

PAS WEEKLY

pennalexander.philasd.org

| Ms. Overton, Principal

| 215-400-7760

Upcoming Events:

Labor Day, School Closed

Monday, September 7

Virtual Blacktop: Zoom Q & A

Tue., Sept. 8- Fri., Sept. 11
8-8:20am & 3:10-3:30pm

Student Materials Pick Up

preordered supplies
Grade 3-8 materials

School Parking Lot

Tue., Sept 8 - Thu., Sept. 10
5-7pm

Back to School Night

Mon., Sept. 14, 6-8PM

Home & School Association (HSA) Meeting

Wed, Sept. 16, 7PM

Equity Circle Meeting

Mon., Sept. 21, 5:30pm

Yom Kippur, School Closed

Monday, September 28



Thank you to the PAS community for being online at 8:30am during our first week of school. Your efforts show! Our school's daily attendance has been over 99.6% for three days in a row. Please be patient as we make adjustments to ensure we are doing our best to support you. We also want to remind families that there continues to be delays with the district email server so we may not receive your email or be able to send them in a timely manner.

Virtual "Blacktop" with the PAS administration continues this week. From **7:45-8:20AM and 3:10-3:30pm**, join us on zoom to get your questions answered as well as support your technology needs. Please feel free to drop in during that time by joining our Zoom link here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9751540779?+pwd=Slc5Y2o3T2VuUmRLa01WdExVMzNRQT09>

Contact PAS main office for password or check links from your email.

If you are still having **Chromebook glitches**, we have posted several tips on the HSA website: <https://pennalexanderschool.org/>

Grades 3-8 families and those contacted directly by your teacher please **pick up student learning materials** prepared by your teacher. Pick up is **Tuesday, Sept., 8-Thursday, Sept., 10, 5-7pm** in the lunchroom. Those families in Grades 1-8 who ordered **school supplies** from Edukit, please come during this time to pick up your supplies. We are also collecting new and gently used supplies. Bring a large tote, wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Stay tuned for our Monday, September 14 **Back to School Night** instructions.

HSA is launching the next phase of the **PAS Mutual Aid program**. Details of how families can support each other for books, school supplies, student meals and more are on the enclosed flier. I am grateful to be a part of such a caring community. Families helping families has never been more critical than now.

Thank you for signing up for **Membership Toolkit**, our family directory and e-pony service. We have 100% of our K families registered and 82% of families overall.



Please join us!

General Meeting of the HSA

First meeting of the 2020-2021 school year.

Wednesday, Sept. 16
7:00 p.m.

Topics:

Candidate Night

How can I volunteer?

Information will be available on the many ways to help the PAS community. Find out more about the committees and school events that need your help to be successful. Meet the candidates running for HSA office. Learn how you can get involved in our school community

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/>

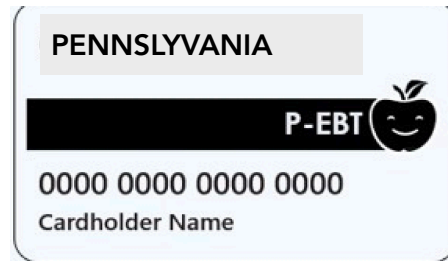
[9751540779?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9751540779?pwd=Slc5Y2o3T2VuUmRLa01WdExVMzNRQT09)

[+pwd=Slc5Y2o3T2VuUmRLa01WdEx](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9751540779?pwd=Slc5Y2o3T2VuUmRLa01WdExVMzNRQT09)

[VMzNRQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9751540779?pwd=Slc5Y2o3T2VuUmRLa01WdExVMzNRQT09)

Meeting ID: 975 154 0779 Passcode:

820583



P-EBT Card Update

Council member Jamie R. Gauthier, 3rd District, is assisting families who have not received their cards. If you have not received your P-EBT card, please contact Ann Kreidle at kreidlea@upenn.edu or 215-284-8601 with the following information: (1) parent's name(s), (2) address, (3) phone, (4) email, (5) children's name(s), and (6) children's date of birth.



