

GILBERT SPRUANCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2017 - 2018



“Every Kid, Every Day, in Every Class!”

STUDENT HANDBOOK

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MESSAGE TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is with much enthusiasm and a vision for an energized and productive school year that we welcome you to Spruance School. This year promises to be a very exciting one for our students. Many great events are planned by the staff and the Home and School Association.

As educators and parents, our challenge is to help all students view school as an unlimited opportunity for achievement. Together, we can enable our children to reach for and to attain success. Spruance's doors are always open and we invite you to come anytime to visit, talk, and have a cup of coffee. Please accept our invitation. We look forward to meeting with you.

This student handbook will help you learn about our policies, procedures and some of the programs that will take place during the school year. Please review it carefully and maintain for easy reference throughout the year. This is one way in which we at Spruance will keep in touch with our parents as partners in the educational process.

Sincerely,

Kwand T. Lang, Sr.
Principal

SCHOOL VISION

With high expectations and in a safe environment, we believe that Spruance students can achieve and become lifelong learners.



SCHOOL MISSION

Spruance School is a teaching and learning community that is dedicated to excellence. Instruction is child-centered and developmentally appropriate. All students are afforded the opportunity to achieve to their full potential in order to become lifelong learners and responsible members of the community. Emphasis is placed on the involvement of staff, parents, children, and community as partners in education. Our students are prepared to be successful and productive human beings. Inherent in our mission is the development of the whole student through the utilization of instructional strategies that develop academic and social skills. This fosters self-esteem, independent thought, positive values and attitudes, self-discipline, and critical thinking. To fulfill our mission, we will provide learning experiences and resources, which will educate students to become discriminating consumers and proficient users of information.

Each student understands that he/she is expected to achieve academic proficiency. The staff communicates this belief to every child. Parents and community partners are an integral part of all school events. Spruance is a community of successful learners.

Slogan: "Every Kid, Every Day, in Every Classroom."

THE SCHOOL DAY

Our school day lasts from 8:30 A.M. to 3:09 P.M. Once students enter the yard in the morning, they are expected to remain in the yard and may not leave to go home, to the store or for any reason. Students line up outside in their assigned places and will enter the building with their teachers.

It is vital that all students are picked up promptly at 3:09 pm and not left at school beyond dismissal time.

All kindergarten to fifth grade students are scheduled for a 120 minute literacy block and a 90 minute math block daily.

Rain or Snow Morning Entrances: Students will be allowed to enter the building at 8:05 am.

Main Building Enter the main building through the front door and report to the following areas:

Grades 7-8: Auditorium

Grades 5-6: Lunchroom

Grades 2-4: Gym

Little School House: Enter through the yard door to the All Purpose Room.

School Closing for Snow and Inclement Weather

Please listen to Radio Station KYW-1060 AM for the official notice of school closings or check the School District of Philadelphia's web site: www.philasd.org

Snow Dismissal Procedures

There may be days when due to snow accumulation, it would be hazardous to dismiss through the rear exits. On those days, children will be dismissed through the main doors of the building avoiding yard exits. Please call us if you are unsure of the exit procedure.

FOOD SERVICES

Breakfast - Breakfast for all students at Spruance is available free of charge. Breakfast is served in their classrooms starting at 8:30 am.

Lunch - Students in grades K - 6 will have a lunch period for 45 minutes that includes time for socialized recess in the schoolyard. Students in grades 7 and 8 will have a lunch period for 30 minutes. Students may not bring glass bottles on school premises. Student are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior in the lunchroom.

- Walk in
- Sit at assigned tables
- Line up to receive lunch when called
- Respect adults supervising the lunchroom and schoolyard
- Throw away all trash and clean up their area
- Students are not permitted to leave the lunchroom without permission

Teachers in grades k-6 are expected to promptly pick up their students from their line number in the

schoolyard at the conclusion of the lunch period. Teachers in grades 7 and 8 will promptly pick up their students from the lunchroom at the conclusion of their lunch period.

The cleanliness and neatness of the lunchroom are the responsibility of each class, as well as of each individual student. Items containing glass (i.e., soda bottles, etc.) should NOT be a part of a student's lunch. Please bring only food and beverages packaged in plastic or paper. In addition, students will follow these procedures:

- Students must sit in their assigned areas immediately upon entering the lunchroom. Aides will call each class for those who get lunches or buy snacks
- Lunch lines must be orderly. Lines must not be broken into.
- All food will be consumed in the lunchroom.
- Talking is to be done in conversational tones.
- There must be immediate silence when a whistle is blown.
- Each student is responsible for putting his/her debris in the receptacles provided.
- Students from each class will be assigned weekly to be responsible for cleaning table tops and floor areas.
- Students must have an appropriate pass to leave the lunchroom for designated areas.

ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL SERVICES



INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERS

Spruance School has two school based teacher leaders. The teacher leader is responsible for implementing and maintaining academic programs. They provide direct assistance to the staff and monitor student progress. Coordinating professional development activities and planning and implementing parent workshops are also part of their responsibility. They are available to meet with you to discuss any aspect of the instructional

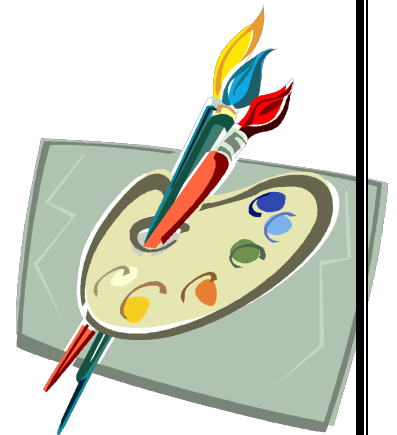
program.

DEAN OF STUDENTS

The Dean of Students is responsible for implementing and maintaining school climate and safety, managing the lunchroom, and coordinating the student safety squad. The Dean may assist with classroom management. Meeting with parents of student discipline referrals is also part of their responsibility.

SPECIALIST CLASSES

Art Education plays a central role in fostering creativity, developing imagination, enabling students to envision alternative possibilities by enhancing problem solving in other areas and improving self-esteem. Our art program will explore the use of various art techniques and materials, expand student knowledge of artists and their works, correlate art projects with other subject areas, and improve students' understanding and appreciation for their artistic creations and for the art works of others.



Music plays an active role in the instructional program at Spruance School through

classroom general music, choir and the string, woodwind and brass instrumental programs. The music education curriculum, through its interdisciplinary approach, will help children develop good social and academic skills as they learn about other cultures. Music activities include singing, dancing, movement, speech, listening, and playing instruments. A basic introduction to music theory is incorporated in all activities. Programs include:

- Winter and Spring concerts
- Primary weekly assembly
- Choir and orchestra concerts
- Special interdisciplinary programs
- Moving up day



Technology labs at Spruance School are used by students scheduled for weekly project lab classes to enhance the classroom curriculum. Students learn research skills by using the internet extensively. Word processing in Microsoft Word and Powerpoint presentation software are utilized to complete major classroom projects.

Physical Education (Gym) is available for all students who are scheduled for and required to participate in physical education activities. Our physical education program provides an opportunity for students:

- to develop their strength, flexibility, gross motor coordination and eye-hand coordination through many activities;
- to encourage students to interact in a positive way with their peers and teachers;
- to develop positive self-esteem through movement;
- to develop body and spatial awareness through movement;
- to provide students with many opportunities to develop socially, emotionally, and physically through physical activities; and
- to stress the importance of taking care of their bodies and the importance of being in good physical condition through physical fitness tests in the Fall and Spring.

If there is a chronic problem, that indicates an exclusion from gym activities, such as asthma, heart condition, etc., a MEH23 medical form must be filled out by a medical doctor and filed with the school nurse and the PE teacher. This form is available from the nurse and valid only for the current school year. If there is a temporary illness such as a cold or sprain, then a note from the parent or guardian is sufficient for that day only. However, all students must dress appropriately for gym, even if they have a medical excuse. This way they can receive credit for that day. Please refer to the uniform policy contained in this handbook for gym day clothing.

Other Specialist Classes:

ELL

A point of pride is our culturally and linguistically diverse student population. English language learners (ELL) are integrated into the school community and are involved in every activity available. Students receive ELL instruction daily within and outside of their regular classroom assignment. Collaboration between classroom and ELL teachers is ongoing. Every effort is made to provide information to parents in

students' home languages, utilizing School District resources, BiLingual Counseling Assistants, and tutors. Translators are available for parent meetings.

COUNSELING PROGRAM

The counseling and guidance services at Spruance are concerned with the educational, emotional and social development of all students. A sense of physical, social, emotional, and spiritual well-being is key to students' school success. The school counselors help students to deal with issues such as life coping skills, stress management, self-esteem, interpersonal relationships, conflict resolution, and motivation to learn. Assisting families to find needed resources within the community is another important aspect of the school counseling program.

Our counselor for middle years students assists our eighth graders with high school selection and applications. Seventh grade report card marks, test scores and good attendance are very important in the high school application process.

SPECIAL NEEDS - The Spruance Elementary School philosophy is to provide programs for all our students. We have teachers who have been trained to deliver a variety of programs designed to meet the independent needs of each student. Please contact your child's grade level counselor for information if you believe your child is in need of special services.

HEALTH SERVICES

Health room office hours are observed at Spruance Elementary School. Students are expected to adhere to these times. During these times students can be seen for minor injuries and illnesses. Examples are abrasions, cuts, contusions, headaches, and general type needs. The school nurse is responsible for caring for injuries that occur during school hours. If a child sustains injuries at home, it is the parent's responsibility to provide the care needed. All Tylenol distributed through the health office is adult strength and will not be given to a child without either verbal or written consent from the parent/guardian. Parents/guardians should provide feminine products for their daughters, as the nurse's supply is only for emergency use.

Health office hours allow time for mandatory screening programs, student referrals and follow-ups, parental contacts, student conferences, and care to our special needs students. A written pass, signed by the teacher, is required for entry to the health office. Emergencies -- severe bleeding, head or eye injuries, asthma attacks -- will be seen anytime!

