



## Mayor Ravenstahl's Monthly Community Newsletter

### August 2012

MAYOR RAVENSTAHL'S MONTHLY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Dear Neighbors,

The start of the new school year is quickly approaching and, as the father of a young child, I'm looking forward to helping my young scholar prepare for a successful year. Many of you will take students into classrooms for the first time while others will watch their children begin their last year of high school. Regardless of where your child is in his or her journey, the destination is clear-and-that's where the Pittsburgh Promise can help. Students who graduate from one of our City's Pittsburgh Public Schools and meet attendance and academic requirements can receive up to \$40,000 for college. Since 2008, the Pittsburgh Promise has awarded thousands of scholarships and has helped over 3,200 students reach their goal of higher education.

If you don't have any children in school, you can still play an important role in a child's life by signing up to be a mentor. Children with mentors are more likely to do better in school than those who don't have a positive role model in their life. You can learn more about how City employees are doing their part and also how you can sign up to help by visiting [pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/mentor/](http://pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/mentor/).

Finally, I ask you to pay special attention to school zones and traffic laws during this school year. Please, obey the laws and signs when traveling in a posted school zone and adhere to the flashing lights of a stopped school bus that may be loading or unloading students. We must all remain cognizant and continue to work together to safeguard our children as they travel to and from school and other related activities.

I hope you all have a great and safe 2012-2013 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Luke Ravenstahl in blue ink.

Luke Ravenstahl  
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

# Mayor's Mentoring Initiative

With the back-to-school season just around the corner, now is the time to get back into the classroom. Through Mayor Ravenstahl's servePGH volunteer initiatives, you can do just that. The Mayor's Office is excited to offer two opportunities this fall for adults to make a difference in their communities.



**Are you interested in learning how our local government works?** Are you a community leader who is passionate about making your neighborhood the best that it can be? If so, the Mayor's Civic Leadership Academy is for you. Civic Leadership Academy (CLA) is a free 10-week course designed to educate residents about local government in the City of Pittsburgh. The City's highest leadership provides tours, hands-on demonstrations and fun activities that give an up-close and personal view of how each department helps the City operate. Darlene Yanakos, a graduate of the fall 2011 session shared that, "The departments who opened their doors to the academy were candid about their successes and failures, giving me a real sense of how the City truly operates for the benefit of its residents."

Each class develops and implements its very own service project, based on what they've learned. Past projects have included planting native plants at

the Larimer Community Garden, launching a recycling awareness campaign at community festivals across the City, revitalizing a parklet in East Carnegie, supporting the Urban Redevelopment Authority's efforts to improve neighborhood business districts, and beautifying Arsenal Park in Lawrenceville. For more information and to apply, visit [pittsburghpa.gov/cla](http://pittsburghpa.gov/cla). Applications are due no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, August 13.

**If you're passionate about Pittsburgh's youth**, join the United Way of Allegheny County's Be 1 in a Million campaign and become a volunteer reader, tutor or mentor. The presence of caring adults in a young person's life helps children remain resilient, encouraging them to thrive despite obstacles and work toward their goals. Visit [be1volunteer.org](http://be1volunteer.org) to learn how you can get involved today.

City employees can now serve as mentors during the work week! The Mayor's Mentoring Initiative was established in spring 2011 as the City's first-ever employee volunteer program. Full-time City employees are eligible to serve as mentors to Pittsburgh Public School students through the "Be A 6th Grade Mentor" program or Reading is Fundamental Pittsburgh's "Everybody Wins!" program. Chuck O'Neill, one of 50 City employees who mentored during the 2011-2012 school year, reflected, "Mentoring Anthony each week was a rewarding experience for me. I truly feel that the experience impacted both of our lives in a positive way."

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To learn more, please visit [pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh](http://pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh). Still have questions? Email [servepgh@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:servepgh@pittsburghpa.gov) or call 412-255-2280 to speak to the Mayor's Office of Service & Civic Engagement.

