

# *Anning S. Prall Intermediate School 27*

STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

2024 - 2025

## FAMILY & STUDENT HANDBOOK



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Staten Island, NY 10310  
718.981.8800 - Main office

<http://www.is27.org>

Eileen Barone, Principal  
Joseph Pecoraro, Safety & Operations Assistant Principal  
Matthew Genovese, 6th Grade Assistant Principal  
Marissa Smith, Instructional Support Assistant Principal  
GinaMarie Santiago, 8th Grade Assistant Principal  
Dr. Chris Cordell, 7th Grade Assistant Principal



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>WELCOME</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SCHOOL PROFILE, MISSION, &amp; VISION</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>SCHOOL CALENDAR</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>IS27 LEADERSHIP &amp; MAIN OFFICE</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>ARRIVAL &amp; DISMISSAL</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>LUNCH &amp; RECESS</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>ACADEMIC PROGRAM</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>PROMOTION POLICY</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORT</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>OTHER POLICIES &amp; PROCEDURES</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>STAY INFORMED &amp; GET INVOLVED</b>	<b>27</b>



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## WELCOME

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Dear IS27 Families,

Whether your family is new to IS27 or has been with us for years, we are thrilled to welcome you to the 2024-25 school year. The administration, staff and PTA are grateful to be back together with this special community and are looking forward to another great year with our enthusiastic learners, active participation, family engagement and a whole lot of fun. We pride ourselves in advancing equity to ensure student's needs are met and graduates are prepared for high school and beyond.

This handbook is intended to be a useful guide for the IS27 community. Please read it thoroughly and keep it in a convenient place for reference. You can refer back to the information in this handbook on the [IS27 website](#) and the IS27 App ([Apple](#)/[Android](#)), where you can also find announcements about upcoming school events, school and PTA news, and links to other helpful information and resources.

We send a weekly newsletter, *Mustang Messenger*, that provides the most up to date information. There are many family and student opportunities at our school and we welcome suggestions for additional ways to get involved. Let us know what we can do, we are listening and look forward to building relationships to best support your scholar. Have a wonderful year and we are happy you are a part of the IS27 family.

In partnership,

Eileen Barone, Principal



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## WELCOME

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Dear Prall Family:

Welcome back to school. As your Parent Coordinator of IS27, I am looking forward to working with you to help increase your involvement and engagement.

What does this mean? It is not just coming to school for parent/teacher conferences, PTA and SLT meetings, plays and concerts. It includes going over your child's schoolwork, looking through the book bag, notebooks, devices and textbooks. Making sure your child goes to school on time, prepared to learn every day. Do you have your NYC School Account set up? This is another way to be involved. Become an engaged team member of our school community.

Some ways to do this are to make time each day to discuss the day's events; ask questions that require more than a one-word answer. Have a copy of your child's schedule. Be specific with your questions about what they are learning in school. Keeping in contact with your child's teacher throughout the school year, not just at parent/teacher conferences. This helps by making sure your child is achieving to the best of their ability. By doing this, then there will be no surprises on the report cards. Discuss expectations and responsibilities with your child.

As we move forward in this new school year, children learn various things both at home and in school. Each should support one another. Communication is key to success; make sure your contact information is up to date. Every week we send out a newsletter with great information, tips, and upcoming events in IS 27 and the community. The Principal and I each put a message in every week. I hope you make the time to read it.

I would like to hear from you, this is a community effort. Please feel free to contact me with your comments and suggestions. If you need assistance or would like more information about a topic just let me know. I will send out a survey to let me know how I can help you to be involved and engaged in your child's academic success.

Looking forward to a great school year.

Take Care,

Cathy Mayo, Parent Coordinator  
718.727.8936 - Direct Office line  
Email: [CMayo2@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:CMayo2@schools.nyc.gov)



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## SCHOOL PROFILE, MISSION, VISION

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### SCHOOL PROFILE

I.S. 27 Anne S. Prall Intermediate School is a New York City Department Of Education public school serving grades 6 through 8. IS27 is racially and linguistically representative of the West Brighton neighborhood and our greatest strength is our diversity. Students develop academic, social, and emotional skills to positively impact themselves, peers, their family, and community. We are a 1:1 school providing all students a device to ensure access to learning content. Listening is our superpower to empower students' voice and choice over their education. IS27's continuously strives to institutionalize equity so that every student's needs are met and graduates prepared for high school and beyond.

### MISSION

At I.S 27, our mission is to cultivate a vibrant learning community where every individual is valued, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential. Through culturally responsive learning experiences and a focus on social-emotional wellness, we foster an inclusive environment where academic success is achieved through robust literacy instruction across all content areas. By embracing frequent progress monitoring, incremental assessments, and data-driven instruction, we ensure that each student receives personalized support and guidance. Through small group targeted instruction and access to high-level texts, we provide opportunities for explicit differentiated instruction that prepares students for college, career readiness, and active participation as civic-minded members of our school community.

### VISION

At I.S 27 our vision is to create a dynamic educational environment that celebrates diversity, promotes empathy, and inspires excellence. We envision a community where students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, equipped with the skills and mindset necessary for success in college, careers, and beyond. By prioritizing culturally responsive learning, social-emotional wellness, and academic achievement through literacy instruction in all content areas, we nurture a culture of lifelong learning and civic engagement. Through frequent progress monitoring, incremental assessments, and data-driven instruction, we empower students to set and achieve ambitious goals, becoming critical thinkers and compassionate leaders in our interconnected world.