Medications and Medical Conditions - Any student requiring either medication or medical treatments during the school day must have a Med-1 form completed by their private physician. Another medical form, S865, must be completed by the parent/guardian and returned to the nurse. All forms may be obtained from the Health Office, Room 6.

Students may not bring any kind of medication, including Tylenol and cough drops, to school without a written note from their parent/guardian. All medications brought to school must be in labeled pharmacy containers and given to the nurse at the start of the school day. If these rules are not followed, the medication will be taken from the child and will not be given. Parents/guardians will be contacted by the school nurse.

Children who have fevers or other contagious illnesses should not be sent to school. They should be kept home for 24 hours after a fever subsides, so as not to spread the infection to others. If the nurse calls a parent/guardian because the child is sick, it is the parent or guardian's responsibility to take the child home. The child may not stay at school. 911 will be called for emergencies and the child will be taken to the nearest hospital.

School personnel will contact parents of students who become ill during the day. Many ill students are reporting to school and asking to see the nurse. Students who are ill should stay home until they are recovered. A sick child who is sent home first thing in the morning will be charged with a full day of absence.

Immunizations - Every student must have all of the State required immunizations for school entry. Parents must contact the nurse whenever their child receives any vaccinations to update our records. Students who have not received the required immunizations will be excluded from school. Absences for this reason are coded unexcused (1) - "Parent Neglect".

Health Insurance - Please contact the Health Office for information on free or low cost health insurance, or for any changes to your health insurance.

Homebound Services - Homebound services are available for students with medically documented, certified medical reasons. Please contact the school nurse with requests.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students at Spruance have various opportunities to enhance their interests and personal growth through participation in numerous extracurricular activities. Students are encouraged to become active participants. Our clubs will offer students an opportunity to extend the academic day.

All after school extracurricular activities end by 4:15 P.M., unless otherwise noted. Note that crossing guards are not on duty when clubs end. Parents are responsible for timely pickups of children involved in after school activities. Failure to do so may result in the student not being allowed to stay for the after school activity.

Note: See Brochure for details and dates.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Spruance Student Council is a community service group. We try to enhance our students' leadership qualities. Student Council is open to students in grades 6 - 8. Past activities of the Spruance Student Council include: Collecting food from the whole school for Thanksgiving food baskets to churches, synagogues and neighborhood senior citizen centers, collecting new and almost new toys for unfortunate children at Christmas, collecting new, small, personal sundry items for homeless children in shelters, making a large school banner for the stage, sponsoring school activities, and giving a gift to the school on graduation day. Student Council has its election of officers, which are patterned after government election procedures, in November of each year.

JUNIOR NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle level students. More than just an honor roll, NJHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character (and Citizenship for NJHS). Beginning in grade 6, student records are evaluated for admission to this prestigious group.

HONOR ROLL

Through hard work and attention to academics, students can earn Honor Roll status at each marking period. Honor Roll is awarded at two levels of recognition:

Distinguished: All A's in major subjects, 1 B in a minor subject

Meritorious: All A's and B's, 1 C in a minor subject

Major Subjects: English/Language Arts, Math, Reading, Social Studies and Science.

Minor Subjects: Art, Gym, Health, Music, Science, Writing and Technology.

LOST AND FOUND

Articles found in the school are kept outside the gym for a period of time. You are free to inspect the table during school hours to search for any articles you have lost. If possible, mark your belongings with your name and room number. Students are responsible for taking care of their own property. **Valuable items (ipods, phones, electronics, etc.), jewelry and large sums of money should not be brought to school - the school will not be responsible for lost personal items.**

SCHOOL NOTICES

One way of keeping all parents informed is through notices sent home with our pupils. These notices may be from the school, teacher, the Home and School Association or community agency. Please impress upon your child the importance of taking all notices home. Make frequent checks of your child's belongings for notices.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parents may request a conference at any time during the school year by sending a note to the teacher or calling. Conferences will also be held at the issuance of the first, second and third report cards. Parents will be advised of report card conference dates during the school year. Report cards will either be sent home the last day of school or distributed to students on the first day of the following year. In order for you to receive this important document, it is important that we have your correct address. Please report address changes to the office as soon as they change.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

A letter will be sent home on the last day of school, and again in September, listing the school supplies needed for each classroom. Students will not be required to, and should not bring scissors or compasses to school.



POLICIES

Attendance - State law requires school attendance for every child under the age of 17. If absent from school, the student must bring a note from a parent or guardian to the homeroom or advisory teacher on

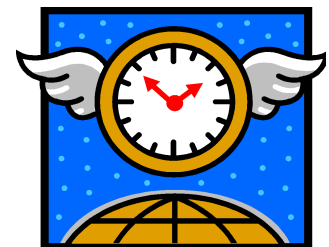
the day of return. The note must include: your name and telephone number, the dates and reasons for the absence, and parent/guardian signature. Students who fail to bring in such notes on the day of return, will be coded with unexcused absences. All school work missed by students must be made up as soon as possible after returning to school. Excessive absence, without makeup of work may result in lowered academic achievement.

