the appropriate administrator.

## **School, Classroom Keys and Doors**

The District Facilities Office shall duplicate school keys only. Staff must turn in keys every night. Staff are required to lock classroom door(s) when it is unoccupied.

## **Parent Notification of Student Progress**

It is in the interest of effective education and good community relations for teachers and parents to cooperate in helping students to succeed in school. Toward this end, communication with parents should be an ongoing providing regular feedback. Teachers are required to communicate with parents of students who are doing unsatisfactory work or who are in danger of failing in sufficient time before the end of the marking period for corrective action to be taken. This applies regardless of the student's age or grade in the school system. It is essential and necessary that you communicate with parents and document your contacts. Parents need to know of the progress of their children, especially if it is unsatisfactory or improvement is needed.

In addition, Powerschool and Teacher Website information must be made available to parents to better involve them in their child's education. Teachers are required to utilize available electronic means of communication with parents.

## **Acceptable Use of School Communications**

It is important to clarify the acceptable use of school communication systems, such as voicemail, email, telephone, mailboxes, etc. Employees may refer to Board Policy 815 for more information. Below are several principles to use as a guide.

- Occasional use of school communication systems for personal reasons is acceptable. However, the key word is “occasional.”
- You cannot control what you receive, but you must control what you send. If you receive something inappropriate, delete it or dispose of it, and inform the sender that you do not wish to receive such communications.
- Regardless of the communication medium, send messages to others on a “need to know” basis as opposed to sending messages meant for a few to all box holders.
- Using school communications to make a profit or to conduct a business is unacceptable. It is acceptable to advertise items for sale or services you may offer in a designated area in the staff lounge/workroom.
- Use of school communications to share beliefs of a personal, religious, or political nature is inappropriate.
- Use of school communications to build staff morale, advertise school-approved staff functions, etc. is acceptable. However, be cautious about the type of humorous or entertaining message you access or share. Obviously, anything with sexual, racist, sexist, homophobic, etc. overtones is unacceptable.

## **Internet**

The Board supports the use of the Internet and other computer networks in the district’s instructional and operational programs in order to facilitate learning, teaching and daily operations through interpersonal communications and access to information, research and collaboration.

The school district is not responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the internet. The district reserves the right to log network use and to monitor fileserver space utilization by district users, while respecting the privacy rights of both district users and outside users. Use of the network is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate, unauthorized and/or illegal use may result in cancellation of those privileges and appropriate disciplinary action.

Board policy specifically states that employees are prohibited from using the internet and district e-mail in the following ways:

- Illegal activity
- Commercial or for-profit purposes
- Non-work or non-school related work
- Product advertisement or political lobbying
- Hate mail, discriminatory remarks, and offensive or inflammatory communications.
- Unauthorized or illegal installation, distribution, reproduction, or use of copyrighted materials
- Access to obscene or pornographic material or child pornography
- Access by students and minors to material that is harmful to minors or is determined inappropriate for minors in accordance with Board Policy
- Inappropriate language or profanity
- Transmission of material likely to be offensive or objectionable to recipients
- Intentional obtaining or modifying of files, passwords, and data belonging to other users

- Impersonation of another user, anonymity, and pseudonyms
- Fraudulent copying, communications, or modification of materials in violation of copyright laws
- Loading or using of unauthorized games, programs, file, or other electronic media
- Disruption of the work of other users
- Destruction, modification, abuse or unauthorized access to network hardware, software and files
- Quoting of personal communications in a public forum without the original author's prior consent

## **Visitors**

It is your responsibility to know who is in and around your building. Please pay attention to people who may be visiting the building, ask for their nametag and escort them to the office to obtain one if they do not have one. Unknown visitors should not be permitted to walk around unaccompanied. Alert the office if you feel uncomfortable with anyone you see in or around the school.

Parents and community members are always welcome at school. They are asked to sign in at the office upon arrival and they should be wearing a visitors' name badge. We ask and expect that parents or community members who wish to visit classrooms will make prior arrangements through the principal.

