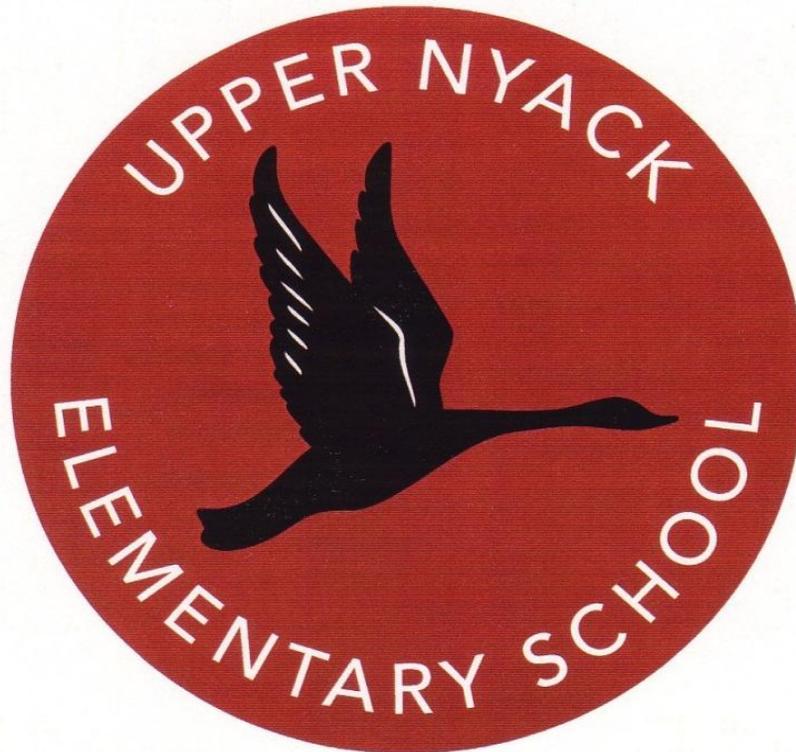


***SOARING TO EXCELLENCE***



***PARENT & STUDENT***

***HANDBOOK***

***SPRING 2015***

# U P P E R N Y A C K E L E M E N T A R Y S C H O O L

*We care about children; we care about learning. . .*

The Upper Nyack School community takes pride in our positive and dynamic learning environment. A dedicated staff, together with a supportive parent community, provides exciting opportunities for children to grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

We want every child to have a successful educational experience. Commitment to excellence is accomplished when families and schools work together purposefully, with mutual respect and trust, in pursuit of educational excellence for their children. This goal becomes a reality for a child when parents and school staff work together in an atmosphere of shared concern and cooperation.

Our school is guided by these important concepts:

- ★ All children can and will learn;
- ★ Children learn at different rates and in different ways;
- ★ A well-rounded curriculum, including the arts and enrichment activities, is important for all children;
- ★ Parents and the community are an integral part of education;
- ★ Open communication enhances the achievement of our goals.

Our vision is to promote a culture of excellence in an atmosphere of cooperation, collaboration, and commitment that challenges students to perform at their highest levels of achievement, to experience the joy and excitement of learning, and to be respectful, caring citizens.

## C O M M U N I C A T I O N



Children benefit greatly from close communication between home and school. Staff, student, and parent dialogue provides a strong foundation for the education of our children.

If you have any questions, contact your child's teacher. Send a note with your child or call the school office (353-7260) and leave a message to arrange an appointment. You can also reach each teacher via email (check [www.un.nyackschools.org](http://www.un.nyackschools.org) for their email address and webpage)

If you would like to set up a meeting with the Principal, please fill out the Request for Conference Form (*form on website, un.nyackschools.org~letters flyers home*) return it to school with your child and our school secretary will contact you to set up a mutually convenient time.



## Parent-Teacher Conferences

Conferences are scheduled twice a year, both during school hours and in the evening, at the end of the first and third quarters. Check the district calendar for specific dates and times. Teachers will also send letters home as the dates draw near.

There are many benefits to attending your child's conferences. During these meetings, our purpose is to:

- ✦ Work together for the best outcome for every child;
- ✦ Exchange information about each child;
- ✦ Develop joint plans leading to student success;
- ✦ Provide a school/home support team for each child.

Additionally, attending Back to School Night is an important component to your child's yearly transition. Look in the district calendar for more information. You should make every effort to attend your child's conferences!



## Report Cards & Progress Reports

Report cards are distributed in the fall, winter and spring. Envelopes should be signed and returned for the winter report. Progress reports are issued by teachers when appropriate.



