



PARENT HANDBOOK

2019/2020

A School-Wide Title I School

ADMINISTRATION: 410-479-1660
FAX: 410-479-4220
SCHOOL NURSE: 410-479-2916
CAFETERIA: 410-479-0224

Susan McCandless, Principal
Matthew Breedlove, Assistant Principal
Briana Walker, Assistant Principal

Denton Elementary School
303 Sharp Road, Denton, Maryland 21629
410-479-1660

Mrs. Susan McCandless, Principal

Mr. Matthew Breedlove, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Briana Walker, Assistant Principal

2019-2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is our pleasure to welcome you and your family to Denton Elementary School. On behalf of the teachers and staff, we would like to express our gratitude as you join Denton Elementary's learning community. We are using this handbook as a means of communication between home and school. There are many policies, regulations, and services discussed in these pages. Please read and keep this handbook available throughout the year. Many of your questions have been anticipated and are discussed in some detail. We are always available to clarify any school matter.

Close cooperation between home and school is essential for high student achievement. Parents are encouraged to visit school and attend meetings. We believe that student learning is enhanced when there is a meaningful exchange between home and school. It is our hope that this handbook will enhance your student's educational exposure at Denton Elementary School.

On behalf of the teachers and staff, we look forward to a successful, exciting, and satisfying year for you and your child.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school at 410-479-1660.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Susan McCandless, Principal

Mr. Matthew Breedlove, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Briana Walker, Assistant Principal

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Dear Students,

Welcome to Denton Elementary School and to the new learning experiences that await you. We have prepared this handbook to tell you about your school. You will find that the school rules and regulations that govern our lives at Denton Elementary School make it possible for all of us to live, learn, work, and play together. Please take the time to read this handbook carefully. If you have any questions, see your teachers, guidance counselors, parents, or administrators. They will be glad to answer your questions.

We are proud to have you as a student at this fine school. You have the power to determine your successes. Start off on the right foot. The mission of a Denton Dolphin is to S.W.I.M. for Success: **S**tay safe, **W**ork hard, **I**nclude everyone, and **M**ake responsible choices. Remember, the longest journey starts with just a single step. Put your best foot forward.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Susan McCandless, Principal

Mr. Matthew Breedlove, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Briana Walker, Assistant Principal

Attendance

Students are expected to attend school every day during the school year. A student who is absent from school for a day or any portion of a day without a lawful cause is considered to be truant. Students with satisfactory attendance...

- Come to school on time and stay for the entire day.
- Are absent no more than 10 days during the school year.
- Bring in a parent note or other documentation in order to justify each attendance as lawful. **All notes are due within ten school days of the student's return.**

Promotion may be denied to students, in grades K-5, who have more than 100 unlawful absence points within a school year. Students accumulate points according to the following scale: Full Day = 10 points; Half Day = 5 points; Tardy or Early Dismissal = 2 points. Letters will be sent home when students are absent 3 days or more.

Arrival and Dismissal

Student Day

Students may begin entering the building at 8:45 a.m. Students will go directly to their classroom. **Any student arriving after 9:05 am is considered tardy and must be signed-in by an adult before going to the classroom.** This procedure ensures the student is credited for attendance and informed of schedule changes. **Either parent notes or doctor's notes need to be provided to make the tardy legal.**

Car riders are to be dropped off at the Lupine Lane entrance. This is a **one**-way loop. There will be a staff member present to help students out of each car. If you are going to walk your child into the building, please park in a designated space in the outer loop in the front of the building. The front loop directly in front of the building is for **buses only**. Please remember that the curb in front of the building is yellow, since this is a fire lane. It is against the law to be parked along this curb at anytime.

Teacher Day

Teachers' hours are 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Should a parent need to speak with a teacher during these hours, a message should be left with office personnel and the teacher will return the call as soon as possible. The front office closes at 4:30 p.m. The phone will not be answered after this time. You may leave a message on the answering machine after hours.

Bicycles

Bicycles are NOT to be ridden on the pavement or ground around the school during school hours. All bicycles are to be parked in the racks and are to remain there until dismissal. Bicycle riders are dismissed at 3:45 p.m. Bikes are to be walked, not ridden, off school property. **Bicycle riders must comply with the law and wear a helmet.**

Skateboards are prohibited on school property.