Sales representatives are not allowed to approach teachers during the school day unless they have been cleared through the office and they either have an appointment with the teacher or the teacher wishes to talk with them during a free period. See Board Policy 907 for more information.

## **Solicitation and Distribution**

Solicitation by an employee of another employee is prohibited while either employee is on work time. Work time is the time an employee is engaged or should be engaged in performing his/her work tasks for the Greater Johnstown School District. Solicitation of any kind by non-employees on organization premises is prohibited at all times. Distribution of advertising material, handbills, printed or written literature of any kind in working areas of the organization is also prohibited without prior approval. Distribution of literature by non-employees on school district premises is prohibited without prior authorization.

## **Workplace Violence**

The Greater Johnstown School District is strongly committed to providing a safe workplace. The purpose of this information is to minimize the risk of personal injury to employees and their personal property, and the organization.

You are discouraged from engaging in any physical confrontation with a violent or potentially violent individual. You are expected and encouraged to exercise reasonable judgment in

identifying potentially dangerous situations. Mental health profession experts indicate that prior to engaging in acts of violence, troubled individuals often exhibit one or more of the following behaviors or signs:

- Over resentment
- Anger and hostility
- Extreme agitation
- Making ominous threats
- Sudden and significant decline in work performance
- Irresponsible, irrational, intimidating, aggressive or otherwise inappropriate behavior
- Reacting to questions with an antagonistic or overly negative attitude
- Discussing weapons and their use
- Overreacting or reacting harshly to change in organization policies and procedures
- Personality conflicts with coworkers
- Obsession or preoccupation with a co-worker or administrator
- Attempts to sabotage the work or equipment of a co-worker
- Blaming others for mistakes and circumstances
- Demonstrating a propensity to behave and react rationally

## **Crisis Handbook**

All employees are required to review the district's crisis handbook, to be familiar with its contents, and to have it readily available at all times. Building principals are responsible for conducting a review of the handbook with their staff if questions arise.

If additional clarification is needed, contact the following individuals:

- Mr. Michael Dadey - District Safety Coordinator
- Officer Chad Miller - JHS School Resource Officer
- Officer Donald Hess - JMS School Resource Officer

## **Cell Phone Use While Using District Vehicles**

Pennsylvania State Law, SB314, bans text messaging while behind the wheel of a motor vehicle. Any employee operating a school district vehicle, or private vehicle on school district related business, should limit use of a cell phone to hands free communication. Text messaging while operating a school district vehicle, or on school district related business, is prohibited.

## **Use of Wireless Devices & Cell Phones By Employees**

Cellular phones may be used to make brief calls which are necessary for carrying out professional, personal or family obligations and responsibilities. The district expects all employees and student teachers to use such devices in a responsible manner that does not interfere with the employee's job duties. It is understood that these calls should be limited and

should only be made during periods of non assignment. The periods of non assignments are as follows:

- **Support staff - during lunch or scheduled breaks;**
- **Professional staff - during preparation periods, lunch or before and after student arrival time.**

If there is family emergency and a call is received by the main office, the office staff will make every reasonable effort to locate the staff member, even during a teaching period.

At no time should calls be made in front of students, nor should they interrupt assigned duties.

***Receiving calls/text messages on cell phones is strictly prohibited during instructional time. Please do not TEXT in front of your students.***

The district expects all employees and student teachers to use such devices in a responsible manner that does not interfere with the employee's job duties.

## **Student Teacher Procedures**

All requests from an educational institution for the placement of student teachers are to be directed to the Assistant to the Superintendent, who will coordinate such assignments. Under no circumstances should a staff member make arrangements for a student teacher placement directly with the student. All requests must go through the Central Administration office.