## 2025-2026 CALENDAR

DATE	WEEKDAY	EVENT
August 27	Wednesday	6th Grade Orientation - 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM   Schedule Pick Up
September 4	Thursday	First day of school for students
September 18	Thursday	Remote Family Back to School Night Remote 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM
September 23-24	Tuesday-Wednesday	Rosh Hashanah, schools closed
October 2	Thursday	Yom Kippur, schools closed
October 13	Monday	Indigenous People's Day / Italian Heritage, schools closed
October 20	Monday	Diwali, schools closed
November 4	Tuesday	Election Day, students do not attend school
November 11	Tuesday	Veterans Day, schools closed
November 13	Thursday	Family/Caregiver Conferences (students dismissed at 11:00 AM)
November 27-28	Thursday - Friday	Thanksgiving Recess, schools closed
December 24- January 5	Tuesday - Wednesday	Winter Recess, schools closed
January 19	Monday	Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, schools closed
January 29	Wednesday	Lunar New Year, schools closed
February 16-20	Monday - Friday	Midwinter Recess, schools closed
March 12, 2025	Thursday	Family/Caregiver Conferences (students dismissed at 11:00 AM)
March 20	Monday	Eid al-Fitr, schools closed
April 14-18	Monday-Friday	Spring Recess, schools closed
May 14	Thursday	Family/Caregiver Conferences
May 25	Monday	Memorial Day, schools closed
May 27	Wednesday	Eid al-Adha, schools closed
June 4	Thursday	Anniversary Day/Chancellor's Conference Staff,no classes for students
June 5	Friday	Clerical Day, students do not attend
June TBD	Tuesday - Thursday	Regents Administration
June 19	Friday	Juneteenth, schools closed
June 26	Friday	Last day of school for students



# IS27 LEADERSHIP & MAIN OFFICE

## Principal

Eileen Barone

## Family-Parent Coordinator

Cathy Mayo

### Assistant Principal

6th Grade: Gina Santiago

### Guidance Counselor

Brianna Giasi

### Academic & Behavior Dean

John Gavrity

### 7th Grade:

Matt Genovese

Keri Gillen

Adam Sherman

### 8th Grade:

Dr. Chris Cordell

Brianna Giasi

Alyssa Nichols

## Main Office

Kathryn Cicero, Procurement & Reimbursement

Mary Colvil, Student Registration & Records

Jennifer Sacco, Payroll & Personnel

Savannah Klein, Principal's Secretary

## School Safety Agents

Gerald Oppenheimer & Level III

## PTA President

Christin Declaro

[IS27 Grade Level Leadership Chart](#)

[IS27 Staff Pictures - Connect a face to a name!](#)

[Faculty and Staff Contact Document](#)



## ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

### ARRIVAL

Morning drop-off is a busy time at IS27. To ensure everyone's safety there are clear guidelines set out below for families and students to follow. Because these guidelines are strictly enforced, students know what to expect and arrive at the classroom ready to start the day. During the first week of school allow extra time for drop-off as families and students become familiar with the routine. Doors open at 7:15 AM, both car and bus drop off students enter through the SW entrance on Clove Lake Place - a one-way street. Cars drop off students prior to the bus zone NE of the school labeled in the picture below. School begins promptly at 7:40 AM.



### ENTRANCE AND EGRESS DURING SCHOOL

During school hours all adults and students are required to enter and exit through the main entrance. There are alarms on the side exits that will be activated if you attempt to leave the building through any door other than the ones in front of the safety agent's desk. Photo ID is required to enter the building. Visitors will be provided a visitor pass. There are no exceptions to this rule. The health and safety of students and staff is paramount.



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## ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

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### STUDENT IDs

Students carry their student ID every day on a provided lanyard and swipe in as they enter the building with their ID to record their attendance. Students who lose their ID card may purchase a replacement card for \$1.00 during morning arrival or during their lunch period in the main office. If a student is unable to bring in the \$1.00 for a replacement card, please contact Cathy Mayo, our parent coordinator, to troubleshoot.

### BREAKFAST

Breakfast service is from 7:15 AM - 7:35 AM. Any student is welcome to breakfast free of charge. Students eat breakfast in the cafeteria and head to class promptly at 7:35 AM. Students not eating are welcome to sit in the auditorium until the bell rings.

### INTERNET ENABLED DEVICE POLICY

In compliance with New York State Education Law §2803, I.S. 27 Anning S. Prall prohibits the use of all personal internet-enabled devices (cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, laptops, iPads, and portable music systems) during the entire school day from 7:15 AM to 1:58 PM. The policy aims to create a learning environment free from distractions while ensuring student safety and focus. Students must power off their devices upon entering the building and surrender them each morning during arrival for secure storage in class-specific locked boxes throughout the entire school day, with phones returned during Period 8 before dismissal.

**Special Circumstances and Communication:** Students arriving after 8:00 AM must place their phones in the designated "late student phone box" and retrieve them from the front desk at dismissal. For early dismissals, students picked up by approved caregivers with blue cards on Operoo can retrieve their phones from Ms. Mayo (family coordinator) once properly signed out in the main office. Parents needing to contact students during school hours should call Ms. Mayo, the main office, or contact their child's team members rather than attempting direct contact. In emergencies, parents can use these same contacts, students may access phones with an assistant principal's supervision, and the school will use the GAMA automated messaging system to communicate with families.

**Exceptions and Support:** Exceptions are granted for students with IEPs or 504 Plans that specifically include internet-enabled device use when no DOE-issued device is available for that purpose. Additional exceptions may be approved for medical monitoring/treatments (such as blood sugar monitoring), caregiving responsibilities, approved language services (translation/interpretation when no other means available), or other legally required circumstances. Parents must contact Assistant Principal Ms. Smith at ext. 1111 or [msmith105@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:msmith105@schools.nyc.gov) for exception requests, which are processed within two weeks. The principal may also authorize device use for specific educational purposes.



## ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

### INTERNET ENABLED DEVICE POLICY (CONTINUED)

**Progressive Discipline and Family Engagement:** Violations result in escalating consequences: first infraction requires an in-person parent meeting, second infraction involves after-school reflection sessions on digital habits, third infraction leads to temporary classroom removal with academic support, and repeated infractions may result in suspension per NYCPS guidelines. Parents must retrieve confiscated devices from administrators, and while students cannot be suspended solely for device policy violations, repeated insubordination (refusal to surrender devices) may warrant suspension if approved by the Office of Safety and Youth Development. The school supports families through Parent Support Groups throughout the year, featuring discussions based on Jonathan Haidt's "The Anxious Generation" to explore digital device impacts on adolescent mental health and strategies for healthier digital habits at home.

See complete policy: [IS 27, Prall Cell Phone Policy 2025-2026](#)

### LATENESS

Every minute of the school day matters. If students arrive later than 7:40 AM, they will check-in at the main entrance and go directly to class. Students who enter the classroom after 7:40 AM are marked late. Per NYCPS policy, each late arrival is noted on your child's report card and remains part of their academic record. Please reach out to your student's counselor if you need support. **If a child is chronically late, a NYCPS attendance officer contacts families and refers them to state funded intervention programs.**

### EARLY RELEASE

Do not pick up your student early unless absolutely necessary. In the event you need to pick up your child prior to the end of the school day:

- Please notify the front office beforehand by emailing [attendance@is27.org](mailto:attendance@is27.org)
- Bring your photo ID and sign in with the safety agent at the main entrance before 1:30 PM. Also, avoid lunch periods as it is often difficult to reach students during lunch.
- After signing in, proceed to the main office and sign your child out. Your child will be brought to you in the main office. Remember to bring a photo ID or you will not be admitted into the school.
- Students are only released to adults who are listed on the child's emergency contact card.

### DISMISSAL

Dismissal everyday is at 2:00 PM. Students exit the building through multiple sets of doors. Buses line up on the SW of Clove Lake Pl and door-to-door bus lines on Elizabeth Street. MTA, Bus 48 stops directly in front of the school. Students are not permitted to re-enter the building after school. Students in afterschool activities proceed directly to the designated location inside the school.



## HEALTH & SAFETY

### SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS & SUPPORTS

IS27's Prall PRIDE is a universal, school-wide expectation program to establish a school culture in which students expect and support appropriate behavior from one another - and thereby create a school environment that is predictable, consistent, safe, and positive. Students exhibiting PRIDE are given *Mustang Bucks* and a monthly pop up shop is held to exchange mustang bucks with prizes. Also, students exhibiting positive behavior are celebrated at a Mustang of the Month pizza party.



## PRIDE

**P**repared - We show up as our best selves ready and willing to learn.

**R**espect - We support our own learning and the learning of others.

**I**ntegrity - We work hard to establish, maintain, and restore a climate of peace and safety.

**D**etermination - We focus on our academics with a growth mindset.

**E**mpathy - We listen to understand, value difference, and embrace diversity and inclusion.

### STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND DISCIPLINE CODE

IS27 follows the [NYCDOE citywide behavioral expectations](#). The manner in which students conduct themselves in school is a major factor in establishing and maintaining a safe and respectful school community. To promote positive student behavior, all members of the school community—students, staff, and families—must know and understand the standards of behavior that all students are expected to live up to, the supports and interventions that will be used to address misconduct, and the disciplinary responses if behavioral standards are not met. **Physical and emotional safety is priority number one at IS27, please review this document and PRIDE expectations with your child and reach out to leadership if you have any questions.**

### STUDENT SAFE BODY AND VOICE

To ensure we support our own learning and learning of others and maintain a climate of peace and safety it is critical students act with a safe body and voice. Pushing, shoving, slapping, kicking, and other actions resulting in direct contact with others is not tolerated nor does speaking or yelling profanity provide a productive learning environment at IS27. Families, school staff, and students must work together to ensure students develop social emotional skills to communicate safely to one another.



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## HEALTH & SAFETY

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### HEALTH POLICIES AND SCHOOL NURSE

A school nurse is at school every day and is available to students as needed. A child who feels ill during the school day will be given a pass from the teacher to go to the nurse's office. If it is determined that the child needs to leave school for the day, the family will be contacted to take the child home.

Minor injuries are cared for at school. For more severe illnesses or injuries, the nurse will notify the family to have the child taken to the doctor. In emergency cases, the school is required to call emergency medical services. Families will always be notified of a serious problem. It is, therefore, critical that parents keep the school notified of any change in address, home/work/cell phone numbers and emergency contacts.

IS27 follows New York City DOE and Department of Health policies and protocols for all health-related issues.

### MEDICATIONS (PRESCRIPTION AND OVER-THE-COUNTER)

Only the school nurse can administer medication to students. Teachers and other school staff are prohibited from administering any medication to students. In order for any medication to be given, a [Medication Administration Form](#) must be filled out and given to the school nurse.

### MENTAL HEALTH & 988

We at IS27 believe at the core of our teaching philosophy, mental health provides an essential foundation for effective learning and academic success. Emotional and physical safety is a NYCDOE's chancellor priority. If your child is showing signs of self-harm physically or verbally, we are mandated reporters to families and have school based interventions and connections with providers to support.

You can call, text or chat **988** and a trained health crisis counselor will be there for you to provide support services for free. Everyone goes through difficult times. Don't hesitate to pass this information along to friends, family or someone you notice who may be struggling. Language Matters, Words Matter: Below there are flyers that provide guidance around language of mental health, death by suicide, and more.

