

Fairfield Public Schools



School Guidelines and Practices

School's Mission/Vision

ROARS

The mission of North Stratfield Elementary School, in partnership with families and community, is to ensure that every student acquires the knowledge and skills needed to be a lifelong learner, responsible citizen, and successful participant in an ever-changing global society through a comprehensive educational program. The fulfillment of this mission is for all students at North Stratfield to emulate (ROARS) **R**espect, **O**wnership, **A**wareness, **R**esponsibility and **S**afety.

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS' MISSION:

The mission of the Fairfield Public Schools, in partnership with families and community, is to ensure that every student acquires the knowledge and skills needed to be a lifelong learner, responsible citizen, and successful participant in an ever-changing global society through a comprehensive educational program.

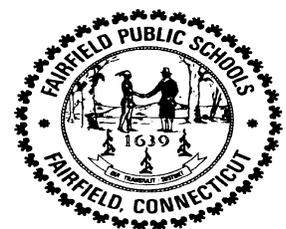


Table of Contents

General School Information

Central Office Information

Contact Information

Board of Education Information

Board Members

Meeting Dates

Principal Message

School Staff Information

Communication

Infinite Campus

Issues with Infinite Campus

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Arrival

Dismissal

Change of plans

Before and After School Care

Emergency Procedures

Lockdown

Fire Drills

Cancellations/Emergency Closings/Delayed Openings

Celebrations

Emergency Alert Systems

Schedules and Calendars

A-E Calendar

School Calendar

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Open House

Progress Reports

SBA

NGSS

Cogats and Nagleri

STAR Assessments

Special Schedule

School Policies and Procedures

Field Trips

Dress Code

Visitation

Communication

Homework

Absences

Recess and Lunch Procedures

Schedule

Food Policies

Free and Reduced Lunch

Nut Free Table

Menu

Birthday Celebrations

Whitson's Food Services

Program and Support Services

Language Arts Support
Math and Science Support
Speech and Language Support
Psychologist/Social Worker
Library Learning Commons
Special Education
STEAM
Gifted Program

Curriculum

SRBI

Health

A Note from our Nurse
Policies on Medication in Schools
Physical Assessments/Immunizations
Screenings
Students with Special Health Needs
Behavior and Civic Expectations

Volunteers and Visitation

Safety and Behavior

School Rules and Behavior Expectations
Bus Expectations
Transportation Office
Recess and Lunch Expectations
Items not permitted in school
Bullying Policy

Technology

Safety and Student Use
Electronics
Publishing of Student Images

PTA

PTA Welcome Letter
PTA Executive Board Members

General School Information

NORTH STRATFIELD SCHOOL

FAIRFIELD, CT 06824

PHONE: (203) 255-8322

FAX: (203) 255-8206

STUDENT ABSENTEE LINE: (203) 255-8416

WEB SITE: <https://ns.fairfieldschools.org/>

Leadership Team

Principal.....Deborah K. Jackson
Elementary Program Facilitator.....Mary Dolan Collette
Language Arts SpecialistJessica Brinsmade
Language Arts SpecialistDarcy Stiber
Library Media Center Specialist.....Greg Foschi
Math/Science Specialist.....Allison Karas
Psychologist.....Dr. Corie Goldman
Social Worker.....Dr. Peter Tolk

Office Staff - Hours 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

School Secretary.....Mari Kathein
Part-Time Secretary.....Eileen Judd
Part-Time Secretary.....Bryce Perry
School Nurse.....Rachel Jarvis

Custodial Staff

Head Custodian.....Pat Teto
Night Custodian.....Angel Bernudez

School Hours

Grades K-5 8:55 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.
Early Dismissal 8:55 A.M. to 1:40 P.M.
Delayed Opening 10:55 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

**Student drop-off begins at 8:45 A.M. Please do not drop-off students before that time
(unless specific arrangements have been made) as there is no adult supervision available until 8:45 A.M.**

Other Important Phone Numbers

PHONE NUMBERS		WEB SITES	
ABSENTEE CALL-IN LINE:	203-255-8416	FPS Web Site:	https://www.fairfieldschools.org/
EARLY CLOSING HOTLINE:	203-255-TALK (8255)	PTA Web Site:	https://nsspta.membershiptoolkit.com/home

Central Office Information

Superintendent and Central Office

Ctrl + Click on a name to send an e-mail directly to the person listed.

Stephen Tracy, Ed.D.	Interim Superintendent of Schools	203-255-8371
Kanicka Ingram	Executive Director of Human Resources Title IX Coordinator	203-255-8462
Courtney LeBorious	Chief Financial Officer	203-255-8383
Robert Mancusi	Executive Director of Special Education and Student Services	203-255-8379
Angelus Papageorge	Executive Director of Operations	203-255-8373
Zakia Parrish, Ph.D.	Deputy Superintendent	203-255-8372
James Zavodjancik, Ed.D.	Chief Academic Officer	203-255-8372
Janine Goss	Director of Elementary Education and PK12 Literacy	

Directors

Ctrl + Click on a name to send an e-mail directly to the person listed.

Nancy Byrnes	Director of Technology	203-255-8367
Justine LaSala	Director of Secondary Science and STEAM	203-255-8282
Lisa Olivere	Director of Social Studies and Student Centered Learning	203-255-8281
Paul Rasmussen, Ed.D.	Director of Secondary Math and Student Achievement	203-255-735
Jennifer Swingler, Ed.D.	Director of Secondary Literacy and Learning	203-255-8286
Walter Wakeman	Director of Elementary Math, Science and Enrichment	203-255-7368

Board of Education Information

Board of Education Members

Ctrl + Click on a name to send an e-mail directly to the person listed.

Christine Vitale	Board Chairman
Nick Aysseh	Board Vice-Chairman
Jessica Gerber	Board Secretary
Carol Guernsey	Board Member
Jennifer Jacobsen	Board Member
Crissy Kelly	Board Member
Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly	Board Member
Jeff Peterson	Board Member
Bonnie Rotelli	Board Member

Board of Education Meeting Dates 2022

Tuesday, August 30, 2022	Regular
Tuesday, September 13, 2022	Regular
Tuesday, September 29, 2022	Regular
Tuesday, October 11, 2022	Regular
Tuesday, October 25, 2022	Regular
Tuesday, November 15, 2022	Regular
Tuesday, November 29, 2022	Organizational/Regular
Thursday, December 8, 2022	Special, Town Hall
Tuesday, December 13, 2022	Regular

All meetings begin at 7:30 PM unless otherwise noted and take place at 501 Kings Highway East, Second Floor



Principal's Message

August 26, 2022

Dear NSS Families:

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year. We are looking forward to having our students and families back to our building. It has been a busy summer getting ready for the return of our students. The teachers and staff are looking forward to a great school year.

We have a fine faculty, and we will work as a team to keep your children happy, safe, and engaged in learning and growing together.

Thank you for being our partners as we work together to take care of our students and one another.

