PUBLIC SCHOOL 179 · ACADEMY OF EXPLORATORY ARTS

Student–Family Handbook

2026–2027

ENGAGE · EXPLORE · ELEVATE

Public School 179
Academy of Exploratory Arts
ENGAGE · EXPLORE · ELEVATE
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Ms. Christian Hernandez, Principal **Dr. Nathaniel Waye, Assistant Principal**

September 10, 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome to Public School 179 Academy of Exploratory Arts. Our goal is to provide your children with the highest quality of education that they deserve. As we move forward this year, we keep at the forefront our goal to actively Engage our school community in learning, Explore the Arts and Elevate all of our stakeholders. We will continue to embark on a new and improved curriculum that ensures our children have the foundations to pursue higher learning and are eventually career ready. Your continuous support is greatly appreciated and we look forward to continuing to collaborate and discuss the success of our children. We take pride in our multigenerational families and invite you to continue this journey as we move forward towards the future.

Please read this booklet as a family and keep it handy, as a source of reference throughout the school year. There will also be many times during the year when you will receive important information that may not be in this book. Please keep all school notices, calendars and other important information handy as it comes.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

In Unity,

Christian Hernandez

Principal

NYC Public Schools Mission

At New York City Public Schools, we deliver rigorous academics and real-world learning experiences to ensure all students graduate with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed in their careers and communities.

D7 Vision

The Bridge to Generational Success

PS 179 Vision

PS 179 is the Bridge to Generational Success

Our 179 Promise–Our Mission

Engage · Explore · Elevate

Engage in learning, Explore the arts, Elevate the community. This is more than a slogan, it's our 179 promise.

Our Core Values

P H I N S

- Presence
- High Expectations
- Integrity
- Nurturing the Whole Child
- Service

School Hours

7:40am - 8:00am - Breakfast, Monday - Friday

8:00am - 2:20pm - School Day, Monday - Friday

2:21pm - 5:30pm - East Side House Afterschool (subject to capacity & completed application)

2:21-4:30 pm- P.S. 179 After School Program

Tuesday- ELA & ENL Support: 2:20-4:30pm Chorus 4:15-5:15pm

Wednesday- Clubs & Sports 2:20-4:30pm

Thursday- UFLI, ENL, Math Support- 2:20-4:30pm Chorus 4:15-5:15pm

Arrival/Dismissal

Breakfast- 7:40-8:00am

- All students enter via EXIT 4

School Day 8:00am-2:20pm

- 3K-PK: Arrival & Dismissal parents drop off and & up students at their classroom.
- K-1: Students enter & exit through EXIT 5 (Auditorium) Staff will escort students.

- 2-5: Students enter & exit through EXIT 4 (139th St. near Flag Pole)

Additional Information

- Please do not send your child to school before 7:40 AM. There is no staff supervision before 7:40 am.
- All students arriving after 8:00am must enter through the main entrance.
- Dismissal begins promptly at 2:20 P.M. Monday thru Friday, doors open at 2:15pm.
- Please pick up your child on time at 2:20pm.
- Any student not picked up on time will be escorted to the Auditorium by their classroom teacher.
- Please avoid double parking as it can prevent buses from picking up students.

Attendance Policy

Attendance Goal

- Our Attendance Goal this school year is 92.5%. This means on average our students miss less than 8% of school, 13 days or less is considered to meet our goal.

Absences & Lateness

- SCHOOL BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 8:00 a.m. Good attendance is directly related to students' school performance. Tardiness is disruptive to a student's daily schedule and can impact both the student and their peers; which impacts the learning process. All children should be in attendance and on time each day unless they are ill. We also ask that early pick-ups are kept to a minimum, as they also result in loss of instructional time. Should you ever need attendance support, please contact the school's attendance team.

Absence Reporting

- All planned absences need to be communicated with both the classroom teacher and the main office.
- If there is an unplanned absence, we ask that you call the school before 9:00am. If we do not hear from you, our attendance team will reach out to you.
- Upon return from an absence, a letter where appropriate should be provided. (i.e. a doctor's note)
- For students on an extended absence, the Pupil Accounting Secretary will require evidence of the planned absence. (i.e. airline tickets)
- If we do not have communication with a family for more than two days, and in an effort to ensure your family's well-being, we will ask our Attendance Teacher to conduct further outreach, which may include a home visit.

ACES (Attendance Changes Everything)- The Most Important Club to join

At AEA we have a campaign to introduce our students to the importance of being prompt and present everyday. There will be monthly activities planned to get our students excited about their education and in the practice of routines when they become more independent.

