What I wish I knew about Pittsfield Elementary!

Pittsfield Parent Guide

Pittsfield Elementary
2543 Pittsfield Blvd
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Phone: 734-997-1218
Fax: 734-997-1229

Melita Alston, Principal (alston@aaps.k12.mi.us)

Front Office Staff:
Jane Winters, Secretary to Principal (jwinters@aaps.k12.mi.us)

School Site:
https://www.a2schools.org/pittsfield

PTO Site:
https://www.a2schools.org/domain/1287

School Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/PittsfieldPTOAnnArbor/

School Twitter:
https://twitter.com/A2PittsfieldSch

NOTE: This is a living document and will change as new or different information comes available. To see it online, go to: goo.gl/aX8iXz
Logistics:

AAPS School Calendar:
(2019/2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEPTEMBER</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>First day for students - Full day of school</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Early release for Elementary/Middle/High Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Student Count Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Early release for Elementary/Middle/High Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>No school for students - Election Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wed-Friday</td>
<td>27-29</td>
<td>No school for students and staff - Thanksgiving Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECEMBER</td>
<td>Mon-Friday</td>
<td>23-Jan 3</td>
<td>No school for students and staff - Winter Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JANUARY</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>School resumes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>No school for students and staff - Martin Luther King Jr. Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Student Count Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Early release for Elementary/Middle/High Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCH</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>No school for students and staff - Election Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mon-Friday</td>
<td>3/30-4/3</td>
<td>No school for students and staff - Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>School Resumes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>No school for students and staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>No school for students and staff - Election Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Early release for Elementary/Middle/High Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>No school for students and staff - Memorial Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>End of the school year - Half day for students and staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Each emergency closing day of the 2019-2020 school year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How do I get my child to and from school?
If your child bikes to school, bike racks are located at the South end of the building near the Kindergarten classrooms.

Bus transportation is provided through Durham School Services. Information is available through Pittsfield’s office or through Ann Arbor Public Schools’ (AAPS) Transportation Page.

If you drive your child to or from school, please note you CAN NOT drive into the school parking lot/circle drive to drop off your student. Please park on Richard Street to the North or Oakwood Street to the South of the school.

The parking lot and circle drive have limited access during school start time and end time so the buses can access the school and students appropriately.

Please note that these guidelines have been put in place for the safety of our children. Our parking lot becomes congested very quickly if we are not all paying attention and following the rules.

Parents of bus-riders: There is an app called Durham Bus Tracker that you can use to follow your child's bus. (You can also track via their website.) This is really helpful when you're wondering where in the world your child's bus is, or when you don't want to stand out in torrential rain or freezing temperatures any longer than necessary! You will need to know your child’s student ID number to set it up. You can obtain your child’s student ID number from the office.

One point to note: The tracker follows the assigned bus, whether it's actually on your child's route or not. For example, your child typically rides bus #52, but bus #20 is subbing in for #52.. The tracker showed the #52 even though it was clearly somewhere else and not on the regular route.

How long is the school day?
The school day at Pittsfield runs from 8:56 a.m. until 3:59 p.m.

First Bell: 8:53
Second Bell - class begins: 8:56
Dismissal: 3:59

Early Release Days: 1:29 Dismissal (lunch will be served)

Last day of school - 11:39 Dismissal (NO lunch will be served)

NO DROP OFF PRIOR TO 8:45.

What happens if we're late?
The first bell rings at 8:53 a.m. and children are expected to be in their classrooms by the second bell at 8:56 a.m. Tardy records are kept in all grades, including kindergarten. Children who arrive after 8:56
a.m. should go to the office and pick up a pink tardy pass from the office. If they arrive on a late bus, they can proceed directly to their classroom.

Pittsfield asks that parents make getting their children to school on time a high priority for their family. The first fifteen to twenty minutes of each school day are crucial to setting the day’s mood and direction. Tardy students miss key connections their teachers are working hard to make and their late arrival disrupts the classroom for those students who have arrived on time.