1. All cooperating assignments are to be made with the concurrence of the building principal who is directly involved.
2. Student teachers should be assigned to staff members who are willing to aid and assist the student in his/her growth and development as a professional and who have been approved as a cooperating teacher by the Building Principal.
3. Non-tenured teachers are not to be considered for student teacher placements.
4. Any remunerations or tuition credit given to the cooperating teacher will be handled directly between the educational institution and the cooperating teacher. The District will not serve as an intermediary in this matter.
5. No cooperating teacher should be given a student teacher assignment to exceed one semester in length in any school year.
6. Any contemplated termination of the student teacher experience before the designated end of the assignment must be discussed with the building principal.
7. Any student teacher assigned to our schools who is performing unsatisfactorily and shows that probable growth is not forthcoming will be removed.
8. It is the obligation of the student and the cooperating educational institution to abide by all policies and practices of the Greater Johnstown School District and the school to which the student teacher is assigned.
9. The Superintendent or his designee must approve any exceptions to the above practices.
10. Teachers have the right to refuse any request for a student teacher placement made by administration.

### **III. Operational Policies/Procedures**

#### **Request to Leave Early**

Staff may be permitted to leave early at times depending on the reason. The approval process rests solely with the building administration. All requests to leave early must be submitted, in writing, for consideration. Building Administration will review the requests and notify the secretary. A copy will be placed in your mailbox.

Administration can only approve staff to leave 30 minutes early or come in 30 minutes late.

#### **Personnel Directory**

Annually, the school district publishes a Personnel Directory containing a school location, list of Board Members, list of district office administration and supervisors, a building directory which provides names of principals and assistant principals, and a directory of employees with home addresses and telephone numbers.

#### **Change of Address Form**

It is your responsibility to keep the school district informed of your current address and telephone number. If you move or change your telephone number you must complete a "change of address form" as well as payroll and benefit paperwork. These forms can be obtained by contacting Amy Smith in the Business Office at (814) 533-5683.

#### **Employee Emergency Cards**

In order to maintain accurate employee emergency records, employees are responsible for completion of an "employee emergency card" each school year.

In case of an accident or illness, a member of the school district should be able to contact the individual(s) you have designated on your emergency card. You also have the option of listing medical information that would only be utilized in case of an emergency requiring immediate treatment.

Emergency cards are available by contacting your building secretary.

#### **Name Changes/Family Status**

It is your responsibility to keep the school district informed of any name changes or changes in family status. A change in family status may include, but is not limited to, marriage, divorce, birth or adoption of a child, or death of a family member. In the event of a divorce, you will be required to furnish the original divorce decree to the Business Office for process.

Often, changes have implications concerning payroll and health insurance; therefore it is very important for any changes to be communicated. You can contact Amy Smith in the Business Office at (814) 533-5683 for any name change or change in family status.

## **Garnishments**

The Greater Johnstown School District must comply with all notification of garnishment it receives. Information about garnishment will be held in strict confidence.

## **Bargaining Units**

Most employees of the school district are covered by a collective bargaining contract, resolution or agreement. The following units are in place:

*Greater Johnstown Education Association* – The GJEA is the sole and exclusive representative of the teachers, guidance counselors, librarians and school nurses.

*Greater Johnstown Educational Support Personnel Association* – GJESPA is the sole and exclusive representative of the cleaners, grounds staff, truck drivers, paraprofessional and clerical staff.

*Greater Johnstown Administrative Compensation Plan* – This document contains personnel policies, benefits, hours of work and other miscellaneous working conditions for school administrators and non-instructional supervisors.

## **Job Related Expenses**

Payment of the actual and necessary expenses, including traveling expenses, of any employee of the district that are incurred in the course of performing services for the district, whether within or outside of the district, shall be reimbursed in accordance with Board Policy.

Reimbursement for job related expenses shall be permissible with prior approval by the Superintendent.

The use of a personal vehicle shall be considered a legitimate job expense if:

- Travel is among schools to which the employee is assigned, but not between home and school, and travel is authorized in advance by the responsible supervisor.
- The use of a personal car for special or emergency purposes is a recognized part of the employee's job responsibilities.

