



CENTENNIAL  
SCHOOL | LEHIGH  
UNIVERSITY

# Parent and Student Handbook

## 2020-2021

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to Centennial School of Lehigh University, a nationally recognized special education program for students with a history of persistent behavior problems in school. Our steadfast goal is to teach students how to improve their school and classroom behavior and to acquire the skills that will allow them to achieve success in their futures.

Progress in the academic curriculum is an important goal for Centennial students. Centennial School of Lehigh University adheres to the curriculum standards established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and federal law that govern the provision of special education services to children and youth with disabilities.

We are confident in our ability to provide a high-quality education program for our students. We promise our students that if they come to school every day and work hard, they will become better at reading, writing, spelling and math. Moreover, if they work with us, we promise they will learn new and more helpful ways of managing their anger, organizing their lives, and making decisions that will benefit them now and into the future.

Cultivating students' motivation and sustaining their efforts are key aspects of our jobs at Centennial and areas in which we like to work closely with our parents and guardians. Research shows clearly that when parents and school officials work together, children are more successful in school. We invite you to join us in helping your children have the best year they've ever had in school.

We hope your experience with Centennial School of Lehigh University is a positive and memorable one. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about your child's education. We look forward to working with you on behalf of your child.

Sincerely,  
Julie B. Fogt, Ed.D.  
Director

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## **Mission Statement**

Centennial School of Lehigh University provides a safe, nurturing, encouraging, and affirming environment for students and their families. Within the context of current research-based strategies, Centennial School helps students achieve the academic, technical, vocational, social, and emotional skills necessary for success in regular school environments, the community at large and the world beyond. Centennial School of Lehigh University also assists in the preparation of aspiring special education teachers and related personnel.

## **Directory Information**

Julie Fogt, Ed.D.	Director
Kelly Spradlin, M.Ed.	Program Coordinator, Elementary
Caitlin Lyons, M.Ed.	Program Coordinator, Middle School
Alicia Reiss, M.Ed.	Program Coordinator, High School
Nancy Zapotocki	Administrative Coordinator - Attendance
Erik Rhoades	Business Manager

## **Introduction**

The policies adopted by Centennial School of Lehigh University conform to guidelines of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. They represent the basic expectations for student conduct in the school setting and describe the procedures that are used to guarantee certain fundamental student rights.

Policies and procedures are in place to ensure that students are ready and able to benefit fully from their day at school. Our goal is to make Centennial School a place where students, parents, faculty and staff want to be and where our students can learn new skills for leading productive lives. By working together and adhering to the policies and procedures we have in place, we believe we can make this happen.

## **Student Responsibilities**

Students' responsibilities include regular school attendance, conscientious effort, and conformance to school rules and regulations. Every student shares the responsibility with school staff for maintaining a safe school environment that is conducive to learning and living.

It is the responsibility of every student to respect the rights of teachers, students, administrators, and all others who are involved in the educational process. Students should express their ideas and opinions in a respectful manner. It is also the responsibility of students to conform to the following:

1. Know and understand the rules and regulations for student conduct.
2. Volunteer information in matters relating to their health, safety, and welfare.
3. Dress and groom to meet fair standards of safety and health.
4. Assist the school staff in operating a safe school for all students.
5. Comply with Federal and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania laws.
6. Exercise proper care when using public facilities and equipment.
7. Attend school daily and be on time for all classes.
8. Come prepared with necessary materials to class.
9. Make arrangements for making up work when absent from school.

10. Pursue the course of study prescribed by the Commonwealth, Centennial School, and the local school district.

### **Academic Curriculum**

As a special education program for pupils with behavioral and learning needs, Centennial School provides alternative approaches for achieving the curriculum standards contained in Chapter 4 of the Pennsylvania School Code. Centennial's designation as an alternative school rests in its use of various teaching methodologies and strategies for promoting the acquisition of social and academic skills. The standards for academic success, however, remain the same as those erected by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for all children. The faculty and staff at Centennial School accomplish this by implementing students' Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) that include program modifications and specially designed instruction deemed necessary by the IEP team for allowing the children to progress in the curriculum.

Centennial School ascribes to the belief that a rich, engaging, and academic curriculum helps prevent the occurrence of problem behavior and best prepares students for reintegration to home school environments. To that end, Centennial teachers use research-based teaching practices that include matching curriculum to students' functioning levels, systematic analyses of students' error patterns, positive error correction, frequent feedback, high rates of active engagement and praise, systematic progress monitoring and a tenacious pursuit of mastery learning.

Because it is a special education program, the general education curriculum is adapted/modified for every child. Common accommodations and modifications to the curriculum include but are not limited to small group instruction, task-analysis of content, individual pacing through curriculum, altering the length of assignments, extended deadlines for completion, pre-correction strategies, classroom agendas, clear expectations for performance, one-to-one assistance, peer tutoring, and cooperative learning. Students are provided frequent opportunities for practice until they reach mastery of their IEP goals.

Students who display frustration during academic periods are taught the



“take time” procedure. Taking time allows students to voluntarily remove themselves temporarily from instruction, regain composure, and try again. Students are reinforced verbally for doing so. Students who experience great difficulty in completing academic assignments are supplied with modified work schedules that may include additional breaks throughout the school day.

Student academic progress is tracked routinely using curriculum-based monitoring. Students who “stall” or fail to make anticipated progress are provided with additional supports and alternative strategies. Most instructional decisions are left to the classroom teacher; however, when students present particular challenges, a staffing that consists of multiple people with knowledge about the child is convened to problem-solve solutions.

### **ADA and Section 504 Protections**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving federal financial assistance. Section 504 defines a person with a disability as anyone who (a) has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities such as caring for one’s self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working; (b) has a record of such impairment; or (c) is regarded as having such an impairment.

Centennial School of Lehigh University acknowledges its responsibility under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) to prevent discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and students. No discrimination against any person with a disability shall knowingly be permitted in any program or practices in the school.

The 504/ADA compliance officer of Centennial School shall be the director of the school. All complaints, formal and informal, regarding Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1975 and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 shall be forwarded to the director for investigation and resolution.

## **After School Study Hall**

Academic progress is an important goal for Centennial students. When students fail to complete their academic assignments, they jeopardize their success in school. To assist students in this important area, Centennial School allows students who are behind in their academic work to participate in After School Study Hall.

After School Study Hall is a supervised learning experience that gives students the opportunity to remain current in their academic studies and maintain their progress in school. After School Study Hall is arranged in conjunction with our parents and with prior parent permission.

## **Attendance Policy**

Punctual and regular attendance helps students develop habits of responsibility and promotes school success. In accordance with Act 16 of 2019, parents and guardians of children between the ages of 6 and 18 are required by the compulsory attendance law to ensure that their children attend an approved educational institution, unless they are legally excused. We expect our students to attend school every day and remain in school during the specified hours. Absences are excused only for illness or injury. Reasons for excused absences include illness, quarantine, death in the immediate family, religious holidays, health care, and home emergencies directly related to the student. For extended illnesses that result in absences over five (5) days, we may require a written note from your physician.

*When your child is absent from school, please call the school office to notify us that your child will be absent that day and the reason for the absence. When your child returns to school, please send a written note stating the reason your child missed school within three (3) school days. In accordance with Pennsylvania law, if a written excuse is not received within three (3) school days, the absence will be permanently recorded as an unlawful absence.*

Doctor notes must state that the student was too ill to attend school and that the student was seen by the doctor for medical treatment on the date of the absence. Vaguely stated notes, unsigned notes, and notes signed by anyone other than the attending licensed medical examiner will not be accepted.

- If we have not heard from you about your child's absence from school, we will attempt to contact you by phone to notify you that your child is absent from school.
- When a student has three (3) unlawful/unexcused absences within the current school year, Centennial will send written notice to the parent (with cc: to the district LEA) via mail within ten (10) days of the student's third unlawful/unexcused absence.
- When a student has six (6) unlawful/unexcused absences within the current school year, Centennial will send written notice to the parent (with cc: to the district LEA) via mail within ten (10) days of the student's sixth unlawful/unexcused absence. Information regarding the date, time, and location of the School Attendance Improvement Conference will be included in the notification to the parent.
- When a student has ten (10) absences, including excused and unlawful/unexcused, a doctor's note may be required for further absences.

