



STO·ROX

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Student Handbook 2021-2022

Sto-Rox Primary Center (K-3) 300 Ewing Road McKees Rocks, PA 15136 412-771-3213 x3 Fax: 412-771-8641 Hours - 8:30am to 3:30pm	Sto-Rox Upper Elementary School (4-6) 298 Ewing Road McKees Rocks, PA 15136 412-771-3213 x2 Fax: 412-771-3848 Hours: 7:45am to 2:45pm	Sto-Rox Jr.-Sr. High School (7-12) 1105 Valley Street McKees Rocks, PA 15136 412-771-3213 x1 Fax: 412-771-8395 Hours: 7:20am to 2:13pm
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School Board Approved: August 19, 2021

Letter From the Superintendent

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:

Hello and welcome to a new school year. All of us at Sto-Rox School District are excited to get the 2021-2022 school year under way! This year will be full of exciting events and challenges. The Primary Center is thrilled to continue increasing student engagement with the Reading and Mathematics programs along with introducing our brand-new PBIS/LEGO Room called the Viking Clubhouse! The Upper Elementary School is prepared to develop strong study habits in each of our students and to work for Math Mastery for all students entering the Junior High School. The Jr.-Sr. High School is ready to guide each student toward everlasting success for their Career or College Readiness goals.

Each school building will be offering theme-related student activities during every quarter, and students have the opportunity to participate in a host of after-school activities or WPIAL athletics. As Superintendent, I urge each student to contribute to your school experience and join the clubs, activities, and sports offered within the Sto-Rox School District.

This handbook serves to provide our families and students with important information about our schools. Keep this accessible for future reference. If any of the contents appear unclear, please do not hesitate to contact your child's building principal.

I, along with all the staff and teachers, look forward to a great 2021-2022 school year.

Sincerely,

Frank Dalmas
Superintendent of Schools

MISSION

"The essence of the Sto-Rox School District is to empower all students to ethically meet the challenges of a global society, to become self-directed, continuous learners, and to ensure, in a partnership with the community that a comprehensive educational program and support services will be provided to meet the diverse needs of all students, thus enabling them to become accountable citizens and to reach their potential."

VISION

It is the vision of the Sto-Rox School District to prepare today's learners for tomorrow's world. In short, our vision is, in a cooperative manner as partners with the school community, parents and the communities we serve, to jointly offer the finest education in a fiscally responsible manner, so that all students may experience academic success.

SHARED VALUES

Schools should serve as a unifying agent in the community. **We believe that schools bring people together to learn and to live in a community spirit.**

The educational program must include a focus on the technical skills needed in the future workplace. **We believe this should happen in a systematic way and organized way drawing on the strengths and needs of each student.**

The school can effectively prepare students for the new demands of society. The school environment must encourage students' self-respect, self-worth and respect for others and their property. **We believe all children have the right to be educated in a safe, orderly, and supported environment where respect and responsibility are learned through positive experiences.**

Students and educators must learn to work in collaboration with others in identifying, organizing, planning, and allocating resources in order to achieve goals. **All members of the school community have an equal part in creating the District goals and achieving successes.**

Educators must help students develop trust, responsibility, tolerance, and the necessary problem solving and critical thinking skills to succeed in a diverse and ever changing society. **We believe that a variety of instructional methods should be utilized to assist each student.**

The academic community has a responsibility to take ownership in the learning process while providing equal educational opportunities for students in grades K-12. **We believe all students can achieve at high levels.**

Education is a cooperative effort among the entire Sto-Rox community. **We believe that the school community has a responsibility to meet the academic and social needs of all students.**

Students will be provided a safe, caring environment in which learning can take place. **Self responsibility and the self-management of learning will be goals for all children in the District.**

Students should be active learners. **We believe learning should be active, enriching, and have application to the world we live in.**

The school district should provide extracurricular programs to meet the interests of all students. **The fine arts, creative arts and athletic experiences should complement the academic pursuits.**

Community support and involvement is necessary in providing opportunities and facilities conducive for learning. **We believe that family and community integration enable students to see value in learning and foster a sense of responsibility for the student.**

Sto-Rox School District 2021-2022 Calendar

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Board Approved: April 29, 2021

