

PIERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

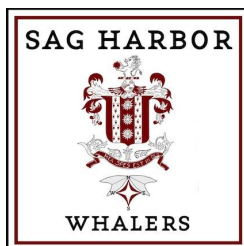
Curriculum Guide and Handbook



2025-2026

“ I would like to have the people impressed with their obligations as guardians of children, to see to it that their training and education be such that, in the future of this little hamlet, as in the past, it's good women and noble men may enrich the world.”

- Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage, 1908



SAG HARBOR UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

MISSION STATEMENT

The Sag Harbor School District in partnership with all members of the community is committed to equity in education; its mission is to provide students with a safe, child-centered environment which fosters personal, academic, and creative excellence. This will empower students to become responsible and respectful members of a global society. As lifelong learners, students will be prepared to move successfully to the next stage of their lives.

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Students and Families:

The middle years are an exciting time, full of changes and opportunities. To help students navigate this new learning environment, we have developed a middle school program that supports both rigorous academic achievement and the social and emotional needs of our emerging adolescents.

This curriculum guide and handbook help acquaint students and parents with our academic programs, extracurriculars, procedures, and policies of Pierson Middle School. We are here to help with any questions you may have.

We wish you great academic and personal success as you plan for the future.

Yours truly,
Brittany Carriero
Principal, Middle/ High School

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

Counseling Office Contact Information

Middle School Counselor: Amanda DiNapoli

Phone Number: (631) 725-5302 ext 711.

Email Address: adinapoli@sagharborschools.org

A Note from our Middle Guidance Counselor

The Pierson Guidance and Counseling Office is here to assist all students and their families. We support all students, academically and personally, as they move from 6th through 8th grade. Please think of the counseling office as your point of contact between home and school! As the Middle School Counselor, I work closely with students on an ongoing basis meeting individually, in small groups, in whole classes, and in assembly settings to best meet the needs of all students.

I greatly encourage students and families to reach out to me if a student is struggling in any way- academically, socially, or emotionally. Students are welcome to drop into the counseling office at any time to talk and collaboratively create a plan that will help them work through their stressors.

I help students set goals that will channel their energies in productive and positive directions, and encourage them to be self-advocates. I work hard to encourage self-advocacy by helping students address their own concerns, through means such as guided peer mediation and supporting their communication with their teachers. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to call, email, or set up a meeting at any time if you have any questions or concerns about things your student is experiencing at home or in school. Communication provides me with context and background, which allow me to provide the best support possible to your student, so please do not hesitate to connect with me.

ACADEMICS OVERVIEW

Academic Programs

The middle school houses grades 6, 7, and 8. The core academic program consists of English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages. Students also have access to a rich enrichment program including PLANT (Preparing Learners for a New Tomorrow), Music, Art, Physical Education, and Health. Please note that not all exploratory courses are offered at every grade level.

High School Credit Opportunities

The middle school offers opportunities for students to accelerate and earn high school credit. After progressing through their first two years of study, all middle school foreign language students have the opportunity to take the Checkpoint A exam. Students who pass the exam earn one high school credit. Our grade 8 programs include opportunities for students to earn high school credit in the following courses: Algebra I (1 credit) and Living Environment (1 credit).

Academic Support

Each typical school day has an academic support period. Academic Support provides students the time to complete homework, make up missed assignments, and/or receive extra help. Students report to their assigned classroom or make an appointment with a teacher for extra help and enrichment. Teachers may also request individual students to attend their academic support sessions based on need.

AIS

The Academic Intervention Services (AIS) program is designed to provide targeted instruction and progress monitoring for students who are at risk of not meeting the New York State learning standards, as evidenced by both classroom academic performance and standardized test scores. Our administrators, pupil personnel team, and faculty work collaboratively with parents/guardians of students who require these services to implement appropriate support.

Homework

Regular, purposeful homework is an essential component of the instructional process. It is reasonable to expect between thirty and ninety minutes of homework per night in middle school and a similar amount of time reading if there is no written homework assigned on a given night. Homework provides reinforcement of skills and extension of classroom instruction. It may serve as a basis for further study and preparation for future class assignments. Additionally, homework reinforces the importance of personal responsibility regarding meeting deadlines and following instructions independently. Being organized is a key skill to develop in middle school. Creating a system to keep homework organized for each individual student will allow for increased success.