If prior approval is granted, use of a personal vehicle for approved school purposes is reimbursable at the rate approved by the Board.

Mileage reimbursement forms must be completed on a monthly basis and submitted to the business office in the Accounts Payable Department for processing of payment with the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

## **Unemployment Compensation/Reasonable Assurance**



Unemployment Compensation (UC) protects workers against job loss by providing temporary income support to people who become unemployed through no fault of their own. UC Benefits are paid for a limited time to those individuals who are able and available for suitable work and are actively seeking new employment.

School District employees are not considered by the PA Department of Labor and Industry to be “Unemployed” during any public school “academic break” (holidays, summer break, etc.). All employees, regardless of their employment status, have reasonable assurance that they will continue the same employment after any academic break unless informed in writing otherwise.

The Greater Johnstown School District often receives from the various Unemployment Compensation Service Centers (UCSC) requests for wage information and employment status of employees filing UC benefits for these academic breaks. As public school employees with reasonable assurance that you will continue your same employment after any academic break you will be deemed ineligible for UC benefits by UCSC.

## **Outside Activities**

The Board recognizes that members of the staff must enjoy private lives and may associate with others outside of school employment for political, economic, religious, cultural or personal reasons. The Board and its supervisory staff, however, have a responsibility to evaluate staff members in terms of their faithfulness to, and effectiveness in discharging school duties and responsibilities. Therefore, when non-school activities threaten a staff member’s effectiveness within the school system, the Board reserves the right to evaluate the impact of such activities and how they affect the individual’s responsibilities to the students and to the district’s programs.

The Board directs the Superintendent to promulgate guidelines so that employees may avoid situations in which their personal interests, activities, and associations may conflict with the interests of the district.

The following guidelines are provided for information and direction to employees:

- Do not use school property or school time to solicit or accept customers for private enterprises
- Do not utilize school material for personal gain. Copyrights to materials or equipment developed, processed, or tested by district employees in the performance of district activities in fulfillment of the terms of their employment, reside with and may be claimed by the district.
- The Board does not endorse, support, nor assume liability for any staff member from this school district who conducts non-school outside activities in which students and employees of this district may participate.
- Do not campaign on school property on behalf of any candidate for local, state or national office. Do not use school time for outside activities when there is no valid reason to be excused from assigned duties.

- Refrain from expressions regarding district policies or procedures that would disrupt the harmony among co-workers or interfere with the maintenance of discipline by school officials.

## **Fundraising**

The Board prohibits the collection of money in school or on school property, or at any school sponsored event by a student for personal benefit.

Collection of money by approved school organizations may be permitted by the building principal. Staff is required to complete the fundraising request form and gain approval prior to any fundraiser occurring. The form can be found in the main office of your school. Complete the form and submit it to your building principal for approval.

Collections by students on behalf of school organizations outside the schools may be permitted only by the Superintendent/designee. See Board Policy 229 for more information.

## **Social Events and Field Trips**

The Board recognizes the value of student social events and class trips in enhancing and enriching the school experience for the children of this school district.

The Board will make school facilities available and provide appropriate staff for the conduct of social events within the school facilities which have been approved by the Superintendent upon the recommendation of the building principal.

For social events which take place outside school facilities, approval is required by the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent. See Board Policy 231 for more information.

As voluntary participants in school social events and class trips, students shall be held responsible for compliance with rules set forth in advance for their conduct, and infractions of those rules will be subject to the same disciplinary measures as are applied during the regular school program.

Participation in school events is not a right and may be denied to any student who has demonstrated disregard for the rules of the school. See Board Policy 100.121 for more information.

“Educational Field Trip” forms are available in the main office of each building. Forms must be completed and submitted to the building principal for approval. Once approved by the principal, forms must be forwarded to the Central Office for approval.

