

# Memorial School

## Student and Parent Handbook 2023-2024

Welcome to Memorial School. We are looking forward to a productive school year filled with lots of learning and fun. The following handbook of information may help to answer the numerous questions you may have regarding our school. Please read this information and cooperate with us by following the policies and procedures. Please keep this handbook to refer to throughout the school year.

### ARRIVAL

Children are permitted to go to their classrooms at 8:45 a.m. However, they **should not arrive earlier than 8:45 a.m.** since no supervision is provided until that time.

If your child is late, send a note to the teacher explaining the reason for the tardiness. Your child should bring this note to the office upon arrival.

The safety of our students is our top priority. If you are driving your child to school, please follow the outlined procedures below:

#### **Car Lanes:**

- When bringing your child to school by car on Midland Avenue or Washington Place, follow the traffic patterns of the drop-off area.
- Pull up as far as you can in the drop-off zone. **Please do not exit the vehicle.**
- **PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHILD SEATED ON THE PASSENGER SIDE OF THE VEHICLE.**
- Staff members will be stationed at drop off locations to assist your child.

### ATTENDANCE

All schools within our district will now require parents/guardians to report student absences through the Genesis Parent Portal. Please report your student's absence via the Genesis Parent Portal **prior to 8:45 am**. Parents/Guardians will receive an auto response to confirm the absence has been recorded. Here are the procedures for [Submitting Attendance in Genesis](#).

Parents/caregivers are strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of illness every day as they are the front line for assessing illness in their children. Students who are sick should not attend school. If your child has one or more of the following symptoms, they should stay home: fever, chills, shivers, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory or taste disorder. Parents should contact the

school nurse to report their child's absence and their symptoms and obtain recommendations for when their child may return to school.

The Board of Education has a policy to encourage good attendance. If an elementary student is absent from instruction for more than 20 days in a school year, the child could be retained. Parents must, of course, make careful decisions to determine the health of the child. It is better to keep a sick child home. Since there are three full weeks of vacation during the school year, parents are encouraged to plan vacations only during the dates listed in the district calendar. In addition, it is also the policy of the Board of Education that four late arrivals to school equal one absence. Please refer to your copy of the Paramus Board of Education Attendance Policy for further information.

## **ABSENCES**

If your child is absent, you are urged to notify the school by telephone between 8:30 and 9:00 AM at 201-261-7800, Ext. 8316 or 8315. If we do not hear from you, the nurse or other school representative will call you to determine the nature of your child's absence. If we are unable to reach you, we will call your emergency contacts. If no one can be reached, we are required to contact the authorities. Upon your child's return to school, a note must be sent explaining the reason for the absence.

You are encouraged to keep sick children at home until they are well enough to participate in a full school day. Before returning to school, the Board procedure requires a child to be fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication. Once they return to school, children are expected to participate in recess and PE, unless the doctor indicates that restrictions are advised. Please discuss any concerns with the school nurse. Work can be sent home when necessary. Please call or write a note to request this.

Children who contract an illness or injury that requires absence for an extended period of time (minimum of two weeks) may be eligible for home instruction. Parents are requested to contact the principal or the Department of Student Personnel Services as soon as they are aware of the need. Paramus Public Schools have an attendance policy. An excess of twenty absences in one school year can lead to student retention. It is strongly advised that students not be removed from school for vacations or other inappropriate reasons.

**\*Important\*** Please refer to Board of Education Policy #5113 for procedures regarding mandatory withdrawal from school for unexcused absences that exceed 10 (ten) consecutive school days.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Students may come to the office for some birthday swag that can be worn throughout the day. The principal will also announce birthdays on the morning announcements. Parents may send in a NON-EDIBLE treat to celebrate (pencils, stickers etc).

The school's preference is to have party invitations mailed home to guests by the party hosts. However, if you find it necessary to have the invitations distributed at school, the following procedure must be followed out of respect and courtesy for fellow classmates:

- Please note that invitations can only be distributed at school if ALL students in the class are invited.
- Drop your invitations off to the main office where they will be placed in the appropriate teacher's mailbox. The classroom teacher will distribute the invitations ONLY if no students are excluded as explained above. Students and/or parents may not distribute invitations.
- In the event you have inadvertently excluded a child, ALL the invitations will be returned to you with a brief note of explanation. You are welcome at this point to include any oversights and drop the completed set of invitations to the main office once again.
- You may, of course, not wish to invite all students in the class or even all students of one gender. In this case, invitations CANNOT be distributed at school.

