

Pennington Parent Community Chat

Code of Conduct & Community Guidelines

Administered by the Pennington PTA

Welcome to Our Community Chat

This Telegram group is a space created and maintained by the PTA to help our school families stay informed, connected, and supported. It is intended for parents and guardians of students in PreK through 8th grade.

By joining and remaining in this group, you agree to follow these guidelines. The PTA reserves the right to remove any member who violates this code of conduct.

Our Community Values

We are a diverse school community that includes families from many different backgrounds, cultures, beliefs, and life circumstances. The spirit of this chat is one of mutual respect, inclusion, and shared commitment to the wellbeing of all our children.

General Conduct

Do

- Keep messages relevant to school life, PTA activities, events, and Pennington community information.
- Communicate respectfully and constructively at all times.
- Assume good intent from other members, even when you disagree.
- Use this space to share helpful resources, school news, volunteer opportunities, and community events.
- Contact a group admin (MJ Silkowski, Bethany Flannery Leddy, Brigitte Shull, T. Nicole Meritt, and Araceli Coyt) privately if you have concerns about a message or a member.

Don't

- Post personal attacks, insults, or aggressive messages toward any individual.
- Engage in arguments or heated back-and-forth exchanges. Take disagreements to private messages.
- Spam the group with repeated messages or off-topic content.
- Share complaints, unverified rumors or misinformation about the school, staff, students, or families.
- Forward or screenshot conversations from this group without permission from all parties involved.
- Use this group for commercial solicitation or personal business promotion.

Inclusive Language & Anti-Discrimination

We are committed to maintaining a space that is welcoming and safe for every family. Discrimination, prejudice, and exclusionary language have no place in our community.

This means we do not allow:

- Racist, xenophobic, or otherwise bigoted language, jokes, or commentary — including language that may seem subtle or be framed as humor.
- References, especially derogatory, to someone's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, socioeconomic status, or family structure.
- Stereotyping of any group of people, whether students, families, staff, or the broader community.
- Language that marginalizes any member of our school community.

If you are unsure whether something might be hurtful to others, err on the side of not posting it. If you see a message that crosses these lines, please flag it to a group admin rather than responding publicly.

Discussing School Staff

This chat is not an appropriate forum for complaints, criticisms, or negative commentary about individual teachers, administrators, or other school employees. Such discussions are counterproductive in a group setting and can cause real harm to individuals' reputations and morale.

If you have a concern about a staff member or school matter:

- Contact the teacher or staff member directly via email or by scheduling a meeting.
- Reach out to the school principal or vice principal for unresolved concerns.
- Contact the district office for matters that cannot be resolved at the school level.
- Speak with a PTA board member privately, who can help direct you to the appropriate channel.

The PTA does not adjudicate disputes between families and school staff. Airing grievances in this chat is not permitted and posts of this nature will be removed. This is not a reflection of whether concerns are valid — it is about ensuring they are addressed through the right channels, where they can actually be resolved.

General discussion of school policies (rather than individual staff) is welcome, provided it remains constructive and respectful.

Student Privacy

- Do not post photos, videos, or identifying information about other people's children without explicit consent from their parent or guardian.
- Do not share student performance information, disciplinary matters, or other sensitive details about any child.
- Be mindful of general privacy considerations when discussing school-related matters.

Moderation & Enforcement

This group is moderated by PTA-appointed administrators. Admins reserve the right to:

- Remove posts that violate these guidelines without prior notice.
- Issue a private warning to members who violate the code of conduct.
- Remove members from the group for repeated or serious violations.

Moderation decisions are made in good faith. If you believe a moderation action was taken in error, please reach out to a PTA board member privately.

We recognize that moderation is imperfect and that people make mistakes. Our first response will generally be to remove the post and reach out privately. Removal from the group is reserved for serious or repeated violations.

*Questions or concerns? Contact a PTA admin or email the PTA board.
Thank you for helping make our community a welcoming place for every family.*