## Upper Nyack Newsletter, Notices & "The Update"

Notices sent home with students contain important information about programs and activities taking place in school and in the community. Please check your child's book bag or "go home" folder regularly for these flyers. A monthly newsletter exclusive to events happening in our school is distributed and is on our website under "*Newsletters*." A weekly PTA Update is emailed to parents by our PTA which lists activities, events, fundraisers, etc. Information about Upper Nyack and district events can also be accessed online at [www.un.nyackschools.org](http://www.un.nyackschools.org).



## School Calendar



A district-wide calendar listing important dates and activities is distributed through the mail to each family in our school district. This mailing takes place in early September. Once dates are listed, we try hard not to change the scheduled activity. If changes are necessary, you will be notified as soon as possible. We also attempt to highlight events that directly impact the elementary schools. Please keep this calendar in a safe and

accessible place at home to help plan your child's activities. If you did not receive a calendar, you may pick one up in our Main Office or by contacting the Public Information Office (353-7013). Calendars are also available online at [www.nyackschools.org](http://www.nyackschools.org).

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## Upper Nyack Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)

*Parent Involvement: A Commitment for Success . . .* We have a very active PTA that works hard to make Upper Nyack a better place to learn and grow for all of our children. We invite you to join us in making a difference. All PTA committees and activities are open to new members and fresh ideas. Committees can be co-chaired. PTA meetings take place the first Monday of each month at 7 pm at Upper Nyack and include a report from the principal, teachers, and guest speakers.

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## Site Based Management Team



Upper Nyack's Site Based Management Team consists of parents, teachers, and the Principal. We meet monthly to discuss and share our ideas for improving the achievement of all students in our school. If there are topics or issues you would like discussed/addressed, please let one of your representatives know and these items will be placed on an agenda. Membership is a two-year term. Contact the school or your PTA representative for more information.

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## Family Resource Center

At Upper Nyack School, the Family Resource Center (FRC) ([www.un.nyackschools.org](http://www.un.nyackschools.org)/353-7268) plays an important role in fostering collaboration among community, parents and teachers. The Upper Nyack FRC offers many programs and services for children and families including:

- Preschool Story Hours for three and four-year olds
- Parent Support Programs
- Give and take books
- Family Fun evening programs
- Drop in support
- Connections to school and community resources
- Health and Wellness programs and information
- Kindergarten readiness programs
- Translation assistance

# INSTRUCTIONAL DAY

(8:50 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.)

We begin each school day with great expectations and renewed efforts to maintain an environment that promotes success for all students. Our goal is to provide learning opportunities that personally engage our students in meaningful activities and challenge them with new ideas and experiences. Additionally, we provide many opportunities for students to think critically, to explore, to hypothesize, to draw conclusions, and much more!



## Morning Procedures

Students in all grades should be dropped off at the Main Entrance (at the north end of the building) before 8:50 a.m. Children in grades K-2 meet in the All-Purpose Room. Students in grades 3-5 meet in the gym. All students are taken to their classrooms by staff at 8:40 a.m. We celebrate birthdays on Monday or the first day of the week during morning program. Students receive a certificate and we sing “*Happy Birthday.*”



## Car Drop-Off Information (Additional information on pgs. 19/20)

If you are dropping off your child in the morning, we ask that you proceed South on Broadway and use the “fast drop-off lane” that is identifiable by a set of orange cones separating the drop-off lane from the “through traffic.” Please pull your vehicle all the way up in the drop-off lane. This allows other cars to pull up and unload at the same time. This car drop off lane is for “quick drop off” only. Parents of Kindergarten students **cannot** use the “drop-off” lane. You must park your vehicle elsewhere and come into the school. Students are gathered in the All-Purpose Room in the morning. **No one will be allowed to drop off a child while traveling North on Broadway.** You may, however, park the car while traveling North on Broadway and have the student exit the **passenger side** and cross at the crossing guard. **U-turns will not be allowed in the school driveway or parking lot.** Please **DO NOT** pull into the staff parking lot to drop off children as this is very dangerous to walkers. The parking lot is reserved for staff.



## Attendance and Punctuality

Research shows that performance in school is directly linked to good attendance and punctuality. If your child is late, (arrives after 8:50am) he or she must stop at the office for a late pass. Students who are absent or tardy on a regular basis do not perform as well as those who are in class on time. We are responsible for teaching your child. We cannot do our job if your child is absent, late or perpetually leaves school early. Learning builds day by day. A child who misses a day of school misses a day of learning.