Regular attendance, except in case of serious illness (where homebound instruction may be required), is a requirement at Spruance. Parents will be notified by the teacher following the first day of absence. Three absences require a referral to our attendance officers. A doctor's note is required after three days of absences. The parent will be contacted by our attendance officers if there is a problem with your child's attendance record. There is also a central calling system in place that calls your home each day in the event of your child's absence.

Once five (5) days of absence is attained, RTII is required, where we will work together to develop strategies to improve attendance. If attendance does not improve, a meeting will be scheduled with school personnel to discuss your child's attendance and to develop an attendance contract. If absences do not cease, referrals to Truancy Court may occur. Removing a child from school to babysit a younger sibling, go shopping, or take care of family business is an unexcused absence and will be coded as such. Students who go on vacation during the school year will also be coded as an unexcused absence.

Lateness

Students are expected to arrive promptly each morning and must be in line in the yard to begin the day by 8:30 A.M. In the event of a lateness, a note should be sent from home explaining the reason for the lateness. Adults may not take late arrivals to class. Learning is in progress and interruptions must be kept to a minimum. Cooperation with this policy is needed in order to allow the educational program to proceed without the interruption of students arriving late. After three latenesses, a warning notice will be sent to the home. After the 5th lateness, the teacher will refer the student to the Community Liaison. A detention will be assigned before or after school or at lunchtime. If there is no improvement, RTII, a parental conference and administrative intervention will be necessary. Major problems with transportation or weather and excused latenesses due to doctor appointments that cannot be scheduled at other times will not be included in this total.



Student Code of Conduct - Spruance students are expected to exhibit the highest level of positive behavior. All students will be held accountable to the School District's Student Code of Conduct. The School District of Philadelphia has adopted this Code of Student Conduct in order to inform students, parents, and school personnel of the behavior that is expected from all students to ensure a safe and focused learning environment. This code is strictly enforced at Spruance. The School District expects each student to work to the best of his/her ability and to cooperate with other students and school staff in maintaining a safe, healthy and orderly learning environment. A proper learning environment must be free from disruptive, threatening and dangerous behavior that interferes with the excitement and challenges of teaching and learning. The rules are intended to promote self-respect, respect for others and respect for property. No student may engage in any conduct or encourage any other person to engage in conduct that jeopardizes the health, safety or welfare of any member of the school community, or in any conduct that disrupts or undermines the basic educational mission of the School District. A printed Code of Conduct will

be sent home at the beginning of the school year. Some highlights are noted below.

- Alcohol, smoking, drugs and fighting are prohibited in the school, on school grounds and, to and from school.
- Students may not chew gum.
- Students may not leave school grounds unless they have been signed out by a parent and are accompanied by the parent.
- Computers - Students are not permitted to send or receive inappropriate or offensive e-mail. They are not permitted to use the internet to access material deemed inappropriate or offensive.
- Graffiti - of any type is forbidden and will be considered the desecration of school property. Students may not be in possession of indelible ink markers.
- **Cell Phones/Electronic Games and Equipment** - The School District of Philadelphia does not allow students to have cell phones in school. The use of cell phones and other electronic devices cause disruptions during instructional time and are therefore prohibited from being used while in classrooms or hallways. The first time a teacher finds a student using a cell phone, the teacher will take the phone. The second time, the phone will be given to our Dean of Students who will release the phone to a parent only. The third time, the phone will be confiscated and returned to the parent on the last day of the marking quarter. **Please note that the Spruance School is not responsible if a student brings an electronic device to school and the device is stolen, lost or damaged. The principal retains the right not to return cell phones, texting devices that are deemed disruptive to the school environment.**
- **Act 26** - Pennsylvania Law (Act 26 of 1995) requires the arrest and expulsion from school, for at least one year, of any student found in possession of a weapon on school property, in a school program, while traveling to or from school or school program, including time on public transportation.

The term weapon includes and, is not limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, numchaku, firearm, shotgun, stun gun, B.B. gun, starter pistol, explosive device which may cause a fire and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of causing serious body injury. There is no requirement that the student use or try to use the weapon. **Possession for self protection is not a defense.** Violations will become a part of a student's permanent disciplinary record, and will be available to any school in which he/she may later enroll. Further, you will have to disclose the existence of any weapons violations or other serious violations to any new school in which your child enrolls.

Tools or supplies, such as metal or pointed scissors and compasses, should not be sent to school with your child unless you receive a written request from the instructor on the school's official letterhead.

- **Hallways and Stair Movement** - All students must remain in classrooms for maximum instruction and may not be present in the hallways or stairwells unaccompanied by an adult unless in the possession of a hall pass issued by a staff member for emergency reasons or bathroom use. Students must sign out in the class log book prior to leaving the room. Students who do not return to class following lunch, prep, recess or class change may be considered cutting and subject to disciplinary action. There are four requirements for moving through the halls.
 - Walk quietly in the hallway

- Go directly to your assigned area
 - Eat only in the lunchroom or classroom during designated times (no chewing gum)
 - Put all trash in trashcans
- **Respect** - AT SPRUANCE SCHOOL WE CARE! Students are expected to demonstrate respect for themselves and others. Students are expected to respond promptly and respectfully to adult direction. If a student believes that a staff member has erred in his/her direction or request, then the student is advised to comply with the direction and bring the concern to the attention of his teacher or an administrator.
 - **Bully Proof** - Spruance School is a Bully Proof school and the Bully Policy is as follows:
 - We will find peaceful ways to solve our problems with each other.
 - We will report those who hurt or bully others.
 - We will make an extra effort to include others.
 - We will take a stand for what is right.

