

NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CHANCELLOR, DAVID C. BANKS ~ SUPERINTENDENT, KETLER LOUISSAINT



PUBLIC SCHOOL 596X
850 BAYCHESTER AVENUE
BRONX, NEW YORK 10475
TELEPHONE: (718) 904-5750
FAX: (718) 904-5753

JOHN SIRACUSE, PRINCIPAL

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS:
TIMOTHY CURRIE
REBECCA MILES
RAFAEL MONTOYA
ALYSSA RIGG

September 5, 2024

Dear P.S. 596X Families,

Welcome to the upcoming school year and to the first day of school. We look forward to working with your child and with you this year. Our school year promises to be exciting, filled with rich educational experiences. Enclosed you will find a complimentary school notebook and folder, along with the 2024-2025 calendar magnet containing many important dates. You will also find our official 2024-2025 school logo magnet, featuring our 4-legged staff member, our comfort dog, Tallulah. We hope you enjoy them!

We hope to see you at many of our school activities this year, remotely or in person!

School hours for students are as follows:

P.S. 178	8:00 – 2:50
P.S. 153	8:00 – 2:50
P.S. 498	8:20 – 3:10

Please feel free to call me, any of the assistant principals, unit teachers or your child's teacher. Our psychologists are available to help parents. Our parent coordinator, Dawn Harney, (718) 904-5779 or dharney@schools.nyc.gov and social worker, Toni Rodriguez, trodriguez32@schools.nyc.gov are always available to assist parents. Our doors are always open. A list of our phone numbers is in this letter.

If your child will be attending an afterschool program, please give all the details to your child's teacher or you may call your child's unit office and speak with the unit coordinator. Do not assume the bus company has informed the school.

- 1) **Emergency Contact** – We must have a way to contact you in the case of an emergency. Please furnish the school with emergency phone number so that we can reach you. Please inform us if your phone number changes, or if the phone number of an emergency contact person has changed. “Blocked” numbers are a big problem for us. Please remember this when giving emergency numbers to us.
- 2) **Attendance** – Good attendance is one of the most important factors in contributing to a student's success. It is our responsibility to monitor students' attendance. We will assist you in any way we can to help you get your child to school. In the interest of safety, please call your child's unit any time he/she is absent or message the teacher through Remind. We will contact you if we do not hear from you regarding each absence. Students who have excellent attendance are celebrated monthly.
- 3) **Trips** – Trips support our classroom instruction. We will not take students on trips for whom we do not have written permission. You will be informed of any planned trips. If you do not wish for your child to attend a particular trip, we will continue his/her instruction at school.
- 4) **School Uniforms** – In the interest of student safety, we have an **optional** P.S. 596X uniform that clearly states that the student attends P596X. If you have any questions regarding the

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uniform, you may call Marcia Allen, secretary at (718) 904-5750 ext. 0. Please visit our website, where you can order your child's uniform. www.p596x.org – Parents – Order School Apparel. Please note that uniforms will not be available for order until October.

- 5) **Speaking with your Child's Teacher** – We encourage parents and staff to communicate with each other on an on-going basis; in addition to the yearly conferences, all students have a remind account through which parents can communicate with teachers. Please understand that we cannot interrupt classes for teachers to speak with parents either by phone or in person. We are more than happy to set up an appointment time for you to speak with your child's teacher(s). Just call your child's unit coordinator or write to his/her teacher and we will arrange for this as soon as possible. Interrupting your child's teacher during class time is disruptive to the class routine and unfair to all the students in the class. Secretaries have been instructed not to interrupt classes with phone calls. In the case of a true emergency, please call the unit coordinator, assistant principal, or principal. Our website and free app are constantly being updated with school events and information, as well as photos of our students engaged in activities, both in and out of school. All teachers use the Remind system to communicate with their families. An administrator is always available to meet with parents.

- 6) **Visiting the School** All visitors to our schools must sign in at the main entrance, receive a pass, and a P.S. 596X staff member will come to get you. Visitors will be asked to show identification. Unauthorized visitors are a threat to everyone's safety and it is of the utmost importance, especially in light of national events, that school officials know of each and every visitor. We do not interrupt classes for teachers to speak with parents.

- 7) **Bringing your child in late/taking your child home from school early-** Parents are asked to sign students in or out of the school. ***Parents are never to leave a child with school safety officers or leave a child unattended. Students may not enter the school without an adult.*** Calls to the school from parents late in the afternoon requesting a change in transportation for the same afternoon are extremely disruptive to our programs. Parents who call after 1:00 p.m. and ask us to "hold a child" from a bus, create difficulty for us. Unless it is an extreme emergency, requests to hold a student from his/her bus, or to change bussing arrangements after 1:00 cannot be accommodated. Please inform us in writing, if possible, of any changes to your child's bussing arrangements.

- 8) **Medication** – In the event that your child needs to take medication in school, you must complete and have your doctor complete our permission form. Medication should not be transported on the bus. Parents should bring in the medication. In the event this is not possible, please call the school. Medication of any kind (including asthma pumps, cough drops) is never to be placed in a student's book bag. Staff is not permitted, by state law, to administer any medication without proper medical approval from your child's doctor. You can find more information about health guidance and tips for staying healthy this school year by visiting, www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/health-and-wellness/staying-healthy

- 9) **Special Alerts** – Please inform us of any special alerts, including medical alerts and allergies, changes in medication.

- 10) **Please label all your child's belongings!**

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The following is a list of phone numbers that you should keep handy:

Principal – John Siracuse – Main Office	718-904-5750
Assistant Principals:	
Alyssa Rigg/Rebecca Miles– P.S. 178	718-904-5750
Rafael Montoya – P.S. 153	718-904-5758
Timothy Currie – P.S. 498	718-409-3150

Unit Coordinators and other important numbers

P.S. 178 – Taya Karadimova	718-904-5773
P.S. 153 – Danielle Machado	718-904-5758
Parent Coordinator – Dawn Harney	718-904-5779
School Psychologist – Erica Wilson	718-904-5750
School Psychologist – Kanetha Brown	718-904-5750
Office of Pupil Transportation	718-392-8855/718-784-3313

***Please keep the route number of your child’s bus and the bus company phone number handy. In addition to your child’s bus company phone number, keep the phone number of Office of Pupil Transportation handy. If you have any bussing complaints, you should address them to OPT. School administration can also assist with any school bus issues. All transportation regarding bus routes can be found in your myschools account. Please contact Dawn Harney should you need assistance obtaining that account.**

On behalf of the entire P.S. 596X staff, I look forward to a wonderful year working together.

Sincerely,

John Siracuse
Principal

www.p596x.org

Download the free P596X App:

Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.app.pxeucz>

App Store: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/p596x/id1347822365?ls=1&mt=8>

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