What happens if we are early?
The main lobby is available for the few minutes leading up to the first bell ringing at 8:53 a.m. The library, multi-purpose room and gym are not available for extended wait times for students before school starts.

How do I report absences?
To report an absence, please call the school office at 734-997-1218. If no one answers, you may leave a message.

Note: AAPS is part of a county-wide and statewide effort to improve attendance due to its impact on learning. Our county motto is “All Day Every Day.” There are times when a child must miss school due to illness. But please schedule vacations and doctor appointments outside of school hours whenever possible. Learn more here: http://attendancematters.weebly.com/absenteeism.html

What if my family needs care before or after school?
Before and after school child care is available through Rec & Ed for all Pittsfield students for a fee. Students must be registered in order to attend these sessions. Before care opens at 7:15 a.m. and ends at the beginning of the school day. After school care begins at the end of the school day and closes at 6:00 p.m. Scholarship assistance is available to families that qualify. Cost and further information is available at the Community Recreation and Education Website www.a2schools.org/Page/4210 or by calling 994-2300.

When should my child stay home if they are sick?
The Ann Arbor Public Schools follows the guidance of the Washtenaw County Health Department on when children should stay home due to illness. Infections diseases (also called communicable diseases) can spread between people many different ways including through coughs and sneezes, contaminated food and skin-to-skin contact. Sometimes a person is contagious to others even before they start to feel sick. In most cases, it is important that a sick person stay home so they do not spread their germs to others.

The following guidelines to keep a child home are recommended:

- Fever: A temperature of 100°F or above when taken by mouth, the child should remain at home until fever free for 24 hours without taking fever reducing medicine.
- Vomiting: Children should have not vomited for 24 hours prior to returning to school.
- Rash: Any rash and fever illness should be checked by a health care provider. A fine red or blotchy rash on the face, trunk or arms and legs is a reason to keep a child home until a healthcare provider has determined it is not infections. A child with a limited known allergic rash does not need to stay home.
Loose bowel movements: The child should have no loose stools for 24 hours prior to returning to school.

Children with the following diseases should remain home until successfully treated:
- Impetigo
- Strep
- Lice
- Pick eye (if bacterial)
- Ringwork
- Scabies

Notices are sent to families of children in a classroom where a communicable disease is discovered. Please report communicable diseases to the school.

What if my child is going home with someone else?
In general, particularly for younger students, if there is any change from your child’s normal dismissal routine, please send a note to his or her teacher. All arrangements for play dates and other after-school plans should be made from home, not after the school day begins. If someone who is not a custodial parent and not on your emergency card will be picking up your child from school, please send written permission for that person to do so. If your child will be riding a different bus home than usual, please send a signed and dated note to school with your child. He or she will need to bring the note to the office to be signed before the school day ends. Please also remember that if your child will not be attending childcare on a day he or she is usually scheduled to do so, you need to call childcare (734-971-1399) to let them know.

What is Curriculum Night, and why should I go?
Curriculum Night, scheduled every September, gives you a chance to meet your child(ren)’s teacher(s) and learn about the curriculum for the upcoming school year. See more in the Events section.

Is there a school directory?
Yes! Every year, the school’s office staff works with the PTO to create a directory of all the students in the school, which usually comes out in the late fall. The directory includes contact information for all families who have chosen to provide it, on a class-by-class basis. Recently, in the interest of saving costs and paper, the school has started using an electronic version of the directory that families can download, rather than distributing hard copies to every student. Hard copies are available to families who need or prefer them. Contact the school office for a copy.