Grab & Go Meals Comes to PAS

- Penn Alexander is now one of 62 pick up locations
- Thursdays, 9am-12pm
- Students receive one box with 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches and ½ gallon of milk
- Can't pick up? See Mutual Aid flier for delivery service
- Can you help deliver? See Mutual Aid flier to sign up

PAS Mutual Aid For Families

Financial assistance

- Please consider making a donation to the PAS Family Emergency Fund to help families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://pennalexanderschool.org/product/family-support-fund/>
- To apply for a small grant, please complete this [application](#)

Grab & Go Meals Comes to PAS

- Thursdays, 9 AM - 12 PM; pick up from PAS on 43rd Street
- Students receive one box with 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches and ½ gallon of milk
- Can't make the scheduled day/time to pick up due to work, childcare, etc.?
- Can you pick up a box for a family that can't make the time and drop it off to them?
 - **Please fill out this form so we can match families up:**
<https://forms.gle/NuYYgUz6CFfmDX46>

Mutual Aid

Have your children outgrown their clothes? Do you have a bike you are ready to pass along? Looking for puzzles or board games? Are you able to offer emergency childcare for a family? Something else?

- **List what you are looking for and/or able to offer here:**
 - <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/112nihSEYZGoMlge6C7ncK381U03swjWP25FNM5SYqvc/edit?usp=sharing>. This is a self-serve list where families can connect to exchange items.

Book Exchanges

We plan to have self-serve book bins available throughout the neighborhood starting Monday, September 14. Families will be able to drop off/pick up books by grade level from bins on families' porches. Want to host a self-serve bin? Please email Leila Graham-Willis (lgw215@hotmail.com).

School Supplies

When coming to school to pick up school materials this week, please consider bringing new or gently used school supplies. We are looking for:

- Pencils / crayons / markers / colored pencils
- Glue sticks
- Safety scissors
- Composition notebooks - college ruled & wide ruled

Other help needed

At times we may need people to deliver items that don't get picked from school. Want to help monitor the Mutual Aid list and help families connect? Something else we aren't thinking of? Please email Leila Graham-Willis (lgw215@hotmail.com) if you can volunteer some time with this effort. It will take all of us supporting one another to get through this most unusual school year!



Families are needed to host self-serve book bins on their covered porch (or similar) by grade.

A bin will be provided if needed. We need families from all grades but *especially first and second grades.*

Have questions? Can you host a bin?

Please email Leila Graham-Willis at lgw215@hotmail.com



August 2020

Dear Parents:

As we start an unprecedented school year, we give thanks that Penn Alexander School (PAS) is a community of engaged families, teachers, and administrators who will strive to give our children the best experience possible — even under the most trying circumstances. We believe that if we work together as we always have, in the same spirit of thoughtfulness, cooperation, inclusion, and volunteerism, we can continue to provide our children the best education possible — one that has earned our school a prestigious National Blue Ribbon award and recognition as the Philadelphia School District's highest-performing K-8 School.

The Home and School Association of Penn Alexander School (HSA), in planning for this upcoming school year, took into consideration how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected and will continue to influence the needs of our school and community. This evaluation includes impacts to our budget, traditional fundraising streams, and programming. At this time, it is unclear whether the HSA or the school will be able to offer the same types of in-person community events and programming as in prior years. We are actively brainstorming ways to re-invent traditional events so that we can unite as a community virtually and safely.

We are sensitive to how families are experiencing this pandemic, especially the financial and emotional toll on many, and have decided not to embark on a traditional fundraising campaign with a set goal this year.

With that said, we fell short of our fundraising goal last year by \$76,000 because we were unable to hold two of our largest event fundraisers, the 5K Race and Art Celebration, and are not certain we can put those events on this school year. We welcome donations from our PAS families that are able to help us meet our ongoing budgetary needs of:

- Subsidizing PAS' full-time art teacher position
- Promoting school spirit and community involvement through special events
- Supporting teachers and staff by helping meet classroom needs and reimbursing them for classroom supplies
- Providing after-school clubs and extracurricular programs

We have largely been able to provide the above-mentioned programs and support because of donations from our families. As in prior years, we are requesting that families who are able to contribute a suggested \$100 per PAS student so that we can meet our ongoing budgetary obligations, continue to support our teachers and staff more than ever, and fund creative programs and events this school year. We ask all families to give what they can, understanding

that not everyone is able to give at all times. In past years, individual donations have ranged from \$10 to \$6,000. Every donation of time and money counts.