Best regards,
Debbie Jackson
Principal



School Staff Information

North Stratfield School Staff Roster 2022-2023

Principal	Deborah K. Jackson
Main Office Secretary	Mari Kathein
Clerical Secretaries	Eileen Judd (am) & Bryce Perry (pm)
Nurse	Rachel Jarvis

Elementary Program Facilitator	Mary Dolan Collette
Language Arts Specialists	Jessica Brinsmade & Darcy Stiber
Math/Science Resource Teacher	Allison Karas
Library Media Specialist	Gregory Foschi

Kindergarten

"K-H"	Paula Healey
"K-K"	Elizabeth Keresev
"K-R"	Kristin Rollinson

Grade 3

"3-B"	Harry Bartlett
"3-M"	Karen Myers
"3-O"	Jessica O'Keefe

Grade 1

"1-B"	Cheryl Banner
"1 -O"	Kayla Onderko
"1-P"	Kathleen Pisciotta
"1-S"	Caitlin Sierra

Grade 4

"4-MK"	Kristen Mancini
"4-MG"	Gina Marcheschi
"4-P"	Steve Porricelli

Grade 2

"2-C"	Jennifer Champagne
"2-H"	Nicole Hackney
"2-K"	Kathleen Kane
"2-S"	Emily Summa

Grade 5

"5-F"	Jessica Furey
"5-G"	Robert Gillen
"5-W"	Matthew Wendin

Psychologist	Dr. Corie Goldman	Social Worker	Dr. Peter Tolk
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Special Education	Tracie Alley Erica Murray Pamela Sevilla	Marissa Flores Kathleen White
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Speech/Language	Beverly Passley	ELL	Laura Baker
Occupational Therapist	Nicole Beach & Kacey Wright	Physical Therapist	Tracy Hoppock
Gifted	Tanya Rahn	STEAM	Brian Jasgur & Lauren Noonan
Art	Brittany Mansi	Spanish	Sue Welch & Laura Williams
Physical Education	Jake Lahiff	*Marc Hilinski (p/time)	
Music	Ashley Zdravec	*Lorraine Fiero (p/time)	
Band	Patty DiMeglio	Orchestra	Jen Ficks

Intern: Victoria Schramm	Building Substitute	TBA
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Paraprofessionals

Cheryl Bartush	Sherry Miro
Kelsey McKissick	Louise Vezina
Judy Lockmiller	Kristina Linderoth

Media Technician	Sue Dowling	Cafeteria Manager	Lory Moomjian
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REACHING STAFF BY E-MAIL

Use firstinitiallastname, followed by: @fairfieldschools.org

Example: jbrown@fairfieldschools.org

IMPORTANT LINKS

Link to Infinite Campus Information

<https://fairfieldct.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/parents/fairfield.jsp>

Link to Transportation

<https://www.fairfieldschools.org/departments/finance/transportation>

Link to Food Services

<https://www.fairfieldschools.org/departments/finance/food-services>

Link to school's Website

<https://ns.fairfieldschools.org/>

Link to the NSS PTA Website

<http://www.nsspta.org/>

Communication

Infinite Campus

Demographic and Emergency Contact Information changes may be made through the parent portal at <https://fairfieldct.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/fairfield.jsp> with the following exceptions:

- Student's legal name
- Student's address
- Student's birth date

If any of these areas need to be changed, changes **must** be made at Central Office with appropriate paperwork and a parent/guardian **must** schedule an appointment with the registrar at 203-255-8377.

If your household does not have Internet access or if you feel you might need help completing the forms, please contact our registrar at 203-255-8377. The registrar can make arrangements for you to use a computer at the Central Office to update your family's record and at the same time receive assistance, if needed. This system may also be used to register new students. Simply login to the website as described above, using your family login and click on the area for "new student."

Please add the address <https://fairfieldct.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/fairfield.jsp> to your internet browser to access the new online student information system (Safari, Internet Explorer, Chrome, and Firefox).

Issues with Infinite Campus

If you have any questions about this process or trouble accessing the portal, you can email reghelp@fairfieldschools.org and they will help you resolve your issue promptly.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Hours of Operation

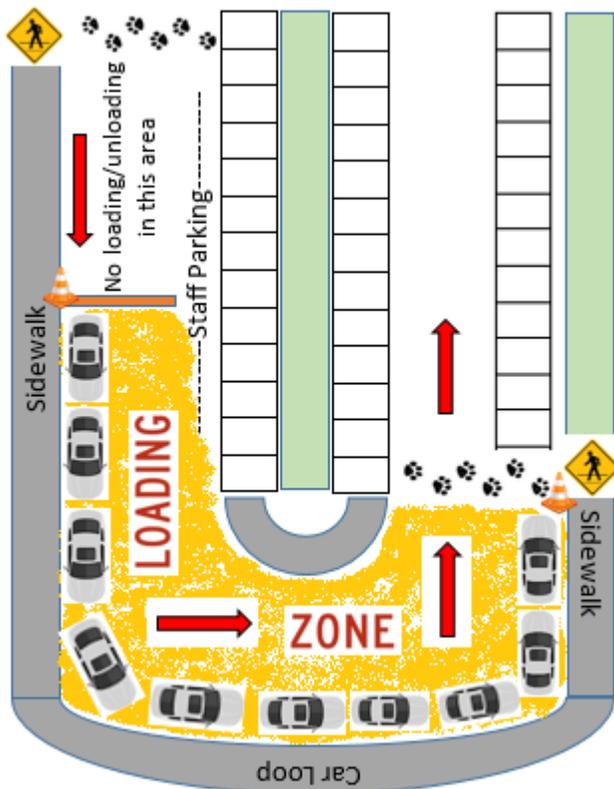
Grades K-5	8:55 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.
Early Dismissal	8:55 A.M. to 1:40 P.M.
Delayed Opening	10:55 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Occasionally, inclement weather makes it prudent for the safety of students to have a delayed opening or early dismissal. Delayed openings are 2 hours after the normal start time and early dismissals are approximately 2 hours before the normal dismissal time.

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to listen to the local radio and television stations for specific information or call Fairfield Public Schools Talkline at (203) 255-TALK (8255). Emergency messages will also be issued to the contact phone numbers and email addresses provided by the parents via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

Arrival Procedures

- Building doors will open for student arrival at **8:45 A.M.** **Please do not drop your child off before 8:45 A.M. as there is no adult supervision available until that time.**
- Students arriving on buses will enter through APR doors at 8:45 A.M.
- Students arriving after 9:00 AM should be escorted to the front entrance by the parent/guardian. Please ring the doorbell to be **signed in by the main office.**



Change of Dismissal Procedures

Each student begins the school year with a transportation calendar assignment on Infinite Campus:

Bus: The bus assignment means that the student lives far enough away from school to warrant a bus for transportation to and from school each day.

Walker: If the student is not assigned to a bus, the Infinite Campus transportation record will remain blank. This means that the student is a walker and lives close enough to walk to and from school each day.

The Infinite Campus transportation calendar assignment is the student's default dismissal plan for the school year. This means that the students will always be dismissed from school each day according to this plan.

There are occasions when parents may want to change a student's default dismissal plan for an appointment during the middle of the day or for an after school activity. Some dismissal changes may only be for a single day and others may require a permanent dismissal change.

If you would like to change your child's dismissal plan, either temporarily or permanently, or if you plan to sign-out your child during the school day for any reason, we must receive your request in writing.

Requesting a change for dismissal at your school:

Parents must send in a change of dismissal note on the day the change is being requested.

- The student brings the change of dismissal note to school and gives it to his/her teacher.
- The note should list the current date, reason, and timing of the dismissal change.
- The teacher marks all student dismissal changes on the classroom daily dismissal sheet.
- The daily dismissal sheets are sent to the main office for the office staff to use in dismissing students throughout the school day.
- Students that are leaving school early must be signed out on the attendance board by his or her parent/guardian. The office staff will then call the classroom to release the student.

Requesting a change of dismissal during the school day:

If you must change your child's dismissal after the school day has started, we must receive your request in writing. Please stop by the school to drop off your change of dismissal note and the office staff will incorporate the change into the classroom daily dismissal sheet.

All dismissal changes must be received in the main office before 2:30 P.M.

Requesting a change of dismissal after an in-school event:

If you attend an in-school event and want to take your child/children home early, please proceed to the Main Office and the office staff will call the classroom to release your child/children.

Please do not go to your child's classroom for pick up as this interrupts the class's lesson and instruction and is in violation of our school safety plans.

Requesting an emergency change of dismissal:

We will only accept dismissal changes over the phone in the event of an emergency. We do realize that there are times when emergencies do occur and we will try to accommodate phone requests as they arise.