PROGRESS REPORTS / REPORT CARD SCHEDULE

September 20, 2021	Mid-way point of nine weeks
Week of September 20, 2021	Progress reports sent home
October 22, 2021	End of 1 st nine weeks
Week of October 26, 2021	1 st quarter report cards sent home
November 23, 2021	Mid-way point of nine weeks
Week of November 30, 2021	Progress reports sent home
January 11, 2022	End of 2 nd nine weeks /1 st semester
Week of January 18, 2022	2 nd quarter report cards sent home
February 14, 2022	Mid-way point of nine weeks
Week of February 14, 2022	Progress reports sent home
March 18, 2022	End of 3 rd nine weeks
Week of March 22, 2022	3 rd quarter report cards sent home
April 26, 2022	Mid-way point of nine weeks
Week of April 26, 2022	Progress reports sent home
May 27, 2022	End of 4 th nine weeks /2 nd semester Last day for students.
May 27, 2022	GRADUATION
Week of May 31, 2022	4 th quarter report cards sent home Jr.-Sr. High School students only

Sto-Rox School District Staff Directory

ADMINISTRATION BLDG., 298 Ewing Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136			
Frank Dalmas	Superintendent	5236	fdalmas@srsd.k12.pa.us
Susan Gratton	Secretary to Superintendent/ Board Secretary	5236	sgratton@srsd.k12.pa.us
Tina Nagel	Secretary to Business Manager/ Transportation Secretary	5217	tnagel@srsd.k12.pa.us
Brian Worst	Network Specialist	5277	bworst@srsd.k12.pa.us

JR.-SR. HIGH SCHOOL, 1005 Valley Street, McKees Rocks, PA 15136			
Christopher Captline	Vice Principal	1010	ccaptline@srsd.k12.pa.us
Samuel Weaver	Vice Principal	1020	sweaver@srsd.k12.pa.us
Beth Harvey	Secretary	1020	bharvey@srsd.k12.pa.us
Michael Bosco	Dean of Students	1110	mbosco@srsd.k12.pa.us
Joe Herzing	Sr. Guidance Counselor	4103	jherzing@srsd.k12.pa.us
Stacey Huber	Jr. Guidance Counselor	4104	shuber@srsd.k12.pa.us
Marsha Hansberry	Central Registration/ Jr.-Sr. Guidance Secretary	4100	mhansberry@srsd.k12.pa.us
Dayna Sikora	Director of Pupil Services	4010	dsikora@srsd.k12.pa.us
Toni Dalloiso	Pupil Services/ Special Educ. Secretary	4000	tdalloiso@srsd.k12.pa.us
Gail Piole	School Nurse	1040	gpiole@srsd.k12.pa.us
Dave Coleman	Probation Officer	1045	dcoleman@srsd.k12.pa.us
Tim Messina	Attendance Officer/ Home-School Visitor	4020	tmessina@srsd.k12.pa.us
TBD	Computer Technician	1125	
Lisa Hatton	Food Services Director	1055	lhatton@srsd.k12.pa.us
Tammy Eberlein	Food Service Secretary	1055	teberlein@srsd.k12.pa.us
Laroi Johnson	Athletic Director	4200	ljohnson@srsd.k12.pa.us

UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 298 Ewing Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136			
Heather Johnston	Principal	2010	hjohnston@srsd.k12.pa.us
William Schleicher	Director of Curriculum & Instruction/Federal Programs	4050	wschleicher@srsd.k12.pa.us
Patty Piett	Secretary	2000	ppiett@srsd.k12.pa.us
Robin Cato	Dean of Students	2210	rcato@srsd.k12.pa.us
Clare Teti	School Psychologist	4070	cteti@srsd.k12.pa.us
Katie Couch	Guidance Counselor	4105	kcouch@srsd.k12.pa.us
Gail Piole	School Nurses	2040	gpiole@srsd.k12.pa.us

PRIMARY CENTER, 300 Ewing Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136			
	Principal	3030	@srsd.k12.pa.us
Cindy Alexander	Secretary	3000	calexander@srsd.k12.pa.us
Julie Blanc	Dean of Students	3314	jblanc@srsd.k12.pa.us
Celeste Sicilia	Head Teacher	3313	csicilia@srsd.k12.pa.us
Desire Krawchyk	Guidance Counselor	4106	dkrawchyk@srsd.k12.pa.us
Michelle Jacobs	School Psychologist	4080	mjacobs@srsd.k12.pa.us
Gail Piole	School Nurse	3040	gpiole@srsd.k12.pa.us

SCHOOL VISITATION

The safety of our students and staff is our highest priority. The Sto-Rox School District will utilize the **RAPTOR** visitor registration system to enhance school security. All parents, guardians, and visitors will be **required** to present a government issued photo identification (for example, driver's license) when entering the building.