School Supplies
We ask that your child bring a backpack to school daily, there are many available in the office at the start of the school year should your child need one. Their homework folder, provided by the school as well as their lunch (should they be packing one from home) should come with them to school each day. Many supplies are provided with money from the district as well as money from teacher grants given to every teacher from the PTO. As you can assume, many of these supplies are consumable - meaning they only last so long before a marker is dried out, for example. Donations of facial tissue, disinfecting wipes and wood pencils are always welcome. As other needs arise, teachers will let you know of particular donations they could use to support their classroom. Please email pittsfield.pto.family.resource@gmail.com or text (if needed, call) (734) 219-3257 for assistance.
Toys
Please ensure your child is leaving all toys at home. This includes small figurines, Legos, Pokemon or any type of cards, outdoor recess equipment, electronic devices (unless otherwise arranged with the school/teacher), cars, fidget spinners, etc. Those items that do make their way to school often become a distraction, a problem among peers and are prone to theft. Valuable time can be lost working to problem solve around these objects. The exception would be for a classroom celebration in which children are bringing in a stuffed animal for a day or game to play or if the classroom is doing show and tell activities. If your child’s class is participating in any of these events, you will be notified ahead of time.

School Dress
Pittsfield students are expected to come to school in clean and comfortable clothing appropriate for the classroom. Please help your child consider the weather when choosing clothes for the day. Layers are often a good choice. Children will have outdoor recess every day unless it is raining or the temperature or wind-chill drops below zero degrees Fahrenheit.

- Hats (unless worn for religious purposes) should be removed during the school day.
- NO WHEELIES are allowed on shoes.
- Please review any sayings on your child’s clothing before sending him/her to school. Those that are disrespectful or contain inappropriate language should not be worn to school.
- Please have your student bring gym shoes or shoes with rubber soles to wear in PE class.

Reporting to Parents and REPORT CARDS
Elementary teachers send home report cards with students three times a year. This occurs in mid-November, mid-March and the last day of school. Teachers hold fall parent teacher conferences for all students and welcome meetings throughout the year as the need arises. Teachers also have a system of communication for the year that is shared during Curriculum Night each fall.

A note about report cards. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades report cards have goals the students hope to meet by each report card period. For example, they want kids to be at a certain reading level by the November report card, another by March, etc. Also listed are different math concepts they hope to have them secure in specific areas by each report card.

Report cards change in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. These report cards are more cumulative and the goal isn’t necessarily to have a student secure in a skill or area of learning by November or March. The goal may be for them to be secure by the END of the school year. All this is to say, don’t stress if your child’s report card appears to look different than in years past. This is normal, you just need to read the fine print. :-)

Is there a list of teachers and staff?
A full list of Pittsfield staff members can be found on the Pittsfield website:
www.a2schools.org/Pittsfield

Where is the school’s lost and found?
Please prevent any of your child’s items finding their way to the lost and found. Label all personal items and clothing that come to school! The lost and found is in the hallway right ahead of you as you walk into the school toward the gym and multi-purpose room, right outside the media center. Every year, dozens of items are never picked up; the school donates these items to the PTO Thrift Shop. This only happens with plenty of warning, in the newsletter or Monday Message.
Is Pittsfield’s office open in the summer?
No. Office staff members are generally working in the office for one week after school ends for students. The office reopens three weeks before Labor Day.

Family Needs
Do you need help with something? School supplies? Clothing? Warm winter gear? Food? Want to attend an event but struggling to come up with money for the tickets? The school and PTO want to help. Please reach out to the designated PTO Family Resource Coordinator. We will do our best to connect you to resources. Please email pittsfield.pto.family.resource@gmail.com or text (if needed, call) (734) 219-3257 for assistance.

During the Day

How do I enter the school during the school day?
As rule the doors lock shortly after the last bell and will stay locked until shortly before the bell at the end of the day. If you need to pick up your student or drop something off you will need to be buzzed into the building. To the left of the main door there is a black box/camera. You need to push the white button and wait for the door to unlock. If the office staff doesn’t recognize you right away they may ask who you are prior to unlocking the door. You will hear a quiet click when the door furthest to the left unlocks. Once you are in the building please go directly to the office to sign yourself in.