***Tardiness.*** Students are expected to arrive at school on time. Tardiness is recorded on the attendance record and reported to the parents or guardians. When students arrive late to school, they should sign in at the front desk. If it is necessary for your child to arrive late to school, please call the office to let us know.

***Leaving Early.*** Students who leave school early must have written permission from their parents or guardians. The note should state the reason for leaving early, the time of departure, the mode of transportation, and the name and relationship of the person providing transportation. When picking the student up before the end of the school day, the person supplying transportation must report to the office and sign the student out. Please contact your school district's transportation office and inform them when your child will not be riding the bus as usual that day.

## **Award Ceremonies**

Centennial students celebrate their classroom and school success through award ceremonies. Award ceremonies are open to parents and other invited guests. During the award ceremonies, students receive social recognition for academic growth, behavioral competence, and improved social development.

Students must be present to receive an award, unless they are excused because of other school business, such as reintegration to their home schools. The program coordinator establishes criteria for students' attendance at the ceremonies.

Award ceremonies generally follow the agenda like the one below:

- Welcome and announcements
- Review of expectations
- Positive statements and acknowledgements
- Presentation of awards
- Closure statements and encouraging remarks

## **Breakfast Program**

Centennial School provides breakfast at no cost for its students. Breakfast usually consists of cereal, milk, and juice. Students who desire additional items purchase them with points. Breakfast is served daily from 7:45 to 8:25 a.m.

## **Bullying Prevention**

Centennial School students have a right to learn in a safe and civil school environment. Students who fear for their safety from bullying cannot learn effectively. Bullying is not permitted at Centennial School.

Bullying means an intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in the school setting and/or outside a school setting that is severe, persistent, or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:

1. Substantial interference with a student's education,
2. Creation of a threatening environment, or
3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated. Bullying may consist of verbal remarks or gestures that are meant to intimidate and gain power over a victim and can include threats of bodily harm, weapon possession, extortion, civil rights violations, gang activity, and behaviors up to and including assault and battery, harassment, threat of attempted murder and murder. Sexual harassment is also a form of bullying.

Cyber-bullying that happens in an online environment and results in disruptions in the school setting or causes fear in a child that interferes with school attendance may also be addressed through similar responses and consequences described below.

Faculty and staff at Centennial School respond to bullying behaviors through close supervision, recognition of appropriate student behavior, social skills instruction, peer conflict mediation, problem solving, and consequences such as loss of school privileges, and other disciplinary actions including suspension. Serious incidents of bullying behavior may be referred to local law enforcement officials. Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of their fellow students, to ensure the rights of their fellow students, and to ensure an atmosphere free from all forms of bullying.

Annually, teachers participate in training on Bullying Prevention and review the school written policy. The Bullying Prevention Committee includes teachers and school administration. The Committee conducts multiple Anti-Bullying activities across the school year and surveys students annually on their perceptions of bullying in school.

All incidents of bullying should be reported to the program coordinators. Each staff member shall be responsible to maintain an educational environment free from bullying. Staff members who observe or become aware of an act of bullying shall take immediate, appropriate steps to

intervene. If a staff member believes that their intervention has not resolved the matter, or if the bullying persists, the individual should report the bullying to the program coordinator for further investigation.

Additionally, students can submit an anonymous tip to report incidents of bullying or other concerning behavior through the Safe2Say platform.

Resources:

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/bullying/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.safe2saypa.org/>

<https://bptoolkit.safeschools.info/best-practices/>

Bullying Prevention Consultation Line:

1-866-716-0424

The toll-free Bullying Prevention Consultation Line invites individuals experiencing chronic and unresolved bullying to discuss effective strategies and available resources to manage school-based bullying. This resource was developed in collaboration with the Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (CHPDP), and is available at no cost to students, parents/guardians, and school districts across Pennsylvania. The Bullying Prevention and Consultation Line is 1-866-716-0424. Messages left will be returned during normal business hours Monday through Friday. Please note this number is not monitored 24 hours a day/seven days a week and should not be used for emergencies.

### **Centennial's Take Five Program**

Centennial School's Take Five Program is modeled after the nationally recognized High Five Program of Fern Ridge Middle School in Veneta, Oregon. The program offers a positive approach to school discipline. The Take Five Program alerts students to five basic rules that lead to successful school experiences:

- Be There, Be Ready
- Be Responsible
- Be Respectful
- Keep Hands and Feet to Self / Maintain Personal Space
- Follow Directions

Each of the Take Five expectations is defined according to the specific setting of the school. Students are taught the expectations and rules and recognized with the use of Take Five tickets for adhering to them. Take-Five tickets are worth two points and can be used to purchase items at the school store.

### **Chemical Dependency**

Chemical dependency, including drug and alcohol abuse, has become a major health problem in this country. Drug and alcohol abuse in schools and our community is a threat to the health and welfare of the general population, especially children and youth. We believe that chemical dependency is a treatable health problem that is primarily the responsibility of home and community. Centennial School shares in that responsibility because we believe that problems of chemical dependency often interfere with appropriate school behavior, student learning, and the healthy development of the student. Centennial School officials are committed to helping parents identify and work with community agencies.

The Centennial School Drug and Alcohol Policy states that a student shall not knowingly and willingly possess, use, transmit, sell, or be under the influence of any chemical or alcoholic beverage of any kind on school grounds before, during, or after school or off school grounds at a school activity, function, or event, or on school buses or rented carriers or private vehicles during school hours or any school sponsored activity, with the exception of a student who is taking prescription medicine under a doctor's direction.

Students who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action, including a referral to law enforcement officials when appropriate.

## **Child Abuse and Neglect Policy**

According to the Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Act, child abuse and neglect are the results of an act or a person's failure to act that intentionally, knowingly or recklessly cause a child to experience bodily injury, serious physical neglect, sexual abuse or exploitation, or serious mental injury, and includes fabricating, feigning or intentionally exaggerating or inducing a medical symptom or disease that results in a potentially harmful medical evaluation or treatment and/or substantially contributes to serious mental injury or the death of a child. The definition also includes creating a reasonable likelihood where a child experiences abuse as defined. As mandated reporters, Centennial School personnel *must* report any *suspicion* of abuse or neglect to the Office of Children Youth and Families, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services.

In December 2014, Pennsylvania expanded the definition of child abuse and neglect to include the specific acts listed below:

- Kicking, biting, throwing, burning, stabbing or cutting a child in a manner that endangers the child.
- Unreasonably restraining or confining a child, based on consideration of the method, location or the duration of the restraint or confinement.
- Forcefully shaking a child under one year of age.
- Forcefully slapping or otherwise striking a child under one year of age.
- Interfering with the breathing of a child.
- Causing a child to be present at a location where a methamphetamine laboratory is operating.
- Leaving a child unsupervised with an individual, other than the child's parent, who the actor knows or reasonably should have known that the person:
  - Is required to register as a Tier II or Tier III sexual offender
  - Has been determined to be a sexually violent predator
  - Has been determined to be a sexually violent delinquent child

Child abuse includes serious physical or mental injury that is not accidental, and sexual abuse, or physical neglect of children under the age



of 18 that is caused by acts or by omissions of a perpetrator.

For more information about the law on child protective services go to <http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/055/chapter3490/subchapatoc.html>

### **Classroom and School Expectations**

Students are expected to be in their assigned classrooms throughout the day. Students may not enter other classrooms, school offices, workrooms, or other areas without permission from school personnel. At Centennial School, students are expected to do the following:

- Treat teachers, staff, and other students respectfully
- Use polite and appropriate language
- Participate in class activities
- Follow school and classroom rules
- Interact positively with others
- Exercise care when using school property

### **Closures Due to Inclement Weather**

When school is closed due to inclement weather, announcements are made on a number of television channels and websites. For parents who sign up to participate, Centennial sends text messages and/or emails to report school closures and other emergency information. *Remember, when Bethlehem Area School District is closed so is Centennial School.* If your child's resident district is closed due to severe weather and Centennial School remains open, your child will not have transportation to Centennial School and is excused from school on that day.