Students and parents are asked to notify the Dean if they believe they are a victim of bullying.

- **Spruance is a NO PLACE FOR HATE school that is strengthened by our diversity and we do not tolerate bullying, bias and discrimination.**

Student Responsibilities

Attendance

- Be punctual and attend every class.
- Present a written excuse when absent or tardy.
- Provide proper identification when requested.

Dress and Grooming Code: Mandatory Uniform Policy

- The School District of Philadelphia has a mandatory uniform policy for all students in grades K-12. The Spruance Elementary School uniform is a red golf type shirt, tucked in, with black pants and tie shoes. Students may wear a red sweater or sweatshirt in cool weather. Students may not wear shirts with lettering, jewelry, large belt buckles and head coverings unless religious in nature.
- Students who persistently fail to dress for school as required by their schools' uniform programs may be subjected to disciplinary sanctions as described in the Student Code of Conduct.
- Students shall also observe basic standards of cleanliness, modesty, and good grooming.
- Students shall dress in a manner that neither disrupts the educational program nor poses a safety hazard.

Citizenship

- Do not take or damage property of other students, school personnel, or the school.
- Return in the best condition possible any books, equipment, and other school materials.
- Have pride in your school.
- Be honest and courteous.
- Refrain from drug use, alcohol use, and possession, concealment, or use of illegal weapons.
- Respect the rights of fellow students, school personnel, and others, while setting a good example.
- Seek assistance from school personnel to prevent or resolve conflicts.

- Report incidents or activities that may threaten or disrupt the school environment. Tell a teacher or other staff member.

Academics

- Do your best to achieve excellence in personal conduct and academics.
- Contribute to a good learning climate.
- Improve your performance upon notice of unsatisfactory progress. See your teacher for help.

Extracurricular Activities

- Behave in an exemplary manner.
- Show good sportsmanship and play the game and participate fairly.

Specific Spruance Elementary School Rules are:

- Follow directions the first time given.
- Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.
- Raise hand and wait to be called on before speaking.
- Show respect for adults, fellow students and property.
- Come to school prepared each day, in uniform, and on time.

Time Out Room (ALC- Alternative Learning Center) - The Time Out Room serves as an alternative disciplinary intervention to avoid out of school suspensions. Students are assigned for a specific period of time and work on curriculum and behavior improvement. All student referrals are made by the principal or assistant principal. This is a progressive discipline policy which includes communication, mediation, and various levels of corrective actions. We seek to maintain an instructional atmosphere which will support students' entry back into the classroom.

Zero Tolerance - Respect is the cornerstone of all our interactions and behaviors. We acknowledge the dignity and worth of one another and strive never to diminish another by our conduct or attitudes. Spruance is a community which dedicates itself to the safety and well-being of its citizens and which recognizes that human dignity is the basis for all our relationships and growth.

In accordance with the School District of Philadelphia's Policies 102 and 103, we have established a zero tolerance policy towards the language and behavior of intolerance. This includes verbal as well as physical harassment. Unacceptable conduct, for example, could include inappropriate comments regarding ethnicity or sexual orientation, offhanded discriminatory remarks, offensive jokes, and overt harassment of any kind. It also includes spoken and written acts of abuse, violence, harassment, intimidation, extortion, the use of vulgarity, cursing, making remarks of a personally destructive nature toward another person, and any restriction or prevention of free movement of an individual. No student or staff member should be demeaned on the basis of race, language, national origin, ethnic origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or ability. Any infractions of this nondiscrimination policy may result in immediate disciplinary action.

Early Dismissals - No child will be given an early dismissal from school unless the parent/guardian, noted in school records, comes to school to escort the child out of the building. Parents/guardians requesting early dismissals must present a photo ID. Parents/guardians may not designate another person to pick up their child either by phone or in writing as we are unable to accept your request. Please do not ask for exceptions to this policy as the policy has been made for the safety of your child. Parents are asked not to schedule doctor's appointments during school hours. Doctor and dental appointments should be scheduled after

school when at all possible.

In the event your child is ill and the nurse is unable to reach the parent/guardian of record, the principal may release the child to the person listed as an emergency contact on the Parent Location form that you have provided at the beginning of the year. That person must also present a photo ID and may not designate another person to pick up your child. In the event a child is seriously injured or ill and a parent cannot come to the building, the school will call 911 to take the child to a nearby hospital for medical care.