How do I sign my child out in the middle of the day?
When your child needs to leave the building during school hours, you should go to the office to sign him or her out. You’ll be asked to include the time, the date, and your signature. Be sure to sign your child back in at the office if he or she returns before the end of the school day.

What if my child becomes sick during the day?
If teachers and staff determine that your child is sick during the school day, you will be called to come pick your child up at the school office, where you will need to sign your child out as described above.

How can I contact my child’s teacher?
The staff email addresses are provided on the Pittsfield website (www.a2schools.org/Pittsfield). If you need to get in touch with your child’s teacher immediately, in case of an emergency, please call the school office (734-994-1218).

Can I sit in on my child’s class?
Yes! You are welcome in your child’s classroom. Please contact the teacher to learn the best times for visits and volunteer opportunities.

How can I approach a teacher with questions about my child?
This will vary by teacher, please check with your child’s teacher about what he or she prefers.

When is recess?
All students have lunch recess, at regularly scheduled hours that vary by grade level. Most classes also go out for shorter recesses one or two times a day, at the teacher’s discretion.
What if my child needs to take medicine during the day?
Occasionally, children may need to take medication during the school day. In accordance with
district policy, no medication of any kind may be given in the school unless a physician prescribes
it. This includes prescription medicine and over the counter medicines. The medicine must be in
the original container from the pharmacy. Medication must be accompanied by the written,
signed instructions from the physician prescribing the medication and must be specific as to the
time, method, and dosage to be administered. Please request the proper form from the school
office. Written permission from parents must accompany the medication. Instructions on the
medication label prepared by a pharmacist, are not sufficient. This policy also applies to all “over the
counter” medication, including aspirin, ibuprofen, acetaminophen (Tylenol), cold pills, and medicated
lozenges.

Is breakfast and lunch available at the school?
Chartwells School Dining Services, in partnership with AAPS, provides meals for children at the
school daily, often at a reduced price or free for those who qualify. We participate in the
National School Lunch and Breakfast Program (NSLBP), a federally funded program that helps
children receive free or reduced meals. These meals are the same for all children. Families need to
apply for this service either online (www.a2schools.org/Page/619) or by completing a paper application
available in the office.

Breakfast and lunch menus are sent home monthly with elementary students and can be viewed online
at www.a2schools.org/Page/619.

Students are not required to pre-order their breakfast or lunch. However, the meals must be pre-paid
prior to receiving the meals. Payment for the meals can be made online, by check or cash (dropped off
in the office). To set up an online account to pay or view your child’s account, please visit
www.mypaymentplus.com. You can send a check made out to AAPS Food Service or cash to school.
Please put it in an envelope printed with your child’s first and last name, grade, teacher and amount
enclosed in the envelope.

If you have further questions or need help with the application process, please contact the Ann Arbor

What about snacks?
Some classroom teachers organize snacks for their own rooms, often by setting up a schedule that asks
parents to bring in snacks on a rotating basis. In other classes, students may bring their own snacks.

When organizing snacks, teachers take into account any allergies their students might have.

How does Pittsfield handle allergies?
We ask for your cooperation in not sending nuts or nut products to Pittsfield Elementary. This is critical
especially in the first 2 weeks of school while we ascertain the number of students who have severe
allergies. This applies, for the most part, for classroom snacks and special events; we have a designated
nut-free table at lunch for children who live with this condition. This means it is fine for your
NON-allergic child to bring a peanut butter sandwich for lunch.

The AAPS Food Allergy Handbook, states,
“The prevalence of food allergies has increased over the past several years, with current estimates of approximately 2 million school-aged children with food allergies. Most common food allergens for children include: eggs, fish, milk, peanuts, shellfish, soy, tree nuts, and wheat.” (p.4).

Even if your child has no severe allergies, other students do. You will receive more information, specific to your child’s classroom restrictions, as it relates to children with severe allergies. Your serious attention to this matter is absolutely necessary.