Books and Materials

Throughout the school year students are issued books and materials. There is no charge for the normal use of these items; however, children are expected to exercise reasonable care in handling books, materials, and other school property. If books or materials assigned to or used by a child are lost or damaged, the child or the parent must pay for them.

Students have a media center class once a week and may borrow books at that time. The student is responsible for the items borrowed. Each item is to be returned by the next media class. If the book is not returned, a new book cannot be checked out. If the book is lost or damaged, the student is expected to pay for it. Books cannot be checked out if all financial obligations have not been met, even from the previous year. If a lost book is found, the money is refunded.

Buses

According to the Caroline County Transportation Handbook, "Riding a school bus is a privilege, not a right. This privilege may be withdrawn." Please review the information concerning buses in the transportation handbook which answers most commonly asked questions. This handbook has been developed with children's safety in mind. Parents and children should review the guidelines for riding the bus and the consequences of not following the rules. **BUS CHANGES WILL ONLY BE MADE IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AND WITH A WRITTEN NOTE. WRITTEN NOTES MAY BE FAXED TO 410-479-4220 or emailed to dessecretary@ccpsstaff.org. Please make all changes by 3:00 pm.**

Change of Address and/or Telephone Number

It is very important, for emergency and administrative reasons, that every student maintains an up-to-date address record at the school office. Please notify the school immediately of changes in address, telephone number, or place of employment. In case of emergency, the school must be able to contact a parent or guardian.

Conferences

Caroline County Public Schools has set aside one and one half parent-teacher conference days in the school calendar, one in each of the following months: November and January.

Your Child/ren's teacher will be contacting you concerning conference schedules. To request a conference at any other time, parents may make arrangements with the individual teacher.

Delayed Openings

A delayed opening means that school begins at 11:00 a.m., Children may start arriving at 10:45 a.m. Dismissal times remain unchanged.

- PreK will follow the delayed opening schedule just like all other grades.
- All school breakfast programs will be modified on days when delayed openings are in effect. Students will be offered shelf stable snacks to have in the afternoon or to put in backpacks.
- All field trips will either leave at 10:45 a.m. or will be postponed to another day.
- When delayed openings are in effect, scheduled student events and parent meetings between 8:45 and 10:45 will be rescheduled.
- Closings and delays will be made through our automated system, School Messenger. It is critical that we have accurate phone numbers.
- If your child's transportation changes due to an emergency closing, please notify the school of the change.

Early Dismissals

When the school calendar denotes an early dismissal (or half day), the dismissal time is 1:00 p.m. Shuttle bus children are dismissed at 12:45 p.m. Walkers/Car Riders and regular bus children are dismissed beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Discipline

School is a place to learn concepts and practice skills. It is also a place where students learn and practice appropriate behavior. Students are taught to respect the rights of others and to do whatever is necessary to follow reasonable regulations that ensure a better learning atmosphere for themselves and those around them.

Students are expected to:

- Follow directions the first time they are given.
- Keep hands, feet and objects to themselves.
- Walk quietly when moving through the building.
- Speak appropriately with adults and peers.
- Respect adults, students, and ALL property.

School personnel discipline students in accordance with the Caroline County Board of Education approved Code of Student Conduct.

Dolphins of Distinction

Denton School makes every effort to recognize students' hard work and dedication to learning. Certificates are awarded each marking period in the following areas: Perfect Attendance, Academic Achievement, and Citizenship.

Dress Code

Appropriate dress for students is expected. Please refer to the Caroline County Handbook for a detailed explanation of the dress code. The length of shorts, skirts, and dresses should be below the fingertips when hands are resting at the student's sides. **Shoes must fit securely. Tennis shoes** are the best choice for elementary students.

Emergency Forms

Emergency forms are sent home at the beginning of the school year with each child. These forms are extremely important, and need to be filled out and updated as needed. **An emergency contact with phone number must be provided on each form.**

Field Trips

Field trips are an integral part of the curriculum, and students are expected to participate in the learning experience. A slip is sent home for each trip asking for the student to take part in the learning experience. The permission slip must be signed by a legal parent or guardian and returned to the school.

When chaperoning a school trip, **please make other arrangements for younger siblings**, as this allows chaperones to give full attention to the learning situation.

If there is a delayed opening to school, the field trip buses will either leave at 10:45 a.m. or the trip will be postponed to another day.