Additional Dismissal Guidelines

1. Teachers will not accept a verbal dismissal change from students.
2. If your child does not bring in your written change of dismissal request, he or she will be released according to his or her default dismissal plan.
3. Teachers cannot accept dismissal notes for future dates.

Teachers work on a daily dismissal schedule and do not have the resources to track weekly dismissal changes for multiple students. *Please DO NOT send in a note that says “Ray will be picked up at 12:00 next Friday “or “Jane is being picked up early for a dr. appt. at 2:00 tomorrow and will also go to ECC after school on Thursday.”)* If you do have changes for multiple days within the same week, you must send a note for each day that your child’s dismissal plan will change. If the dismissal changes will be permanent, please refer to #3 below.

4. Write “PERMANENT” on any note where your child’s dismissal plan will be changed permanently.

Should you desire to permanently change your child’s dismissal plan, send in a note defining the days of the week that the change will be effective. Be sure to write “PERMANENT” on the top of the note and include the reason for the dismissal change: e.g., “Suzy will attend Kids Care Monday through Friday” or “Johnny will be a pick-up on Monday and Wednesday and will take the bus on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday”. The change will remain in place until you send in another change of dismissal note to replace it.

5. Do not email dismissal change requests, unless directed by the office staff.

Please refrain from emailing a change of dismissal request, unless directed by the office staff. As the school server occasionally experiences server outages, the office staff cannot count on this method of communication to be an effective way to manage the dismissal process. A written note sent in with your child in the morning works best to ensure your dismissal changes are recorded properly.

In addition, teachers may only have time to check emails at lunch or at the end of the school day, which would prevent them from responding to your request in a timely fashion.

Finally, the office staff may not see a late afternoon email sent by a parent until after the school has been dismissed. The last hour of the school day is extremely busy for the office staff as they are typically dismissing students that have planned early dismissals, in addition to calling dismissal for the entire school.

6. Students *will not* be called out of class to wait in the office for an early dismissal.

Please arrive to school a few minutes early—this will give the office staff time to locate your child and will allow the child adequate time to pack-up and come to the main office to meet you.

7. Daily dismissal change notes will be given back to students at the end of the school day

Students sometimes forget that they have a dismissal changes at the end of the school day, even when they are reminded before they leave the classroom. Teachers will now give the notes back to the students as a visible reminder of the dismissal change, which should deter students from getting on a bus when they are supposed to attend an after school program or be picked up

Family Emergency Plan for an early dismissal:

To be prepared for an early dismissal, parents will want to implement a family emergency plan, such as giving your child three to five homes to go to in the neighborhood, in a certain order.

- Remind them to go to the designated neighbor.
- Show them where an extra house key is kept.
- Have them call you or another adult when they arrive home to inform you of their whereabouts.

We suggest that you walk through a simulation with your child to give them the experience in a non-threatening situation. This planning not only prevents numerous phone calls, but also alleviates the child's anxiety.

Before and After School Care

The NSS program is run by the Easton Community Center "ECC". Please contact Joel Silkoff at 203-459-9700

Emergency Procedures

Lockdown

Lockdown drills are scheduled several times throughout the school year. School staff will be notify you when a lockdown is scheduled.

Lockdown and relocation procedures will be practiced a minimum of three times throughout the school year. Parents will be notified whenever a lockdown drill occurs. In the event of an emergency lockdown, all students will be secured in locked classrooms within the building or at designated lockdown locations during recess. A staff member may not be available to answer phone calls or emails during a lockdown. All district communication and updates will be sent out through Infinite Campus. Please be sure to update all contact information at the beginning of each school year.

Fire Drills

Connecticut law requires that each school hold monthly fire drills. There are procedures at school to evacuate children quickly and safely in the event of a fire.

Emergency Alert System

Delayed Opening/ Early Dismissal/ Other Notifications

The Fairfield Public Schools use an emergency communication system to inform parents/guardians via home phone, cell phone, email, or text message of any school delayed opening, early dismissal, or closure in addition to other notifications.

All parents/guardians are required to provide how they wish to be contacted in an emergency.

Parents are responsible to complete and keep current emergency contact information for their children through the Fairfield District Infinite Campus Parent Portal available at:

<https://fairfieldct.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/fairfield.jsp>

The district uses cell phone text and e-mail messages for alerts, weather delays, and cancellations. In extreme emergencies, the home phone will be used.

If parents/guardians wish to *opt out* of the phone call at home, which can be as early as 5:15 a.m. for a school closure, they must uncheck the home phone under emergency notifications. It is recommended the parent/guardian select an alternative choice such as cell phone text or email notification.

Emergency Procedures

Planning for the safety of the children is our highest priority and is done jointly with the professionals at the Fairfield Police and Fire Departments.

Predetermined plans have been developed as responses to a variety of possible situations. While it is not possible to know in advance what form an incident will take, the following are shared as elements of the district's emergency plan which are anticipated to be relevant under many circumstances:

- In the event of an incident, school district staff will implement appropriate, predetermined measures such as an evacuation or lockdown initiated by the building administrator. Communication will be initiated immediately with Fairfield police and fire personnel. The staff will follow the predetermined plan under the direction of the building administrator until the arrival of police and fire personnel, who will take command of the situation as appropriate to the nature of the incident.

Note: Teachers are required to take attendance records with them and re-assemble students in a predetermined safe area. At this time, the teacher will verify attendance.

- All schools have on-site evacuation plans. If warranted, a central evacuation site on the Fairfield University Campus can be utilized.
- In the event of an incident, children will be kept in school for the duration of the normal school day unless otherwise dictated by local conditions or the direction of the Fairfield police or fire personnel.
- If an incident occurs, a child will be released only to his/her parent or guardian if the parent or guardian personally appears at the school or other designated location to take possession of the child.
- Parents are urged to listen to public safety announcements made over radio and television at the time of the incident, which will provide information and guidance on the situation. In addition, email and text messages may be sent out via Infinite Campus (IC) system regarding the incident.
- If an incident occurs at a distance and there is a disruption of regional transportation (e.g., train service is halted, I-95 is closed), each site will make every effort to determine those children who will be going home at dismissal to an unanticipated, unsupervised situation caused by the incident or by the disruption of transportation. Emergency contact information will be utilized to identify alternate destinations for those children affected based on the emergency contacts provided by the parent or guardian. At a time designated by the district, children who remain at school will be transported by the district to Fairfield Warde High School, which will serve as the district's temporary emergency shelter and family reunification site.
- The district staff is trained in a variety of responses to local public health or safety emergencies, including the implementation of lockdowns and evacuations. Details of these responses are not publicized for security reasons.

Celebrations

Student birthday lunches with parents

Birthdays

- Birthdays are very special to us at NSS, and we celebrate them in a variety of ways that do not include the sharing of food. The PTA post each child's birthday on a bulletin board in the hallway. We announce birthdays during morning announcements and each grade level teaching team celebrates class birthdays in a special way that will be explained in grade level handouts or at Open House Night. Feel free to send in a special snack for your own child ONLY when it is his or her birthday. We do not allow students to pass out birthday party invitations at school – so please do not send them in to your child's teacher. We also cannot allow distribution of goody bags to the class as they can contain items that may pose a threat to the safety of students on the bus home. If your child's birthday is during the or on the weekend you can plan one alternative time between September 19th – May 31st to enjoy lunch together at school.

Cafeteria/Lunch Visitors

- In the interest of safety - parents can have lunch with their child on his/her birthday only (other children cannot join you for this special visit). This is a special day for you and your child and for this reason and due to safety reasons – this is for **parents only**. Other relatives and siblings can celebrate birthdays with your children outside of school. All lunch visitors must be scheduled by calling the main office prior to your visit. We have a special table set aside in the lunchroom for you and your child to enjoy lunch together. We have a "no sharing food" rule in our school so please only bring food for your child/children only.