Google Calendar of Assignments

Teachers regularly post daily homework assignments, long-term assignments, and exam due dates into the Google Classroom calendar.

Student Calendar View

Students are able to integrate the Classroom calendar with their own personal Google calendar. This gives students the ability to layer their academic and personal schedules so that they may develop their organizational and time management skills.

Grading Policies

Teachers provide a written explanation of their grading policies on their course syllabus. Grades will reflect a teacher's most objective assessment of a student's academic achievement. Grading policies may vary slightly from teacher to teacher, or from discipline to discipline, but all policies are created to encourage student success and promote productive learning behaviors.

Parent Portal

The Parent Portal is a tool that enhances and increases parent involvement in their child's education. Upon creating an account, parents are able to log in and view their child's current attendance record, individual assignment grades, progress reports, and report card grades. Contact Kristen Doran if you are experiencing access issues at 631-725-5302 ext 456 or kdoran@sagharborschools.org.

Teacher Communication

We encourage and value frequent communication with teachers. Email is the most effective way to initiate contact with a teacher. All teacher and staff email addresses can be found on our school website.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are held in the late fall and early spring of each year. The specific dates and times are published in the district calendar.

Progress Reports/Report Cards

There are four marking periods in the academic year. Each marking period runs for ten weeks. Progress Reports will be issued midway through each marking period. The exact dates for the reporting periods will be found in the district calendar. All progress reports and report cards are made available electronically on the Parent Portal.

Principal's Honor Roll

We acknowledge and celebrate academic achievement. At the end of each marking period, students who are on the Principal's Honor Roll will receive a congratulatory letter. Criteria for the Principal's Honor Roll include 90% or above overall average with no grades below 85% and no incomplete grades.

PIERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

All middle school students shall receive instruction that is designed to facilitate their attainment of the New York State intermediate learning standards in the following curricular areas:

Core Courses

- Mathematics
- English Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Science
- Languages other than English:
Spanish or French

Enrichment Courses

- Visual Arts
- Music: Band, Chorus, or Orchestra
- Physical Education
- Health Education
- PLANT

PLANT (Preparing Learners for a New Tomorrow). PLANT is an exploratory three-year course that introduces students to the tenets of the International Baccalaureate Program (IB). This course is informed by the values of an IB education that is centered on the development of learners. IB learners strive to become inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced and reflective. Through inquiry and project-based learning, in the content areas of Technology and Family Consumer Sciences, students will develop these attributes in an effort to become self-directed learners.

COURSE SEQUENCE

Grade 6

ELA
Social Studies
Math
Science
Spanish or French
Physical Education
Band, Chorus, or Orchestra
PLANT I
Art

Grade 7

ELA
Social Studies
Math
Science
Spanish or French
Physical Education
Band, Chorus, or Orchestra
PLANT II
Health Education

Grade 8

ELA
Social Studies
Math 8 or Algebra*
Living Environment*
Spanish or French*
Physical Education
Band, Chorus, or Orchestra
PLANT III
Visual Art

*Opportunity to earn high school credit

PIERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL CLUBS, EXTRACURRICULARS, ACTIVITIES

Pierson Middle School offers students the opportunity to create and participate in numerous clubs and extracurricular activities throughout the school year. Offerings change each year depending on student interest. Club offerings will be advertised in the school building, on our website, and through Parent Square. If your child has an idea for a new Middle School Club please connect them with Dr. Kantor, Middle School Assistant Principal, to begin the proposal process.

2025-2026 Club Activities

Robotics	Student Council
Diversity and Inclusion Committee	Before School Basketball
Storymakers Club	Weight Room Club
Cooking Club	Art Club
Outdoors Club	Environmental Club
Homework Club	Yearbook Club
Sports Club	Gender and Sexuality Alliance
Fall Play	Hiking/Walking Club
Math Olympiad	

Middle School Athletics Grades 7/8

Team sports create opportunities for students to learn the values of teamwork, individual and group responsibility, physical strength and endurance, competition, diversity, and a sense of culture and community. We welcome all students to participate in our athletics programs. For participation eligibility, students must submit an up-to-date physical and register on Final Forms. Contact Madison Hawkesworth at (631) 725-5302 ext. 711 or mhawkesworth@sagharborschools.org for more information.