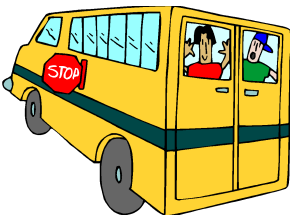
Any child who leaves school prior to 10:00 A.M. will be charged with an entire day of absence. Students who come to school after 10:00am and before 1:00 pm will be marker for a half-day absence. A note from the parent/guardian must be sent to the office prior to an early dismissal. We strongly discourage parents from coming into the office to request a child's dismissal after 2:30 P.M. Parents will be asked to record the reason for the early dismissal. Notes will be required for doctor's visits. These may be brought to the school the next day. On scheduled early dismissal days there will be no early dismissal given, except for emergencies.

Parents of Students in the Little School House must report to the Main building to request an early dismissal.

***Important Note About Custody - If you are separated or divorced, we need to have a copy of your custody papers on file in the event there are specific visitation rights that impact upon the school day. If at any time you feel that a problem of abduction may occur, we need to have knowledge of this in the school office. This is the only way we can assist in preventing this from happening at school.**

Birthday Policy: Parents must give the homeroom teacher 24 hours notice before sending in birthday party items. We accept cupcakes only. We do not accept pizza, knives, candles, balloons, cakes, presents or parents.

Educational Trips - Many educational trips are planned for our students. Class trips are an extension of the instructional program. Only students in the participating class and designated adult chaperones may attend the trip. For reasons of security and curriculum, students in other classes and children of chaperones may not attend.



On these trips the students represent themselves and Spruance Elementary School. We are concerned with proper behavior and safety at all times. All pupils must have a permission slip signed by a parent in order to attend. A pupil who exhibits serious behavioral problems may not be permitted to go with the class unless accompanied by a parent chaperone. Students may be denied participation in a school trip due to behavioral issues, however, not due to inability to pay. Students not attending trips should report to school for attendance in another appropriate grade level class.

Homework - Through homework, classroom instruction is reinforced, high expectations are supported, students are motivated toward self direction, and the relationship between school and home is strengthened. It may be daily or given over a longer period of time as a project or a report. It provides an opportunity for our pupils to strengthen basic skills, reinforce study skills, and encourages independent thinking and creativity. Homework is an important part of every student's instructional program. Parents

are encouraged to take an active interest in their children's assignments. It is required that homework be signed by a parent.

Every elementary classroom teacher will require regularly assigned homework based upon classroom instruction no less than four times a week, Monday through Thursday. Because homework is an important part of the instructional program, failure to submit homework will be reflected in the student's grade.

Purpose: Homework may be assigned in order to:

- strengthen basic skills;
- reinforce study habits;
- extend classroom learning;
- develop initiative, responsibility and self direction;
- stimulate independent thinking;
- increase range and scope of interests; and
- foster the worthwhile use of leisure time.

While the student should assume the major responsibility for completing the homework assignment, parents are encouraged to take an active interest in homework by:

- asking about homework every day;
- providing a definite time and a suitable place for study or home activities;
- making resource materials available;
- checking for neatness and completeness; and
- arranging with the teacher for limited homework assignments when the student's physical condition necessitates it.

In addition to monitoring and helping children with homework, we ask that parents include a half-hour reading and computer time in your child's evening activities. This time may include reading to your child, listening to your child read aloud, or a silent reading time. Books may be purchased through classroom subscriptions to reading clubs and our book fairs. In addition, parents who attend our monthly meetings receive books for their children's home libraries. It also should include time for www.firstinmath.com and www.studyisland.com

You can help at home by providing paper, crayons, markers and pencils for pre-writing activities. Help your child to illustrate an event, story, etc. They can label the picture in beginning writing (phonetic) or by dictating to you. Read and discuss nursery rhymes, poems and stories with your child to stimulate a love of books. Let your child share in home responsibilities, conversations and activities. Help develop independence by allowing your child to do simple activities independently, such as hanging up his/her coat, washing hands, etc. Remember that a parent is the child's first and most important teacher.

Parent's Right to Know

Parents/guardians have the right to inspect and review the contents of their child's educational records. Parents/guardians may request access to review these records by phoning the principal or assistant principal. When the records are shown to the parent/guardian, he/she must sign an official request form. We request 24 hours notice to make copies of requested records.

Street Safety and Parking Near the School

There is no parking on the school side of any bordering street. Parking on the school side of the street during school hours is not permitted. This law safeguards all of the children. Police will ticket illegally parked cars.

Parents who drive their children to school are asked to discharge pupils who are going to the Main Building on the Horrocks or Hellerman Street side of the building. When children are discharged from cars, they should be dropped off at the school sidewalk. Children must exit the car on the sidewalk side. The discharging car should then leave immediately. When children are being picked up, they should go to the corner to cross the street and enter your car on the sidewalk side.

Do not drop off your child on Levick Street as it is hazardous because of heavy traffic. Eastwood Street is reserved for parking by our yellow school buses. Parking regulations must be respected whenever children are transported to school by parents.

Textbooks

The Board of Education charges each student with responsibility for the proper care of school property and the school textbooks, supplies, and equipment entrusted to his/her use. Students are responsible for the care, maintenance, and timely return of all textbooks. Schools shall require students and/or parents to sign a compact acknowledging their responsibility for the care and prompt return of textbooks loaned to them by the school. Students and/or their parents will be assessed penalties for lost or damaged textbooks. Imposition of one or more of the following penalties is permitted: a charge for replacement of the textbook; requiring the student to perform a prescribed number of hours of school service; withholding of a report card; and/or loss of privileges such as participation in sports or other extracurricular activities, proms, and other special events or moving up related activities.