Parental Release forms must also be completed for each student participating in a social event or class trip outside of their assigned school

***Overnight trips require prior approval of the Greater Johnstown School District School Board.***

## **IV. Benefits and Leave of Absences**

### **Attendance**

You were hired to perform an important function at the Greater Johnstown School District. As with any group effort, operating effectively takes cooperation and commitment from all. Your attendance and punctuality are very important. Unnecessary absences and lateness are expensive, disruptive and place an unfair burden on your peers and administrators. We expect excellent attendance from each employee. Excessive absenteeism or lateness may result in disciplinary action.

We do recognize that there are instances when absences and/or lateness are unavoidable. On such an occasion, you are expected to make notification as early as possible, by logging on to AESOP at: [www.source4teachers.com/SAMS](http://www.source4teachers.com/SAMS) or calling AESOP at 1-800-942-3767. If you are unable to log into or call AESOP for any reason or if you are calling off after 6:30 a.m. contact Sherri Moore at (814) 533-5670. All absences, regardless of your position, must be reported as described. Any absence by an employee thirty (30) minutes or longer will require the employee to utilize a half (1/2) of a sick day. Any absence under thirty (30) minutes may be permitted with the appropriate form (copies are available in the building office) completed and submitted with advanced approval from your building supervisor/designee.

### **Absences for Professional Development**

All requests for absence to attend conferences must be submitted on a school district Conference Attendance Form (copies are available in the building office).

Each employee must complete a separate form for conference requests. No conference attendance form will be accepted if submitted for more than one person.

Properly submitted requests will receive prompt attention and a notice of approval or disapproval will be returned to the applicant as soon as possible.

Travel expense vouchers and the narrative report must be submitted within two (2) weeks of attendance at any conference. Original receipts for meals, hotel accommodations, tolls and travel must be attached to the expense voucher when submitted.

### **Sick Leave**

The Board reserves the right to require of any employee claiming sick leave pay sufficient proof, including a physician's certification, of the employee's illness or disability. Any support staff employee absent more than two (2) consecutive days for illness must furnish the Payroll Office

with a doctor's excuse for the time absent. Any Teacher or Administrator absent more than three (3) consecutive days for illness must furnish the Payroll Office with a doctor's excuse for the time absent.

The misuse of sick leave shall be considered a serious infraction and subject to disciplinary action.

The Superintendent shall report to the Board the names of those employees absent for un-compensable cause or whose claim for sick leave pay cannot be justified.

Employees will receive an account of their accumulated sick leave balance on their paystub no later than September 30 of each year.

## **Personal Leave**

A Personal Leave Day is a day used by an employee for personal reasons. In the event that an employee has exhausted all of their available sick leave, a personal day may be used for illness.

All Personal Leave days must be submitted on the personal leave day form (forms are available in the building office) at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance to your Supervisor. Personal leave days may not be used during the first ten (10) days or last ten (10) days of the school year, unless for religious purposes.

## **Vacation Leave**

Administrators, Clerks and Maintenance Staff are entitled to Vacation Days as per the collective bargaining unit agreement. **Employees must submit their vacation day schedule to Clarissa Berzinsky, Assistant Business Manager no later than May 15th of each year on the appropriate form (forms are available in the building office).** Vacations will be approved based on seniority, allowing for appropriate coverage in each area.

In the event that an employee needs to change a scheduled vacation day, a new form must be submitted. If the schedule permits, a change to a scheduled vacation day may be allowed. District seniority will prevail in any scheduling conflicts.

## **Bereavement Leave**

Every staff member of The Greater Johnstown School District shall be entitled to **three (3) days of bereavement leave** without loss of pay due to the death of a member of the immediate family. **Immediate family is defined in Section 11-1154 of the Pennsylvania School Code as father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, husband, wife, parent-in-law or near relative who resides in the same household, or any person with whom the employee has made his home.**

All employees shall be entitled to one (1) day of bereavement leave without loss of pay due to the death of a near relative. A near relative is defined in Section 11-1154 of the Pennsylvania School Code as first cousin, grandfather, grandmother, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law or sister-in-law.