When your child will be absent or late, please call the school to inform us at 353-7261 or 353-7270 to let us know. If we have not received a call, and your child is not in school by 8:50 am, we will attempt to contact you. This policy is designed to help keep your child safe, and we appreciate your cooperation. Please know that excessive absenteeism or tardiness can hinder success in school.

- ☑ A parent-signed note is required by our school explaining the absence when your child returns to school.
- ☑ A parent-signed note is required when your child is tardy. Tardy students should report to the Main Office for a late pass before joining class.
- ☑ Please note: Parent notification does not make an illegal absence legal (see below), nor does absence of a written note make a student's non-attendance for legal reasons illegal.

If your child has a contagious condition such as strep throat, scarlet fever, conjunctivitis, ring worm, chicken pox, or lice, we ask that you notify the school nurse (353-7270) so we can be aware of the condition and check other students if necessary, as well as notify parents appropriately. Children with contagious conditions must be under a physician's care and cannot return to school until advised to do so. Parents are required to keep their children home for 24 hours after a temperature, nauseous/vomiting or diarrhea to eliminate the spread of illness to others.

The building principal and the school nurse will analyze data periodically to identify patterns in student absences or tardiness and parents will be notified accordingly.



### Legal or Excused Absences

The following are the categories of absence that are legal or excused (approved by the Commissioner of Education):

1. Personal illness
2. Illness or death in the family
3. Religious observance
4. Quarantine
5. Required court appearance

Illegal absence (also known as “unlawful detention”) occurs when a student is absent with the knowledge and consent, stated or implied of his/her parent, for other than legal reasons. Such excuses as the following come under this heading: visiting, vacation, work, oversleeping, “needed at home,” “no shoes,” etc. A child whose parents expect him/her to be in school, and who does not attend, is truant, which is also an illegal absence. Students who arrive at school after 8:50am need to report to the office to receive a pass prior to going to their classroom.



## Questions & Telephone Calls

Our goal is to ensure that teachers can go about their business of teaching and learning without interruptions or distractions. We are therefore asking that you contact teachers before the instructional day begins (8:50 a.m.) or at the end of the school day (3:20 p.m.). Phone calls will not be put through to the classrooms. You can contact them by email by their first initial last name@nyackschools.org (eg. [ebobo@nyackschools.org](mailto:ebobo@nyackschools.org)). You will be directed to leave a voice mail message in the teacher's mailbox. All calls will be returned in a timely manner. In case of an emergency situation or late dismissal change, please contact our office staff.

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## Visitations & Volunteers

All visitors are welcomed at Upper Nyack Elementary School for scheduled classroom events. Announced visitors must enter through the Main Entrance (at the north end of the building on Broadway), and report to the Main Office. Visitors are asked to sign in and receive an I.D. badge before proceeding to their destination. However, parents are not allowed to visit students at lunch or in their classrooms during the day without an invitation from classroom teacher. We are always looking for ways to include parents in our classrooms. Possible volunteer projects:

- ✦ Join the PTA and lend support for their many projects;
- ✦ Become a Parent Liaison (class parent)
- ✦ Demonstrate a job or talent with a class or the whole school;
- ✦ Volunteer to read to a group of children on a regular basis;
- ✦ Provide homework help before or after school, or during recess (contact the Family Resource Center if interested)
- ✦ Become a mentor (contact the Principal if interested)



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## Clothing

Children should come to school dressed in age-appropriate comfortable clothing. Students often sit on the floor or the rug. Layered clothing is best as indoor temperatures may fluctuate during the day. Snowsuits, boots, hats, and mittens are important for winter days. All students have outdoor recess except on rainy days or if the temperature drops below 25° F.

Clothes should all be labeled. **First and last names should be on all items.** Missing items can be located in the “Lost & Found” box in the All-Purpose Room. Clothes not claimed will be donated to charity at the end of each month. Children should wear appropriate footwear (example: sneakers on Gym days; no backless sandals, slip-ons, flip-flops, clogs, “heelys” or any other shoes with wheels embedded in the soles). Please refer to the Code of Conduct for appropriate student dress code.



## School Dismissal

We will begin to dismiss students at about 3:15pm. We call the walkers and car pick ups to their designated pick up location first. To ease the congestion at the middle doors, grades 3, 4, and 5 students will be dismissed through the double doors by the gym. Grades K, 1, and 2 students will continue to be dismissed through the middle double doors (by the garden). Do not go to the classroom to pick up your child. Your child will be brought to you at the exit door. (Please do not “crowd” the exit doors). Bus riders will remain in their designated bus rooms until their bus is called. We ask that parents waiting for their children not double-park or ask their children to cross the street (North Broadway) to be picked up. If you are picking up your child before dismissal, come to the Main Office and your child will be called to meet you there. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us to ensure a smooth and safe dismissal for all children.