When students are dismissed due to inclement weather during the school day, parents will be notified by telephone, email, or text messaging.

To find up to minute information about the weather in our area, you can call the Channel 69 News Weather Line at 610-797-5900 or view the school closings/delay list on [www.wfmz.com](http://www.wfmz.com).

The following television channel and websites broadcast school cancellations:

Television Channel:  
Channel 69 WFMZ TV Stormcenter

Websites:  
[centennial.lehigh.edu](http://centennial.lehigh.edu)  
[www.readingeagle.com](http://www.readingeagle.com)  
[www.lehighvalleylive.com](http://www.lehighvalleylive.com)  
[www.wfmz.com](http://www.wfmz.com)

Sometimes school is closed for one or two hours only. Buses will be delayed on those days, but school will be held.

### **Computer Usage**

Centennial School supports the use of computers, iPads, iPods, networks, and the internet to facilitate learning and teaching. It is the students' responsibility to use the computers, network resources, and internet according to the direction of their teachers and guidelines below. It is the teachers' responsibility to provide clear guidelines, directions, and supervision for the use of the computers, network, and internet with their students.

Students are expected to act in a responsible, ethical and legal manner in accordance with Centennial's computer policy and federal and State laws. Students are prohibited from engaging in the following activities:

1. Using school computers for non-educational purposes inconsistent with the objectives of the school.
2. Attempting to modify, harm or destroy data of another user or to modify, harm or destroy computer hardware, software or configuration.
3. Attempting to defeat or bypass virus protection or security software on any school computer or network.
4. Accessing, disclosing, or posting confidential student or staff information.

5. Harassing others or infringing upon their rights by sending annoying, profane, offensive, inflammatory, threatening, or libelous messages.
6. Violating intellectual property rights by illegal copying, retrieving, or sending copyrighted material, or violating software licensing agreement and copyright laws.
7. Using the network to access obscene or pornographic material.
8. Loading or use of unauthorized games, programs, or files.

### **Conduct**

Centennial School provides a safe and civil learning environment for students. We recognize students do best when expectations for conduct are clear. Students who make poor choices and exhibit unsafe and potentially dangerous behaviors, such as fighting, unsafe behavior on the bus, leaving school grounds without permission, possessing alcohol, drugs or weapons, or destroying school property shall be subjected to serious disciplinary action which may include suspension from school or referrals to local law enforcement agencies.

### **Confidential Communications between Staff and Students**

Confidential communications from students generally remain private. However, in accordance with Pennsylvania law, information received in confidence from a student may be revealed to the student's parents, the director of the school or other appropriate authority when the health, welfare, or safety of the student or others are clearly in jeopardy.

### **Curriculum and Instruction**

Centennial School follows the standards established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education as outlined in Chapter 4 and federal law governing the education of children and youth with disabilities as outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

## **Discrimination**

Consistent with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act (43 P.S. 951-963) and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Centennial School does not discriminate in its educational programs, activities or employment practices, based on race, religious creed, color, union membership, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, age, HIV status, disability, socio-economic status, ancestry, national origin, limited English proficiency, or any other legally protected category.

## **Dispute Resolution**

In the vast majority of instances, parents and school staff agree about the provision of special education services to a child or youth. Our goal at Centennial School is to serve you and your child in the best manner we know how. By working closely together your child will make greater progress.

We also know that conflict and disagreement sometimes occur and are, in fact, to be expected. What is important, however, is how we work through those difficult situations. When dealt with correctly, conflict can lead to positive and productive change and subsequent growth.

As a parent, when you are bothered by a situation, please feel free to contact your child's program coordinator to discuss your concern. We will be happy to talk with you and attempt to resolve the situation.

***Informal Hearing.*** An informal hearing enables a student to meet with the appropriate school officials to explain the circumstances surrounding an event for which the student may be suspended or to show why the student should not be suspended.

1. The informal hearing is meant to encourage parents or guardians to meet with the program coordinator to discuss ways by which future offenses can be avoided.
2. The following due process requirements are observed during informal hearings:

- a) Notification of the reasons for the suspension is provided in writing to the parents or guardian and to the student.
- b) Sufficient notice of the time and place of the informal hearing is given.
- c) Students have the right to question any witnesses at the hearing.
- d) Students have the right to produce witnesses on their behalf.

***Mediation.*** An alternative to a due process hearing is mediation. Mediation is a free, voluntary, and confidential procedure designed to help parents and school officials reach agreement about a child's program or provision of services. Mediation can take place any time during or before the due process cycle. Mediation is not a required process and therefore cannot be used to delay or deny parents the right to a due process hearing.

If you and school officials agree to mediation, the Office for Dispute Resolution will arrange for a neutral, specially trained mediator to meet with both sides separately and together, to hear points of view regarding the disagreement, and to better understand each position. Neither the school nor the parents may include a lawyer at a mediation session.

The mediator will not make a decision about the disagreement but will help both parties come to an agreement. The agreement will be put into writing and incorporated into the student's Individual Education Program after the IEP team meeting has been held.

You may request help in mediation from your child's resident school district, Centennial School, or by calling the Office for Dispute Resolution at 1-800-879-2301.

***Special Education Hearing.*** Education is a fundamental right and students must be afforded the appropriate elements of due process if they are to be excluded from school. In a case involving a possible expulsion, the student is entitled to a formal hearing, which is a fundamental element of due

process.

At a formal hearing, the following due process requirements are observed.

1. Notification of the charges is sent by certified mail to the student's parents or guardian.
2. Sufficient notice of the time and place of the hearing is given.
3. The hearing is held in private unless the student or parent requests a public hearing.
4. Students have the right to be represented by counsel.
5. Students have the right to be presented with the names of witnesses and copies of the statements and affidavits of those witnesses.
6. Students have the right to testify and present witnesses on their own behalf.
7. A record is kept of the hearing, either by a stenographer or by tape recorder. Students are entitled, at their expense, to a copy of the transcript.
8. The proceeding is held with all reasonable speed.

Where the parent disagrees with the results of the hearing, recourse is available in the appropriate court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. When it is alleged that a constitutional issue is involved, the student may file a claim for relief in the appropriate Federal District Court.

### **Dress Code**

Students are expected to dress in a manner deemed appropriate by the school administration. Students should not be barefooted, wear midriffs, half-shirts, muscle-shirts or sleeveless shirts or clothing with explicit tobacco, drug, alcohol or sexual references. Upon entry into the building,

students are expected to remove their hats, including bandanas or headbands, and coats and store them in their homerooms. Students are not allowed to wear sunglasses or *Heelys* shoes in the building. Moreover, for safety during P.E. classes, students should not wear jewelry, including earrings, watches and body piercing ornamentation. Violations of this policy may result in exclusion from classroom activities on the day in question. All instances of inappropriate attire are communicated to parents.

### **Emergency Behavioral Procedures**

Centennial School strives to be a “hands off” facility, meaning that it relies on the use of positive methods for teaching appropriate behaviors for dealing with anxiety and frustration. However, Centennial employees are trained according to the principles of Professional Assault Crisis Training (Pro-ACT) that provide a systematic approach for the prevention of serious misconduct and intervention during assault incidents. Staff may use physical interventions to control acute or episodic aggressive or self-injurious behavior when a student is acting in a manner as to be a clear and present danger to him or herself, to other students or to employees, or to school property and only when less restrictive measures and techniques have proven to be ineffective. Parents will be contacted by phone subsequent to a physical restraint of their child at school and invited to attend an IEP meeting to review the plan in place and its effectiveness for eliminating the need for physical restraint in the future.

### **Feature Films and Videos**

The showing of commercially produced and rated films and videos may have a legitimate purpose in a school program. Since the content of these is designed for general audience viewing, certain precautions are taken to ensure that the showing of a particular film or video is consistent with the educational values espoused by Centennial School of Lehigh University.