#### [988 Flier](#)

[Are You Using Supportive Language That Makes a Person Feel Safe and Heard?](#)

[Are You Using Destigmatizing Language About Suicide?](#)

[Are You Using Culturally/Racially Aware Language?](#)

[How Do You Perceive Mental Health Conditions?](#)

[Using people-first language](#)

[Are you using compassionate substance use disorder language?](#)



# HEALTH & SAFETY

## EMERGENCY DRILLS

All NYC schools train and drill all staff and students in the general response protocol, which describes what to do in an evacuation, shelter-in, hold, or lockdown. In September, we send home a copy of the General Response Protocol to all families. All schools are required to conduct twelve emergency drills each year. Those drills consist of eight evacuation drills and four lockdown drills. Teachers prepare students to participate in each type of drill. The training is designed to be age appropriate and to ensure that students understand the importance of these drills without undergoing unnecessary alarm.

The process of securing the safety of over one thousand students and staff members is complex. In the event of an emergency situation, parents should call 311 or log on to the DOE website. If the school is evacuated for any reason, the evacuation site will be posted on the DOE website. Once students are safely at the evacuation location they will be released to their designated family members.

If there is a special emergency situation concerning your child, the school will reach out to you directly. IS27 also utilizes an emergency texting system. The phone number you provide on the electronic blue card will be added to this texting system. To make sure we have your updated contact information available, check your NYC School Account. If there are any corrections, please contact the Parent Coordinator

## COVID

Students stay home if they show any symptoms of COVID-19 or other illnesses and get tested for COVID-19. When in school we practice thorough hand hygiene and face masks are available and encouraged. COVID antigen tests are also available in the main office and periodically distributed for take home. If your child tests positive for COVID, please email [attendance@is27.org](mailto:attendance@is27.org). [NYCDOE Covid Information](#)

## SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING AT IS27

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions. SEL advances educational equity and excellence through authentic school-family-community partnerships to establish learning environments and experiences that feature trusting and collaborative relationships, rigorous and meaningful curriculum and instruction, and ongoing evaluation. SEL can help address various forms of inequity and empower young people and adults to co-create thriving schools and contribute to safe, healthy, and just communities.





## LUNCH & RECESS

### PROCEDURES

Families have the option of sending a packed lunch to school with their student or having their student eat lunch provided by the school. Bookmark the [NYCDOE menu](#) here. Lunch is free for all NYCPS students. Students are not permitted to leave campus or deliver food to the school.

Time	Period	Lunch
10:02 AM - 10:46 AM	4th Period	6th Grade Lunch
10:49 AM - 11:33 AM	5th Period	7th Grade Lunch
11:36 AM - 12:20 PM	6th Period	8th Grade Lunch

Students are expected to follow PRIDE expectations in the cafeteria: sit at a table, eat and drink their food, socialize inclusively and kindly, properly dispose of their food, and clean their surrounding area.

### RECESS

Recess is in the school yard when weather permits, follows lunch, and is approximately 25 minutes. Students are expected to follow PRIDE expectations in the school yard: engage in physical exercise and activity while practicing a safe body & voice. [See map for activity locations.](#)

### LUNCH ACTIVITIES

There are optional activities for students to engage in during lunch, see schedule below. All opportunities are subject to change and students must follow expectations or privileges are removed. Students report to lunch first and must acquire a pass.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Library Music Wellness Crochet	Library Music Wellness Crochet	Library Music Wellness Crochet	Library Music Wellness Crochet Student Government	Music Wellness Crochet



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# COMMUNICATION

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IS27 wants all families to be active and engaged partners in their child's education. Positive, respectful communication between parents, teachers, and staff benefits the entire community and is encouraged. Depending upon the situation, your first point of contact is typically the teacher, the school counselor, or the parent coordinator and, if necessary, the principal or assistant principal will be brought in. We provide a wide array of channels and forums for communication, please familiarize yourself with all of them:

## [IS27 APP](#)

We have a one-stop shop app for families and staff. Access social media, calendar events, important links, and more. Download the app on [Apple](#) or [Android](#) and turn on notifications!

## [MUSTANG MESSENGER NEWSLETTER](#)

Mustang Messenger is our online **weekly** newsletter sent through NYC School Account ( NYCSA) and School Messenger. **This is our routine communication pathway to IS27 families.** Please make sure your contact information is up to date. If not, please contact our Parent Coordinator.

## [NYC SCHOOLS ACCOUNT](#)

NYC Schools Account (NYCSA) is a web-based application that lets you see your child's academic and biographic information on any computer, phone, or tablet. The application is translated into nine languages other than English. Not only can you track your student's academic process, but you can also view other academic resources to support your student and family. Track your student's information such as: Attendance, Grades & Report Cards, Assessments, Emergency Contact Information, Transportation, and Individualized Education Program (IEP). [How do I create an NYC Schools Account?](#) If you need assistance, please contact Ms. Mayo, Parent Coordinator.

## [GOOGLE CLASSROOM](#)

Your child is enrolled in six courses, four core, one electives, and CREW - our advisory program. Each class has a google classroom that provides real-time progress updates. There are parent access codes for each course. **This is currently the best way to have the most up to date information on your child's progress.**

## [OPEROO](#)

Operoo is a platform that allows IS27 families to consent and pay for field trips online. How to sign up [here](#).

## [PARENT COORDINATOR](#)

The position of Parent Coordinator was created to be the front line in facilitating communication between parents, teachers, and staff. Our Parent Coordinator, Cathy Mayo, works tirelessly to ensure that all families are welcomed at IS27. In addition, her office is in room 155A and we encourage you to reach out to her with any concerns, questions, or issues and she will either help resolve them or direct you to the proper channels for the situation.



# ACADEMIC PROGRAM

## STUDENT PROGRAM

All IS27 students are enrolled in six courses: four core, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, one electives, and CREW - our advisory program. Elective courses are: Band, Chorus/Piano Lab, Drama, Art, and STREAM. All students are enrolled in Physical Education & Health. The daily schedule has eight 45-minute periods, and their schedule changes each day with the exception of their assigned lunch period. All students are provided with a building map to help them navigate around the school.