## **SECURITY**

- Armed Security Guard on site each day.
- School safety officers will continue to work in the schools to ensure the safety of our students and staff.
- Schools will continue to conduct required fire and safety drills.
- Families will be notified when a safety drill is conducted.

### **Student Social and Emotional Wellness**

Your child's well-being is a primary concern for us. Our counselors will lead regular lessons focused on self-care/wellness.

Parents are encouraged to maintain communication with their child's teacher, principal or school counselor if there are concerns about their child's social, emotional or academic well-being.

## **BUS PROTOCOL**

The Board of Education will notify those students who are eligible for bus transportation. Only those students assigned to a specific bus number may ride the buses to and from school. Due to insurance reasons, no other students will be permitted to ride the buses.

### Important Bus Reminders:

- Students taking buses home will be brought directly to the bus depot by their teachers.
- Parents must meet their children at the bus stop or make arrangements to have a responsible adult meet their children at the bus stop.
- Children will be brought back to the school if a parent or guardian is not at the bus stop.

For the **safety and welfare** of students and others, it is necessary to:

- *Buckle his/her safety belt immediately upon boarding the bus and keep it buckled.*
- *Remain seated at all times.*
- *Keep hands, feet, and objects to oneself.*
- *Use appropriate language.*
- *Use a quiet voice and speak with friends nearby.*
- *Watch for the stop.*
- *Get on and off the bus carefully.*
- *Keep food/beverage items in backpacks/lunch boxes. **There is absolutely no eating or drinking on the bus.***

***Video and/or Audio Monitoring Devices Are Used On School Owned and Contracted Vehicles and May Be Monitored At Any Time.***

## CODE OF CONDUCT

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

INFRACTION	CONSEQUENCES
<b>1. Use or possession of Illegal Drugs and/or Alcohol</b>	The principal will have the discretion to take any of the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Out-of-school suspension for a minimum of three days and will return only after a parent conference.</li><li>• The police may be notified.</li></ul>
<b>2. Theft</b>	The principal will have the discretion to take any of the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parent conference and the development of a plan to monitor the student's behavior.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent/student will be held liable for the cost of replacing the item(s).</li> <li>• Suspension from school and police may be notified.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Vandalism</b>	<p>The principal will have the discretion to take any of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent conference and the development of a plan to monitor the student's behavior.</li> <li>• Parent/student will be held liable for the cost of replacing the item(s).</li> <li>• Suspension from school and police may be notified.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Fighting</b>	<p>The principal will have the discretion to take any of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student will be assigned detention(s).</li> <li>• Student may be suspended from school depending on the circumstances of the incident.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Intimidation/Bullying/Harassment Relational Aggression</b>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Incident:</b> For minor isolated incidents the teacher shall remediate or discipline including a warning, deprivation of some minor privilege.</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Incident:</b> (or more serious exclusion from classroom and school-based activities such as assembly first incident) Teacher remediation or discipline that may include deprivation of privileges programs, detention, parent notification, and/or referral to the principal or guidance counselor.</p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Incident:</b> (or very serious first or second incident) In addition to the steps noted above, exclusion from school-sponsored activities such as class trips, sports activities, after-school clubs, etc., referral to the principal or guidance counselor, parent notification, detention, and possible suspension.</p>
<b>6. Disrespect Toward Authority</b>	<p>The principal will have the discretion to take any of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School detention assigned and parent notified.</li> <li>• In-school or out-of-school suspension and a parent conference.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Misuse of Computers</b>	<p>Detention(s), parent conference, and compensation for damage. Subsequent</p>

	offenses: out-of-school suspension and possible loss of computer privileges.
<b>8. Weapons</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following state code a student can be removed from school for up to 1 school year and the police will be notified.</li> </ul>

## **Memorial Elementary School Pledge**

**Here at Memorial School we respect each other.**  
**We will help each other to respect everyone and not to tease or leave people out.**  
**We do not tease people for:**  
**The way they act, how they look or how they talk.**  
**What they eat, their clothes, what they believe or their families.**  
**Whether they are a boy or a girl or for their abilities or their disabilities.**  
**Or for any other reason.**

## **COMMUNICATION**

**Communication between home and school is vital to your child's growth and success.**

Several different forms of communiqués will be part of our routine. The Memorial School PTA will regularly update the community utilizing the school messaging system. Teachers will update you on classroom happenings through class correspondences. Information is also provided on our website, [www.paramus.k12.nj.us](http://www.paramus.k12.nj.us). Please click on the Memorial School tab. Class parents will contact you from time to time regarding special information or school emergencies.