We have started a COVID-19 relief fund so that we can continue to support our families who are in need. Already, our community has worked together to support each other in so many ways and no matter what the upcoming year may look like, we know that we have a resilient and supportive school community that will become closer and stronger through this time.

We look forward to working with everyone and seeing you virtually or socially distanced. Please also let us know if you would like to be more involved with the HSA and our committees or serve as a room parent. We need volunteers now more than ever!

Thank you for your commitment to maintaining a high-quality, neighborhood public school that reflects the diversity of the city.

The 2018–2020 Outgoing HSA Board

Leila Graham-Willis, President

Karla Thut, VP of the Upper School

Rotonya Carr, Co-VP of the Lower School

Hannah Sassaman, Co-VP of the Lower School

Elizabeth Johnson, Secretary

Roseann Liu, Treasurer

Gina Bittner, Media Manager

Angela Curry, Volunteer Coordinator

Jim Dugan, Room Parent & MTK Coordinator



2020 - 2021 Family Giving

Donations to the Home & School Association support academic and extracurricular programs at Penn Alexander.

Where did my dollars go last year?

- **Enrichment:** Full-time art teacher * After-school programs * Music education
- **Teacher Support:** Books and supplies * Staff appreciation * Professional development
- **Building Community:** Equity Circle * Ice cream social * Pancake Breakfast * Fall Festival
- **Facilities:** Gardening * Playground repair * School grounds renovation

Suggested Donation: \$100 per student

Goal: While we do not have a stated fundraising goal for this school year, **all amounts are welcome.**

- My donation:**
- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 (suggested per student) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 (suggested for two students) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ | |

Ways to Give:

- **Online options (preferred):** [PayPal](#) (Penn Alexander Home and School Association); [Venmo](#) (@PennAlexanderHSA)
- **Other online options:** Donate by credit card online at <https://pennalexanderschool.org/product/donation/>
- **Check or Cash:** Enclose cash or a check with this form (please make checks payable to "PAS HSA") and put in the mail slot of 210 St. Mark's Square (the block near the main school entrance).
- **Stock transfer:** Please contact Roseann Liu (hsatreasurerpas@gmail.com) for more information

Contact Info:

My name: _____ My email: _____

My company may match charitable donations; please contact me. Company Name: _____

My Student(s):

Name: _____	Room Number: _____	Grade: _____
Name: _____	Room Number: _____	Grade: _____
Name: _____	Room Number: _____	Grade: _____

VOLUNTEER!

Calling all volunteers! Please get involved. Penn Alexander relies on the time, effort, and talents of our families. Whether you can serve on a committee, volunteer at an event, serve as a room parent, donate a skill or talent, or something else, we want you and we need you!

_____ Yes, I would like to be contacted by the HSA Volunteer Coordinator to learn more about how I can help.

THANK YOU!



Home & School Association: Executive Board Elections – nominations due Sept. 9

Every two years, the parents and guardians of Penn Alexander School elect a new Home & School Association (HSA) Executive Board. The 2020 elections, originally planned for the spring, were postponed during the school closure, and will be happening in September.

If you are interested in serving on the board of the HSA or if you know someone who would be perfect for one of the jobs, **please nominate yourself or that person.**

Offices: See the [nomination form](#) for job descriptions/duties.

- **President**
- **Vice President, Upper School** (parent of a 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8th grader at PAS)
- **Vice President, Lower School** (parent of a Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th grader at PAS)
- **Treasurer**
- **Secretary**

Term: The new board will take office on October 1, 2020, and serve a two-year term (for the 2020–2021 and 2021–2022 school years) - until June 30, 2022.