### SY 2025-2026 Bell Schedule

7:15 AM - 7:35 AM	Building Opens - Breakfast in Cafeteria
7:40 AM - 8:25 AM	Period 1
8:28 AM - 9:12 AM	Period 2
9:15 AM - 9:59 AM	Period 3
10:02 AM - 10:46 AM	Period 4
10:49 AM - 11:33 AM	Period 5
11:36 AM - 12:20 PM	Period 6
12:23 PM - 1:07 PM	Period 7
1:10 PM - 1:54 PM	Period 8
1:54 PM - 2:00 PM	Dismissal

There are **three-minute transitions**. Students are expected to walk on the **right** side of the hallway, walk **up** the **right** stairs, walk **down** the **left** stairs, and walk through the **green** circled labeled doors to their next class.

## SCHOOL MAP

A [copy of our school building map](#) to help students locate their classes is provided to all students at the beginning of the year.

## CLASS TARDINESS

All classes begin with a welcoming routine as students enter the classroom. When students arrive to class on time they show up as their best selves, willing and ready to learn. Students showing up late to classes more than three times, will meet with their teacher(s), family, dean, counselor, and/or Assistant Principal to determine intervention, support, and possible disciplinary responses. See IS27 Intervention, Support, Disciplinary Response Map for more information.

## BATHROOMS

For the safety of all students bathrooms are opened 10 minutes after a period starts and closed 10 minutes before the period ends. Students must have permission and a pass from their teacher in order to use the bathroom. Students must check in with a staff member and scan in using their ID before entering the bathroom. There is a maximum of five students allowed in the bathroom at a time. If there is a medical need for additional bathroom access, please contact the grade-level counselor.



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## ACADEMIC PROGRAM

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### CURRICULUM

IS27 faculty aligns all instruction, curriculum, and assessments with New York State next generation learning standards. Here is the [IS27 curriculum map](#) for students and families. [NYCDOE Middle School Curriculum](#).

### CREW

Crew is IS27's signature advisory and community-building structure. All students are enrolled in CREW class three periods throughout the week in a classroom setting of 12-15 students. CREW fosters a sense of belonging, ensuring students are welcomed, valued and part of a culturally responsive community. Each student is well known by at least one adult in the school and well cared for by a group of peers. To maximize relationships, students are assigned the same crew teacher and peers each year at IS27. [NYCDOE Crew](#)

### ARISTA

Membership in the Prall Arista Society is reserved for students meeting **all** of the following requirements:

1. **Scholarship** – Report Card with no grades lower than a B
2. **Citizenship** – No citizenship grade below “S” in any marking period.
4. Complete the ARISTA application and task on time.

### PROGRAM CHANGE REQUEST

Programs are issued in September. Change of program requests can be made by official caregivers only. Requests must be submitted in writing, via email to the appropriate grade level assistant principal. Requests are granted based on program availability. While we attempt to accommodate student interests, requests based on student friend groups are not allowed.

### HOW TO SEE ACADEMIC PROGRESS

SyncGrades will be used by students and families to track progress on a daily basis throughout the year.

### GRADING RUBRIC AND POLICY

Each teacher will send home, or post on their class website, a student contract at the start of the school year. This contract will delineate student responsibilities and the grading policy. Students and parents are asked to review each contract and grading policy and acknowledge receipt by signing the contract. Specific concerns or questions regarding a contract or the grading policy should be brought to the attention of the teacher or grade supervisor. [IS27 Marking Periods & Grading Policy](#)



## SPECIAL EDUCATION

IS27 Students are general education students first. We believe in serving students in their least restrictive environment through inclusionary beliefs, policies, and practices. Approximately 25% of IS27 students have an identified, diagnosed disability with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). At IS27 we have five models and below provides a description. See [Special Education in NYCDOE](#) & [NYCDOE Specialized Programs](#) for additional information.

### Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT)

- The program serves students with IEPs in a classroom with general education students. The class is an integrated co-teaching (ICT) class, with one special education teacher and one general education teacher. As students get older, the class size increases. There is no classroom paraprofessional.

### NEST

- The program serves students with autism in a classroom with general education students. The class is an integrated co-teaching (ICT) class, with one special education teacher and one general education teacher. As students get older, the class size increases. There is no classroom paraprofessional.
- Classes follow the New York State Learning Standards and the same curriculum used in all DOE schools. ASD Nest teachers are trained in specialized teaching strategies for students with autism, including a special social curriculum called Social Development Intervention (SDI) developed by NYU. SDI is an evidence-based program that supports social-emotional development.

### 12:1

- This program serves students in classrooms with one special education teacher and at most twelve students with individualized education plans. There is no classroom paraprofessional.

### 12:1:1

- This program serves students in classrooms with one special education teacher and at most twelve students with individualized education plans. There is one paraprofessional.

### INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS

If your student has an individualized education plan, a program that best meets their needs is created. Each student is assigned a special education teacher to manage the IEP and schedule the annual IEP team meeting. If you have any questions, reach out to your child's IEP teacher.

### REQUEST FOR REFERRAL

Once an initial referral has been made, you will be invited to a social history meeting. A counselor or our school psychologist will explain the special education process and will request your written consent to evaluate your child. After consent, we have 60 calendar days to evaluate your child.



# PROMOTION POLICY

## PROMOTION BENCHMARKS AND MULTIPLE MEASURES

In accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-501 and the NYCDOE Promotion Implementation Guide IS27 has defined benchmarks and multiple measures that students must achieve to be promoted to the next grade level. Each measure, and its benchmark, represents the content and skills students need to master, or show sufficient progress towards, in order to be ready for and successful in the next grade. For promotional purposes, students must evidence mastery of content and readiness for the next grade by performance at or above the levels indicated.