## **Worker's Compensation**

If you suffer a work-related injury, your health and wellbeing are our first concern. If the injury is of a serious nature and requires the assistance of an ambulance or rescue personnel, they should be contacted immediately. If the injury is of a less serious nature, the following procedures must be followed:

If you suffer a work-related injury, the first thing you **MUST** do is report the injury to your supervisor.

- A designated person in your building will provide you with the appropriate forms to be completed. This includes a Work-related Incident Report and an Employee Acknowledgement of the Designated Physician's Panel.
- You will need to sign the Employee Acknowledgement Form indicating that you received the list of approved providers.
- The building supervisor/designee will have to complete an Incident Investigation Report within 24 hours of the work-related injury.
- Completed forms and all supporting documentation must be submitted to the Worker's Compensation Coordinator, Amy Smith, and a copy to Mike Dadey within 24 hours of the work-related injury.

If you suffer a work related injury, the Greater Johnstown School District or our insurer will pay reasonable surgical and medical services and supplies per the Pennsylvania Worker's Compensation laws. In order to ensure that your medical treatment will be paid for by the Greater Johnstown School District or our insurer, **you MUST select from one of the health-care providers that the district has identified.**

## **Jury Duty**

Employees regularly employed shall be protected against loss of pay occasioned by jury duty in accordance with Board Policy.

Should an employee be called for jury duty, he/she must notify their supervisor.

The time spent on jury duty will not be charged against personal leave and will count as time on the job.

Employees must submit to their supervisor a record from the county of the number of days served.

While on jury duty, employees are required to follow the procedure for reporting off.

## **Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)**

Under the provisions of the Family & Medical Leave Act, you may be entitled to a leave of absence for specific reasons. You may contact Amy Smith in the Business Office at (814) 533-5683 for FMLA information and applications. A summary of the provisions is provided below.

- Only eligible employees are entitled to FMLA. An eligible employee is an employee who has satisfied the following conditions:
- Must be employed by the district for at least twelve (12) months prior to the commencement of the leave.
- Must have worked for the district for at least 1250 hours over the 12 month period.

Reasons for obtaining FMLA include the following:

- Birth of a child, or placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care.
- Serious health condition of the employee's spouse, child or parent.
- Serious health condition of the employee making him/her unable to perform their job duties.

Eligible employees are entitled to up to twelve (12) weeks of FMLA leave or sixty (60) intermittent FMLA leave days per year. For calculation purposes, the Greater Johnstown School District defines a year as July 1 through June 30.

## **Leaving the Greater Johnstown School District**

- Resignation
  - Professional employees are required by law to give sixty (60) days written notice of intent to resign. The Greater Johnstown School Board may allow for earlier release if appropriate arrangements can be made.
  - Salaried Substitutes who wish to terminate their employment with the District shall provide at least two (2) weeks notice before termination is to become effective.
- Retirement
  - Refer to the Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement for specifications.
- Termination
  - Any professional whose employment is involuntarily terminated is guaranteed due process. Non-tenured teachers are provided the opportunity for a hearing under the local agency laws or appeal through the courts. The School Code requires tenured teachers to be given proper notification and the opportunity for a hearing with the right to appeal to the State Secretary of Education.

## **The Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS)**

PSERS is a governmental, cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit pension plan to which qualifying employees contribute. Additional information on PSERS can be found on their website [www.psers.state.pa.us](http://www.psers.state.pa.us)

### **Direct Deposit**

All employees are encouraged to sign up for "direct deposit" of your pay. The school district will electronically deposit your pay into a bank account of your choice. In this way, you will always be guaranteed to receive your pay in a timely manner, even during inclement weather or in the event that school is closed. Your pay stub will continue to be sent to you so you have a record of the deposit, inclusive of tax and leave information.