Eligibility: All officers must be the parent/guardian of a child currently enrolled at PAS, and all officers must pass a Pennsylvania Criminal History check and a Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance.

Nomination forms: Due by **Wednesday, September 9**. Fill out [this form](#).

Candidate statements: Each candidate must submit a written statement of 200 words about why they are running. These should be emailed to: hsa.pennalex@gmail.com. They are due by **Friday, September 11**. These statements will then be shared with PAS parents, via e-Pony, prior to the HSA meeting.

Candidate presentations: All candidates will read their statement at the September HSA General meeting, **Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00 pm**.

Home & School Association: Executive Board Elections (*continued*)

No campaigning: The HSA bylaws prohibit campaigning of any kind.

Voting: Each **PAS family, faculty member, and staff member** can cast **one vote**. (Duplicate ballots from the same family will not be counted.) Voting will take place in September by Google Form. *Uncontested races will not be included on the ballot.*

Winners: Will be announced in late September.

Nominating Committee: Per the HSA bylaws, the elections are overseen by a nominating committee. If you are interested in joining the nominating committee, please email Elizabeth Johnson by August 31: johnsonegj@gmail.com

This year's committee:

Outgoing HSA Board Representative
Elizabeth Johnson, johnsonegj@gmail.com
Members of the HSA General Membership
• **Janhavi Chandra, janhavi.chandra@gmail.com**
• **Joe Mintz, jwmintz@gmail.com**
Faculty Representative
Ms. Johnson, kdjones@philasd.org

Please contact any member of the committee if you have any questions about the board roles or the elections process.

Other opportunities

There are many other ways to help out the HSA — including being a **Room Parent**, an **Ambassador** for new families, helping coordinate **social media** and **website updates**, and serving on a **committee**. To learn more, attend the first HSA meeting of the school year — on Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00pm — or email Leila Graham-Willis: lqw215@hotmail.com. Zoom info will be sent out prior to the meeting.