- Grade 6 & 7 students who receive a 65% in ELA and Math for their course marks will be promoted to the next grade.
- Grade 8 students who receive a 65% in ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies for their course marks will be promoted to the next grade.

Those students who do not pass their grade course mark with a 65% will have to meet 2 out of the 4 additional measures below:

Measures	Grade Level	Benchmark	Note
Course Marks	Grades 6/7	65%	ELA/Math
	Grade 8	65%	4 Core Subjects
Measures	Grade Level	Benchmark	Note
Periodic Assessments	Grades 6-8 (EOY NY Performance Task)	Scoring Provided by publisher	Towards Math
MAP Assessments	Grades 6-8 (BOY, MOY, EOY)	Scoring Provided by publisher	Towards ELA & Math
NYSED Assessments	Grades 6-8 NYS ELA & MATH Assessment	“Met”	Preliminary Results
Project Based Learning Culminating Tasks	6-8 ELA	Level 3	Towards ELA
	6-8 Math	65%	Towards Math
NYCDOE Promotion Portfolio	Grades 6-8 ELA/MATH “Blackline Masters”	Scoring Protocol published by NYCDOE	Per Subject Assessed

*\*Promotion in doubt letters are prepared in January for students not meeting the course benchmarks/grades as stated above.*



# INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORT

## WELLNESS ROOM

The IS27 wellness room, room 367, is a dedicated space where identified students can go to take a break, practice self-care, then return to learning. The room is staffed by teachers that support students in identifying triggers and building effective coping strategies in an effort to self-regulate. These rooms support inclusivity, ensuring students an opportunity to be welcomed into a calm space designed to meet their social emotional needs. [Department of Education Citywide Wellness Policy](#)

### Wellness Room Expectations:

- Students reach out to their counselor to determine the need for the wellness room.
- Students always report to assigned classes and request permission to visit the wellness room.
- Upon arriving at the wellness room, students complete the check-in form and set a goal.
- The wellness room is not a social room - it is for journaling, mindfulness, sensory, and social-emotional learning activities that support the students' self-regulation skills before returning to class.
- Students who violate the student code of conduct will have wellness room privileges removed.

## RESTORATIVE ROOM

The IS27 Restorative room, room 354, is an educational social emotional support program for student misbehavior and rehabilitation. This room is a disciplinary consequence for students who are in violation of certain school expectations and regulations. Students are temporarily assigned to the restorative room and supervised by the restorative room coordinator. [NYCDOE Restorative Practice Handbook](#)

### Restorative Room Expectations

- We, students, report to the restorative room for our assigned periods.
- We, students, check in our phones with the teacher for the day so we can focus on learning and reflection.
- We, students, bring our best to the restorative room learning community, and engage in the restorative and healing centered process to repair the harm that we caused.
- We sit in a circle and express vulnerability. We self-reflect to understand our impact of the incident, more so than the intent.
- We have a right to continue engaging in our academic work and will do our best to understand the needed academic learning engagement for the day by reaching out to our teachers.

## PEER MEDIATION PROGRAM

I.S. 27's Peer Mediation Program trains middle school students as peer mediators to help resolve conflicts among their classmates using structured communication and problem-solving skills. Student mediators learn to listen without taking sides and help disputants reach mutually agreeable solutions through a confidential process. By reducing violence in schools and creating proactive conflict resolution processes, peer mediation significantly improves school culture and enhances overall safety for all students.



## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

### AFTER SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
New York Edge (2:00 PM - 5:30 PM)				
ELA Academic Tutoring	Math Academic Tutoring			
My Sister's Keeper				
Dream Squad		Dream Squad		
			Design Club	
Sports depending on Season				

### ACADEMIC TUTORING

Students needing additional English Language Arts and mathematics support are recommended for after school tutoring - Mondays and Tuesdays from 2 PM - 3 PM. Tutors are IS27 teachers and this program is free. Students report to the auditorium at dismissal and the assigned teacher will pick them up. We ask families to support attendance of this program to ensure students learn. Here is the consent and registration form. Email [msmith105@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:msmith105@schools.nyc.gov) with any questions or concerns.

### NEW YORK EDGE

New York Edge is a free after school program at IS27 that begins after school and goes until 5:30 PM everyday. There are limited spots available each year. [Sign Up Form](#) / [NYEdge Website](#)



### DESIGN CLUB

Design League is an in-depth digital design program in which students work in teams to invent an original app that addresses a social need using the human-centered design process. Students will: Create a meaningful original app design, from the ground up, designed to help others in your community. Present their product with the broader community at project fairs and competitions.

### DREAM SQUAD

Dream Squad is a place for all students to come together in a safe space. Our goal in Dream Squad is to create a safe & welcoming environment for Immigrant, Multilingual and Undocumented Students. We will be doing this through cultural activities and personalized experiences. Dream Squad will be meeting Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:00 PM. - 3:00 PM. You can come one or both days! We will be learning and participating in cultural activities that make each student and their background unique. See Ms. Alaimo in room 317 for a waiver.



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## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

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### MY BROTHER'S KEEPER STATEN ISLAND / MY SISTER'S KEEPER STATEN ISLAND

The New York State My Brother's Keeper and My Sister's Keeper initiative seeks to "Change the Narrative" of boys and young men and women of color, and all students, by closing and eliminating the opportunity gaps they face and helping them to reach their full potential. IS27 staff identifies students who would benefit from this mentoring program. Activities include monthly gatherings at a Staten Island school to learn together the skills and mindset to be successful in life. MSK meets weekly Mondays after school. [Framework/Milestones For Success](#), [MSKSI Club Organizational Structures](#), [Transformational Leadership Development Guide & Booklet](#).

