

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SCHOOL: THE BASICS

THE SCHOOL DAY - TIMES AND PLACES

WHAT TIME DOES SCHOOL START?

School begins at 8:00 A.M. (please note: Kindergarten begins at 7:45). Children should be on time each day. Coming into class late can be very uncomfortable. It may mean missing morning announcements and important schoolwork. A latecomer may also interrupt the teacher and the class.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY CHILD IS GOING TO BE LATE?

Send a note along with your child explaining the reason for tardiness to the teacher. Remember it is much better to be late than not to come at all.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY CHILD IS ABSENT?



Please call the school first thing in the morning to inform us of your child's illness or absence. There is a mail message system included in our phone service. Please leave your name, your child's name and his/her grade level as well as the date. If you do not call to notify us that your child will be absent, the school will call home to verify that your child is absent with your knowledge.

When your child returns from an absence, please send a note along with them. If he/she is going to be absent for a long period, please let us know. If your child is going to be sick for several days, ask his or her teacher for homework assignments.

If your child will be absent for many weeks, we can make arrangements for home instruction. Call the school and talk with your child's teacher to discuss this if necessary.

HOW EARLY CAN MY CHILD GO TO SCHOOL?

Your child should not arrive at school before 7:30 a.m. It is important for safety reasons that children not arrive before the teacher is in the classroom. We'd like to remind you that the school does not officially open until 7:30 a.m. Prior to this time, the Franklin staff is not available to provide supervision for your children, so we ask that you not drop them off before that time. Walkers should not arrive at school prior to that time.

WHEN AND WHERE IS MY CHILD DISMISSED?

Kindergarten children are dismissed at 11:10 A.M. (if not having lunch) in the front lobby. Buses leave first at the end of the day (approximately 3:00) and walkers are then dismissed.

WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS TO LEAVE EARLY?

Please send a note to school letting us know your child will be leaving early so that the teacher is aware of this. If your child will be picked up by anyone other than his or her parents, please indicate who will be transporting your child in the note.

If you will be picking your child up early, please come to the office and sign your child out so that we know you are picking your child up and we will call the classroom for your child.

In order for your child to be transported by someone other than his/her parent, the following procedure must be followed:

(1) The school office must have written permission on file in order for your child to be transported by someone other than you.

OR

(2) Parents must notify the school office that their child will be transported by someone other than themselves and identify who that person is, by written note or telephone, on the day that it is to occur. (A note is preferred, but if you are going to call, please call before 2:30.)

Teachers will not allow a child to leave their classroom if someone other than the parent is transporting the child without written permission or a phone call from their parent.

HOW SHOULD MY CHILD DRESS FOR SCHOOL?

As part of providing a safe, orderly learning environment, we ask that our students conform to a reasonable code of attire. We assume parents will consider weather, safety, the various settings (playground, classroom, gym, field trips) of a student's activities, and age appropriateness when supervising dress. Students will be requested to cover/change clothing deemed inappropriate including but not limited to: clothing that advertises drugs, alcohol, sexual innuendo; clothing that is too revealing; clothing not adequate for temperatures in the winter. *Please put your child's name on each article of outside clothing (boots, coats, hats, ski pants, mittens).* Each year we have many items brought to our "lost and found" that are never claimed. If you are missing any items of clothing, please ask your child to check the "lost and found."

WHAT IF THE WEATHER IS BAD?

In the event of a snowstorm or severe weather, the Superintendent will make the decision whether school will be closed or delayed (after conferring with the bus companies) as early as possible and immediately contacts the Vermont Association of Broadcasters. **Make sure to tune into local T.V. stations (and radio stations) whenever there is a question about school closings.** The Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union also contracts with a notification system, School Messenger, that should alert you by phone (also text/and email if provided). If there is no satellite, the closings are also reported on the radio and on internet local news sites. In the event of a school closing, there will be no afterschool activities.

Delayed Openings

If it looks like the roads will be clear by early morning then the decision might be made to delay school opening. If school is delayed one hour it means that if your child is usually picked up at 7:10, he or she would be picked up at 8:10. If school is delayed two hours, your child would be picked up two hours later than his or her usual pick up time. A one hour delay means school will start at 9:00 (8:45 for kindergarten) and a two 2 hour delay means school starts at 10:00 (9:45 for kindergarten). ***It will be the parent's decision whether or not to send kindergarten students on a delayed opening day.***

Closings during the school day

In the event that school needs to be closed during a school day, we will first call those who indicate on the emergency form that a call is needed and follow with the remaining parents. This is another reason why it is so important for us to always have accurate phone numbers for both home and work. **Please keep your emergency phone numbers up to date.**

WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE A CONCERN?

