

What East Ward Kindergarten and New Parents

May Want To Know

What is my child's teacher like? Downtown teachers are high energy teachers who are knowledgeable about child development and academic content that is standards-based. There will be an opportunity to meet your child's teacher in August prior to the start of school.

What does my child's classroom look like? Classrooms are set up to meet the instructional and social needs of children as well as the need for movement. All classrooms have access to the morning East Ward TV broadcast, additional computers for student work and many other resources to support instruction and student comfort.

General tour of the school building: Building tours are available during the school year for new families by scheduling an appointment with Ms. Celeste Alfieri, Guidance Counselor. A New Family Orientation is held during one evening the week prior to students returning to school. A building tour is included.

School start and end time: The instructional part of each day begins at 8:55. Students who arrive between 8:30 and 8:45 are monitored by staff on the playground or in the Large Group Room (LGI) if weather does not permit outdoor activities. A typical school day for Kindergarten is

AM kindergarten: 8:55 (bell rings) – 11:40

PM Kindergarten: 12:35 – 3:20

All others begin at 8:55 and end at 3:20.

What will my child's first day be like? Children will be greeted by staff as they exit buses and cars or walk to school on our opening days. All children will be escorted to the macadam playground where teachers will be waiting to assist in lining up children by class. A morning broadcast will welcome all, the instructional day will begin with "getting to know you" activities and the beginning of establishing routines. Wednesday envelopes, sometimes called the "Back Pack Express" will come home with your child the first day of school during the first week regardless of start day.

What will my child's basic routine be each day? You will receive this information during the New Family Orientation or from your child's teacher in the mail.





First day/week of school transportation procedures, in general and especially, “Who will greet my child when they arrive at school? What is the insurance of arrival at the proper classroom?” Your child’s bus schedule will be mailed to you from the DASD transportation office in August prior to the start of school. Adults greet children each day to escort them to homerooms.

Half day students are dismissed at 11:40AM by the classroom aide. Parents meet their children in the vestibule. A note must be written if your child will be picked up by someone other than a parent.

AM Kindergarten children: Arrival is same as students in Grades 1-5: Children line up in designated area-no playing. Dismissal is from the west end stairwell. Children are turned over to people who have been designated by parents.

PM Kindergarten: Arrival is between 12:30-12:35. Children line up in designated area on the front sidewalk. Classroom aides meet the children at 12:30 and wait with them for teachers to come out. Dismissal: Walkers and car riders are dismissed at 3:15 from playground door by nurse's room. Children are turned over to people who have been designated by parents. Bus students are dismissed to designated classrooms like the rest of the school and escorted to their buses.

What is the drop off/pick-up location for car riders and walkers? For the safety of all, please follow these plans for a safe drop off for children who are car riders.

1. Pull up to the yellow line area on the sidewalk as far as possible on the parking lot side of the school.
2. Student Safeties or adults may be available to open doors and assist your child in exiting the car in the UNLOAD area only. Children should exit the car from the passenger side only.
3. We will unload 3-4 cars at a time. Please move your car out of the unload area as soon as all children are on the sidewalk.
4. Parents of car riders should remain in their cars.
5. NO parking in the area marked NO PARKING.
6. Please do not pass cars ahead of you OR back up.
7. Please understand the importance of following car rider directions for the safety of all.

Thank you for your serious consideration of setting a safe example of good citizenship for our children.

Where to park? You may park in any legal parking space near the school.

How does the cafeteria account work Kindergarten children don't usually use the cafeteria account until they enter 1st grade. Procedural information is sent home with all students regarding the cafeteria account. Basically, parents or guardians deposit funds in the child’s lunch account, the account is activated with a password which is used by students while going through the lunch line.

What happens if my child becomes sick or is injured? Children are escorted to the nurse if they are too young or unable to navigate their way. The school nurse assesses needs and contacts parents.

What are current procedures for visiting the school and classroom/safety precautions to deter unwelcome visitors? Several years ago, we changed building access so that all doors to the instructional area are locked at 8:50 AM. Everyone must enter the office and sign in, pick up a visitor badge and sign out when leaving. We are mandated to practice safety drills monthly, we review each practice drill to see if we can add any improvements and encourage children to report anything that is a concern. I am pleased to say that we have not needed to change practices that have been taught to children over the course of the last few years.

What are the procedures in an emergency situation? We follow established drills, trust parents to go to the radio/TV to listen for updates or go to our website for updates from central office while we, as school personnel, are attending to our students and maintaining contact with local authorities who work closely with us in the event of an emergency.

What does communication between Home and School look like? We use the Backpack Express which is a Wednesday envelope that is sent home with each child each Wednesday. It contains important information about school, projects, etc. Many teachers send newsletters home, maintain a current web site and all have email access. You may also leave a voice mail message for your child's teacher. He or she will return your call within 24 hours. Please note that teachers are not available for a call during instructional time but are committed to responding to you asap. It is wise to set meetings in advance at a mutually agreeable time.



How will I learn of my child's school progress? Parent conferences are set several times a year and the report card (ESAR) is issued 3 times a year. Notes and calls are welcome any time if you wish to discuss your child's progress.

What opportunities are there for parent involvement? We have a very active Home & School Organization as well as numerous opportunities to volunteer in classrooms. Let the teacher and H&S officers know of your interest. The first H&S meeting of the year will be announced through the Backpack Express and parent newsletters.

Will someone be looking out for the younger children when they get off the daycare van/school bus to make sure they get to the kindergarten room? Absolutely. Our classroom aides greet the children each day and escort them to their rooms. At the end of the day, all teachers are assigned to a van or bus, each escorts all children in their group to the front to the van or bus each day.... rain or shine.

What is the teacher to student ratio? This is dependent upon enrollment and varies each year. District guidelines are 24 children per homeroom in grades K-2, 26 in grade 3 and 28 in grades 4&5. Our kindergarten usually has 21-22 children per class.

What are the expectations for a child entering kindergarten at the beginning of the year? Children should recognize their name visually, have exposure to school utensils including pencils, crayons, markers and scissors. Children should know the proper use of utensils, demonstrate proper bathroom habits, use of tissues, and should demonstrate responsibility for belongings. All children, in all grades, are assessed for academic readiness within the first 2 weeks of school. Differentiated Instruction is determined based on each child's instructional level.

What are the expectations for a child by the end of the school year? Please see the final page which is a copy of the Elementary Standards Achievement Report (ESAR).

When do parent teacher conferences occur? Conferences in Kindergarten are scheduled several times a year, however, you are welcome to contact your child's teacher to set up a conference at a mutually convenient time. Parent conferences for other grades occur prior to the closing of the first marking period. Parents and/or teachers may request a conference whenever it appears necessary to support progress toward instructional and behavioral goals.

What type of supplies do the children need to bring with them to school each day? Our request for supplies throughout the year will be minimal. We have begun to insure that parents need not forfeit a paycheck to purchase school supplies. We always welcome "softer" tissues than those we provide as well as hand sanitizer.

