



Four Seasons Newsletter

September 2023

Regina Passwaters, Principal

MAKE MAGIC HAPPEN! MAKE MAGIC HAPPEN! MAKE MAGIC HAPPEN! MAKE MAGIC HAPPEN!

Calendar September:

- 4 M No school—Labor Day
- 12 Tu Back-to-School Night—
6:00 p.m. - PTA meeting
6:30 p.m. - Session 1 for classroom visits
7:00 p.m. - Session 2 for classroom visits
- 21 Th Chris in the Classroom Family Night—
6:00 p.m.
- 22 F Due date for Student Handbook/
Code of Conduct e-signature
- 25 M No school—Yom Kippur
- 28 Th Picture day (individual)

Looking ahead to October:

- 17 Tu 2-hour early dismissal
- 30 M 2-hour early dismissal
- 31 Tu 2-hour early dismissal

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Please remember to bring your ID when picking up students, visiting, volunteering/chaperoning, and when attending any Parent/Teacher conference.

FOUR SEASONS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

OUR MISSION

Fostering a life long love of learning in a
Safe and orderly environment with
Excellent teachers facilitating
Students' active learning.



Principal's Message

Welcome to the new school year! We will continue our Disney theme, with "Moana"! We know this year is going to bring new experiences and lots of magical moments. Thank you to the wonderful PTA for our welcome back breakfast.

We look forward to **back-to-school night** on September 12, 2023. The PTA meeting will start at 6:00 in the cafeteria. Session 1 for classroom visits will begin at 6:30 and session 2 will be at 7:00.

AACPS is providing a Chromebook device to all students. PK-Gr 2 will keep their Chromebook at home. Grades 3-5 will bring their device to/from school daily. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Taylor at ltaylor@aacps.org.

AACPS has committed to healthy habits. For your student's birthday, do not send in food items. Please celebrate with non-food items (bookmark, pencil, etc.).

Click [here](#) to apply online for free or reduced price meals.

We are continuing with our learning platform called BrightSpace. More information to come from your teacher at Back-to-School night. Additionally, we are continuing with our school-wide behavior program called Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS). Students will earn "shark bucks" for positive behaviors displayed. Special thanks to our PTA for buying items for the school store, the Shark Shop!



New to our Staff



Teresa Wismer, School Counselor

Allie Dowling, Pre-K

Brittney Carlson, Grade 2

Kristina Madison, Grade 3

Christine Coughlin, Grade 3

Bonnie Ripple, Grade 3

Robyn Dozier, Grade 3

Sarah Gentry, Special Education

Susan Sobutka, part-time Special Education

Crystal Harris, EEE Global Studies

Lindsey Coe, part-time EEE Global Studies

Melissa Breil, Pre-K TA



Student Handbook/Code of Conduct Signature Due

Parents and guardians, please log in to your ParentPortal account by September 22, 2023 to review the Student Handbook/Code of Conduct with your students(s). **Please submit the Acknowledgement of Review form using the e-signature by Friday, September 22, 2023.** If you don't have a ParentPortal account set up, please email Mrs. Shank at bshank@aacps.org.



Click here to view the September [School Meals Menu](#)



Please note that due to supply shortages, substitutions to the menu may occur.

Please find additional information about Food and Nutrition Services at <https://aacpschools.org/nutrition/>





Four Seasons Elementary School Supply List

Backpack, no wheels
Wired headphones (optional)
Water bottle (optional)
Lunch box (if needed)
Change of clothes for locker

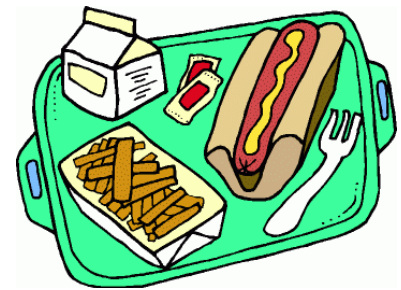
2023-2024

School Meal Prices School Year 2023-2024

Student:

Breakfast, (Full Price, All Schools)	\$1.50
Breakfast, (Reduced Price, All Schools)	\$.00

Lunch, (Full Price, Elementary Schools)	\$2.75
Lunch, (Reduced-Price, All Schools)	\$.00



Meal Benefit Applications are available for SY 2023-2024! Log onto www.aacps.org/mealapplication It's About More Than Lunch.

If you have any questions regarding the school meals program, please email jrisse@aacps.org or call 410-222-5900.



MAKE MAGIC HAPPEN!



