



Pittsville School District

2008-09 Back-To-School Newsletter

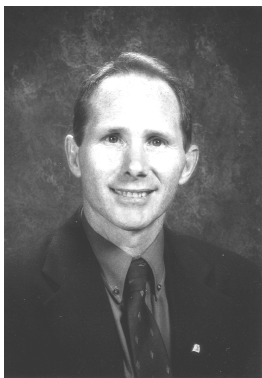


August, 2008

5459 Elementary Avenue, Suite 2, Pittsville, WI 54466
www.pittsville.k12.wi.us

715-884-6694

From the Desk of District Administrator Terry Reynolds



Welcome to the new 2008-09 School Year. As we look forward to 2008-09, it should be with great enthusiasm. The Pittsville School District is indeed fortunate to have the support that you, the district residents, have shown for the education of our students over the years. This commitment has resulted in our students receiving excellent learning experiences and achieving high academic success, as proven by the recognition this past year of Pittsville High School being named a Bronze medal winner in U.S. News and World Report's 2008 America's High School awards.

In order to maintain the high academic standing/programming that everyone is so proud of, the District is preparing for a November 4 referendum to exceed the revenue caps for three years. Information has been provided in newspaper articles for several months now, and there is additional information within this newsletter. We will be providing further details in the next few months about informational meetings concerning the referendum.

I encourage residents to stay involved with the schools in the district during the 2008-2009 school year. If you ever have questions or concerns regarding the School District, please feel free to contact me at (715) 884-6694 or reynoter@pittsville.k12.wi.us. Some of the ways to stay or become involved include: joining a school committee, becoming a member of a booster club, attending co-curricular contests, volunteering at school, partnering with the school in community service projects, using the school facilities for walking or other recreational means.

It is my wish that you enjoy this first edition of the Pittsville School District Newsletter. We are very hopeful that this new communication will provide you with helpful information about the district throughout the year.

SCHOOL DAY MODIFICATIONS

If weather conditions are such that the school schedule may be interrupted, notification of cancellations, delays, or early dismissals will be made through the Pittsville School District Instant Alert System or on one of the radio stations listed below. Parents should have an emergency plan for dealing with these situations for the safety and health of their children. Do not drop children off at school on mornings when school is to be delayed, as there is not supervision on those days.

WIFC 95.5 FM Wausau
WOFM 94.7 FM Wausau

WOSQ 92.3 FM Marshfield
WGLX 103.3 FM Wis. Rapids

WSAW TV-7 Wausau
WAOW TV - 9 Wausau
WEAU TV-13 Eau Claire

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The next school board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the District's Conference Room located at 5459 Elementary Avenue. The public is invited to attend.

REFERENDUM PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

The Board has set two dates for public informational meetings concerning the November 4 referendum. Dates set are: October 1 and 15. Both meetings start at 7:00 p.m. and will be held in the District's Conference Room. Please plan to attend one of these sessions.

STUDENT HANDBOOKS

All students will receive a student handbook that provides information regarding school regulations and policies. Please take time to review it with your child.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The elementary school will once again be serving breakfast items from 7:30 – 7:50 a.m. beginning September 8th.

NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION

Registration for new student in the Pittsville School District will begin on August 19 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WHO DO I CONTACT?

Terry Reynolds , District Administrator	715-884-6694
John Olig , Senior High Principal	715-884-6412
JoAnn Sondelski , Elementary Principal	715-884-2517

PITTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

I hope this letter finds you enjoying the final days of summer. To this point, we have had enjoyable weather. We have been spared the severe weather and flooding which has made this summer quite difficult in many areas of the state. With that said, it is hard to believe that school will be starting in the next couple of weeks.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: The first day of high school is going to be a little different this year. Only the freshmen will be in attendance when the school starts on September 2. This day will allow the freshmen to become familiar with the school and the staff. A major part of the day will be devoted to running through their class schedule. This will allow the incoming to freshmen to become acquainted with the routine of school without the older students around. The handbook will be discussed. Staff members will be given time to speak to the freshmen about extracurricular activities which they will be able to be a part of. The schools that have established this program have found that this type of orientation helps the freshmen make a successful transition to high school.

STUDENT HANDBOOK: Two changes which were made in the student handbook pertain to academic achievement. The first change affects the point values assigned to a letter grade on the semester report cards. These grades are used to determine grade point averages. For example, the previous grading scale treated a B+, B, and a B- the same as a 3.000. The new grading will recognize the difference in these grades. A B+ is assigned a value of 3.333, a B has a value of 3.000, and B- has a value of 2.667. The new grading scale will only affect the grades earned in 2008/2009 school year and in succeeding the years. The new grading scale when not affect the cumulative grade point averages from the semesters prior to the start on the 2008/2009 school year. This change will not be fully completed until the 2011/2012 school year when the freshmen entering the high school in 2008/2009 become seniors. Under the new scale, an A is assigned 4.000 while an A- is assigned 3.667. One concern I have heard over the years is that an A counts the same as an A-. If we truly desire academic excellence, student should receive more benefit from an A than an A-. This scale is similar to the grading scales used in many colleges.

CELL PHONES: The next area to discuss involves cell phones. The use of cell phones during the school day has resulted in various school infractions throughout the state of Wisconsin. If students are using a cell phone during a test, a grade of a zero may be assigned on that test by the classroom teacher. Texting test answers has been an issue in many schools. Many national tests, such as the AP Test, require that students using or even processing a cell phone during these tests be disqualified. Some educational institutions take away cell phones which are used in the classroom setting. These cell phones are not returned. Cell phones are not to be used in the locker room due to privacy issues. This concern is further addresses in School Board Policy 731.2 If your child has a cell phone, please encourage him or her to not use the cell phone during school. There is no reason a cell phone should be used in class, particularly during a test. A zero on a test is a steep price to pay for wanting to talk to or text a friend during class. I want to create an awareness of this issue and hopefully prevent students from facing consequence for using their phone during school time.

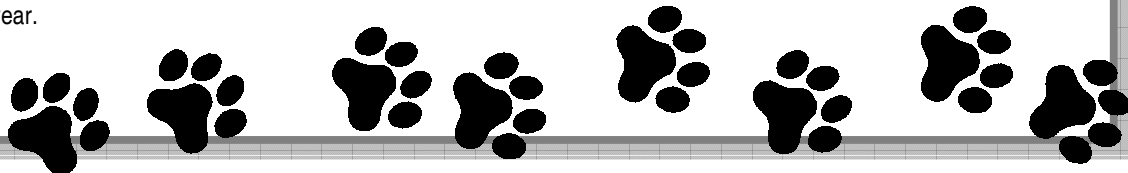
I know cell phones serve many positive purposes. A student may use his or her phone before classes start and after the final bell at 3:00. Cell phones are not to be used between 7:55 and 3:00 without permission from the office. When a cell phone is seen by a staff member during the school day, the phone will be considered in use. If your child needs to contact you, he or she can come to the office and ask for permission to contact you with their cell phone from the office. If you need to contact your son or daughter during the school day, please call the office to leave a message. These guidelines have a number of purposes - to encourage academic integrity, prevent classroom disruptions, and safe guard students. There is a reason the State of Wisconsin has made us adopt a policy prohibiting cell phone usage in our locker room.

LOCKERS/LOCKS: Every year, I encourage students to use locks on their lockers. Every year, I have to report thefts to the police because students fail to use locks on their lockers. If your son or daughter is bringing money or valuable items to school, encourage him or her to lock the articles up or better yet keep these items at home. The easiest way to deal with stealing is to prevent the theft from occurring. When a student has money taken from his or her locker, my first question is always the same, "Was your locker locked?" These issues are frustrating for me but even more so for the victims. In most cases, these issues are preventable.