Grades 7/8 Intramural Sports

FALL

Boys Soccer
Co-ed Cross Country
Field Hockey
Football (at East Hampton)
Girls Tennis

WINTER

Boys Basketball
Girls Volleyball
Boys Volleyball
Girls Basketball
Wrestling (at East Hampton)

SPRING

Softball
Baseball
Boys Lacrosse (at East Hampton)
Girls Lacrosse (at East Hampton)
Boys Tennis (at East Hampton)
Boys and Girls Track

Class Field Trips

Historically each Pierson Middle School class experiences one extended overnight field trip. Sixth graders have camped in Iroquois Springs, seventh graders have visited Boston, and eighth graders have toured Washington D.C..

Class Advisors

Students raise money for their overnight class trips during the school year. Each class has an advisor to lend support and guidance through all fundraising events. The money raised is used to defray some of the cost of the trip. Information regarding trip location and logistics will be distributed to families by the class advisor.

Middle School Dances

Historically, the Pierson Middle School Student Council has hosted a few dances to raise funds. Only students who are enrolled at Pierson Middle School are permitted to attend dances. Students must receive prior permission from an administrator to bring a guest.

PIERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration

Students entering Sag Harbor Schools for the first time must register with the district. Please contact Pierson Administration for more information at 631-725-5302 ext. 702 or Brittany Carrierio, bcarrierio@sagharborschools.org.

Bell Schedule

	Daily Schedule	One Hour Delay	Two Hour Delay
Period 1	7:50-8:30am	8:50-9:31am	9:50-10:27am
Period 2	8:33-9:13am	9:34-10:11am	10:30-11:00 am
Period 3	9:16-9:56am	10:14-10:51am	11:03-11:33am
Period 4	9:59-10:39am	10:54-11:31am	11:36am-12:06pm
Period 5*	10:42-11:22am	11:34am-12:11pm	12:09-12:39pm
Period 6**	11:25am-12:05pm	12:14-12:51pm	12:42-1:12pm
Period 7***	12:08-12:48pm	12:54-1:31pm	1:15-1:45pm
Period 8	12:51-1:31pm	1:34-2:11pm	1:48-2:18pm
Period 9	1:34-2:14pm	2:14-2:51pm	2:21-2:51pm
Academic Support	2:17-2:51pm	None	None

* Grade 6 Lunch ** Grades 7/8 Lunch *** High School Lunch

School Arrival and Departure

The school day begins at 7:50 am and ends at 2:51 pm. Please allow for additional time in the morning due to the high volume of traffic in the area. Doors will open at 7:15 am for arrival. The Sag Harbor Village Police post a crossing guard at the entrance of the Division Street parking lot from 7:25 am through 7:50 am. Students may be dropped off and picked up at the Division Street parking lot entrance or the Jermain Avenue parking lot. Parents are directed to access Division Street via Grand or Marsden Street. Cars are not permitted to make a left-hand turn into the parking lot.

School Bus

Bus routes and schedules can be accessed on the Parent Portal. Contact the Transportation Office if you have any questions at 631.725.5300 ext. 414. or email Maude Stevens at mstevens@sagharborschools.org.

Visitors on Campus

We encourage parents to visit our school. For the safety of the students, all parents and other visitors must present a form of ID, sign in and wear a “Visitor” badge while in the school. If parents intend to visit a particular teacher, they should come to the office so that we may call that classroom to ensure that the teacher is available. Students from other districts may not visit classrooms as companions of students unless specifically approved by an administrator in advance.

Visitor Parking

Parking space is at a premium at Pierson. A small number of visitor spaces are available. There is parking available on the street. There is no visitor parking available in the faculty lot on the east side of the building (Jermain lot). Please respect the designated handicapped parking spaces. Parking outside designated spaces can inhibit the ability of other cars to enter or exit the lots and may put vehicle safety at risk. On-campus parking is monitored by the Sag Harbor Village Police Department.

