

Pocopson Elementary School Glossary of Abbreviations, Events and Terms

4th Grade Skating Party - An ice skating party usually held in March for all 4th grade students district- wide at Ice Line in West Chester.

5th Grade Picnic - Usually held the Friday before Memorial Day weekend in May for all 5th grade students district-wide at Brandywine Picnic Park

Art in Action - An interactive, art appreciation program taught by volunteer parents (no experience needed, training provided) and run district-wide. The style and form of art varies year to year, and culminates in a large-scale project that all the children contribute to and is proudly displayed for years.

Art and Garden Celebration and Silent Auction - Often referred to in print as A&G. The PE PTO's largest fundraiser held the last Saturday in April. Activities and attractions include: a fun run, a bake sale, food concessions, a silent auction, adult and student craft vendors, kids' activities, crafts and games, and a spring plant sale.

AT - Academically Talented program is designed to meet the needs of students identified as gifted learners.

Back Pack Express - A way to send information or small items to other Pocopson parents by sending in to school in your student's backpack. Envelope or item should be marked with the receiving parents name, their student's name and the student's teacher.

Bag Lunch Program - Students in grades 4 and 5 learn about hunger in our community and how outreach can make a difference, are assigned a portion of a lunch item to bring in, then assemble lunches for a local homeless shelter during PSSA testing in the spring.

Black-top Only Recess - On occasions when it is excessively wet, or snowy students' outdoor recess is limited to the asphalt (or black-top) area outside of the gym.

Book Fair - A PTO-run fundraiser, held in February. Each class will attend the fundraiser during the school day. Books, small games and toys are available from Scholastic Books.

Bus Note/Green Note - A standardized form for communicating with the Pocopson Office. Although we commonly refer to this form as a “bus note,” they are used for more than transportation changes. It is also used as a late notice, an excuse note following a child missing school, and more. A computerized version of this form is available on the PES website.

CCIU - Chester County Intermediate Unit, provides services to the 12 school districts in Chester County. Additional information can be found at www.cciu.org.

CFE or CFES - Chadds Ford Elementary School, commonly called “Chadds Ford.” One of four elementary schools in our school district.

CFPMS -- Charles F. Patton Middle School, commonly called “Patton.” Patton is the only middle school in our school district, grades 6-8.

Coins for Kids - Children are encouraged to give pennies (and nickels, dime, quarters, etc.) during a week in mid to late September as a community service project. All money collected supports charities, particularly MLK Day of Service, bagged lunch program and school supplies for Stonehurst Hills Elementary. The grade levels have a spirited competition to see who can collect the most.

Cycle Day - Our school district runs on a six-day cycle schedule (A through F day) for specials areas of instruction. See also “specials.”

Donut Days - Coincides with the Book Fair. On one of three mornings, students may come to school early with a parent, grandparent or other special adult, enjoy coffee, juice and donuts and shop the book fair before school. Mornings are divided up alphabetically (A-H, I-P, and Q-Z).

Drop Off - Students can be dropped off in the morning in a drive through line at the side doors by the kindergarten classroom. The cafeteria is open where students can wait from 8:30 until 8:55 when they are dismissed to their classrooms.

Early Dismissal – Please see Half-Day Schedule.

Fall Open House - This year, open house will be held the Thursday evening before school starts and will allow the children and parents to visit their classrooms and meet their teacher and provide general information for the upcoming school year

Family Fun Night - Twice a year, the Pocopson community joins together for a fun, community night at school. Past Family Fun Nights themes have been Bingo, Family Hoe Down, Movie Night, Quizzo, etc.

Family Open House/Art Show - An event at the end of the school year open to all Pocopson families. Students are able to show off some of their best work for the year, particularly art work.

Field Day - A school-run outside event held during the school day in early June. All the children participate in fun activities. Children should wear sneakers, sunscreen, hats and should have water. They will be asked to wear a certain color of t-shirt to break them into groups. Activities often include water, so a change of clothes is recommended for later that day.

Fifth Grade Oldies Dance - In teams, the fifth graders compete in a lip-synch contest. Songs should be 20 years or older, and appropriate. Teams compete to represent Pocopson at a District- wide dance.

First in Math - An educational website (www.firstinmath.com) with games to help all levels of students learn math in a fun, interactive way. Each child is assigned a user ID and password. There are no advertising messages or links.

FOCUS -- Family Outreach Committee of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District, a parent network committee to promote healthy choices and behaviors for all youth in our school district through information and education.

Half-Day Schedule -- During a half-day or Early Dismissal Schedule, the students will end their day at 12:25. The Kindergarten schedule for these days is:

AM Kindergarten 9:10 -10:40 AM

PM Kindergarten 10:55 AM - 12:25 PM

Halloween Parade - All classes at Pocopson “parade” (usually on the morning of Halloween) out of the front of the building and proceed along the front of the building and re-enter in the kindergarten doors. Parents, grandparents, younger siblings and friends are welcome to see the kids, teachers and staff in their costumes. PM Kindergarten will “parade” around the inside of the building in the afternoon.