To ensure good communication between parents, teachers, administration and school board members, please contact the following people in the order listed, (if you are not satisfied with the answers you receive, contact the next person in the process): 1) Teacher, 2) Principal, 3) Superintendent, 4) School Board Member. Please always provide your contact information in order for us answer your questions or concerns.

WHAT ABOUT LUNCH AND BREAKFAST?

Franklin School offers a nutritional breakfast and lunch program to all students. We believe that proper nutrition is an essential foundation for learning. Some students may qualify for free or a reduced lunch and breakfast. Forms are sent home at the start of school and are available throughout the year. If any questions arise concerning free or reduced meals, be sure to contact the principal. If your income should go down during the school year, please let us know as you may apply for free or reduced meals at any time during the school year. All free and reduced applications stay in effect until October 15, 2017, unless you renew your application prior to Oct. 15th, and your financial status has changed.



Regular lunch price is \$2.45.
Reduced lunch price is \$.40.*
Regular breakfast price is \$ 1.75.



*The legislature passed a bill to provide reduced price eligible students lunch at no charge. Students approved for reduced price meals will receive breakfast & lunch at no charge.

All lunch, breakfast, kindergarten and pre-school milk is \$.50.
Adult staff lunch is \$4.00.
A La Carte large salad is \$4.00 plus an additional \$.50 for milk.
Adult Guest lunch price is \$4.50.
Snack price is \$.50

All food & beverages must be paid for in advance. There will be no charging of any food or beverage items. If there is no money on your child's account, you must furnish a bag lunch/breakfast. Please do not send Canadian money.

We encourage any parent or guardian to eat with their children. We would appreciate advance notice if you plan on attending our meals. Thank you.



HOW WILL MY CHILD GET TO SCHOOL?

Taking the bus- Buses are a convenience for your child. Please make sure they are at the bus stop on time, and to ensure safety, be a safe distance from the road.

Safety on the Bus

Activities which may seem like fooling around can be dangerous and distracting to the bus driver. Any behavior which distracts the bus driver is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: shouting, making other loud noises, throwing objects, hitting or wrestling with other students, putting any object or any part of the body out of the window. Students are to remain in their seats at all times when the bus is in motion.

Students who violate these rules will be written up by the bus driver. The write-up will be turned into the school principal and the following disciplinary procedures will be enforced (for each write-up parents will receive a phone call and/or a letter):

1st Write-Up: Students receive a warning from the principal.

2nd Write-Up: Student loses riding privileges for up to 3 days.

3rd Write-Up: Student loses riding privileges for up to 5 days.

4th Write-Up: Loss of riding privileges for the rest of the school year.

If the offense is serious enough, the bus driver may remove the student immediately (providing the well-being of the student is not compromised), and/or the Principal can supersede the above steps to suspend a student's bus privileges. Parents are responsible for providing transportation.

Walkers- Discuss with your child a safe route to walk and be sure your children are not walking in the road. Walkers should walk on the left side of the road (facing traffic) when there are no sidewalks/walking lanes and use crosswalks if available.



School Health Procedures - Allison Menard, R.N.



The State of Vermont requires hearing and vision screenings in grades K, 1, 3 and 5. The Franklin Central School Health Program includes vision, hearing, height, weight and blood pressure screening for children in grades K-6. A referral for medical follow up will be sent home if your child fails to comply with the norms. Please send referral back to the nurse once follow-up is completed. If for any reason you do not want your child screened, please let the school nurse know. Blood pressure, height and weight may be checked during the school year. No referrals are made for those screenings.

Head checks may be done at the start of each year and then periodically throughout the school year as needed. Any child found to have head lice or nits will have their parents notified in order for appropriate action/treatment to be done. Head lice fact sheets/information will be sent home throughout the year and following any outbreak where children have been identified with lice/nits.

WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED FOR IMMUNIZATIONS?