Prior approval from the Director of Centennial School or her designee must be obtained prior to showing any video or film that contains potentially objectionable and sensitive subject matter.

As a general rule, only films rated G or PG are permitted although students in grades six and above may occasionally view movies rated as PG-13. Instructors preview films and videos prior to showing them to students. Parents are allowed to preview a film or video when they request to do so and when it is practical for school staff to arrange the viewing.

### **Field Trips**

On special occasions field trips are scheduled to supplement and enrich classroom activities. Centennial School usually covers a large portion of the cost of field trips; however, parents and guardians are asked to contribute funds to cover part of the costs. Parents or guardians are notified in advance and asked to sign a Field Trip Permission form that gives their permission for their child to attend the field trip.

### **Fire and Safety Drills**

Under Pennsylvania law, Centennial School is required to conduct routine fire drills. Students are taught to leave the building quickly and in an orderly fashion. Students are expected to follow the procedures below:

1. Exit at the door designated by a teacher.
2. Remain quiet during the drill.
- 3 Listen to and follow all directions given by the teacher.
4. Exit the room in single file and remain with the group.
5. Keep hands and feet to themselves.

For their safety, students *must* exit the building during fire drills. They should not re-enter the building until signaled by a teacher to do so.

Staff receive training at least annually on a variety of emergency procedures including severe weather emergencies, bomb threats, and active shooter situations.

### **First Aid and Emergency Treatment**



In the event of accidents or sudden illnesses, first aid will be administered and the child's parents or guardian will be notified immediately. In emergency situations, students will be taken to the emergency room at St. Luke's University Health Network or Lehigh Valley Hospital Network – Muhlenberg. In non-emergency situations, when further medical attention is required, we ask parents to provide transportation and care.

### **Free and Appropriate Education**

All persons residing in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania between the ages of 6 and 21 years are entitled to a free and appropriate education in the Commonwealth's public schools. Students may not be excluded from the school or extracurricular activities because of being married or pregnant.

### **Freedom of Expression**

The right of students to freedom of speech was affirmed by the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Tinker v. Des Moines Community School District*, 393 U. S. 503 (1969). This right is qualified: students have the right to express themselves in any manner unless such expression directly interferes with the educational process, threatens immediate harm to the welfare of the school or community, encourages unlawful activity, or interferes with another individual's rights.

Students may use publications, handbills, announcements, assemblies, group meetings, buttons, armbands, and other means of common communication provided that the use of school communication facilities shall be in accordance with the regulations of authorities in charge of the school. Students have the responsibility to obey laws governing libel and obscenity and to be aware of the full meaning of their expression. Students have the responsibility to be aware of the feelings and opinions of others and to give others a fair opportunity to express their views.

### **Graduation**

Students who complete their last year of high school at Centennial School receive a diploma from their resident school districts and may participate

in their local high school graduation ceremonies.

Centennial School also holds a graduation ceremony for students who have successfully completed the required number of credits and for those students who have reached the age of 21 years old and have achieved the goals contained in their Individualized Education Programs.

### **Holiday and Birthday Parties**

Holiday and birthday parties are permitted at school with the prior approval of the program coordinator. Birthday parties are usually planned as afternoon activities.

### **Homework**

Homework is an important element of school success, counting for 10% of a student's overall grade at Centennial School. Homework is usually assigned in academic classes.

Middle and High School students who are assigned homework usually have a study hall during the school day at which time they can work on their homework assignments with help from their teachers. Most students avail themselves of the opportunity to receive the intensive, individual assistance provided to them at that time. Whenever a child has homework to take home, teachers or students record the assignments on the point sheet. We encourage parents to check with their child in the evenings and remind them of their homework obligations.

### **Honor Roll**

Students with superior performance during an academic term are eligible for the Centennial Honor Roll. Listed below are the guidelines for student eligibility.

- Grade point average of 3.2 or above
- Report card grades of a "B" or better in every subject
- Behavior reflecting superior performance across all settings
- No suspensions or unlawful absences from during the quarter
- Approval of the program team

## **Illness at School**

If your child becomes ill at school, we will make every effort to contact you by telephone. We may have your son or daughter visit the school nurse. If your child is too ill to remain in school, we will ask you to come to school and pick your child up. Conditions that may lead to a request to have your child picked up and taken home may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Fever
2. Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
3. Severe sore throat or coughing
4. Infected skin lesions, including pink eye
5. Rashes on skin or scalp
6. Presence of lice, nits, or parasitic insects

Any child with a temperature of 100 degrees or above should stay home until the temperature is returned to normal for 24 hours without the aid of medications. A child returning to school after an illness may exhibit signs that clearly indicate that contagious conditions continue or have recurred, even after a visit to the doctor. In such instances, we will contact you and ask that you pick up your child immediately and keep him or her home until the contagious condition has passed so that other children and staff are safe from illness.

Additionally, families and students are expected to follow guidelines put forth in the Health and Safety Plan to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

## **Immunizations**

Pennsylvania law requires parents of students enrolled in grades K-12 to have their children immunized against various communicable diseases. Upon registering their children for school, parents must provide an immunization record. These immunizations are:

- Four (4) doses of Diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular Pertussis toxoid (last one given after 4 years of age)

- Four (4) doses of Polio vaccine (last one given after 4 years of age)
- Three (3) doses of Hepatitis B
- Two (2) doses of Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine after 12 months of age
- Three (3) doses of Hepatitis B
- Two (2) dose of Varicella (chicken pox)

Additional immunizations required for students grades 7 through 12 are:

- One (1) dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap)
- One (1) dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine

Additional immunizations required for students grade 12 are:

- One (1) dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine given at age 16 or older. If this is the first dose of MCV only one dose of MCV is required.

More information regarding immunizations required for attendance in Pennsylvania schools is available in 28 Pa.CODE Ch.23 (School Immunization). Contact your healthcare provider, Centennial School nurse, or call 1-877-PA-HEALTH for more information.

Under revised Department of Health Immunization regulations, students not exempted from immunization for medical or religious reasons and who have not completed the full series of immunizations as required by law may not be admitted to school. Vaccine information can be found at [www.dontwaitvaccinate.pa.gov](http://www.dontwaitvaccinate.pa.gov)

### **Leaving School without Permission**

The Centennial School campus is a closed campus. Unless specifically authorized by school personnel, students must remain on campus from the time of arrival until classes are dismissed at the end of the school day. Students who leave school grounds without permission are considered unexcused. When students leave school property without permission from school officials, parents are called immediately. If the parents cannot be

reached, school officials may inform local law enforcement authorities.

### **Lunch Program**

Students have the choice of purchasing a lunch at school or bringing a lunch from home. The full cost of a school lunch for elementary students (grades 1-5) is \$2.65; the cost for adolescent students (grades 6-12) is \$2.85. Centennial School participates in the federally funded lunch program that provides lunches free or at a reduced cost to qualified recipients. Applications for free and reduced priced lunches are available from Centennial School or online at <http://www.schoolcafe.com/> or <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/compass.web/Public/CMPHome>.

Students who wish to participate in the free and reduced priced lunch program must have a newly approved application on file *each year*. The cost of a reduced priced lunch is 40 cents. The cost for extra milk is 60 cents per carton. The cost for an extra lunch is \$3.30 for elementary students and \$3.50 for adolescents. Students may eat their lunches during their scheduled lunch periods, or homeroom times and break times with a teacher's permission.

Parents may purchase school lunches via cash, check (payable to BASD Dining Services), or by creating an online account at <https://www.parentonline.net>.

### **Medication**

The school nurse may only administer medications at school with permission from the child's physician as well as the parents or guardians. To protect the welfare of your child, we ask that you join us in abiding by the following procedures:

1. A medication form signed by a physician for the prescribed medication must be on file. This procedure is required for both prescription and over-the-counter medications.
2. Medications must be kept in individually labeled prescription vials and stored in a locked cabinet in the office of the school nurse.
3. Medication must be transported from adult to adult. Students may

not carry their medication to Centennial School.