EMPLOYMENT SKILLS: I would like to close by briefly talking about employment skills which employers are looking for in their employees. First, employers want employees who come to work. This habit begins with regular school attendance. If an employer speaks to me about perspective employees their first question always pertains to attendance while at school. The next area is the ability to follow to the rules. This addresses appropriate behavior which includes dress. Employers don't want distractions in the work place anymore than we want distractions at school. I encourage parents to read the high school handbook and speak to your son or daughter about the need to attend school regularly and follow the guidelines pertaining to behavior and dress. As one parent told me a few years ago after asking me about the attendance policy and dress code, "Sounds like you are preparing them for a job". In many ways, school is their job. I want your child to make the most of his or her high school experience and prepare themselves for their future. The habits formed while in high school are carried on after high school. We want students to build positive habits.

I look forward to meeting the freshmen on the first day of school on September 2. I am excited about seeing the other students on Wednesday, September 3, when their school year begins. During the course of the year, I encourage you to call or email me or other staff members as questions arise. Don't forget to use the internet to track the academic progress of your child through out the school year. I look forward to working with you and your child again this school year.

Mr. Olig, High School Principal



PITTSVILLE ELEMENTARY NEWS

Dear Parents & Students,

I hope that you are having a wonderful summer. In this newsletter is information to help you get ready for the beginning of another school year. Once again this year, we will be sending out newsletters to keep you informed of the great things that are happening here at Pittsville Elementary School

If there are any questions, please call. Beginning August 19th, our office hours will be 7:30-3:30.

We look forward to a great school year! See you on September 2nd.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sondelski, Elementary Principal

NOTICE TO PARENTS OF CHILDREN HAVING MEDICATION GIVEN AT SCHOOL

It is absolutely necessary that parents bring their child's medication to the school office and fill out the permission forms between August 19-29 from 7:30 and 3:30. Open House on August 28 would be a great opportunity to take care of this! Having numerous medications arrive on the first day of school places student safety at risk.

Our legal requirements for providing medication at school are:

- The child's medication must be in a properly labeled prescription bottle.
- A signed permission form with directions from the prescribing physician.
- A signed permission form from the parent or legal guardian.

A new permission form from the physician and parent is needed at the beginning of each school year. Parents who have not brought medication to school or provided the necessary forms will be requested to give their child medication at school until the proper paperwork has been submitted.

If a child is to receive over-the-counter medications, including cough drops, they must be provided by the parent in their original container with dosages on the package. No OTC medications will be given unless a signed Parent/Guardian Consent Form for medication is on file in the school office. All OTC medications are to be kept in the school office. If a child takes medication during the day, the parent will be informed by a Health Office Visit form which will be sent home with the child.

Your cooperation will help us get the school year off to a pleasant and safe start.

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

Aug 28	Open House 5:00-6:00 PM
Sept 2	First Student Day
Sept 3	Fund Raiser Kick Off
Sept 15	Fund Raiser Order Forms Due
Sept 16	Vision/Hearing Screening
Sept 30	School Picture Day
Oct 7	Midterms Mailed Home
Oct 8	Fund Raiser Distribution from 3:00-6:00 PM
Oct 30-31	No School
Nov 5	First Quarter Ends
Nov 11	Report Cards Mailed Home
Nov 21	Parent/Teacher Conferences (4-7:30 PM)
Nov 22	Parent/Teacher Conferences (7:30-11:00 AM)
Nov 27-28	No School - Thanksgiving Break



OPEN HOUSE – August 28th

An Open House will be held on Thursday, August 28 from 5:00-6:00 pm. We encourage you and your child to attend. This is an opportunity for you to meet your child's teachers, bring in your child's school supplies, tour the school, drop off lunch money or medications, and take care of any paperwork in the office.

ELEMENTARY FUND RAISER

Our annual school-wide fund raiser will kick-off September 4 and run through September 12. Order forms are due to classroom teachers on September 15. Product distribution will be on October 8 from 3:00-6:00 pm in the elementary cafeteria.

This year we will be working with Clubs Choice. Students will be bringing information on prize incentives and important dates on Kick-Off Day.

Profits from the fund raiser will go into the Student Activity Fund and will be divided between units and departments to provide for student field trips and other curricular activities. We thank you in advance for your support!

THINGS TO SAVE

Please help us throughout the school year by collecting the following:

Campbell's Labels for Education – labels from any Campbell's product.

Boxtops for Education – the "coupon" located on General Mills products.

Milk Caps & Bags – from Kemps, Kwik Trip, Land O'Lakes, Morning Glory.

We also participate in **rebate programs from Target and Pick 'n Save**. To participate in the "We Care" program at Pick 'n Save, simply list our school's account number (617190) on your Advantage Plus Savers Club Card application. Each time you present your card at the checkout, a donation from that purchase is added to our account. There is no cost to participate in either rebate program.

VOLUNTEER – WE NEED YOUR HELP

Parent support is vital to the overall effectiveness of our school programs. The use of school volunteers can help strengthen existing programs or introduce new programs.

All parents and community members are encouraged to become volunteers. The only requirement is to complete a Volunteer Form and have an interest in the education of children. Please contact Mrs. Sondelski if you would like to volunteer.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

It is extremely important that you provide the elementary office with any changes to your address, telephone number, or e-mail address. Also, be sure that you update this information in Instant Alert as well.

If you have any changes to your emergency contacts, please let us know that also. Having this information up-to-date saves us precious minutes in the event of illness or emergency.

CLASSROOM SUPPLIES

If you've misplaced the supply list, they are available at Shopko, Staples, Target, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Fleet Farm, and on our website at www.pittsville.k12.wi.us.

NEW STUDENTS

If you know of any new families in the District, please ask them to register their children beginning August 19 from 7:30-3:30.

STUDENT INFORMATION WEB ACCESS - STIHome+

SITHome+ provides parents and students with a means of accessing school information from a remote computer, via the Internet. This information may include: student schedules, school calendar, student demographics, attendance record, and grades. Student information is secure and can only be accessed by User ID and password. You can find links to STIHome+ on the District web page at www.pittsville.k12.wi.us. For more information about how to use STIHome+ or for login/password changes and information, please contact the school office.

Schedule View – Homework

The screenshot shows the STIHome+ interface for Mokena Elementary K-3. The top navigation bar includes links for Views, Schedule, School Calendar, Discipline, Attendance, Grades, and Requests. A dropdown menu for 'Grading Period' is set to '1st Quarter'. A table lists classes with columns for Period, Course, Description, Teacher, Room, CalCode, and DOW. A 'Homework' tab is selected at the bottom, showing a list of assignments with columns for Date and Homework. Annotations include: 'Click here to change quarters.' pointing to the Grading Period dropdown; 'Student's Name' pointing to 'Z1 Runner, R.J.'; 'To view current homework for a specific class: 1) Select the class. 2) Click the Homework tab at the bottom of the window.' pointing to the Homework tab; and 'Current Quarter Grades' pointing to the 'Class' column in the table.

Period	Course	Description	Teacher	Room	CalCode	DOW
0	1006.01	Test English	Ms Splayt	TEST		MTWHF
0	1007.01	Test Math	Ms Splayt	TEST		MTWHF
0	1008.01	Test Handwriting	Ms Splayt	TEST		MTWHF
0	1009.01	Test Science	Ms Splayt	TEST		MTWHF
0	1010.01	Test Art	Ms Splayt	TEST		MTWHF
0	1011.01	Test PE	Ms Splayt	TEST		MTWHF
0	1012.01	Test Music	Ms Splayt	TEST		MTWHF

Date	Homework
8/24/2006	Find 10 pictures of Proper Nouns and bring them to school tomorrow in the manila envelope you got today!
9/1/2006	None Enjoy your Labor Day Weekend!