### **Credit Union**

Employees of the Greater Johnstown School District qualify for membership in the Johnstown School Employee's Federal Credit Union. Some of the benefits of the credit union are savings account, vacation club accounts, Christmas club accounts, as well as automobile loans and signature loans. The credit union also offers payroll deduction for automatic deposit to your JSEFCU account. Additional information is available on their website [jsefcu.com](http://jsefcu.com) or by calling (814) 255-6642.

### **Tax-Sheltered Annuity (TSA)**

A tax-sheltered annuity (TSA) is otherwise known as a 403(b) plan, named after a section of the Internal Revenue Code. It is an employer-sponsored savings program. Participation is limited by law to employees of public educational organizations and certain non-profit companies.

Contributions to a TSA are made for the participating employee by the school district. A TSA allows you to contribute funds through payroll deduction on a pre-tax basis to one of the approved 403(b) vendors. This means contributions are not taxed.

A copy of the 403(b) plan document is available by contacting Tawnya Hess in the Payroll Office at (814) 533-5685.

### **457 Deferred Compensation Plan**

All employees are entitled to participate in the Greater Johnstown School District's 457 Deferred Compensation Plan.

Contributions to a 457 plan are made for the participating employee by the school district. A 457 plan allows you to contribute funds through payroll deduction on a pre-tax basis. This means contributions are not taxed.

A copy of the 457 plan document is available by contacting Tawnya Hess in the Payroll Office at (814) 533-5685.

## **Open Enrollment**

The Open Enrollment period in May and June is your once a year opportunity to review the various benefits the District offers and to change your benefit selections for the upcoming year. You can add or remove benefits, dependents, amounts of insurance, and more.

Any changes requested to your health plans after the open enrollment period will require a Qualified Life Event (QLE) such as changes in marital status, birth, spouse's work status for coverage, etc. Copies of the benefit plan documents are available by contacting Amy Smith at (814) 533-5683.

## **Payroll Deductions**

Payroll deductions which you currently have will continue for the next school year at the rates which may prevail at that time or revised in accordance with adjusted salary agreements. If you wish to make a change in any deduction category, please call Tawnya Hess in the Payroll Office at (814) 533-5685.

Please note that when making a change in your Federal Withholding Tax, only the W-4 need be submitted. This may be obtained by calling the Payroll Office. If a greater amount is desired than is called for by the W-4 Form, this amount must be in whole dollar figures.

It is the employee's responsibility to review and notify the Payroll Office of any discrepancies that may occur during a given pay.

Should you have any questions regarding your pay, please contact Tawnya Hess in the Payroll Office at (814) 533-5685. Once a problem is discovered, every effort will be made to correct the discrepancy as soon as possible to avoid further complications.

## **Closing of School Due to Inclement Weather and/or Early Dismissal**

It shall be our policy not to close school unless it is absolutely necessary. However, we must recognize that there may be situations, which will necessitate the closing of our schools. Therefore, the following procedures have been established for such a possibility.

The District Superintendent shall assume the responsibility for making the decision not to have school. If the Superintendent is absent, the Assistant Superintendent is designated to assume the responsibility.

System of Notifying Staff Personnel

- The Superintendent will Call"



- § The School Board President
  - § Transportation Coordinator
  - § Assistant Superintendent
  - § Superintendent's Secretary
  - § Business Manager
- Radio/Television Stations to Announce the Closing of School:
- If a decision is reached during the early hours of the morning that our schools are closed, an effort will be made to have radio/television stations announce in case of inclement weather between the hours of 5:30 am and 7:00 am.
- The Greater Johnstown School District parent/staff phone notification service will notify employees and students of a delay or cancellation of school
  - If school is delayed due to inclement weather, the report time will be 30 minutes prior to the student start time
  - If school is delayed 1 hour, Elementary School Staff will report at 9:25 am and Middle School and High School Staff will report at 8:05 am.
  - If school is delayed 2 hours, Elementary School Staff will report at 10:25 am and Middle School and High School Staff will report at 9:05 am.