You can be well informed by making sure your contact information is current. Please let us know whenever you have a change of address, home or work phone numbers, doctor's numbers, or emergency contact persons.

To contact a teacher, write a note, send an email, or call to leave a message. Every effort will be made to respond in a timely manner. Please keep in mind that teachers do not have the ability to check their email consistently throughout the day so if you need to contact the school in an emergency, please call the school.

When sending money to school, please seal it in an envelope and label it with the child's name, event, teacher's name, and the amount enclosed.

## CONFERENCES

Parent conferences are held in the fall and in the spring. Teachers will arrange their conference schedules. Additional conferences may be arranged throughout the year by teachers or parents when needed.

## DISMISSAL

Walkers and children attending the aftercare program are dismissed first.

Our buses usually arrive at 3:00 p.m. Children are led to their bus lines by classroom teachers. If a bus arrives at school later than 3:20 p.m., the school office will contact you. Phone numbers listed in Genesis will be called, so please ensure your information is correct in the system.

Staff members supervise all dismissals.

Families will be asked to choose either Midland Avenue (front door) or Washington Place (back door) location to meet their children. **Kindergarten students will be dismissed on the Washington Place (back door) exit.**

In August, each family will complete a dismissal declaration indicating their child's daily dismissal schedule. Please notify the office in writing should your dismissal declaration statement change during the year.

All of the above procedures involve cooperation between home and school. We are sure you understand that the safety and well-being of the children are our utmost concern.

Emergency early dismissals occur infrequently. Therefore, we **must** have a phone number on your emergency contact where you can be reached should this occur.

## DISMISSAL DECLARATION

- Each parent is required to make a dismissal declaration now for the entire year that can only be changed because of a permanent change in life circumstances. We regret that we cannot accommodate occasional changes for convenience.
- Please complete a separate dismissal declaration form for each child at Memorial School. Dismissal declarations are now completed and submitted electronically

through the Parent Portal in Genesis under the Forms tab. It is very important that you complete this form prior to the first day of school. Without it there is no way for us to know how your child is to be dismissed from school.

- If your child is enrolled in the Champions aftercare for only part of the week, please indicate the specific days on the dismissal declaration. The other days should have either walker or bus(if eligible).

## **DRESS CODE**

Students should wear appropriate athletic footwear on days they have physical education class. Please remember that our students go outside to play at recess time, so dress them according to weather conditions. **No flip-flops, please!** These are unsafe when running and playing both in PE classes and outside. However, sandals with straps that secure them to the foot may be worn on non-PE class days.

## **EMERGENCY CLOSINGS**

If school has been canceled due to weather conditions parents may obtain this information via Paramus District Website ([www.paramus.k12.nj.us](http://www.paramus.k12.nj.us)) In addition, families will receive an automated message from the School Messenger system. The police request that you DO NOT call them.

Only in the event of an **unusual** emergency closing, will a phone chain be activated by the class parents. Therefore, it is very important that you provide the school and your class parent with up-to-date information on your daytime phone or cell phone number. Please be sure to provide a reliable contact person who can be reached in case of an emergency.

## **EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS**

Educational field trips are a valuable part of our school program and are encouraged. Teachers acting in accordance with a planned outline carefully schedule trips so as to gain maximum educational opportunities for their students. Permission slips are sent home including all information relative to the trip, including the cost. These must be signed and sent back to school before the student is permitted to participate in the trip. Verbal permission is not acceptable; we are required to have written parental consent. Checks for field trips should be made payable to the Paramus *Board of Education*. Monies for field trips are not refundable or transferable.

Parent chaperones are not permitted to lend money to or make purchases for any student.

Please refer to the classroom teachers regarding visiting the gift shop on the premises of the field trip. If this is not in the field trip itinerary, then NO student will be permitted to visit the gift shop.

We are not permitted to give food, drinks, gum, etc. to any student. This is in accordance with the district food allergy policy and procedures.