My School Bucks

Parents are encouraged to pay for a la carte cafeteria items via the [My School Bucks](#) Online System. This system will assign students a PIN number that they can use at check out eliminating the need for cash payments. My School Bucks allows parents to easily add funds to the account and track purchases. Parents can also have the ability to select limitations on the items that may be purchased. Call 631-725-5302 or email Jennifer Brandt at jbrandt@sagharborschools.org or Kristen Doran at kdoran@sagharborschools.org if you have any questions.

Breakfast

Breakfast is available to students who arrive at school between 7:15 am and 7:50 am. The daily student breakfast is free for all students. Students may purchase a la carte items such as freshly baked muffins, bagels, fruit, yogurt, cereal, oatmeal, and juice.

Lunch and Recess

Middle school students are not allowed to leave the school grounds for lunch. They may bring lunch to school or get the free lunch provided in the cafeteria. Students may also buy a la carte items such as sandwiches, wraps, bagels, vegetables, and fruit. Weekly menus for hot lunch selections are posted in the cafeteria and can be found on the district website. During lunch, students have the opportunity to relax and play outside or in a gymnasium, depending on the weather conditions and gymnasium availability.

Free and Reduced Food Program

Free and reduced prices are available to those who qualify for a la carte items. Applications for free and reduced lunch are available on the district website. Contact Lindsay Reilly if you have any questions at 631-725-5302 ext 462 or lreilly@sagharborschools.org.

Attendance

Regular attendance is an important element of middle school success. Students who are absent are responsible for communicating with their teachers to complete missed work. While teachers will make every effort to help students catch up on missed work, extended absences do tend to negatively affect academic progress. .

While we encourage all families to plan vacations during school recesses, we recognize that special opportunities may arise during the school year that require students to miss many days of class work. Please connect with our guidance counselor, Amanda DiNapoli, to help coordinate communication with teachers regarding planned extended absences.

For serious illnesses or periods of convalescence that will require extended absence, please contact our principal, Brittany Carreiro, to make arrangements to continue education.

What if my child is absent?

Students who miss school because of illness must submit a dated note (to the main office), signed by a parent or guardian, or a medical note from a doctor with the specific reason for the student's absence. Without a note, the absence will be recorded as "unexcused".

What if my child arrives late to school?

Students who arrive late to school must report to the Main Office and sign in. Students are assigned lunch detention following three incidences of lateness. At the beginning of the year and the beginning of the second semester, a student's accumulated incidences of late arrival are cleared and we begin counting from one again.

What if my child is excused early from school?

A parent or guardian must come to the Main Office to sign out a middle school student. We cannot release a child to friends or other family members without the specific written permission of a parent or guardian. For this reason, we encourage parents to keep the emergency contact list current and complete.

Emergency Contact Information

A student cannot be released to any individual who is not listed as an emergency contact. It is imperative that all students have up-to-date emergency contacts on file with the school. Please log in to the Parent Portal frequently to review and update the emergency contacts on file with the school. In most cases when parents are divorced, both the mother and father continue to have equal rights of access to their children. If there are legal papers that limit the rights of one parent, this information must be provided to the school. It is the parent's responsibility to update emergency contact information when moving and/or changing any of the telephone numbers listed in our records.

Medications

Students may not have any medications, even over-the-counter medications, in their possession at school. All medications need to be kept in the nurse's office and must be administered by the nurse. If a child requires over-the-counter medications, they must have a note indicating dosage and frequency of dosage along with the medications. The child must know to bring the medication to the nurse's office first thing in the morning. If prescription medication is required, the medication in its original container must also be kept in the nurse's office.

Personal Property

Students are responsible for the safety and security of their personal property. While we are proud of the safe environment we enjoy at Pierson, we cannot guarantee the security of personal items brought to school.