Schedules and Calendars

School Calendar

The Board of Education has established a calendar containing 182 days for instruction. School will begin with a full day for all students in grades K-12 on **Monday, August 29, 2022**. Specific information on orientation and other important dates will be sent in additional communications.

Elementary Open House Schedules

School	Date	Time
Burr	September 22	6:00-7:30
Dwight	September 13	6:00-8:00
Holland Hill	September 14	6:00-7:30
Jennings	September 7	6:30-8:00
McKinley	September 20	6:00-7:30
Mill Hill	September 21	6:30-8:00
North Stratfield	September 14	6:15-8:00
Osborne Hill	September 14	6:30-8:00
Riverfield	September 7	6:00-7:30
Sherman	September 13	6:00-8:00
Stratfield	September 13	6:30-8:00

2022-2023 Fairfield Public Schools Student Calendar

182 Instructional Days / 187 Teacher Days

Approved by BoE December 14, 2021

July 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

July 4—Independence Day

August 2022 (3)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 24-26—PD Days

August 26—6th & 9th grade orientation

August 29—First Day of School

September 2022 (20)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

September 5—Labor Day

September 23—Early Dismissal PK-12 (PD)

September 26—Rosh Hashanah

October 2022 (20)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Oct 4—Early Dismissal, Conference Day
PK-8 Conf (Not HS)

Oct 5 - Yom Kippur

Oct 12—Early Dismissal, PK-12,
Conference Day and HS PSAT

Oct 13—Early Dismissal, Conference Day
PK-8 PM Conf (Not HS)

November 2022 (18)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

November 8—Election Day All Day PD

November 11—Veterans Day

November 23—Early Dismissal PK-12

November 24-25—Thanksgiving

December 2022 (17)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

December 23—Early Dismissal PK-12

December 26-30—Winter Break

January 2023 (20)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2—New Year's Day (Observed)

January 13—Early Dismissal PK-12 (PD)

January 16—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 2023 (18)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

Feb 16—Early Dismissal PK-12 (PD)

Feb 17—February Break

Feb 20—Washington's Birthday

March 2023 (23)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

March 7—Early Dismissal PK-12 (PD)

March 15,16,23—Early Dismissal PK-5
Elementary Only (Conference Days, PM Conf on
Mar 23)

April 2023 (14)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

April 7—Good Friday

April 10-14—Spring Break

May 2023 (21)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

May 29—Memorial Day

May 30—All Day PD

June 2023 (8)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

June 9—Early Dismissal PK-12

June 12—Early Dismissal PK-12, and Last Day of
School

2022-2023 Fairfield Public Schools Student Calendar

182 Instructional Days / 187 Teacher Days
Approved by BoE December 14, 2021

July 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

July 4—Independence Day

August 2022 (3)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	A	B	C			

August 24-26—PD Days

August 26—6th & 9th grade orientation

August 29—First Day of School

September 2022 (20)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				D	E	3
4	5	F	A	B	C	10
11	D	E	F	A	B	17
18	C	D	E	F	A	24
25	26	B	C	D	E	

September 5—Labor Day

September 23—Early Dismissal PK-12 (PD)

September 26—Rosh Hashanah

October 2022 (20)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	F	A	5	B	C	8
9	D	E	F	A	B	15
16	C	D	E	F	A	22
23	B	C	D	E	F	29
30	A					

Oct 4—Early Dismissal, PK-8 Day Conferences (Not HS)

Oct 5 - Yom Kippur

Oct 12—Early Dismissal, PK-12, PK-8 Conference Day and HS PSAT

Oct 13—Early Dismissal, PK-8 Evening Conferences (Not HS)

November 2022 (18)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		B	C	D	E	5
6	F	8	A	B	11	12
13	C	D	E	F	A	19
20	B	C	D	24	25	26
27	E	F	A			

November 8—Election Day All Day PD

November 11—Veterans Day

November 23—Early Dismissal PK-12

November 24-25—Thanksgiving

December 2022 (17)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				B	C	3
4	D	E	F	A	B	10
11	C	D	E	F	A	17
18	B	C	D	E	F	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

December 23—Early Dismissal PK-12

December 26-30—Winter Break

January 2023 (20)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	A	B	C	D	7
8	E	F	A	B	C	14
15	16	D	E	F	A	21
22	B	C	D	E	F	28
29	A	B				

January 2—New Year's Day (Observed)

January 13—Early Dismissal PK-12 (PD)

January 16—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 2023 (18)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			C	D	E	4
5	F	A	B	C	D	11
12	E	F	A	B	17	18
19	20	C	D	E	F	25
26	A	B				

Feb 16—Early Dismissal PK-12 (PD)

Feb 17—February Break

Feb 20—Washington's Birthday

March 2023 (23)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			C	D	E	4
5	F	A	B	C	D	11
12	E	F	A	B	C	18
19	D	E	F	A	B	25
26	C	D	E	F	A	

March 7—Early Dismissal PK-12 (PD)

March 15, 16, 23—Early Dismissal PK-5 Elementary Only (Conference Days, PM Conf on Mar 23)

April 2023 (14)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	B	C	D	E	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	F	A	B	C	D	22
23	E	F	A	B	C	29
30						

April 7—Good Friday

May 2023 (21)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	D	E	F	A	B	6
7	C	D	E	F	A	13
14	B	C	D	E	F	20
21	A	B	C	D	E	27
28	29	30	F			

May 29—Memorial Day

June 2023 (8)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				A	B	3
4	C	D	E	F	A	10
11	B	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

June 9—Early Dismissal PK-12

Parent Teacher Conferences

It is important to establish open communication with your child's teacher in order for your child to be successful in school. One form of communication to support the parent-teacher relationship. Parent/Teacher conference days have been established in the fall and the spring to facilitate the process. On these days students have early dismissal. Please mark these dates on your calendars.

Fall		Spring	
Thursday, October 4, 2022	<i>Afternoon</i>	Wednesday, March 15, 2023	<i>Afternoon</i>
Tuesday, October 12, 2022	<i>Afternoon</i>	Thursday, March 16, 2023	<i>Afternoon</i>
Wednesday, October 13, 2022	<i>Evening</i>	Thursday, March 23, 2023	<i>Evening</i>

You will receive specific information regarding the scheduling of your conference from our staff prior to these dates.

When attending conferences please keep the following in mind and please consider what you would like to share or ask in these areas at your conference:

- establish early communication with the home'
- exchange information about the child;
- plan how home and school will work together for the child's benefit;
- develop understanding of concerns and expectations;
- report student progress and show samples of student work;
- answer questions about grades (where applicable); and
- talk about the transition from grade to grade.

Open House

Open House is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and get an overview of the classroom procedures and the expectations for the year. This event is parents only. Please use this time to learn more about your child's educational experience for the upcoming year. Open house takes place in identical two sessions so that you may visit more than one classroom if necessary.

The date for Open House for the 2022-2023 school year is **Wednesday, September 14th**.

Session #1 6:15pm-7:00pm Grs. 3, 4, 5

Welcome Session: 7:00pm-7:15pm (APR)

Session #2 7:15pm-8:00 pm Grs. K, 1, 2

Progress Reports and Testing

The elementary school Progress Reports are designed to provide parents and other caregivers with an understanding of their child's progress towards mastering grade level standards. See the link below to see the Progress Report rubrics.

<https://www.fairfieldschools.org/academics/progress-reports>

If you should need further information on your child's progress please contact their teacher.

