

Charles Pinckney Elementary School

Parent-Student Handbook



**PINCKNEY
PIRATES**

CPES

***3300 Thomas Cario Boulevard
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466***

(843) 856-4585

Our Mission

At Charles Pinckney Elementary, we are committed to providing each student with an extensive range of educational opportunities in a nurturing environment. The staff and faculty, in partnership with families, will ensure a healthy balance of rigorous instruction, extracurricular activities, and social opportunities for our students.

Our Vision

Working together, our school will continue to be one of the highest achieving schools in the state. We will maintain our long-standing “Excellent” rating on our state report card.



CHARLESTON COUNTY DISTRICT OFFICES

75 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC 29401

Dr. Postlewait, Superintendent of Schools

Pinckney Administrators

Leanne Sheppard, Principal

Tiffany Henderson, Assistant Principal



SCHOOL BUS CONCERNS

843-388-6146

School Hours:

Arrival: 7:05-7:25

Dismissal: 2:20

Kaleidoscope After School Program (216-6612)

The Kaleidoscope Program is not supervised by Pinckney Elementary staff or administrators. The director is Trina Noonan. School administrators are not authorized to address concerns regarding that program. Please direct all questions or concerns to Ms. Noonan at 216-6612.

PROCEDURES FOR PARENTS WITH CONCERNS

In order to ensure your child's academic and social growth, open parent-staff communication is essential. If you have concerns about any aspect of your child's education or classroom environment, please communicate with the teacher. **Communicating first with your child's teacher is very important.**

For ongoing academic and behavioral issues, we offer assistance via a MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support). The MTSS team consists of an administrator, regular education teacher, educational interventionist, school psychologist, and of course, the parent. The team reviews the child's situation, collects data regarding him/her, makes suggestions and provides extra academic or behavioral intervention, if deemed necessary. The MTSS process is only used when typical classroom interventions have not been successful for the child.

REPORT CARD SCHEDULE

First Report Card	October 30 th
Second Report Card	January 23 rd
Third Report Card	April 2 nd
Fourth Report Card	June 5 th

MORNING ARRIVAL

For safety reasons, students are not to arrive at school prior to 7:05AM when adult supervision begins. Students participating in the breakfast program may go directly to the cafeteria at 7:05AM when breakfast service starts. Students are considered tardy if they are not in their class at 7:25.

For the safety of all children, upon entering the building, parents and visitors must sign-in with their **valid driver's license** at the front office. This includes parents who walk their children to class in the morning. (We do make an exception to this rule on the first two days of school while students are getting acclimated to the route to their new classes.) If you regularly walk your child to the classroom in the morning, please consider allowing your child to walk on his or her own after the first few weeks. This helps foster your child's independence. We have adults on duty to help our students get safely to and from their classes.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

It is crucial that you inform your child and his/her teacher, ahead of time, of your child's dismissal plan so he or she can be dismissed to the correct location. Please do not go directly to your child's classroom to pick him/her up.

- ◆ In order to change your child's mode of afternoon transportation, you must either send, with your child, a written statement of the change **or** call the office **by 2:00 PM** and provide the secretary with your child's birth date along with the plans for change in transportation. Sending a letter is the preferred method of notification; transportation changes by phone should only be for emergency situations.
- ◆ You, as well as those listed on your child's emergency card, must present a license when requesting to take your child out of school early. Likewise, when you call ahead and grant permission for an alternate person to take your child home, you must provide the secretary with your child's birthdate and the alternate person will need to show a license upon arrival.
- ◆ **Please avoid calling the office to make transportation changes after 2:00 PM.** It is often impossible for secretaries to look up the birthdates and get the messages to the classrooms by dismissal while continuing to answer phones and accommodate visitors signing in and out. Further, we would greatly appreciate you not signing your child out during the last 20 minutes of the day for the same stated reasons. Of course, emergencies happen and naturally, we understand those circumstances.

