



Douglas Primary School

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Dr. Paul Vieira, Superintendent
Cindy Socha, Principal

August 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians of Douglas Primary School Students:

Welcome to the start of the 2023-2024 school year! I hope your family is having a restful and relaxing summer. This summer has been a busy one for us at the Douglas Primary School as we prepared for the beginning of a new school year.

Douglas Primary had a great year last year and made so much progress academically. Students in Kindergarten ended the year with 89% of the students at/above grade level in reading. Grade 1 ended the year with 92% of the students at/above grade level in reading and 95% at/above grade level in math. In addition, Douglas Primary was ranked 1st in the state for percentage of puzzles solved using ST Math!

The first day of school is **Wednesday, August 30, 2023 for Grade 1 students. Preschool students will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 5th and Kindergarten will start on Wednesday, Sept. 6th.**

The purpose of this letter is to share with you information that you will need to know in order to get the school year off to an excellent start for you and your child! This letter will also be posted on our District website for your reference, at dps.douglasps.net. Bus routes will be posted on our website when made available and will be published in the Blackstone Valley Tribune.

School Hours:

<u>Grades K and 1</u>	Bus/Parent Drop off	8:15
	Tardy	after 8:25
	Dismissal	2:55
<u>Preschool</u>	AM	8:30-11:15
	PM	11:50-2:35
	Full Day	8:30-2:35

Bus Arrival/Departure:

Buses will pull up in the morning directly in front of the Primary School. As students exit the bus, staff members will be posted outside to help guide students into the building safely. At dismissal time, the buses will again be loaded directly in front of the Primary School. **Please have your child wear a name tag with their bus number written clearly on it.**

Parent Drop-Off:

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We suggest that students who are eligible to ride the bus do so – especially during the first few weeks of school – to allow drivers to become familiar with the students on their bus. This will also help improve the flow of traffic during drop-off and pickup times.

Please observe these guidelines if you are dropping off your child in the morning:

- ❖ All students should remain in their vehicles until staff members arrive outside at 8:15.
- ❖ Please **park** in the parking lot and **walk** your child to the sidewalk where staff members will greet you. **Please do not walk in between the buses.**
- ❖ Be aware that buses are dropping students off at the same time and will need to proceed to the Elementary School. Buses have the right of way.
- ❖ Please continue to drive down the hill to exit via Route 16.
- ❖ Please be patient, and stay in a single line! It is important not to try to bypass the line, as passing other cars, or forming a double line, is extremely dangerous.
- ❖ As you proceed down the hill, please be prepared to **yield for the buses** pulling into the lower parking lot.
- ❖ **Please allow adequate time for this process.** The line can back up and move slowly, despite everyone's best efforts. Your child is still expected to be in school on time.
- ❖ **If you have children in both schools, there is parking available between the schools.**

Preschool drop off and pick up:

Parents are asked to park in the main parking lot or along the rail or behind the school near the track and walk their child to the preschool entrance on the far right of the building. Once the buses have pulled out, preschool parents may park along the front of the school, but NOT in the fire lane (painted yellow). Preschool staff will greet the children from 8:25 to 8:35am. and 11:50-11:55 for the pm session.

Fire Lane:

Students whose parents are dropping them off late or picking them up early should enter and sign their child in/out in the Main Office. **Please do NOT park directly in front of the building in the Fire Lane.**

Parent Pick-Up:

If you plan to pick up your child **every day**, please email Penny Hannon phannon@douglasps.net with that information. If you just plan to pick up your child on the first day or first week of school, please email Penny or send in a note stating the dates and who will be receiving your child.

If your child will not be riding a bus, please follow the procedures outlined below to pick up your child:

- ❖ Be sure to **send a note to your child's teacher each day that they are going to be picked up.**
- ❖ Parents must park and come to the door along Davis Street to pick up their child. Parking is available along Gleason Court and in the marked spaces on Davis Street.
- ❖ When picking up your child, present your driver's license to a staff member at the door and sign out that you have received your child.
- ❖ When leaving, please continue down Davis Street and exit onto Route 16.

Kindergarten Orientation

Since most Kindergarten students are new to the Primary School, the Kindergarten teachers and I would like to invite **the students and parents** to join us on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 for Kindergarten Orientation. This Orientation will give us a chance to answer all of your questions and show you our wonderful Primary School and all that we have to offer. You will also be able to meet your Kindergarten teacher and some of the friends who will be at the Primary School with you and also to drop off your school supplies.