Progress Reports are issued three times a school year through the Infinite Campus portal. The Progress Report dates are as follows:

Friday, December 9

Monday, March 13

Tuesday, June 12 (tentative)

Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)

Students in the Fairfield Public Schools participate in several standardized testing programs. The Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) is a State mandated examination administered to students in grades 3-8 and grade 11. These assessments take place in the spring. Students will take two sections: English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. The ELA addresses reading, writing, and listening standards. Math addressed four components: Concepts and Procedures, Problem Solving, Modeling and Data Analysis, Communicating and Reasoning. More information about the SBA's can be found at <https://ct.portal.airast.org/>

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

Assessments aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) will be administered to all students in Connecticut at Grades 5, 8 and 11 starting in the spring. The tests at each grade assess students' understanding of the NGSS across the corresponding grade band (3-5, 6-8, and high school). Information about the science standards can be found at www.nextgenscience.org

CogAt and Naglieri

Fairfield Public Schools administers the Naglieri Non-Verbal Test and the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAts) to identify gifted students. Both these assessments are given in October to students in third grade.

STAR Assessment

All STAR assessments are computer-adaptive tests (CATs). Computer-adaptive tests continually adjust the difficulty of each child's test by choosing each test question based on the child's previous response. If the child answers a question correctly, the difficulty level of the next item is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is decreased.

STAR Reading™ is an assessment of reading comprehension and skills for independent readers through grade 12. STAR Reading tracks development in five domains:

- Word Knowledge and Skills
- Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning
- Analyzing Literary Text
- Understanding Author's Craft
- Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text

STAR Early Literacy™ is an assessment of early literacy skills developed for Pre-K–3 students. STAR Early Literacy tracks development in three domains and ten sub-domains:

- Word Facility
- Skills Comprehension Strategies

- Constructing Meaning
- Numbers Operations
- Alphabetic Principle
- Visual Discrimination Phonemic Awareness
- Phonics
- Structural Analysis
- Vocabulary
- Sentence-Level Comprehension
- Paragraph-Level Comprehension

STAR Math™ is an assessment of mathematical comprehension and skills for students through grade 12. The following four domains are identified and included in STAR math:

- Numbers and Operations
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Measurement and Data Analysis
- Statistics and Probability

STAR scores are just one piece of a child's learning profile and are used in conjunction with many other assessments and performances.

STAR Testing Window Dates 2022-2023:

- August 29 – September 30, 2022 - Grades 1-5 math and reading
- December 19, 2022 – February 3, 2023 - Kindergarten-Early Literacy and Grades 1-5 math and reading
- April 24, 2023 – June 2, 2023 – Kindergarten Early Literacy and Grades 1-5 math and reading

You will receive a reminder of the dates of applicable testing for your child from school staff so he/she may be well rested and ready to do his/her best work. The school system mails the results of standardized testing to parents, with the exception of the Cognitive Abilities Test and STAR test results. STAR results come to parents via *Infinite Campus Backpack*.

Special Schedule

	Frequency:	Grade level/Duration
Art:	Once every 6 days for Grades K-5	Kindergarten/ 40 minutes Grade 1/ 50 minutes Grade 2/ 50 minutes Grade 3/ 50 minutes Grade 4/ 60 minutes Grade 5/ 60 minutes
Music:	Twice every 6 days for Grades K-5	Grade K-4 th /40 minutes Grade 5 /1 40 minute class, 1 55 minute class (Chorus)
Physical Education:	Twice every 6 days for Grades K-5	Grade K-5 th /40 minutes
Tech Time:	Once every 6 days for Grades K-5	Grade K-5 th /40 minutes
Band Lessons:	Offered in Grade 5	Grade 5/ 45 minutes
String lessons:	Offered in Grades 4 and 5	Grade 4 and 5/ 45 minutes
Recorder:	Lessons begin in Grade 3	During Music class
Spanish:	Twice every 6 days for Grades 3-5	Grade 3-5 th /30 minutes
Library:	Flexible Setting	Flexible
STEAM:	Once every 6 days for Grades K-5	Grade K-5 th /40 minutes

School Policies and Procedures

Field Trips

Each grade will take field trips throughout the year as an extension of the curriculum.

- Permission slips are sent home in advance, along with requests for fees, if necessary.
- Travel is generally by school bus, although coach/luxury buses are used for longer trips
- Teachers will select parent volunteers to chaperone field trips.
- The elementary school PTA subsidizes field trips and scholarships are available.
- Siblings are not permitted to attend any field trips.

Dress Code

At all Fairfield Public Schools, we take pride in our students and know that their dress reflects pride in the school and in themselves. At no time should clothing be a distraction to the students nor should

their attire be a danger to their personal safety in the classroom or on the playground. Appropriate footwear must be worn (no flip-flops, clogs, or open-toed sandals). Sneakers **must** be worn to participate in Physical Educations classes. Outerwear, including coats, jackets, or windbreakers must be worn on cooler days.

Visitation

School visitors must have an appointment with a staff member or have a legitimate reason for entering the school. This includes parents and community members, as well as, former students. Appointments will be confirmed with the staff member in question. School personnel must approve all other activities for which someone is entering the school.

Telephone

Plans for the afternoon should be made at home prior to coming to school. In an emergency, the office phone may be used with a teacher's permission. Only emergency phone messages for children and/or teachers will be delivered during the school day. Each classroom teacher will review the telephone policy with your child in school.

Fairfield Public Schools Website

<https://www.fairfieldschools.org/>

There are a lot of wonderful resources for parents on the district's website. These include information about curriculum, registration information, and the district's family guide.

Infinite Campus is the tool by which the school and district communicates with families throughout the school year. As such, an Infinite Campus account is very important. We would recommend that you include e-mail and text as contact preferences. Links (such as school letters or newsletters) are only accessible through e-mail.

Please be aware that you need an activation code in order to create a user name and password. reghelp@fairfieldschools.org, listed under problems logging in, can provide you with an activation code if you have not yet set up an Infinite Campus account.

Homework

The Board of Education considers homework and other out-of-class assignments to be basic parts of the educational program of the Fairfield Public Schools. Through homework and out-of-class assignments, students have an opportunity to reinforce and/or extend academic and learning skills taught in class. Homework also contributes to the students' development of such skills as working independently, organizing time, developing effective work habits, and developing self-discipline in accepting responsibilities. Parents or guardians are encouraged, through discussions with their children, to become aware of, and to support the need for the student to complete homework and other out-of-class assignments.

Board of Education Homework Policy:

<http://cdn.fairfieldschools.org/boe/policies/6000/6154AR%20-%20Administrative%20Regulations%20on%20Homework.pdf>

Vacations when school is in session: *homework requests*

The staff of the Fairfield Public Schools emphasizes the importance of regular school attendance. We urge you to plan vacations only during the time school is **NOT** in session.

If you **must** take a family vacation during school time, the following will be the responsibility of both the parents and child:

1. School work **will not** be provided for vacations.
2. During the vacation, parent or guardian should set aside reading time and ask students to journal about their adventures.
3. For all students, vacations will be considered unexcused absences. For more information, see the Board of Education Policy 5112.

Attendance Policy

NSS attendance guidelines are based on the Fairfield Board of Education's policy about attendance and truancy. The link is provided below.

<http://cdn.fairfieldschools.org/boe/policies/5000/5113%20-%20Attendance-Excuses-Dismissal.pdf>

Please be aware of the following guidelines:

1. Absences 1-9 are considered "excused" when appropriate documentation is provided by a student's parent/guardian approving the absence, due to: illness or injury, death in the immediate family, religious obligation, court appearance, school sponsored activity, lack of transportation normally provided by the district, an emergency, or an exceptional circumstance pre-approved by a district administrator. Appropriate documentation can be a note, an e-mail, or the return of a phone call from the main office.
2. For the tenth absence and all absences thereafter, a student's absences from school are considered excused if there is medical documentation for an illness from a licensed medical professional (regardless of length), or we have appropriate documentation for any of the other reasons listed above.
3. Anything not listed above is considered an unexcused absence. Vacations are considered unexcused absences.
4. Per Board Policy, a student is considered truant when that student has four (4) unexcused absences in a 30 day period or ten (10) unexcused absences in any school year.

