



Kindergarten

Mrs. Birrell, Mrs. Harrison & Mrs. Perkins
Dunn's Corners Elementary School 2016-2017

Welcome to Kindergarten! We strongly believe in the importance of parental involvement in a student's education. As a role model, you are a very important part of your child's education. If a child sees your enthusiasm about learning, he or she will be enthusiastic! It is our goal to become partners with you in your child's education during this very important Kindergarten year. Research shows that children are most successful when families and schools work together.

PARENTS AND TEACHERS
WORKING TOGETHER IS...
A WINNING COMBINATION

"I dreamed I stood in a studio and watched two
sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young child's mind,
And they fashioned it with care.
One was a teacher,
The tools he used were books, music and art.
One, a parent
Who worked with a guiding hand,
and a gentle loving heart.
Day after day the teacher toiled
With a touch that was deft and sure,
While the parent labored by his side
And polished and smoothed it o'er.
And when at last their task was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought.
For the things they had molded into the child
Could neither be sold or bought.
And each agreed they would have failed,
If he had worked alone.
For behind the teacher stood the school,
And behind the parent, the home."

School Hours:

8:45-3:15 (Phone: 348-2320)

Home School Communication:

Communication between school and home is a very important part of your child's education. Throughout the school year, you will receive numerous newsletters, notices, forms and announcements. We are providing a folder in which your child will take home all of these notices. Notes to school may be placed in these folders, too. Please check the folder every evening and have your child return his/her empty folder every day to school in their backpacks.

Morning Arrival:

Students may enter the building at 8:25 a.m. Parents who arrive earlier than this time will be unable to access the building and are asked to remain with their child. In order to drop off car riders in the morning, please proceed to the front entrance of the school. Students should exit the car on the passenger side only. Parents are asked to remain in their cars and be prepared to move quickly when students exit the car. There is only one carpool line and students should never exit their cars in the parking area to walk through carpool traffic without a parent. Keep in mind that **students will walk through the building to the playground area or, during inclement weather, to the gym. Students will not be allowed to go to their classrooms until 8:40.** Please remember that students should be seated in the classrooms and ready to start the day by 8:45 a.m., so it is important they arrive on time. If students are late to school, parents/guardians must sign them in at the office. **Do not send students to the office alone to sign in.** Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately to return to school to sign in late students who are sent into the building alone.

During the first week of school, your kindergartener will be directed into the gym. From there, students will be directed to their Kindergarten classroom line. The Kindergarten teachers will meet their classes the first week of school and walk them down to their classrooms.

All visitors must enter through the main entrance and sign in at the office. Anything to be delivered to a student: e.g. lunch, money, books, may be left in the office.

Bus Routine:

The children are bused to and from school at their neighborhood bus stops. We ask that the children wear their bus/name tags every day for the first week of school. Everything your child brings to and from school must fit into his/her backpack. Your child is asked to keep all toys and trinkets at home. **Please label all items brought into school (backpacks, lunch bags, coats, hats, etc.)**

Dismissal:

- **Bus:** At the end of the day, all students riding buses home will be dismissed into the multi-purpose room where they will locate their bus line. When their bus has arrived, they will be escorted outside and loaded onto the neighborhood bus.
- **Pick-ups:**
In order to maximize instructional time and maintain an orderly school environment and safe dismissal, **no student may be checked out of the office between 2:45 and 3:15 p.m. unless it is an emergency.** All students will be kept in the building during dismissal time.
- **Dunn's Corners School provides an automobile delivery service for all students who are parent/guardian pickup. All students participating in this service require**

an identification number. Please visit the office to obtain a family number or to add a child to the pickup list.