Lockers

All students are provided with a locker in which they can store their belongings during the school day. Lockers are school property and thus must be kept clean and can be inspected at any time. Students are not permitted to decorate the outside of their lockers. For security reasons, the combination should be kept private and not shared with any other student in the school. We strongly recommend that students take advantage of their locker space to reduce the strain on their backs. The ideal times for locker use are first thing in the morning, right before lunch, after lunch, and at the end of the day.

Lost and Found

The lost and found is located near the auditorium at the base of the central stairway. When wallets, glasses, jewelry, or other small, valuable items are found, they are generally kept in the main office.

Textbooks

Texts may be assigned by the content area teachers. A record is kept of each book that is assigned. Students must return the same textbook at the end of the year. If the book is damaged or not returned, parents will be notified of the cost to replace the textbook.

Chromebooks and Chargers

Each student is assigned a Chromebook and charger for the academic year. Students are responsible for bringing their fully charged Chromebook to school each day. Loaner devices are available in the library for daily checkout. It is expected that students return their assigned Chromebooks and chargers in good working condition at the end of the year.

School Supplies

A middle school supply list will be sent via Parent Square during the summer. We do our best to streamline the list and minimize the number of items. We encourage families who need financial assistance in purchasing items to connect with Lindsay Reilly at lreilly@sagharborschools.org.

School Communication

Pierson Middle School and the district distributes and makes available information through communication outlets such as the Parent Square, Parent and Student Portal on eSchool, and Google Classroom found on the district website.

Parent Square

All district, school, grade level, classroom, and extra-curricular information is communicated on ParentSquare. Parents/Guardians have the option of receiving notifications via email and/or text. For even more convenience, users have the ability to download the ParentSquare App. If you have not yet activated your account, you can set up your account by clicking on the link emailed from the district. Please contact Kristen Doran at 725-5300 ext. 456 or kdoran@sagharborschools.org with any inquiries.

Parent Portal

Enter www.sagharborschools.org into the address bar of your browser.

Click on “Menu” at the top of the screen. Scroll down until you find the “eSchoolData Parent & Student Portals” section and click on “eSchoolData Portals.” Next, click on “Parent Portal” which will take you to the login page for the ParentPortal. From here, you can log in or create an account.

If you’re a first-time user, click on the “Parent Portal Registration” link to create a new account (you’ll need your child’s student ID number) and follow the on-screen prompts from there.

Once your account has been activated, you’ll be able to log in with your created username and password to view your child’s attendance record, report card, progress report, and schedule, among other information. To navigate the site click on the blue underlined student ID number and then select the tab you wish to see on the next screen.

Questions on all portal content should be directed to the appropriate teacher. If you’re having trouble creating an account and/or are unable to log in, please contact Kristen Doran at 631-725-5302 ext 456 or kdoran@sagharborschools.org.

Google Classroom

To access google classroom, sign into Google using your child’s @sagharborschools.org email address and password. Enter classroom.google.com into the address bar of your browser. Click on the class you’d like to view, then select the classwork tab at the top of the page. You can view classwork due dates on the classroom calendar. Classroom calendars layer into your child’s personal calendar which allows for all class assignments to filter into one view.

CHARACTER AND CONDUCT

Behavior

Acceptable student behavior adheres to national, state, and local laws and is needed to ensure an environment that is both safe and conducive to learning. Occasionally, disruptive behavior and other infractions of school rules will result in disciplinary action. Please refer to the district policies posted on our district website for a comprehensive description of student expectations.

Examples of behaviors that will result in disciplinary consequences include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Displaying or using electronic devices (including cell phones, air pods, and gaming devices)
- Refusing to follow directions given by staff
- Behaving disruptively
- Exhibiting inappropriate and unsafe hallway, cafeteria, or bus behavior
- Speaking or writing abusive, profane, or foul language
- Lying or being dishonest
- Academic cheating, plagiarism
- Making rude, derogatory comments or actions to staff or students
- Bullying, intimidating, or harassing others
- Cyber-bullying
- Fighting or endangering the health and safety of oneself or others
- Publicly displaying physical affection
- Sexual harassment
- Stealing
- Vandalizing
- Trespassing
- Possessing and use of any drugs such as alcohol, vape pens, etc.
- Possessing any kind of weapon or ammunition (including water guns)

Bringing Items not Related to Instruction

Electronic entertainment devices, trading cards, or other items not related to instruction need to be left at home. The school cannot promise the security of such items and these belongings often present a disruption to instruction. Students bringing these items to school may have them taken away and retained by an administrator.