Theft

The school is a community and theft of school or personal property is an injury to all members of the school community. Deliberate theft of school or personal property will result in suspension from school, restitution and notification to the police of such incidents.

Uniform Policy

The Board of Education has adopted a **mandatory** school uniform policy for all students. Spruance students are required to wear the following:

GIRLS: Girls will wear either a long or short sleeved red golf shirt that has a collar with either black pants or skirt. Skirts must be no shorter than two inches above the knee. No jumpers! No handbags - book bags only!

BOYS: Boys will wear black pants with either a long or short sleeved red golf shirt which has a collar.

Do nots: Students may not wear large dangling earrings, cut-off jeans, jewelry, large belts, tights without a skirt or pants, tutus, sandals, flip flops, and high heels.

- Students may not wear any hats, hoods, scarves or other headgear unless for religious reasons.

- Shoes must be sturdy such as sneakers with ties or shoes with buckles.
- Over-sized clothing is not permitted and pants must be belted at the waist. Undergarments should not be visible. If a child chooses to wear a long sleeve shirt under a short sleeve uniform shirt, it must be red.
- Students should not wear expensive jewelry and the school will not take responsibility for loss.
- In cool weather, students may wear red sweaters or red hooded sweat shirts, and new this year black hooded sweat shirts over the uniform shirt.
- Uniforms are available for sale at school - See Mrs. Evelyn Reamer-Benitez in the main office.

All students are expected to adhere to this uniform policy. Failure to wear the school uniform will result in appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Gym Uniforms:

In order to implement our physical education program, proper attire is necessary. Preparation for class is part of the student's overall subject grade. We require the following clothing to meet the needs of personal cleanliness and maximum safety:

- All-purpose black athletic shorts (no cutoffs or play suits) and a separate red t-shirt to be worn only during PE class.
- Students may wear black sweatpants (no stripes) during the winter months.
- White athletic socks that cover the ankle.
- Athletic shoes that are designed for activity (no Docksidors) and that are laced and tied properly.
- No jewelry is to be worn during class in order to provide safety for the student and the rest of the class. Watches, earrings, chains, rings, etc., should be left at home.



Vandalism

Any vandalism to the property of the School District of Philadelphia should be reported to school authorities immediately. This includes destruction of bulletin boards, displays, etc. Incidents will be dealt with according to Section 3307 of the Pennsylvania Crime Code. Any student vandalizing school property will be suspended and required to make full restitution for any damages incurred and may be referred to the police. Students who engage in horseplay which results in accidental damage to school property will be held financially responsible for such damage.

Violence

With the recent events of school violence in other school districts, we urge you to be as alert as possible to warning signs that may indicate children are at risk for acting out in aggressive and violent ways. The United States Department of Education has identified several early warning signs of violence. They include such things as:

- excessive feelings of isolation and rejection;
- significantly less interest in school;
- expressions of violence in writings and drawings; and
- uncontrolled anger and making serious threats of violence.

Any significant changes in a child's daily routine in eating, sleeping, or studying may be possible early warning signs. Remember that all children at times exhibit these signs and that this is normal. Nevertheless, if you believe that the changes in a child's behavior are significant, please talk to the child's teacher, counselor, doctor, or spiritual advisor. If there is a firearm in your house, make sure that it is locked up with the key in a safe place. Please remember never to touch or play with guns and that if children see or find a gun, they should report it to an adult immediately.

Visitors (including Spruance Families)

Each person wishing to enter the building must use the buzzer/camera system at the front doors of each building. Once the secretary has released the door, each person must come to the office to obtain a visitor's badge. This badge must be visible at all times. The visitor's badge is to be returned to the office at the end of the visit. Your cooperation with this policy will assist us in providing a safe learning environment for our school community.

Yard Behavior

Students are expected to abide by Spruance school rules and the Student Code of Conduct while in the school yard. Rough play such as chasing, wrestling and tackling is not permitted. Footballs are not permitted. Students may bring basketballs and jump ropes, however, if rough play is observed, the equipment will be confiscated and returned only after conference with parents/guardians.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Spruance enjoys the support of an active Home and School Association which provides valuable resources to the educational program of the school through its various fundraising activities. Parents and teachers are invited to join by paying \$5.00 in annual dues. Meetings are held monthly and all are welcome to attend. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. Please be active members for your children! Please call the office and ask to speak with Ms. Evelyn for further information.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our School Advisory Council (SAC) is a peer elected, collaborative team composed of family members, the school principal, teachers, or other school based staff, students (in schools with grades 6 - 12), and community members, which champions the work for improved student achievement, effective teaching in the classroom, and parent and community engagement in the educational process. The overall goals of the SAC are to support academic achievement, improve school climate and culture, and strengthen family engagement. Meetings are held on a monthly basis.