HONEYWELL INSTANT ALERT INFORMATION

With today's on-the-go lifestyles, it has become more difficult for schools to reach families quickly and effectively. This is why our school has implemented a system called Honeywell Instant Alert® for Schools.

Instant Alert for Schools is an essential tool for notification and communication. Within minutes of an emergency, school officials can use Instant Alert to deliver a single, clear message to the students' parents or guardians by telephone, cell phone, e-mail, pager or PDA in any combination. Instant Alert can also be used to notify you of a school closing due to inclement weather. It's an equally effective way to keep you informed of everyday activities, such as event times and locations as well as schedule changes. Keeping parents informed and involved helps to assure student safety and improve student success.

Instant Alert is Internet based, allowing each family to maintain a secure, password protected online profile. You can log into your profile at any time to update your contact information. Maintaining the accuracy of your profile will increase the ability of the school to keep you informed.

Your online profile will enable you to:

- Input your personal contact information.
- Select which type of school information you would like to receive on each of your contact devices.
- Add contact information of other caretakers of your children, such as a grandparent or neighbor.
-

The system can be found through a link on the district website or at <https://instantalert.honeywell.com>. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity, as we will be utilizing this system for much of our school-to-home communication.

If you need assistance with your profile, please go to <https://instantalert.honeywell.com> and click on the **Help Request** link on the lower right hand side of the page, or contact the school at 884-2517 (elementary office), 884-6412 (High School office) or the district office at 884-6694. Be sure to set your e-mail spam filter to receive e-mail from Honeywell.com. If you do not have access to a computer, please feel free to come to the school to use our facilities. We hope you enjoy this new service!

FOOD SERVICES

Free or Reduced Lunch

Your children may qualify for free milk, free meals, or reduced price meals. To apply, complete a Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application. Use one application for all students in your household. Be sure to fill out all required information and return the application to Joe Dostal, Food Service Director, 5459 Elementary Avenue, Suite 1, Pittsville, WI 54466. If you have not received an application in the mail, please contact the District Office at 715-884-6694.

The application form serves two very important functions: a) assists families in obtaining meals; and b) generates income for our school district.

It is important for all Early Childhood through High School families to complete the application for free or reduced meals, even if your child does not eat school lunch or your family does not wish to participate in the free and reduced lunch program. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) bases certain school funding on the number of students in our District who have completed applications and are eligible for free and reduced lunch. The application information is confidential; only the number of eligible students is reported to the DPI.

For food service related questions, please contact Joe Dostal, Food Service Director, at 715-884-2517.

2008-2009 LUNCH PRICES

4K- Grade 4	\$2.10
Grade 5-8	\$2.50
Grade 9-12	\$3.00
Adult Lunches	\$3.25
Reduced Lunches	\$.40
A La Carte Milk	\$.30

PLEASE NOTE !! The Elementary Breakfast program will begin on Sept. 8th.

PUBLIC RELEASE

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PROGRAMS, SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM

This is the public release has been sent to the Pittsville Record, the Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune, and published in the Pittsville School District Newsletter in August, 2008.

RELEASE STATEMENT

The Pittsville School District today announced its policy for children unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch Program. Each school office and the central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

The following household size and income criteria will be used for determining eligibility. Children from families whose annual income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free and reduced price meals, or free milk if a split-session student does not have access to the school lunch or breakfast service.

FAMILY SIZE INCOME SCALE For Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Meals or Milk

Family (Household) Size	ANNUAL INCOME LEVEL		MONTHLY INCOME LEVEL	
	Free Must be at or below figure listed	Reduced Price Must be at or between figures listed	Free Must be at or below figure listed	Reduced Price Must be at or between figures listed
1	\$13,520	\$ 13,520.01 and \$19,240	\$ 1,127	\$ 1,127.01 and \$1,604
2	18,200	18,200.01 and 25,900	1,517	1,517.01 and 2,159
3	22,880	22,880.01 and 32,560	1,907	1,907.01 and 2,714
4	27,560	27,560.01 and 39,220	2,297	2,297.01 and 3,269
5	32,240	32,240.01 and 45,880	2,687	2,687.01 and 3,824
6	36,920	36,920.01 and 52,540	3,077	3,077.01 and 4,379
7	41,600	41,600.01 and 59,200	3,467	3,467.01 and 4,934
8	46,280	46,280.01 and 65,860	3,857	3,857.01 and 5,489
For each additional household member, add	+ 4,680	+ 4,680 and + 6,660	+ 390	+ 390 and + 555

Application forms are being sent to all homes with a notice to parents or guardians. To apply for free or reduced price meals or free milk, households must fill out the application and return it to the school. Additional copies are available at the principal's office in each school. The information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year.

To obtain free or reduced price meals or free milk for children for whom households receive FoodShare or Wisconsin Works (W-2) benefits, an adult member needs only to list the names of the school children, give FoodShare or W-2 case number for each child, sign his/her name and return the application to the school office.

For the school officials to determine eligibility for free or reduced price meals or free milk of households not receiving FoodShare or W-2, the household must provide the following information requested on the application: names of all household members, and the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. In lieu of a social security number, the household may indicate that the signer does not possess a social security number. Also, the income received by each household member must be provided by amount and source (wages, welfare, child support, etc.).

Under the provisions of the free and reduced price meal and free milk policy, the Director of Food Services will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent or guardian is dissatisfied with the ruling of the official, he/she may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. If the parent/guardian wishes to make a formal appeal, he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to: Jeff Gast, Finance Director (715) 884-6694, 5259 Elementary Avenue, Suite 2, Pittsville, WI 54466. If a hearing is needed to appeal the decision, the policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size changes, the family should contact the school. Such changes may make the household eligible for reduced price meals or free meals or free milk if the household income falls at or below the levels shown above, and they may reapply at that time.

In certain cases foster children are also eligible for these benefits. If a household has foster children living with them and wishes to apply for free or reduced price meals, the household should complete an application for a family of one or contact the school for more information.

The information provided by the household on the application is confidential. Public Law 103-448 does authorize the release of student free and reduced price school meal eligibility status to persons directly connected with the administration and enforcement of federal or state educational programs.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to Joseph Dostal, Director of Food Services.

HOW WILL I BE NOTIFIED OF A LOW LUNCH BALANCE?

Students whose accounts are below six meals will be notified weekly using the Pittsville School District Instant Alert system. The notice explains that the students funds are running low and money should be added as soon as possible.

If an account gets below zero, a notice will be sent out through the Instant Alert system stating if the amount due is not paid in three working days, the student will no longer be able to participate in the morning milk and/or lunch program. If no money is received, a note will go home with the student explaining the account is closed and Pittsville School will no longer be providing your child with a school lunch or milk. It is then the parent's responsibility to provide this student with a lunch from home. Once money is added, the student may again participate in the school lunch and milk programs.

When sending in a payment, please include your student's name and identification number. If your family has more than one student attending the district, be sure to list the names and numbers of all the students you wish the money be distributed. When distributing money (unless otherwise directed) family accounts will be "evened out" so all the students in one family will have about the same amount of money.

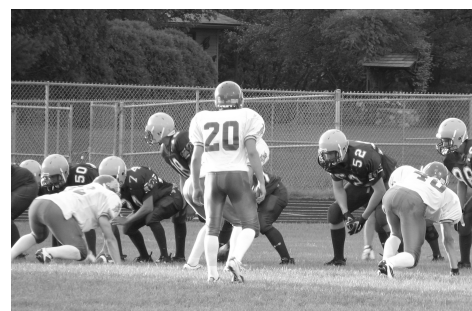
Here are a few tips to insure your children's food service account is up to date and in good standing.

- Check your answering machine or e-mail to see if your family received an instant alert message concerning a low lunch balance. The messages are scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings.
- If you did receive a notice, please send in a payment as soon as possible. **Remember - your child has only six or less purchases left.**
- When sending in a payment, please include each student's name and identification number.