Car Riders

In order for the car rider system to move along at a steady and safe pace, there are certain rules that apply:



- ◆ In the mornings, cars will pull all the way forward, stacking cars as closely and as safely as possible. Children will not exit or enter their cars until they are in the drop-off/pick-up area where staff members are on duty. Parents do not need to get out of the car. Staff members will be along the curb to help students in or out of the vehicles.
- ◆ Absolutely no parking lot drop-offs are allowed.
- ◆ At the end of the day, children must remain in the specified drop-off/pick-up area where there is adult supervision. **Children will not be permitted to "meet" parents in the parking areas.**
- ◆ In the mornings, please begin saying your goodbyes and giving goodbye kisses prior to pulling into the drop-off zone. This will allow your child to make a quick exit and keep our car line flowing smoothly.
- ◆ During morning arrival, no student drop-offs are allowed in the bus area (which is located on the left side of the school).
- ◆ For car rider dismissal, please display the official Pinckney placard in the front passenger side window of your vehicle. We will call students' names (over a walkie talkie) as cars pull up. If your placard is lost, the office will gladly provide you with another one.

Plan ahead. There will be traffic delays the first two weeks of school.
Be patient... it does get better.

Biker-riders and Kaleidoscope Students

- ◆ Bike racks are located next to the basketball court. At dismissal, bike riders and Kaleidoscope students will walk down the main hall and exit via the third grade wing under the canopy. Kaleidoscope students will be met under the breezeway by a Kaleidoscope employee.

Walkers

- ◆ If you must park and walk your child in to school, please use the crosswalk and escort your child all the way across the crosswalk. Please park only in the parking lot in front of the school; don't create your own "parking area" in a non-designated area on campus.
- ◆ "Pinckney Walkers" are those students whose parents choose to walk their children home or to the car at dismissal. "Walker" parents should wait for their child at the basketball court/literacy garden areas. We have a staff member assigned to that area to help monitor the children. The staff member needs to be able to clearly see each child matched with the proper adult before the child leaves the area. **Please bring your dismissal placard** for the first month of school, until the staff members become familiar with parents who pick up at that location.

Please do not come into the atrium to get your child during dismissal. The atrium is used for those students who are being picked up via the car rider line.



Bus Phone
843-388-6146

Bus Riders Riding the school bus is a privilege that can be revoked if rules are not followed. Unfortunately, parents often are inconvenienced more than children when children lose bus-riding privileges. However, as with our expectations concerning in-school behavior, we expect parents to establish clear rules and set limits with their children regarding behavior while on the bus. It is an expectation that students will behave well while on the bus, and they should respect the bus driver. The driver will report problems to the Assistant Principal. Further the drivers do have the authority to assign seats for students if they so choose.

BUS BEHAVIOR CONSEQUENCES

The Principal or Assistant Principal will decide appropriate consequences for misbehavior on buses. Serious misbehavior that endangers your child and other children on the bus will result in hefty consequences regardless of the number of offenses. Consequences can include required parent/student conferences, in-school detentions, and bus suspension which can last a few days or several weeks. Students may be suspended from riding the bus for an entire school term should their behavior necessitate it. When a student is suspended from riding the bus, parents must provide transportation for the child to and from school. Tardies and absences due to bus suspension are **unexcused**. If it becomes necessary for your child to ride another bus for reasons of childcare, etc., please write the school a note and contact the bus company ahead of time.

LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY

Please make every effort to schedule appointments for your child outside of school hours. Calling into a classroom to request your child for dismissal interrupts not only your child's learning, but also that of the entire class. When you must request early dismissal for your child, please write a note to the teacher ahead of time so that both your child and the teacher can be prepared. Your child will not be dismissed from class until you arrive. Please do not request early release of your child after 2:00.

EMERGENCY DISMISSAL OF SCHOOL

In the event that a weather emergency results in early dismissal of students, local media will announce details of the dismissal plans. The automated call system will also be used to communicate plans to parents. All after school programs are cancelled in the event of early dismissal. If there is ever a safety situation which requires students to be moved off of the campus, they will relocate to the Life Park Church (near Publix) and remain with their teacher until parents arrive.