### Car Pick-Up Information (Additional information on pgs. 19/20)

When picking up your child, you may either park at a distance and walk to the school, or you may use the “car rider lane.” Cars will be able to line up in the “pick-up lane.” Drivers will remain in their cars and children will be able to safely enter the cars in the lane. As vehicles leave the lane, you must be prepared to move up to make room for the cars behind. There are “**No Parking**” signs located in front of the Old Stone Church as well as across the street from Birchwood Avenue to Upper Nyack’s parking lot. Please do not park and leave your car at these places and please do not park in the staff parking lot, located on the side and the back of the building.



## Homework Policy



Homework is an integral part of your child’s educational process. The assignment of homework serves two purposes: 1) practice and application of academic skills; and 2) develop responsibility and good study habits. These are skills that will be essential to being successful in school. Parent support and supervision of homework is an extremely important factor toward building good study habits and personal responsibility.



## Homework Guidelines

**Kindergarten:** At this level, the teacher may request certain materials from home such as pictures, records, or plants.

**Grades 1-2:** At these levels, classes and/or individuals that need homework should be given assignments. Homework may vary from specific assignments to voluntary projects. When assignments are given, they should not exceed a maximum of 4 times a week, ranging from 15 to 20 minutes.

**Grades 3-4:** Homework should be given 1 to 4 nights per week ranging from 20 to 30 minutes per night. The number of assignments will be determined by the needs of the students.

**Grade 5:** Homework should be given 3 to 4 nights per week ranging from 45 to 60 minutes per night. The number of assignments will be determined by the needs of the students.

*(Please see District website for policy)*



## Emergency Closing Procedures

There are specific procedures for emergency closings. The purpose of these procedures is to ensure that no child goes to an empty house. Our District uses ConnectEd, an automated phone system to contact parents. Please be sure your Emergency Card (*see Appendix*) is up to date so we know whom to contact and always inform the main office of any change to your phone number/address. Always notify the classroom teacher as well as our district offices of any change in your address and/or phone number if it changes throughout the year.



## School Closings or Delays

For current information on school closings or delays, contact us via one of the following:

- ① **Internet:** Log onto [www.nyackschools.org/school closings](http://www.nyackschools.org/school_closings), [www.cancellations.com](http://www.cancellations.com)
- ① **Phone Message:** District will notify households with an alert phone call with a informative message regarding school closings/delays or early dismissals. Please be sure to provide current phone numbers to district and the main office.
- ① **TV:** will appear on most local news programs across the bottom of the screen
- ① **Radio:** WVNJ (1160 AM); WFAS (1230 AM; 103.9 FM, 106.3 FM); WHUD (100.7 FM); WRGC (1300 AM)

# UPPER NYACK SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

This is the Upper Nyack School's version of Project S.A.V.E. For further information, refer to the District Policy Book Code of Conduct (*available by calling 353-7013 or online at [www.nyackschools.org](http://www.nyackschools.org)*).

Our discipline policy is based on the following beliefs:

- ★ At Upper Nyack School, **all students** have the responsibility to contribute to maintaining a positive, safe, and orderly school environment that is conducive to learning.
- ★ We are committed to providing a safe environment where **all students** are engaged and inspired to achieve the highest academic level and where all students and adults can be successful.
- ★ It is the right of all students to learn without interference from students who behave inappropriately and in non-constructive ways.



## Code of Conduct Goals *(from the District Policy Book)*

The Code of Conduct is designed to assist us in communicating and acting upon district values. It is the intention of the district to implement these regulations in a manner that is respectful of our diversity so we can achieve our common goals in a positive and productive manner. The safety and security of our students are our first priority. We are committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment where students can receive and staff can deliver quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, staff, parents, and other visitors is essential to achieving this goal.

Our expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions are long-standing. These expectations are based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty, and integrity.



## Behavioral Expectations

1. Students will walk through the hallways quietly to show respect for other classes that are in progress.
2. Students are expected to use their quiet voices throughout the building.
3. Students must observe recess/playground guidelines that are designed to ensure a safe playground environment and mutual respect among all staff and students.
4. Students will not use profanity or abusive language.