If you have any questions about your account please contact Joe Dostal 715-884-2517.

DATES TO REMEMBER 2008-2009

September 1	No School - Labor Day
September 2	First Day of School for PK-9 Students
September 3	First Day of School for 10-12 Students
October 30, 31	Teacher Inservice - No School for Students
November 5	End of First Quarter
November 21	Early Release for Teacher Inservice- 12:30 PM
November 25	Evening PK-12 Parent Teacher Conferences
November 26	AM PK-12 Parent Teacher Conferences- No School
November 27 - 28	Thanksgiving Holiday - No School
December 23	Early Release for Teacher Inservice- 12:30 PM
December 24 - Jan. 2	Winter Holiday - No School
January 5	School Resumes
January 16	End of Second Quarter
January 16	Early Release for Teacher Inservice- 12:30 PM
January 19	Teacher Inservice - No School for Students
February 26	Evening PK-12 Parent Teacher Conferences
February 27	AM PK-12 Parent Teacher Conferences- No School
March 24	Early Release for Teacher Inservice- 12:30 PM
March 24	End of Third Quarter
April 3	Early Release for Teacher Inservice- 12:30 PM
April 6 - 10	Spring Break - No School
May 23	Graduation - 10:00 AM
May 25	Memorial Day - No School
June 8	Last Day of School for Students - 12:30 PM Dismissal



FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

Cross Country

Aug 28	at Home
Sep 4	at Marathon
Sep 9	at Wildwood Park, Marshfield
Sep 16	at Neillsville
Sep 25	at Colby
Sep 30	at Edgar
Oct 7	at Auburndale
Oct 16	Conference at Park Falls

Football

Aug 29	vs. Colby
Sep 5	at Phillips
Sep 12	vs. Stratford
Sep 19	at Marathon
Sep 26	vs. McDonnell
Oct 3	at Edgar
Oct 10	vs. Prentice/Rib Lake
Oct 17	at Park Falls
Oct 23	vs. Auburndale

Volleyball

Aug 25	Scrimmage at LHS
Aug 26	Spencer Tournament
Aug 28	St. Point Invite
Sep 2	vs. Edgar
Sep 11	vs. Stratford
Sep 13	Sparta Invite
Sep 16	at Newman
Sep 23	at Northland Lutheran
Sep 30	at Auburndale
Oct 2	vs. Iola-Scandinavia
Oct 7	vs. Assumption
Oct 14	at Marathon
Oct 18	at Wausau West Invite

2008-2009 MUSIC EVENTS

September 7	Granton Parade (1:00 pm)
September 28	Warrens Cranberry Festival (noon)
November 2	High School Pops Concert (1:30 pm)
November 4	Marawood Honors Band/Choir
November 11	Veterans' Day (11:00 am)
December 9	6-8 Winter Concert (1:45 pm, 7:30 pm)
December 14	High School Winter Concert (1:30 pm)
March 27	Solo/Ensemble @ Spencer
April 21	Band Large Group @ Granton
May 2	State Solo/Ensemble @ Stevens Point
May 4	High School Spring Concert (8:00 pm)
May 12	6-8 Spring Concert (1:45 pm, 7:30 pm)
May 25	Memorial Day
June 6	Marshfield Dairyfest Parade (11:00 am)
July 4	Pittsville 4 th of July Parade (noon)



PITTSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM FACT SHEET

On Tuesday, November 4, 2008, district residents will be asked to vote on a recurring referendum to allow the School District of Pittsville to budget an additional \$175,000 beyond what is allowed by the current Wisconsin school revenue limits for each of the next three years. The ballot will ask voters to approve or reject the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the School District of Pittsville, Wood, Clark, Jackson, and Juneau Counties, Wisconsin, that the revenues included in the School District budget be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$175,000 for the 2008-2009 school year; by an additional \$175,000 for 2009-2010 school year (for a total of \$350,000) and by an additional \$175,000 for 2010-2011 school year and thereafter (for a total of \$525,000), for recurring purposes consisting of ongoing operation and maintenance expenses.

This Fact Sheet has been developed to help you understand the referendum ballot and reasons behind the decision to hold a referendum at this time. If you have any questions about the referendum, you are urged to contact Terry Reynolds, District Administrator, at 715-884-6694. For additional information, please contact the district's website at www.pittsville.k12.wi.us.

Q. WHY DO WE NEED TO HAVE A SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM?

- Wisconsin school districts have operated under revenue controls since 1994. The average annual increase in the Pittsville District's revenues over that time period has been at an average 2%. Expenses, such as personnel costs, bussing, energy and utilities, and maintenance projects on the other hand have easily out paced revenue increases (4%), which in turn have forced the district to make reductions in staffing, programs, and maintenance expenditures. Declining enrollments and an increase in equalized property valuations during the last ten years have compounded the problem, as state aid formulas and revenue limit calculations are based on both of these factors which has resulted in less revenues coming into the district.
- School districts must seek permission from local residents in order to raise additional revenue for the district's operating budget beyond the revenue controls imposed by state statute.

Q. HOW WILL A SUCCESSFUL REFERENDUM AFFECT MY PROPERTY TAXES?

- Approval of the recurring referendum to exceed the revenue limit would add an additional \$175,000 on the district revenue base for the next three years. The impact from a successful referendum would have the following property owner's financial tax impact on a home value of \$100,000:

	<u>FY-2008</u>	<u>FY-2009</u>	<u>FY-2010</u>	<u>FY-2011</u>
	\$822	\$865	\$919	\$1,020
Tax Change:		\$55	\$106	\$158

- An individual's property tax is also subject to change through reassessment, changes in the total value of district property, and variations in assessment ratios.

Q. HOW DO OUR CURRENT MILL RATES COMPARE WITH OTHER AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS SIMILAR IN SIZE TO THE PITTSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT?

- According to the 2007-08 Wisconsin DPI statistics, Pittsville ranks seventh among the 11 area schools which are similar in size to Pittsville. Area schools and their mill levy rates for 07-08 were:

Athens – 10.39, Granton – 9.98, Marathon – 8.76, Rib Lake – 8.73, Prentice – 8.58, Spencer – 8.54, Pittsville – 8.22, Edgar – 8.18, Auburndale – 8.14, Abbotsford – 7.67, and Stratford – 7.32.

**PITTSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM
FACT SHEET (CONTINUED)**

Q. HOW WOULD THE DISTRICT USE THE REFERENDUM FUNDS?

- The funds would be used for several purposes. The majority of funds would allow us to maintain current educational programming (including reinstatement of the Business Education program which was put on hold during the 2008-09 school year), and provide the students with updated textbooks, and necessary technology replacements in the district.
- Funds will be used to continue to maintain the district's roofs and air conditioning units, especially at the Elementary school replacement of both the roof and roof air conditioning units will need to take place in the next few years.
- The district will replace old boiler systems, which operate at a low efficiency, and will attempt to improve lighting, cooling, and heating systems through out the district to save the district money over time.
- The funds will assist in the replacement of the aging telecommunications system and install video surveillance systems which will improve the security and safety for students and staff.

Q. WILL A SUCCESSFUL REFERENDUM PREVENT THE NEED FOR FUTURE REDUCTIONS IN STAFF OR PROGRAMMING?

- The district will continue to look critically at its budget and expenditures. The referendum does not provide resources to restore reductions that have been made in the past (other than the Business Education position which was placed on hold for one year), nor are there plans to expand programming that would incur additional annual costs unless they are offset by reductions in other areas.
- Staffing has always been closely tied to enrollment. Enrollment trends will continue to influence staffing patterns throughout the district. Our projections indicate that additional staff reductions will be necessary regardless of passage of this referendum, due to the declining enrollment trends.