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

We will continue to use the Yondr system, which utilizes a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone, smart watch, and earbuds.

Every student will secure their personal electronic devices in their assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school. Students will maintain possession of their personal electronic devices and will not use them until their pouches are demagnetized by school personnel at the end of the school day. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times. Students who do not adhere to the policy will receive the following consequences:

- Possession of a Phone/Device in School: 1 day of In-School Suspension (ISS)
- Violation of No-Phone Agreement: 2 days of ISS for possessing a phone/device in school despite signing the agreement.
- Repeated Offenses: The phone/device must be turned in to the office at the start of each school day.

Students who forget their Yondr pouch will be provided a loaner pouch at the main entrance they can store their phone and other electronic devices in for the day.

Students who do not bring a phone, smart watch, or any other electronic device, to school will be required to submit a google form each day.

- High School students will submit the form at the main entrance
- Middle School students will submit the form at the 6th grade entrance

Yondr pouches will be assigned to students on September 3rd during grade level assemblies. Families will be required to purchase a replacement Yondr pouch for \$30 if the original is damaged or lost.

Dress Code

The responsibility for the dress and appearance of students shall rest with individual students and parents. They have the right to determine how the student shall dress, provided that such attire does not interfere with the operation of the school or infringe upon the general health, safety, and welfare of District students or employees. Student dress and appearance must be in accordance with the *District Code of Conduct*. The administration is authorized to take action in instances where individual dress does not meet these stated requirements.

While the school administration may require students participating in physical education classes to wear certain types of clothing such as sneakers, socks, shorts, and tee shirts, they may not prescribe a specific brand that students must wear.

This policy does not mean that student, faculty, or parent groups may not recommend appropriate dress for school or special occasions. It means that a student shall not be prevented from attending school or a school function, or otherwise, be discriminated against, so long as his/her dress and appearance meet the above requirements

Field Trip Eligibility

Participation on field trips is a privilege and requires that students demonstrate consistently appropriate behavior. The administration reserves the right to deem students ineligible if they commit serious behavioral infractions, accumulate an excessive number of detentions, or are suspended from school. Students who lose the privilege of participating in the trip may lose their deposit and any other money put towards the cost of the trip. In addition, students who violate rules while attending field trips may need to be escorted home from the trip early by their parents. These students will also lose their privilege to attend future trips for a specified period of time.

Internet Use and Safety Tips

Utilization of the internet by students must be consistent with the educational objectives of the classroom. Transmission of any copyrighted, threatening, or obscene material is prohibited. Accessing the internet through district equipment is a privilege, and inappropriate use will result in the cancellation of this privilege. All students must sign an internet agreement prior to obtaining internet access during any given year.

Safety and Security

Every effort is made to provide a safe learning environment for all students. Any student who has concerns about his/her safety or security should see a counselor, administrator, or any staff member immediately. Students should report any dangerous or threatening behavior to school authorities. Our school maintains a zero tolerance for bullying behaviors. Please communicate any of these behaviors to an administrator, counselor, or faculty member immediately.

Detention and Lunch Detention

We understand that young adolescents are developing their reasoning skills and approach discipline as an opportunity for students to learn and grow from their mistakes. When students commit behavioral infractions they conference with an administrator and their parent(s)/guardian(s). Lunch detention may be assigned as a consequence. Students who serve lunch detention report to the testing center in the library and check in with the assigned monitor. Students are encouraged to eat their lunch in the testing center. If a child needs to get lunch from the cafeteria they are permitted to do so after checking in.

Suspensions

A major disciplinary infraction or repeated infractions of a lesser magnitude may result in an in-school or out-of-school suspension. Severe or chronic misbehavior may result in a principal's hearing, a manifestation hearing, and/or a superintendent's hearing, the outcome of which could be the removal of a student from school for an extended period of time.