### BOROUGH STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (BSAC)

IS. 27 participates in New York City's comprehensive Student Advisory Council system that engages students as partners in democratic school governance and develops youth leadership skills. Students can participate in school-based student government, leadership classes, and town-hall forums, with high school student leaders also serving on School Leadership Teams. Outstanding student leaders may be elected to represent their school on Borough Student Advisory Councils (BSACs), which meet monthly to discuss issues affecting their borough and are facilitated by Field Support Center managers. [More details here](#).

### SPORTS

IS27 sports programs require students to make a commitment to participate on the team. Student athletes must maintain academic standards of passing all their classes and are expected to be at every practice and game. Students who make a team must complete an extracurricular agreement form signed by both the family and student. Please review the information below before trying out to ensure that the student can commit to the sport.

- Tryouts are open to all students, depending on the sport and grade level.
- Soccer and Flag Football compete in the Staten Island Middle School League. Travel is required.
- Basketball competes in the NYC Middle School Basketball League. Travel is required.
- Students trying out for sports must have a current physical and sports authorization on file in our health office. Sports Authorization Form.
- **To attend games at IS27 as spectators, students must be accompanied by an adult on the blue card.**



## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

### SPORTS SCHEDULE

Fall	Winter	Spring
Boys Soccer	Cheerleading	Girls Soccer
Girls Flag Football	Boys/Girls Basketball (JV and Varsity)	Boys Flag Football
		Volleyball
Running Club		

### AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

As a PARENT/GUARDIAN/FAMILY FRIEND/SUPPORTER/STUDENT/ALUMNI, I understand and must abide by the following rules:

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, fans and officials at games and practices.
2. I will place the well being of my child before a personal desire to win.
3. I will encourage my child to play by the rules and respect the rights of other players, coaches, fans and officials.
4. I will not engage in the use of profanity or any other kind of offensive language.
5. I will not engage in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any coach, parent, player participant, official or any other attendee.
6. Respect the privilege of the use of public facilities.
7. Refrain from the use of drugs, tobacco, alcohol and abusive language.



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## COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

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### STATEN ISLAND MENTAL HEALTH (SIMH) a division of Richmond University Medical Center

For IS27 students to learn, mental health is critical. We are privileged to host SIMH on site, a community based organization to support students needing additional intervention and support. The on-Site School-based Mental health services are available for children enrolled at IS27. Day and evening counseling and other services are also available for parents and families. Please contact SIMH registrar for more information or to submit an application for services. [Contact Information](#) 718-818-6700 EXT 86700 Spanish speaking families may contact 718-720-6727 EXT 84455

### STATEN ISLAND CONNECT

Pilot program to support students in need.

Eligible students and families that work with two systems including but not limited to:

- NYCDOE Administration for Child Services
- NYCDOE Department of Health
- NYCDOE Criminal Justice System
- NYCDOE Human Resources Administration



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## OTHER POLICIES & PROCEDURES

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### ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is vital to a student's success at school. Each absence means a student has lost an opportunity to learn. Students may be able to make up an assignment, but they can never recover from the discussion, the questions, the explanations by the teacher and students and the thinking that makes learning come alive. [NYCDOE Attendance](#)

- If your child is going to be absent, even for one day, please let us know by emailing [absence@is27.org](mailto:absence@is27.org). We are required to document the reason for each student's absence.
- The attendance policy does not change around school breaks or holidays. Please inform the front office in advance if you know your child will be out and, if for a non-medical reason, it will be coded as such.
- Excessive absences that are not due to student illness or other extenuating circumstances results in the family receiving a letter from the Principal and being contacted by the District Attendance Teacher.
- **Students not in attendance during the school day are not permitted to participate in after school activities that same day/evening.**

### BLUE EMERGENCY CONTACT CARDS

Blue emergency contact cards are given to each family at the beginning of the school year. They specify who is allowed to pick up your child from school. Emergency Contact Cards must have correct addresses, working phone numbers, and accurate information listed on them. Only adults listed on the blue cards are authorized to take a child from school without a separate note from a parent.

### CALLS TO STUDENTS

Except in a real emergency, calls cannot be taken for children during the school day.

### STUDENT AND PARENT BILL OF RIGHTS

Please click [here](#) to view the NYC DOE Student Bill of Rights.

Please click [here](#) to view the NYC DOE Parents Bill of Rights.



## OTHER POLICIES & PROCEDURES

### DRESS CODE

Here at IS27 we believe that members of the school community have a responsibility in a manner which balances diversity of individual expression with a commitment to communal learning. Clothing should not be disruptive to the educational process with the grounds of IS27:

- this includes clothing that contains images depicting or promoting alcohol, tobacco, drugs, obscenity or violence, or degrades members of the school community in relation to the following actual or perceived characteristics is prohibited: race, color, religion, creed, ethnicity, national origin, alienage, citizenship status, age, marital status, partnership status, disability, sexual orientation, gender (sex), gender identity, economic status, predisposing genetic characteristics or status of domestic or sexual offense.
- Clothing on the lower body must cover the genitals and buttocks and upper body of the chest & midriff of all students. Hoods and Masks are prohibited (Exception of approved health and safety mask utilization)
- Hats and other headwear may not be worn in school.
- Exceptions may be granted for medical conditions and religious exceptions.

### ITEMS PROHIBITED IN SCHOOL

Refer to page 29 of the [NYCDOE citywide behavioral expectations](#) for all prohibited items on school property

### FIELD TRIPS

At various times during the year, your child's teacher will organize field trips to enhance the curriculum taught in the classroom. You will receive written notification prior to the field trip as well as a parental consent form, which must be returned in order for your child to participate in an off-site trip. The teacher will request parent volunteers to assist with the trip, and/or a monetary contribution to fund your child's participation. In addition, you may be asked to complete a permission slip for neighborhood walking trips. This permission slip will cover any field trips within walking distance of the school. However, you will always be notified prior to the walking trip.

