



J.O. WILSON ES NEW FAMILY FAQ

2023-24 school year

Getting started

- When is the first day of school?
 - Monday, August 28, 2023, for grades K-5.
 - Thursday, August 31, 2023, for PreK3 and PreK4 (ECE).
- When will I find out who my child's teacher is?
 - You can expect to learn who your child's teacher will be at the back-to-school social at school on August 24th or by calling the main office that day; however, teacher assignments may not be finalized until the first day of school. The July and August editions of the Cardinal Connection will contain additional information about teacher assignments.
- Is there beforecare or aftercare?
 - Beforecare is available to a limited number of qualifying families and starts at 7:00 a.m. Please contact Ms. Sutton-Stephenson at Talisa.Sutton-Stephenson@k12.dc.gov or 202-698-4733 for more details.
 - Aftercare is available from 3:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. to all students through the following providers:
 - PreK-Kindergarten: [Polite Piggys](#), register at <https://www.ezchildtrack.com/parent3/ParentLogin.aspx?c=politepiggys>. (Registration closes 8/11/23 at 11:59 pm and will be on a waitlist basis after that.)
 - 1st & 2nd grade: DCPS Out of School Time aftercare, register at <https://dcpsafterschoolpreenroll.powerappsportals.com/>.
 - 3rd - 5th grade: Kid Power, register at <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5177987/Kid-Power-After-School-and-Summer-Application>. (Registration closes 8/11/23; there will be additional in-person registration offered 8/22-8/25.)
- Do I need to fill out health forms?
 - Yes, every child must complete the [DC universal health certificate](#), including a record of childhood vaccines. The school office will want a copy of this in hand within the first month of school starting. Pediatricians often require a couple of weeks of turnaround time to complete these, so



give forms to your child's doctor over the summer if possible. More information is available at <https://dchealth.dc.gov/service/immunization-forms>.

Navigating the school day

- What are school hours?
 - The regular school day runs from 8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.
 - Students may be dropped off at 8:15 a.m. Students having breakfast at school should be dropped off as close to 8:15 a.m. as possible.
- Where do I drop off/pick up my child?
 - Dropoff
 - Morning dropoff for PreK students is through the playground gate/rear blacktop entrance at their classrooms or the ECE door inside the blacktop entrance.
 - Morning dropoff for K-5 students is the main entrance.
 - Kiss & Go - If dropping child off by car at the main entrance, park inside the cones, remain in your vehicle for a staff member to escort your child, and follow the Kiss & Go procedures available at <https://www.jowilsondcps.org/cardinal-families/arrival-and-dismissal>. Kiss & Go is not for PreK families.
 - Regular dismissal pickup
 - Pick up students from the playground/blacktop at the end of the regular school day between 3:15 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Your student's teacher should let you know the exact location.
 - Students who are not in aftercare and not picked up by 3:35 p.m. will be taken to the cafeteria, commons area, or parent center. If you are late picking up your student, go to the main entrance, and your student will be called for dismissal.
 - Aftercare pickup
 - Pick up students from aftercare at the main entrance until 6 p.m. Please do not pick students up from aftercare before 4:00 p.m. because students and staff are in transition between 3:15 and 4:00 p.m.
 - Inclement weather afternoon pickup
 - PreK: Enter through the playground entrance and pickup from the ECE blacktop entrance or classroom.



- Grades K-3: Enter through front entrance left side. Pick up students in grades K-2 from the cafeteria and students in grade 3 from the commons area. Exit using the 7th Street cafeteria door only.
- Grades 4-5: Enter through front entrance right side. Provide your student's name to the guard or staff member at the right-side front door and step to the side while your student is called from their classroom.
- Early pickup
 - Before 2:30 p.m., students may be picked up for early dismissal from the front entrance for doctors appointments or other out-of-school events. Please avoid picking students up for early dismissal after 2:30 p.m.
- What if my child needs to miss school?
 - If your child will miss all or a part of the school day, inform your child's teacher via their preferred means of communication and email Mrs. Sutton-Stephenson at jowilsonesenroll@k12.dc.gov with the reason for the absence within 5 days of the absence.
 - Attendance is extremely important to student achievement. Try to schedule appointments before 8:45 a.m. or after 3:15 p.m.
 - The attendance goal is 95% of all students in school, on time EVERYDAY.