MEDIA RELEASE

In order for your child's picture or honor roll information to appear in the media (newspaper, TV, school website, social media, videos); you must give your permission. On the *School Info Card* (located in the Opening Day Packet) you can indicate your decision regarding your child's participation in media opportunities.

PERSONAL PHONES ON CAMPUS

Cell phones/iPhones are not permitted to be used during school hours and it is highly recommended that children not bring them to school at all. However, if for safety reasons, a parent deems it necessary for his child to have a phone, the phone must be stored out of sight (in bookbag) and in the “off mode” during school hours (this is CCSD’s policy). Should a student need to contact a parent during school hours, the regular school phone lines should be used. Teachers are instructed to collect cell phones that are seen or heard during school hours, and parents will be required to come to the school and personally retrieve such phones. The school staff and administration will not be responsible for the loss, damage, or theft of a student’s cell phone. A student who brings a cell phone to school does so at his/her own risk.



ELECTRONIC/ TECHNOLOGY DEVICES

(Including Kindles, iPads, iPods, and Video Games)

Students are asked to leave personal electronic and technology devices at home. Each child has his own school-issued iPad for use in class. All school-based devices are equipped with safety features that filter out inappropriate content. Obviously, we are not able to filter what is on students’ personal devices, which is one of the reasons we ask that personal tech items be left at home. Further, electronic devices are expensive items for which the school can’t be responsible should they be lost, stolen, or damaged. Please refer to Charleston County’s *Code of Conduct* for more detailed information regarding prohibited electronic devices.

VIDEOS

Videos will be used only for instructional purposes and must directly relate to a unit or theme being taught. In most cases, only clips of videos are used in instruction.

MEDICATION

Any medication, whether prescription or over the counter, requires a *Doctors Order* form to be completed by the parent and the doctor before it can be administered at school. Medication must be provided by the parent in the original, sealed, properly labeled container. Any medical procedure (such as blood sugar checks, tube feedings) to be performed at school requires a *Doctors Order* as well. *Doctors Order* forms are available from the school nurse or by this link: [CCSD Doctor's Order](#).

If there is any indication that a student is having a negative physical or emotional reaction to a medication, the nurse and employees may refuse to give the dose. If this should occur, the nurse will immediately contact the parent and/or the physician to alert them that the dose was not given. Please do not ask teachers to dispense medication, whether prescription or non-prescription, at any time.

FOOD ALLERGY POLICY

Because the safety of all children is our utmost concern, Pinckney Elementary staff, students, and parents are expected to honor restricted food zones within the school. For example, there are several “No Peanut Zones” in the main building as well as at specified tables in our cafeteria. We will adjust the food allergy zones based on students’ needs each year. If your child has a life-threatening food allergy, please communicate that to his/her teacher and the school nurse.

HEALTH SCREENING

Our school nurse conducts routine health screenings, which include vision, hearing, blood pressure, BMI, and dental checks. There is a place on the *School Info Card* for you to indicate if you do, or do not, want your child to participate in health screenings.

EMERGENCY CARDS

Each student will receive an emergency card to be completed by the parents and returned to school. Parents must fill out this information COMPLETELY and notify the school anytime there is a change in information. It is very important that we can reach parents/guardians in case of an emergency. In addition, we must have the names and telephone numbers of **two** other people we can contact in case of an emergency. Please let these people know that they are listed as emergency contacts on your child's emergency card. We strongly urge you to provide accurate and complete information on these emergency cards. It is extremely unfortunate if an emergency occurs, and we cannot contact the parent or another responsible adult. In the event that you are called to get your child from school due to illness, it is expected that you or your designee will arrive at the school in a timely manner.

In a serious emergency, EMS will be called if no people listed on the card can be reached.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

A big emphasis at Pinckney is “time on task.” In order to help your child achieve his or her fullest potential, we need your child to be at school and on time each day so that he/she will not miss crucial instruction and time on task.

School officials are accountable for following up on student attendance and tardiness issues. Ongoing truancy issues may result in parents being required to meet with an administrator to develop an attendance contract.