### FORGOTTEN ITEMS

To minimize interruptions during instructional time, students are not allowed to call parents during the day to ask them to bring in forgotten materials. Please understand that office staff are unable to deliver forgotten items to students in classrooms. Homework, clothing items, musical instruments, etc. will not be delivered to individual students during the day. Exceptions will be made for medication or eyeglasses.

### GUM

Chewing gum is not allowed during school, unless discussed and agreed upon for specific reasons with the child's teacher or occupational therapist.



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## OTHER POLICIES & PROCEDURES

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### HOMEWORK

Homework is an important part of a student's grade and is the responsibility of the student. Homework is usually given in each subject class almost every day, assignments may be written, oral, reading or to study. Homework is used to reinforce a lesson and/or prepare the student for the following day's lesson, and it is used as part of the report card grade. It is suggested that each student should have contact information for another student in each class. If an absence occurs the student will be able to get the homework assignment and will not fall behind.

If an extended absence for a medical or family emergency is anticipated, the grade supervisor will get assignments ready for pick-up by the family. If you plan on going on vacation during the school year, assignments will not be provided beforehand, there will be a grace period for your child to make up the work, upon return. In addition to assignments given by the teacher, all students are required to:

1. Reread class notes to reinforce the lessons of the day
2. Read for at least 30 minutes.

### LOST & FOUND

The Lost and Found is located in the family room leading to the main office. Electronics are held in the main office. Once a month (last Thursday of each month) the Lost and Found bins are emptied and the contents are donated to charity. We are not responsible for lost or stolen items at IS27.

### LUNCH FORM

ALL families are to fill out and submit the [NYC DOE Family Income Inquiry Form](#), which helps our school in funding to benefit all students.

### SCHOOL CLOSURES

Please refer to the IS27 School Calendar for current information on standard DOE closings. In the event of closings due to inclement weather or in emergency situations, do not call the school directly. There are many options for obtaining information:

- Register at [www.nycnotify.gov](http://www.nycnotify.gov) to receive email or text notifications.
- Check the DOE Website
- Call 311 for updates.
- Tune in to NY1 on cable television.
- Follow NYC Public Schools on Twitter



## OTHER POLICIES & PROCEDURES

### TRANSPORTATION

OMNY bus service (not door to door) is available to enrolled children who meet eligibility requirements. See more information [here](#). If a student loses a OMNY card, he/she can get a replacement card during their lunch periods (periods 4 – 6) from Christina Graffeo in the main office. Students must present a photo ID in order to receive a new card.

### SAFETY AWARENESS FOR STUDENTS

It is important that children be aware of how to respond to potentially threatening situations involving strangers. There are a number of basic safety rules that children can follow that will increase their awareness, for example:

- Students should never go home with strangers.
- Students should never talk to strangers.
- Students should not take things from strangers.
- If students are approached by strangers and are still near the school, they are encouraged to return to the school and immediately inform a staff member.

### REPORT CARDS

Report cards are distributed twice a year, at the end of marking periods lasting from 10 to 12 weeks. The purpose of the report card is to inform parents and students of the rating of scholastic achievement and citizenship for each of the marking periods. Caregivers are urged to review report cards with their children and note their progress related to promotional standards for the student's specific grade level.

Potential holdover letters are sent home for all students at risk of retention at the conclusion of the second or third marking period.

### DEVICES AT IS27

In the event you experience technological difficulties with hardware, you may reach out to Mr. Genovese. If you are having issues with your NYCStudents.net accounts, product software, you may contact [Mr. Genovese](#) with an email and include a brief description of the problem. Mr. Genovese will assess the issue and determine whether there is a need to escalate the matter to the NYCDOE Help Desk at 718.935.5100. Typically, if the issue cannot be resolved over the phone, a ticket number will be issued and a technician will be assigned to address the issue.

- Students that are in need of a school issued device will be provided with a Chromebook.
- If for some reason they require a replacement device, they will be provided with a used device.
- If the used replacement device is lost or damaged, the school will not be providing another replacement.
- All students will maintain their devices until they graduate or are discharged from the school.



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## STAY INFORMED & GET INVOLVED

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### PARENT-TEACHER-STUDENT ASSOCIATION (PTA)

IS27 PTA is an organization of parents and teachers dedicated to supporting the school and its activities. The main concern of this group is the well-being of the school and its students. Many programs and discussions of school activities and school-wide problems and their improvements are held. Members of the PTA also learn what is going on in other schools on Staten Island and throughout the city. All families are automatically members of the PTA. We encourage active participation in our PTA by being involved with our PTA. There are monthly meetings as well as other events. [More details here.](#)

### SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The mission of the School Leadership Team aligns with IS27's mission and vision. Moreover this committee intends to reflect a partnership and collaboration between school staff and families. We come together to institutionalize equity so that every student's needs are met and graduates prepared for high school and beyond. Meetings are held monthly on the second Monday of each month from 3:05 PM - 3:40 PM. [More details here.](#)

### MUSTANG MEET UP - CONVERSATIONS OVER COFFEE

Every 1st Wednesday of the month we hold Conversations over Coffee at 10 AM. A regular in-person and virtual opportunity to listen, learn, and connect with each other to build community. This is a space where we offer the latest news from IS27 and more importantly, we hear from families of their experience in efforts to both celebrate and make our school a better place to learn.

### 8TH GRADUATION DUES

The Senior Activities Dues supports our school to successfully plan a memorable end of the year for our graduates. The activities fee is designed to cover expenses for the following Graduation activities: cover the costs associated with graduation (rental of the graduation facility, gown, printing costs, diploma case, yearbook, yearbook video, senior t-shirt, and graduation program). Every graduating eighth grade student will receive a copy of the yearbook, along with the gown and 2 tickets to graduation. No extra tickets will be granted. The diploma case will be presented, along with their diploma and report card, unless students owe for any dues.