4. The school nurse is responsible for making sure a student has access to their medication at the prescribed times.
5. The school nurse dispenses the medications and logs the time and date when the medication was administered.
6. The nurse records the number of pills or tablets the child received and notes any deviation from the procedures (e.g., student refuses to take medication or discards or destroys the medication).

Please feel free to direct any questions you have regarding these procedures to the school nurse.

In the event your child requires acute medical care and admittance to a hospital, Centennial School will work closely with you and with hospital staff to ensure a smooth transition back to school. With your written permission, Centennial School staff will share pertinent information with the medical staff to enhance your child's treatment during the hospitalization. Psychiatric hospitalization often includes adjusting your child's medication(s). Please be sure to inform Centennial's school nurse of any medication changes when your child's return to school.

### **Parent Conferences and Family Night**

Parents are invited throughout the year to participate in conferences about their child. These meetings lay the groundwork for productive relationships between you and our staff and can have a positive influence on your child's performance in school. Below are some suggestions to help you prepare for productive parent conferences with school personnel.

1. Make a list of things you want to tell the teacher about your child so that the teacher can understand your child better. For example, are there health concerns, interests, hobbies and such that would be beneficial for the teacher to know? Tell us about your child's attitudes towards school or about his or her homework habits.

2. Make a list of things you want to find out from the teacher. Such things might include grading, credits, discipline policies, homework policies, and academic and behavioral performance.
3. Decide what you would like to ask the teacher during the conference. Do you have any concerns or complaints that you would like clarified and answered?

### **Parent Participation**

Centennial encourages parent participation in their child's education program and has identified a number of ways for that to occur. Some of the opportunities include:

- Participation on school committees
- Bullying prevention programs
- Fundraising
- Chaperone field trips
- Special events, like the Annual 5K Race, Talent Show, Carnival, Career Day, Honor Roll breakfasts, Family Night, and graduation ceremonies.

All volunteers are required to submit the following background certifications and related documents to the school counselor, Nichole Corsi, prior to commencing service as a volunteer:

- A copy of a photo identification
- PA State Police Report of Criminal History Record Information (Act 34)
- PA Department of Human Services Certification Related to Child Abuse (Act 151)
- FBI Federal Criminal History Report

### **Parking for Parents and Visitors**

Parking is available in front of the building for parents, guardians and other guests. In the event parking spaces are filled, there is ample parking along the side and rear of the building.

## **Personal Property**

Centennial School is not responsible for the loss of any personal items while the items are inside or on the premises of school property or vehicles. Students are not permitted to bring personal electronics, (e.g., iPods, iPads, Nintendo DS, PSP, cell phones), skateboards, and other personal items unless they first obtain permission from the program coordinator. Items brought to school without permission or items deemed to be dangerous or distracting to others will be confiscated and turned over to the parents at a later time. Centennial staff discourages students from lending and borrowing items, especially money, from other students and from bringing valuable items from home.

## **Point Sheets**

All students are provided a point sheet upon entry into the program. The point sheet allows faculty and staff to track students' performance throughout the day. The goals students are working to achieve are listed on the left-hand side of the point sheets. Typically, most goals are taken from students' Individualized Educational Programs (IEPs). Goals may change during the year as progress is made.

Students earn points for their performance throughout the entire day, including less structured activities such as break and lunch. The assumption is that points are earned with all students starting each period with zero points. Students may earn a maximum of two points for meeting expectations. Students earn a one for performing close to expectations. A zero indicates the student performed below expectations.

Points are administered at the discretion of the teachers; however, teachers strive to make awarding of points consistent across periods and students.

## **Progress Notes**

The point sheet also serves as a daily progress note for parents and guardians. The point sheet contains a space for staff to write brief notes to parents and guardians and a space for them to respond to school staff. We



encourage parents and guardians to use the point sheet as a communication tool. Students who return their point sheets with a parent signature to school the following day are awarded with bonus points that can be exchanged at the school store. Students who return their point sheets with a parent or guardian's signature and comment receive even more bonus points.

## **Reintegration**

Centennial School aims to help students achieve, to the best of their abilities, the skills necessary for success in traditional school environments and the community at large. As appropriate student replacement behaviors are demonstrated, individual IEP teams shall review student performance data and discuss the student's participation in less restrictive environments (e.g., home school, vocational-tech programs). Centennial School's model of reintegration is based on collaboration, respect, and data-based decision-making. While each student reintegration varies in structure, Centennial School team members strive to support the student, local educational agency, and family in ensuring a successful reintegration.

## **Report Cards**

Report cards are sent home four times a year. Centennial School uses report cards as a way to communicate a child's progress to parents and guardians. Grades are comprised of four factors, weighted as follows: completed assignments account for 30% of a student's grade; participation in class for 30%, assessments for 30% and homework for 10%. For students to achieve success in school, we ask that they attend school daily, work hard to complete their daily assignments, and hand in their homework each day.

## **Resources for Parents**

Parents with children classified as having mental retardation or emotional disturbance are entitled under the Pennsylvania Mental Health and Mental Retardation Act of 1966 and the Pennsylvania Mental Health Procedures Act of 1976 to receive services for independent medical, psychological and educational evaluation to be performed by a state certified

professional at no cost. To access these services, contact the MH/MR Base Service Unit in the county where you live. For your convenience, we have included below the names and addresses of the county units that serve Centennial School.

Bucks County

Division of Human Services  
Services

55 E. Court St.  
Doylestown, PA 18901  
215-348-6000  
www.buckscounty.org

Carbon County

Mental Health and Developmental

428 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 2  
Lehighton, PA 18235  
610-377-0773  
www.cmpmhds.org

Lehigh County

Mental Health/Intellectual  
Disabilities

Disabilities  
17 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Allentown, PA 18101  
610-782-3135  
www.lehighcounty.org

Montgomery County

Behavioral Health/Developmental

1430 DeKalb St.  
Norristown, PA 19401  
610-278-3642  
www.montcopa.org

Northampton County

Mental Health/Developmental  
Programs

2801 Emrick Blvd.  
Bethlehem, PA 18020  
610-829-4500  
www.northamptoncounty.org

Warren County

Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities

1 Shotwell Drive  
Belvidere, NJ 07823  
908-475-6301  
www.co.warren.nj.us

Berks County

Mental Health/  
Developmental Disabilities

633 Court St. 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Reading, PA 19601  
610-478-3271  
www.co.berks.pa.us

Monroe County

Mental Health and  
Developmental Services

732 Phillips St.  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
570-420-1900  
www.cmpmhds.org

There are many other resources that parents and guardians might find helpful for parenting their children. We have included contact information for a number of these agencies below:

Advocacy Alliance  
610-435-2700

Autism Resource Community Hub of Lehigh Valley  
1-866-670-2724

Autism Society of America  
4340 East-West Hwy, Suite 350  
Bethesda, MD 20814-3015  
1-800-3Autism  
www.autism-society.org

Bureau of Special Education Consultline  
1-800-879-2301

Berks County Crisis Intervention  
610-236-0530

Bethlehem Special Olympics  
610-264-3616

Bucks County Crisis Intervention  
1-800-499-7455

Consortium for Citizens  
1-202-567-3576  
www.c-c-d.org

The Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc.  
1-844-426-7224  
www.copaa.org

Disability Rights of Pennsylvania

Northampton County Crisis Intervention  
610-829-4801

Parents Involved Network of Pennsylvania  
7200 Chestnut Street  
Upper Darby, Pennsylvania 19082  
267-507-3870

Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania  
717-540-4722  
www.parenttoparent.org

Pennsylvania Bar Association  
100 South Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
1-800-932-0311

Pennsylvania Department of Education  
Bureau of Special Education  
333 Market Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17126  
717-783-6134

Pennsylvania Office for Dispute Resolution  
1-800-222-3353

Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)  
www.pattan.net

1-800-692-7443  
[www.disabilityrightspa.org](http://www.disabilityrightspa.org)

Education Law Center of Pennsylvania  
1315 S. Walnut Street, Fourth Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
215-238-6970

Lehigh County Crisis Intervention  
610-782-3127

The ARC Lehigh and Northampton Counties  
2289 Ave A  
Bethlehem, PA 18017  
610-849-8076

Sports for Special Kids (Autism and Asperger's Syndrome)  
[www.ssklv.org](http://www.ssklv.org)

The Special Kids Network  
[www.health.pa.gov](http://www.health.pa.gov)  
1-800-986-4550

U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services  
Office of Special Education Programs  
1-800-872-5327

Valley Youth House  
610-691-1200

If you cannot find the services you are looking for, please do not hesitate to call us at 610-266-6500 and we will do what we can to assist you.