Below are important facts about **CCSD’s Attendance and Truancy Policy**:

- All absences are classified as either **lawful** (can be excused or unexcused) or **unlawful** and all absences, regardless of the classification, must be documented.
Lawful excused absences include: student illness, serious illness of immediate family member, death of a family member, religious holidays, and suspension.
Lawful unexcused absences include: absence as a result of an extracurricular activity that’s not approved or requested by the administration, those suspended from the bus and do not report to school, those who go to appointments that could be made outside of school hours, and parental notes for student illnesses in excess of ten days that is not substantiated by medical statement.
Unlawful absences include: students who are absent from school without acceptable cause with the knowledge of the parents (example- vacations and accompanying parents on business trips) and those willfully absent without the knowledge of parents. **Unlawful** absences are ALWAYS unexcused.
- Teachers are not required to allow students to make up work missed during an **unexcused** absence.
- A written excuse is required for all absences in all of the categories mentioned above. There are no exceptions.
- Ten is the magic number! After 10 absences a student may be retained in his/her current grade.

Remember: A written note from the parent or a doctor is required for every absence, whether excused or not.

Additional information concerning the Charleston County School District attendance policy is included in the *Code of Conduct*.

VISITING OR VOLUNTEERING IN CLASSES

Pinckney parents are encouraged to visit the school. Volunteers and field trip chaperones **must** complete the volunteer screening process by visiting the Volunteer Application. If you want to volunteer in your child’s class, please coordinate that with the teacher. If a classroom observation is desired, please coordinate that with the administration. Stop by the school office upon arrival. Some volunteer opportunities outside of the classroom are: Media Center (re-shelving books), Book Fair Clerk, PTO Board, School Improvement Council, and sports coaching (basketball, tennis).

IDENTIFICATION AND VISITOR BADGES

All visitors, volunteers, substitutes, and any adults in the building must wear identification badges. As per Charleston County School District Policy, teachers will not permit parents or other visitors to enter their classrooms without required identification. Staff members are **expected** to ask any adult without identification to check in with the office. This is for the safety of all the children in our charge. Remember, you will need **your license** in order to sign in as a visitor/volunteer, and to sign your child out of school early. When arriving for class programs or performances, please understand that the sign-in will take a little longer than usual as we will be processing a large number of visitors at once. Please plan ahead by arriving early.

BOOKS AND FEES

Instructional fees are due at the beginning of the school year. **Make checks payable to Pinckney Elementary** or pay them online at <https://pinckney.revtrak.net> . A student enrolling any time during the year must pay full price for new workbooks. If a student transfers, he will take those workbooks with him. When a student transfers out of the school, please see that all state textbooks and library books are returned. Any lost book fees must be paid.

BREAKFAST & LUNCHES

Our cafeteria is on an automated system which debits your child's accounts only on the days that he/she purchases meals. Parents are encouraged to prepay for meals on a minimum of a monthly basis. You may go online at [K12PaymentCenter](#) and charge meals using your credit card if you so choose. If you have questions about lunch accounts, please contact our cafeteria manager, [Shelli Boris \(856-4592\)](#).

MEAL PRICES	
BREAKFAST	LUNCH
\$1.40	\$2.25

CONFERENCES

Teacher/Parent conferences are more effective and productive when teachers can prepare for the conferences. Please schedule conferences in advance with your child's teacher. We ask that parents do not conference with teachers while they are teaching and supervising children.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

Each student in grades 3-5 is expected to have an agenda/assignment book. (The school will provide this using the fee money we collect.) This book will be used for daily communication with parents, as well as homework. It is a Pinckney policy that assignment books are to be sent home each day and signed by a parent.

All school-wide information will be sent home at a minimum of biweekly. Your child's teacher will inform you of when to expect signed papers and information from the classroom.

Each teacher has an email address and is required to check email daily. We encourage parents to take advantage of this means of communication.

DONATIONS, PHILANTHROPIES, AND CHARITIES

Pinckney does not hold typical fundraisers, such as product sales. Instead, we ask for parents to donate annually to the **Park West Campus Education Fund** (see details below).