Q. DO OTHER DISTRICTS FACE SIMILAR FINANCIAL CHALLENGES?

- More than half of Wisconsin's 426 school districts have held similar referenda to exceed the revenue controls. School Districts of Marshfield, Auburndale, Colby, and Edgar are a few of the area districts holding referendums in the past few years.

Q. WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE REFERENDUM IS DEFEATED?

- If the referendum does not pass, maintenance and capital improvement projects such as boiler and roof repair will be delayed. However, the district cannot maintain current educational programming or facilities without additional funds, so it is likely there will be future attempts at passing a referendum to avoid further cuts in the educational and extra-curricular programming of our students. A list of possible future programming and staffing cuts is being developed by the School Board and Administration to provide the public more specific information regarding the necessary programming cuts which will be necessary if a referendum fails.

Q. HOW CAN WE LEARN MORE ABOUT THE REFERENDUM?

- The Board has set two dates for public informational meetings concerning the November 4 referendum. Dates set are: October 1 and 15. Both meetings start at 7:00 p.m. and will be held in the District's Conference Room. Please plan to attend one of these sessions.
- Contact Terry Reynolds, District Administrator – 715-884-6694

REFERENDUM DATE
Tuesday, November 4, 2008

SEPTEMBER LUNCH MENU

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
Sep - 1		Sep - 2	CHEESE AND SAUSAGE PIZZA TUNA SALAD KAISER salad bar pasta salad chilled fruit jello milk	Sep - 3	SLOPPY JOE or HAMBURGER ON A BUN potato wedges carrot coins chilled fruit sliced cheese milk	Sep - 4	CHICKEN NUGGETS mashed potato fresh bread chilled fruit shape-ups milk	Sep - 5	SPAGHETTI Italian sauce corn dinner rolls chilled fruit milk
Sep - 8	CHEESE FRIES HAM & CHEESE KAISER broccoli rice salad bar chilled fruit yo-stix milk	Sep - 9	HARD SHELL TACO or SOFT SHELL pizza casserole fresh bread shredded cheese chilled fruit milk	Sep - 10	CORN DOG ON A STICK baked beans hot pasta chilled fruit milk	Sep - 11	BREADED CHICKEN on bun mashed potato chilled fruit Chocolate chip cookie milk	Sep - 12	SUB SANDWICH chicken noodle soup sea animal cookies chilled fruit milk
Sep - 15	FISH SQUARE ON A BUN or HAMBURGER ON A BUN french fries chilled fruit relish sticks & dip sliced cheese milk	Sep - 16	NACHOS cheese sauce taco meat tater tot casserole chilled fruit salad bar milk	Sep - 17	CHICKEN NUGGETS cheesy potatoes fresh bread chilled fruit shape-ups milk	Sep - 18	CHEESE QUESADILLA salad bar spanish rice chilled fruit fruit snacks milk	Sep - 19	HOT PASTA turkey ala king chilled fruit buttermilk biscuit milk
Sep - 22	HOT HAM ON A BUN macaroni and cheese green beans chilled fruit sliced cheese rocket pop milk	Sep - 23	PIZZA DIPPERS salad bar chilled fruit pasta salad chewy granola bar milk	Sep - 24	CHEESE AND SAUSAGE PIZZA TUNA SALAD KAISER salad bar pasta salad chilled fruit jello milk	Sep - 25	SPAGHETTI Italian sauce corn dinner rolls chilled fruit milk	Sep - 26	MINI CORNDOGS baked beans hot pasta chilled fruit milk
Sep - 29	SLOPPY JOE or HAMBURGER ON A BUN potato wedges carrot coins chilled fruit sliced cheese milk	Sep - 30	CHEESE FRIES HAM & CHEESE KAISER broccoli rice salad bar chilled fruit yo-stix milk	Oct - 1	HARD SHELL TACO or SOFT SHELL pizza casserole fresh bread shredded cheese chilled fruit milk	Oct - 2	SUB SANDWICH chicken noodle soup sea animal cookies chilled fruit milk	Oct - 3	BREADED CHICKEN on bun mashed potato chilled fruit Chocolate chip cookie milk

State Statutes requires that notice be provided to parents annually on a number of issues of importance regarding your student(s). Please review the enclosed information carefully. If you have any questions regarding the content, please contact your child's building principal.

ASBESTOS HAZARD EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT NOTICE

As a result of Federal legislation (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act – AHERA), each primary and secondary school in the nation is required to inform the public of the asbestos hazards and management plans. In response to his notification requirement, it has been determined all buildings used by the Pittsville School District are free of friable asbestos.

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Except as provided in Statute 115.28(8), no child may be admitted to Kindergarten unless he/she is five years old on or before September 1, in the year he/she proposes to enter school. Except as provided in Statute 115.28.(8), no child may be admitted to the First Grade unless he/she is six years old on or before September 1, in the year he/she proposed to enter school. A district resident over 20 years of age may be admitted to school when, in the judgment of the School Board, the resident will not interfere with pupils of school age.

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

The Board expects the school to maintain a positive learning environment emphasizing and relying on the responsibilities of both staff and students in the pursuit and acceptance of their responsibilities. If a student possessing the ability to achieve at a satisfactory level does not do so because of his/her attitude, lack of effort, poor attendance, or poor achievement, both the student and his/her school program may be reviewed by appropriate school personnel to determine possible courses of corrective action.

Findings from this review may result in a recommendation which may include:

- a) Corrective adjustments in the student's current academic program.
- b) School work training, as appropriate.
- c) An alternative, out of school program or non-sectarian private school program located in the school district.
- d) Homebound instruction or studies.
- e) Enrollment in a public education
- f) A combination of the above.

BILINGUAL-BICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Pittsville School District has established a Bilingual/English as a Second Language (ESL) program to assist children who are English language learners with learning English and succeeding academically within the school district. Children who are eligible typically come from families where a language other than English is spoken at home or from other countries via adoption or immigration. The Bilingual/ESL program provides:

- a. Instruction in reading, writing, and speaking the English Language.
- b. Through the use of the native language of the limited-English proficient pupil, instruction in the subjects necessary to permit the pupil to progress effectively through the educational system.

Students are identified for participation in the ESL program through the student's registration card, a Home Language Survey that indicated a language other than English is spoken at home, or a referral to ESL by school staff, parent, or guardian. Students referred for ESL are assessed by ESL certified teachers to determine if the student needs entrance criteria for the program. Written parent permission is required for admission into the ESL program. Referrals for ESL services may be made by contacting the ESL Director at 715-884-6694.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

The "National School Lunch Program" notice is sent to each parent at the beginning of the school year.

CIVIL & LEGAL RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

The School District is committed and dedicated to the task of providing the best education possible for every child in the District for as long as the student can benefit from attendance and the student's conduct is compatible with the welfare of the entire student body.

The right of the student to be admitted to school and to participate fully in curricular, extracurricular, student services, recreational, or other programs or activities shall not be abridged or impaired because of a student's sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap.

Complaints regarding the interpretation or application of this policy shall be referred to the District Administrator and processed in accordance with established procedures.

Notice of this policy and its accompanying complaint procedures shall be published at the beginning of each school year and posted in each school building in the District. In addition, a student nondiscrimination statement shall be included on student and staff handbooks, course selection handbooks, and other published materials distributed to the public describing school activities and opportunities.