### **Safe Schools Act: Chapter 10**

Chapter 10 of the Safe Schools Act of the Pennsylvania School Code (24 P. S. § 17-1703-A) was established to maintain a cooperative relationship between schools and local police departments in the reporting and resolution of serious incidents. When serious offenses are committed on school property, at school events, and on school vans and busses, notification to the local police department shall be made in the most expeditious means practicable. If a child is involved in an incident that requires immediate notification to local law officials, Centennial School will immediately notify the child's parents or guardians.

### **Safe2Say Something**

Safe2Say Something (S2SS) is a school safety program that teaches students, educators, and administrators how:

1. to recognize the signs and signals of individuals who may be at risk of hurting themselves or others, and
2. to anonymously report this information through the S2SS app, website, or 24/7 Crisis Center Hotline (1-844-723-2729).

The Safe2Say Something program is state mandated by Act 44 of 2018 and requires all K-12 schools, school districts, charter schools, private schools, cyber charter schools, private schools, nonpublic schools, intermediate units, and area vocational-technical schools operating in Pennsylvania to participate. In particular, the program teaches middle and high school youth how to recognize warning signs and signals, especially within social media, from individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others and Say Something to a trusted adult, call 911, or use the S2SS anonymous reporting system.

Students in grades 6-12 complete a training annually to assist students in recognizing warning signs, signals and threats, and how to report a safety concern anonymously. To document the training, students complete a form to verify attendance. Staff training on S2SS occurs during review of school emergency procedures annually.

Initial tips are triaged by Analysts in the Office of the Attorney General Crisis Center. They triage each tip to ensure there is enough information to act upon the tip, determine if the tip is life safety or non-life safety as well as conduct on-going 2-way dialog with the tipster where needed. All tips are sent to the 3-5 team members. This includes both life safety and non-life safety tips. The life safety tips will be sent 24/7 and non-life safety tips will be sent between 6am – 6pm daily. When Centennial receives a tip through S2SS, the crisis response team responds in a timely manner (i.e., within 24 hours of tip). Members from the crisis response team who respond to S2SS tips include the school director, program coordinators, and school guidance counselor. Outcomes vary depending on the nature of the tip but may include parental contact and addressing the issue with the student at school. If appropriate, there may be consequences in the school setting and possible referral to local law enforcement.

Information adapted and taken from <https://www.safe2saypa.org/>

## School Bus

**General Information.** Transportation to and from Centennial School is arranged and provided by the resident school districts. Parents and guardians may grant permission in conjunction with Centennial School officials for their child to walk, use public transportation, or drive to school.

Difficulties or problems with your child's transportation should be reported directly to the resident school district transportation department. Centennial staff is also available to assist you in resolving any transportation concerns or problems you might encounter. For your convenience, we have listed below the telephone numbers of the transportation departments that serve Centennial School and the private contractors who provide transportation services.

### ***Transportation Departments Telephone Numbers:***

<u>District</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
Allentown School District – First Student	610-709-0244
Bethlehem Area School District – Colonial IU 20	610-881-1800
Boyertown – Quigley Trans.	610-369-7864
Brandywine Heights – Gross Bus. Serv.	610-367-2685
Catasauqua Area School District	610-264-3192 x 2
Central Bucks School District	267-893-4000
Daniel Boone School District – New Rhoads	610-689-4849
East Penn School District – Carbon IU 21	610-769-4111 x 1214
East Stroudsburg School District	570-424-8500
Easton Area School District – Jennings's Transp.	610-746-0551
Kutztown Area School District	610-683-7361 x 102
Muhlenberg School District – Berks IU 19	610-987-8585
Nazareth Area School District – Jennings's Transp.	610-746-0551
Northampton Area School District – First Student	610-262-7173
Northwestern Lehigh School District	610-298-8661 x 1222

Palisades School District – First Student	610-847-2088
Pen Argyl Area School District	610-577-5632
Pennridge School District	215-257-4574
Perkiomen Valley School District	610-489-9110
Pleasant Valley School District (First Student)	570-402-2282
Pottsgrove School District – CMD Transportation	610-323-5020
Pottstown School District / CMD Transportation	610-323-5020
Quakertown Community School District – Levy’s	215-536-4567 x 121
Reading School District – Berks IU 19	610-987-8521
Souderton Area School District – Transp. Services	215-723-4613
Southern Lehigh School District – Norm’s Transp.	610-282-5589
Tamaqua School District	570-668-2570
Upper Perkiomen School District – Gross Bus Service	215-679-7961
Wilson Area School District – Colonial IU 20	610-881-1800

**Rules.** When transported to and from school, parents and students should be aware that the driver is in charge. All students are required to board the vehicle appropriately, remain seated, refrain from putting head, hands or feet out the windows, treat other students and the driver respectfully, and keep the bus clean. Students may not cross bus traffic unless escorted. Any incidents of fighting, smoking, property destruction and/or use of profanity reported by the drivers is documented and communicated to the parent or guardian and the resident school district. Severe or repeated infractions may result in suspension or other disciplinary actions, including referrals to local law enforcement agencies.

Centennial School has developed a program designed to help students follow bus rules. The program parallels the school-wide program and is called *Take Five on the Bus*. Students are taught and recognized for following the expectations listed below:

- Be There, Be Ready
  - Be prompt to board the bus
  - Enter and exit safely
  - Remain in seat
- Be Responsible
  - Wear seat belt
  - Focus on self

- Use appropriate voice volume
- Use coping strategies
- Be Respectful
  - Use appropriate expressions and gestures
  - Speak politely to others
  - Use polite words to resolve conflict
- Keep Hands & Feet to Self / Personal Space
  - Keep hands and feet to self
  - Keep body parts inside the windows
  - Use personal materials appropriately
  - Stay safe
- Follow Directions
  - Follow the driver and aide's directions the first time

***School Bus Suspension.*** Suspension from the bus is the responsibility of the resident district in conjunction with Centennial School. If a suspension should occur, parents are encouraged to provide alternative transportation so that the child may attend school.

### **Frequently Asked Questions About Transportation**

*Who should I call if the bus does not arrive on time?*

After waiting for 15 minutes, you should call the transportation department at your home school district. Please refrain from contacting the bus drivers directly. Additionally, many school districts suggest that students should report to their designated bus stop 5 minutes early to assist in bus routes running on time.

*What information should I be prepared to give when I call transportation?*

You should give your child's name, the school's name, bus number, as well as the, pick up and drop off time, and bus stop location.

*Will my child have the same driver every day?*

Your child may have different drivers for the A.M. and P.M. routes.



*Why wasn't I called when the bus was late?*

Since school districts operate many buses and vehicles, it is very challenging to contact parents when the bus is running late. However, most districts have radio contact with their buses and school vehicles and they can determine expected time of arrival. Some of the situations that could cause a late bus include traffic, road closures, weather, vehicle breakdowns, student issues, or problems on a prior route.

*When will I be notified of my child's busing schedule?*

At the beginning of the school year about a week before school starts, school districts usually send home a letter with schedule information to their families. Please note that bus schedules and schedule changes may also occur during the school year. Most districts will send letters to families or call ahead of time if the change is greater than five minutes. For questions specific to your school district, please call the transportation department of your local district.