Please be aware that if your child accumulates four unexcused absences in a 30 day period or ten over the course of a year, s/he is considered truant and you will receive communication from the school regarding next steps.

Locking of school doors

For the safety of our students, ALL school doors are locked throughout the day. However, between 8:45-9:00 a.m., the front doors will be opened & closed for students who are being dropped off. At 3:25 the doors to the main doors are opened & closed for dismissal. After 9:00 a.m., please ring the bell located at the front of the building to gain access.

Lunch and Recess Procedures

NSS Lunch and Recess Schedule

Grade level	Lunch	Recess
5	11:30 – 11:50	11:05 – 11:25
K	11:40 – 12:10	11:15 – 11:35
2	12:00 – 12:20	11:35 – 11:55
3	12:25 – 12:45	12:00 – 12:20
1	12:35 – 12:55	12:10 – 12:30
4	12:50 – 1:10	12:25 – 12:45

Food Policies

<https://af6f86492861895204fb-aed1b662e1f97bf9d9e3dc2fcc05032b.ssl.cf5.rackcdn.com/boe/policies/5000/5141.25%20-%20Students%20with%20Special%20Health%20Care%20Needs%20-%20Life-Threatening%20Allergies%20and.pdf>

Free and Reduced Lunch Applications

http://cdn.fairfieldschools.org/district-v2/uploads/2018/08/2018-19_FAQ_Application_for_Free_Reduced-price_Meals.pdf

Nut Free Table

A peanut free table is available for all students with known allergies. Students may ask friends to join them at this table if they are purchasing a hot lunch. Hot lunch from the school are nut free and are safe for students with such allergies. The only child that may bring a cold lunch to the nut free table is the child with the nut allergy.

Menu <http://fairfieldschools.org/parent-resources/food-services/>

Birthday Celebrations

Per district policy, food is not allowed at school celebrations such as birthdays and holiday parties.

Food Services

Elementary Schools Lunch Cost	\$3.10
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<https://www.fairfieldschools.org/departments/finance/food-services>

Whitson's Food Services

Whitson's Allergy letter

<http://cdn.fairfieldschools.org/food-services/Whitsons Allergen Policy-9 11 2015.pdf>

Program and Support Services

Language Arts Support

The Language Arts Specialists will assist students who have been identified by the school team as needing language arts support. These specialist work with students in all areas of reading and writing. The school's team, through a formal process, determines the frequency and duration of services.

Math and Science Support

The Math/Science Specialist will assist students who have been identified by the school's team as needing math or science support. The school's team, through a formal process, determines the frequency and duration of services.

Speech and Language Support

Speech and Language services provide a specialized program that enables children to optimize communication skills and improve speech/language issues which impact academic functioning. Students may qualify for services on the basis of staff or parent referrals and diagnostic testing.

Psychologist

The School Psychologist provides psychological and counseling services to any child, parent, and staff member in the school community as needed. The psychologist works to ensure the students have a successful school year by utilizing a variety of services designed to help children learn and grow to their highest potential. Some of these services may include:

- Individual and group counseling;
- Groups to help children enrich their social and friendship skills;
- Individual sessions to help children adjust to school;
- Classroom lessons to help children learn how to get along with others;
- Conferences with parents to learn about their child's progress in school;
- Teaching social skills; and
- Diagnostic assessments

Lunch bunch and social skills groups are formed at the beginning of the school year. These groups meet for approximately twenty to thirty minutes per week at a time. They include a small number of students on any given occasion and focus on the acquisition of skills for establishing and maintaining positive peer interactions as well as problem solving. Activities are enjoyable and include conversations, and/or games and role-plays. Those students who wish to be a part of these groups will be considered "guests" as they will not be asked to participate on regular basis. In addition, students will not be asked to join these groups during essential academic time or specials.

Social Worker

Our Social Worker, Dr. Peter Tolk, helps students, families, and staff deal with everyday issues affecting their school performance. The social worker provides group and individual counseling to students on varied topics such as: friendship, changing families, social skills, problem solving, etc. Dr. Tolk is also available to parents to address any behavioral/ emotional issues at home. He is at NSS full days on Mondays & Fridays and mornings on Wednesdays & Thursdays.

Library Learning Commons

Ours school's library media program is co-planned and co-taught by the classroom teacher and the Library Media Specialist, Mr. Greg Foschi. School scheduling allows us to incorporate information literacy and technology skills in the curriculum-based K-5 research projects so all students can become independent and responsible users of information. We are committed to providing access to all our resources. Circulation is unlimited, with no restrictions on the number of books students may take out or fines for overdue books. An important aspect of our program is the presentation of these projects to our learning community.

Our Library Media Specialist also teaches each Grade Level's technology class.

Tech Time:	Once every 6 days for Grades K-5	Grade K-5th/40 minutes
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Special Education

The Special Education Department exists to facilitate the instructional and administrative aspects of the total program with students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). This department includes speech and language pathologists, resource teachers, a psychologist, a social worker, and many support teachers. Together the department addresses the learning, emotional, and social needs of all our school's students.

Throughout the year, the school's special education staff, coordinated by our school psychologist, meets with the principal, teachers, and parents to address academic issues of concern, design individual student programs at a Planning and Placement Team meeting (PPT), and provide appropriate assistance to enhance student learning.

Gifted Program

The gifted program in Fairfield Public Schools is designed to empower students through 21st Century inquiry-based practices while meeting the social and emotional needs of each identified gifted child. Gifted education is provided for those students who demonstrate high performance and capability in intellectual areas and need different services not ordinarily provided by the regular education program. Gifted education services are delivered in a multi-disciplinary approach. Students engage in a curriculum that is focused on conceptual thinking, higher level processes, in a real-world interdisciplinary problem-solving context. In the classroom, teachers provide differentiated experiences for gifted learners along a continuum of service options including, but not limited to, differentiated instruction, push-in/pull-out learning opportunities and targeted enrichment activities. Programming for gifted education from 3rd grade through 8th grade is purposely designed with the unique cognitive and social-emotional characteristics of gifted students in mind while fostering foundational skills in self-awareness, self-regulation, leadership, and social responsibility.

Additional information including the identification process is outlined in the gifted handbook found on the Fairfield Public Schools website. <https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1598375031/fairfieldschoolsorg/f2gvm6syuocodxmk8nb0/GiftedHandbook20-21pub.pdf>

Curriculum

Please refer to the district website for information about the scope and sequences for grades Kindergarten through fifth. You will find a map of the curriculum in all curricular subjects. <https://www.fairfieldschools.org/academics/subjects>

Scientifically Research Based Instruction (SRBI)

Our school's faculty is committed to providing early intervention for struggling students not meeting goal in reading and math. We also offer intervention support for behavior issues and writing. Students who qualify for early intervention are assessed and provided appropriate intervention to ensure academic success.

Both a school and grade level intervention teams analyze student data, discuss students' classroom performance, and make decisions about how to best offer support. For further information, please contact your child's teacher.

Also, the link below from the CT State Department of Education offers more information about how all schools in CT deliver intervention services.

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/SRBI/SRBI---Scientific-Research-Based-Interventions>

Health

A Note from our Nurse

Dear NSS Parents

I am so happy to welcome you to the 2022-2023 school year at NSS. I am Nurse Rachel and proud to be the school Nurse for all the NSS Tigers!

Please note the following state health requirements/procedures as you prepare your child for school.

- An updated health form with immunizations for all incoming Kindergartners prior to the first day of school.
- We also ask that any immunizations through the year get updated as they are administered.
- If your child has any emergency medication that you would like kept at the school, we ask for physician authorization forms and care plans along with the medication to be dropped off to our nursing office.
- If your child is on any daily medication that needs to be taken while in school, we ask for the physician authorization form along with the meds and prescribed time to be delivered by guardian to the Nurse directly.
- If your child will be absent, please notify the NSS office by calling our absentee line, 203-255-8416 and leave a voice message with reason for absence.