Health Room and Medication

Mrs. Blough, Denton School's nurse, is happy to discuss any health concerns regarding your student(s). If a student is taking medication regularly, or is taking any medication during school hours, please contact Mrs. Blough before sending the medication. The health room telephone number is 410-479-2916.

Lost and Found

Lost and found items are kept in the cafeteria. Parents should label all outer clothing, lunch boxes and bags, backpacks, and any other items brought to school. Attempts are made to return lost items to the proper owner. Expensive items, or items with great sentimental value, should not be sent to school with a child. All unclaimed items are donated to the Samaritan House at the end of May.

Lunch Program

The current cost for meals are:

*lunch \$2.25

*reduced lunch \$.40

Free and reduced lunch forms are sent home to all families over the summer. If you did not receive one, please contact Mrs. Gorsuch, Guidance Counselor (410-479-3278). If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Mrs. Gorsuch.

Denton Elementary has a computerized Lunch Express system. Visit myschoolbucks.com to create your account, view account balances, and make payments. Any amount (cash or check) may be pre-paid into the account and each day's purchases are deducted from that account. If you do not want your child to be able to get snacks with the money on their account, please complete the Cafeteria Information form and return it to the Cafeteria. For more information, please call the cafeteria, 410-479-0224, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Parties

There are three authorized parties during the school year: Each grade level will decide which three parties they will have. More information is sent home prior to each party date.

Personal Possessions

The school is not responsible for lost or damaged property. Teachers will send a note home when toys or other items are to be brought to school to supplement a lesson. Lunch boxes, backpacks, etc. should have the student's name on them. It is suggested that all outer clothing be labeled on the inside tag with a permanent marker.

Pictures

Individual student pictures are taken during the fall. Payment is required before pictures are taken. The pictures are normally delivered within six weeks of the photography session. Class pictures are taken in the early spring.

Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)

A high degree of parental involvement is characteristic of Denton School. The school is incredibly fortunate to have a very active PTA. More details about PTA meetings are forthcoming in school and PTA newsletters.

PTA Executive Board	desmdpta@gmail.com
Darlene Schwaeble, President	/ dschwaeble7@aol.com
Tiffany Keene, Vice President	/ robertsmommy1@gmail.com
Jennifer Butler, Treasurer	/ bree.cody@yahoo.com
Jamie Towers, Secretary	/ towersjamie45@gmail.com

Parent Volunteers

The Parent Volunteer Program enables families to take part in a wide range of activities that include; planning and assisting with class parties, chaperoning class trips, assisting in the Media Center, tutoring under a teacher's direction, and helping with special projects. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Mrs. Heather Canter, Parent Service Provider or visit the Caroline County Public School website www.carolineschools.org.

Photographing of Students

During the course of the school year articles and news releases are written about and for the school system to be submitted to the local news media. Often photographs of students accompany these. **Parents who do not want to have their child's picture taken or have their child interviewed for articles and news releases should send the Principal a written note to that fact, with the child's name, grade (teacher's name) and a parent signature.** The school principal will notify the appropriate people and will keep the record at the school.

Recess Policies for Outdoor Recess

Weather permitting, students are given an outside recess each day. Decisions to have outside recess during cold weather depend upon the temperature and the wind chill factor. Students should always dress for outside recess. All students must be on the playground during outside recess. Only students with a doctor's excuse are allowed to remain in the building during scheduled outside breaks. On days of inclement weather, students have supervised free time in the classroom. Quiet games, talking with friends, etc., are usually allowed by the teacher in charge. Students may be required to finish incomplete academic assignments during recess time.

Playground Rules are as follows:

*When using equipment, students are to wait their turn and not delay other students.

*When taking a turn on the sliding board, a student is to: wait until the person ahead of him or her has cleared the area at the bottom of the slide; climb up the ladder, not the slide; slide down feet first in a sitting position, not flip over the bar at the top of the slide; slide down, not run or jump from the slide or the ladder.

*When taking a turn on the swing, a student is to swing: only one to a swing; sitting on a swing; forward and backward, not side to side or twisting the chains; slowing the swing down before getting off, not jumping from the swing in mid-air; not playing with an empty swing; and exercising care when pushing others.

*When playing, a student is to move to an open area and be alert and careful not to knock another student down. There is to be no tackling or purposeful rough play.