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

The District issues a chromebook to each student for use with school-related assignments. Students are responsible for taking good care of their chromebooks. Teachers will let students/families know if chromebooks should stay in school, remain at home, or be brought back and forth to school each day.

Electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, iPads, game devices, etc.) are a distraction in the classroom, at lunch, and on the bus. **Keep these expensive devices at home for safekeeping.** Refer to Board of Education Policy 3515.1 for further information.

## **EMERGENCY FORMS**

Emergency forms are a vital resource when a student becomes ill or injured during the school day. The listing of home and business phone numbers as well as the name and number of a relative, friend, or neighbor must be completed early in the school year. Please notify the school whenever a change of information should occur.

**Please make it a priority to verify/update all information on your child's Emergency Form via the Genesis Parent Portal on or before the first day of school.**

## **FOOD ALLERGIES**

**Paramus Elementary schools are peanut and nut-free facilities.** Please check the labels of all the food you send in with your child to ensure there are no peanut or nut products sent to school.

## **HOMEWORK**

The Paramus Board of Education recognizes homework as an integral part of the instructional process. Homework should provide for the reinforcement and extension of learning experiences that take place in the classroom. Teachers, students, and parents each play an important part in ensuring that homework fulfills this purpose.

The nature and amount of homework will vary by subject, by grade level, and by the student. If it is to serve a worthwhile purpose, homework must be assigned with some regularity, with due consideration to the individual needs of students, and with provision

for reasonably prompt feedback to the student on work completed.

Guidelines:

- Homework is given regularly
- Reinforces skills and concepts
- Includes independent reading every night
- May involve exploring new or related subject matter
- Evaluates student responses
- May at times require parental guidance/assistance (parents do not do the homework)
- Parents review and check homework for completion

Time Allotments:

***Research has shown the most beneficial activity to foster student success is daily independent reading. Teachers will assign independent “Just Right” reading as homework.***

**The time allotments listed below are in addition to the nightly reading.**

Kindergarten:	occasionally, 10-20 minutes + nightly reading
Grade 1:	20-30 minutes per night + nightly reading
Grade 2:	30-45 minutes per night + nightly reading
Grade 3 & 4:	45-60 minutes per night + nightly reading

If an individual student's homework time consistently exceeds these guidelines, it is recommended that the parent notify the teacher.

Homework can be expected Monday through Thursday. Weekend and holiday assignments will be given at the discretion of the teacher.

## **LOST ARTICLES**

Students are advised that valuables should not be brought to school. **Parents are encouraged to place their child's name in all belongings brought to school.**

Clothing that is lost may usually be found in the lost and found area located in the main hallway. In the event that your child has lost an article on a school bus, please contact the bus contractor directly.

## **LUNCH**

Students can order through the Pomtonian food service (directions on website) or bring lunch from home. Lunches should be **peanut and nut-free. Deliveries from outside food vendors are not permitted.**

## **LUNCHTIME**

The elementary lunchtime is from 12:00 noon until 12:45 p.m. Children leaving the building for lunch must be signed out and back in at the main office. With the exception

of days with severe weather conditions, children play outdoors during recess. Please dress your child(ren) appropriately.

**WATER BOTTLES AND SNACK BREAK** Children will be allowed to enjoy a quick, healthy snack during the day.

- Snacks should be easy to open and portable.
- We urge parents to ensure that children do not leave their snacks at home. This will help to minimize the number of visitors from the outside.
- Children are able to fill their water bottles at our filtered, chilled, filling stations.

## **MEDICATION IN SCHOOL**

The New Jersey State law mandates specific procedures to the administration of any medication. Please read the following procedure from our Superintendent of Schools so that you are familiar with the regulations. Samples of the forms are available from the school nurse.

### **DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT PERSONNEL SERVICES PROCEDURE FOR ADMINISTERING MEDICATION AT SCHOOL**

When requests are made by parents to have medication administered to their child in school, the following procedure should be followed:

- All medications to be administered in school should be ordered in writing by the family physician and addressed to the school nurse. Dosage, time schedule and purpose of medication should also be included.
- Also required is written authorization from the parent to be presented to the school nurse.
- All medication must be in original containers and must be properly labeled by the registered pharmacist who dispensed the prescription (medication in envelopes, wrapped in paper, or in unlabeled bottles are not accepted).
- The medication will be stored in a locked cabinet in the Clinic by the nurse. This program is approved for essential medications only, i.e., antibiotics, tranquilizers, anticonvulsants, asthmatic medication, eye drops, and the like.
- If your child needs medication during school hours, please see the school nurse.