HE or HES -- Hillendale Elementary School, commonly called “Hillendale.”

IEP -- Individualized Education Program is the written plan for the education of a student who has disability or is gifted. It is based on the individual student's needs and describes the special help the student will receive in school.

i-Lab - Extra computer room that teachers can use with their students beyond their scheduled computer class.

Indoor Recess - When there is precipitation or it is exceptionally cold outside, the students may be kept in the building during recess.

IST - Instructional Support Team consists of various staff members, fielding student referrals from teachers who request assistance in meeting the individual learning needs of students.

Math in Focus - or Singapore Math is the curriculum for grades K-6 in UCFSD. It is a highly effective method of problem solving that builds a strong foundational understanding of math concepts.

Modified Kindergarten Schedule - In the event of a two-hour delay, Kindergarten will run on a modified schedule.

AM Kindergarten 11:10 AM - 12:55 PM PM Kindergarten 1:55 - 3:40 PM

Olweus- A bullying prevention program that is presented to students in grades K-5. It is designed to improve peer relations and make schools safer, more positive places for students to learn and develop.

Outdoor Classroom - Located outside, behind the gym, teachers can use the pond, native flower beds, herbs, etc. for observation, experiments and hands-on projects, enhancing the curriculum. There is amphitheater type seating in the hillside and a covered pavilion area with picnic tables where students can work.

Paraprofessional - Classroom aids

Patriot Pride - A week long fundraising event that occurs in the beginning of the school year to provide families with an opportunity to make a single direct donation that goes 100% to support the Pocopson student community. Organized through the PTO, it also focuses on building school spirit and promoting character values to kick off the school year. It ends in a big school fun run and family movie night.

PE or PES - Pocopson Elementary School, commonly called "Pocopson." PEPTO -- Pocopson Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization

PETV - Pocopson Elementary Television, an intra-school broadcast that begins the day providing information about the events of the day, the Pledge of Allegiance, etc. The "anchors" rotate, and are fifth grade students.

PSSA - Pennsylvania System of School Assessment is a state-mandated series of testing for 3rd through 5th Graders. Additional information can be found on the Pennsylvania Department of Education's website www.education.state.pa.us.

PTO - Parent-Teacher Organization

PTO General Meeting - Generally held on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:30 am. All parents at Pocopson are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Younger children are welcome. Twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring, PTO meetings will be held in the evening.

School Messenger - A system utilized by the district office, the building principal and the PTO to send emails to parents with important school/district related information such as school closures and delays, principal announcements and weekly PTO newsletters with information about events happening at Pocopson. This is the primary means and fastest method of communication for the district, principal, and PTO.

Singapore Math - or Math in Focus is the current curriculum for grades K-6 in UCFSD. It is a highly effective method of problem solving that builds a strong foundational understanding of math concepts.

Specials - Non-core academic classes, provided by a special area teacher. Special areas of instruction include Art, Band, Chorus, Computers, Library, Music, Physical Education and Strings.

Spirit Day - Students are asked to wear their Pocopson t-shirt or school colors.

Spirit Wear - Pocopson clothing available for purchase at various times of the year.

Third Grade Read-a-Thon - A special book themed evening for third grade students that is filled with activities, games, crafts, and guest readers. A book is usually chosen and given to the kids to read in the fall culminating with this evening in November.

Two Hour Delay - During inclement weather, school may have a two hour delayed start. Bus pick- up times will be two hours later than your regularly scheduled time. (For Kindergarten students, see “Modified Kindergarten Schedule.”)

UCFEF - Unionville-Chadds Ford Educational Fund is a non-profit charitable organization that raises and appropriates money for educational projects within the school district that are not currently funded within the school budget. Additional information available at www.ucfed.org.

UCFSD - Unionville-Chadds Ford School District is composed four elementary schools (Chadds Ford Elementary, Hillendale Elementary, Pocopson Elementary, Unionville Elementary), Charles F. Patton Middle School and Unionville High School. District Offices are located in the high school building. Additional information available at www.ucfsd.org.

UE -- Unionville Elementary, commonly referred to by its initials. One of four elementary schools in our school district.

UHS -- Unionville High School, commonly called “Unionville” or just “the high school” since we only have one. Sometimes at sporting events it is simply referred to as “U!”

Y-Care -- The Kennett Area YMCA provides before and after school care (7:00 to 8:55 am and 3:40 to 6:00 pm) and kindergarten care (9:10 to 12:45 or 11:25 to 3:25). Students are not bused; the YMCA uses a room within the building. Space is limited. Contact the YMCA for additional information www.ymcabwv.org or 610-444-9622.