*When at recess, students are not to interfere with physical education classes.

*Kickball is not to be played on the blacktop area.

*Students are to remain in designated play areas during recess.

*Tag is not permitted.

School Colors

Denton School colors are blue and white, and a dolphin is the school's mascot. We encourage our students to identify with these symbols as a representation of our school pride and spirit!

School Improvement Team (SIT)

The School Improvement Team is a committee comprised of teachers, staff, parents, and administrators who meet monthly to discuss the continuous positive development in all aspects of the school. One product of the SIT is the School Improvement Plan, which serves as a guide for school growth and progress. If you are interested in serving on this team, contact Mrs. McCandless.

Smoking/Vaping

The sale or use of nicotine-delivery devices or tobacco in any form is prohibited in all buildings and all outside seating areas owned or leased by the Caroline County Board of Education at all times (24 hours a day, every day), regardless of whether or not students are present. Please refer to the Caroline County Handbook for specific details on this policy.

Title I

The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 supports the previous No Child Left Behind initiatives. It provides parents of students attending Title 1 schools the opportunity to request information about the professional qualifications of their child's teachers. Parents of elementary students may request in writing to the school principal information about their child's teacher including college/university degrees of certification held, subject area of the teacher's degree or certification, and Maryland certification status. Additionally, if your child is served by paraprofessionals, parents may request their professional qualifications. There is a policy for Complaints Concerning Federally Funded Programs XI.110.20.

Visiting School

For safety reasons, when visiting school for any reason (volunteering, conferences, etc.), please use the front door, sign the volunteer/visitor log located in the main office, and receive a visitor badge. Please display this badge while in the school. Drop-in or unannounced visits to classrooms are contrary to student safety and are not permitted. Please make arrangements with the classroom teacher or administration to schedule a visit.

Withdrawals

A student who withdraws from Denton School must do so through the office so that the necessary paperwork can be directed to the child's next school. When a child withdraws, all textbooks, library books, and other school materials must be returned. The school will complete a transfer form to be given to the next school.

2019 – 2020 Important dates to remember:

Events are added regularly please refer to newsletters and website

For the most up-to-date list of events

August 29	Open House / Parent Visitation (2-3)
September 2	NO SCHOOL – Labor Day
September 3	Students Report
September 11	Pre-K Orientation
September 12	Pre-K Begins
September 17	Back To school Night, 6 pm
September 19	Band Rental Night, 6 pm
September 23	NO SCHOOL - Professional Development
October 3	Fall Pictures
October 10	Q1 Interims Issued
October 14	NO SCHOOL - Professional Development
October 18	NO SCHOOL – MESA Convention
October 25	NO PRE-K (Teacher Conference)
October 31	EARLY DISMISSAL - Professional Development
November 4-8	Book Fair
November 7	EARLY DISMISSAL - Grades Q1
November 8	Parent Visitation Day
November 11-12	Pre-K conferences (No Pre-K)
November 11-15	American Education Week
November 15	NO SCHOOL - Professional Development/Conferences
November 18	Q1 Report cards issued
November 20	Fall Picture Make Up Day
November 27-29	NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break
December 11	NO PRE-K
December 12	Winter Concert 6:30pm @ North Caroline High School
December 20	EARLY DISMISSAL - Professional Development/Q2 Interims Issued
December 23-31	NO SCHOOL – Winter Break
January 1	NO SCHOOL – New Year’s Day/Winter Break
January 2	School Reopens
January 20	NO SCHOOL - MLK Jr. Day
January 28	EARLY DISMISSAL - Grades Q2
January 29	NO SCHOOL – Transition/Professional Development
February 7	EARLY DISMISSAL - Professional Development/Conferences
February 10	Q2 Report Cards Issued
February 13-14	Pre-K Conferences (No Pre-K)
February 17	NO SCHOOL – Presidents Day
February 28	Dr. Seuss Night 6pm
March 2-6	Book Fair
March 6	Grandparents Day
March 9	Q3 Interims Issued
March 16	NO SCHOOL - Professional Development
March 30	Spring Pictures
April 1	Pre-K Registration for School Year 2020-2021
April 3	EARLY DISMISSAL - Grades Q3
April 9	EARLY DISMISSAL - Professional Development
April 10-13	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
April 15	Q3 Report Cards Issued
April 23-24	Pre-K Conferences (No Pre-K)
May 7	Spring Concert 6:30pm @ North Caroline High School
May 8	Career Day
May 14	Q4 Interims Issued
May 25	NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day
June 16	Last Day Pre-K
June 17	EARLY DISMISSAL - Last Day for Students