Due to Health and Safety Reasons, all district schools are closed while school is in session. All Meetings must be scheduled in advance. No walk-ins will be entertained.

CELL PHONES

The use of cell phones on the school bus or on school grounds is strictly prohibited. If a student violates these rules, the phone will be taken and put into storage until the end of the school day. Repeated violations may result in the parent/guardian's presence at the school to retrieve the phone. **THE DISTRICT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR STOLEN, MISSING, AND/OR BROKEN CELL PHONES.**

POLICIES

We encourage you to visit our website to review all District policies in detail.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES/PARAPHERNALIA

The use of controlled substances is strictly prohibited on school buses or school property. If a student arrives at school and is suspected of being under the influence of illegal substances, the District has the right to search for additional contraband.

The parent will be notified; if the student is deemed unable to attend classes, the parent will be responsible for transporting the student home. If the parent is unable, the student will spend the day in in-school suspension.

DRESS CODE

Please be aware that the revised (6-28-18) student dress code policy (Policy 221) will be strictly upheld. If school attire is considered inappropriate, the student will be given an opportunity to call home for a change of clothing. If a change is not available, the student will be sent home with parent/guardian; no credit will be earned for the day's classes.

REVISIONS are in italicized print below.

1. Attire must not be destructive to school property.
2. Dress must comply with all health and safety codes.
3. Dress must not interfere with the educational process or rights of others.
4. ***Shoes must be worn. For safety purposes, at the Primary and Upper Elementary, no slides or flip/flop type footwear are permitted; sandals with back straps may be worn. At the Jr.-Sr. High School, from August through October 31, slides, flip/flops, and sandals are permitted.***

From November 1 through April 31, slides, flip/flops or sandals are NOT permitted. From May 1 to the end of the school year, slides, flip/flops, and sandals are permitted. Flip/flops and sandals are not permitted in district gymnasiums and/or playgrounds.

5. *All forms of headgear are prohibited (except for school spirit clothing) in the buildings including, but not limited to, baseball caps, do-rags, and hoodies. Female students may wear hair bands and hair scarves at the discretion of the principal. Headphones are not to be worn during class time.*
6. Sunglasses are prohibited in the buildings.
7. *Winter coats and jackets may not be worn in classrooms, only at administrative discretion in certain circumstances.*
8. Bare midriffs, see-through garments, white undergarment type T-Shirts, bare backs, halter tops, low cut blouses and tank tops are prohibited.
9. Pants must be worn at the waist.
10. Shorts, skirts, dresses: Length is to be reasonable, typically to the extended fingertip, and not offensive.
10. *Shorts: Length is to be reasonable, typically to the extended fist length. Spandex shorts are prohibited.*
11. Obscene, profane language or provocative pictures on clothing/jewelry are prohibited.
12. *No pajamas or pajama type wear is permitted. Bedroom slippers are not permitted.*

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROGRAM

Sto-Rox School District will offer a free Breakfast and Lunch for ALL students. Every student has the opportunity to eat breakfast and lunch each school day. Ala carte lunch items are also available for purchase. **Jr.-Sr. High School: Please arrive to school early enough to eat before you are to report to class.**

CODE OF CONDUCT/BOARD POLICIES

The entire directory of Board policies and guidelines are available through the Sto-Rox School District website at www.srsd.k12.pa.us. If you do not have internet access, you may request specific policies from your child's school.