Cell Phone Policy

In adherence with the NYS and NYC Public Schools policy, please see PS 179's Cell Phone Policy HERE

School Visitor Policy

ANY VISITOR TO THE BUILDING MUST STOP AT THE SECURITY DESK AND SIGN IN AND THEN BE DIRECTED TO (Room 116 Main Office)

- All approved visitors must keep their visitor pass visible at all times to ensure student and staff safety.
- Visitors should not visit other classrooms or offices without authorization.
- Visitors should utilize adult bathrooms only.

Parent Contact Information: VERY IMPORTANT

The office must be advised immediately of any changes in phone numbers, email addresses, or physical addresses for parents, guardians, or emergency contacts. It is vitally important that we be able to reach parents when necessary. Please include work, home, and cell phone numbers if applicable.

Emergency Card: You must have this on file with us

- This is a legal document.
- EMERGENCY CARDS must be filled out completely and returned to school as soon as possible.
- We can only call those names listed on the cards.
- A child will not be released to anyone who is not listed on the card, does not have the proper identification, or is under the age of 18.

List as many names as possible. If a babysitter, private bus or other service picks up your child his/her name and phone number must be on the card.

Please notify the school's Pupil Accounting Secretary or main office staff immediately of any changes on the card (i.e. change of address, phone #'s & emergency contacts). It is extremely important that the school can reach you at one of the phone #'s you have listed. Also, remember to list all cell phone #'s, and email addresses.

School Uniforms

- PS 179 IS A UNIFORM SCHOOL. In an effort to ensure student safety by easily identifying students, fostering a sense of belonging amongst students and school pride all students in grades K-5 wear uniforms Monday through Thursday. Fridays remain our “Dress Down Fridays”, where students can wear clothing of their choice.
- All students in K-5 receive one free uniform shirt in the beginning months of the school year. New students and students who need replacement bookbags will also receive a new one with school supplies at the start of the school year.
- We work in partnership with Cookies (567 Melrose Ave, Bronx, NY 10455) & KidCity (2922 3rd Ave, Bronx, NY 10455) for uniforms. Coupons are available to families for both store locations. Families in need of additional support regarding uniforms, can reach out to the Parent Coordinator, Ms. A Ramirez Velazquez..
- There will be special designated days and weeks where students can participate in thematic clothing and do not need to wear their uniforms. We will always provide advance notice of these days.
- Below are our official school colors:
- Kindergarten - Fourth Grade: Light/Sky Blue Polo Top, Navy/Dark Blue Bottom
- Fifth Grade: Burgundy/Maroon Polo Top, Khaki Bottom

Emergency Drills

- Evacuation drills, shelter drills and soft lockdowns are conducted throughout the year.
- Children are taught the proper procedures and signals to follow to ensure their safety.
- In the event of emergency situations the Principal and staff will follow the procedures outlined in our N.Y.P.D. approved School Safety Plan.
- Communication will be sent out via email on file, a call to your number, Class Dojo or a combination of those options.

Student Behavior

- P.S. 179 is a Conflict Resolution school.
- Respect and courtesy are vital elements in working together at P.S. 179.
- In the early part of each school year the Chancellor sends out the Discipline Code from the NYC Department of Education which is sent home. We ask that you review it with your child.
- All students must adhere to the Discipline Code. Students who disobey the regulations and codes will be issued the appropriate consequences and interventions.
- Respect for adults and peers are important concepts taught at school. Following school rules is a critical element in keeping our school calm and orderly. A positive attitude and cooperation goes a long way. We ask for your support in having 100% compliance

Student Responsibilities And Behavior

One of the most important lessons education should teach is how to build a positive school climate. While it does not appear as a subject, it underlies the whole educational structure. To insure the rights of each student to attend school in a safe, positive environment, it is the student's responsibility to:

- Come to school everyday- Presence is key
- Take care of books, technology, materials, desks and the school building
- Be respectful of the property of others
- Be kind and helpful to staff and other students
- Refrain from bullying and or peer conflict that is harmful to another student
- Be truthful and honest at all times- Demonstrate Integrity
- Use language that is not offensive to anyone
- Never get involved in a physical exchange- Keep your hands to yourself

Lost And Found

A Lost and Found box is located in 117. If your student has lost any items, please claim them there. Please note why we do try to ensure children retain all of their belongings, we encourage student responsibility for their property.

Personal Wifi Enabled Devices

In adherence with the NYS and NYC Public Schools policy, please see PS 179's Electronic Device Policy HERE

Report Cards

Report cards address the student's academic performance in each content area and specific standards within those areas. The content areas are categorized by ELA, mathematics, social studies, and science.

Academic Performance & Skill Levels

Similar to the NYS grade reporting, the academic performance levels of 1 to 4 indicate how students have met the expectations set by the current standards. Kindergarten through fifth grade will use the 1-4 grading system.

- 4-Excelling in grade level standards
- 3-Proficient in grade level standards
- 2-Below grade level standards

- 1-Far below grade level standards