5. Gum chewing is not allowed in school.
6. Hats or other head coverings will not be worn by students during school hours.
7. Students will show respect for teachers, support personnel, and administrators.
8. Students will respect school property and the property of others.
9. Students will use concert manners at all assemblies.
10. Students will not bring any toys, objects, or clothing representing violence to school.
11. Students will not use cell phones in the school building during the school day.



**Student Rights** *(See District Policy Book for complete list)*

Our students have the right to:

1. Have a safe, healthy, orderly, and courteous school environment;
2. Take part in all district activities on an equal basis regardless of race, sex, religion, national origin, or disability;
3. Have constitutional rights regarding speech, privacy, and equal protection under the law;
4. Attend school and participate in school programs (unless suspended from instruction);
5. Work to the best of his/her ability in all academic and extra-curricular pursuits and strive toward the highest level of achievement possible;
6. Seek help in solving problems that might otherwise lead to discipline procedures;
7. Make constructive contributions to the school;
8. Enhance their self-image through mutual respect, positive encouragement, and frequent successes.



**Student Responsibilities**

Our students will:

1. Do their BEST work every day;
2. Come to school each day prepared to learn with their books, materials, homework, etc.;
3. Treat everyone with respect;
4. Respect school property and the property of others;
5. Attend school on time every day;
6. Accept responsibility for their behavior
7. Follow directions given by the principal, teachers, and other school personnel in a positive and respectful manner;
8. Use conflict resolution strategies when the situation warrants it;
9. Dress appropriately for school and school functions.



## **Staff Responsibilities** *(Teachers, Administrators, Support Personnel)*

Our staff members will:

1. Support school-wide procedures;
2. Support all students' efforts to learn and to be successful;
3. Dress in a professional manner;
4. Demonstrate mutual respect for students, parents, and colleagues;
5. Maintain a disciplined classroom environment by setting clear expectations for classroom behavior, employ preventative practices, and have a plan to address disruptive behavior that includes parent conferences;
6. Maintain a safe, respectful classroom learning environment;
7. Enforce the Code of Conduct and ensure that all cases are resolved promptly and fairly;
8. Support and maintain a safe, orderly, and respectable environment for students, teachers, and school personnel.

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## **Parent Responsibilities**

All parents are expected to:

1. Accept joint responsibility for their child's or children's education;
2. Ensure that their children attend school regularly and on time;
3. Schedule appointments for children after school whenever possible;
4. Help students understand that appropriate rules are necessary to maintain a safe and orderly school environment;
5. Ensure that students are appropriately dressed and groomed in a manner that is consistent with the district's dress code (District Policy Book);
6. Know school rules and help their children to understand them;
7. Build positive relationships with the teachers, staff, and other parents;
8. Provide a quiet place where students can complete homework assignments;
9. Attend all educational meetings such as Back to School Night and Parent-Teacher Conferences.

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## **Student Penalties: Procedures & Referrals**

Students who violate school rules will be required to accept the consequences for their behavior. Students may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension from school when they:

### **A.**

- ⊗ Engage in conduct that is disorderly e.g. running in the hallway, using profane language and gestures;

- ⊙ Engage in inappropriate conduct or disruptive behavior e.g. demonstrating disrespect, failing to listen to their teachers, school administrator, or other school personnel in charge of students;
- ⊙ Engage in misconduct on the school bus e.g. fighting, punching, shoving, and loud noises that are distracting to the driver;

**B.**

Engage in conduct that is violent e.g. hitting, punching, kicking, biting another person or attempting to do so, threatening another, possessing a weapon, intentionally

- ⊙ destroying another person’s personal property, intentionally damaging school property;
- ⊙ Engaging in conduct that endangers the safety, morals, and welfare of others e.g. lying, stealing, discrimination, bullying, inappropriate touching;
- ⊙ Engage in academic misconduct e.g. cheating.

**Consequences:**

Note: Consequences will be progressive. This means that a student’s first violation will usually merit a lighter consequence than subsequent violations.

**Examples of Consequences:**

- Oral warning
  - Removal from the classroom by teacher
  - Written notification to parents
  - Referral to Principal
  - Conference with parents
  - Suspension – up to 5 days (depending on the severity of the infraction)
- (See the District’s Code of Conduct for a more comprehensive list.)