Some frequently referenced policies are:

Policy 113	Special Education/Special Programs
Policy 113.1	Special Education Behavior Management
Policy 204	K-12 Attendance
Policy 212	Reporting Pupil Progress
Policy 213	Grading of Student Progress
Policy 218	Student Discipline

Policy 221	Dress Code – REVISED 6-28-18
Policy 233	Suspension and Expulsion
Policy 235	Student Rights
Policy 237	Electronic Devices (i.e. cell phones, iPods, etc.)
Policy 238	Athletics and Extracurricular Activities
Policy 248.1	Prohibition Against Bullying
Policy 810	Transportation
Policy 815	Acceptable Use of the Internet

Parent Right-to-Know Information

Parent Right to Know Information as Required by The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) [Section 1112(e)(1)(A)] and the Every Student Succeeds Act [Section 1112(e)(1)(A)]

Your child attends the Sto-Rox School District, which receives Federal Title I funds to assist students in meeting state achievement standards. Throughout the school year, we will be providing you with important information about this law and your child’s education. This letter lets you know about your right to request information about the qualifications of the classroom staff working with your child.

At Sto-Rox School District, we are very proud of our teachers and feel they are ready for the coming school year and are prepared to give your child a high-quality education. As a Title I school, we must meet federal regulations related to teacher qualifications as defined in ESEA. These regulations allow you to learn more about your child’s teachers’ training and credentials. We are happy to provide this information to you. At any time, you may ask:

- Whether the teacher met state qualifications and certification requirements for the grade level and subject he/she is teaching,
- Whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived, and
- What undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration.

You may also ask whether your child receives help from a paraprofessional. If your child receives this assistance, we can provide you with information about the paraprofessional’s qualifications.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which was signed into law in December 2015 and reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1956 (ESEA) includes additional right to know requests. At any time, parents and family members can request:

- Information on policies regarding student participation in assessments and procedures for opting out, and

- Information on required assessments that include
 - subject matter tested,
 - purpose of the test,
 - source of the requirement (if applicable),
 - amount of time it takes students to complete the test, and
 - time and format of disseminating results.

Our staff is committed to helping your child develop the academic knowledge and critical thinking he/she needs to succeed in school and beyond. That commitment includes making sure that all of our teachers and paraprofessionals meet applicable Pennsylvania state requirements.

STO-ROX SCHOOL DISTRICT Annual Public Notice

The Sto-Rox School District maintains pupil records as an inherent part of the student's education associated with the provision of necessary instructional services. These records are confidential and privileged and access is limited to the following school district employees: Administrators, counselors, specialists, student's classroom teachers, and members of the secretarial staff. The Sto-Rox School District's student educational records policy is in compliance with Pennsylvania Board of Education regulations and with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. School district employees shall abide by the Student Educational Records Policy.

Parents of students in the Sto-Rox School District and students who have attained the age of 18 have the right to a copy of the District's records policy and the right to inspect and obtain copies of records by contacting the building principal. The principal has 30 days to respond to a written request for copies of the records. For further details, obtain a copy of the records policy from the school principal.

If students transfer to another school system, educational records will be forwarded upon written request from that school. A high school transcript will be released to post-secondary educational institutions, or prospective employers only upon the parent's or student's written authorization.

Each parent has access to his/her child's records unless the school district has received a copy of a court order which limits access. This regulation holds even if only one parent has custody of the child.

Types of records:

Directory Information Categories:

- * Student's name, address, phone number, date, photograph, place of birth
- * Awards won and offices held
- * Major areas of study
- * Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- * Post high school endeavors
- * Recognition of achievements in academic and non-academic areas of endeavors
- * Recognition of graduating seniors

- * Weights and heights of athletes

The parent or eligible student may refuse to permit the designation of any or all of these categories by notifying the principal within 30 days of the publication and distribution of this notice.

Health Records: Vision, hearing, specific health conditions and immunization records.

Academic and Attendance Records: Grades, and general achievement or ability test results.

Special Education Records: School districts are required to annually notify parents that a file is maintained for students receiving special education programming and services. The school principal is responsible to ensure that the collection, maintenance and storage of information are in accordance with state and federal regulations. Parents and other persons or agencies required by law have access to this file.

Parents and eligible students who have attained the age of majority have the following rights:

- * The right to review, inspect and obtain a copy of the records.
- * The right to challenge the contents of the records with intent of removal or edit factual accuracy.
- * The right to refuse individual consent, where that permission is needed for releasing certain information by the Sto-Rox School District.