We do, however, believe it is important to have students realize the impact that their generous efforts can make. Therefore, each year, the staff votes on **three** charities for our school to support. While we recognize that there are many meaningful charities, we plan to choose **only three per year** in an effort to curtail the "nickel and diming" of our families. Please do not ask us to sponsor any other philanthropic events. The only exceptions would be those to support a Pinckney family during a serious crisis or tragedy.

What is the Park West Campus Education Fund?

The PWCEF was established to support the 3 schools (Laurel Hill, Pinckney and Cario) and their students. The fund provides resources and opportunities for our children that are not funded by our school district.

- Our schools keep all of the funds raised, whereas in typical fundraisers, the fundraising company would keep 40-50% of the sales.
- Your donation is tax deductible.

Why is it important to donate to the Ed Fund?

In order for our students to have access to resources and opportunities above and beyond what other schools have, the Ed Fund must be successful. If the Ed Fund does not raise enough money to support our campus' needs, we must revert back to traditional, door-to-door product sales/fundraising.

FLYERS AND ADVERTISING

Charleston County policy prohibits soliciting on school grounds. Therefore, we are unable to send home flyers/advertisements from personal businesses. We will continue to share Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation offerings and any CCSD or community sponsored (non-profit) activity that the administration feels would benefit our students.

RECESS

Recess is scheduled daily, weather permitting. Teachers and the administration will determine which activities constitute safe play. On occasion, students who do not complete homework or classwork may be asked to do so during their recess time. When students need to miss some play time as a consequence for poor choices or behavior, we prefer that students walk a few laps (at their own chosen pace), around the playground, thereby losing some play time, but also getting exercise time.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays will be announced on the school-wide news show. Your child may come to the front office to receive a birthday pencil on his/her special day. It is acceptable to bring a special treat for the class on your child's birthday, provided you offer this to the class only at lunch and not during class time. Please be mindful of any food allergies that students may have. Please do not send balloons, flowers, etc. to the school. Also, although we appreciate you wanting to recognize teachers' birthdays, please do not plan birthday parties for your child's teacher, during instructional time.

FIELD TRIPS

We welcome parents as chaperones for field trips. Chaperones are required to be cleared through our school's security screening process by completing the [Volunteer Application](#). If you choose to attend a trip with your child's class, please do not bring other children with you. As a chaperone, you will help serve in a supervision role for Pinckney students and this will require your utmost attention to them.

If the field trip ends with 1 hour or more of the school day remaining, we request that you allow your child to return back to school to complete the day.

If you choose to drive your own vehicle on a field trip, only your own child is permitted to ride with you.

GRADING POLICIES

We abide by the Charleston County grading scale, which is as follows:

A=90-100
B=80-89
C=70-79
D=60-69
F= below 60

Test Revisions Policy:

It is at the teachers' discretion as to whether students can make revisions to tests (or re-take tests) on which the child has not shown mastery of skills. If a teacher does allow revisions, it should always be for the purpose of verifying students' learning, not for the purpose of reaching honor roll or principal's list status.

Principals' List and Honor Roll

In order to make the **Principal's List**, a student must have the following on the report card:

- 90 or above in content areas (not an average of all areas together)
- Includes special area grades and excludes handwriting

In order to make the **Honor Roll**, a student must have the following on the report card:

- 80 or above in content areas (not an average of all areas together)
- Includes special area grades and excludes handwriting

HOMEWORK PHILOSOPHY

Spending time with family each day is critical to the welfare and happiness of children. Therefore, time together as a family is precious. Rather than spending the evenings completing worksheets, workbook pages, and projects, we believe it is important for families to interact with each other through such activities as reading, writing, and talking about their day.

Parents who encourage an active lifestyle by discouraging idleness and by helping guide their children's time into wholesome activities provide their children with tools and experiences for healthy bodies and minds.