**Disciplinary Consequences for School Bus Offences:**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| First referral  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Principal conference with student                                     |
|                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copy of referral sent to parent/guardian                              |
| Second referral | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parent/Guardian contact   |
|                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copy of referral sent to parent/guardian                              |
| Third referral  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bus privileges denied for 1-3 days (as designated by the Principal) * |

\*Student will be required to attend school using alternate transportation provided by parents



# SAFETY & SECURITY

**School Security:** The S.A.V.E. legislation was adopted by our School Board in July, 2002. Each school employee will wear a photo-identification badge at all times. All doors will remain locked after 9:00 a.m. Access to the building will be through the Main Entrance only, using the buzzer system.

All volunteers must sign our guest book at the Main Office or Security Desk and receive a pass before proceeding to the classroom. Our security guard will continue to be a visible presence in the building.

Visitors must make an appointment with the Principal for a guided tour of the building.



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## Safety Rules

Safety rules apply while in school, waiting for the bus, walking to/from school, and while on field trips:

1. Walk the route to and from school with an adult, parent or guardian prior to the first day of classes.
  2. Always walk on the sidewalk when one is available.
  3. Stay alert and look around continuously to be aware of what is near you.
  4. Always walk facing traffic.
  5. Always look left and right a few times before and while crossing the street to make sure no vehicles are approaching.
  6. Allow cars to pass before attempting to cross a street.
  7. Don't run between parked cars and buses.
  8. Wear light colored or bright colored clothing so you can be seen.
  9. Walk in groups.
  10. Always walk inside a crosswalk when one is available.
  11. Always ride your bike near the side of the road, going with the traffic.
  12. Bikes must be locked in the school bike rack, located by the Main Entrance (at the north end of the building).
  13. Always obey and cross the road with the help of the crossing guard.
  14. Private property must always be respected.
  15. Cell phones may not be used during the school day. Any phone turned on will be confiscated and a parent will be called to reclaim the phone.
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## Bus Safety Rules & Socializing



1. Drivers' directions must be followed.
2. Students must be seated at all times.
3. Students are asked to speak quietly on the bus.
4. Keep arms, hands, feet, or heads inside the bus at all times.
5. Proper language must be used when speaking to the driver or schoolmates.
6. Food, drinks, and gum are not to be eaten on the bus.
7. Throwing objects around the bus or out of the windows is not permitted.
8. Fighting, "play fighting," or physical attacks of any kind are not permitted.
9. Students must not change seats during the bus ride unless directed to do so by the driver.

The Principal has the authority to deny a student access to school bus transportation. This denial will be for a specific period of time. Parents will be notified prior to the suspension.



## Lunchroom Behavior



1. Enter the lunchroom quietly;
2. Sit where directed by lunchroom supervisors;
3. Use soft, sociable voices;
4. Place all garbage in the trash can;
5. Line up quickly and quietly when called by supervisors;
6. Speak respectfully and kindly to each other.



## Playground Rules



1. Include everyone in playground games.
2. Never place anyone (including yourself) in danger by your actions.
3. Play without roughness (no pushing, fighting, kicking, tackling, pinching, spitting, or play fighting).
4. Show respect for playground supervisors and follow directions quickly.
5. Leave rock, bark, sticks, sand, and other dangerous objects alone. (Ask an adult to remove dangerous objects.)
6. Take turns on the equipment and use it correctly (no twisting or jumping off swings or high places, etc.; no climbing up the slides).
7. No swinging or jumping off high places.
8. Show respect for each other (no bad language, no picking fights, no teasing or stealing, no hurtful words or actions).
9. Always be in sight of a playground supervisor.
10. Hold on tightly to rails when climbing playground structures.
11. Never swing lunch bags and boxes or jackets.
12. Line up quickly and in an orderly, respectful manner when the whistle is blown.



# MEDICAL INFORMATION

**Emergency Cards** (*see Appendix*) should be filled out each year and returned to the nurse. Parents must keep the nurse informed of changes for the emergency cards.

- ☑ All new students must be immunized prior to entrance in school.
- ☑ All special education students, new entrants and second and fourth graders must have complete physicals. Forms are available from the nurse.
- ☑ All children should visit a dentist at least once per school year. Dental cards are available from the nurse.
- ☑ No child may carry medication in school. This includes prescribed as well as non-prescription medication. If your child needs to take medication, the nurse must have a medicine form filled out by your physician and the medication must be delivered to the nurse in a properly labeled bottle.
- ☑ If your child has any allergies to food, medications, or bee stings, please notify the nurse in writing.