Complaint Procedures (CIVIL & LEGAL RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES)

Any complaint regarding the interpretation or application of the District's student nondiscrimination policy shall be processed in accordance with the following grievance procedures:

- 1) Any student, parent, or resident of the District complaining of discrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability in school programs or activities shall report the complaint in writing to the District Administrator.
- 2) The District Administrator, upon receiving such a written complaint, shall immediately undertake an investigation of the alleged infraction. The District Administrator will review with the Building Principal, or other appropriate persons, the facts compromising the alleged discrimination. Within fifteen (15) days after receiving the complaint, the District Administrator shall decide the merits of the case, determine the action to be taken, if any, and report in writing the findings and the resolution of the case to the grievant.
- 3) If the grievant is dissatisfied with the decision of the District Administrator, he/she may appeal the decision in writing to the Board. The Board shall hear the appeal at its next regular meeting, or a special meeting may be called for the purpose of hearing the appeal. The Board shall make its decision in writing within fifteen (15) days after the hearing. Copies of the written decision shall be mailed or delivered to the grievant and the District Administrator.
- 4) If the grievant is dissatisfied with the Board's decision, he/she may within thirty (30) days appeal the decision in writing to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- 5) Discrimination complaints relating to the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or provision of free appropriate public education of a child with exceptional educational needs shall be processed in accordance with established appeal procedures outlined in the District's Special Education Handbook.
- 6) Discrimination complaints relating to programs specifically governed by federal law or regulation shall be referred directly to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES IN THE DISTRICT

Through use of the handbooks, this is covered by the elementary and high school.

EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The school district's designated liaison for homeless children and youth is expected to ensure that public notice of educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated where such children and youths receive services such as the schools and family shelters. Basically, homeless children and youth must have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children residing in the district and be provided with comparable services. Homeless children and youth cannot be required to attend a separate school or program for homeless children and must not be stigmatized by school personnel.

ELECTOR REGISTRATION

The Board is required by state law to assure that the high school principal communicates elector registration information to student.

HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Pittsville School District provides an instructional K-12 program in human growth and development. No student may be required to take any or all instruction in this area if the student's parent/guardian files with the teacher or school principal a written request that the student be exempted.

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE INFORMATION

School districts must provide information to parents/guardians of children enrolled in grades 6-12 with information about Meningococcal disease including:

1) Causes and symptoms of the disease. Meningococcal disease includes Meningococcal meningitis and meningococcemia. Meningococcal meningitis is a severe form of meningitis (inflammation of the meninges, the tissues that cover the brain and spinal cord) caused by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*. Meningococcemia is an infection of the blood with *Neisseria meningitidis*. A person may have either Meningococcal meningitis or meningococcemia, or both at the same time.

The signs and symptoms of Meningococcal disease can vary widely, but include sudden onset of high fever, headache, vomiting, stiff neck, and a rash. Sensitivity to light, sleepiness, and confusion may also occur. Symptoms may be difficult to detect in infants and the infant may only appear lethargic, irritable, have vomiting, or be feeding poorly. As the disease progresses, patients of any age may have seizures. Meningococcal disease is fatal in 8-15% of cases.

2) How it is spread. The meningococcus bacteria are spread by direct contact with respiratory and oral secretions (saliva, sputum, or nasal mucus) of an infected person.

3) How to obtain additional information and the availability, effectiveness, and risks of vaccinations against the disease. There are two vaccines (Menomun®, Menactra™) that will protect against four of the types of meningococcus, including 2 of the 3 types most common in the U.S. (serogroup C, Y, and W-135) and a type that causes epidemics in Africa (serogroup A). Meningococcal vaccines cannot prevent all types of the disease (neither protect against type B). The vaccine is recommended in some outbreak situations or for travelers to areas of the world where high rates of the disease are known to occur. College freshman living in dormitories should consider receiving the vaccine due to their slightly elevated risk of the disease.

In 2005, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that children receive the new Meningococcal vaccine (Menactra™) at their routine 11-12 year old doctor's visit and that for the next two to three years, teens entering high school should also be vaccinated.

Additional information about Meningococcal Disease is available from the following web link: <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/factsheets/Meningococcal.htm>.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The Board of Education believes that the education of each student is a responsibility shared by the school as well as parents. The Board recognizes the need for a constructive partnership between the district and parents that provides for two-way communication and fosters educational support for students and parents. In this policy, the word "parent" also includes guardians and other members of a student's family involved in the student's education.

In keeping with these beliefs, it is the intention of the district to cultivate and support active parental involvement and to set and realize goals for parent-supported student learning.

To that end, the district shall:

- 1) Keep the citizens of the district regularly and thoroughly informed through all channels of communication on all policies, programs, and planning of the district, and to carry out this policy through its own efforts and through the offices of the district administrator and building principals.
- 2) Consult with and encourage parents to share in school planning and in the setting of objectives through participating in school advisory committees.
- 3) Help parents understand the education process and their role in supporting student achievement.
- 4) Inform parents of school choices within the district, including but not limited to, information about open enrollment, choice programs, and charter schools.
- 5) Provide opportunities for parents to be informed about their student's progress toward attaining proficiency on state and district content standards through written materials and public meetings. Information shall explain how the student's progress will be measured and how parents will be informed of such progress. This information shall also be provided to the building level and district committees.
- 6) Provide appropriate avenues for parents to find support in their role.
- 7) Encourage organizations for parents at each school building as well as at the district level. The organizations shall receive information concerning district and school activities and shall have opportunities for input into district decisions as appropriate.

PARENTS RIGHT TO RECEIVE TEACHER INFORMATION

Federal law requires that we share with you the qualifications of teachers in the Pittsville School District. There are questions you may ask, including:

- Is my child's teacher licensed to teach the grades or subjects assigned?
- Has the state waived any requirements for my child's teacher?
- What was the college major of my child's teacher?
- What degrees does my child's teacher hold?
- Are there instructional aides working with my child? If so, what are their qualifications?

All teachers have at least a bachelor's degree in the Pittsville School District and many have advanced degrees. In addition, over 100% of the teachers in this district are fully licensed for their assignment. If you want to see the state qualifications for your child's teacher, you may ask us or find it on the DPI Website at www.dpi.state.wi.us. In addition, our instructional aides are considered qualified for this work.

RECRUITER INFORMATION

A secondary school student or the parent of the student may request that the student's name, address, and telephone listing not be released to military recruiters or institutions of higher education without prior written parental consent. Requests of this nature will be honored by our district.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT

In 2005, the Governor signed into law ACT 62 (Assembly Bill 425). The Act amended Section 115.38(2) School Performance Report Educational Program Review changing the requirements for reporting to parents/guardians the performance of their district and schools.

Annually by January 1, the school board shall notify parents/guardians of each pupil of the right to request a school performance report. By May 1, the school board shall, upon request, distribute to the parents/guardians a copy of the report. If the parent/guardian does not request a copy, it will not be distributed to the student to bring home.

If you wish to view the school performance report, please follow the instructions listed below for the Web-based School Performance Report:

- 1) Access the Wisconsin DPI website at www.dpi.state.wi.us.
- 2) The Wisconsin DPI homepage appears. On the right-hand side labeled "Easy Link", click on WINSS (Wisconsin Information Network for Successful Schools).
- 3) The WINSS site opens with four areas of interest (Data Analysis, Standards and Assessments, Continuous Improvements, Best Practices). The Data Analysis section contains the information also called the School Performance Report. The other areas contain information about the state standards, the reasons for the assessments, and other information about compliance with the "No Child Left Behind" act.
- 4) To view the school data for the school performance report, click on the "Data Analysis" section and enter the first four letters of the school name (PITT).
- 5) Data for the Pittsville School District will now show, with options to choose access to elementary or high school or to do comparisons.
- 6) Data can be printed off by using the copy and paste procedure. All data for all schools is available for public viewing and no passwords are required.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Free Developmental Screening for Children Who Reside Within the School District of Pittsville: Parents who have concerns about their child's overall development and learning may request a free developmental screening. This is an attempt by the district to find children who may have physical, cognitive, emotional, or learning disabilities in conformance with state statute 115.771(1)(m)(a). Requests for free developmental screenings shall be made by contacting the Elementary School Office at 715-884-2517.