*What will happen if my child receives a bus citation?*

Safety is the key word! When transported to and from school, parents and students should be aware that the driver is in charge. All students are required to board the vehicle appropriately, remain seated, wear seatbelts when available, refrain from putting head, hands, or feet out the windows, treat other students and the driver respectfully, and keep the bus clean. Students may not cross bus traffic unless escorted. Any incidents of fighting, smoking, property destruction, and/or use of profanity reported by the drivers is documented and communicated to the parent or guardian and the resident school district. Severe or repeated infractions may result in suspension, bus suspension, or other disciplinary actions, including referrals to local law enforcement agencies.

*What happens if my child is suspended from the bus?*

Suspension from the bus is the responsibility of the resident district in conjunction with Centennial School. If a suspension should occur, parents are encouraged to provide alternative transportation so that the student

may attend school.

*What should I do if I know my child will not be coming to school that day or if I am picking my child up from school?*

It is best to inform both the Centennial School and the child's transportation department when your child is absent or you are making other arrangements for the child's transportation to and from school. In the instance of Centennial, a call to the main office at 610-266-6500 will let Centennial know you are picking the child up or the child will be absent. As your child may be the only student on the bus, contacting the transportation department directly will allow districts to best utilize their resources.

*May my child ride a friend's bus?*

Students are not able to ride on a friend's bus. If your child wishes to visit another child's home, parents are encouraged to pick up both students from the school. However, Centennial will need to have signed written permission from both parents.

*May my child drive to school?*

Centennial students may drive to school if they and their vehicle are properly licensed and the student has achieved Step 4 of the Centennial School Step System. Certain other conditions apply. First, students should understand that driving to school is a privilege and that Centennial School has no legal obligation to provide parking on school property, and assumes no liability or responsibility for theft or damages to student vehicles.

Second, students must obtain a parking permit to park on school property and follow the rules of the parking lot as follows:

1. Observe the 15 MPH speed limit
2. Yield right of way to school buses and pedestrians
3. Park in assigned space
4. Refrain from using tobacco products on school property
5. Proceed directly into the building upon arrival and not permit other

- students to congregate in or around their vehicle
6. Yield to searches of the vehicle by school officials possessing “reasonable suspicion”

Vehicles parked without a permit are subject to being towed. Driving privileges may be revoked for failure to abide by the driving rules and regulations stated in this policy.

### **School Calendar**

Centennial School operates on a 180-day calendar with classes beginning in September and ending in June. An annual school calendar that shows the days when school is in session is distributed to parents at the beginning of the school year and when they enroll their child.

### **School Hours**

The school is in session from 7:45 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. every day except Wednesdays when school dismisses for students at 11:45 a.m. Students are provided supervision whenever they are at school or engaged in school-sponsored activities and when traveling to and from school on the school bus.

During school hours, students will be released only into the custody of parents, guardians, persons in parental authority or other persons designated by the parents or guardians. In emergency situations, students may be released into the custody of medical personnel or in the case of law-violating behavior, into the custody of local law enforcement agencies.

### **School Property**

Students are expected to exercise care in the handling of school property. Students who destroy school property or the property of others are held accountable and required to compensate Centennial School for the full cost of the items they destroy, deface, or otherwise damage. School property refers to furniture, books, paper, charts, apparatus, or other property contained in the school building or on the school grounds.

Parents and guardians are notified by letter of the damage caused by their child and the estimated cost of repair or replacement. School officials, as allowed by Pennsylvania Statute, reserve the right to file a formal complaint with local law enforcement officials when students damage or destroy school property.

Centennial School reserves the right to withhold grades and official transcripts until satisfactory restitution for damages to school property has been made.

### **School Store**

The school store contains many items that students can purchase with the points they earn. Items include school supplies, snacks (e.g., crackers, pretzels), non-caffeinated drinks, frozen foods, instant-meals, small toys, small electronics, sports equipment, and personal hygiene supplies.

When visiting the school store, students should bring with them the following items:

- Escort or Hall Pass
- Point sheet that indicates the number of points available for purchasing store items

Only points can be used to purchase items in the school store. Students are permitted to purchase two items per day at their scheduled school store time. If students have checks for additional points or other similar coupons, the checks and coupons do not increase the number of items that students may purchase. Students must have all classwork completed to visit the school store.

### **Sexual Harassment**

As a student at Centennial School, your son or daughter has the right to attend and learn in a safe educational environment. Centennial School of Lehigh University will not tolerate any verbal or physical behavior that constitutes sexual harassment of a student by any staff, supervisor,

administrator or other students. Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's learning environment.

Should your son or daughter be the victim of sexual harassment, you should do the following:

1. Record the events as described by your son or daughter.
2. Immediately contact the Director of Centennial School to describe the nature of your son or daughter's complaint, including (a) who did it, (b) when did it happen, (c) what did the person say or do, (d) what was your son or daughter's response, (e) did anyone else see or hear the incident, (f) what was the name of the witness, and (g) did anything like this happen before? If the Director cannot be reached, notify a program coordinator.

The Director or her designee will speak with you about the procedures that will be followed to conduct an investigation into the incident.

The Director or an appointed designee will also discuss the incident with your son or daughter. A person of the same sex as your son or daughter may be present to create a more comfortable atmosphere.

You will be notified of the findings of the investigation and any corrective plan that is developed. Corrective actions may include a conference with the perpetrator of the sexual harassment, more vigilant supervision of the students in question, changing the schedules of the students involved and other appropriate measures to resolve the situation up to and including a referral to local law enforcement officials.

### **Special Services**

Many special services are available for students at Centennial School. Special services include pre-vocational education, speech and language therapy, art activities, technology instruction, adaptive physical education, library, individual and group counseling sessions, social skills education,

bullying prevention activities and drug and alcohol awareness programs. The IEP team makes decisions about which special and related services are appropriate for an individual student.

### **Staff-Student Relations**

The relationship between Centennial School staff and students is one of mutual cooperation, understanding and respect. Every staff person has the responsibility to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning and one that motivates every student to perform to his or her capacity. Students are expected to show staff the same respect and courtesy they have a right to demand for themselves.

### **Student Insurance**

Centennial School of Lehigh University does not provide health or accident insurance for its students. Accident coverage is usually available from the child's resident school district. If you are interested in purchasing group accident insurance for your child, please contact your home school district.

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is Pennsylvania's program to provide quality health insurance for children of working families who otherwise could not afford it. Children qualify for CHIP coverage when their family's income is within certain limits. This income can be from jobs that do not provide insurance, from self-employment, from alimony or child support, from survivor benefits, or other sources. CHIP is administered by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department, but the coverage is for quality medical services through regular health insurance programs.

Families of enrolled Centennial children are offered the CHIP program during their intake meeting. For those accepted into the CHIP program, students are guaranteed access to quality health care, including regular check-ups and immunizations, prescription drugs, emergency care, certain dental, vision, hearing, and mental health services, diagnostic testing, and up to 90 days of hospitalization in any year. Eligible children are covered from birth until their 19th birthday. To become eligible, children must be U.S. citizens or lawful aliens and have resided in Pennsylvania for at least

30 days, except for newborns.

## **Student Records**

Student records are maintained on behalf of the resident school district in accordance with Pennsylvania law. Parents, guardians, and surrogate parents have the right to inspect their child's records. Students who have reached the age of 18 may inspect their own education records. Those wishing to review their child's education records should submit the request in writing to the administrative clerk of Centennial School who will set up an appointment for you to review the records and have an administrator available to help you interpret them. Copies of student records are provided upon request at a reasonable charge for duplication and mailing. Centennial School will obtain written consent of the parents, guardians, and surrogate parents before releasing education records, except those records that are defined as directory information. Education records and health records are returned to the resident district when a child leaves Centennial School.

## **Suicide Awareness and Prevention**

Sometimes, students will talk about, threaten, and even attempt to commit suicide. Centennial staff are trained to identify the early warning signs of depression that may cause students to think about suicide, and the procedures for handling students who may be contemplating suicide. Prevention strategies and interventions are imparted through Centennial's school-wide positive behavior support program, group social skills instruction, health education classes, problem-solving, parent communications, bullying prevention activities, and counseling.