## Contagious Disease Information



Contagious Disease	Incubation Period	Symptoms
Chicken Pox	14-21 days	Fever, spotty red rash on face and body that becomes white blisters.
Conjunctivitis	---	Redness, tearing, occasionally formation of pus.
Measles	14-21 days	Fever, cough, sore eyes, blotchy rash on face and body.
Mumps	14-28 days	Fever, swelling in front of ear and under jaw, pain when eating.
Scarlet Fever	5-7 days	Fever, very red and sore throat, blushing type red rash on face and body.
Strep Throat	---	Sore throat, red with possible white patches, and a positive throat culture by your M.D.
Fifth's Disease (Erythema Infectiosum)	5-10 days	Low grade fever, slight malaise, and a slapped face appearance.

Please notify the School Nurse (353-7270) if your child contracts a contagious disease.



## Head Lice Tips: How to Detect the Warning Signs

With seemingly no warning, a person can become infested with head lice. But in truth, there are warning signs to alert you to the presence of head lice. If you take action at the first sign of these warning signs, you can help prevent the head lice from spreading.

**Symptoms:** For most people, itching is the most common symptom of head lice. However, not everyone who is affected has itching, so it is important to check all students.

**Locations:** Look for red marks behind the child's ears and on the nape of his/her neck, as these spots are where head lice typically gather. However, lice and their eggs (called nits) can be found anywhere on the head.

**Appearances:** Lice are sometimes hard to see, because they're tiny, brown, and move to avoid light. But nits are tiny, whitish, and are firmly glued to the hair shaft, usually near the scalp. Nits might be mistaken for dandruff, but unlike dandruff, nits cannot be easily brushed off or removed by normal shampooing and washing.

**Seasons:** Increased incidence of head lice infestations occurs most frequently in the fall, between August and November; however, head lice are prevalent year-round.

**Problems:** Because nits adhere to the hair with a very strong, glue-like substance, it can be difficult to remove every nit. But it is critical to remove every single nit from the head, since even one living nit can lead to a re-infestation.

**Please note:** Nyack Public Schools has a no-nit policy. Students who return to school post-treatment must be checked by the School Nurse. Call the School Nurse directly at (845) 353-7270.



A full breakfast and lunch is available each day at school. Applications for assistance in paying for lunch and breakfast were sent to all parents. All applications must be filled out and returned to Central Office (13A Dickinson Ave., Nyack, NY 10960).

You can pay in advance for all meals by sending a check made out to: Nyack Public Schools or use the new online service, MealpayPlus to manage your child's meal account by logging in at [www.mealpayplus.com](http://www.mealpayplus.com) to register using a credit card or debit card for a \$2 transaction fee each time a deposit is made. You must have your student's ID number

which can be obtained by calling the main office at 353-7260. While we do not wish to have a child go without lunch, we must advise you that only one voucher will be permitted to be “open” for a child. Please be sure to send in the correct amount of money for all lunches and breakfasts.

Breakfast and lunch will be served on the first day of school. Current meal prices are \$1.00 for Breakfast \$2.35 for lunch. You may pay in advance for breakfast and lunch or may pay on the day you receive the meal. Lunch menus are posted online ([www.nyackschools.org](http://www.nyackschools.org)) each month.

Milk is available for snack time and meal times. The price is \$.50 each. Students may choose between 1% milk and skim milk.

## NEW YORK STATE & LOCAL ASSESSMENTS

A variety of formal and informal assessments, including standardized tests, are employed to evaluate students’ progress. We recognize that multiple measures provide a more comprehensive understanding of the child as a learner. We use assessment data to monitor students’ progress, to identify students’ strengths and areas in need of improvement, and to adjust instruction to address learning gaps.

The following New York State assessments are administered to students in grades 3-5:

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| English-Language Arts (ELA)  | Spring 2016 (DATES TBD) |
|  Math | Spring 2016 (DATES TBD) |

Only our fourth graders:

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
|  Science | Spring 2016 (DATES TBD) |
|---|-------------------------|

Local assessments include:

-  Curriculum-based measures
-  Teacher-designed tests
-  End of chapter tests
-  Running records
-  Performance-based assessments

Assessments are ongoing. The data are analyzed and decisions are made to adjust instructional practices to address students’ needs.

We ask parental cooperation in not scheduling vacations, medical and dental appointments, etc. during the time that these assessments are scheduled. Thank you for your support.



## PTA SAFETY DROP OFF & PICKUP FAQ'S

**Q: I have a 4<sup>th</sup> grader who gets dropped off before school begins and heads to the gym, can I drop him off in front of the gym?**

A: No. All children that are dropped-off in the morning between 8 -9 am need to be let out in the official Drop-Off Zone in front of the main school entrance. Children must be at least in 1<sup>st</sup> grade and capable of exiting a vehicle on their own. All cars must be heading southbound on N Broadway so your child can exit properly and from the passenger side only.