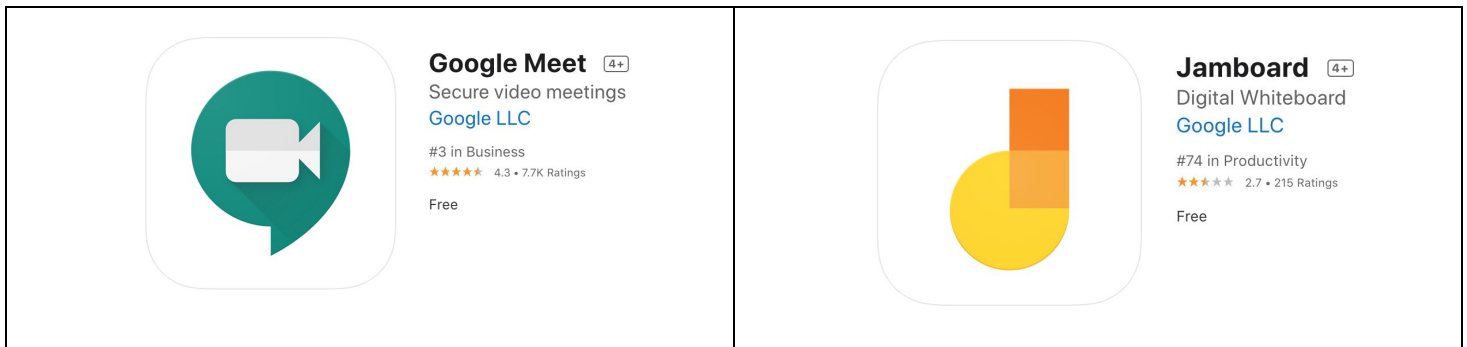
PENN ALEXANDER SCHOOL
Technology tips

Dell Chromebooks

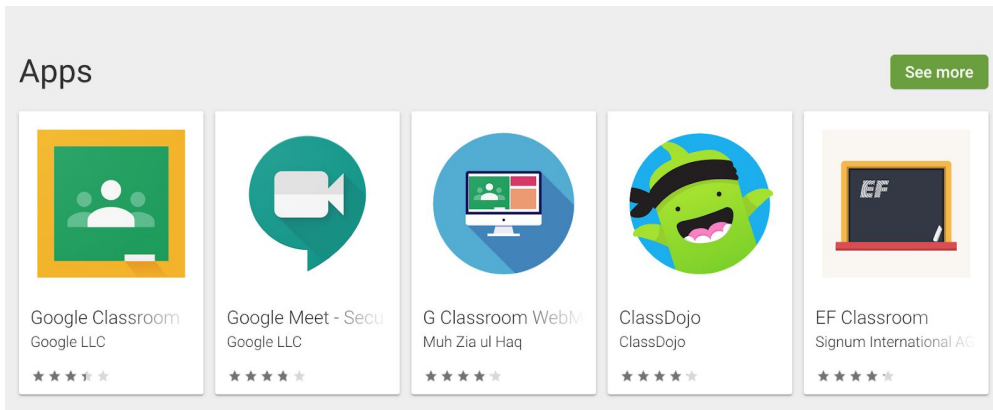
- If you have a school district issued Dell Chromebook, your student can log in at the main login window with their STUDENT ID # and password. If you still need username or password support, please call the school at 215-400-7760
- Students who sign into their school chromebook are also automatically signed into their Infinite Campus account, as well as their school Google account used for joining Google Classroom and Google Meet sessions with teachers. From the student MESSAGE CENTER, you can find links to Google Classroom and other school resources.
- If your student's teacher is using some other classroom management system - Like SeeSaw or Class Dojo, your student might need to sign into those products using an ID, username or class code provided by your teacher.
- If your student is being asked to join a virtual class session using the Zoom app, you might need to add the app to your chromebook by following the steps here - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1j9bAF3F41X4WHDliCNMPtk3w4ikDGju1/view?usp=sharing>
- If you are experiencing any issues with home wifi connectivity, where you sometimes lose your connection, and the chromebook does not automatically rejoin your preferred home network, try the steps found here - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wRsV8dAQTp9fnmoGR2oqenip2PIQ6HCK/view?usp=sharing>

If you are using an Apple iPad or other tablet

- Students using an iPad or other tablet will need to log in to Google products or the philasd.org website using their school district ID and password.
- If your student is using an iPad or other tablet, you might be able to visit some class content using a web browser, but in order that students are able to access all of their class content, some apps might need to be installed so that links or assignments posted to Google Classroom will work properly
- Apps required for school activities can usually be found in the App Store or Google Play store depending on your device - see some examples below



For Google Play Store, you can also find apps that might be required by your teacher.



If you are sharing a device with someone else at home

- For students who are using a laptop or device that might also be used by others - please be aware of which online accounts you are using
 - If a student is attempting to access a document that was shared by a teacher or classmate and is needed for an assignment, take note of which Google account is active when a link is clicked or a document is accessed. (A Google file might be placed into the wrong user's Google Drive, or access might be denied if the correct user is not signed in)

The screenshot shows the Google account management interface. At the top right, there is a 'Share' button and a user profile icon (a yellow smiley face with a graduation cap). Below this is the main account profile for 'Student Name' (1234567@philasd.org) with a 'Manage your Google Account' button. Underneath, there is a list of other accounts: 'Sibling Name' (sibling1@gmail.com) and 'Parent Name' (parent@gmail.com). At the bottom, there is an 'Add another account' button and the text 'Signed out'. Three purple arrows point from a text box on the right to the 'Share' button and the user profile icon. A red arrow points from another text box to the 'Signed out' text. A third text box points to the 'Parent Name' account.

It is possible to be signed into the Chrome browser as well as be signed into the Google website.

If more than one person is using the same computer at different times, just make sure you are logged in as the student who is currently working

If you are careful, this can be an easy way to do fast switching between users and have different Google accounts signed into separate tabs or windows

For both Chrome browser login and normal Google login for Gmail, Classroom etc - check the top right corner of your screen and click the account icon to view which users are logged in and switch between users or sign out of account not being used.