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FOUR SEASONS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

2023-2024

ARRIVAL:

- Arrival begins at 7:45. Doors close at 8:00 AM. After 8:00, students must check in at the office.
- Instruction begins at 8:05. Students need to be in the classroom by this time for attendance.

DISMISSAL:

- Bell rings at 2:25 PM.
- Bus riders exit through the front Media Center door.
- SACC students go to the cafeteria.
- Gr 1-5 Walkers exit through the rear gym door. K Walkers exit through K door.
- Van riders exit through the lobby.
- Gr 1-5 Car riders wait along the brick wall of the car lane. K Car riders wait in music hall until car arrives.
- While waiting for dismissal to begin, please do not block the entrance to the staff parking near the cafeteria/kitchen doors.

GENERAL ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL PROCEDURES FOR THE YEAR

CAR RIDER ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL PROCEDURES:

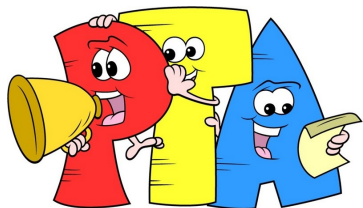
- Student safety is always our first priority! Drive slowly and do not use your cell phones. Please be patient and respect the staff on duty. We complete dismissal in approximately 10 minutes once everyone learns the routines.
- Be sure to have your child's name and grade on a card clearly visible on the front windshield.
- Pull up as indicated by staff on duty.
- Follow the "Kiss and Go" plan - **Do NOT get out of your car.** Do NOT park in a no parking zone.
- At 7:45 AM, staff will assist children to their appropriate door to enter. There is no supervision or admittance prior to 7:45 AM.
- **Doors will be closed at 8:00 AM.** Any arrivals after 8:00 will need to check in at the office.
- Our loop is one lane! Do NOT pull alongside another vehicle to exit unless directed by a staff member.

WALKERS:

- Students arriving between 7:45-8 AM will be directed to the side entrance (car rider door).
- Remember - there is no supervision or admittance to the building prior to 7:45 AM.
- Your student is expected to walk home. [If you are meeting your student on property, you must have a plan/meeting location. Walkers are independent and are not handed off individually to a parent/guardian.](#) Students should not go to the playground without parent supervision.

REMINDERS

- Please do not drop off or park in the bus lane. We have buses that arrive at different times throughout the day.
- Please drive slowly and watch for children in the school zone.
- Pre-K, ECI, and Kindergarten parent(s) need to park in a parking spot if getting out of the car to drop off/pick up students.
- Instruction begins at 8:05 and all students are expected to be in their seats at that time.
- Students not in their seats by 8:05 AM when instruction begins are marked tardy.
- Keep your dismissal consistent Monday through Friday. For example, if your student is a bus rider, but you are able to pick him/her up one day - consider picking them up at the bus stop versus changing their dismissal procedure. **CONSISTENCY IS KEY FOR DISMISSAL!**
- **Please do not call the school after 2:00 to change dismissal plans! We cannot guarantee that we are able to make a change that close to dismissal. And please do not email the teacher for a change in dismissal as they cannot always check their email before dismissal.**



FOUR SEASONS PTA

Please join us for our first PTA meeting at Back to School Night on Tuesday, September 12th at 6 pm. We will have a live raffle for an Amazon gift card for parents and staff who complete their paid PTA membership by 12 p.m. on September 12th!

Congratulations to our Executive Board Members for SY 2023-2024! We are so excited for the upcoming school year:

President: Rachel Jack
1st Vice President: Jerri Cok Duyan
2nd Vice President: Michelle Estes
Treasurer: Omar Olmeda
Secretary 1: MaryKate Willhelm
Secretary 2: Ashley Slocum

There are many ways to get in touch with us this school year!

Email us: pta.fourseasons@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/FourSeasonsElementaryPTA

Visit our website: fourseasonspta.org

Join us for our PTA Meetings held bi-monthly at 6pm in the music room!

September 12th, 2023 (cafeteria)

November 14th, 2023

January 9th, 2024

March 12th, 2024

May 21st, 2024

Upcoming Fall Events:

September 28th - Fall Pictures

October 13th - SkateZone Skate Night 5pm

October 17th - Book Fair Milk and Cookies Event 5pm

October 20th - FSES Family Fun Fall Fest 5:30pm

October 27th - Monster Mash Dance

Committee Interest:

We will have committee volunteer sign-up sheets available at Back to School Night! Please consider getting involved 😊 We currently need a Chairperson for the Creative Arts and the Fundraising Committee.