What are the school’s emergency procedures?
AAPS and Pittsfield have comprehensive “all hazard” emergency plans, with procedures in place for severe weather, fire, potential threats inside and outside the building, chemical spills, and other scenarios.

As required by state law, Pittsfield practices six times a year for fire procedures, twice a year for severe weather, and twice a year for lockdowns. All students participate in these drills.

In the event of early dismissal, a lockdown that affects dismissal procedures, or any other emergency that requires parents’ attention, parents will be notified via automated phone call and/or email.

In the event of severe weather or any other emergency, please don’t call the office: Pittsfield staff must dedicate their full attention to students’ safety. Please don’t come to school to pick up your child if doing so is dangerous (e.g., when there are hazardous road conditions); someone on the staff will always wait with your child until he or she can be picked up, and students are very safe in the school building under almost all circumstances.

Inclement Weather
Students have outdoor recess daily unless it is raining or the temperature and/or wind chill is below 0°F. On days when the temperature and/or wind chill are below -20°F schools will be closed. The Ann Arbor Public Schools protocol for closing school for snows days is available on the district website. When the schools are closed, parents will be notified through the contact phone number(s) provided in Infosnap. School closings and/or cancellations due to severe weather or building problems will be also be announced on television channels 2, 4 or 7 and over radio Stations WEMU (89.1 FM), WTKA (1050 AM), WQKL (107.1 FM), WUOM (91.7 FM), WNRS (1290 AM), and WJR (760 AM) early in the morning. In case of severe weather, please listen to the radio or television rather than calling the school office. School closing information can also be found on the district web page, http://www.a2schools.org. You can also call the School Closing Hotline at 734-994-8684.

In The Classroom

What are “specials”?
“Specials” at Pittsfield include art, vocal music, instrumental music (for 5th grade, mandatory across the district and then an elective in middle and high school), media education and technology and physical education. Specials classes are worked into classrooms’ regular curriculum and typically occur one or two times a week. On your
child(ren)’s P.E. days please make sure they wear appropriate gym/tennis shoes for gym class.

**Do Pittsfield students go on field trips?**
Field trips at Pittsfield are viewed as key to the students’ education, a complement to the classroom curriculum. Field trips are largely up to the classroom teacher although some are standard across the school or district: students might attend a play, go to the Leslie Science Center, or take a walk around the neighborhood to examine the architecture. Some classes go on overnight field trips. Teachers will communicate all field trip information for their room as the trips are scheduled. Parents must sign permission slips as needed for their child to go on field trips, and they are often invited to come along as chaperones. There are small fees associated with these field trips but help is available. Just ask the teacher.

**Project Lead the Way**
Project Lead The Way is a project-based curriculum focusing on an integrated approach to teaching the STEAM subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. PLTW helps students to acquire the 21st Century skills of collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking. Not only that, students have a lot of fun! To learn more about our work, please check out [http://www.a2schools.org/Page/11446](http://www.a2schools.org/Page/11446).

**Are students using electronic devices in the classroom?**
Yes, decisions about the use of electronic devices in the K-5 classes are made on a class-by-class basis largely based on the decisions of the teacher. Some examples of technology use is iPads for some app in the classroom and computer use during media technology time in the media center.

**Birthday Treats**
As always birthdays are a wonderful thing to celebrate. Treat policies tend to be on a classroom by classroom basis though healthy options are generally encouraged. Please ask your teacher what their policy is on birthday celebrations and double check for any allergies in your classroom.