## PROMISE REQUIREMENTS



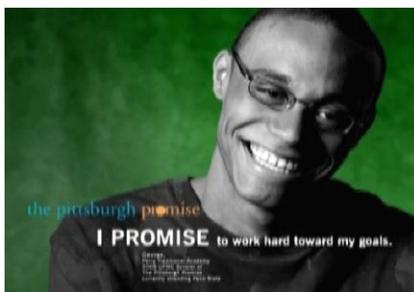
Graduate from the Pittsburgh Public Schools or one of its charter high schools;

Be a student in the district and a resident of Pittsburgh continuously since at least the 9th grade;

Earn a minimum of a 2.5 GPA;

Maintain a minimum attendance record of 90%;

Earn admission to any accredited public or private post-secondary school located in Pennsylvania.



### Pathways to the Promise Night

**October 21** - Pittsburgh Obama 6-12  
6:00PM - 7:30PM

**October 26** - Pittsburgh Carrick 9-12  
6:00PM - 7:30PM

**November 3** - Pittsburgh Allegheny 6-8  
(North Side Community Location)  
6:00PM - 7:30PM

**November 4** - Pittsburgh Allderdice  
9-12 6:00PM - 7:30PM

**November 9** - Greenway / Pittsburgh  
Gifted Center 6:00PM - 7:30PM

**November 10** - Pittsburgh Brookline  
K-8 6:00PM - 7:30PM

**November 16** - Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12  
6:00PM - 7:30PM

**November 17** - Pittsburgh Millions  
6-12 6:00PM - 7:30PM



## Pathways to the Promise

With the school year quickly approaching it is time to think about how you can prepare for the Pittsburgh Promise. Every student that attends a Pittsburgh Public School (PPS), earns at least a 2.5 GPA and maintains good attendance can receive \$40,000 for college. Seizing this educational opportunity is very important and starts in Kindergarten with “Pathways to the Promise.”

To be Promise-ready, students must succeed academically as well as develop behaviors and habits that are consistent with success in college. Pathways to the Promise is a program that helps student’s master academic content, develop proper studying habits, and explore ambitions and dreams. With its rigorous PreK-12 curriculum, PPS assures that there is a highly-effective teacher in every classroom, offers counseling and social work services to all students for personal and educational purposes, and provides a strong out-of-school support system for all students.

PPS remains dedicated to helping students succeed. Any students struggling in school can

receive help from the Educational Assistance program, a tutoring program offered after school and on Saturdays to students of all grades. This program helps students make academic progress by connecting them with teachers and academic professionals who will help them work through their difficulties and answer questions they may have had that day in school.

For those who are interested, Pittsburgh Public Schools will be hosting “Pathways to the Promise Night” this fall. Saleem Ghubril, executive director of The Pittsburgh Promise, will share information and answer questions about The Pittsburgh Promise, and attendees will also learn about Pathways to the Promise. Parents and students can learn about specific steps being taken to reinforce high expectations, promote aspirations for higher education, and ensure that students are on course to be eligible for Pittsburgh Promise scholarships. A complimentary dinner will also be provided. (See side bar for schedule) For more information please call [pittsburghpa.gov/pathways](http://pittsburghpa.gov/pathways)

the pittsburgh **promise** IT LIVES IN ALL OF US  
visit: [pittsburghpromise.org](http://pittsburghpromise.org)

# Back to School Safety Information

## Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law

- When you approach a stopped school bus with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended, you **MUST STOP**.
- You **MUST STOP** at least 10 feet away from the school bus.
- You **MUST WAIT** until the red lights have stopped flashing and the stop arm has been withdrawn before moving.
- **DO NOT MOVE** until all the children have reached a place of safety.



### Student Code of Conduct



“The School District of Pittsburgh is committed to providing every student with the opportunity to attend school in an environment that is safe, free of violence and drugs, and conducive to learning.

This goal is of the highest priority because excellence in education cannot be achieved unless schools and classrooms are safe and orderly.

The Code of Student Conduct was developed so that all students, staff and parents of the District fully understand the expectations for student behavior while in attendance in our schools, while attending school sponsored activities or while riding on transportation systems serving our school district”

Download the full student code of conduct at [pittsburghpa.gov/conduct](http://pittsburghpa.gov/conduct)

### School Bus Safety Check List for Students:

- ✓ Make sure the driver can see you at all times by staying 10 giant steps away from the bus.
- ✓ Talk and laugh quietly with friends. Do not scream, it distracts the driver.
- ✓ Do not put your head, arms, papers or anything out the window.
- ✓ If you have to cross the street, wait until the driver lets you know it's OK.



For more information and to stay updated about the City of Pittsburgh, visit and follow:



Pittsburghpa.gov



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