- **To ensure the safety of students during dismissal only parents, guardians or adults listed on the emergency care list will be allowed to pick up students. If an adult other than those listed is to pick up your child, a gold Change of Dismissal form must be completed and sent in with your child the morning of the change. Students will not be dismissed to anyone who is not listed on either the emergency contact list or on the Change of Dismissal form. Identification will be requested at the time of dismissal. Changes to persons responsible for picking up your child will no longer be accepted over the phone.**
- A crossing guard will be on-site to help facilitate safe and orderly carpool lines. Because of our limited pickup area, we strongly encourage parents to remain in their cars. Individual students are called and escorted to their cars as their rides arrive. **Drivers will form two lines in a one-way direction** (see map by clicking here).
- Please observe Plateau Rd during dismissal time as a **one-way street from West to East**. The purpose of this is to alleviate congestion of busses and cars at the top of the hill on the western side of the building. Please see attached map.
- Please observe a maximum speed of **10 miles per hour** during arrival and dismissal times.

Fantastic Attendance:

Dunn's Corners School has a new initiative to encourage and reward attendance at our school. A committee has been formed to promote a positive approach to encouraging optimal attendance in our school. We will be presenting student awards this year for excellent attendance. The committee hopes to educate families about attendance expectations. "Fantastic Attendance" will be recognized for those students who either miss no school days, or those who miss only days with a doctor's note. Honorable Mention will go to students with one verified absence (parent calls in). Students with 2 verified absences will be recognized as well. **Please call the school when your child is absent. (348-2320)** We hope our families will come to understand that unexcused and unverified absences are unlawful absences. Unexcused and unverified early dismissals and tardiness also are unlawful. **We want our students to take pride in the responsible behavior of excellent school attendance. This year we will be rewarding students on a trimester basis for fantastic attendance!!!**

Snack:

Please send your child to school with a healthy snack daily. Fruit, vegetable, crackers, cheese, yogurt, juice and water make for nutritious snacks. This request follows the Westerly Public School District Student Nutrition policy(#5010).

See snack paper for more suggestions.

Please keep in mind that snacks may need to be altered if there is a nut tree allergy in the classroom. Classroom teachers will inform students and parents of change.

Recess/Lunch:

Your child will enjoy supervised time out on the playground with the recess assistants daily 12:30-12:50 pm. Students in Kindergarten will eat lunch every day from 12:50-1:10 pm. Your child has the option to bring a lunch from home or purchase a meal from the cafeteria. Hot lunch which includes milk can be purchased for \$2.45 per day. Each student has his/her own PIN number and is able to apply payments to an individual ID cafeteria account. Your child simply brings in a labeled envelope/bag with their name and cash or a check (made out to WPS Lunch Program) to the cafeteria at lunch time. Payment will be applied and set up as a debit account. The cashier will inform students that their account is low and replenishment of funds is needed. Milk may also be

purchased for \$0.55. If your child is purchasing milk daily, it easier to send in a set amount of money for their account.

Clothes:

To help foster independence, please have your child wear comfortable clothing that he/she can button/snap themselves. Kindergarten is fun, interactive and messy! Please supply an extra set of clothing in the event an accident occurs. Have your child store the extra clothes in a labeled zip lock bag in his/her backpack. Appropriate footwear is required (no sandals/flip flops or backless shoes). **Please remember to label all articles of clothing including sweaters, sweatshirts, coats, hats and gloves**

Specials:

Every day, your child will have the opportunity to attend (gym, music, art or library). Also weekly, your child will have **Health** semester 1 and **FLESS (Spanish)** semester 2. **Students attend gym twice per week. Please make sure that your child wears sneakers to school on those days.**

Homework:

A child's success as a reader begins much earlier than the first day of school. Reading and a love for reading begins at home. Across all grade levels at Dunn's Corners Elementary school, students are expected to read at home each day. **We ask that your child establish a nightly routine of reading at least 10-15 minutes per evening. Please help your kindergartner complete the reading log nightly and return to school the following Monday. New reading logs will be issued on Mondays.**

Family Tree:

We have a family tree in our classroom. Currently, the tree is bare! Please help your child select a couple of pictures of family members. We will hang them on the tree. The pictures are used to help the children feel more comfortable in their new environment and "show" their family all the great work they are doing!