Special Education Referral Procedures including At-Risk/504 and Children with Suspect Disabilities: The local educational agency annually publicizes information about its special education procedures and services. The local education agency's special education plan is published annually on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website. The local educational agency identifies, locates, and evaluates all children with disabilities, regardless of severity of their disability, who are in need of special education and related services, including children attending private schools, children who are not yet three years of age, mobile children such as migrant and homeless, children who are suspect of being a child with a disability.

The local education agency locates, identifies, and evaluates all private school children with disabilities, including religious-school children who are residents of the local educational agency. The local educational agency consults with appropriate representatives of private school children with disabilities on how to locate, identify, and evaluate private school children with disabilities. The local educational agency ensures the confidentiality of data collected.

The local educational agency accepts and processes referrals of children suspected to have a disability. If the local educational agency to whom the referral is made is the local educational agency the child is attending under the Full-Time Open Enrollment law, the local educational agency provides the name of the child and related information to the local educational agency of residence. Whenever the local educational agency receives a referral for a resident child attending school in another local educational agency under the Full-Time Open Enrollment law, the local educational agency provides the name of the child and the related information to the local educational agency where the child attends school.

A referral may be made by anyone who suspects a child has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activity such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, and working; has a record of such impairment; and is regarded as having such an impairment. Any parent, physician, nurse, teacher, psychologist, social worker, or administrator of a social agency has legal duty to make a referral. Before making the referral, the person making the referral must inform the child's parent of their intent to make the referral.

How and Where to Refer: All referrals shall be in writing and shall include the name of the child and the reasons why the person believes that the child is a child with a disability. All referrals shall be made to the Director of Special Education, School District of Pittsville, 5459 Elementary Avenue, Pittsville, WI 54466.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

In accordance with State Law, all children between the ages of six (6) and eighteen (18) must attend full-time until the end of the term, quarter, or semester in which they become eighteen (18) years of age. The attendance requirement applies unless the student has a legal excuse or falls under one of the expectations in the State Statute or has graduated from High School.

Any child who has reached the age of sixteen (16) may be excused from school attendance with the consent of his/her parent or from the individual if he/she is an independent adult student. A student who is sixteen (16) years of age or over, shall not be excused from school attendance unless an alternative educational program has been made available to the student, and the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian have rejected the alternative program. A student who is requesting to be excused from school attendance in this manner can do so at the end of a grading period.

The student shall be informed by the Principal, or the Principal's Agent, of his/her right to be admitted upon request. A student requesting to be readmitted after being excused from school attendance can do so at the beginning of a semester.

The School District of Pittsville shall deny student credit in a course or subject solely because of a student's unexcused absences.

STUDENT NONDISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the Pittsville School District, pursuant to state and federal laws and regulations, that no person may be denied admission to any public school in this District or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extra-curricular, pupil service, recreational, or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap as required by S. 118.13, Wis. Stats. This policy also prohibits discrimination as defined by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race and national origin), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The District encourages informal resolutions of complaints under this policy. A formal complaint resolution procedure is available, however, to address allegations of violations of the policy in the Pittsville School District.

Any questions concerning this policy should be directed to: Terry Reynolds, District Administration, School District of Pittsville, 5459 Elementary Avenue, Suite 2, Pittsville, Wisconsin 54466, (715) 884-6694.

STUDENT RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS

Students may be excused from a classroom activity or from portions of the established course of instruction where the instructional content would violate the child's religious beliefs. Students may be required to complete an alternative assignment or course of instruction to meet course requirements.

STUDENT LOCKER SEARCHES

School lockers are the property of the School District of Pittsville. At no time does the School District of Pittsville relinquish its exclusive control of these lockers.

These lockers are assigned to individual students as a convenient receptacle for storage of clothing, books, and other articles necessary for the student's use during the school day and shall not be used for any other purpose.

Periodic general inspection of lockers may be conducted by school authorities for any reason at anytime, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. No padlocks other than those issued by the school may be used on school lockers. The school authorities will maintain a pass key for these padlocks.

All school lockers and the contents within may be searched by school authorities for weapons, drugs, other contraband or any item that may place any student, employee, or anyone else on the school premise in danger. School authorities may seize any or all items which are dangerous and/or illegal and any other item not authorized to be in the locker.

STUDENT HARASSMENT

The District has in effect a Student Harassment policy. Federal and State law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, age, disability, national origin, or sexual preference. Among these prohibitions is the harassment of employees, students, citizens, and volunteers. The School District of Pittsville is committed to maintaining an environment that is free from discrimination and any form of harassment whatsoever. Harassment is unlawful and is conduct that exposes both the School District of Pittsville and individuals engaging in harassment to significant liability under the law and is prohibited in any form.

This policy has been enacted by the School District of Pittsville Board of Education to provide a comprehensive, direct statement to employees, students, agents, citizens, and volunteers that sexual harassment is not tolerated in the school district. Sexual harassment is a form of misconduct, which undermines the integrity of the district's employment and academic relationships. Sexual harassment or hazing refers to behavior which is not welcome, which is personally offensive, which debilitate morale, and which interfere with the working and learning effectiveness of its victims and their peers. Individuals who experience sexual harassment or hazing should make it clear that such behavior is offensive to them and may process a complaint pursuant to this policy.

The School District of Pittsville shall maintain and insure a learning and working environment free of any form of sexual harassment or intimidation between students. Any student who believes they have been subjected to a sexual harassment or hazing should report the incident in accordance with the District's established discrimination complaint procedures. If the subject of the complaint is the person designated to handle discrimination complaints, the student may file the complaint with the next higher authority listed in the complaint procedures. It is the intent of the District to create an atmosphere where complaints will be treated fairly and quickly.

Students who engage in sexual and other harassments shall be subject to discipline according to Student Conduct policy and Student Handbook which may include expulsion. Any person reporting alleged sexual harassment in good faith will be protected from retaliation. Any person who retaliates by harassing any complainant or accused person will be considered to have violated this policy and will also be subject to corrective disciplinary action.

The School Board will not tolerate any conduct that fails to comply with the letter and spirit of those guidelines. Disciplinary measures up to and including suspension or expulsion of students from school or up to and including discharge of employees or volunteers may be imposed for a violation of this policy.

STUDENT SURVEYS

The Board respects the privacy rights of parents and their children. No student shall be required to participate in any survey associated with a school program or the district's curriculum, or which is administered by a third party in the school, if the survey includes one or more of the following items:

- political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
- mental and psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
- sex behavior or attitudes;
- illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behaviors;
- critical appraisals of other individuals with whom students have close family relationships;
- legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student's parents; or
- income other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program.

The building principal shall notify parents/guardians at the beginning of each year of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when such survey activities are scheduled involving their children. Parents/guardians shall be given the opportunity to request that their child not participate in a survey containing the above information. If a survey containing the above information is funded in whole or in part by a program administered by the U.S. Department of Education, written consent shall be obtained from the student or, in the case of a minor student, the student's parent/guardian before the student participates in the survey.

Parents/guardians may, upon request, inspect a survey containing any of the above information and any survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed to a student. They may also request to inspect any instructional materials used in connection with the survey or any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for the student. Requests to inspect a survey or instructional materials should be made to the building principal or his/her designee. Survey inspection requests should be made prior to the date in which the survey is scheduled to be administered to students. The principal or designee shall respond to such requests without delay.

STUDENT RECORDS

Parents/guardians and students shall be notified annually of the following:

- a) Their rights to inspect, review, and obtain copies of student records;
- b) Their rights to request the amendment of the student's school records if they believe the records are inaccurate or misleading;
- c) Their rights to consent to the disclosure of the student's school records, except to the extent state and federal law authorizes disclosure without consent.
- d) The categories of student record information which have been designated as directory data and their right to deny the release of such information; and
- e) Their right to file a complaint with the Family Policy and Regulations office of the U.S. Department of Education.