Parents can help us in the prevention of youth suicide by recognizing some of the early warning signs displayed by students who are contemplating suicide.

1. Change in academic performance
  - Decreased achievement levels
  - Loss of interest in grades

2. Change in school attendance
  - Frequent absenteeism
  - Cutting classes
3. Changes in physical state
  - Change in sleep patterns (not sleeping to sleeping all the time)
  - Panic attacks
  - Neglect of personal appearance and hygiene
  - Agitated or increased activity level
  - Recent onset of impulsive behavior
  - Increase in physical injuries
  - Excessive fatigue
  - Change in appetite
  - Sudden weight gain or loss
4. Dramatic changes in behavior
  - Withdrawal from staff and/or peers
  - Depressed moods
  - Lack of communication with others
  - Recent loss of interpersonal relationships
  - Verbalizations of hopelessness and death (e.g., “I want to die,”
  - “I want to kill myself,” “Nobody will miss me anyway,” or
  - “The world will be better without me.”
  - Efforts to hurt oneself through self-mutilation
5. Plan/Method/Access
  - Suicide notes
  - Final arrangements, (e.g., giving away prized possessions)
  - Death and suicidal themes (e.g., in classroom drawings, work samples, journals, and homework
  - Increased focus on guns and other weapons or pills and drugs

All incidents of suicidal threats or gestures are reported immediately to the program coordinator who then contacts the school psychologist or school counselor to conduct a suicide risk assessment. Results of the suicide risk



assessment along with the interventions that were used for prevention are communicated to the school team, the parents, and to police or emergency medical personnel, if appropriate.

A number of resources are available to parents for suicide awareness and prevention. A comprehensive set of resources is available through the Pennsylvania Department of Education at <http://www.education.pa.gov> and the Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative <http://payspi.org/> as well as the American Association of Suicidology <http://www.suicidology.org>. The National Association of School Psychologists offers assistance on the subject at <http://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/preventing-youth-suicide>.

Parents may also want to contact the Suicide Prevention Resource Center at <http://www.sprc.org/> and the American Foundation for Suicide prevention at <http://www.afsp.org/>. A suicide hotline is available through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by calling 1-800-273 TALK (8255) or online at <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>.

## **Supplies**

Centennial School students should bring a three-ringed binder (Middle and High School students) or folders (Elementary students), notebook paper and pencils.

## **Suspension/Expulsion**

Any disciplinary suspension or expulsion of a student for more than 10 consecutive school days or more than 15 cumulative school days in a school year is considered a change in educational placement requiring multidisciplinary evaluation, notice to the parents and a right to a hearing. When a suspension from school is deemed appropriate, a re-entry meeting with the parent or guardian is requested prior to returning the student to school.

Any disciplinary suspension/expulsion of a student with an intellectual disability is considered a change in educational placement, and notice to the parents and a right to a hearing shall be afforded prior to the exclusion.

If a discipline problem is so severe as to warrant immediate action, the school district may exclude the student as long as notice is provided to the parents, parents are in agreement, and a due process hearing is scheduled as soon as possible.

### **Teacher-Parent-Student Contacts**

Centennial School welcomes open communication between teachers and parents and guardians. Your first line of communication is with your child's case manager. If the case manager is not available, you may leave a voicemail and they will get back to you promptly. We ask parents and students not to call staff at their homes. In the event of an emergency during the school day, contact the school receptionist to speak with the program coordinator.

### **Telephones**

Students are allowed to use telephones in the school offices only when they have permission from their teacher to do so.

### **Tobacco**

The possession and use of tobacco products and related items, such as lighters, vaping devices, and matches, are prohibited on Centennial School property. Under Pennsylvania Statute it is unlawful for any pupil to use tobacco in school buildings, school buses and on school property. Tobacco use includes smoking, vaping, and the use of smokeless tobacco in any form. Students possessing or using tobacco products and related items on Centennial property will be directed to turn these materials over to school officials, and their parents will be notified. Possession and use of tobacco products and related items on school property will result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension from school. In addition, school officials may notify appropriate law enforcement agencies as prescribed by law.

### **Transgender Equity and Non-discrimination**

In accordance with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Centennial School does not exclude, separate, deny benefits to or otherwise treat differently any person in its program on the basis of gender, gender identity or gender expression and accords such individuals the same rights as all other individuals within its setting.

### **Transition to Adult Life**

Transition services means a coordinated set of activities for a student with a disability that is designed within an outcome-oriented process that promotes movement from school to post-school activities, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation. Services are based on the individual student's needs, taking into account the student's preferences and interests.

When a Centennial School student turns 14 years of age, the child's IEP includes a course of study and a statement of interagency responsibilities, such as the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and any other linkages with agencies external to the school, that lead to transition.

The Centennial staff provides students and their families with practical skills and knowledge for making a successful transition to adult life. Examples of community living activities offered by Centennial School include (a) assisting students to develop monthly schedules, (b) visiting possible future living arrangements, (c) providing opportunities to familiarize students with service organizations for post-school membership, (d) assisting students with selective service registration, (e) providing classroom and community-based instruction in banking services, check writing, and account balancing, (f) visiting public library services and resources, (g) practicing the scheduling of appointments, (h) instructing students in the use of public bus-transportation and traveling by bus to specific community locations, and (i) instructing students in developing skills for self-advocacy and determination. Our efforts are founded on the belief that students with disabilities can achieve independent or nearly independent lives within the community when supplied with the requisite knowledge, skill, and support.

### **Visitors**

Visitors are welcome at Centennial School. Guests are expected to make appointments in advance as a means of minimizing disruptions to the education program. Visitors are requested to report to the school office upon arrival, bring a State ID card or license, sign in and obtain a visitor's badge when entering the building.

We ask that former students of Centennial School who wish to visit their past teachers and school staff do so after 2:45 p.m. so as not to interrupt classes that are in progress during the school day.

### **Weapons and Suspected Illegal Substances**

Weapons are forbidden at Centennial School. Weapons include but are not limited to firearms, knives, metal knuckles, straight razors, explosives, noxious, irritating or poisonous gases, poisons, or anything fashioned or used with the intent to do harm. Students may not bring, hold or conceal weapons and illegal substances on Centennial School property. Any such individual is subject to search by school staff upon reasonable suspicion, and where warranted, by the local law enforcement. Prohibited items will be confiscated as evidence and the violator will be subject to school discipline and, when appropriate, to criminal prosecution.

**Centennial School Calendar  
2020-2021**

September 2	First Day of Classes – Half Day
September 7	School Closed – Labor Day
October 14 October 20	Family Night and Book Fair School Picture Day
November 4	End of First Marking Period
November 26	School Closed – Thanksgiving
November 27	School Closed – Thanksgiving
November 30	School Closed – Thanksgiving
December 1	School Reopens
December 18	Talent Show
December 23	School Closed – Winter Break
December 24	School Closed – Winter Break
December 25	School Closed – Winter Break
December 28	School Closed – Winter Break
December 29	School Closed – Winter Break
December 30	School Closed – Winter Break
December 31	School Closed – Winter Break
January 1	School Closed – Winter Break
January 4	School Reopens
January 18	School Closed – Martin Luther King Day
January 22	End of Second Marking Period
February 15	School Closed – President’s Day
March 10	Family Night and Book Fair
March 29	End of Third Marking Period
April 1	School Closed – Spring Break
April 2	School Closed – Spring Break

April 5	School Closed – Spring Break
April 6	School Reopens
May 26	Seniors’ Graduation Day
May 31	School Closed – Memorial Day
June 11	Last Day for Students – Half Day

Centennial School has 185 days built into the 2020 - 2021 calendar. If school is closed due to inclement weather or other emergencies that result in fewer than 180 days of instruction as mandated by state law, additional instructional days will be added to the school calendar. Conversely, days of instruction will be removed from the end of the school year if the 5 built in days for inclement weather or other emergencies were not used.