Have theater experience? We would love to fund a Four Seasons play at FSES! We are in need of a Creative Arts Chairperson who would be able to organize a play for our students. Please send any interest to pta.fourseasons@gmail.com.

Stay in the know by becoming a PTA Member! \$10 dues and membership form can be completed at the following link, or by scanning this QR code:

fourseasons-pta.memberhub.com/store/items/710720





Family Game Show Event

[REGISTER HERE](#)



WHAT: How to help build resilient students
WHO: Students and Parents
WHEN: September 21 @ 6:00 p.m.
WHERE: Four Seasons Elementary Cafeteria
WHY: Learn how to help students process emotions

**WELCOME BACK
TO SCHOOL!**

Notes from the Nurse...

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer.

Please remember: if your child needs medication during school hours, we will need the proper medication forms filled out by both the parent and the doctor. These forms are available online and in the health room. NO medications can be given by the health room without these forms. If you have any questions, please call or email us.

Just a reminder to all parents and caregivers - if your child has a fever, he or she needs to stay home until they are fever free for 24 hours without medication, then they may return to school. If they are sent home due to a fever, they must stay home the following day. If they receive no medication and the fever is gone, they can return after a full day at home. If you have any questions, please call the health room staff.

Sick students in the health room should be picked up within 30 minutes. If you cannot pick up your student within that time frame, please have a backup plan. Your backup plan can be a grandparent, aunt, uncle, neighbor, or anyone else you deem responsible to take care of your child. Unfortunately, there are times we are very busy and need the bed that a sick child is sleeping on while waiting to be picked up. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

If your child gets any other vaccines, please send their vaccination record in so that their health records are up-to-date.

If your child tests positive for Covid, flu, strep throat, etc., please inform the health room.

Please make sure your student has a change of clothes in their locker for the proper season. Even older students need a change of clothing in case they spill a drink or get mud on their clothes.

Thank you!

Our email addresses:

Ms. Michelle - health assistant - health3272@aacps.org

Ms. Sherry - RN - nurse3272@aacps.org



New Attendance Procedure

AACPS has a new attendance procedure for absences, late arrivals, and early dismissals, using ParentPortal.

1. Open a web browser on your computer and go to www.aacps.org.
2. Click the "Student/Parent Portal" quick link icon at the top of the page.
3. Click the "PowerSchool Student and Parent Sign-In" icon on the right.
You will be directed to the sign-in page.
4. Enter the ParentPortal username and password you created.

To Complete the Form:

1. Click the student name across the top.
 2. Click "Forms" on the left menu bar.
 3. Click AACPS-Absence or Early Dismissal Form to open the form.
(Note: To change the text to Spanish, use the dropdown in the upper right corner.)
 4. Read and complete the form as directed on screen.
Any field marked with an asterisk (*) must be completed.
 5. Click "Submit."
- Your submission will be reviewed by the main office.



Once again, our PTA will provide each family with a packet of GREEN NOTES to notify school staff about changes in how a student is getting home. We need your cooperation in establishing a consistent Monday through Friday transportation routine. If your child is going home a different way than what is stated on the emergency card, a green note is the safest way to provide the school with the required written note indicating the change. It is important that students know their dismissal procedure each day and that changes are made in writing.

The office gets inundated with calls from parents wanting to change transportation or requesting early dismissal at the end of the school day. It has become increasingly difficult to manage these requests, with 600 students. In addition, because dismissal is an important and busy time, we ask that families avoid picking up their child for early dismissal between 2:00-2:25 pm.

The safety of our students is our first priority. We understand that emergencies arise, but please save these phone calls for true emergencies. Thank you for helping us keep our students safe.

If you have any questions, please call the office at 410-222-6501.





Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just 1 or 2 days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

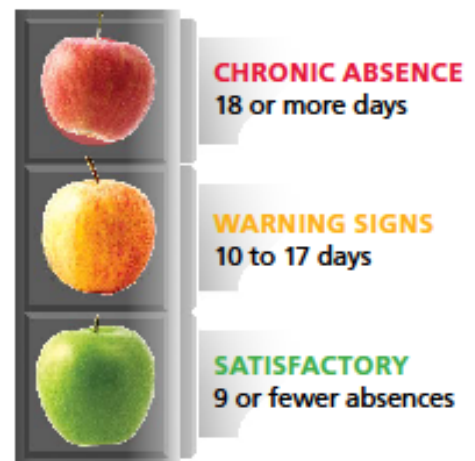
Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Keep your child healthy and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your children to their teachers and classmates before school starts.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor or another parent.
- Try to schedule non-Covid-19 related medical appointments and extended trips when school isn't in session.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- If you are concerned that your child may have Covid-19, call your school for advice.
- If your child must stay home due to illness or quarantine, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home.