Prior to the destruction of personally identifiable information, the school district will send written notification to the parents. Parents shall also be informed of their rights to receive a copy of the material to be destroyed.

Special Education File: Location

The building in which the student receives special education instructional services as well as in the Pupil Services office. The file is separate from the regular school file. Contents: relevant special education data, identifying psychological and academic reports, other data pertinent to the student's special education placement or handicapping condition.

Parents' Right to Know

Parents have the right to ask for the following information about their children's classroom teachers or paraprofessionals:

- * Whether the teacher is properly certified by the PA Dept. of Education for the grades and subjects he/she teaches.
- * Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status in which PA licensing criteria have been waived.
- * Whether the teacher has any baccalaureate degrees or advanced degrees and the subject of the degrees.
- * Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and if so their qualifications.

If you would like to receive specific information about your child's teacher or paraprofessional, please contact your school principal. Our district is fully committed to the

success of your child. We appreciate your partnership in our efforts to provide the best education for your child.

Child Identification Activities

The Sto-Rox School District employs the following procedures for locating, identifying and evaluating the needs of school-aged students requiring special programs and/or services. As mandated by School Code, the district routinely conducts screenings of a child's hearing acuity and visual acuity. Screening for speech and language skills is on an ongoing basis by referring children to the therapist. Gross motor and fine motor skills, academic skills and social/emotional skills are assessed by classroom teachers and support staff on an ongoing basis. Building level screening meetings are held monthly to conduct various ongoing screening activities which include: review of group-based data, such as enrollment and health records, report cards, ability and achievement test scores. Needs identified from these sources, as well as information from parents and agencies are assessed, noted within the student's records, and discussed with parents.

If appropriate, the child screening team recommends interventions to be implemented by the instructional staff or to document the need for further evaluation. If it is determined that a student may be eligible for special education, the student is referred for a multidisciplinary team evaluation. After the evaluation is completed, an evaluation report is prepared with parent involvement. The report includes specific recommendations for the types of intervention necessary to meet the needs of the student.

When the multidisciplinary team's evaluation report is completed and in accordance with state regulations, and IEP Team meeting with parent involvement is scheduled to develop an appropriate Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for the student. Parents of students who suspect that their child is exceptional and in need of special education services may request a multidisciplinary team evaluation of their child by submitting a written request to the building principal.

Services for School Age Exceptional Students

The school district provides a free, appropriate public education to exceptional students according to state and federal mandates. To be eligible, the child must be of school-age, require specially designed instruction, and meet eligibility for mentally gifted and/or one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities as set forth in state and federal regulations: autism/pervasive developmental disorder, blindness/visual impairment, deafness/hearing impairment, mental retardation, multi-handicap, neurological impairment, physical disability, emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, speech/language impairment, and other health impairment.

Services designed to meet the needs of eligible students include supportive intervention in the regular class, supplemental in the regular class or in a special education resource program, placement in a part-time or full-time special education class in a regular school or placement in a full-time special education program outside of the regular school. The extent of special educational services are determined by the parents and staff at the IEP Team meeting and are based on the student's identified needs and abilities, chronological age and the intensity of the specific interventions. The school district also provides related services, such as transportation, physical therapy and occupational therapy that are required to enable the student to derive educational benefits.

Prior to the initiation of services, parents are presented a “Notice of Recommended Educational Placement” (NOREP) with which they may agree or disagree. If parents disagree with the program being recommended, they have the right to request a pre-hearing conference, mediation, or/or a due process hearing. Copies of the Procedural Safeguards Notice are issued when Permission to Evaluate/ Reevaluation Forms are sent to parents and at each IEP Team meeting. The school district also provides program services for students identified as being mentally gifted, K-12. Any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Director of Pupil Services, Ms. Dayna Sikora, at 412-771-3213.

Early Intervention:

Children who will be at least 3 years of age by September 1st and are suspected to have a disability in one or more of the following areas may be eligible to receive Early Intervention Services: Physical Development, Cognitive and Sensory Development, Learning Problems, Speech/Language Development, Social/Emotional Development, other significant health impairment. Parents can contact Project DART, Allegheny Intermediate Unit, Dr. Susan Sams, 412-394-5816.