I am so honored to care for your child(ren) here at NSS. Any questions or concerns please email me or call me directly, 203-255-7194.

Nurse Rachel Jarvis

Rjarvis@fairfieldschools.org

203-255-7194

Policies on Medication in Schools

<https://boe.fairfieldschools.org/content/uploads/boe-archive/policies/5000/5141.21%20-%20Administration%20of%20Medication%20in%20the%20Schools.pdf>

<https://boe.fairfieldschools.org/content/uploads/2021/06/5141.21-AR-Administration-of-Medication-in-the-Schools-Adm.-Regulations.pdf>

Physical Assessments/Immunizations

https://boe.fairfieldschools.org/content/uploads/2020/07/5141.3-Health-Assessments-Immunizations_CLEAN_7.14.20.pdf

<https://boe.fairfieldschools.org/content/uploads/2021/06/5141.3AR-Health-Assessments-Immunizations-Adm-Regulations.pdf>

Students with Special Health Needs

<https://boe.fairfieldschools.org/content/uploads/boe-archive/policies/5000/5141.25%20-%20Students%20with%20Special%20Health%20Care%20Needs%20-%20Life-Threatening%20Allergies%20and.pdf>

<https://boe.fairfieldschools.org/content/uploads/boe-archive/policies/5000/5141.25AR%20-%20Adm.%20Reg.%20on%20Students%20with%20Spec.%20Health%20Care%20Needs%20Life%20Threatening%20Allergies%20and...pdf>

Behavior and Civic Expectations from the Elementary Schools

Common threads and vocabulary that are woven into the work of the schools focuses on the use of Responsive Classroom teaching practices and social skills work-**C-cooperation, A-assertion, R-responsible, E-Empathy and S-self-control**. There are also rules created that focus on these exemplars or other versions that the school leadership has created. The rules encompass expected behaviors towards self and others. They also highlight the expected behaviors of students in the common areas of the school: hallways, classrooms, bathrooms, cafeteria and recess spaces. Many of the schools have handbooks that are sent out to their families and/or behavior contracts for students and parents to sign. There are also many examples of school themes that incorporate the expected behaviors of their students. Some schools even have mantras or pledges that are shared by all each morning.

The behavior and civic expectations are supported through a variety of behavior management strategies. When dealing with infringements on the rules, staff use restorative practices and natural consequences to change behaviors.

Schools also use monthly celebrations that highlight the CARES actions of the school and its students/staff. Whole school focuses on kindness are common themes of these events. ***Overall, the themes of the schools and their support plans are all on being a truly good school citizen.***

Summary Social and Civic Expectations –PK-8

- Mutual Respect
- Developing Independence, Kindness, and Compassion
- Celebrating Diversity
- Nurturing Academic Growth to the Student's Full Potential
- Safe and Secure Learning Environment

At NSS we focus on ROARS to promote positive social/emotional learning and interactions. The NSS tiger ROARS:

**Respect
Ownership
Awareness
Responsibility
Safety**

Volunteers and Visitation

Volunteers Guidelines

We appreciate you taking the time to volunteer at North Stratfield School.

All volunteers must have a Volunteer Registration form on file in the school office. Please see the link below and fill out the form needed. This form *is not* required for assemblies, special events, parent/teacher conferences, class presentations or any other parent/staff meeting.

Volunteer Form

<http://cdn.fairfieldschools.org/boe/policies/1000/1212AR%20-%20School%20Volunteers-Resource%20Persons%20-Adm.%20Regulations.pdf>

Guidelines and Expectations for Volunteers in Schools:

Thank you for offering to lend a hand as a parent volunteer at our school. Our teachers are outstanding, yet it is a challenge to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of each child within the classroom setting. As a staff, we firmly believe that there is a direct correlation between the quality of education that can be achieved in a school and the visible presence of caring parent volunteers. In order to keep all minds and bodies appropriately focused and “on task” during instructional sessions, additional adult eyes and hands can dramatically improve the efficiency and productivity of the children’s participation in a lesson or activity.

Below is a list of **ethical standards** for parents who serve as volunteers at our school. The school reserves the right to “dis-invite” a parent volunteer who is not able to adhere to these standards. Please be aware that secretaries will ask any visitor to our school a few basic questions to ascertain why they are visiting our school. Please be patient with them. This is a safety procedure implemented at all of Fairfield’s schools and is not meant to prevent parents from accessing our school.

1. Volunteers must aspire to “**professional standards**” of **ethical conduct** while serving in the school and while communicating about school activities outside of the school. Please respect confidential matters and the **special “trust”** that is formed between the school and the parent volunteer. There should be no judgmental or comparative anecdotal conversations in school or within the school community regarding the following:

- Perceived strengths, weaknesses, or “styles” of individual children or teachers
- Children who display developmental delays or a need for special education or social services (School Psychologist, Social Worker, Speech and Language Pathologist, etc.)
- Children’s social, economic, academic, or emotional challenges or advantages

2. Volunteers must try to adhere to the schedules they have worked out with their cooperating teachers. **If you are not able to keep to your scheduled arrangement, please notify the classroom teacher as soon as possible in advance.**

Volunteers with questions about the methods or practices of a teacher should make arrangements to seek clarification **from the teacher.**

3. Volunteers may be asked to work with children directly or handle management tasks (laminating, copying, etc.) as determined by the teacher.

Also, if you are going to volunteer at NSS, please keep in mind the following requirements from the district's policy.

- If a volunteer (parents, etc.) is coming for a one-time or occasional visit (ex: read to a class, work at the book fair, etc.), please confirm your visit with the classroom teacher and the main office where & when you will be doing the volunteering.
- If a volunteer is coming regularly, over a period of time, and/or will have direct contact with students when no staff member is present, they will need to fill out the form AND need to contact Kristen Hardiman in Human Resources. They will need to have fingerprints done, have a check done through DCF, and have the PPD Mantoux tuberculin test.

Your role as a parent volunteer is important to our overall success and to the quality of learning we are able to provide our school children. **We want and need your involvement as a volunteer.**

Visitation

Parents and other visitors are both welcome and encouraged to visit the school, attend selected assemblies, participate in special events, and volunteer. All visitors must report to the office immediately upon entering the building. Classroom instruction should not be interrupted. Below are some important reminders to help maximize the learning environment for your children and decrease classroom disruptions:

- When visiting the school, please make sure you sign your name in the book in the Main Office.
- Please make an appointment with your child's teacher to address any concerns.
- If it is necessary to drop off your child's lunch or a forgotten item from home, please leave it on the OOP's cart located outside the main entrance. Office secretaries will check the cart multiple times throughout the day.
- Please refrain from unannounced visits to your child's classroom.

Thank you in advance for your partnership and cooperation with these guidelines. They will greatly help us to maintain consistency in your child's daily school routine. This also will allow your child to have a positive school experience that will foster his/her independence.

Communications

Parent Observation Request form for Classroom or Playground Observations

Please complete the Classroom or Playground Parent Observation Request Form in support of your request to observe your child in the school environment in the classroom or on the playground at North Stratfield School. We appreciate one week's notice to accommodate a request for an observation; however, we will do our best to schedule your observation as soon as possible. An administrator or other designee must accompany parents during observations. While we welcome your input as a parent and encourage active involvement in your child's education, please respect our need to limit observations to a **30-minute time period once every two months** in order to minimize interruptions to the student learning environment. Please understand that the teacher cannot meet with you at this time, nor may you engage any student in a private conversation. Thank you for your cooperation. (A copy of the form is included on the next page)

**Elementary School
Classroom or Playground
Parent Observation Request Form**

Please complete the following in support of your request to observe your child in the school environment in the classroom or on the playground at North Stratfield School. We appreciate one week's notice to accommodate a request for an observation; however, we will do our best to schedule your observation as soon as possible. An administrator or other designee must accompany parents during observations. While we welcome your input as a parent and encourage active involvement in your child's education, please respect our need to limit observations to a **30-minute time period once every two months** in order to minimize interruptions to the student learning environment. Please understand that the teacher cannot meet with you at this time, nor may you engage any student in a private conversation. Thank you for your cooperation.