The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are escorted to the gym at 8:20 am. Prior to that, they should proceed to the multi-purpose room. Beginning at 8:25 am, all 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders can enter the gym from the outside door. They can walk from the official drop-off zone to the outside gym door where staff will be positioned to let them in. Children should NOT be dropped-off in front of the gym because that area is reserved for school buses only.

**Q: I have safety locks on my car, so can I pull up past the drop-off zone, exit the car and let my child out?**

A: No. The drop-off zone is intended as a quick, drop-off zone only. Children must be in grades 1 -5 (no Kindergartners please) and able to exit cars on their own. They must exit on the passenger side and all cars must be heading southbound on N Broadway.

The drop-off should take less than 30 seconds to allow for efficient traffic-flow.

Typically, there are many cars waiting behind yours.

If your child needs assistance either with the car door or their seat belt, park in a designated area and walk your child into school. Parents should also use the passenger side for providing assistance so they are not either in harm's way or disrupting traffic by standing in the roadway.

*If you or your child has special needs, please contact the School Office to arrange a workable solution.*

**Q: My child needs some time to say good-bye as they transition to their school day. They like it when I give them a hug and send them on their way. Can I use the drop-off lane?**

A: No and Yes. No, if you need to get out of the car at school. If your child needs assistance exiting the car or needs some extra time for good-byes, park in the designated areas and walk your child into school. This also applies to all Kindergartners.

Yes, if goodbyes can be said prior to getting into the car at your home.

**Q: My 5<sup>th</sup> grader plays Cello, can I help her exit the car when using the drop-off lane?**

A: Yes. You may have to hurry a bit, but most parents and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders can maneuver the drop-off of a transportable item, such as a musical instrument or a simple

project in about/under 30 seconds. Just be careful. However, anything that is either delicate or very bulky and not easily transported would require you to park.

**Q: We have special needs. Can I use the faculty parking lot at dismissal time?**

A: Yes. Certainly, if you *or* your child has special needs, either temporary *or* long term, please contact the School Office. You will be given permission and the administration will provide you with a workable solution. However, you must contact the school office first, since the parking lot is reserved for faculty only.

**Q: I am usually driving northbound on North Broadway when heading to the school. Can I make a U-turn into the school parking lot or a private driveway?**

A: No. No U-turns or K-turns are permitted between Castle Heights Avenue and Birchwood Ave during school hours. They are a safety hazard in front of a school. Plan your trip accordingly.

**Q: In the morning, I am heading north on North Broadway. Can I drop my children off and have them cross the street to get to school.**

A: No. This is extremely unsafe. Either plan your trip so you are heading southbound on N Broadway in front of the school and use the Drop-Off Zone correctly, or park your car in a designated area. They can then exit your vehicle on the passenger side and proceed to the crosswalk with the crossing guard. Or, you can park and then escort children across the street using one of the crosswalks. Do not cross the street randomly; use a crosswalk at all times.

**Q: Since my daughter is dismissed from school near the gym doors, can I pick her up there, especially when it's raining?**

A: No. You must use the official pick-up lane that is at the other end of the school. Plan your trip so you are heading southbound on N Broadway and get in line with all of the other cars. No cars should be in the bus loading zone, in front of the fire hydrant or in any other area that is marked "No Parking" or has a yellow line.

## **Nyack Public Schools Transportation Office**

**Karen Sher**

**Phone: 845-353-7041**

**Fax: 845-680-1972**

**ksher@nyackschools.com**

*The Transportation Office hours are 7:30AM-4:30PM.*



### **Kindergarten Transportation – Information**

• *Parents/guardians must meet kindergarten students at their assigned bus stop. The student will be brought back to their school building if they are not met.*

➤ *Please instruct your child to notify the driver if they do not see their parent or guardian. They should remain on the bus.*

• *Kindergarten students are seated in the front of the bus at dismissal and must remain there. If there is an older sibling on the bus, he/she may get permission from the building principal to sit in the front of the bus. At no time may the Kindergarten student move to the back of the bus.*

➤ *Please instruct your child to always sit in the front of the bus.*

• *Kindergarten bus badges must be worn and visible whenever riding the bus.*

➤ *Please instruct your child to report a lost badge, immediately, to you or his/her teacher.*

*The District is committed to the safety and well being of your children. If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail or call immediately so that they may be addressed immediately.*