Chapter 15 (504) Notice

The Sto-Rox School District complies with the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and its implementing regulations for all students with known handicapping conditions. Section 504 and its accompanying regulations protect otherwise qualified handicapped students who have physical, mental or health impairment from discrimination because of those impairments. The law and its regulations require public educational agencies to ensure that these students have equal opportunity to participate in the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate. School districts are required to provide these students with aids, services, and accommodations that are designed to meet the educational needs of the students as adequately as the needs of non-handicapped students are met. These aids, services and accommodations can include, but are not limited to, special transportation, modified equipment, and adjustments in the student’s instructional program or the administration of needed medication.

Sto-Rox Primary Center & Upper Elementary - Family School Policy

VISION:

The Sto-Rox Primary Center and the Upper Elementary School recognize that family and school engagement is the foundation for student success and well-being that produces citizens who are life-long learners and community contributors.

PURPOSE:

The Sto-Rox Primary Center and the Upper Elementary School acknowledge that families and schools have vital roles in ensuring that a child's development and education is a shared partnership that requires a collaborative effort. Each partner has the responsibility to be knowledgeable and foster a climate of respect and cooperation for the benefit of all students under the guidelines of Title 1 requirements.

DEFINITIONS:

Parent/Family- The term "parent/guardian" refers to the legal guardian or other person standing in "*loco parentis*" such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the welfare of the child. The terms parent/guardian and family may be used interchangeably throughout these documents.

School- The Sto-Rox Primary Center and the Upper Elementary School are two of the three schools in the Sto-Rox School District, comprised of students living within the boundaries of Stowe Township and McKees Rocks Borough.

FAMILY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

The Sto-Rox Primary Center and the Upper Elementary School recognize that families may be diverse in cultures, language, resources and needs; however all share the school's commitment to the educational success of their children. Sto-Rox Parent Engagement recognizes its responsibility to help eliminate the barriers that impede family involvement and to create an environment supportive of family involvement programs that have been developed in collaboration with parents/guardians. Therefore, this policy shall establish guidelines for programs and practices that reflect the needs of the students and their families.

TITLE 1 REQUIREMENTS

The Sto-Rox Primary Center and the Upper Elementary School shall incorporate the Title 1, Part A parent involvement requirements into this policy, programs and practices and ensure that all families are informed about the opportunity and expectation to participate in two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic and other activities. The district shall strive to ensure families are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making, recommending allocation of resources and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child, as well as all others in the district.

EXPECTATIONS

The family-school partnership shall emphasize a strength based perspective that builds resiliency factors and serves to leverage the resources and assets of family members, schools, community groups and address the needs to improve learning and achievement opportunities for all students. The district will strive to achieve this through various practices including:

- Families shall be invited to actively participate in development of school board policies, strategic planning processes, school improvement plans and programs and services where applicable.
- Families will be provided with assistance in understanding the State's academic content and standards, local assessments, and how to effectively monitor their child's progress and work with teachers to improve academic success.
- Should families harbor blockades in obtaining the understanding of state policies such as language barriers, literacy impairments or lack of knowledge of how to overcome these obstacles, the district shall strive to work with any community group/local agency necessary to eliminate these restrictions.
- Title 1 fund budgeting shall include the opinions and input from families to effectively resolve barriers stated above, and also to indicate a transparency in how the funding is being utilized as applicable. Fund distribution for the academic success of the students shall also be included in discussions with families.
- Every communicative outlet available to the district shall be utilized to inform families and concerned community members of the meetings planned to focus on the execution of these programs and for the planning strategies for any other program with the goal of home-school improvement.

ELEMENTS OF EXECUTION

Efforts shall be made to include the following practices:

- Create a welcoming, safe environment for students, supporting healthy youth development
- Expanding communications between families and schools
- Encouraging supportive home environments
- Promoting and encouraging volunteer support from the family and community as permitted
- Facilitating and communicating about learning opportunities outside of the school for students and family

EVALUATION

Families shall participate in evaluating the implementation and effect of this policy on student success. A year end meeting shall be utilized to determine said effectiveness and suggest improvements and new strategies to move forward towards student success.

Sto-Rox Jr.-Sr. High School Family School Policy

VISION:

The Sto-Rox Jr.-Sr. High School recognizes that family and school engagement is the foundation for student success and well-being that produces citizens who are life-long learners and community contributors.