Revised October 2021

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

Visit Attendance Works at www.attendanceworks.org for free downloadable resources and tools!



TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS
OF
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS
VOLUNTARY STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

Each year, school children have accidents. Medical costs can be expensive, and unexpected bills can cause hardships. Even if you have other insurance, it is often not enough as coverage can require high deductibles or co-insurance payments.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools **does not** purchase blanket accidental medical or dental insurance for sports, school sponsored activities, or student activity while school is in session. However, we have made arrangements with **Bob McCloskey Insurance** to offer accident coverage to all enrolled students at a modest premium. Through this program, parents/guardians have the opportunity to purchase this protection for their child.

Some of the advantages of this insurance include:

At-School Student Accident Coverage: This provides insurance for the hours and days when school is in session and while students are attending school sponsored and supervised activities on or off school premises. Coverage is provided during:

- The school day, on school premises, while school is in session.
- Direct and uninterrupted travel to and from home and scheduled classes.
- School sponsored and supervised sports (excluding high school football).
- Travel to and from school sponsored and supervised sports while in school approved vehicle.

- ◆ Once effective, coverage continues until the earlier date where the enrolled students coverage has been in place for twelve months or the first day of the next school year.

Around the Clock - 24-hour Accident coverage: This provides insurance coverage around-the-clock, anywhere in the world. Coverage is provided:

- Before, during and after school.
- Weekends, vacation and all summer including summer school.
- School sponsored and extracurricular sports (excluding high school football).

- ◆ Once effective, coverage continues until the earlier date where the enrolled students coverage has been in place for twelve months or the first day of the next school year.

All coverage becomes effective on the date that the completed application and premium are received by Bob McCloskey Insurance. or online enrollment is completed.

YOU CAN APPLY AND PAY ON-LINE AT: www.bobmccloskey.com/K12Voluntary and click the "Enroll Online" start button. You have a choice of different benefit schedules.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call **Bob McCloskey Insurance**. at (800) 445-3126. Their representatives are available to assist you in your inquiries or go to www.bobmccloskey.com/K12Voluntary.

Accident Insurance

Student Accident insurance coverage is available. It will be provided for the 2023-2024 school year through Bob McCloskey Insurance. The company's contact information is on the web at: www.bobmccloskey.com/K12Voluntary, Phone: 1-800-445-3126.

Additional information is available under the AACPS Home Page > Students > Resources/Links > Student Accident Insurance.



Four Seasons now offers an additional, convenient way to pay for school items electronically. It's called On-line School Payments (OSP) and will allow families to pay by credit card for things such as field trips, lost media books, and Chromebook repairs. We also have options to allow you to donate to support special activities for students or to donate to allow the principal to "treat" our staff. Please note that there is a small service charge for using the OSP system. Cash and checks made payable to Four Seasons Elementary are always accepted for student fees with no service fee. If you have any questions regarding the OSP system, please contact Erika Allen at eaillen@aacps.org or 410-222-6501. To access OSP, please click on this link: [Four Seasons OSP](#)

Notice: Four Seasons Elementary School is equipped with a video camera system. It covers selected interior and exterior public portions of the building and grounds. It is NOT monitored constantly, but it is monitored during emergency situations. During certain events, when the safety or security of students may be in question, authorized personnel from local, state or federal police or fire emergency units may be given access to view images projected on the camera system. If you have any questions about the system, you should call the Supervisor of School Security at 410-222-5083.

The Anne Arundel County Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex age, national origin, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs. Questions regarding non-discrimination should be directed to the Office of Investigations, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, 2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401; telephone: 410-222-5286; TDD 410-222-5500.

BOX TOPS MAKES IT EASY.

All you need is your phone! Download the Box Tops app, shop as you normally would, then use the app to scan your store receipt within 14 days of purchase. The app will identify Box Tops products on your receipt and automatically credit your school's earnings online.

There are very few clip boxtops on boxes, but if you find a boxtop with a red dotted line around it, clip it and bring it in to Four Seasons. Go to boxtops4education.com for more information.



Thank you to everyone who participates in this program.



Stay Connected:



Find us on:
facebook®

Anne Arundel County Public Schools:
<https://www.facebook.com/aacps>.

Four Seasons Elementary PTA:
<https://www.facebook.com/FourSeasonsElementaryPTA>



Four Seasons Elementary:
<https://twitter.com/4seasonsESaacs?s=20>