Homework Expectations:

- Nightly reading and math practice/problem solving.
- Teachers may assign specific topics or subjects for reading.
- The student is responsible for having his assignment book signed by a parent/guardian each night.

How long should homework take to complete?

3rd Grade~ 30 minutes

4th Grade~ 40 minutes

5th Grade~ 50 minutes

The following are suggestions for helping your child with school work:

- Help establish a consistent, organized place for homework to be done.
- Encourage, motivate, and prompt your child, but do not do the homework for him (unless the teacher indicates that the assignment is a family activity). The purpose of the homework is for your child to practice and use what he has learned. If your child is consistently not able to do the homework by himself, please contact the teacher.
- Although there might be occasional exceptions, the minutes your child should spend on homework should equal approximately 10 times her grade level (example: a 3rd grader, 30 minutes).
- If your child is unable to complete the homework in the time outlined, please jot the teacher a note in the homework agenda book. We do not want children spending all evening on homework assignments.

PINCKNEY'S DRESS CODE

- Close-toed shoes are required. Also, backless shoes and those with greater than a ½ inch heel are not permitted.
- Athletic shoes should be worn on PE days.
- Shorts and skirts must be as long as pinkie fingertip when hands are beside student's legs.
- When leggings are worn, the accompanying top must be as long as the pinkie fingertip when hands are beside student's legs.
- Shirts must have, at minimum; cap sleeves (no halter tops, spaghetti straps, or tank tops).
- Shirts may not show midriff, back, or lower chest.
- Hats, bandanas, or headgear are not allowed.
- Hoods of hoodies should not be worn indoors.
- No heavy jackets may be worn indoors.
- Clothing must fit properly-- not oversized or too tight, and pants must fit at the waist
- Clothing must be free of holes and tears. No mesh or sheer clothing allowed.
- Clothing and accessories may not display profanity, suggestive phrases, weapons, or offensive/inflammatory graphics or statements.
- Any attire, make-up, accessory, or piercings that are determined to be unsafe or a distraction in the learning environment are not allowed.

Consequences for Dress Code Violations

1. Gentle written reminder from teacher/staff member
2. Formal letter home to parent
3. Principal will contact parent

What is MAP Testing?

M.A.P. (Measures of Academic Progress)

Q and A



What is the purpose of MAP?

The un-timed, computer-based MAP test is administered to students three times per year and generates diagnostic and prescriptive data regarding each child's instructional needs. The data serves as a "road map" for teachers as they plan for individual student's strengths and weaknesses. The data will not be used as part of the student's grade. By the end of each year, the cumulative MAP data will measure the extent of growth in student achievement. This is a CCSD required testing program.

In what other ways are these MAP scores helpful?

MAP data provides a reading Lexile Level for each child. Each book in our Media Center is labeled with a Lexile number that equates to a child's reading ability. To ensure that students are challenged, they should read books on, or around, their Lexile range. MAP data is also used to differentiate instruction and to group children for instruction based on their common strengths and weaknesses.

What if the test is too difficult or too easy for my child?

The test is adaptive; meaning that a child's response to one question will actually determine the difficulty of the question that follows. In addition, the questions are aligned with our SC Curriculum Standards.

What if my child fails the test?

The MAP test is not a pass/fail test. Remember, it is used to determine strengths and weaknesses.

Who oversees the testing?

Your child's teacher, along with a MAP testing proctor will oversee the testing. Typically, the entire class will go to the computer lab at the same time to test.

Will I receive MAP Reports regarding my child's performance?

Yes, your child's teacher will send you a report after each testing period. It does, however, take a few weeks after completion of the test to generate the reports to be sent home.

Does MAP data affect future class placement?

The middle schools use spring MAP scores as one of several indicators when determining class placement.

Special Areas/Related Arts

(one per day for every student)

TECHNOLOGY:

All of our students receive formal instruction by a certified teacher. In computer class, skills such as keyboarding, multi-media applications, and digital citizenship are emphasized and taught. In addition, each student has access to his/her own iPad, and Promethean boards are used in every classroom.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our Physical Education classes support physical fitness, positive self-concept, nutrition, and overall healthy lifestyles.