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The information is as follows:

All last names beginning with A-K 9:00-9:45
All last names beginning with L-Z 10:00-10:45

Kindergarten will start school on Wednesday, Sept. 6th.

Supply Drop Off- Grade 1

Grade 1 students and parents are invited to drop off their supplies on Tuesday, August 29th, from 2:00 to 3:00.

Preschool Orientation:

Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes and all full day classes will have their Orientation on Wednesday, August 30th from 9:00-9:45. Tuesday/Thursday classes will have their Orientation Thursday, August 31st from 9:00-9:45.

Tuesday/Thursday preschoolers will start on Tuesday, Sept. 5th and Mon/Wed/Fri students will start on Wednesday, Sept. 6th.

No School Friday, Sept. 1st or Monday, September 4th.

Snacks/Lunch (Full Day Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grade 1):

Please provide your child with a healthy snack and drink each day. School lunches will cost \$3.50. Milk may be purchased for \$0.65. Parents can sign up for the online school meal payments by visiting www.myschoolbucks.com. Students who qualify to receive free and reduced lunch will be handled on an individual basis, per the status of their application.

The Douglas Primary School will be offering “Grab & Go” for students at snack time as a way to support their nutritional need. Cost is \$2.25. Students will have the opportunity to select from a variety of Whole Grains, Yogurt, String Cheese, Juice, Fresh Fruit, and Milk. To make Grab & Go quick & easy for students and staff, they will be labeled and packaged for easy transport to the classroom during snack time. Keep in mind that perishable foods such as milk, juice, string cheese and yogurt must be consumed by the students immediately after service as a food safety precaution.

Lastly, if a student chooses only to select a single milk, fruit, or bottled water during snack time or Lunch, they must have prepaid funds or cash/check for their student account as those single items are considered “a-la carte” and are not included under a snack time or Lunch.

If you have any questions, call the Department of Food Service at 508-476-3332 x2253.

Important Dates/Forms:

The beginning of every school year involves a great deal of activity, paperwork, and deadlines. We’d like to take this opportunity to make you aware of some important dates as well as a list of some of the forms and documents we will need you to complete. Please be sure to check the back of each form!

- ❖ School pictures for Kindergarten, Grade 1, and MWF Preschool will be taken on **Wednesday, September 20, 2023**. School pictures for Tues. /Thurs. Preschool is **Thursday,**

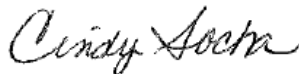
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September 21, 2022. Picture ordering packets will be sent home with students a few days before the date.

- ❖ The student handbook will be available on the district website (www.douglasps.net). Printed copies will also be available in the office upon request. Please complete the sign-off sheet by **September 15th**, indicating that you are aware that the handbook contains the expectations needed to make our school a safe, comfortable, and respectful place, and that you are aware of where to access the handbook electronically as well.
- ❖ Several other important forms will be sent home with your child in the first day packet. Please complete all of these forms as quickly as possible. They should be returned to school no later than **September 15th**.
- ❖ CORI forms need to be completed in order to volunteer /chaperone at the school. **They need to be renewed every year.** Please complete and attach a copy of your driver's license and return by **September 15th**.
- ❖ The PTO welcomes your participation as well! This group conducts fundraising and provides special enrichment experiences for our students, and we so appreciate all that the PTO does for our students. There are many volunteer opportunities available and details will be sent home in the opening day packets.
- ❖ Our **Open House and Book Fair** will take place on **Thursday, September 14th, for Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grade 1 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.** Please note: This will be a Half Day of school with dismissal at 11:55. **All Preschool classes will dismiss at 11:15 AM. No PM Preschool on half days.** We invite you to take this opportunity to meet your child's teachers and see their classrooms!
- ❖ Field Trip for Kindergarten and Grade 1 students: Southwick Zoo, Thursday, October 12th. Parents are welcome to join us but no siblings please. More information will be sent home. All parent chaperones will need an updated CORI form on file.

Please remember that we are a latex and nut safe facility. Working together, we can ensure the safety of all of our students. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Best wishes for a great start to what I'm sure will be a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,



Mrs. Cindy Socha,
Primary School Principal

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