Administration of Student Records

Student Records includes all records relating to individual students, regardless of format, other than notes or records maintained for personal use by teachers or other certified personnel which are not available to others, and records necessary for an available to persons involved in the psychological treatment of a student.

Progress Records include a statement of courses taken, grades awarded therein, the student's extracurricular activities, the student's immunization records, the student's attendance records, and lead screening records required under Wisconsin Statute.

Behavioral Records include psychological tests, personality evaluations, records of conversations, written statements relating specifically to an individual student's behavior, tests relating specifically to achievement or measurement of ability, student physical health records other than immunization records, law enforcement agency records that are not progress records.

Law Enforcement Records include those records obtained from a law enforcement agency relating to (a) the use, possession, or distribution of alcohol or a controlled substance by a student enrolled in the district, (b) the illegal possession of a dangerous weapon by a child, (c) an act for which a district student was taken into custody based on the law enforcement officer's belief that he/she violated or was violating certain specific laws, and (d) the act for which a juvenile enrolled in the district was adjudged delinquent. The law enforcement agency may provide such record information to the district on its own initiative or upon request of the superintendent or designee, subject to the agency's official policy. Upon receipt of the records, the superintendent shall inform the student named in the records and the parent/guardian of a minor student named in the records of the information.

Court Records include those records received from a court clerk concerning a juvenile enrolled in the District who: (a) has had a petition filed with a court alleging that he/she has committed a delinquent act that would be a felony if committed by an adult, (b) has been adjudged delinquent, (c) has school attendance as a condition of his/her court dispositional order, or (d) has been found to have committed a delinquent act at the request of or for the benefit of a criminal gang that would be a felony if committed by an adult, and has been adjudged delinquent on that basis.

Student Physical Health Records include basic health information about a student, including the student's immunization records, an emergency medical card, a log of first-aid and medicines administered to the student, an athletic permit card, a record concerning the student's ability to participate in an education program, the results of any routine screening test such as for hearing, vision, or scoliosis, and any follow-up to such test, and any other basic health information as determined by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Directory Data: The following information is designated in the District as directory data and may be released upon request in accordance with law and District procedures: student's name, present address, telephone listing, current grade, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight & height of athletic teams, dates of attendance, photographs, degrees, and awards.

Notice of Rights – Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18. Students to whom the rights have been transferred are "eligible students." These rights are:

- 1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- 2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education record that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- 3) The right to consent to the disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records to the following parties or under the following conditions:
 - School officials with a legitimate educational interest;
 - Other schools to which a student is transferring, upon request by the other school;
 - Specified officials for audit or evaluation process;
 - Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
 - Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
 - Accrediting organizations;
 - To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
 - Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
 - State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to Wisconsin law

School officials with legitimate educational interests are persons employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board, a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

- 4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.

USE OF VIDEO CAMERAS ON THE SCHOOL BUS

The Pittsville School District approves the use of video cameras to record student conduct on the school buses for the primary purpose of reducing disciplinary problems and vandalism on the school bus. This will allow the driver to focus on the driving of the bus, providing safer transportation for the school district students.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified once a year via the school bus rules and regulations that video cameras may be used on the buses and a sign shall be placed at the front of each bus indicating that video cameras may be used on the bus.

The building principal shall determine when and on which bus a video camera shall be located and maintain a log to include the date, bus number, and driver. The decision to use a video camera on a bus shall be made only when there is a need to do so. Bus drivers do not need to be informed which bus has a video in operation. Individual drivers and principals may request that the video camera be placed on a specific bus on designated dates. Parent(s)/guardian(s) may contact the building principal or his/her designee and request that a video camera be utilized on a specific bus.

Only the building principal or his/her designee, bus company employees, and superintendent or designee shall be authorized to view the videotape for the purpose of documenting a problem and determining which students may be involved. Disciplinary action may be taken with students based on video documentation. Students may be disciplined based on the viewing of a videotape recording. Their parent(s)/guardian(s) may view that isolated segment of the videotape that documents the incident for which they are being disciplined. The building principal shall view the videotape with the adult student and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) and document the date and the names of all individuals viewing the tape.

The videotapes shall not be available for viewing by the public in general, employees in general, media, or other individuals without prior approval of administration. The principals or superintendent may authorize other individuals, such as the guidance counselor, school psychologist, or social worker, to view segments of a specific videotape, if such individuals are working with the student on the videotape because of a behavior, emotional, or learning problem, and viewing the videotape is beneficial to their role in assisting the student. A log shall be kept of the date and names of the individuals viewing the videotape.

A student being disciplined based on the viewing of a videotape recording will use the following procedure:

- a. Only adult students (those at least 18 years old) and the parent(s)/guardian(s) of minor students can view the videotape. Minor students cannot view the videotape.
- b. If more than one student is identifiable in a given frame or series of frames, neither the student to be disciplined (regardless of age) or that student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be able to view the tape unless:
 - 1) the tape can be edited or altered so as to render all other students unrecognizable, or;
 - 2) written consents are obtained from the other adult students and the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the other minor students. Consents must be signed, dated, and must specify the records to be disclosed, the purpose of the disclosure, and the party or parties to whom disclosure may be made.

If there are no reported incidents pertaining to the date a video was taped, the video may be erased or reused after three (3) student school days or ten (10) calendar days, whichever occurs first.

USE OR POSSESSION OF TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION DEVICES

The School District of Pittsville prohibits students from using or possessing electronic paging or two-way communication devices while on premises owned, rented, or under control of the School District. This policy may allow for the use or possession of such a device by a student if the Senior High School Principal, acting as the School Board's designee, determines that the device is used or possessed for medical, school, educational, vocational, or other legitimate use. Annually, each student in the Pittsville School District shall be informed of this Board of Education policy.

VIDEO AND RECORDING PRODUCTION

If the district has followed notification procedures and the parent, legal guardian, or guardian ad litem does not object to their child(ren)'s participation in the Pittsville School District's video production programs, prior parental permission for students to appear in production programs shall not be required for any activity which the public is normally expected or is encouraged to attend (concerts, plays, athletic events, graduation ceremonies). Students will participate unless the parents or guardians have notified, within 14 days, to inform the school that they do not want their child(ren) participating.

YOUTH OPTIONS PROGRAM

The Board shall annually, by October 1, provide information about the Youth Options program to all students enrolled in the District in the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade. A statement on Youth Options is included in the high school handbook.



10 RULES OF BUS SAFETY

1. Never stick your hands, head, or feet out the window.
2. Get to the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the bus is due.
3. Line up quietly in single file – away from the road.
4. Don't push, yell, or throw things while at the bus stop or on the bus.
5. Stay out of the Danger Zone - 10 feet around the bus on all sides.
6. Use handrails to get on and off the bus.
7. Keep the aisles clear.
8. Pay attention to the bus driver.
9. Talk quietly and stay seated on the bus.
10. Wear bright clothes so the bus driver easily sees you.

PITTSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR

2008-2009

KEY:

- ✕ Parent / Teacher Conf No School
- Evening Parent / Teacher Conf
- ◆ Teacher Convention No School
- ★ In Service Day No School
- * Student Vacation No School
- | Quarter Ends / Begins
- Early Dismissal at 12:30 pm

AUGUST 2008

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31						

SEPTEMBER 2008

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JUNE 2009

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AFTER THE FIRST SNOW DAY, ADDITIONAL SNOW DAYS WILL BE MADE UP AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

First Day of School - SEPTEMBER 2

Last Day of School - JUNE 8

Approved: March 10, 2008

BACK TO SCHOOL NEWSLETTER & ANNUAL NOTICE TO PARENTS

School District of Pittsville
5459 Elementary Avenue, Suite 2
Pittsville, WI 54466

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