ART:

The art program at Pinckney provides each student with the opportunity to express themselves through a wide range of artistic media including painting, drawing, printmaking, weaving, collage and ceramics. Students at each grade level are instructed in both art history and art making which follow both the National Art Curriculum and the South Carolina Art Curriculum. All students display their artwork in May at our Family Art Night.

MUSIC:

The music program is designed to give each student an opportunity to study music in a variety of ways. Students are introduced to music history and theory. In addition, they experience music through singing, moving, and playing instruments. Many different cultures are studied in music class, which enables students to develop several types of listening vocabularies. At Pinckney, the children will experience a comprehensive music education. Music class occurs once during the six-day rotation.

Support Services

GUIDANCE:

The Guidance Program at Pinckney is designed to meet the needs, interests and concerns of our parents and students. Classroom guidance is proactive; topics include responsibility, social skills, and safety. However, our biggest emphasis is on our Anti-Bullying Program.

Small group sessions are offered on topics such as friendship, divorce, and study skills. We emphasize a sense of "family" and cooperation in our school. Our counselor consults with parents, teachers, and administrators to help meet students' needs. The counselor also coordinates special programs such as Red Ribbon Week and Terrific Kids.

MEDIA CENTER:

We are very excited about Pinckney's Media Program. We have an "open" media center in which students may use the Media Center at any time with teachers' permission. This "open" concept, implemented in many schools across the nation, allows students to become proficient information seekers, a necessary skill in today's rapidly changing world. Our Media Specialist teaches research and library skills to students as they actually do the research. We want our students to choose to read for pleasure. Please help us with this goal by encouraging your child to read for enjoyment. We invite you to visit (or volunteer in) our beautiful Media Center.

KALEIDOSCOPE:

Kaleidoscope is an extended day program sponsored by CCSD's Community School. Childcare is provided, for a fee, after school for those who are enrolled. **The phone number for Kaleidoscope is 216-6612 and the director is Trina Noonan.** The Pinckney Elementary administration does not oversee or supervise this program. The school simply offers the space necessary to provide the childcare.

SAIL (Gifted and Talented Program):

Our program for gifted and talented students follows the guidelines developed by the state and by our school district. Students are nominated for SAIL testing by parents and classroom teachers. The results of this test determine if a student qualifies for SAIL. Students who qualify for SAIL attend special classes each week. Students will not be penalized for work missed while out of the regular classroom.

Extracurricular Opportunities

STRINGS/ORCHESTRA:

Fifth grade students who are interested in learning to play strings instruments may join this early morning class. Students have the opportunity to perform several times during the course of the school year. In addition, this class prepares students for orchestra try-outs, which are held once students reach the middle school level.

WCPE NEWS TEAM (school news show)

Students will have the opportunity to try out for the WCPE News Show. This show, which is directed, filmed, and reported by the students, showcases news, lunch menus, birthdays, and special events at our school. It airs at 7:30 on Wednesday mornings.

BASKETBALL TEAMS:

We have both boys and girls basketball teams. They are part of the Tri-County League and are coached by parent volunteers. Try-outs are part of the selection process, and a fee is required of those chosen to be on the team. We regret that third graders are not allowed to try-out due to the Tri- County League age requirements.

CHESS CLUB:

The chess club meets weekly after school. It is open for participation to all grade levels.

TENNIS TEAMS

Both boys and girls are invited to join our Pinckney tennis teams which get underway in the spring. Members will participate in tournaments.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council members are selected via an application and interview process. Council members make suggestions for the betterment of our school and sponsor various charity events during the school year.

BETA CLUB

The Beta Club is a student service organization. Members promote the ideals of service and leadership. Meetings and related events are held after school.

CHORUS

There are two chorus groups, one in the fall and another in the spring. Try-outs are required. Practices are early (before school) and several performance opportunities arise during the year.

STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Students in the fifth grade can apply to be an ambassador. Ambassadors are leaders in our school who give tours to visitors, promote kindness within our school, and support school initiatives.