## V. Budget and Finance

### Budget

The Board considers the preparation of an annual budget to be one of its most important responsibilities because the budget is the financial reflection of the educational plan for the district. The budget shall be designed to carry out that plan in a thorough and efficient manner and to maintain the facilities and honor the obligations of the district.

All faculty, staff and administrators, in cooperation with the members of the school board and the community, play important roles in the planning and budget design process. We believe that involving faculty, staff, administrators and the school board in the preparation and implementation of the budget is vital as it acknowledges the critical nature of the connection between the district's resources and the children it serves.

The building Principal is responsible for that portion of the budget specific to his/her site. All expenditures must be approved by the building administrator prior to the dollars being committed to a purchase. Staff may not purchase or obtain materials or services without the proper authorization.

### Requisition Process

Requisition forms are available from your buildings secretary. Once complete, the form must be submitted to the building Principal for approval. The building secretary will type the purchase order and send it to the district office for approval. Once it is approved, the order is submitted. Please allow two to four weeks for an average order.

Receipts from all purchases must be submitted to the Business Office immediately after purchase. If you need to retain the receipt in the event of needing to make a return, you may submit a copy to the Business Office.

## **Competitive Bidding**

It is the policy of the Board to obtain competitive bids for products and services where such bids are required by law or where such bids may be believed to bring about a cost savings to the school district.

The Greater Johnstown School District School Board recognizes its obligation to deal fairly in its bidding and purchasing practices. The Board and its employees will not knowingly extend favoritism to any vendor or contractor.

Each order shall be placed on the basis of quality, price and delivery. Past service of a favorable or unfavorable nature shall be a factor when other considerations are equal. Competitive bidding shall be practiced whenever feasible and to the advantage of the District.

Whenever practical, feasible, and to the advantage of the District, appropriate advertising will be placed. At all times, employees involved in purchasing should be looking for the highest quality goods or service at the lowest possible price.

This policy shall also apply to purchases for extra-curricular school activities and for purchases by organized student groups.

If a purchase is less than \$10,000, the purchaser may solicit oral or written quotations, but may dispense with the bidding process if it is not to the advantage to the District.

If a purchase is between \$10,000 and \$19,400, the purchaser will solicit at least three (3) verbal or written quotations if the product or services permit effective competitive pricing and if feasible and to the advantage of the District. Please note that the quotes may be given by telephone, and a refusal to quote may count as one of the three required quotes.

If a purchase is over \$19,400, the purchaser will solicit at least three (3) written quotations if the product or service permit effective competitive pricing and if feasible and to the advantage of the District. Award is made to the lowest responsible bidder.

- Verbal Quotation
  - A verbal quotation occurs when a vendor informs the District of the conditions and prices under which they will furnish goods or services to the District. When obtaining a verbal quote, please note the vendor's name, telephone number, contact person, the date the quote was obtained, and the amount quoted on the Purchase Order Requisition form. All documentation is to be kept with the Purchase Order for future reference.
- Written Quotation

- A written quotation occurs when the District sets forth specifications requiring vendors to submit a written quote by a specified date describing the conditions and price under which the vendor will furnish goods or services. All written quotation documents shall be kept with the Purchase Order for future reference.
- It is illegal to split orders in order to avoid a bid.
- Professional services are not subject to bid. (e.g. accounting, legal, banking, etc.)
- No bidding is required for computer software.
- Bidding records must be kept for 3 years from the date of the quote.

## **Travel Expenses**

The District will reimburse travel expenses for bona fide school business under an accountable plan as defined by the IRS. An accountable plan requires that deductible expenses are incurred while performing services as an employee and employees must account for and document these expenses within a reasonable period. A reasonable period, as defined by the IRS, is 60 days from when the expense is incurred. Any expenses not accounted for within 60 days may not be considered for reimbursement.