**Where can I get more information about the school?**
Both the Pittsfield Elementary website ([www.a2schools.org/Pittsfield](http://www.a2schools.org/Pittsfield)) and the Pittsfield PTO website ([www.a2schools.org/domain/1287](http://www.a2schools.org/domain/1287)) are good sources of general information about the school and activities. The school’s media center site is an excellent resources that can guide families toward age-appropriate enrichment and research material. ([https://sites.google.com/a/aaps.k12.mi.us/pittsfieldelementarymediacenter/](https://sites.google.com/a/aaps.k12.mi.us/pittsfieldelementarymediacenter/)) In addition, several classrooms have websites that provide both information about classroom activities and occasionally more general information, your teacher will provide you this information.

**What happens on rainy days or bad weather days?**
Last year we have instituted a new way to handle inclement weather. It may take a few weeks to get things organized again with this new school year, but the kids are given different choices. 5th graders will go back to their classrooms during this time. Other grade levels will have the option to read or draw/color in the lunchroom. Also, teachers have volunteered their lunch hours (how amazing are they?!) and will handle different groups with planned activities (i.e. legos or something similar.) The PTO has purchased items to use during rainy day lunches.
What is PBIS?
Pittsfield implements positive behavior intervention supports. Please ask your child’s teacher for more information.

After School
What after-school options exist at Pittsfield?

- Lots of parents who do pickup will stick around at the playground, especially on nice days. This is a great way to meet other parents.
- Ann Arbor Rec and Ed has a variety of after-school options that change throughout the year (yoga, art-themed classes, sports, science-themed classes). Mailings will come home in backpacks or view the activities to be offered at your school building by going to https://apm.activecommunities.com/aareced/Activity_Search.
  - NOTE: We are a small school, so there’s been times classes have been cancelled due to low registrations. Determined Pittsfield parents will often recruit others / post on the Facebook page to encourage others to register to “save” a class. Be creative!
- Childcare through Rec and Ed can be set up through this site: https://www.a2schools.org/domain/1319, although early registration is encouraged as some sites can be filled quickly. Students can attend every day or just certain days of the week. They are given a snack, free time, time outside. Students may choose to do homework, crafts, play games, etc.
- Pittsfield Garden: Pittsfield Community Garden is an enriching meeting spot for all of our school community to grow together and learn from nature! The garden offers students hands on learning experiences in a wide variety of ways, including science, math, art, reading, writing, and much more. Students experience teamwork, as well as build confidence in their ability to shape the environment around them in a positive way. They work hard, learn much, and taste the fruit of their labor with smiles of pride and joy!
  
  We need parents and teachers who are passionate about outdoor learning to offer any of their skill sets relating to the environment (composting, habitats, gardening, recycling, botany, etc) to continue to encourage environmental studies and good stewardship at Pittsfield.

Please email Karen Hulsebus <kostafin@gmail.com> to learn more about how you can be an active part in your child’s education through the garden. Stay connected and check out our fun at http://www.pittsfield-garden.com/ and https://www.facebook.com/pittsfieldgarden/ or IG: @pittsfield.garden.
A variety of other opportunities arise throughout the year, including:

- Science Olympiad (see events section)
- Girls on the Run for 3rd through 5th grade girls in the Spring

**Spirit Wear**

Spirit wear is available for sale each year. Please talk to a member of the PTO Board for more details.

**Family Involvement**

**What role are parents expected to play at Pittsfield?**

The volunteering choices are many. The Pittsfield PTO supports MANY activities throughout the year and we are always looking for more hands to help us with planning and executing events. In addition, you can ask your child’s teacher for suggestions on how you can help in the classroom. It is a great way to get to know teachers, other parents and their children, and school staff!

**What do “classroom parents” do?**

It depends on the teacher, but classroom parents typically help organize classroom events and parties and coordinate families as needed for help in the classroom.