## **PUBLICITY**

From time to time during the school year, positive publicity appears in district publications, cable TV shows, and in local newspapers and internet news services. You will find a release form on your Genesis Parent Portal. Please fill this out immediately

indicating whether your child's photo can be used when school events are submitted to the media for school-related publicity.

## **PUPIL ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

The District's student accident insurance is provided by the Board of Education on an excess basis. Although the Board of Education provides insurance, you must first file a claim with your own insurance. The District's insurance will cover 80% of the remaining balance.

## **REGISTRATION OF NEW STUDENTS/ RE-REGISTRATION OF EXISTING STUDENTS**

Registration of all early childhood and kindergarten children takes place in the spring of each year. Board of Education policy specifies that a child must attain the age of five by October 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year in which he or she enters kindergarten. At the time of registration, parents must furnish evidence of the date of birth, completed immunization, physical examination reports, and all proofs of residency required by the district. Refer to the district's website for proof-of-residency and registration guidelines: [www.paramus.k12.nj.us](http://www.paramus.k12.nj.us). The district requires re-registration, including proof of residency, for all students entering Kindergarten, 5th grade, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Again, refer to the district's website for residency and registration guidelines: [www.paramus.k12.nj.us](http://www.paramus.k12.nj.us).

## **RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

Students are excused from school to observe state listed holidays. Parents must send a note prior to the holiday to notify the school of the absence. Teachers will not schedule tests or introduce new work during these approved holidays. The student's attendance record will not be affected by excused religious absences. You may obtain a copy of the New Jersey State Department of Education Religious Holidays calendar by contacting the school office.

## **REPORT CARDS**

Progress reports for students in Kindergarten through 4th grade are issued three times a year. Report cards are now 'paperless' and are accessed by parents via their Genesis Parent Portal. Grading benchmarks can be accessed on our website under "Standards-Based Report Cards." Parent conferences are held in the fall and in the spring. The teacher will arrange for conferences with parents; the first one is generally

scheduled during the months of November/December. A conference will also be scheduled in the spring – typically in May/June. Should you feel the need to meet with a teacher sooner, please contact him/her directly.

## **SCHOOL HOURS**

**Full Day: 8:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Early Dismissal: 8:45 a.m. - 1:10 p.m. (No Pomptonian lunch on a 1:10 dismissal; send a larger snack or small lunch in with your child))**

**Lunch / Recess: 12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

**Grades K, 1 & 3      lunch 12:00 p.m. - recess 12:20 p.m.– 12:45 p.m.**

**Grades 2 & 4          recess 12:00 p.m. - lunch 12:20 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

## **THE SCHOOL NURSE**

A full-time certified nurse is assigned to Memorial School to oversee the health program. The nurse administers primary first-aid measures to treat minor injuries or illnesses. Her other functions include:

- Weighing and measuring of all students
- Screening for vision and hearing
- Screening children age 10 and older for scoliosis
- Maintaining health records
- Promoting health practices at school
- Administering Mantoux tuberculin tests to new employees and certain students
- Participating in the child study team and the pupil assistance committee
- Participating in the school safety committee

The school nurse will contact you if:

- Your child is too ill to remain in school
- Your child is injured and needs medical attention
- The screening process indicated a need for you to obtain further help (i.e. eyeglasses)
- She and the teacher think that your child requires attention for other health reasons

### **Other important information**

- New students, kindergarteners, and all third graders are required by the district to have a complete physical examination.

## **POLICY QUICK REFERENCE**

### **POLICIES**

Please refer to the following policies on the district website or use the Quick Link on the Memorial School website:

1. **Paramus Public Schools Computer Facilities Access Agreement**
2. **Policy 5131.2 – Harassment, Including Sexual Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying and Relational Aggression**
3. **Policy 5135.1 Electronic Portable Communication Devices**
4. **Policy 5113 – Attendance, Absences, and Excuses**
5. **Right To Know Letter from Superintendent (RE: NCLB – Highly Qualified Teaching Staff)**
6. **FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)**
7. **PPRA (Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment)**
8. **Life Threatening Allergies/Food Allergies in the School Grades PreK-4 (relating to policy 5141.21)**