School meals

- Will my child receive breakfast?
 - Students who arrive before 8:45 a.m. will receive free breakfast. Students eating breakfast at school should arrive as close to 8:15 a.m. as possible. Students in grades PreK3-1st will report to their assigned classes for breakfast. Grades 2nd-5th will have breakfast in the cafeteria and commons area.
- What will my child eat for lunch?
 - All students receive free lunch through DCPS. Menus will be available at <https://dcps.dc.gov/menus>. Vegan and vegetarian options are available. You may also pack lunch for your child.
- Where will my child eat lunch?
 - PreK students eat lunch in their classrooms.



- Older students eat lunch in the cafeteria with students in similar age cohorts.
- What about snacks?
 - PreK students will receive a morning snack. Parents may be asked to assist in providing snacks for students.
 - Students in aftercare will receive a snack.

Class supplies

- What should my child bring to school?
 - Backpack
 - Water bottle
 - Seasonally appropriate outerwear and footwear (the PTA conducts an annual winter clothing drive to assist families in meeting their apparel needs).
 - PreK students should bring:
 - A nap mat or a child-size blanket for use every week;
 - 2 full changes of clothes (including underwear and socks) every season to leave at school. Extra clothing does not need to be uniform compliant.
 - Suggested supplies lists are available at <https://www.jowilsondcps.org/cardinal-families/supplies>, and teachers may provide additional lists.

Uniforms

- What should my child wear to school?
 - All students are required to be in uniform each day, which includes gray, black, or burgundy plaid bottoms (including shorts, leggings, and sweatpants) and a burgundy, white, or J.O. swag top (including t-shirts). Each student must also wear closed-toed shoes. Students who are not in uniform will not be sent home.
 - Help our teachers and send students who cannot tie their own shoes in velcro or slip-on shoes, especially if they are not potty trained.
 - Uniform-compliant clothing may be found at many online and local retailers. If you purchase school uniforms through www.FrenchToast.com, 5% of net proceeds are donated to the PTA. Simply click on “Shop By



School” and enter the code QS5AIXF and 5% of net proceeds will be donated back to the PTA.

- The PTA will be hosting uniform sales at the beginning of the school year. Used shirts are \$1 each and bottoms and dresses are \$2 each. The PTA also sells new J.O. Wilson branded short-and long-sleeved shirts and hoodies that can be worn as part of the uniform.

PreK preparation

- Does my child need to be potty trained?
 - No. If your child is still working on potty-training, please work with your child’s teacher to get your child on a toileting schedule. Please assist our teachers by bringing extra clothing (does not need to be uniform).
- How many PreK classrooms are there?
 - We have three PreK3 classes, three PreK4 classes and one mixed-age class. There is also one Early Learning Supports Classroom dedicated to special education.
- Will my child get a nap?
 - PreK3 students have a 90 minute nap time after lunch.
 - PreK4 students have a 60 minute nap time after lunch.

Accommodations

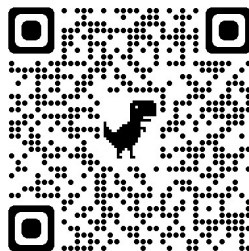
- Who can I talk to about my child’s 504 or Individualized Education Plan?
 - Victoria Winter is the school’s lead special education teacher, and may be contacted at victoria.winter@k12.dc.gov.
- What if my child has allergies or medical conditions?
 - If the universal health certificate you submit lists medical conditions for your child, the school nurse will reach out directly to ensure the school has a plan in place to maintain care for your child (for instance, a child with asthma will need to keep an inhaler at school that is separate from the inhaler you have at home).
 - The school is peanut-free.

Staying involved

- How can I stay in touch with the school and learn about events?
 - Make sure the school has your email address and phone number and that you’ve signed up to receive communications via email and telephone.



- Accept the invitation from your student's teacher for the communications platform the teacher uses. The school and most teachers use ClassDojo.
- Look out for the Cardinal Connection, which Mr. Brunson issues weekly from August through June.
- Visit the school's calendar at jowilsondcps.org/about/news-and-events and connect it to your phone's calendar with the RSS feed.
- Attend monthly PTA meetings the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m.
- Follow the school and the PTA on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook at @jowilsoncardinals, @jowilsonDC, and @jowpta.
- Check your student's backpack for notes and flyers.
- Join the PTAs online listserv to connect with other community members at <https://groups.io/g/jowilsonpta>.
- How do I get involved in school activities?
 - Learn about volunteer opportunities at <https://www.jowilsondcps.org/get-involved> and fill out a membership form.
 - Email the PTA at info@jowilsonpta.org.
 - Check-in with your student's teacher for opportunities to assist in the classroom and on field trips (chaperones must complete the DCPS clearance process).



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