**Is there a PTO at Pittsfield?**

Yes! It is the Pittsfield Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). At Pittsfield there are NO dues associated with being part of the PTO. As a parent/guardian of a Pittsfield student you are automatically a member of our great group! [https://www.a2schools.org/domain/1287](https://www.a2schools.org/domain/1287)

Our mission is to exist to promote open communication and assistance between teachers, parents and students. The PTO’s primary purposes is to support the students and staff in providing educational opportunities and materials, as well as extra-curricular activities and field trips. The PTO holds fundraisers in an effort to obtain monies necessary to provide our children with supplemental educational materials and experiences. It is our belief that the team effort of our parent-teacher organization creates an environment that will allow all students the opportunity to excel academically, socially and physically, while improving the community within the school.
We hold monthly meetings in the Media Center. The majority of meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month from 6-8 p.m. ALL are welcome and encouraged to come and participate. Each meeting has a presentation from either a community member on a topic of interest to our school or by teachers in our school on initiatives and new ideas they are using in their classrooms. These presentations are followed by discussions amongst those in attendance for upcoming events and we often vote on new ideas before they move forward.

Our PTO meeting dates are typically on the second Tuesday. A perpetual calendar of our agenda each month can be found here:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UqGQwcyxZTfs3epY0inEBMwq7_7qgAWUBlhLriwF_8/edit.

Fund Raising
The Pittsfield PTO raises funds all year long to help support all sorts of important things around the school. We really want to make Pittsfield the best it can be!

Over the years the PTO has helped to fund many many things, including:
- Annual field trips
- Special assemblies, Gemini, Toledo Opera, Jazzistry, March is Reading month.
- Giving money to teachers to spend on supplies for their classrooms
- Various student needs
- Snacks and meals for all kinds of school events, teacher appreciation, conferences etc.

Box Tops for Education
Pittsfield collections Box Tops which are available on select grocery products and typically worth 10 cents each. The Box Tops can be sent into the school at any time with three big collection dates in late October, late February and early June. We have a family who has volunteered to organize these at the large donation time. You can help them out by making sure you do not cut any portion of the Box Top out and leave the WHOLE Box Top in place so it can be counted. These funds go to the general PTO fund to help with items listed in the bulleted list above.

Amazon Smile
Did you know that Amazon donates a percentage of each sale when you shop at smile.amazon.com? It's the exact same Amazon products, the same prices, and the same quick shipping, but when you shop Amazon Smile, Carpenter receives a portion of each sale!
1. Go to smile.amazon.com
2. Login with your normal Amazon account info
3. Type Pittsfield PTA (yes, it is PTA and not PTO as PTO was already taken) in the charitable organization search box
4. From now on, do all of your Amazon shopping from smile.amazon.com!
Calendar and Events

There is a lot that happens at Pittsfield. We are a busy community. To stay informed, be sure you are:
- Reading the Monday Message (an email that goes out to every parent).
- Monitoring these sites:
  - https://www.a2schools.org/Page/8286
  - https://www.a2schools.org/pittsfield
  - www.facebook.com/groups/PittsfieldPTOAnn Arbor/
  - twitter.com/A2PittsfieldSch

Before too long, these events will become part of your annual traditions:

**Welcome Breakfast** - first day of school
Please join us immediately following student drop off, either in the multi-purpose room or media center for a quick meet and greet with other parents, a hello from the principal and PTO president and some yummy breakfast food.

**Curriculum Night** - September
A time to visit your child’s class, meet the teacher, sign up for parent-teacher conferences and meet other parents. For parents and staff only, this event is intended for parents to meet their child's teacher in a group setting, as well as attend a joint information session with the principal about the upcoming school year. Information about the entire school community is shared, as well as specifics about your children’s classrooms. It is also a great opportunity to volunteer, to meet other parents in the classroom, and to learn more about the Pittsfield approach to education.