Denton School Staff 2019/2020

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Rachel Ireland
Jessica Jeschelnik
Wendi Kistler
Linda Silsley
Julie Strange

KINDERGARTEN

Sarah Byrne
Cathy Hurley
Nina Porter
Peggy Stark
Sarah Turner

FIRST GRADE

Cathy Heinsohn
Amanda Jones
Laura Love
Mikala Mazer
Taylor Osbourn
Deborah White

SECOND GRADE

Julie Anderson
Brittany Busick
Gina Caldwell
Susan Stinson
Lindsay Williamson

THIRD GRADE

Amy Bauman
Melissa Gunderson
Ashley Lane
Christine Morris
Elizabeth Morris

FOURTH GRADE

Kristin Burneston
Crystal Callaghan
Julia Clough
Vera Connelly
Patsy McClellan

FIFTH GRADE

Jason Gieraltowski
Emily Glover
Sarah Jones
Allen Stevenosky
Bailey Swann

ADMINISTRATION

PRINCIPAL.....Susan McCandless
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL.....Matthew Breedlove
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL.....Briana Walker
RECORDS SECRETARY.....Chandra Cabarris
FINANCE SECRETARY.....Michele Sartwell
OFFICE SECRETARY.....Alice Winstead
PARENT SERVICE PROVIDER.....Heather Canter
SPECIAL EDUCATION SECRETARY.....Laura Hannegan

ART EDUCATION

..... Laura Beyerle

BIRTH to 3-YEAR-OLD TEACHER

..... Lauren Heyliger, Liz Davidson

CAFETERIA STAFF

MANAGER.....Mary Bailey
STAFF.....Mary Beach, Catherine Eskridge, Denise Mulrine, Lisa

Sullivan

CUSTODIAL STAFF

HEAD CUSTODIAN.....Ellis A. Jones III

CUSTODIANS.....Thomas Beaudet, Matthew Reedy, Anthony Seal

ELL TEACHER

.....Victoria Shull

ELL ASSISTANT

.....Candace Saulsbury, Lauren Shilling

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES COORDINATOR

.....Cynthia Brummell

GIFTED & TALENTED

.....Katie Tribbitt

INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS

.....Carol Clendaniel, Heather Eaton, Donna Fazenbaker, Tina

MATH RESOURCE TEACHER

Fithian, Sherry Good, Jennifer O'Keefe, Melissa Riggins, Michelle Rogers, Shelly Rust, Nicole Young
.....Laura Ponsini

MATH INTERVENTION TEACHER

.....Victoria Austin, Donna Carson

MEDIA SPECIALIST

.....Ken Bouchat

MUSIC EDUCATION

.....Nicole Oesterle, Ryan List

PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

.....Jessica Willoughby, Ashley Wilson

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

.....Diane Karek, Eric Pittsinger

PREK TUTORS

.....Melissa Bouchat, Laurie Costello, Taylor Davis, Diane Parks, Ashley White

READING INTERVENTION TEACHER

.....Amy Sundt, Joan Powell

READING RESOURCE TEACHER

.....Beth Coxon

RECESS MONITORS

.....Tiffany Keene, Susan Leonard, Renee Maybury, Darlene Schwaeble

SAC MONITOR

.....Pam Smith

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

.....Christina Gorsuch, Amie Palanchar

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

.....Danielle May

SCHOOL NURSE

.....Jane Blough, Natalie Korell

HEALTH ASSISTANT

.....Pat Townsend

SPECIAL EDUCATION

.....Alyson Breeding, Amy Gilliland, Jennifer Mangum Jodi

McDaniel, Janice Pugh, Rachel Salmon

SPECIAL EDUCATION IA'S

.....Amy Barnes, Jannelle Bramble, Laura Christ, Emily Colton,

Virginia Gavin, Miranda McCarn, Rachel Newman

SPECIAL EDUCATION NURSE TECH.....Brittany Shockley
SPEECH.....Melissa Krempasky, Holly Ruskauff
TECHNOLOGY FACILITATOR Heba Zaki