PURPOSE:

The Sto-Rox Jr.-Sr. High School acknowledges that families and schools have vital roles in ensuring that a child's development and education is a shared partnership that requires a collaborative effort. Each partner has the responsibility to be knowledgeable and foster a climate of respect and cooperation for the benefit of all students under the guidelines of Title 1 requirements.

DEFINITIONS:

Parent/Family- The term "parent/guardian" refers to the legal guardian or other person standing in "*loco parentis*" such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the welfare of the child. The terms parent/guardian and family may be used interchangeably throughout these documents.

School- The Sto-Rox Jr.-Sr. High School is one of the three schools in the Sto-Rox School District, comprised of students living within the boundaries of Stowe Township and McKees Rocks Borough.

FAMILY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

The Sto-Rox Jr.-Sr. High School recognizes that families may be diverse in cultures, language, resources and needs; however all share the school's commitment to the educational success of their children. Sto-Rox Parent Engagement recognizes its responsibility to help eliminate the barriers that impede family involvement and to create an environment supportive of family involvement programs that have been developed in collaboration with parents/guardians. Therefore, this policy shall establish guidelines for programs and practices that reflect the needs of the students and their families.

TITLE 1 REQUIREMENTS

The Sto-Rox Jr.-Sr. High School shall incorporate the Title 1, Part A parent involvement requirements into this policy, programs and practices and ensure that all families are informed about the opportunity and expectation to participate in two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic and other activities. The district shall strive to ensure families are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making, recommending allocation of resources and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child, as well as all others in the district.

EXPECTATIONS

The family-school partnership shall emphasize a strength based perspective that builds resiliency factors and serves to leverage the resources and assets of family members, schools, community groups and address the needs to improve learning and achievement opportunities for all students. The district will strive to achieve this through various practices including:

- Families shall be invited to actively participate in development of school board policies, strategic planning processes, school improvement plans and programs and services where applicable.
- Families will be provided with assistance in understanding the State's academic content and standards, local assessments, and how to effectively monitor their child's progress and work with teachers to improve academic success.
- Should families harbor blockades in obtaining the understanding of state policies such as language barriers, literacy impairments or lack of knowledge of how to overcome these obstacles, the district shall strive to work with any community group/local agency necessary to eliminate these restrictions.
- Title 1 fund budgeting shall include the opinions and input from families to effectively resolve barriers stated above, and also to indicate a transparency in how the funding is being utilized as applicable. Fund distribution for the academic success of the students shall also be included in discussions with families.
- Every communicative outlet available to the district shall be utilized to inform families and concerned community members of the meetings planned to focus on the execution of these programs and for the planning strategies for any other program with the goal of home-school improvement.

ELEMENTS OF EXECUTION

Efforts shall be made to include the following practices:

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- Facilitating and communicating about learning opportunities outside of the school for student s and family

EVALUATION

Families shall participate in evaluating the implementation and effect of this policy on student success. A year end meeting shall be utilized to determine said effectiveness and suggest improvements and new strategies to move forward towards student success.

Homeless Student and McKinney-Vento Information

Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (per Title IX, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act) defines *homeless* as follows:

The term "homeless children and youths"--

(A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a)(1)); and

(B) includes—

(i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;*

(ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C));

(iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

(iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

The McKinney-Vento Act is designed to address the challenges that homeless children and youths have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. If students or families live in any of the above situation, please contact your school counselor, school social worker, or District Homeless Liaison:

Eligible children have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is your preference. * If the school district believes that the school you select is not in the best interest of your children, then the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if requested.

School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS)

The Sto-Rox School District strives to promote a quality educational experience by promoting excellence without excuses in our daily lives. Our goal is to provide our students with an environment conducive to learning; therefore, it is expected for our students to display appropriate behavior on a daily basis. The following behavior management plan will be implemented in an effort to maintain an orderly learning environment and to redirect students' inappropriate behavior. We will continue to have high expectations of our students' academic progress and behavior.

Parental involvement in this process will play an integral part in our students' overall success. Please take the time to discuss the components of this plan with your child. Teachers will keep parents abreast of inappropriate behavior of students. Parents may be asked to meet with administrators to develop a plan for a child's behavioral success.