Name of Student: _____ Date Submitted: _____

Classroom Teacher: _____

(If Applicable: Case Manager: _____)

Individual Observing: _____

Class you wish to observe: _____

Options for dates & times requested: _____

Reason for observation:

Staff complete:

Date & Time Approved: _____

Approved by: _____

Designee Attending Observation _____

Safety and Behavior

School Rules and Behavior Expectations

Respect
Ownership
Awareness
Responsibility
Safety

***Demonstrate kindness for all**

Bus Expectations

1. **Students should be at the designated bus stop at least 5 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.** They are to wait in a safe place and be respectful of citizens living near the school bus stop and their property.
2. Students are not to attempt to board the bus until it has come to a complete stop. Students are to enter the bus in an orderly fashion and go to their seats promptly. Students are to sit facing forward, keeping all belongings on their lap and remaining seated until they arrive at their destination. Pets, toys and skate boards are not allowed on the school bus. Nothing is to be put in the aisle or on the bus floor.
3. Cell phones must remain in backpacks and never used on the bus.
4. Students who cross the street to board the bus must wait for a signal from the driver before crossing and then walk at least 10 steps away from the front of the bus.
5. Do not write or put anything out of the bus window.
6. Loud talking, laughter and unnecessary confusion can divert the driver's attention and could result in a serious accident. Ordinary conversation is permitted.
7. The bus driver, school Administrator, or Elementary Program Facilitator, may assign seats to students, if necessary.
8. Students are to ride only the bus route to which they are assigned and get on and off at their bus stop.
9. There shall be no eating, drinking, or gum chewing on the school bus.

The driver will report an infraction of the rules to the Transportation Office. The school administration will take appropriate disciplinary action and inform the child's parent. Serious or continuous infractions may result in suspension of transportation privileges.

Transportation Office Link

<https://www.fairfieldschools.org/departments/finance/transportation>

Recess and Lunch Expectations

Follow the Cafeteria Guidelines posted & ROARS at recess.

Items not permitted in school

The safety of all students is our highest concern. Therefore, students who bring to school, use, sell or attempt to sell a firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous instrument or facsimiles of weapons will be suspended from school and reported to the Fairfield Police Department. State law specifically prohibits such behavior. **Such behavior may result in *EXPULSION* from school for a period of up to, but not exceeding, 182 consecutive school days (10-233a[e]).**

In order to ensure the student safety and the protection of personal property, parents are encouraged to closely monitor those items that are brought or worn to school by students. **The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken prohibited items.**

The following items are specifically prohibited on school grounds and will be confiscated by school staff:

- Weapons (real or toy) such as guns, pocketknives, razor blades, or sharp objects. **Please note that there are disciplinary consequences for bringing any type of weapon or dangerous item to school.**
- Matches, caps, and fireworks
- Skateboards, roller blades, roller skates, Heelys
- **Cell phones**, iPods, radios, CD players, Game Boys, and MP3 players
- Sports equipment such as bats or lacrosse sticks. (Equipment for recess will be provided by the school.)

*Please note e-readers are permitted in school at the discretion of the teacher. However, students are NOT permitted to download content while at school. For multi-purpose e-readers like iPads and Kindle Fires, students are not permitted to access games, movies, music, or Web content while at school.

Please note: All multi-purpose electronics, including cellphones **should not be in use on the bus. Students can use e-readers to read on the bus only.

Bullying Policy

The Fairfield BOE promotes a secure and happy school climate, conducive to teaching and learning which is free from threat, harassment, and any type of bullying behavior. There is an anonymous bullying report attached to our website called TIPS. If you know of or witness any bullying behavior, you have the option of reporting it anonymously through this online program. You can also call the Principal, Mrs. Jackson, the EPF, Mrs. Dolan Collette or your child's classroom teacher directly if you have any bullying concerns.

For further information regarding BOE policy, please see the following link:
<http://cdn.fairfieldschools.org/boe/policies/5000/5131.911-%20Bullying.pdf>

Technology

Safety and Student Use

The school system routinely makes use of videotaping, digital, and traditional photography for educational purposes. Examples include but are not limited to the videotaping of concerts, assemblies, and sporting events. Students' images without names may be displayed in a variety of ways including, but not limited to, bulletin boards, publications, and the school or district web site. **A parent or guardian who does not want their child videotaped or photographed and those images displayed as described above are asked to contact the school principal.**

In certain circumstances, it may be desirable to display a student's image in a publication or on the school or district web site with his/her name, such as when an award is given. Publishing a student's image with his/her name requires **express written permission** from the parent or guardian.

Please Note: This provision of seeking prior permission does not apply to school yearbooks, school newspapers, or images published by the working press. However, if a parent or guardian has a concern about the publication of a student's image in those settings, that concern should be brought to the school principal.

PTA



August 26, 2022

Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome to the 2022-23 school year! I am thrilled to be stepping into my second year as North Stratfield's PTA President. Last year was a challenging but exciting year and I know we are all ready for this coming school year! We at the NSS PTA are here to help support our students, staff and community in any way we can. We continue to see opportunities to reimagine some of our PTA programming and create new ways to better support our NSS community. We are proud to partner with our principal, Mrs. Debbie Jackson, and our NSS teachers and staff, to continue to enrich, support and celebrate our wonderful school!

We are excited to welcome our newest tigers and start planning for the transition of our veteran fifth grade tigers as they begin their journey towards Fairfield Woods and elsewhere! We have a host of beloved events and fundraisers at North Stratfield School. We kick off our year with two Welcome events, our Tears & Cheers Breakfast on the First Day of School and our Ice Cream Social on September 9th. These are two of our many events throughout the School Year so please stay tuned to our Friday Flash, it will keep you updated on all you need to know.

The PTA relies on parent volunteers to help carry out all of our initiatives. We are so excited that there will be more opportunities to get involved this year, and we welcome you to reach out to us if you see something you'd like to help with or get more information about. Our Executive Board is listed below, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Our first PTA meeting will be held on September 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the North Stratfield APR, with a Fifth Grade Committee Planning Meeting to immediately follow at 7:30. We are hopeful that as the year proceeds, we will be able to meet many of you at a PTA meeting! Also, be sure to check your inbox at the end of each week for our Friday Flash so you can stay up to date on what is happening at NSS. If you are new to NSS or not receiving the Friday Flash, please send an email to info@nsspta.org with your updated details. On the bottom page of this document, you will find a variety of information and links for Fall events, PTA Membership and Room Parent information!

At any point during the year, please don't hesitate to reach out with questions, comments or concerns that are important to you. North Stratfield is a very special community, and I am deeply appreciative of the work and commitment of our parents and staff. I have no doubt this year is going to be the best yet, and I cannot wait to share it with you all !

Sincerely,

Katie Flynn
PTA President

PTA Executive Board Members – 2020-2021

President	President – Katie Flynn	flynnkathrynne@gmail.com
Treasurer	Stephanie Landau	landaustephanie@gmail.com
Secretary	Kari Edelen	kedelen21@gmail.com
VP, Communications and Family Fun	Hannah Choi	hmontague@gmail.com
VP, FUNDraising	Allyson Schenker	allysonlevy@hotmail.com
VP, After-School Programs & Volunteers	Jeanne Cruz	icruz836@gmail.com