School Internet/Acceptable Use Policy

Internet access is available to students on computers throughout our school. The School District has adopted a formal acceptable use policy for students to allow internet privileges. This policy is outlined below. We ask you to review this, discuss it with your child, and sign the permission form that will sent

home. We share this with you so that you will understand the responsibilities and sanctions for students who violate the appropriate use of the Internet when working on computers in our school.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA COMPUTING AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Purpose

- The School District of Philadelphia is providing its employees and students ("users") with access to computing equipment, systems and local network functions such as School District e-mail and the Internet.
- This access has a limited education purpose for students and is to facilitate employees' work productivity.

Access Rights and Privileges

- The School District has the right to place reasonable restrictions on the use of equipment, resources and material students and employees access or post through the system. Students and employees are also expected to follow the rules set forth in the District's rules and regulations governing conduct, disciplinary code, and the law in their use of The District's equipment and network. This access has not been established as a public access service or a public forum. All access and rights are privileges granted by the District, and users should expect no privacy rights.
- All District employees and students will have access to the Internet through The District's private network. Parents may specifically request that their children not be provided such access by notifying the District in writing.
- No student will be given or have access to District-provided Internet e-mail.
- Students may be permitted to access an external Internet e-mail service or their personal email account for the purpose of legitimate instructional or school-based needs. This is a local decision.
- Guests/contractors are not automatically eligible for a District email account. E-mail or network access accounts may be granted if directly sponsored by a District administrator.

Unacceptable Uses

- Users may not use the District's private network to access material that is profane or obscene (pornography of any kind), that advocates illegal acts, or that advocates violence or discrimination towards other people (hate literature).
- Users may not post personal information on the Internet about themselves or other people. Personal contact information includes address, telephone, school address, work address, pictures or video bites, clips, etc.
- Students may not agree to meet with someone they have met on the Internet without their parent's approval and participation.
- Users may not attempt to gain unauthorized access to any other computer system. This includes attempting to log in through another person's account or access another person's files. These actions are illegal, even if only for the purposes of "browsing", "snooping", or "electronic discovery".
- Users may not deliberately disrupt or harm hardware or systems, interfere with computer performance, interfere with another's ability to use equipment and systems, or destroy data.

- Users may not use the District's private network to engage in illegal acts, such as arranging for a drug sale or the purchase of alcohol, engaging in criminal gang activity, threatening the safety of person, etc.
- Users may not use the District's private network to solicit information with the intent of using such information to cause personal harm or bodily injury to another or others.
- Users may not post information that could endanger an individual, cause personal damage or a danger of service disruption.
- Users may not knowingly or recklessly post false or defamatory information about a person or organization.
- Users may not intentionally seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users.
- Users may not indirectly or directly make connections that create "backdoors" to the District, other organizations, community groups, etc. that allow unauthorized access to the District's network.
- Users may not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, hateful, threatening, or disrespectful language.
- Users may not engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.
- Users may not harass another person. Harassment is persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person.
- Users may not re-post a message that was sent to them privately without permission of the person who sent them the message.
- Users may not forward or post chain letters or engage in "spamming". Spamming is sending an annoying or unnecessary message to a large number of people.
- Users will not install or reproduce unauthorized or unlicensed software on District resources.
- Users may not plagiarize works that they find on the Internet or other resources.
- Users may not use computer resources and Internet for private business activities or unreasonable personal use.
- Users may not use the District's private network for political lobbying.
- Students will not download files unless approved by their teacher.

System Security Obligations

- Users are responsible for the use of their individual access account and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use their account. Under no conditions should a user provide his/her password to another person.
- Attempts to log on to the District's private network or any other network as a system administrator is prohibited.
- Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of violating this or any other Acceptable Use Policy may be denied access to the District's private network.
- Users will avoid the inadvertent spread of computer viruses by following the School District virus protection procedures if they download software or share common file directory.
- Users should immediately notify a teacher or system administrator of any possible security problem.
- Students will promptly disclose to their teacher or other appropriate school employee any message received that is inappropriate.

Filtering

- As required by law and in recognition of the need to establish a safe and appropriate computing environment, the District will use filtering technology to prohibit access, to the degree possible, to objectionable or unsuitable content that might otherwise be accessible via the Internet.

Due Process

- The School District will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to any illegal activities conducted through The District's private network.
- In the event there is an allegation that a student has violated the District's Acceptable Use Policy, the student will be provided with a written notice of the alleged violation and will be provided with notice

and opportunity to be heard in the manner set forth in the Student Hearing Process Policy. Disciplinary actions may be taken.

- Employee violations of the District Acceptable Use Policy will be handled in accord with law, School Board Policy or collective bargaining agreement(s), as applicable.

Administration

- The Chief Information Officer has the responsibility and authority for the development, publication, implementation and ongoing administration and enforcement of the processes and techniques required to protect the Philadelphia School District's computer systems from unauthorized access, loss or misuse.
- School principals have the responsibility to establish a plan to ensure adequate supervisions of students. They are also responsible for interpreting and enforcing this policy at the local level.
- Local management has the responsibility to interpret and enforce this policy.

Please note that this Handbook is intended to provide you with a reference for school and district policies, however it may not be all inclusive. As policies are developed or changed, you will be notified.