**Fun Run** - Usually Fall
This is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. The students collect donations and ALL students, regardless or donations collected or not, are able to participate in the event. Students will run and have a lot of fun with their classmates. Drawings are done for students who do fund raise ranging from lunch with the principal, PE teachers for the day, extra recess time, spirit days and much more! This is a great way to get the children moving and enjoying being active. Donations can be collected via check or cash as well as an online portal.
Halloween at Pittsfield - typically the Friday before Halloween
Students are allowed to dress up in appropriate costumes at a designated time in the afternoon. Costumes ideally will not cover faces and are fun for everyone involved. We have a costume parade that goes through the school and, weather permitting, will also go outside around our playground. Students will usually have celebrations in their classroom after the parade, but it is at the teacher’s discretion.

Fall Fun Fest - October
This is a fun INDOOR time with food, maze, pumpkin-decorating contest, games. Small cost for tickets to play games. Kids can explore a fun cardboard maze in the lunchroom stage! Students are welcome to wear their Halloween costumes, but it is not a required. If your child chooses to they will have plenty of company, the same goes for if they choose not to. :-)

Family Movie Nights - usually a couple times a year
Movie nights are a great tradition. You are encouraged to bring some sleeping bags / pillows / comfy chairs (and extra for your friends who forgot). The price is typically $2/person or $5 per family. Snacks are available for a small fee.

Disability Awareness Day - winter
Typically an event for 5th graders done in collaboration with the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living and our PTO. Students participate in a number of activities to help them build awareness about different disabilities.
**Winter Dance** - February
Students come! Some of them dance! Others move around in a large swarm. There is sometimes a craft project and always food. Dress ranges from fancy to PJs to superhero capes. You never know!

**NAAPID** (National African American Parent Involvement Day) - February
This event is open to all families and we are encouraged to come and spend a portion or all of the day with your child(ren.) You can sit in and see what goes on with your student. Also, a lunch is provided from the PTO and the teachers for parents so please come and eat. In the afternoon there is a short assembly where the kids will perform songs!

**Kindergarten Round Up** - Typically February
A chance to showcase our school and share what makes us special to potential incoming kindergarten classes. PTO helps with snacks. Current students often lead tours. The principal and teachers give a presentation. Volunteers are always needed!

**Reading Month Assembly** - March
This is an assembly for the students during the day where we have an author, typically local to Michigan, come in. Some of them will do small workshops with different age groups (k-1-2 and 3-4-5) and will have an assembly for the entire school. We are always looking for ideas for an author to bring in so if you have any connections please let us know!

**Science Fair** - April, evening
Students bring home boards and devise their own science project. The day of the fair, they bring their finished boards to school and parents / grandparents walk through the classrooms to share their appreciation for the fine work.

**Gemini Musical Concert** - May, late afternoon
Try to get this date on your calendar and get off work if you can. Gemini include twin brothers Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits, who perform award-winning acoustic music for children and families, celebrating the fun, warmth, and humor of family life. Their recordings and concerts are filled with fun, rousing sing-alongs, folk tales, and music from around the world. Learn more about their music here: [http://www.geminichildrensmusic.com/](http://www.geminichildrensmusic.com/).

**Ice Cream Social** - 1st Friday in June
The Ice Cream Social is our biggest event of the year and NOT TO BE MISSED! A HUGE group of parents work for months to make this a special end-of-year event for students and families. Games, food, ice cream, cake walk, and face painting are loved by the students. Parents get serious about good finds at the silent auction (Disney passes anyone?). Community members and Pittsfield alum often come back, making it a lovely night to connect.
Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad (WESO) - Winter / May or June
Some time in the winter, there will be calls for Science Olympiad coaches and then for students to join the team(s). Our county has the biggest Science Olympiad competition in the country! Our little school keeps building steam and even took home some medals last year, including a first place medal! Teams competed in events such as aerodynamics, pasta bridges, “photon phun,” water rockets, feathered friends, and much more. The teams meet weekly for a couple months or so and then compete with teams across the county. It is quite a sight to behold! This event is for students 2nd through 5th grade.
https://sites.google.com/a/aaps.k12.mi.us/weso-wizards/

Pittsfield students share their Science Olympiad excitement!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7oeTvBhyQw&t=10s