Immunization requirements for children entering Kindergarten or whom are newly enrolled at Franklin Central School:

1. DPT (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis). 5 doses are required unless the 4th dose was given on/after the 4th birthday, in which case 4 doses are acceptable.
2. IPV/OPV (POLIO) 4 doses are required unless the 3rd dose was given on or after the 4th birthday, in which case 3 doses are acceptable.
3. MMR- (Measles, Mumps and Rubella)- 2 doses are required.
4. HEPATITIS B- 3 doses required. Laboratory proof of immunity is acceptable in lieu of vaccination history.
5. VARICELLA (Chicken Pox) - 2 doses are required. This requirement is waived if parent/guardian signs a Department of Health supplied form indicating the student has a history of the disease. Laboratory proof of immunity is also accepted in lieu of vaccination history.

There are only two exemptions to these health requirements:

- a) Medical- signed statement from a physician that immunization is contraindicated which includes the reason and the period of time the exemption is in effect.
- b) Religious- signed statement from parent or guardian that immunization is against their religious or moral beliefs.

WHAT IF MY CHILD NEEDS TO TAKE MEDICINE AT SCHOOL?

All prescription medications require a completed form with parental permission and doctor signature, **come in a prescription bottle labeled by a doctor** or pharmacist with the correct prescription, and **be brought in to the nurse's office by an adult**. All medication is kept in a locked cabinet. **If your child requires an antibiotic three times a day it is usually acceptable to give the second dose when your child returns home from school (mid-afternoon). Make sure you verify this with your doctor when he is prescribing medication.** Any non-prescription medication which you have not previously given the school permission to administer, must have a parent signed permission slip.

Emergency Medicines (epipen, asthma inhalers) may be carried by a student as long as you have provided the school with written permission and a signed doctor's order. Please contact the school nurse with questions.

Emergency Information Forms

At the beginning of each year a student emergency form will be sent home for you to fill out and return to the school. It is very important that this be completed *in full* and returned to school so we can contact you or your backup person in case your child is sick. If phone numbers change during the year, please contact the school immediately and inform us of the new number.



WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD GETS SICK OR INJURED AT SCHOOL?

If your child becomes ill or is injured at school, the school will call you at home or at work.

The following suggestions are intended to help determine when a student should NOT attend school:

- Your child has a fever of 100 degrees or above (children need to be fever free for 24 hrs. without fever reducing medication prior to returning to school)
- Your child has experienced vomiting or diarrhea during the night or in the morning.
- Your child has a persistent productive cough that keeps him/her from sleeping, normal activity, or a cough that is not controlled by medication.
- Your child has a widespread rash.
- Your child has a red, swollen eye with draining pus and/or was crusted over upon awakening.

Contagious conditions like: pink eye, strep throat, chicken pox & scabies. Children with strep throat or pink eye need to be on medication for **24 hours** and feeling better before they may return to school. **If your pediatrician states that your child may return to school sooner than the 24 hours, please have them write a note.**

*Please inform the health office if your child has been diagnosed with a contagious illness or condition, such as pink eye, impetigo or strep throat.

*If your child has been severely injured and will not be able to participate in normal physical activity, a note from the physician needs to be supplied indicating what restrictions should be followed - specifically for gym and recess times.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP MY CHILD FEEL BETTER AT SCHOOL?

The most frequent visitors to the nurse complain of headache and/or stomach ache. These complaints can often be prevented or helped by getting plenty of sleep, having a good breakfast before school and drinking plenty of fluids throughout the day. Please encourage your child to drink more fluids when the weather is hot. Sending a water bottle to school is a good way to encourage fluids. Speak to your child about making good meal choices and the importance of staying active. Please try to avoid sending cookies, chips, cakes, etc. as a snack.

SCHOOL/STUDENT WELLNESS

*In an effort to combat the increasing incidence of childhood obesity and help our children lead healthy active lives, we participate in several activities throughout the year to promote physical activity. Some of the activities that we participate in are: Jump Rope for Heart as well as our year long school-wide walking program. Here is a link to current information about wellness information on the Vermont Agency of Education website: <http://education.vermont.gov/health-education/linking-health-and-learning>.

*Please note that physicals with your child's doctor are recommended yearly. Routine dental visits are recommended every six months.

*If you do not have health insurance, please contact the school health office for information.