I. **Vision** - At the Sto-Rox School District, we strive to create a positive school environment where faculty, staff and students are courteous and respectful to themselves and others, leaders in building, motivated to learn, and safe at all times.

II. **Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS)** is an application of a behaviorally based system approach to enhancing the capacity of schools, families, and communities to design effective environments that improve the fit between research-validated practices and the environments in which teaching and learning occur. The focus is on creating and sustaining school environments that improve lifestyle results (personal, health, social, academic, work, etc.) for all students by making problem behavior less effective, efficient, and relevant, while making desired behavior more functional.

Who is involved in the PBIS Process? School-wide PBIS requires a collaborative team consisting of:

- All school personnel to include: Administration, Teachers, Counselors, Paraprofessionals, Custodial and Cafeteria Staff, Front Office Personnel
- Support personnel such as School Improvement Facilitators, etc.
- Special Education personnel such as Behavior Specialist, Lead Teachers, etc.
- Parents
- School Visitors

What is a School-wide PBIS Plan? The school-wide PBIS Plan includes the following steps.

1. Expectations are clearly and positively defined.
2. Behavioral expectations are taught to all students and staff.
3. Appropriate behaviors are acknowledged.
4. Behavioral errors are proactively corrected.
5. A database for keeping records and making decisions is established.
6. Data-based monitoring and adaptations to the plan are regularly conducted.

The goal is to promote behavior to foster an environment conducive to learning. When a student has demonstrated expectations, he or she will have the opportunity to be rewarded through various forms of incentives throughout the year.

III. School Rules - Expectations of Students: Each school within the Sto-Rox School District have developed school-wide expectations we instill with our staff and students to promote positive behaviors inside and outside of the classrooms. Below, you will find the expectations of each building.

“Viking Expectations” state We Are:

Primary Center:

Kind
Capable
In Control
Sto-Rox Strong!

Upper Elementary:

Safe
Respectful
Responsible
SRUE Proud!

Jr./Sr. High School:

Respectful
Accountable
Inclusive
Safe
Equitable

STATEMENT OF RECEIPT OF HANDBOOK

I, _____ (name of student), have received the Student Handbook for 2021-2022 school year, and I have been informed that all Board policies are available on the District website at www.srsd.k12.pa.us.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date

Date

PERMISSION TO PUBLISH PHOTOGRAPHS

Throughout the school year, the Sto-Rox School District would like to use photographs and/or videos to highlight student accomplishments. Several places that we may use photographs and/or videos include: **hallways, slideshow presentations, yearbook, newspaper articles, and the District website.** **IF THIS FORM IS NOT RETURNED SIGNED, IT IS ASSUMED THAT IT HAS BEEN READ, UNDERSTOOD, AND YOUR PERMISSION GIVEN.**

___ I give my permission to the Sto-Rox School District to publish my son/daughter's photo.

___ I do not give my permission to the Sto-Rox School District to publish my son/daughter's photo.

Parent's name: _____

Parent's signature: _____

Date: _____

**** DETACH THIS FORM AND RETURN TO HOMEROOM TEACHER ****

Network and Internet Access: Student Consent and Waiver

I, _____, _____ (name of student) agree to the following:

1. My use of the Sto-Rox School District's network must be consistent with the District's primary goals.
2. I will not use the Sto-Rox School District network for illegal purposes of any kind.
3. I will not use the Sto-Rox School District network to transmit threatening, obscene, or harassing materials. The District will not be held responsible if I participate in such activities.
4. I will not use the Sto-Rox School District network to interfere with or disrupt network users, services, or equipment. Disruptions include, but are not limited to, distribution of unsolicited advertising, propagation of computer viruses, or using the network to make unauthorized entry to any other machine accessible via the network.
5. It is assumed that information and resources accessible via the Sto-Rox School District network are private to the individuals and organizations which own or hold rights to those resources and information unless specifically stated otherwise by the owners or holders of rights. Therefore, I will not use the Sto-Rox School District network to access information or resources unless permission to do so has been granted by the owners or holders of rights to those resources or information.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date

Date

NOTE: NO student will be permitted to use the internet without a dated permission form signed by both the parent and the student.

***** DETACH THIS FORM AND RETURN TO HOMEROOM TEACHER *****